



Socio Economic Profile of Women of Dehri Block in Rohtas District of Bihar State

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Abstract:

The main economic activity in the rural and urban areas is agricultural which is supported by the fact that the cultivators (14.12%) and agricultural labourers (26.25%) together constitute 40.37 percent of the total workers. But majority are depending on other works. The women of Dehri block working in Agricultural as a labour (47.71%), cultivators (11.72%) and Household industry workers (7.67%). About 32.89% are working in other activities. In the study area, it is found that the role of women is significant level in caase of demographic and economic activities. However, they are behind the male. Thus, there should be a need of affective implementation of current women empowerment programmes.

Keywords: women empowerment, gender, economic, and social development

Introduction

This paper incorporates gender, economic, and social development as a conceptual framework to explore the status of women Dehri Block, Rohtas District of Bihar State. Status is a condition applicable to a point of time. Status in the sociological sense denotes position in a social system, and by implication the distribution of rights, obligations, power and autonomy within the same system.¹ It refers to what a person is, whereas the closely linked notion of role refers to the behaviour expected of people in a status. It is also used as a synonym for honour or prestige. The term socio-economic status denotes the relative position of a person on a publicly recognized scale or hierarchy of social worth. It is the honour or prestige attached to one's position in society. It also refers to a rank or position that one holds in a group. It also refers to the financial position of a person. It refers to a set of

economic reserves or assets, represents a source of security providing a measure of a household's ability to meet emergencies, absorb economic shocks, or provide the means to live comfortably.

Socioeconomic status (SES) encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Poverty, specifically, is not a single factor but rather is characterized by multiple physical and psychosocial stressors. Further, SES is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Thus, SES is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including



research, practice, education and advocacy. The substantial regional differences in economic growth and human development indicators within India are also cause of great concern. Even within states, urban and rural sectors show a considerable disparity. An understanding of why certain states were able to reduce poverty would facilitate the implementation of effective policies for poverty reduction throughout India. Some states have had the benefit of starting with a low level of poverty, when states were reorganized. The additional social responsibilities shouldered by them, their subordinate status in society, male dominated family set up, socioeconomic backwardness, proneness for occupation in the unorganized sector with low productivity and marginalization in employment opportunities account for their poor or low earning capacity.

Objectives of the study

The aim of the paper is to study the socio economic profile like size of the women population, literacy rate and employment conditions.

Methodology of the study

Dehri Block, Rohtas District of Bihar State is taken for the study. Secondary data is used in analysis of the data. Simple statistical tools like Percentage and averages are used in analyzing the data.

About the Dehri-on-Sone block

Dehri-on-Sone, is a Nagar parishad and corresponding community development block in Rohtas district in the state of Bihar, India. Situated on the Son River, Dehri is a large industrial town and an important railway hub. As of

2011, its population was 137,231, in 23,234 households.^[1] Dehri is home to the Indrapuri Barrage, the fourth-largest dam in the world. It has also one of largest railway bridges of India over Sone River, approximately 4 km long. It is an education hub for villagers, and is also known for coal and sand mining. Dehri is well connected by Road and Rail with major cities of India. Almost all major trains stop at Dehri On Sone. Dehri is awarded the cleanest city in Bihar. According to the 2011 Census, Dehri had a population of 137,231. Males were 72,372 and females 64,859. The average literacy rate was 81.2%, higher than the national average of 74%. Male literacy was 87.54% and female literacy 74.08%. The population of children in age group 0–6 years was 19,010, of which boys were 9,886 and girls 9,124.

Issues covered in this paper

Literate: A person aged 7 years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is taken as literate. A person who can only read but cannot write is not literate. It is not necessary that to be considered as literate, a person should have received any formal education or passed any minimum educational standard. Literacy could have been achieved through adult literacy classes or through any non-formal educational system. People who are blind and can read in Braille are treated as literates.

Literacy rate: Literacy rate of the population is defined as the percentage of literates in the age-group seven years and above. For different age-groups the percentage of literates in that age-group gives the literacy rate.



Educational level: The highest level of education a person has completed.

Work: Work is defined as participation in any economically productive activity with or without compensation, wages or profit. Such participation may be physical and/or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual work but also includes effective supervision and direction of work. It even includes part time help or unpaid work on farm, family enterprise or in any other economic activity. All persons engaged in 'work' as defined above are workers. The main point to note is that the activity should be economically productive. Reference period for determining a person as worker and non-worker is one year preceding the date of enumeration.

Main worker: A person who has worked for major part of the reference period (i.e. six months or more during the last one year preceding the date of enumeration) in any economically productive activity is termed as 'Main worker'.

Marginal worker: A person who worked for 3 months or less but less than six months of the reference period (i.e. in the last one year preceding the date of enumeration) in any economic activity is termed as 'Marginal worker'.

Non-worker: A person who has not worked at all in any economically productive activity during the reference period (i.e. last one year preceding the date of enumeration) is termed as 'Non worker'.

Cultivator: For purposes of the Census, a person is classified as cultivator if he or she is engaged in cultivation of land

owned or from government or from private persons or institutions for payment in money, kind or share. Cultivation also includes effective supervision or direction in cultivation. Cultivation involves ploughing, sowing, harvesting and production of cereals and millet crops such as wheat, paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi, etc., and other crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, ground-nuts, tapioca,

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

Share of Female in total population

Table 1 reveals that according to the 2011 Census, Dehri had a population of 137,783. Males were 71,593 and females 66,190. The percentage of women population is 48.04.

Table 1. Female in total Population 2011

Gender	Population	Per cent
Persons	1,37,783	-
Male	71,593	51.96
Female	66,190	48.04
Total		100.0

Sex ratio in Dehri block

Table-1 gives the details of Sex ratio of population and in the age group 0-6 for Dehri block. It is observed from the table that sex ratio of population As per 2011 Census Sex Ratio of the district is 910 females per 1,000 males. The same for rural and urban areas of the district stands at 925 and 896 respectively. In the age group 0-6, which works out to 936, While the sex ratio of (0-6) population in the rural areas is 946, the sex ratio of (0-6) population for the urban areas is only 923 respectively.



Table 2. Sex ratio in Dehri block and Rohtas District

Block/district	Place	Sex ratio
Dehri block	Total	910
	Rural	925
	urban	896
Rohtas District	District	918
	Rural	921
	urban	899
Dehri block	age group 0-6	
	Total	936
	Rural	946
	urban	923
Rohtas District	District	931
	Rural	
	urban	

Sex ratio among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

Table-3 gives the details of sex ratio among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (rural) in Dehri block of Rohtas district. The scheduled castes sex ratio in the rural areas of the district is 910 females for every 1,000 males and 903 in case of urban. Sex ratio in case of STs is higher as noted by 1021. It was 835 in rural and 1027 in urban.

Table 3: Sex ratio among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

	Scheduled castes sex ratio	Scheduled tribes sex ratio
Rural	910	835
Urban	903	1027
Total	923	1021

Literates and illiterates

Table-4 gives the details of number of literates and illiterates, literacy rate by sex in Dehri block of Rohtas district. This table also shows gap in male-female literacy rate. From the table, it is observed that the Dehri block has registered a literacy rate of 77.70 percent. As regards to rural and urban areas of the Dehri block the literacy rates have been registered 74.09 percent and 81.20 percent respectively. The gap in the male-female literacy rates has been 17.70 percent.

In rural, the literacy rate of female was 62.66 percent and 74.08 per cent in urban. The gap in the male-female literacy rates has been 21.96 percent and 13.46 per cent.

Female workforce status in Dehri block of Rohtas district

Table-5 gives the details of percentage of main workers, marginal workers and non-workers by sex to the total population in Dehri block of Rohtas district. The work participation rate for total workers is defined as the percentage of total workers to total population. In a similar way, it is defined for main and marginal workers. This table shows that the work participation rate (WPR) in the block is 18.61 percent for main workers and 9.48 percent for marginal workers. Proportion of non-workers in the district is 71.90 percent. The total workers were 28.10% respectively.



Table 4: Number of literates and illiterates of Dehri block of Rohtas district

Area	Sex	Number of literates	Number of illiterates	Literacy rate	Gap in malefemale literacy rate
Rural	Persons	84903	52880	74.09	21.96
	Males	50495	21098	84.62	
	Females	34408	31782	62.66	
Urban	Persons	95990	41241	81.2	13.46
	Males	54701	17671	87.54	
	Females	41289	23570	74.08	
Total	Persons	180893	94121	77.7	17.7
	Males	105196	38769	86.11	
	Females	75697	55352	68.41	

Table 5: Number and percentage of main workers, marginal workers, and non-workers (% to the population) in Dehri block

Sex	Main workers	Marginal workers	Total workers	Non workers
Persons	18.61	9.48	28.10	71.90
Males	32.38	12.77	45.15	54.85
Females	3.49	5.87	9.37	90.63

The work participation rate (WPR) of women in the block was 3.49 percent for main workers and 5.84 percent for marginal workers. Proportion of non-workers in the district is 90.63 percent. The total workers were 9.37% respectively.

Women by economic activity in Dehri block

Table-6 gives the detail about distribution of workers by sex in four categories of economic activity in Dehri block. These four categories are Cultivators, Agricultural labourers, Household industry workers and other workers. This table also shows total population with male and female population and total workers (main + marginal workers). The main economic activity in the rural and urban areas is agricultural which is supported by the fact that the cultivators (14.12%) and agricultural labourers (26.25%) together constitute 40.37 percent of the total workers. But majority are depending on other works. The women of Dehri block working in Agricultural as a labour (47.71%), cultivators (11.72%) and Household industry workers (7.67%). About 32.89% are working in other activities.



Table 6: Distribution of workers by sex in four categories of economic activity to the total workers Dehri block

Sex	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	Household industry workers	Other workers
Persons	14.12	26.25	4.19	51.48
Males	14.57	26.25	4.19	54.99
Females	11.72	47.71	7.67	32.89

Conclusion

Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Poverty, specifically, is not a single factor but rather is characterized by multiple physical and psychosocial stressors. In the study area, the role of women is significant level in caase of demographic and economic activities. However, they are behind the male. Thus, there should be a need of affective implementation of current women empowerment programmes.

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