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Demographic structure of Kishanganj district

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Abstract

The problems of population explosion has become very acute in India. It pushes all other problems of the country into obscurity. The determination of the country to achieve rapid economy development is best by such problems as excessive rate of population growth unfavorable sex structure, lop-sided occupational structure, inadequacy of trained personnel, low level of literacy and education and unemployment, etc. This demographic factors are important to attempt at the improvement of living standard and per capita income. The entire battle against poverty is thwarted by the rapid increase in population.

Keywords: Growing population, population growth, sex structure, low level of literacy, unemployment, demographic factor

Introduction

Human being is the central point around which all the resources revolves. It is only the man who can think, recognize, explore, develop and utilize resources of the earth. In fact, man acts like a thread through the whole fabric of universe. Imagination of the universe without man is incomprehensive. It is this dynamism of mankind that makes the study about inevitable.

Population geography is an important branch of social geography. In recent years the study of population has emerged as an important discipline in social sciences. Population forms the core of study not only in demography and population geography but even many others subjects are also taking keen interest in studying various aspect of population.

There are a large number of problems facing the world, but one long range problem stands out above all others. It is rapidly increasing pressure of population and resources. As the knowledge and practice of death control and the consequent extension of human life have overtaken the knowledge and practice of birth control, the human family is increasing more rapidly then ever before in the history of the earth. The capacity of land to support population differs from region to region. Some land carry a population for below their potentials, while others in this sense are definitely over-populated and can not keep alive. Their population on home food production alone. Similarly the caring capacity of different land depends upon the functions performed by a particular piece of land.

As regards different aspect of population. As a relatively recent and largely under-developed branch of geography, population has not had its boundaries vigorously circumscribed. Therefore, divergence of opinion on its content is quite natural. Human being is widely considered as the core of population geography. Thus this branch must be related to different aspect of mean.

Rapid growth of population coupled with increasing pressure of population on land and inadequacy of resources to cop with the growth of population have added to the importance of population crisis.

There is a great need for a factual objective study of population in its many aspects.

Methodology

The methodology adopted in the present work includes procurement of published in unpublished data and maps, field work, data analysis and map analysis. Most of the data used in the present study are secondary data, which have been gathered from census reports and office of the director of census operations, Bihar, Patna. These data have helped in the analysis of growth of population, distribution and density of the population and demographic

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structure and changes. Other data related to the geographical background of the study are have been gathered from several government and semi-government offices and institution.

The study area is the home district of the scholar, who has a first hand knowledge of the geographical background and demographic character of the region. In spite of that, intensive fieldwork has been done to have detailed idea of the problem.

Occupational structure has been shown by proportionate circles divided to show different occupations.

Objective of the study

The important objectives of the study are is as below:

1. The study aim to study demographic structure of Kishanganj district.
2. Geographical analysis of demographic structure of Kishanganj district, analysis of problems and presentation of their diagnosis.
3. To assess the demographic structure and medicine in this district, to delineate the problems and to make strategies to deal with them.
4. Evaluation of the benefits of the government plans provide to the resident of Kishanganj district and suggestion related to them.
5. Identification, assessment and suggestion of remedies of other problems of residents of the Kishanganj district.

Hypothesis

The present study the following hypothesis have been tested:-

1. What are the demographic problems of Kishanganj district?
2. What has been the pattern of change in the demographic character during 1971-91?
3. What are the present demographic features of the district?
4. What measures may be taken to develop human and other resources of the region?

Study Area

The present study area is an attempt to analysis the changes in demographic character of Bihar's border district of Kishanganj. Kishanganj district lies in the north-eastern part of Bihar. In fact, it is the most easterly district of state. geographically it is situated between 25 degree 57 minute north latitude and 26 degree 45 minute N. Latitude and between 87 degree 35 minute E. Longitude and 88 degree 16 minute E. Longitude. This district is bounded on the north by Nepal and part of Darjeeling district of West Bengal, on the south by Purnia district and the district of west Dinajpur of West Bengal, on the east of also by the west Dinajpur of West Bangal on the west by Araria district.

Demographic structure

Demographic structure is an important branch of population geography. It is also known as population structure or population composition. Geographers are interested in this branch of knowledge because it changes according to nations, regions, towns, villages, etc. demographic structure has been neglected in the studies of regional geography and only some aspects of it have been studied by geographers. In fact, age, sex and literacy influence education, health,

transportation, etc to a large extent. As for example, small number of female youth in the rural population of Britain, large number of youth in the urban population of Africa, etc. can not be ignored in any study. This is why, geographers should study not only the number and distribution of population but also demographic structure (Hiralal, 1993, p. 167).

The population of the world differs greatly owing to physical, social, economic and political diversities. As such it is not easy to classify the population of the world. This problem becomes more complicated when the terms marriage, divorce, family, industry, nationality, language, religion, caste, class, culture, etc. are defined differently in different regions of the world. As such the data are more varied as less comparable. The second problem is related to the separation of one aspect of population from other. It is difficult to understand the size of families without examining age-structure, and the social class without examining occupation and income (Hiralal, 1993, p. 166).

There are two aspects of demographic structure qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative aspects include physical and psychological characteristics and socio-cultural groupings. Quantitative aspect of demographic structure includes age, sex, literacy, marital status, family, economic activity, nationality, language and religion. These quantitative aspects can be measured. According to Clarke, Population composition or the population structure refers to those aspects of population which may be measured, however inadequately (Clarke, J.I., 1972).

For the present study, only those aspects of population structure have been included in this chapter, whose data are easily available in the census reports. Sex ratio, literacy, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and religious communities have specially found place here.

Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is the expression of number of females per thousand males in an area. It effects the growth of population and it differs from region to region, age to age and year to year. In view of the partly contrasting and partly complementary roles of the two sexes in the economy and society, the study of their ratio to each other becomes of great interest to population geographers.

Sex ratio is an index of the socio-economic condition prevailing in an area and is a useful tool for regional analysis (Franklin, S.H., 1956, p.168). in itself the ratio is a function of three basic factors of sex ratio at birth, differential mortality of the two sexes at different stages of life and sex selectivity among the migrants (Clarke, J.I.< 1960, p.29). again it has profound effect on other demographic elements like growth of population, marriage rates, occupational structure, etc. it also helps in understanding the employment and consumption pattern, social need and perhaps the psychological characteristics of a community.

There is regional variation in the sex ratio of developed and developing countries. In developed countries the number of females is generally more than that of males, while in developing countries the case is reverse. The sex composition of India's population is the same as that of the rest of the developing countries, namely more men than women. In 1981 the average sex ration of India was 934 females per thousand males as compared to 1170 in the then U.S.S.R., 1060 in U.K. and 1050 in U.S.A. (World

development Report, 1983, p. 149). Thus, in the developed countries the trend has been in favour of female population, whereas in developing countries in general and in India in particular the trend has been in favour of masculine population. The sex composition of Bihar is also the same as that of the country. The overall sex ratio of the State of Bihar was 909 females per thousand males in 2001, while there were 933 females per thousand males in the country in the same census.

As regards the sex ratio of the population of Kishanganj district it is high compared to those of the State and the country. In 2001 there were 936 females per thousand males in the district as against 919 in the State and 933 in the country. In sex ratio this district ranks sixth in Bihar after Siwan (1033), Gopalganj (1005), Saran (965), Nawada (948) and Madhubani (943).

Changes in Sex Ratio:

The trend of change in the sex ratio of Kishanganj district shows that there has been a gradual variation in the sex ratio of the district. This revealed by table 5.1.

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Conclusion

Kishanganj has experienced changes in its demographic character since 1971. Total, male, male and female population, density of population, sex ratio, level of literacy, level of urbanization, number of towns, size of workers and proportion of agricultural laborers in total worker have increased during 1971-91, but the proportion of cultivators, household industrial workers and other workers in total workers has decreased during this period.

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