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Socio – Economic structure of Village ‘Chipyana Buzurg’

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Abstract

The present paper is a modest attempt to develop an awareness and insight to Socio -Economic study of the various social, cultural, and economic aspects of the population residing at “Chipyana Buzurg” village. Various types of data have been used as per the requirement of the objectives of the study. Our study aims at understanding the demographic characteristics of the Village, to understand the social structure in terms of Caste and Religion, to analyse the Socio Economic Development of the Village and to explore the basic amenities available in the village. This study will be highly important for analysing the socio-economic condition of the rural areas and put forward the suggestions for the steps to be taken in order to solve the problems prevailing in the rural areas and to bring about the economic development.

Keywords: Chipyana Buzurg, awareness, social, cultural, economic

1. Introduction

The first and foremost condition for the development of a society is its economic condition. Socio - Economic survey, thus, is an important part of education to know the status of the people of various society. The main aim of the Socio Economic planning of our country is to transform the socio - economic condition of the people living in the rural areas. The social structure of the villages is complex and is a basis of the Indian society. More than 45% of the population have settled in rural areas since the independence of our country. India has achieved significant growth and development since independence.

Though India has succeeded in reducing poverty and improving crucial human development. However, evidences show that the benefits of growth and development have not been equally distributed to all sections of people and regions of the country. As the development processes progressed rapidly in recent years, inter-regional and inter-religious gaps have remarkably widened. Marginalized communities trail far behind in such an inequitable environment of growth and development. This is an alarming situation as it defeats constitutional goals of Equality, Fraternity and Social Justice and creates social tensions in the country. These problems have not attained the requisite importance in the policies made by the government. Though there is some progress seen in the economic conditions of the people, but the development in the educational field is in a very deplorable condition. To bring about the economic development, the transformation of Socio-Economic condition is necessary. Hence, there is an urgent need to analyse the socio-economic condition of the rural areas and put forward the suggestions for the steps to be taken in order to solve the problems prevailing in the rural areas.

The study area is the village Chipyana Buzurg which is located in western side of Uttar Pradesh in the district of Gautambudh Nagar. The village is 26 km away from the metropolitan city Delhi and nearly 1 km away from the nearest urban centre Ghaziabad. The total area of village is about 157/sq.km. The village is surrounded by savery village in west, ettheara in south and yakub in eastern side of Uttar Pradesh. The village is connected with GT Road. The main occupation of this village is agriculture. The population of the schedule caste is high among castes.

This paper contains the analytical study of socio - economic factors with practical approach. We studied the socio-economic and cultural aspects, living conditions, health, educational status and the problems faced by the people of the village.

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This Socio-economic survey will provide means of improving understanding of local resource management systems, resource use and the relative importance of resources for households and villages.

2. Methodology

This study is prepared on the basis of interviews of the villagers conducted through an interview Schedule. It is complemented with the secondary data. The methodology of the study is categorized into following:

(a) Primary Source

The collection of the primary data is on the basis of interview schedule. The study is based on the interview of selected households. I have surveyed 85 households. The selection of the respondents was based on the social structure, particularly caste and occupation. It was kept in mind that all the castes and classes of people were included in the study.

(b) Secondary Data Collection

The study includes some significant secondary data. These data were on the population, irrigation, agriculture crops. Some data on social structure were collected from the village tehsil office. Data on population were collected from the census of India. 2001. All these sources of data were significant for the preparation of this manuscript.

(c) Observation

Observation regarding the social structure, internal morphology and other aspects of village life was made to understand the village properly.

3. Findings and discussions

The study has been carried out by a primary field survey done between December 2007 and January 2008 through a structured interview schedule and supplemented by observant participation. According to the Census of India 2001 the total population of this village is 7653 persons. The main occupation of this village is agriculture followed by services mainly government services and other tertiary activities. A total number of 85 households covering a population of 387 persons of which 226 were males and 161 were females, were taken into account for the study. While most of the aspects were covered by the interview schedule, those which could not be managed were compensated by conversations with the subjects.

1. Sex Composition

Table 1: Sex composition in Chipyana Buzurg village

Sex	Percentage %
Male	59
Female	41

Table 1 shows that 59% of the population are males and 41 % are females in this village. Male population is higher than the female population. According to census of India 2001 the total population of this village is 7638 persons with 4134 males and 3548 females. The sex ratio of this village is 858 per thousand males which are considered very low.

The main reason for low female population is the traditional mindset of village people. Male child is preferred as he will provide an earning hand in the future where as the female

child has to be supported and given huge dowry. Such a preference has led to a skewed sex ratio.

2. Age Composition

In Figure 1 we have shown the age composition of the village. About 15% population of the village lies between the 0-14 age group, 16% lies in the 15-19 age group, 34% in the 20-35 age group, 26% in the 35-60 age group and 9% are above from 60.

What is interesting is the higher proportion of population between 15-35 ages which are active and productive groups even though the dependent population is around 25%.

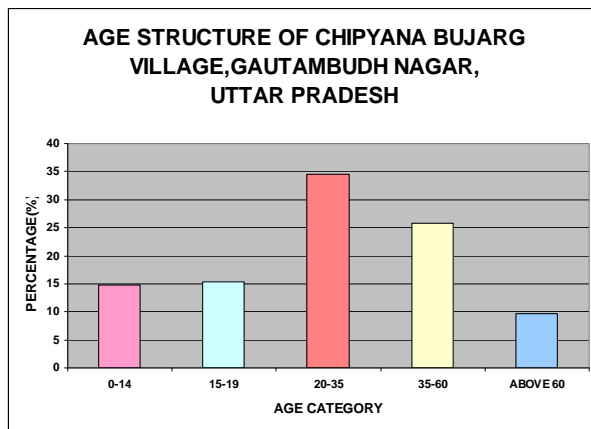


Fig 1

3. Marital Status

Around 58% of persons in the village are currently married, 38% people are never married and 4% are widows/widowers. There are no divorcees in this village. This supports the fact of universal marriage in typical Indian society. Figure 2 shows the marital status of the village.

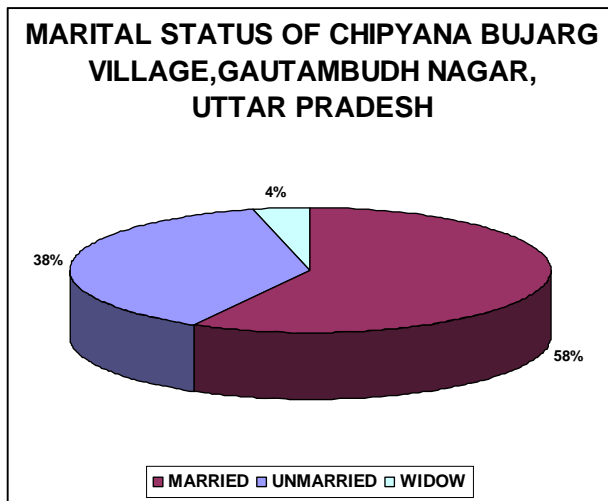


Fig 2

4. Caste Composition

The village is dominated by three caste groups Jaat, Chamars and Jatav. These three groups constitute about 81% of the total population. The other caste people in the study area are Brahmin, Barber, Julaha, Blacksmith, Nut, Valmiki, Khatik, Corri, Baniya, Gadriya, Sunhar and Dheemer etc.

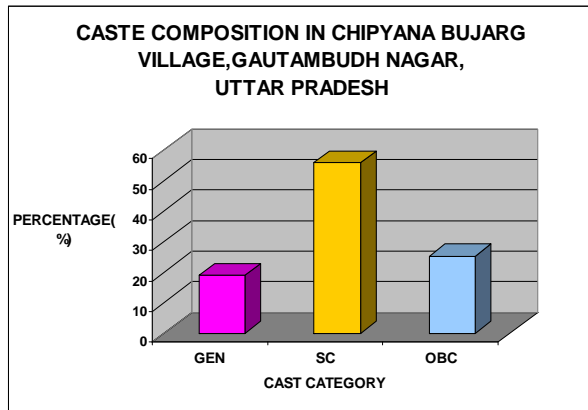


Fig 3

Around 55% population come under scheduled caste category, 26% population come under OBC category and 19% population come under general category which involve Brahmins and Baniyas.

5. Religion

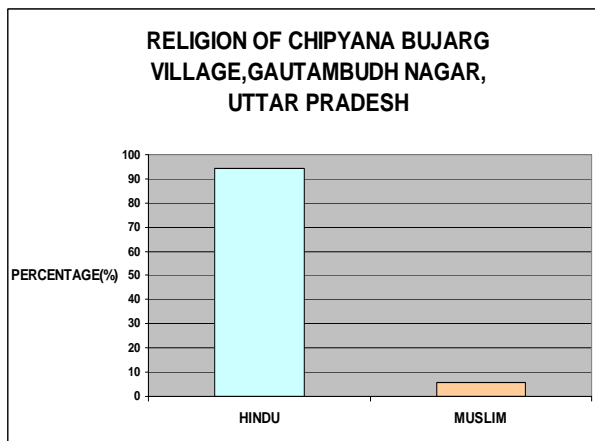


Fig 4

The figure 4 shows that the village is pre-dominantly a Hindu village where around 94% population is Hindu and only 6% are Muslims. There is a sheer absence of other religions like Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs. Main deities worshipped are Shiva, Krishna, and Ganesh in general but the local deities are worshipped at “Mata ka Chubutara” at street corner.

6. Internal social morphology

An enquiry into the internal social morphology reveals that Jaats and Brahmins occupy the centre of the village while on the periphery the other castes have their settlements, namely Harijans, Chamars and Valmikis in the south-east, Harijans and Nuts in the western part and Muslims in the north east. Thus there is a definite social expression in the village morphology.

7. Literacy levels

According to the census of India literacy includes those “who can read and write with understanding in any language is to be taken a literate. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have passed any minimum education standard”.

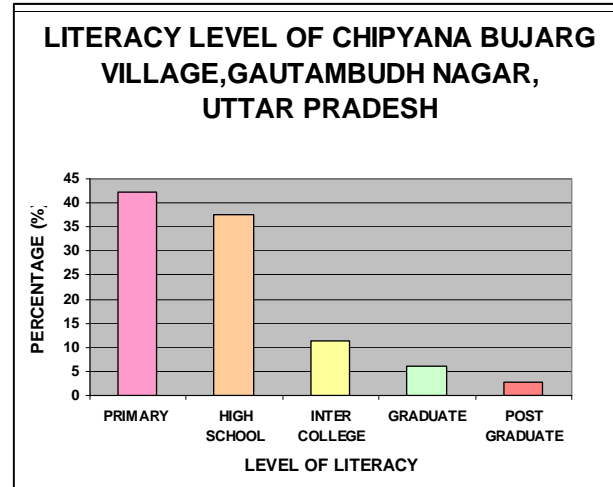


Fig 5

The figure 5 shows that most of the population in the village is illiterate. The 42% population are educated up to the primary level, 38% are educated up to high school level. 12% are educated up to intercollegiate level and 4% and 2% are graduates and post graduates respectively.

The literacy among the females are very poor. This is affected by two factors: firstly, the traditional society does not allow a woman to move outside the house and secondly they do not prefer to send their daughters to school.

8. Educational facilities

There are three schools in the village: one is government primary school, another is private public school up to 8th standard and the third one up to matric level. According to the primary school principal these facilities are satisfactory but not sufficient, this is because of the fact that the population of the village is increasing at rapid rate. So the village needs more schools. He also expressed the desire for an intermediate college, Matric School and a degree college to be shared by 4-5 villages in the region. With the absence of these facilities at times, the talents go waste in regression, to agricultural sector for source of survival and employment. There are many schools and inter colleges in Ghaziabad district at the distance of 2 km. These schools and colleges serve around more than 20 villages. For medical, engineering and polytechnic level college people have to go to Delhi.

9. Occupational structure

Agriculture is the basic occupation in this village. Although only 27% population is dependent on cultivation, it is the most important source of rural economy. Different type of crops like wheat, rice, jawar, bajra, maize, oilseeds, vegetables etc. are grown. Tractors and other agricultural machinery are used for cultivation. Chemical fertilizer and HYV seeds are used frequently. Important crops like wheat, oilseeds and vegetables are grown in sufficient quantity. The crops are sold in the market. Tube wells are major sources of irrigation.

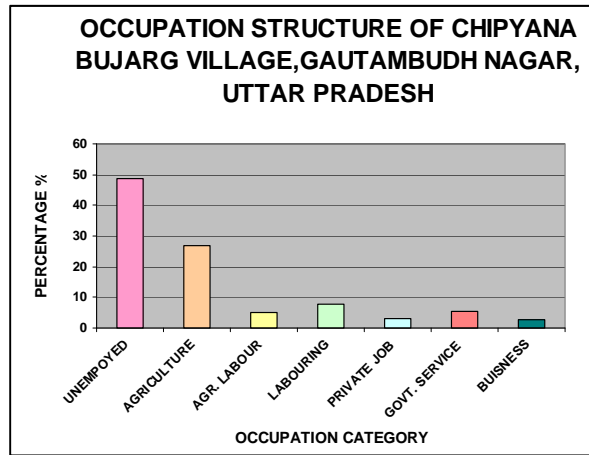


Fig 6

The figure 6 shows that the 49% are unemployed and 51% are employed. The 27% population practice agriculture, 5% are agriculture laborers, 7% are other laborers, 4% are into private jobs, 5% are in government services and 3% own businesses. Apart from this, certain people are involved in carpentry, blacksmithing, pottery etc. The people who belong to scheduled castes are employed in agriculture, agricultural labour and government services. The majorities in number are Chamars and Jatav but they are mostly engaged in tertiary activities.

Trade and commerce is a secondary occupation in the form of shopkeeping, vegetables selling etc. usually practiced as a side business. Milk production is important supplementary occupation in this village. Those who own cows and buffaloes earn about 30-40 rupees per day which supplements the family income.

10. Location of work

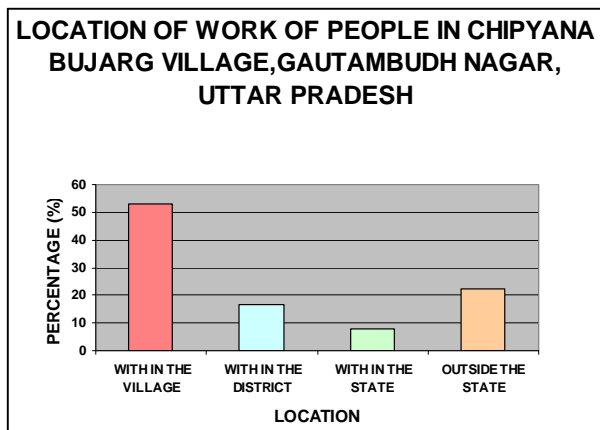


Fig 7

The figure shows that 53% people work within the village, 17% people work within the district but outside the village, around 8% people worked with in the state, beyond the district. Thus around 47% people worked outside the village and these people commute daily outside the village for work. These workers are predominately males. The people who work outside the village are government servants, private job holders and businessman. These people commute to their working place. Some government servants commute to Delhi daily.

11. Nature of work

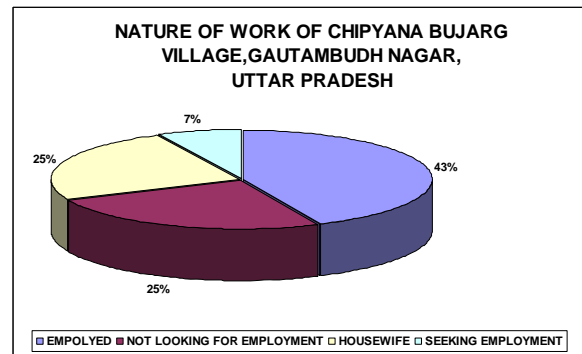


Fig 8

The figure shows that around 51% are employed, 6% are seeking employment, 20% are not looking for employment and 23% are housewives. Thus a larger section of the population is employed while 6 % are seeking employment currently. But beyond that in the village there is a considerable proportion of sample not looking for employment as they are housewives or students or just not interested in working.

12. Income distribution

Estimating the income of the people in rural areas is a tough task. While interviewing the villagers about their household income I had to face a lot of difficulties. Firstly, People do not want to tell a stranger the family income. Secondly, people were not able to estimate how much of income they generate. Amongst the people in the house there were contradiction as everyone was trying to cut short the real income. Thirdly, the agriculturists generally store their production for domestic consumption at the time of harvest and consume it according to their day to day requirements and are unable to give accurate idea of their income. Besides, people have a tendency to hide their income as they think that if they report their true income as low, the government may help them in one way or another. So I tried to cross check their income through their income expenditure per month, still my estimate of income may not be accurate.

Table 2: Income distribution in chipyana bujurg village

Monthly income of a household	Percentage (%)
< 5000	10
5000 -10000	44
10000 -15000	39
> 15000	7

The table shows that 44% household of this village earn 5 to 10 thousand rupees per month, 39% household earn between 10 to 15 thousand rupees, around 10% earn less than 5 thousand and 7% earn between 15 to 20 thousand rupees per month. Thus income distribution of this village is unequal.

13. Structure of house

In the village generally house area is large in size. Houses with one room are generally smaller in size hence a rudimentary form of compact place where humans and animals find shelter under one roof. Socially speaking there are one room houses occupied by the poor and weaker

section including the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes which have only one room of which have no proper sanitation, low roofing, cheap building material and flooring.

Table 3: Structure of house in chipyana bujarg village

Type of house	Percentage (%)
Semi-puccka house	9.42
Puccka house	90.58

The study shows that 90% houses of this village are puccka houses and only 10% are semi-puccka houses. There are no kuccha houses in this village. The size of houses varies from a single to two storeys. This is controlled by the caste factor which is quite prominent for example; most of the houses belonging to lower caste are small in size. The Jaat communities have very big houses and well decorated and furnished. The houses of scheduled caste community are smaller in size and are not well decorated. Generally their houses are single storied. The houses of Muslim community are small in size.

14. Kitchen facility

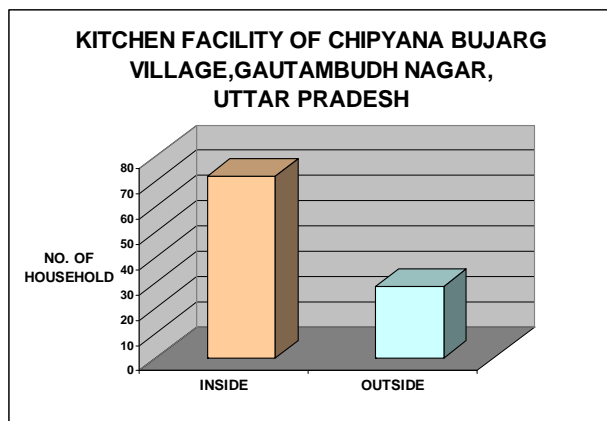


Fig 9

The figure shows that 72% household have kitchen inside the house. A particular space is covered by kitchen. 28% households don't have kitchen and use verandah for kitchen work where they cook on chulhas. Generally in the summer season, the kitchen is shifted to verandah and in the winter and rainy season it is shifted inside the house.

15. Toilet facility

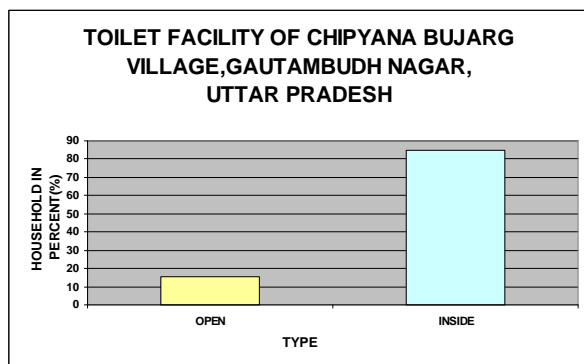


Fig 10

The figure shows that 85% people have toilets inside the house, 15% people go to the open field for toilet. There is no common or public toilet facility in this village. Therefore they have to access open fields. It was found that the village has no community or government built toilet despite being just 1 km away from Ghaziabad city.

16. Fuel consumption

The main source of fuel in this village is LPG. 56% households of this village use LPG as a fuel, 28% people use animal dung as a fuel and 17% use wood. Some people use both LPG and animal dung. Cow dung constitutes second most used fuel after LPG. Most of LPG holders also use kerosene oil for two- three days in a month between gap days of getting new LPG cylinders.

It was also observed that many middle class households use different type of fuels at the same time because they want to save LPG gas which is expensive than the other fuel.

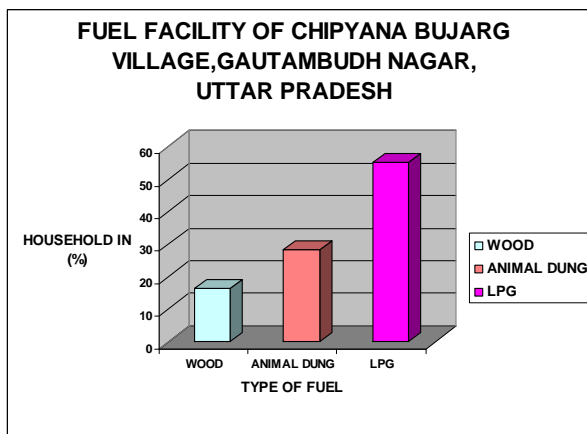


Fig 11

No household uses coal as fuel. Villagers told that there is no coal availability in the village and it is very expensive.

17. Source of house light

Electricity is the most important among the entire infrastructure in the village. It is used for lightening the house and to draw water by tube wells for irrigation. Access to this resource was judged by simple personal observation from house to house. Almost every house is electrified.

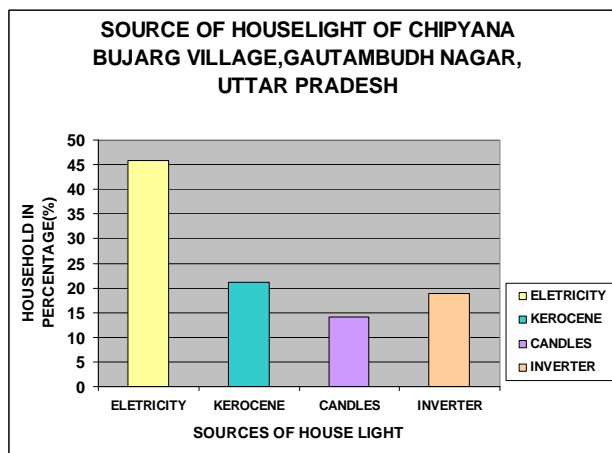


Fig 12

The main source of light energy in this village is electricity. There are other sources like inverter, candles and kerosene lamps. Most of the household of this village have authorized connections of electricity. But some people get the electricity by hooking. There were some programmes of introducing solar plates but it could not be implemented due to certain administration problem. About 55% use electricity for lighting and 18% use inverters, though candles and kerosene do account for more than 30% of sources of light.

18. Duration of electricity

Electricity supply is not regular in this village. Access to this resource was judged by simple personal observation from house to house. Almost every house is electrified. Through overall the power supply in very erratic. There is demand for more electricity especially for the agriculture sector. For irrigation purpose the tube wells are used but without sufficient electricity their work is hindered. The villagers complained that in the exam period students face lot of problem because electricity is not regular in the night. In the night they use candles and kerosene lamps for the study. The figure shows that for 64% of household electricity is available only for 5 to 12 hours, for 16% household it is available for less than 5 hours and 20% say that some time it comes more than 12 hour.

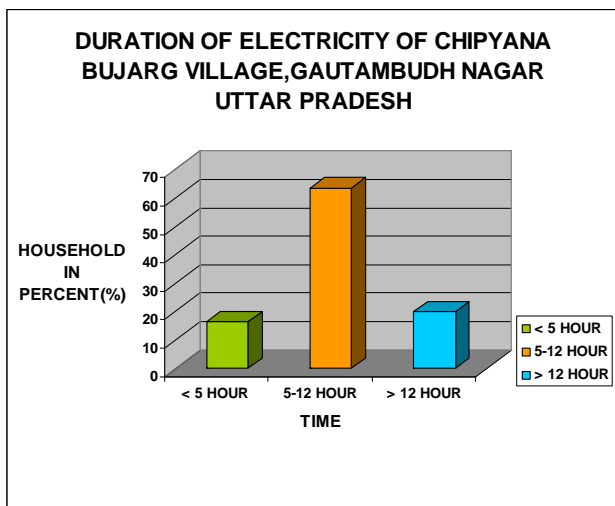


Fig 13

19. Size of land holdings

Study of the size and distribution of land holding can be made from two angles namely social and economic. On the economic side the disparity in the distribution of land holding as between different castes reflects several features of power, prestige and leadership. Besides this, the type and quantity of the crops is also to a large extent dependent upon the size of the holding of various households. For example, a household owning less than 0.5 hectare of land can grow food crop for its own consumption, while another household owning 1 hectare of land can grow cash crop if other resources are available. On the social side, the dominant pattern of castes in the village is broadly related to the size of individuals. It is very important to know that the quantity of land possessed by each caste in the village as it reflects, to a great extent, is the socio-economic status of various caste groups in the village.

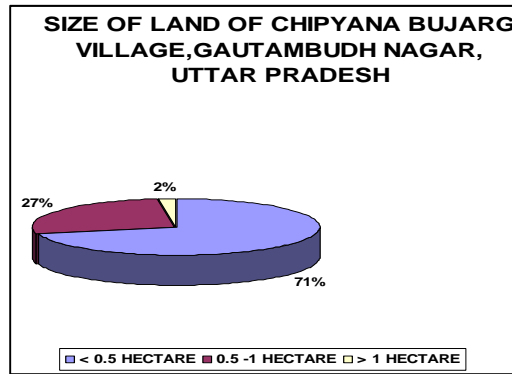


Fig 14

The figure shows that 49% households are landless, 36% households have less than 0.5 hectares of land, 13% household have between 0.5 to 1 hectare land and 2% have more than 1 hectare land. Thus the size of land holding is small and only 2% of the population holds more than a hectare of land.

20. Health accessibility

About 50% people go to hospitals for medical facility, 40% go to private nursing homes and 10% go to public health centres near by the village.

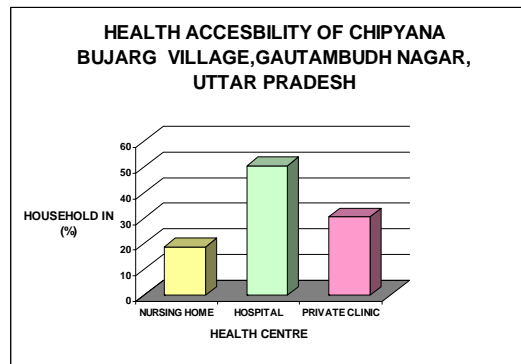


Fig 15

The villagers generally depend on private clinics for minor ailments and in the case of serious illness go to Ghaziabad. As far as medical facilities are concerned the village is served by two private medical practitioners who are non-MBBS.

21. Livestock resource

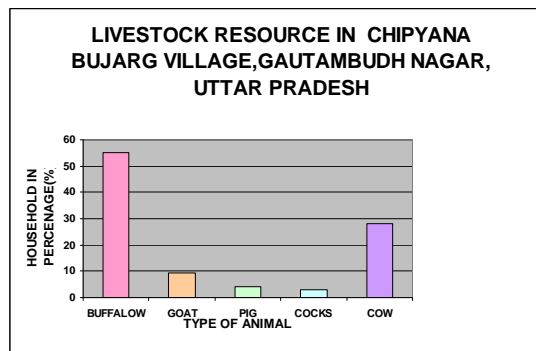


Fig 16

Livestock occupy a place of primary importance in agriculture economy. There are different type of livestock found here. Buffaloes and cows are the most important livestock in village. These cattle give milk to the villagers. The total percentage of buffaloes in this village is 55%, cows 28%, goats 9%, cocks/ hens are 4% and pigs are 3%.

4. Conclusion

In order to develop the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses, the understanding of the rural society and economy becomes inevitable. Out of the study in Chipyana Bujurg village, it was found that the village bears a diverse picture of socio-economic structure of the rural population with the varied level of socio- economic classes. This has a direct impact on the social and economic status which are reflected from the better socio-economic condition of the people belonging to higher classes of society like Jaats, Brahmin, Baniya and poor socio-economic status of the people belonging to lower classes of the society i.e. Harijan Valmiki, Chamars, Nut, Khatik etc. The population of this village is quite large. But the sex ratio shows a dismal face. The village is composed of various castes but scheduled castes constitute more than half of the village population even though Jaats are the dominant caste group. It's a predominantly Hindu village. The internal morphology is essentially caste and religion based with the dominant and higher caste Hindus occupying the central part of the village. About one third of the village is illiterate while 75% of the literates are educated below the high school level. Female literacy levels are much less than their male counterparts. The education facilities are quite meager. While more than half the people interviewed aren't into any occupation, agriculture is the main occupation of the employed population and more than 60% work within the village. Majority of the household have an income between 5-15000 rupees. Approximately a quarter of the working population has employment outside the state basically in Delhi. Majority of the population lives in puccka houses with kitchens and toilets located inside the house. While most of the people have access to LPG as the cooking fuel it is complemented by animal dung and kerosene. Electricity is the main source of lighting and the availability for most of the population is between 5 – 12 hours a day. About 71% of the households have less than 0.5 hectares of land while a minimum section has large holdings of land. Most households own cattle as livestock which supplement their income and workforce in agriculture. Even though the village has development programmes most of the villagers have little idea about the same.

Thus the study reveals the socio- economic profile of the village. Though the village is near Ghaziabad and Delhi, the influence of urban area is not much present. Caste and traditions continue to dominate the rural landscape and the settlement in question remains a typical expression of an Indian village. But basic amenities present: electricity, medical facilities, education, fuel, paccka houses etc. indicate the influence of the urban. Therefore while the people are traditional, the facilities, how so ever meager have helped the village to develop though much needs to be done. The basic need of the inhabitants is income generation and thus, employment is priority need of the area. This village is still waiting for Industrial development. Education, Drinking water, Road and Electricity are the main concerns of this village. This village will see the real

development if banks and finance institutions provide loan and other financial support to the villagers. Medical and health services need to be improved.

5. Acknowledgements

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