

SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RURAL URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HAILAKANDI DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract:

Socioeconomic Status is a concept composed of different types of social and economic variables in human life. In fact, at the macro level, the overall development of the economy depends on the micro level aspects which determine socio economic position or status of households. On the basis of a well defined socio economic status of households, we classify the position of the households as low, medium and high status households. However, the said issue is purely a relative one as the socio economic status of rural and urban households differ in different aspects. The study has been done with the help of primary data collected from the Hailakandi District. The present study has been undertaken to understand the variables which determine socio economic status of households along with the examination of variation of resultant socioeconomic well being. The study found that, there is a wide spread variation in the level of education, occupation structure and income slab of rural and urban households in the study area.

Keywords: Socioeconomic Status, Overall Development, low, medium and high status households, Income Slab, Occupation structure.

I: Introduction

Socio Economic Status of Households refers to the position of households in term of different Social and Economic aspects. At the societal level, it is measured by assessing the relative position of families with respect to other families in the concerned geographical location. Socio Economic status though considered as a combined concept, but it has multisided effects on the overall development of people. The important issue is that, socio economic status determines the development of new generation with reference to the development achieved by past generation both at the familial level as well as at the societal level. In measuring the socio economic status, basic variables which are generally used are education, income etc. However, standard norms of measuring of such issue involve two major types of measurement. The first measurement is the money metric measures, a traditional measures used by people and the second is the multidimensional measurement involving other variables along with income (Booy, Sen et. al, 2008). As a matter of fact, the social identity, status of people largely depends upon the level of income, assets ownership, level of income etc. The existing literature suggests that, socio economic status varies with location, region, economic growth etc. Khudri (2013) in a study aimed at evaluating living standards and socio economic status of Bangladesh. The study found that, ownership of land and dwelling made of cement floor, roof and wall has significant positive association with the socio economic status of households. (Prusa, Ladislav, J. Bastyr, J. Vlach; 2009). However poor drinking water facilities, sanitation, and low quality house are negatively associated with the socio economic status of households. Salgotra (2017), in a study attempted to understand the socio economic status of the rural BPL families and he found that, lack of advanced industrialization worsen the socioeconomic status of households by involving them in agriculture allied activities. (Eshwar, Shruthi, V. Jain; 2016) The study also found that, high rate of illiteracy above 18 years of age and poor level of income in the BPL families leads to lower socio economic status. Ojiaku and others (2009) in a study found a highly significant and positive relation between key variables like Farm size, ownership of land, assets ownership etc has positive impact on socio economic status of households. (V.M.Manyong, C.Ezedinma, G.N.Asumugha, 2009). Variables which are mostly found significant in determining socio economic status of households are family size, income education level and employment status (Maloma, 2016; Kinyanjui, Kariuki, 2103).

Realizing the importance of socio economic status of households for overall development of human resources, the present study has been undertaken in the context of Hailakandi District of Southern Assam. The study has two basic objectives which are- (i) To Explore the variables that determines the socio economic status of households in Hailakandi District and (ii) To understand the variation in the socio economic status of Rural Urban households of Hailakandi District.

II: Methodology of the Study

Population

Population of the study consists of the total households in the rural as well as urban areas. The total households of the district as per the record of Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2015, are 133091 in rural area and 10259 in urban area.

Data

The study is based on primary data which has been collected with the help of a pre tested Household Survey Schedule from field survey of the Hailakandi District in the year 2018. The data for present study has been collected from the four revenue circles of Hailakandi district including both rural and urban areas Viz, Algapur revenue circle, Hailakandi revenue circle, Lala revenue circle and Katlicherra revenue circle. The urban areas are- Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) Township, Hailakandi Municipality area and Lala Town Area. The unit of the study is the household and the respondents are the family members especially the parents of the family. The sample design of the study is given in table 2.1.

Sample design of the Study

A sample of total 383 numbers of households have been specified comprising of 283 numbers of households from rural area and 100 numbers of households from three town areas by applying the following formula – $SS = \frac{Z^2 \cdot P \cdot (1-P)}{C^2}$, where, SS= Sample Size, Z= Confidence level, P= Percentage picking a choice, expressed as decimal, C= Confidence interval, expressed as decimal. For proportionate representation of all the circles and urban areas, following sample households has been specified from both rural and urban areas and sample design is given in the table 2.1

Table: 2.1
Sample Design of the Study

Name of Circles	No. of HH specified (Rural)	No. of Households (Urban)
Algapur	57	7
Hailakandi	62	68
Lala	90	25
Katlicherra	74	0
Total	283	100 = 383

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis to fulfill the objectives has been done by using suitable tabular and diagrammatic presentation in course of the study. With the help of said techniques, different socio economic aspects of households like Education level, Level of Income, Assets holding and others have been examined to understand the variation in the socio economic status of rural urban households of Hailakandi District.

III: Results and Discussion

Primary data are collected with the help of pre tested household schedule directly from the field survey must be organized and presented properly to understand the meaningful facts related to the research area. In this context, tabular and diagrammatic presentation of data helps in comparison of different aspects of study. Moreover, such presentation makes the data more simple to look and easy to understand.

3.1 Educational Profile of Rural Urban Households

Table: 3.1.1
Educational Attainments of Rural- Urban Sample Household's Parents

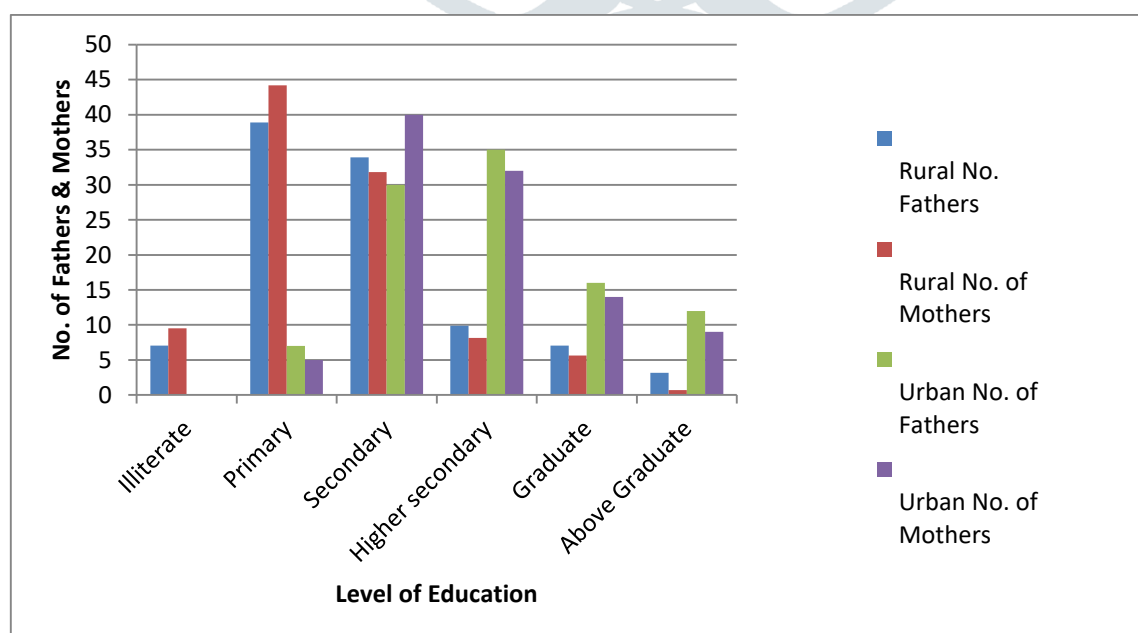
Level of Education	Rural		Urban	
	No. of Fathers	No. of Mothers	No. of Fathers	No. of Mothers
Illiterate	20 (7.07)	27 (9.54)	0	0
Primary	110 (38.87)	125 (44.17)	7 (7)	5 (5)
Secondary	96 (33.92)	90 (31.80)	30 (30)	40 (40)
Higher secondary	28 (9.89)	23 (8.13)	35 (35)	32 (32)
Graduate	20 (7.07)	16 (5.65)	16 (16)	14 (14)
Above Graduate	9 (3.18)	2 (0.71)	12 (12)	9 (9)
Total	283 (100)	283 (100)	100(100)	100(100)

Source: Field Survey, 2018, Figures in the Parentheses indicate percentage to total (Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

Education is considered as the most important social variable or indicator which determines the Socio economic status of people. Table 3.1.1 shows educational attainments of parents of rural urban sample households, it has been found that, in rural Hailakandi, 7.07% of fathers and 9.54% of mothers are illiterate whereas no parents of the children have been found to be illiterate in urban Hailakandi segment. In rural area, 44.17% mothers achieved primary level of education compared to 38.87% fathers achieved the same level of education. But in urban area, percentage of fathers who have achieved primary level of education is more than the mothers. In the case of achieving secondary level of education, percentage of fathers is more in rural area compared to mothers but in case of urban area the picture is opposite. Percentage of fathers who have achieved higher secondary level of education is more in both rural and urban areas compared to mother's achievement of the same level of education. The table show very clearly that majority of sample parents have primary level of education in rural areas whereas in urban areas, majority of fathers have higher secondary level of education and mothers have secondary stage of education. The urban parents have higher level of education than their rural counterparts. Table 3.1.1 is presented in the figure 3.1.1(A).

Figure: 3.1.1(A)

Diagrammatic Presentation of Educational Attainments of Rural- Urban Sample Household's Parents



The figure 3.1.1(A) clearly shows the educational disadvantages of rural parents compared to urban parents.

3.2: Occupation and annual income profile of Rural- Urban sample households

Occupation and income are the two positively correlated variables which determine each other. However, the analysis of such two variables attempts to examine the economic status of households. Occupational distribution implies the engagement of head of the households in different economic activities to earn livelihood for survival of the family. Income of the household is calculated in Rs. on the basis of income earned from all sources per annum.

Table: 3.2.1
Occupational Distribution of Rural- Urban Sample Head of the Households

Occupation	Rural	Urban
	No. of Head of the Households	No. of Head of the Households
Business	67 (23.67)	30 (30)
Farmer	50 (17.67)	0
Agricultural Labour	10 (3.53)	0
Regular Wage Earner	29 (10.25)	21 (21)
Casual Labour	70 (24.73)	3 (3)
Regular Salaried	57 (20.14)	46 (46)
Total	283 (100)	100 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2018, Figures in the Parentheses indicate percentage to total

Table 3.2.1 shows the occupational distribution of rural urban sample head of the households. It has been found that, 23.67% of rural head of the household are engaged in business compared to 30% head of the households engaged in the same occupation. In the urban area, 46% head of the households are engaged in regular salaried jobs compared to only 20.14% head of the households in the same occupation. Thus, in rural areas, the main occupation of the Head of sample households is in the area of business, agriculture and different types of salaried jobs. In urban areas, however, almost half the urban households have regular salaried jobs. The occupational distribution presents a picture in the expected line where diversification is less and occupational concentration in there in limited areas. This table is presented in the figure 3.2.1(B)

Figure 3.2.1(B)

Diagrammatic Presentation of Occupational Distribution of Rural- Urban sample Head of the Households

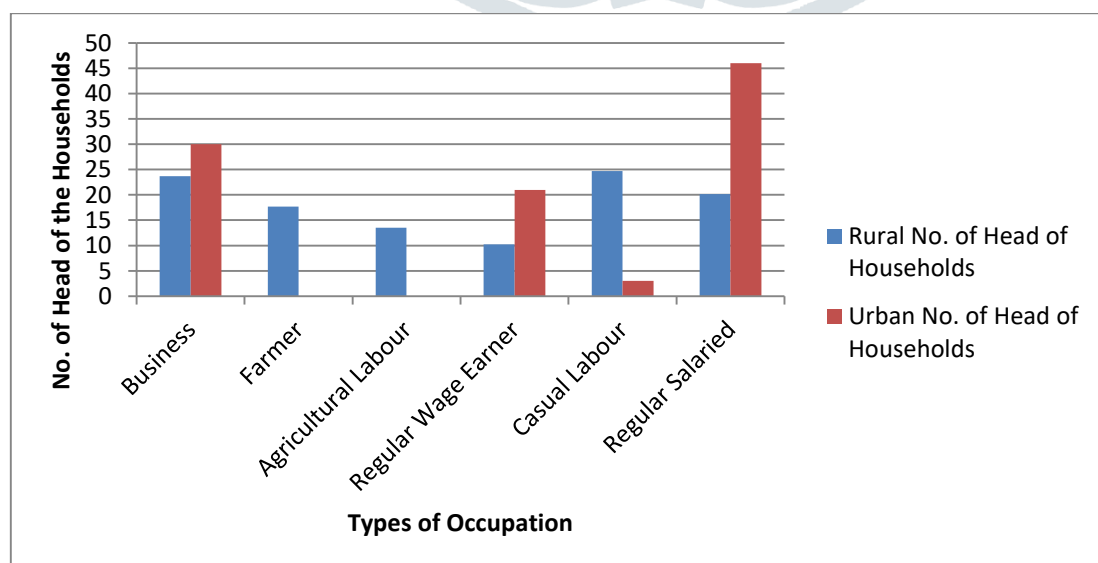


Figure 3.2.1(B) clearly reveal the occupational pattern and variation in the rural and urban areas of Hailakandi District.

Table: 3.3.1
Annual Income Profile of Rural- Urban sample households

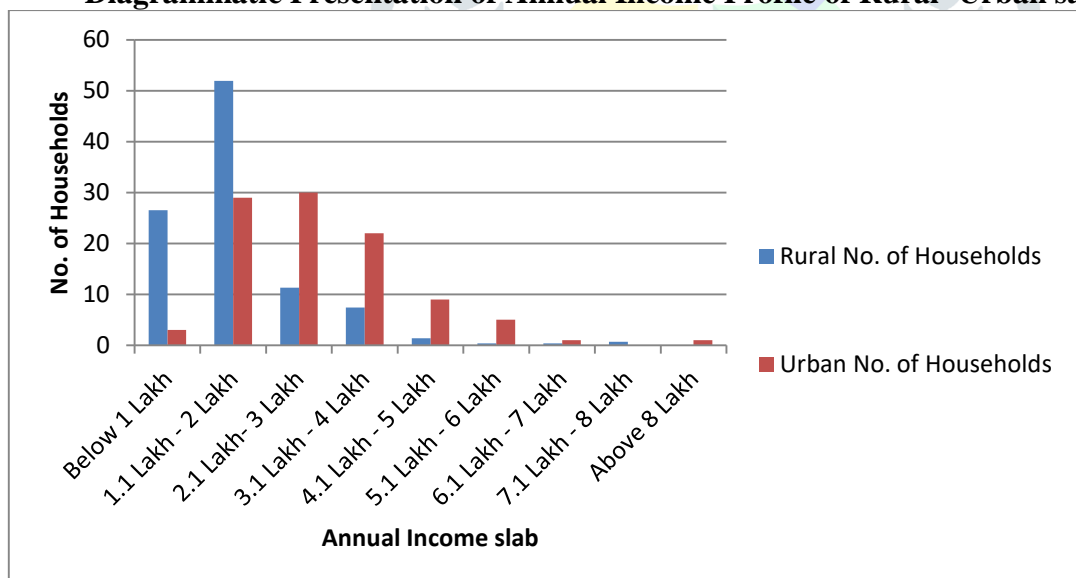
Annual Income Slab (in Rs)	Rural	Urban
	No. of Households	No. of Households
Below 1 Lakh	75 (26.50)	3 (3)
1.1 Lakh - 2 Lakh	147 (51.94)	29 (29)
2.1 Lakh- 3 Lakh	32 (11.31)	30 (30)
3.1 Lakh - 4 Lakh	21 (7.42)	22 (22)
4.1 Lakh - 5 Lakh	4 (1.41)	9 (9)
5.1 Lakh - 6 Lakh	1 (0.35)	5 (5)
6.1 Lakh - 7 Lakh	1 (0.35)	1 (1)
7.1 Lakh - 8 Lakh	2 (0.71)	0
Above 8 Lakh	0	1 (1)
Total	283 (100)	100 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2018, (Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

Table 3.3.1 shows the income profile of the rural urban sample households. It is seen from the table that, 26.5% rural households have annual income less than Rs. 1 lakh compared to only 3% households in the urban area. Highest percentage of rural household belongs to the income group of Rs. 1 Lakh to 2 lakh. However, highest percentage of urban household belongs to the income group of Rs. 2.1 lakh to 3 lakh. The income group-wise distribution of households shows that the rural areas are poorer in comparison to the urban areas under the study. The percentage of households having more than 4 lakhs annual income is very small both in the rural and urban areas of the study. Skewness of income distribution is more acute towards left in the rural segment of the study. This table is presented in the figure 3.3.1(C).

Figure 3.3.1(C)

Diagrammatic Presentation of Annual Income Profile of Rural- Urban sample Households



IV: Conclusion

From the study it has been found that, there is a wide variation in the socio economic status of rural urban households in the Hailakandi District. It is evident from the study that, illiteracy still prevalent in the rural area of the district which clearly indicates the rural educational backwardness. Moreover, it is also found that, majority of the rural parents have attained primary and a very percentage of secondary level of education. However, in the urban area majority parents have attained higher secondary level of education. Majority of the rural households belongs to the income slab of Rupees 1.1 lakh to 2 lakh but majority of

urban households have income level of Rupees. 2.1 Lakh to 3 lakh. Regarding occupational structure, it is seen that, majority of the rural head of the households are casual labour whereas, regular salaried jobs are the main occupation in the urban area. Hence, the study well explored the socio economic variables and the resultant variation of socio economic status of households.

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