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Forhad Ali
Research Scholar,
Maharishi University
Information & Technology,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,
India.

Dr. SS Yadav
Phd. in geography,
Maharishi University
Information & Technology,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,
India.

Correspondence
Forhad Ali
Research Scholar,
Maharishi University
Information & Technology,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,
India.

Socio-economic status of rural households in district Uttar Pradesh

Forhad Ali, Dr. SS Yadav

Abstract

Uttar Pradesh with a population of 16.62 Crores is India's most populist State. The economy of Uttar Pradesh is mostly dominated by agriculture and allied activities. UP-Bundelkhand region having 12.21% of the State's area is under-populated with population density of 280 when compared to 690 in the State and 325 as National average. Little less than 5% of the State's population lives there as a result there was a steep fall in the mortality and steep increase in longevity. The population realized these changes and took steps to reduce their fertility but the decline in fertility was not so steep. As a result the global population has undergone a fourfold increase in a hundred years and has reached in billions. This paper will enlighten the changing pattern of population growth and planning in Bundelkhand division, Uttar Pradesh.

Keywords: Bundelkhand division, population, Uttar Pradesh, growth, Socio-Economic, Rural Households.

Introduction

Forests are repository of the bio-diversity, gene pool resources, sequester carbon dioxide and provide lot of other environmental services. They play a very vital role in sustaining the life of people and are crucial for the food and water security. The first and foremost objective of forest management in any country is to ensure livelihood security. This is ensured through better management practices and sustainable utilization of forestlands. In India, the sustained flow of water in our rivers, streams and rivulets and recharge of ground water is necessary for the food security and drinking water availability^[1]. The hydrological functions of forests include interception of rainfall and regulating the stem flows, binding soil to prevent soil erosion and conserving the soil moisture. The Forest is the source of major water resource both surface, subsoil and ground water in the country. Forests supply nutrients to agriculture crops through runoff water with much other complementariness with agriculture ecosystem^[2]. In the absence of operation planning and convergence degradation of forests and adjoining lands continued which seriously affected the sustainability of crops and natural vegetation. Due to continuous degradation of land resources, depletion of precious biodiversity and conservation functions of forests the food grain production and availability of the drinking water is getting reduced gradually causing serious ecological concerns in many parts of the country. The poverty alleviation programmes can only succeed if these areas are tackled on priority and the natural resources are managed in an integrated and holistic manner^[3]. There are however, many examples set by the pioneering individuals ad grass root level organizations in bringing convergence in the development of land based resources. As forests disappeared, the possibilities of rainwater being conserved below the ground decreased and as traditional tanks were neglected, the possibilities of surface conservation also decreased. This is how water scarcity has become acute in Bundelkhand region. In above background the State needs to have a separate agriculture development model for the Bundelkhand region that is ecologically and environmentally sustainable^[4].

Review of Literature

In above background the State needs to have a separate agriculture development model for the Bundelkhand region that is ecologically and environmentally sustainable. Such a model

has to be integrated with animal husbandry and forest regeneration. The protection of land in the watershed and planting of various species of benefit to the local people can lead to increased water availability as well as reduction in wasteland area. Plantation in ravenous tracts can help in reducing the soil erosion besides meeting the local requirements of fruit, fuel and fodder. In Bundelkhand region protection of degraded forest or community land (with rootstock) can make regeneration of traditional species possible [5]. The regeneration rate can be enhanced with implementation to water conservation efforts which increases soil moisture and therefore the plant growth. The seed sowing of leguminous grasses in areas protected for plantations and re-generation can also increase the fodder availability in the area giving a boost to the pastoral

economy. This scale of plantation will definitely have a visible impact, to monitor the impact objectively; it is proposed that the forest department will maintain the details of coordinates of plantation sites by using GPS, so that the same can be monitored later on through use of satellite imagery.

Total Area	:	294180 Sq. Km.
Population	:	8232000 (4.95% of Uttar Pradesh)
Total Farmers	:	3248000 (45%)
Marginal Farmers (Less than 1 hectare)	:	50%
Small Farmers (1-2 Hectares)	:	25%
Total Irrigated Land	:	41 % (48% by canal, 4% private sources, 41% other sources)
Area under Reserve Forest	:	195000 Hectare
Degraded Forest Area	:	124200 Hectare

Bundelkhand at a Glance

Table 1: Details of Forest Land in Bundelkhand Region

S.No.	District	Total Area (Ha.)	Reserved Forest area (HA.)	Dense (>0.4 crown density)	Degraded (<0.4 crown density)
1	Jhansi	502400	20200	3400	16800
2	Lalitpur	503900	57200	14600	42600
3	Jalaun	456500	24700	6800	17900
4	Hamirpur	428200	17800	6700	11100
5	Banda	453200	10300	2700	7600
6	Mahoba	288400	9400	2000	7400
7	Chitrakoot	309200	55400	34600	20800
	Total	2941800	195000	70800	124200

1. General Description of Bundelkhand

The Bundelkhand falls in Vindhya hilly tract and surrounded by Betwa, Dhasan, Pahuj and Jamuna, Mandakini, Sindh, Lakheri, Jamni rivers. The Bundelkhand is rich in dry deciduous mixed forests and the forests are the source for all these rivers. Various irrigation dams are built on these rivers for irrigating the otherwise dry district. The famous Rajghat, Matatila, Govindsagar, Parichha, Sukuwan Dukuwan and Panhuj, irrigations dams are situated in the Bundelkhand area. The entire Bundelkhand is situated in Vindhyan hills and ravines, catchment of Betwa, Yamuna [6]. The Bundelkhand lies in hilly track, in Southern plateau and North East part with plain land and ravenous in the middle. The average height of the study area is 300-500 meters MSL. The soil of the forests of the Bundelkhand is mostly red morramy soil sandy, black cotton, rocker. Most of the area is stony with sand stone beds around 7-10 ft. down. The climate of Bundelkhand area is of typical Central Indian climate, with mild winters and hot summers.

➤ Major Occupation

1. Agriculture of Peas, Chana, Jawar, Aderak and Wheat.
2. Collection of flowers and fruits of Mahuwa and Chironji.
3. Collection of medicinal plants and Tendu leaves.
4. Labor work on various irrigation schemes and Government works.
5. Mining activities.

➤ Population Profile

The population of Bundelkhand is dominated with backward communities, followed by scheduled caste and tribes. In the study area selected, the population is mainly SC, ST, and weaker sections of backward class. Total population of Bundelkhand region is 82.32 Lac.

2. Economic status and employment potential

There is very less industrial activity in Bundelkhand. The villagers depend upon agriculture mining, employment on development work and collection of forest produce. The forests of Bundelkhand are rich in Tendu, Mahuwa, Chironji, and Medicinal plants [7]. The villagers get some relief in employment opportunities during summer months through the collection of above forest produce. Forest is the primary land use of the area. Thus by the implementation of the study it is expected that the employment potential of the study villages, will improve during the study period. And by the improvement of forest wealth further improvement in the life style of the villagers surrounding study sites is also possible.

3. Reasons for the selection of Bundelkhand area

The deterioration of natural resources in an area can be contained and the total resources properly developed only by adopting the watershed approach. The basic unit of development is a watershed, which is a manageable hydrological unit. The forests are the source of water resources both surface, subsoil and ground water in the country. Forests supply nutrients to agriculture crops through runoff water. In this approach developments is not confined just too agricultural lands alone, but covers the area, starting from the highest point of the area (ridge line i.e. forests.) to the outlet of the nalah or the natural stream. This will involve implementation of ameliorative measures on barren hill slopes, marginal lands, privately owned agricultural lands and badly cut nala and river courses. Presently the land of this Bundelkhand along the rivers Yamuna, Mandakini, Betwa, Jamini, Sajnam, Shahjad, and Dhasan is highly rocky and sendy. Due to slopy and hilly tract, the study area is much prone for soil erosion. Various vegetative measures and check dams are needed for handling the problem. Water

retention & its absorption in the soil are very low. “Anna pratha” and “Dhaiya pratha” are common in Bundelkhand area^[8].

4. Description of Forests and species are as under

➤ Teak Forests

Bundelkhand is the Northern border of natural Teak. The forests are dry deciduous teak with poor quality III and IV. Teak with Kardhai and Dhaou forests are mostly found in JHANSI, Lalitpur, Chitkoot, Banda district and She sum and mixed forest found in Jaloun, Hamirpur, Mahoba Khair, Kardhai, Sheesum and mixed species found in different part of the other district^[9]. The management of these forests is done in the past by coppice with reserve system, with intermittent planning (Artificial regeneration) in blank patches. The main species in this type of forest along with Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is Seja (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Dhau (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Tendu (*Diospyros melonoxylon*), Gunj (*Lennea cormandelic*) and Asna (*Terminalia allata heyne*) Kardhai (*Anogeissus Pendula*), Sheesum (*Dalbergia sissoo*).

➤ Kardhai Forests

Kardhai (*Anogeissus pendula*) is a common species in this type of forests in Lalitpur, Jhansi, Chitkoot, Banda part of Mahoba. The land is rocky, with quartz, cleaves. Kardhai is mostly seen in the of quartz hillocks. Other species found associated with kardhai in the natural forests are as follows:

1. Khair (*Acacia catechu*)
2. Ghont (*Zizyphus xyloprus wild*)
3. Dhau (*Anogeissus latifolia*)
4. Riyonga (*Acacia leucophlaca wild*)
5. Seja (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*)
6. Dhak, Chevala (*Butea monosperma*)

Kardhai in the forests of the district is either in the shape of trees or mating due to heavy biotic pressure.

➤ Dry Mixed Miscellaneous Forests

The major forest area of the Bundelkhand is grouped under this classification. During the rainy season the forests of some patches of different ranges are dense, and the density in many of the parts of the blocks is 0.3-0.4. But due to heavy biotic pressure, grazing and heavy lopping and fuel wood collection, the forest remains degraded^[10]. The villagers have the rights and Concessions for Grazing, fuel wood collection at the time of forest settlement. But with increase in population the natural resources and coppicing capacity of these forests are strained.

Conclusion

UP-Bundelkhand is the poorest region in comparison with western, central and eastern regions of the state. Natural and other resources are distinct and abundant in case of western, central and eastern regions; southern region, i.e., UP-Bundelkhand has only 4.96% of the State's Population, low population density of 280. This region is prone to frequent floods and droughts the central state of India is one of the leading states of the country with respect to climate change. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation at the design stage can revolutionize the scenario of climate resilient development in the country. For the development of parched geography of Bundelkhand, the state should not only consider financial resources but should prioritize human and natural resources for overall economic development of the

country. All these recommendations for mainstreaming climate change in policy and planning can be anticipated, to result in climate resilient development in Bundelkhand region of India.

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