

SPATIO -TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF POPULATION: A CASE STUDY OF EAST CHAMPARAN DISTRICT OF BIHAR

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Abstract:

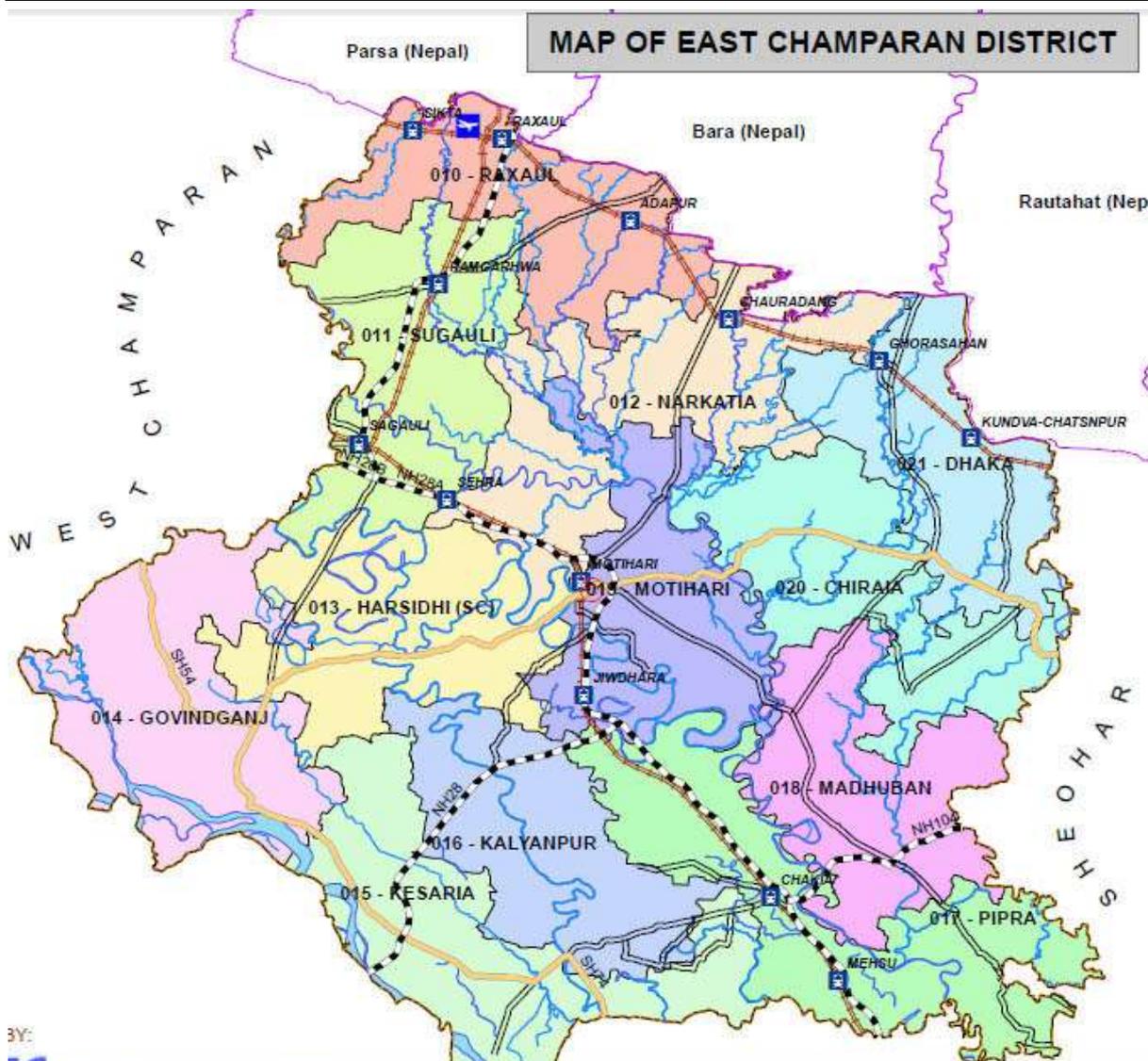
Human migration is the most dominating socio-economic phenomena that have become the most dynamic aspect of human knowledge. During recent years, the aspect of migration has become much popular. In the true sense of the term, migration is the outcome or product of regional disparity in physical characteristics, economic development and social conditions. Regional disparity is more pronounced between rural and urban areas hence among all types of migration it is seen oftenly the predominance of rural-urban migration. Along with the increasing pressure of population on land due to unprejudiced growth of population, lack of job opportunity, disintegration of joint family system etc. the rural areas push the people to leave it for some other places. On the other hand, better job opportunity and improved public utility services and amenities of urban areas act as pull factors and attract these rural migrants.

Keywords: Migration, Economic development, Social conditions, Infrastructure, Immigration

Introduction

The study of the impact of out-migration on the area of origin of migrants is very much significant for an area particularly in the developing country where rural-urban migration has transformed the socio-economic conditions of rural areas. The study area is the most flood-affected area of Bihar. Due to frequent floods a large fertile area of the region has become useless in the wake of the deposition of silt and sand by the rivers. East Champaran district is also affected by the floods of the river Gandak, Burhi Gandak and their tributaries. The increasing pressure of population on land, lack of job opportunity and deplorable public utility services have forced a large number of people to leave the region for better prospects elsewhere. These people have migrated to different parts of the country. Most of them have maintained contact with their villages and have influenced the socio-economic conditions by remittances and also by the spread of ideas and practices here, which they have learnt at the places of destination.

The location of the area, administrative set-up, reorganisation of smaller administrative units and related aspects play an important role in the study of geographical aspects. Till 1837, Champaran did not have separate identity as a district but was formed a part of Sirkar Saran for all administrative purposes. In 1866, the revenue jurisdiction of Champaran was separated and it was given the status of a full-fledged district. The district had two subdivisions Bettiah with head-quarter at Bettiah and Sadar with headquarter at Motihari. The latest bifurcation of the district in 1973 (10th oct.) resulted in the existence of Purba Champaran and Paschim Champaran having their headquarters at and Motihari Bettiah respectively.



The study of newly carved district of Purba Champaran consists of the eastern portion of the old Champaran district. The newly constituted district of Purba Champaran lies between $26^{\circ}15'15''$ N. to $27^{\circ} 0'15''$ N latitude and $84^{\circ}20'15''$ E to $85^{\circ}10'15''$ E. longitude and comprises an area of 3968 sq. kms. It is bounded by Nepal in the North, Muzaffarpur district in the South-east and Gopalganj district in the Southwest, Sitamarhi and Sheochar in the east. Presently the district of Purba Champaran consists of twenty seven C.D. Blocks and 1348 inhabited villages.

Purba Champaran ranks 2nd in terms of population (50,99,371) and 3rd in terms of area (3,968 sq.km.) in the state of Bihar in census 2011. In terms of population per sq.km. Purba Champaran is the 11th densely populated district in the state with 1,285 persons per sq.km as against the state's 1,106. Purba Champaran ranks 28th in terms of sex-ratio (902) against the state's 918. Purba Champaran ranks 20th in terms of child sex-ratio (933) against the state's 935. There are 41 uninhabited villages (out of 1,293 total villages) in the district of Purba Champaran. Panchrukha (under Banjaria C.D. Block) is the most populated village (39,140) and Khap Lal Chapra (under Kesaria C.D. Block), and Kasba Gopal (under Mehsi C.D. Block) are the least populated villages (6) in the district. C.D. Block Kalyanpur has the highest number of villages (98) in the district and C.D. Block Piprakothi has the lowest number of villages (20). Pachrukha (under Banjaria C.D. Block) has the largest area (3,823 hectare) and Sonwal Ahirauli Ake Andar (under Paharpur C.D. Block) and Mithanpura (under Mehsi C.D. Block) have the smallest area (2 hectare each) among the villages in the district.

The natural condition like flat surface or physiography, fertile soil, river condition, monsoon climate jointly present the better condition for population, inhabitation and the

evolution of their settlement pattern. Sometimes, population and settlement area particularly in the south western part are adversely affected by the devastating flood of Gandak river due to which flood plain is formed in one hand and destruction of infra-structural facility and hygienic condition appears on the surface. But the flood condition is not regular like that of Koshi-flood but it is rare. Hence, the region is quite fit for agricultural production consequently rapid growth of population and their settlement. The statistics regarding growth of population, distribution and density pattern, man-land symbiosis, literacy, occupational structure etc present the pace for their better analysis.

Objectives

The present study aims to analyze the recent trends of population movement as most areas of the state of Bihar have been facing the problems of out migrations of people from the rural areas. Virtually, a few decades earlier, only a few persons from the villages of this part of the country used to move out for the urban center of Kolkata or for other urban centers when they used to get some job or some other attractions. During recent years, almost all villages have been contributing migrant for urban centers of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. and the rural areas of Punjab, Haryana and other states where agricultural development has taken place in a better way. As Such the present study will also analyse the changing pattern of movement of the people specially in terms of the places of destination. The study will also take into consideration the causes responsible for the out migration of people belonging to different categories consisting of the poor people, the rich people, the labour class people, the professionals and other. At the same time, the present study will analyse socioeconomic consequences of the movement of people.

Hypothesis

- (a) Most of the migrants move only a short distance.
- (b) The volume of migration increases with the development of industry and commerce.
- (c) The direction of migration is generally from agricultural to industrial areas.
- (d) Most of the long distance migration is to the major industrial and commercial centers.
- (e) Migration occurs in a series of stages.
- (f) Each migration current out flow has a counter current.
- (g) Females are more migratory than males over short distance and
- (h) Migrants are more likely to have rural than urban origin.

Methodology

The study of this nature needs adequate primary data and secondary data for highlighting different aspects of migration problems. It may be noted that secondary data made available from the census office are not available concerning all aspects. As such in this study attempt has been made to select some villages using suitable sampling technique, the formulation of exhaustive questionnaires for generating data of different nature, processing of data and drawing of suitable maps etc. In this study five villages have been selected. Certainly in the selection of sample villages the consideration of representation of all areas, villages have been different conditions and locational significance have been considered. Some migrant and some non-migrant families from the selected villages have been interviewed for getting information of migration features. These data have been processed and depicted through suitable maps and diagrams This study required intensive field work for gathering at of information and data concerning land use, agriculture. Cattle wealth, population, transport etc.

Discussion:

The trend of population mobility is expressed in the district of Purba Champaran by the fact that migrant population increased very slowly during the previous century because of socio-

economic conditions, orthodox thinking of the people, divisions of the district, low pressure of population, tradition of joint family, poor attraction of towns, etc. In the decade 1901, the population of Purba Champarn district was recorded 5% migrant population and 95% non-migrant population. Wherever, in the year 1921, the district recorded slight decreased of population but more or less similar trend in context to migration. In the year 1941, the population of this district again got increasing trend in which 5.2% migrant population and 94.8% non-migrant population. Thus, we observe that before independence the ratio of migrant population to the non-migrant population in the district Purba Champaran remained about 5%, because of several responsible reasons. But after independence the population of the district rapidly increased in trend of migrant population. Various types of pull and push factors are responsible for this process, which includes flood and drought affecting. The agriculture, the problem of unemployment, the higher rate of interest by the landlord to the labourers, Problem of safety and security, the tendency of nuclear family, lack of infrastructure, more interest in the literacy programmes, interest towards towns, the trend of rigid caste system and dowry system, the trend of marriage in the far distant area, the feeling of independence among women and various political and non-political groups which inject terror among people. In the census 1951, the district of Purba Champaran registered 5.94% migrant population and 94.06% non-migrant population. While In 1961, the district recorded 5.99% migrant and 94.01 nonmigrant respectively. In the year 1971, the population of the Purba Champarn district was recorded 1956084 in which 6.81% was recorded as migrant population and rest 93.19% as non-migrant population. After the Independence of the country, the trend of population movement gradually increased. Migrants increased to 100.7 thousand in 1961, 133.2 thousand in 1971, 209.8 thousand in 1981 and 268.1 thousand in 1991 and 352.4 thousand in 2001.

Areas of Destination

Out-migrants having different social and economic background are influenced by different destinations. These days urban areas have become the destination of most rural migrants. Fertile areas are the destination of those people, who are dwellers of unfertile areas. Industrial areas are the destination of people of unindustrialized areas. The Gandak Plain is one of the most flood affected areas of the state. Specially, it has a few small urban centres with significant attractive points for providing enormous opportunities for jobs. Some industries and other factors have turned the whole area into the area of destination out of the total population of the region 79.58% people were born at the places of enumeration and remaining 20.42 % people were immigrants either from any parts of the country or abroad. It makes it clear that above 3/4th of the people are on their original places and they did not migrate anywhere. It is revealed that 99.97% males and 99.95% females were born in state of enumeration but in case of places of birth 97.25% males were born in the places of enumeration. In case of females only 59.84% females only were born at places of enumeration. Persons born elsewhere i.e. males and females consisted of 2.27% and 29.16% respectively. Persons born in other districts of the state enumeration were 5.45% but males and females of the region born in other district of the state enumeration consisted of 0.48% and 11.00% respectively. This region had less people born in states beyond the state of enumeration. Such persons consisted only 0.04% and males while males and females consisted of 0.30% and 0.05% respectively. Person born in other countries were 0.01% in the year 2001 and males and females of other countries were 0.01% and 1.01% respectively.

Causes and Consequences of Population Mobility

The phenomenon of human migration was not so alarming earlier as is found these days hence this feature considerably influences the socio-economic conditions of the places of origin, the place of destination and migrants. This human phenomenon has recorded differential

characteristics concerning causes of human migration, trends of human migration and consequences of human migration. In early days, when people were unaware of civilization and when they were leading jungle life, they used to move from one jungle to another without any restriction in search of food and hunting materials. Certainly, civilization brought some restrictions in human migration.

Normally human migration takes place due to numerous, physical, economic and socio-political conditions. In the study area, several physical, economic and social factors have played important role. It has been noted earlier that physical factors like furious flood, formation of unproductive sandy plain compelled a considerable number of families to move out from their places of origin. Certainly such migration has stopped due to control over the river Gandak and restored infrastructure. Those farmers who lost their land and had no alternative than to move out for other places, migrated. Economic features are important during recent years. Due to lack of agricultural land, landless labourers and poor farmers prefer to migrate elsewhere. Certainly only the females and quite elderly people remain in the Village and most adults move out for some time elsewhere. As such poverty and lack of land for agricultural purposes compel more people for migration. No doubt, some resourceful persons are also moving out, but causes of their migration remain different. Another economic factors causing outmigration has been family debt. Some persons move out from their places of origin to earn money elsewhere so that they can pay off the debt and get rid from the clutches of money lenders. Some people earn money at the destination either in the town or in the industrial areas or elsewhere and improve socio-economic conditions of the family members. As such, in all types of migrations there remains some consideration of the economic game.

Problem of Immigration Of late migration of workers remained a grave problem of North Bihar but today this is not so serious problem as immigration of workers. Presently, immigration of workers has become a knotty problem not only for the study area but also for the entire new Bihar State, because lack of employment, security and modern amenities, poverty, castism, flood, drought and under the pressure of debt, the people in great number move towards several developed rural areas or urban areas or industrial areas. Recently back, which gave birth to a problem of immigration of workers, many reasons are responsible for this problem. The important are as follows : In a landmark judgment in October 2000, the Supreme Court of India gave its order to the Government of Delhi to close all such industrial units, which are directly or indirectly contributing to pollution. As a result of this. order, thousands of big and small units have been closed. The side effect of this closure, even the owners of these industries feel themselves unemployed. This closure has thrown about 40 lakhs workers out of employment and jeopardized economic structure of lakhs of families. After having deprived of livelihood, they are coming back from Delhi. According to a regional survey, about 7-8 lakhs unemployed youths and labourers of East & West Champaran are working in different parts of the country.

Conclusion:

Virtually, scholars of different disciplines have tried to analyse migration phenomenon from their own angles. Social and economic implications of human migration of both the places : the places of origin and the places of destination have become of prime importance. The present study concerns the analysis of migration phenomenon of the district of Purba Champaran located in the Gandak plain of the Middle Ganga valley. This study deals with the area of new district of Purba Chamapran which consists of eastern portions of the old district of Champaran. The present study area has been part of the Gandak plain. It has become trouble some for the people living there because of continuous flood disaster, damaging agricultural land, existing crops, habitation and loss of property. such people of this area had been in search of flood free space elsewhere, but such condition abruptly changed and the area became place

of attraction, because of insured irrigation, agricultural production and restored infrastructure facilities. Previously, people of this region used to move out due to problems caused by the river Gandak and its tributaries, but these, days out-migration has been mainly caused by the push factors existing in the village like poverty, lack of agricultural land, pressure of family debt and some attractive forces at the places of destination, like better opportunity for quick earning, higher wages, lust for improving socioeconomic conditions, job opportunity, etc. From the point of view of geological formation and relief features the study area presents not very complex accounts.

The area simply consists of thick mantle of posttertiary deposition of alluvium and surface features have been caused by the unequal deposition of sand and loam by the Gandak and its tributaries in the different areas. The climatic characteristics of the study area are influenced by the proximity of the Tarai region of Nepal Himalayas having considerable vegetative cover, low lying areas having accumulation of flood water and these areas have been recording comparatively more rainfall. As such the heat of the summer season remains neither as intense as in the drier West Bihar plain, nor so moist like the eastern part of the country. Certainly only a few days become uncomfortable when hot westerly winds remain prevalent in the summer season. In terms of industrial development, the area is far behind. Certainly there are agro-based large and small scale industries like sugar factories, wheat flour mills, rice mills ; oil pressing mills, agricultural implements, furniture making basket making etc. Certainly some people have developed interest in dairy (Sudha) and poultry industries. Similar to landuse agriculture has also recorded considerable changes. Agricultural uses of land has remarkably increased and cropping pattern has also recorded much changes. Previously paddy, maize and jute were important, but these days paddy, wheat, maize and other Bhadai, Aghani Rabi, Garma Crops have also become important. In terms of literacy, the study area is not up to the mark, because this region faced problems during early independence years or pre-Independence years due to lack of educational institutions. Only after independence educational institutions opened and different schemes of literacy were launched, but the problem of poor transport and other facilities enabled the study area to have literacy much less than the average of the country. In terms of sex-ratio also, there is lower percentage of female that may be due to negligency of female child. The highest sex-ratio was recorded in the development block of Harsidhi, while the lowest in Motihari block. From the point of view of occupational structure, it may be noted that only one-third people are workers and about 5.00% people are marginal workers. Among workers also, there is dominance of primary workers. About threefourth workers are engaged in agriculture related activities like cultivators agricultural labourers, workers engaged in hunting, fishing quarrying, etc. The study area has several rural markets and one service centre. More particularly these service centres have come into being during post-Independence years in different parts of the study area. Previously there were only a few service centres either near railway station or administrative centres like district, sub-division and thana headquarters.

After the Independence, the metalled roads, secondary schools and other educational institutions, health centres, development of headquarters and other activities remarkably accelerated the growth of service centres. Even in the entire rural areas, because these service centres provide the facilities of transacting surplus agricultural products and other essential items. Almost all centres where secondary schools, health centres, weekly markets and other facilities have developed are ser-vice centres. Certainly these service centres vary in size, Functional specialization and other characteristics. Migration phenomenon has also influenced political thinking It influences both rural and urban people by altering the age-sex balance and the social traits by various groups or the ability of certain age-group to play their traditional

role in the society. In case of migrants, they do not participate activity in the beginning in various sociopolitical matters of the city life, but after wards start taking keen interest.

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