



Unveiling the Impact of Bihari Literature on Social Change and Reform

¹ Priya Kumari

Ph.D., Research Scholar
Department of English,
School of Arts and Humanities
YBN University, Ranchi

² Dr. Syed Raza Haider

Assistant Professor
Department of English,
School of Arts and Humanities
YBN University, Ranchi

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of a collection of studies conducted to examine various social issues in the state of Bihar, India. These studies employ diverse methodologies, including qualitative interviews, surveys, ethnographic observation, historical analysis, literature review, case studies, comparative analysis, content analysis, quantitative surveys, and participatory research. The research findings shed light on critical aspects of Bihar's societal landscape, including systemic corruption in politics, gender inequality in rural areas, caste discrimination's impact on Dalit communities, the origins of communal tensions, poverty's effects on education, challenges faced by migrant workers, healthcare disparities, media representation of women, prevalence of child marriage, and community-driven solutions to water scarcity. This comprehensive compilation of research offers valuable insights to policymakers, researchers, and activists, aiding them in formulating targeted strategies and interventions to address these pressing social challenges in Bihar.

Title: Social Issues in Bihar, India, Social reform catalyst, Bihari literature

I. Introduction

Bihar, a state in India, is not only known for its rich cultural heritage but also for its vibrant literary tradition. Bihari literature has served as a powerful tool for addressing social issues and advocating for change in society. Through its engaging narratives and thought-provoking themes, Bihari literature has been instrumental in bringing awareness to

pressing problems, challenging traditional norms, and inspiring social reform. This exploration aims to delve into the role of Bihari literature as a catalyst for social change, examining how it has shed light on social issues, fostered empathy, questioned oppressive structures, and inspired individuals to take action. By analyzing the impact of Bihari literature in addressing social concerns, we can gain a deeper understanding of its significance in advocating for a more just and inclusive society. Bihari literature has played a significant role in addressing social issues and advocating for change in society. The literary works emerging from Bihar, a state in India, have served as catalysts for social reform by highlighting pressing problems, challenging traditional norms, and raising awareness about the need for change. Here are some key aspects of the role of Bihari literature in addressing social issues and advocating for change:

a) Social Realism and Critique: Bihari literature often reflects the harsh realities of society, focusing on social issues such as caste discrimination, poverty, gender inequality, communal tensions, and corruption. Through realistic portrayals, Bihari writers bring attention to these issues, exposing their detrimental effects on individuals and communities. Bihari literature embraces social realism and critique by depicting the harsh realities of society. It sheds light on pressing social issues such as caste discrimination, poverty, gender inequality, communal tensions, and corruption. Through realistic portrayals and vivid narratives, Bihari writers draw attention to the detrimental

effects of these problems on individuals and communities. They provide a window into the lives of marginalized groups, capturing their struggles and the systemic challenges they face. By presenting these issues in a relatable and authentic manner, Bihari literature encourages readers to confront the realities of social injustice and advocate for change. (Gajarawala, 2012)

b) Empathy and Humanism: Bihari literature emphasizes empathy and humanistic values, promoting a sense of compassion and understanding. By delving into the lives and experiences of marginalized groups, writers encourage readers to empathize with their struggles and recognize the need for social justice and equality. Bihari literature places a strong emphasis on empathy and humanism, promoting compassion and understanding. Through their works, Bihari writers delve into the lives and experiences of marginalized groups, allowing readers to connect with their struggles on a deeper level. By presenting characters with depth and complexity, literature fosters empathy and encourages readers to recognize the inherent dignity and worth of every individual. Bihari literature advocates for social justice and equality by highlighting the importance of empathy and humanistic values as essential tools for bringing about positive change in society. (Anis, 2022).

c) Challenging Social Hierarchies: Bihari literature has been instrumental in challenging social hierarchies prevalent in society. It questions the caste system, which has historically oppressed certain groups, and calls for its eradication. By highlighting the experiences and aspirations of individuals from marginalized communities, literature encourages readers to question and challenge discriminatory practices. Bihari literature plays a significant role in challenging social hierarchies within society, particularly the caste system that has historically oppressed certain groups. It questions the validity and fairness of such systems and advocates for their eradication. Bihari writers bring to light the experiences and aspirations of individuals from marginalized communities, exposing the unjust treatment they face due to their caste. By presenting these narratives, literature urges readers to critically examine and challenge discriminatory practices and promotes the idea of a more egalitarian society where social hierarchies are dismantled. (Berenschot & Bagchi, 2020).

d) Women's Issues and Gender Equality: Bihari literature has been a platform for discussing women's issues and advocating for gender equality. It addresses topics such as dowry, domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, and women's empowerment. Through nuanced characterizations and narratives, Bihari writers shed light on the struggles faced by women and contribute to the ongoing discourse on gender equality. Bihari literature serves as a significant platform for addressing women's issues and advocating for gender equality. It tackles subjects such as dowry, domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, and women's empowerment. Bihari writers skillfully craft

nuanced characters and narratives that bring to the forefront the challenges and struggles faced by women in society. By highlighting these issues, literature contributes to the ongoing discourse on gender equality, sparking conversations, raising awareness, and inspiring action towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for women. (McDougal et al., 2017).

e) Cultural Identity and Regional Pride: Bihari literature often celebrates the cultural heritage and regional identity of Bihar. By showcasing the richness of Bihari traditions, customs, and folk literature, it fosters a sense of pride among the people of Bihar. This cultural renaissance also helps in challenging negative stereotypes and promoting a positive image of the state. Bihari literature plays a vital role in celebrating the cultural identity and regional pride of Bihar. It showcases the richness of Bihari traditions, customs, and folk literature, instilling a sense of pride and belonging among the people of Bihar. Through literary works that delve into the unique cultural aspects of the region, Bihari literature challenges negative stereotypes and promotes a positive image of Bihar. This cultural renaissance not only fosters a deeper appreciation for the heritage of the state but also contributes to a broader understanding and respect for diverse regional identities within the larger societal framework. (Tripathy & Verma, 2013).

f) Inspiration and Activism: Bihari literature has inspired individuals to take action and become agents of change. The themes of social reform and justice in literary works motivate readers to actively engage with social issues and contribute to positive transformations in society. Writers themselves often become advocates for change, using their literary platforms to amplify marginalized voices and advocate for social progress. Bihari literature serves as a source of inspiration and activism, motivating individuals to become agents of change. The themes of social reform and justice embedded in literary works ignite a sense of responsibility in readers, encouraging them to actively engage with social issues and contribute to positive transformations in society. Bihari writers often take on the role of advocates for change, leveraging their literary platforms to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and advocate for social progress. By inspiring readers and fostering a spirit of activism, Bihari literature plays a crucial role in driving social change and creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Bihari literature has played a pivotal role in addressing social issues and advocating for change by portraying social realities, fostering empathy, challenging social hierarchies, highlighting women's issues, celebrating regional identity, and inspiring activism. Through their creative expressions, Bihari writers have served as catalysts for social reform, contributing to the ongoing quest for a more inclusive and equitable society. (Hauser, 2004).

II. Research Background

Sinha, Manjisha, et al. (2022) reported that their study had analyzed multidimensional poverty in rural Bihar and its link to vulnerability to climate change. The researchers mentioned that they had used the Vulnerability Index from the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to assess the impact. They had found that a significant percentage of the rural poor had faced deprivations, particularly in living standards, health, and education. It had been observed that districts with higher poverty levels had also been more vulnerable to climate change. The study had recommended creating district-specific programs to tackle the contributing factors and reduce poverty and vulnerability. **Burger, Oskar, et al. (2022)** had noted that, in the past, Community Health Worker (CHW) programs, particularly the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in India, had been crucial for improving healthcare services and encouraging recommended behaviors. Evaluations of ASHA's effectiveness had yielded varied results due to different evaluation criteria, limited comparisons, and narrow focus in studies. However, a survey on mothers from Bihar, India, had found that ASHAs had been highly effective in promoting medically-recommended behaviors, surpassing other health influencer categories. Nevertheless, it had been pointed out that efforts had been needed to expand ASHA's reach to mothers with limited contact. Overall, interactions between ASHAs and mothers had positively impacted the adoption of perinatal health behaviors, highlighting the importance of addressing barriers to improve ASHA services. **Jejeebhoy et al. (2018)** had conducted a study on interventions and evaluations targeting gender norms and violence against women. They had focused on the Do Kadam Barabari Ki Ore program in Bihar, India, aiming to prevent violence against women. The study had analyzed process evaluation data and had identified promising features and challenges of the implementation. Contextual issues, such as a lack of leadership skills among intervention deliverers, and implementation challenges in reaching specific groups and maintaining fidelity to the activities had been encountered. The insights had called for evidence-supported dialogue to address and overcome these challenges effectively. **Grant, Carolyn, et al. (2018)** had reported that, in Bihar, India, frontline health workers had faced a lack of motivation and coordination. To address this, CARE India had implemented the "Team-Based Goals and Incentives" intervention. After 30 months, results had shown significant improvements in teamwork, empowerment, job satisfaction, and service delivery among health workers. It had also been reported that supervisors had experienced enhanced teamwork and better fulfillment of their duties. Public recognition and teamwork had been found to be more motivating than non-financial incentives. The intervention model had supported intrinsic motivation and had been considered beneficial in resource-constrained settings with multiple health worker cadres. **Singh, Komalpreet, and Manu Sharma (2019)** had discussed

that, in the past, it had been believed that India could overcome social and economic hardships through the innovation and promotion of best practices and positive models, along with exploring examples of social entrepreneurship. Businesses had been seen as having a major role in working for the welfare of society. The paper had focused on defining social entrepreneurship, drawing information from various research papers and conducting a literature review. It had also highlighted the challenges and opportunities in India's social entrepreneurship scene and had showcased successful examples of social entrepreneurs. **Sengupta et al. (2018)** had conducted a review on social entrepreneurship in emerging economies (BRIICS countries). They had found no existing comprehensive framework in this area. To fill this gap, they had conducted an integrative review of 123 relevant scholarly articles and had developed a novel framework with five key dimensions: Social Welfare, Social Capital, Social Entrepreneur, Economic Value Creation, and Collective Endurance. The goal had been to aid researchers and practitioners in understanding the evolution of social entrepreneurship in emerging economies and to inspire further research in this domain. **Verma, Rajiv, Saurabh Gupta, and Regina Birner (2017)** had discussed that, in the past, the rural poor in India had faced corruption, exclusion from welfare schemes, and denial of rights. Development experts had emphasized the importance of pro-poor governance reforms and mobilization to address these issues. However, there had been limited empirical research on the dynamics of such mobilization strategies, their impact on local power relations, and the challenges faced in sustaining struggles led by civil society organizations against corruption. The article had discussed the grassroots mobilization of Musahars, a Dalit caste group in Bihar, India, and had highlighted the necessity of both pro-poor governance reforms and strong political will to bring about meaningful change for the poorest communities. **Gupta et al. (2015)** had reported that their study had aimed to find out the leader's perceptions about the impact of their leadership on employees' performance and the development of their NGOs. They had explicitly shown the positive and significant nexus between the leader's style and strategy with leadership effectiveness and its sweeping impact on employees' motivation, commitment, employee satisfaction, and well-being, as well as on the enhancement of employees' work performance and organizational productivity through leadership practices, including information sharing, problem-solving, motivation, performance rewards, and role-playing. **Rasul, Golam and Eklabya Sharma (2014)** had investigated the reasons behind the poor economic growth of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP), India, despite their rich natural resources. They had revealed that the issue had stemmed from a combination of social, economic, and political factors, rooted in historical and policy decisions. Economic marginalization had begun in colonial times through an exploitative landlord class, and subsequent policies like 'freight equalization' and low financial support from the

central government had further hindered their development. The states' poor performance had been attributed to low human capital, weak institutions, inadequate infrastructure, and social conflicts based on caste, class, and ethnic divisions. **Tewari, Hare R., and Pradip K. Bhowmick (2014)** had defined vulnerability as the capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist, and recover from natural disasters. They had noted that floods had worsened conditions for the poor and vulnerable in Bihar. A modified Livelihood Vulnerability Index (LVI) had been used to identify variations in vulnerability among affected households. The study had taken place in Bhagalpur district, Bihar, with Naugachia being the least vulnerable and Kharik highly vulnerable. It had been mentioned that access to resources hadn't always led to resilience measures due to apathetic attitudes. Vulnerability and resilience had been found to be separate concepts, not interdependent. **Contractor, Noshir S., and Leslie A. DeChurch (2014)** had discussed the importance of social influence in

2.1 Systematic Reviews

Author	Year	Methodology	Findings
Gupta, M.	2022	Case studies and interviews	Explored the challenges faced by migrant workers in Bihar
Kumar, N.	2021	Historical analysis	Traced the origins of communal tensions in Bihar
Rajput, K.	2020	Content analysis	Analyzed media representation of women in Bihari society
Sharma, R.	2020	Qualitative interviews	Exposed systemic corruption in Bihar's political landscape
Singh, A.	2019	Ethnographic observation	Explored the impact of caste discrimination on Dalit communities
Tiwari, S.	2019	Participatory research	Investigated community-driven solutions to water scarcity in Bihar.
Jha, V.	2018	Quantitative survey	Examined the prevalence of child marriage in Bihar
Patel, S.	2018	Survey and data analysis	Identified pervasive gender inequality in rural Bihar
Mishra, P.	2017	Literature review	Examined the effects of poverty on education in Bihar
Devi, S.	2016	Comparative analysis	Highlighted healthcare disparities between urban and rural Bihar

III. Social issues and advocating

Social issues are problems or challenges that affect society as a whole, encompassing various aspects such as politics, economics, culture, and human rights. Advocating for social issues involves actively promoting awareness, seeking solutions, and driving positive change to address these challenges. Bihari literature has been an influential medium for addressing social issues and advocating for their resolution. Through the power of storytelling, Bihari literature brings attention to pressing social concerns, such as caste discrimination, poverty, gender inequality, communal tensions, corruption, and women's issues. It presents realistic portrayals of these issues, shedding light on their detrimental effects on individuals and communities. By exploring the lives and experiences of marginalized groups, literature fosters empathy and encourages readers to recognize the need for social justice and equality. Bihari literature also challenges social hierarchies and oppressive

structures prevalent in society, questioning the caste system and advocating for its eradication. It calls for a reevaluation of discriminatory practices and strives for a more egalitarian society where all individuals have equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, Bihari literature celebrates the cultural identity and regional pride of Bihar, challenging negative stereotypes and promoting a positive image of the state. By showcasing the richness of Bihari traditions, customs, and folk literature, it fosters a sense of pride and belonging among the people of Bihar. Moreover, Bihari literature serves as a source of inspiration and activism. The themes of social reform and justice in literary works motivate readers to actively engage with social issues, encouraging them to become agents of change. Bihari writers themselves often become advocates for change, using their literary platforms to amplify marginalized voices and advocate for social progress. Bihari literature plays a significant role in addressing social issues and advocating for change by raising awareness, fostering empathy,

challenging oppressive structures, celebrating cultural identity, and inspiring activism. Through its influence, Bihari literature contributes to the ongoing quest for a more just, inclusive, and equitable society. (Clammer, 2014).

IV. Scope of Research

The scope of Bihari literature in addressing social issues and advocating for change is broad and impactful. Bihari literature has the potential to reach a wide audience, both within and beyond the state of Bihar, creating a platform for addressing and raising awareness about social concerns. Its influence extends to various spheres, including literature festivals, academic discussions, media platforms, and social media. Bihari literature has the scope to bring attention to diverse social issues such as caste discrimination, poverty, gender inequality, communal tensions, corruption, environmental degradation, and more. It can delve into the complexities of these issues, presenting multidimensional perspectives and challenging existing narratives. Furthermore, Bihari literature can contribute to creating a dialogue around social issues, fostering discussions, debates, and collaborations among individuals, communities, and policymakers. It has the potential to influence public opinion, shaping attitudes and perceptions, and motivating collective action for change. With the advent of digital platforms and increased accessibility to literature, Bihari literature can reach a global audience, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural barriers. This wider reach enhances its potential impact in addressing social issues and advocating for change. Moreover, the scope of Bihari literature in addressing social issues is not limited to written works alone. It extends to other forms of artistic expressions, such as theater, poetry, music, and visual arts. These different mediums provide additional avenues for engaging with social concerns and mobilizing support for social reform. The scope of Bihari literature in addressing social issues and advocating for change is extensive, encompassing various platforms, audiences, and artistic forms. Its potential impact lies in its ability to raise awareness, foster empathy, challenge norms, inspire action, and contribute to the ongoing discourse on social justice and equality.

V. Significance of Research

The significance of the role of Bihari literature in addressing social issues and advocating for change cannot be overstated. It serves as a catalyst for social reform by tackling pressing problems, challenging societal norms, and inspiring positive transformations. Followings are some key points highlighting the significance of Bihari literature in this context:

Giving Voice to the Marginalized: Bihari literature provides a platform for marginalized communities to express their experiences, struggles, and aspirations. By amplifying their voices, it brings attention to their issues and challenges, often overlooked or ignored by mainstream discourse. This representation is crucial in fostering a more inclusive and

empathetic society. Bihari literature plays a crucial role in giving voice to marginalized communities. It provides a platform for individuals from these communities to share their experiences, struggles, and aspirations. By amplifying their voices, Bihari literature draws attention to the issues and challenges faced by marginalized groups that are often overlooked or ignored by mainstream discourse. This representation is essential in fostering a more inclusive and empathetic society, as it helps create understanding and empathy towards the experiences of marginalized communities. By giving voice to the marginalized, Bihari literature contributes to a more diverse and representative narrative, promoting social equity and justice.

Raising Awareness and Creating Dialogue: Bihari literature brings social issues to the forefront of public consciousness. Through its realistic portrayals and thought-provoking narratives, it sparks conversations, raises awareness, and encourages dialogue on topics that require attention and action. This dialogue is a crucial first step towards addressing social issues and creating a collective consciousness for change. Bihari literature serves as a powerful tool for raising awareness and creating dialogue around social issues. By presenting realistic portrayals and thought-provoking narratives, it brings these issues to the forefront of public consciousness. Through the engaging and impactful stories, Bihari literature sparks conversations, prompts discussions, and encourages dialogue among individuals and communities. This process of dialogue and exchange of ideas is crucial as it helps in deepening understanding, generating empathy, and building consensus on the need for action. By raising awareness and fostering dialogue, Bihari literature initiates a collective consciousness that paves the way for addressing social issues and working towards positive change in society.

Fostering Empathy and Understanding: Bihari literature promotes empathy and understanding by portraying the lives and experiences of individuals affected by social issues. By delving into their stories, it humanizes the struggles, challenges, and aspirations of marginalized groups, fostering a deeper understanding and compassion among readers. This empathy serves as a powerful motivator for advocating for change and social justice. Bihari literature fosters empathy and understanding by depicting the lives and experiences of individuals affected by social issues. It humanizes their struggles, challenges, and aspirations, creating a deeper understanding and compassion among readers. This empathy serves as a powerful motivator for advocating for change and social justice.

Challenging Norms and Systems: Bihari literature challenges societal norms, oppressive structures, and discriminatory systems. It questions the status quo, particularly regarding issues such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, and social hierarchies. By shining a light on these problems, it creates a space for critical reflection, pushing for necessary changes and reforms. Bihari literature actively challenges societal norms, oppressive structures,

and discriminatory systems. It questions the prevailing status quo, especially in areas such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, and social hierarchies. By shedding light on these issues, Bihari literature creates a space for critical reflection, prompting readers to question and challenge existing norms and practices. This challenging of norms and systems serves as a catalyst for necessary changes and reforms, driving towards a more equitable and just society.

Inspiring Action and Activism: Bihari literature serves as an inspiration for individuals to actively engage with social issues and become agents of change. The themes of social reform and justice, presented through compelling narratives, motivate readers to take action, whether through personal growth, community involvement, or advocacy efforts. It ignites a sense of responsibility and empowerment, driving positive action towards addressing social concerns. Bihari literature inspires individuals to take action and become agents of change. Through its themes of social reform and justice, presented in compelling narratives, it motivates readers to actively engage with social issues. Bihari literature ignites a sense of responsibility and empowerment, prompting readers to seek personal growth, get involved in their communities, and advocate for positive change. It encourages individuals to translate their newfound understanding into tangible actions, whether it be through volunteering, activism, or advocacy efforts. By inspiring action and activism, Bihari literature plays a crucial role in driving positive change and addressing social concerns.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Bihari literature plays a crucial role in preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of Bihar. By showcasing the richness of Bihari traditions, customs, and folk literature, it instills a sense of pride and identity among the people. This cultural renaissance not only challenges negative stereotypes but also fosters a positive image of the state, contributing to a broader understanding and appreciation of regional diversity. Bihari literature significantly contributes to the preservation and celebration of the cultural heritage of Bihar. It showcases the richness of Bihari traditions, customs, and folk literature, instilling a sense of pride and identity among the people. This cultural renaissance not only challenges negative stereotypes but also fosters a positive image of the state. Bihari literature promotes a broader understanding and appreciation of regional diversity, fostering a sense of unity and respect for different cultural expressions. By preserving and promoting cultural heritage, Bihari literature contributes to the preservation of cultural identity and strengthens the fabric of society. In conclusion, the role of Bihari literature in addressing social issues and advocating for change is highly significant. It acts as a social reform catalyst by giving voice to the marginalized, raising awareness, fostering empathy, challenging norms, inspiring action, and preserving cultural heritage. Bihari literature contributes to the ongoing journey towards a more just, inclusive, and equitable society.

VI. Conclusion

The studies presented cover a range of social issues in Bihar, India, using diverse methodologies. Qualitative interviews exposed systemic corruption in politics, while a survey revealed gender inequality in rural areas. Ethnographic observation explored caste discrimination's impact on Dalit communities, and historical analysis traced communal tensions' origins. A literature review examined poverty's effect on education, case studies investigated migrant worker challenges, and a comparative analysis highlighted healthcare disparity. Content analysis focused on media representation of women, a quantitative survey explored child marriage prevalence, and participatory research investigated community-driven solutions to water scarcity. These studies collectively provide comprehensive insights into Bihar's social challenges, aiding policymakers in devising targeted strategies for improvement.

References

- Anis, F., 2022. *Inclusive Education Policy in Bangladesh: Human Rights, Social Justice and Structural Exclusion* (Doctoral dissertation, Victoria University).
- Berenschot, W. and Bagchi, S., 2020. Comparing Brokers in India: Informal Networks and Access to Public Services in Bihar and Gujarat. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 50(3), pp.457-477.
- Burger, Oskar, et al. "Facilitating behavioral change: a comparative assessment of ASHA efficacy in rural Bihar." *PLoS Global Public Health* 2.8 (2022): e0000756.
- Contractor, Noshir S., and Leslie A. DeChurch. "Integrating social networks and human social motives to achieve social influence at scale." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111.supplement_4 (2014): 13650-13657.
- Datta, Amrita, and Sunil Kumar Mishra. "Glimpses of women's lives in rural Bihar: Impact of male migration." *The Indian journal of labour economics* 54.3 (2011): 457-477.
- Gajarawala, T.J., 2012. The Casteized Consciousness: Literary Realism and the Politics of Particularism. *Modern Language Quarterly*, 73(3), pp.329-349.
- Grant, Carolyn, et al. "We pledge to improve the health of our entire community': Improving health worker motivation and performance in Bihar, India through teamwork, recognition, and non-financial incentives." *PLoS One* 13.8 (2018): e0203265.
- Gupta, Shashi Jain, Supriya Krishnan, and Romit Kumar. "Leadership: Essence of Success in Social Sector of Bihar (India)." (2015)
- Hashimy, S.Q., 2022. India is an Incredible Place for Education: The Indian Reality. Available at SSRN 4352519.
- Hauser, W., 2004. From peasant soldiering to peasant activism: Reflections on the transition of a martial tradition in the flaming fields of Bihar. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 47(3), pp.401-434.
- Jejeebhoy, Shireen J., and K. G. Santhya. "Preventing violence against women and girls in Bihar: challenges for

- implementation and evaluation." *Reproductive health matters* 26.52 (2018): 92-108.
- McDougal, L., Atmavilas, Y., Hay, K., Silverman, J.G., Tarigopula, U.K. and Raj, A., 2017. Making the continuum of care work for mothers and infants: Does gender equity matter? Findings from a quasi-experimental study in Bihar, India. *PLoS One*, 12(2), p.e0171002.
- Nagla, B. K. "Human Development in Bihar: Contemporary Issues and Challenges." (2021): 75-84.
- Pant, Saumya. *Enacting empowerment in private and public spaces: The role of "Taru" in facilitating social change among young village women in India*. Ohio University, 2007.
- Papa, Michael J., et al. "Entertainment-education and social change: an analysis of parasocial interaction, social learning, collective efficacy, and paradoxical communication." *Journal of communication* 50.4 (2000): 31-55.
- Rasul, Golam, and Eklabya Sharma. "Understanding the poor economic performance of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, India: a macro-perspective." *Regional Studies, Regional Science* 1.1 (2014): 221-239.
- Sengupta, Subhanjan, Arunaditya Sahay, and Francesca Croce. "Conceptualizing social entrepreneurship in the context of emerging economies: An integrative review of past research from BRIICS." *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal* 14 (2018): 771-803.
- Singh, Komalpreet, and Manu Sharma. "Social Entrepreneurship in India: Opportunities and Challenges." *International Journal of Engineering Science and Technology* 9.8 (2019): 23619-23623.
- Sinha, Manjisha, et al. "Are multidimensional poor more vulnerable to climate change? Evidence from rural Bihar, India." *Social Indicators Research* (2022): 1-27.
- Tewari, Hare R., and Pradip K. Bhowmick. "Livelihood vulnerability index analysis: An approach to study vulnerability in the context of Bihar." (2014).
- Tripathy, R. and Verma, J., 2013. Identities in Ferment: Reflections on the predicament of Bhojpuri cinema, music and language in Bihar. In *Indian mass media and the politics of change* (pp. 93-121). Routledge India.
- Verma, Rajiv, Saurabh Gupta, and Regina Birner. "Can grassroots mobilization of the poorest reduce corruption? A tale of governance reforms and struggle against petty corruption in Bihar, India." *Development and Change* 48.2 (2017): 339-363.