



SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF DARBHANGA DISTRICT: A CONCEPTUAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Darbhanga is one of the most industrially backward districts in Bihar. Only 2.4 per cent people of this area is engaged in industrial activity. There are only two large scale units i.e. Sakri Sugar Mill and Ashok Paper Mill. Both are facing problems for running and development. The running sugar mill is seasonal and is in trouble mainly due to paucity of funds whereas Paper Mill is facing a problem against problems of proper management even to reopen. The small scale units and cottage industries are the only industrialized hope to this area. This paper is a modest attempt to study the socio-economic profile of Darbhanga District.



KEYWORDS : Land Utilisation, Literacy Position, Mineral Resources, Socio-Economic Profile.

INTRODUCTION

With different historical records for nomenclature, the present district of Darbhanga is one of the three newly created districts of the old Darbhanga district of which one of the subdivisions. i.e. Darbhanga sadar got rank and file as a district in the year 1972. The district comprises of two subdivisions i.e. Darbhanga sadar and Benipur sadar with twelve anchals consisting of seven in Darbhanga sadar and five in Benipur sadar respectively.² It is one of the most economically backward districts in the State and the Nation but is rich in culture and heritage and so deserves the designation of the cultural capital of Mithila.

Geologically structure of the district is very simple. The entire region is almost flat in character and composed of alluvial deposits brought by the mighty river Ganga and its tributaries like Bagmati-Adhwara, Kamla and Kosi. There is a gentle slope from north-west to south-east with a slight gradient i.e. about 2 cms per km. The alluvial deposits are of two types i.e. bingar (older alluvium) and Khadar (newer alluvium). Both the tracts are very fertile fiat khadar locally known as dhanhar, chaus etc. are the low lying areas where floods visit almost every year. Bangar locally known as bhitha land is almost free from flood. Absence of hard rock in the area debar the region from cheap building materials and also durable metalled roads.

The district is a severe belt of natural calamities like earthquake, floods and droughts. It falls within the wear zone of Gangetic trough. Several paral faults below the alluvium cross through it which are responsible for designating this region into one of the most sensitive earthquake zones of the world. The people of this area have not forgotten the devastating nature of the earthquakes of 1934 and 1988 which turmoiled the whole region and damaged the property putting heavy loss to the people.

The flowing rivers of the region have huge catchment areas in the Himalayan and Tarai region of Nepal. Due to sedimentation the river bed is synchronizing in depth. During the rainy season the river

become helpless to carry in draining water of catchment areas and also the local heavy rainfall. Naturally except some tracts of bhitha land almost entire district affected by serve floods causing immense damage to the men and materials. It is the not severe problem of the region which bat affect the economic development. Within a few days the standing crops in the a cultural field are washed away, the road are being damaged, sometimes even rail communication is stopped and the entire low lying areas looks like sea; thus the developmental works done go out of the scene. Until and unless the region is protected from the devastations of flood, the development of the areas is out of question. The Government is very serious about this problem and spend crores of rupees on flood control schemes. Construction of embankments has been treated as the best technique of flood control but it has failed in motto. Recent experiences has shown that breaching of embankments creates more problems with higher magnitude of floods. Alternative arrangement is earnestly needed. Hence, it is proposed to prepare a master plan by our government in collaboration with the Government with the Government of Nepal specially for permanent solution of floods. Not only the engineers but expects of other environmental disciplines should also be tagged with the project for a long range planning in ecological perspective.

The district is also affected by frequent droughts due to the vagaries of the monsoon. A general idea has developed that out of every four years, two years are affected by floods, one by drought and remaining one year is out of such problems. Irrigation is the only solution. At present, approximately only one third of the GSA is irrigated and two-third of the GSA is on the mercy of the monsoon rains which is well known for its uncertainty. The district is very rich in surface as well as groundwater resources. Proper utilization of water resources is the only was to make this region free from drought. Important statistics of the district have been tabulated in table 1 and 2 below. Further details of household population, SC population, ST population, Literates blockwise have also been detailed in table 3 and 4.

Table: 1: Important Statistics: Darbhanga District

		State		District	
Number of Villages	Total	44,874		1,247	
	Inhabited	39,073		1,069	
	Uninhabited	5,801		178	
Number of Towns	Statutory	139		2	
	Census	60		2	
	Total	199		4	
Number of Households	Normal	18,867,444		801,794	
	Institutional	36,303		911	
	Houseless	9,818		307	
Population	Total	Persons	104,099,452		3,937,385
		Males	54,278,157		2,059,949
		Females	49,821,295		1,877,436
	Rural	Persons	92,341,436		3,554,057
		Males	48,073,850		1,858,545
		Females	44,267,586		1,695,512
	Urban	Persons	11,758,016		383,328
		Males	6,204,307		201,404
		Females	5,553,709		181,924
Percentage Urban Population		11.29		9.74	
Decadal Population Growth 2001-2011					
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Persons		21,100,943	25.42	641,596	19.47
Males		11,034,362	25.52	337,760	19.61
Females		10,066,581	25.32	303,836	19.31
Area (in sq Km.)		94163		2279.00	
Density of Population (Persons per sq Km.)		1106		1728	
Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 males)	Total	918		911	
	Rural	921		912	
	Urban	895		903	

Source: www.censusindia.gov.in

Table: 2: Important Statistics: Darbhanga District

		State		District	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Literates	Persons	52,504,553	61.8	1,816,634	56.56
	Males	31,608,023	71.2	1,125,566	66.83
	Females	20,896,530	51.5	691,068	45.24
Scheduled Castes	Persons	16,567,325	15.91	615,688	15.64
	Males	8,606,253	15.86	322,327	15.65
	Females	7,961,072	15.98	293,361	15.63
Scheduled Tribes	Persons	1,336,573	1.28	2,772	0.07
	Males	682,516	1.26	1,361	0.07
	Females	654,057	1.31	1,411	0.08
Workers and Non-Workers					
	Total Workers (Main and Marginal)				
	Persons	34,724,987	33.36	1,223,640	31.08
	Males	25,222,189	46.47	947,927	46.02
	Females	9,502,798	19.07	275,713	14.69
(i) Main Workers	Persons	21,359,611	20.52	731,347	18.57
	Males	17,270,690	31.82	619,269	30.06
	Females	4,088,921	8.21	112,078	5.97
(ii) Marginal Workers	Persons	13,365,376	12.84	492,293	12.50
	Males	7,951,499	14.65	328,658	15.95
	Females	5,413,877	10.87	163,635	8.72
Non-Workers	Persons	69,374,465	66.64	2,713,745	68.92
	Males	29,055,968	53.53	1,112,022	53.98
	Females	40,318,497	80.93	1,601,723	85.31
Category of Workers (Main & Marginal)					
(i) Cultivators	Persons	7,196,226	20.72	236,673	19.34
	Males	5,745,420	22.78	198,718	20.96
	Females	1,450,806	15.27	37,955	13.77
(ii) Agricultural Labourers	Persons	18,345,649	52.83	642,115	52.48
	Males	12,570,717	49.84	472,036	49.80
	Females	5,774,932	60.77	170,079	61.69
(iii) Workers in household industry	Persons	1,411,208	4.06	44,846	3.66
	Males	762,118	3.02	26,781	2.83
	Females	649,090	6.83	18,065	6.55
(iv) Other Workers	Persons	7,771,904	22.38	300,006	24.52
	Males	6,143,934	24.36	250,392	26.41
	Females	1,627,970	17.13	49,614	17.99

Source: www.censusindia.gov.in

Table: 3.3: Census Abstract: Darbhanga District

Location number	District/ CD Block/ Town	Total/ Urban/ Rural	Area in Square Kilometre	Number of households	Total population (including institutional and homeless population)			Population in the age group 0-6		
					Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
					6	7	8	9	10	11
215	Darbhangha - District	Total 2,279,00 Rural 2,211.47 Urban 67.53	803.012	729,100	3,837,385	2,058,948	1,877,436	726,482	375,682	349,800
0169	Jale	Total 186.79 Rural 186.79 Urban 0.00	53.888	264,248	264,248	136,448	127,800	49,732	25,576	24,156
0170	Singhwara	Total 170.38 Rural 170.38 Urban 0.00	54.128	267,601	267,601	138,285	129,316	49,800	25,601	24,199
0171	Keotiranway	Total 150.07 Rural 150.07 Urban 0.00	57.428	270,722	270,722	142,147	128,575	49,794	25,808	23,986
0172	Darbhangha	Total 187.00 Rural 185.71 Urban 1.29	56.488	280,987	273,431	148,422	132,575	52,256	27,225	25,031
227112	Padri (CT)	Total 1.29 Rural 1.29 Urban 0.00	1.463	7,566	7,566	4,031	3,535	1,184	631	553
0173	Manigachhi	Total 131.72 Rural 131.72 Urban 0.00	47.088	228,618	228,618	118,772	109,846	39,950	20,552	19,398
0174	Tardih	Total 85.89 Rural 85.89 Urban 0.00	27.689	123,299	123,299	64,000	59,299	20,916	10,854	10,062
0175	Alinagar	Total 94.59 Rural 94.59 Urban 0.00	28.484	143,797	143,797	74,574	69,223	27,928	14,299	13,629
0176	Benipur	Total 133.14 Rural 133.14 Urban 0.00	35.343	175,040	175,040	91,241	83,799	30,075	15,562	14,513
0177	Bahadurpur	Total 168.52 Rural 167.48 Urban 1.04	51.782	261,805	257,399	138,473	128,926	47,178	24,736	22,102
227464	Bahadurpur (CT)	Total 1.04 Rural 1.04 Urban 0.00	0.879	4,406	4,406	2,335	2,071	700	360	340
0178	Hanumannagar	Total 140.51 Rural 140.51 Urban 0.00	33.466	154,631	154,631	82,107	72,524	28,180	14,729	13,451
0179	Hayaghat	Total 85.32 Rural 85.32 Urban 0.00	30.619	148,081	148,081	78,245	69,836	27,297	14,358	12,939
0180	Baheri	Total 214.82 Rural 214.82 Urban 0.00	61.422	302,645	302,645	159,342	143,303	56,819	29,673	27,146
0181	Biraul	Total 184.45 Rural 184.45 Urban 0.00	56.704	286,113	286,113	149,326	136,787	55,410	28,589	26,821
0182	Ghanshyampur	Total 102.50 Rural 102.50 Urban 0.00	29.536	133,210	133,210	69,394	63,816	23,654	12,231	11,423
0183	Kiratpur	Total 62.35 Rural 62.35 Urban 0.00	16.612	81,423	81,423	42,458	38,965	17,092	8,810	8,282
0184	Gora Bauram	Total 117.18 Rural 117.18 Urban 0.00	30.935	152,112	152,112	78,823	73,289	30,121	15,319	14,802
0185	Kusheshwar Asthan	Total 116.59 Rural 116.59 Urban 0.00	34.375	162,870	162,870	84,977	77,893	33,958	17,552	16,406
0186	Kusheshwar Asthan Purbi	Total 121.22 Rural 121.22 Urban 0.00	25.457	128,817	128,817	67,877	60,940	30,020	15,388	14,632

Source: District Census 2011 Handbook: Darbhanga District, p.24

Table: 4: Census Details- Darbhanga District

Scheduled Castes population			Scheduled Tribes population			Literates			Total/	District/	CD Block/
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Rural/	Urban	Town
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	3	2	2
615,688	322,327	293,361	2,772	1,361	1,411	1,816,634	1,125,566	691,068	Total		Darbhangha - District
570,735	296,657	272,078	2,205	1,088	1,117	1,569,893	984,342	585,551	Rural		
44,953	23,670	21,283	567	273	294	246,741	141,224	105,517	Urban		
31,911	16,559	15,352	92	47	45	114,167	68,328	45,839	Total		Jale
31,911	16,559	15,352	92	47	45	114,167	68,328	45,839	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
34,251	17,765	16,486	106	54	52	119,946	71,677	48,269	Total		Singhwara
34,251	17,765	16,486	106	54	52	119,946	71,677	48,269	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
38,571	20,305	18,266	346	168	178	120,380	74,095	46,285	Total		Keotranway
38,571	20,305	18,266	346	168	178	120,380	74,095	46,285	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
44,842	23,709	21,133	82	40	42	128,115	79,493	48,622	Total		Darbhangha
42,491	22,456	20,035	79	39	40	123,151	76,669	46,482	Rural		
2,351	1,253	1,098	3	1	2	4,964	2,824	2,140	Urban		
2,351	1,253	1,098	3	1	2	4,964	2,824	2,140	Urban		Padri (CT)
31,018	16,223	14,795	255	134	121	109,244	67,545	41,699	Total		Manigachhi
31,018	16,223	14,795	255	134	121	109,244	67,545	41,699	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
13,936	7,256	6,680	35	18	17	58,552	36,450	22,102	Total		Tardih
13,936	7,256	6,680	35	18	17	58,552	36,450	22,102	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
15,627	8,090	7,537	9	5	4	57,294	36,602	20,692	Total		Alinagar
15,627	8,090	7,537	9	5	4	57,294	36,602	20,692	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
26,066	13,662	12,404	24	12	12	82,702	51,675	31,027	Total		Benipur
26,066	13,662	12,404	24	12	12	82,702	51,675	31,027	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
57,335	30,152	27,183	156	83	73	124,193	77,829	46,364	Total		Bahadurpur
56,167	29,533	26,634	153	81	72	121,487	76,176	45,311	Rural		
1,168	619	549	3	2	1	2,706	1,653	1,053	Urban		
1,168	619	549	3	2	1	2,706	1,653	1,053	Urban		Bahadurpur (CT)
30,443	16,048	14,395	19	11	8	70,388	43,100	27,288	Total		Hanumannagar
30,443	16,048	14,395	19	11	8	70,388	43,100	27,288	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
26,765	14,168	12,597	90	52	38	72,270	44,225	28,045	Total		Hayaghat
26,765	14,168	12,597	90	52	38	72,270	44,225	28,045	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
46,115	24,256	21,859	337	149	188	139,504	89,980	49,524	Total		Baheri
46,115	24,256	21,859	337	149	188	139,504	89,980	49,524	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
54,359	28,259	26,100	187	84	103	122,956	78,581	44,375	Total		Biraul
54,359	28,259	26,100	187	84	103	122,956	78,581	44,375	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
19,952	10,203	9,749	53	23	30	58,989	37,336	21,653	Total		Ghanshyampur
19,952	10,203	9,749	53	23	30	58,989	37,336	21,653	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
18,091	9,467	8,624	10	8	2	31,689	20,678	11,011	Total		Kiratpur
18,091	9,467	8,624	10	8	2	31,689	20,678	11,011	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
19,788	10,312	9,476	49	24	25	58,485	37,597	20,888	Total		Gora Bauram
19,788	10,312	9,476	49	24	25	58,485	37,597	20,888	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
29,911	15,536	14,375	241	113	128	65,101	43,433	21,668	Total		Kusheshwar Asthan
29,911	15,536	14,375	241	113	128	65,101	43,433	21,668	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		
35,273	18,559	16,714	120	66	54	43,588	30,195	13,393	Total		Kusheshwar Asthan Purbi
35,273	18,559	16,714	120	66	54	43,588	30,195	13,393	Rural		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Urban		

Source: District Census 2011 Handbook: Darbhanga District, p.25

The district is well known for river and rivulets but the irrigation facilities available here is not at all satisfactory. The western Kosi canal is still incomplete. No other major irrigation scheme exists in the district. Exploitation of underground water through lift irrigation is the prime source. More than half of the net irrigated areas is irrigated by tube-wells. Introduction of bamboo borings specially in Ghanshyampur, Biraul and Kusheshwar Asthan anchals have proved beneficial to the farmers. Tanks, the traditional sources of irrigation are commonly utilized for irrigation prospects throughout the region. About one-sixth of the total net irrigated areas is irrigated by tanks. Some other resources viz. pynes, old river beds, ditches and depression are also utilized for irrigation purposes. Irrigation a bit more than one-fourth of the net irrigated area of the district. It is proposed to exploit underground water round the year as it is easily available in the area.

Land Utilization

Land is an important resource which provides base for all the resources of the area. The land use pattern shows the predominance of cultivable area in the district. About 79 percent of the total land is cultivable ranging between 71 to 85 percent in the different anchals of the region. Only 0.5 percent of the total area is shared by permanent pastures which tells the poor scope of livestock development. Miscellaneous trees and groves also cover below 5 percent of the total area of the district and the area is also synchronizing day by day creating scarcity of kitchen fuel in the area. The rural people utilize valuable

cow dung to light their kitchen which have deprived the agriculture field with this valuable manures. Afforestation is the only way to solve the problems of kitchen fuel and to promote the farmers utilizing cow-dung in the agricultural field. It will also help in maintaining ecological balance.

The district possesses a variety of fertile soils basically constituents of alluvium deposits. The frequent flood also enrich the soil productivity, best suited for the growth of paddy and also to the other varieties of crops in the area. Some of the pockets which have acidic, alkaline and loamy soils need proper management and reclamation for increasing the fertility as well as capacity of storing moistures. Patches of user land can be eradicated by the process of inundation.

Mineral Resources

The entire districts is virtually nil in mineral resources. Only local and may be counted in the name of mineral, is available in the area. It is also of inferior quality and has little commercial value. The possibility of petroleum below 5000 m. from earth surface is an attraction which requires exploration as well.

The study area is one of the most density populated regions of the state and also the country. It has an average density of 1003 persons per sq. km. The growth of population during 1981-91 was 25%. It has a rural background with 91 percent people as rural. The district has only one town i.e. the headquarter Darbhanga itself with 9 percent people as urban. The population figure touches many development aspects. The heavy and increasing magnitude of population is most fundamental to the economic growth. The present economic condition of this area is not healthy and wealthy to feed the entire people and to provide employment to its working force. Naturally migratory behaviour of the people is not uncommon. The rural-urban migration is very poor but if any, migration exists either district or inter state. The rural landscape indicates that the pace of urbanization is very slow in the area. Urbanization of any area is supposed to be indicative of economic growth. The only urban unit due to lack of intensive industrial activity offers very little scope for employment. There are altogether 1321 village in the district where agriculture is primary activity. Nine among Ten persons of the area is directly dependent on agriculture and agricultural activities. Therefore any plan for the development of this area requires rural based development.

Literacy Position

Illiteracy is the basic problem. The percentage of literacy in the district is very poor i.e. 28 percent. Female literacy rate is far behind i.e. only 8 percent in comparison to the male i.e. 20 percent. This situation is very alarming in the social structure divided in caste and communal faction in the district.

The position of literate persons of scheduled castes may be counted on fingers. Minority education is also in bad shape. Therefore, private attention should be given to eradicate the evil of literacy in the society which requires educational revolution in the area. The Government agencies with the help of social organizations can accept this challenge.

The whole society is running in the turmoil with the economic and social status, so called upper, backward and scheduled castes. A small groups of upper and backward castes posses the ownership of land and the remaining majority of the people are landless. All together 46 percent of the people are cultivators and 38 percent purely agricultural labourers. It is also a fact that the land owners are completely dependent on landless labourers for their agriculture operations. The share of people goes to the land owner not to labourer. It is creating social tension leading to strike, violence etc.

The projected population of the district by different methods show an alarming situation. It has been assumed that by the end of this century the district has to face an additional load of at least 4 lakhs people which aggravated the problems and deteriorated the peace and harmony in the different sectors of life. In this situation population control is the only device. Hence, adoption of family planning programme on war footing is quite essential.

Agricultural Activities

The socio-economic progress of the region is dependent on agricultural activities. About 79 percent of the total area is cultivable. The differences in land capability, rainfall distribution and many techno economic factors are the causes of variations in cropping pattern and another agriculture pursuits. Aghani is the principal harvesting season followed by rabi, bhadai and garma. The district grows a variety of crops like paddy. Wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, sugarcane, tobacco etc. Introduction of Green Revolution has undoubtedly brought some changes in the agriculture scenario but there is still scope for further growth. The production has increased with the utilization of HYV seeds, fertilizers etc. Production of wheat and new varieties of bhadai and garma paddy are the gifts of Green Revolution, provision of assured irrigation and flood control measures are the basic components for the agricultural development in the area.

The geographical conditions of the area are very favourable for the production of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Mango is the principal commercial fruit of the district. Varieties of mangoes are grown throughout the area in which the best variety is Langra or Maldah. It has a wide market within and outside of the State. Banana, jackfruit, guava and lichi are also grown in this district. Potato is an important item of vegetables throughout the district. A number of green vegetables are also grown throughout the region and have got abundant scope if improved methods are adopted. Even gardening of flower on commercial basis will certainly enrich the pocket of the growers.

Livestock and Poultry

The position of livestock and poultry in the district is giving a rising trend in quality as well as quantity. Milk production in the district is considered adequate but requires processing plant, Buffalo dairy farming has also got good scope to be developed and so white revolution is the need of the day. Abundance of livestock resources, hides, skins and hones are available in plenty which suggest the possibility of developing livestock based industries in this area.

The district is endowed with large number of tanks, ponds, chours and low lying water bodies. These are the prime source for the development of both the categories of fishes i.e. culture and capture. The important fishes of culture fisheries are rohu, katla, naini and silver carps and of capture fisheries mangur, sing hi, kabai, buari etc. The people of the area is very much fond of fishes. Pisciculture is an old and traditional activity of fishes even then the potential for development of fisheries has not been utilized to the maximum. Sustained efforts are necessary to develop fish resources in the area. Makhana is a typical water crop of this district. The vast water resources are enormous potentials for makhana cultivation. There are altogether 5,020 tanks with 5,405 hectares of water bodies in the district of which more than one fifth of the total area are being engaged for makhana cultivation. It has very much export value throughout the nation. An experiment made for both fish-cum makhana cultivation in the same water body has given good result in the production of makhana as well as air breathing fishes. Such experiment needs proper management and popularization.

On the basis of an estimation of daily calorific requirement an adult person of this area requires at least 580 grams of food daily in which 450 grams are estimate to be obtained from cereals, 85 grams from pulses and 45 grams from other items of food. The total production of the cereals in the district is about 287 th. metric tonnes whereas the total requirement of the existing regional population is 453 th. metric tonnes. It shows a deficit of 166 th. metric tonnes, of cereals. The total production of pulses is only 9 th. metric tonnes whereas the requirement is 86 th. metric tonnes and so deficit comes to 77 th. metric tonnes. Such a gap between production and requirement will gane wider in future with the fast rate of growing population in the area. There has been a cumulative rate of growth of agriculture production in the recent years even after but long and continuous efforts to fill up the gap is the day's dream. Agriculture is already over saturated so far as the number of dependents on agriculture is concerned and the pressure got to be reduced. Fish is an imkportant source of balanced diet and deserves also to be an important item of food in this area. On the basis of NAC the requirement of fish to be an item of balanced diet should be 15 grams per head per day. Assuming three-fourth of the people of the area as fish eating persons, the total annual

requirement has been estimated 10.350 metric tonnes. The present annual production of fishes is 7,000 metric tonnes. Thus the region has a deficit of 3,350 metric tonnes annually. It has been also estimate that after 20 years the region shall have to produce at least 14,000 metric tonnes of fishes annually to fill up the requirement of fish consuming persons in that year. It is true that the region has sufficient scope to enhance the production of fishes, if the vast supplying water bodies of the area are properly utilized and scientifically managed.

The study of internal regional variations in the different sectors of economy of this area remark a gap of development. The geo-ecological conditions, poor urbanization and influence of local politicians are some of the basis factors.

Power Position

The development of agriculture and industry are closely attached with the power position of the district. At present the region, receives power from Barauni Thermal Power Plant of the BSEB. The position of power is not satisfactory. Erratic and incidence of power failures, voltage fluctuations, carelessness of the maintenance are some of the problems of inadequate power supply which is one of the basic reasons for the economic backwardness of this area. So far the electrification of village is concerned three-fourth of the total village of this area are electrified under rural electrification programme of the Government. Out of total 10 Mw supplied to this district urban area receives two-third of the power supplied and remaining one-third goes to rural areas. Such differentiation also affects the rural economy. The proposal to multipurpose river project in collaboration with the Government of Nepal shall also be very beneficial in getting hydel power supply to the region.

Transport and Communication

The development of transport & communication is also in bad shape. The execution of development plans has also suffered due to the communication inconveniences. Total length of metalled roads is about 1,200 kms. which are managed by PWD and REO. The important roads are managed by PWD and other by REO. There is scarcity of good roads in the district and the condition of roads becomes deplorable during the rains. Out of 1,321 village in the district only 391 villages are connected with all weather roads, remaining villages have either unmetalled or kachha roads. The rural communication under JRY brick built roads known as kharanja roads are being constructed in the rural areas. The rural communication is also linked with wooden bridges for crossing over the rivulets. Most of the bridges are incapable of taking the ever increasing heavy load of goods and passengers traffic and so, are not motorable. The District Headquarter. i.e. Darbhanga is connected with State capital and other important towns and cities of the State by metalled roads. All the anchal headquarters are connected with district headquarter by metalled roads but poor maintenance of roads create problems to villagers incoming to anchals head-quarters during the rainy season.

The district is served by both the gauges of railway i.e. broad gauge (19kms.) and metre gauge (58 kms.). 2nd February 1996 is a red letter day in the history of railway in the district when Darbhanga junction was practically connected to Samastipur by broad gauge. Metre gauge line passes in two directions from Darbhanga junction. One branch goes to Narkatiaganj and other to Sakri where it again bifurcates in two directions one from Sakri to jainagar and other to Nirmali. Out of 12 anchals of the district only 7 anchals are served by rail length with 15 rail way stations. Major portions of the district are lying at a distance of 15 kms. From the nearby rail way station. naturally the people have to face a lot of problems regarding incoming and outgoing of men and materials. The construction of new railway line from Sakri to Hasanpur has certainly improved the economic movement of trade and traffic in the region. Planning of conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge from Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj and Darbhanga to Jainagar is proposed to nearby execution.

Financial and Marketing Facilities

The development of rural economy of the study region requires a framework of policy in relation to the finance available and to be available from different sources. Proper utilization of finance is the first step in the poverty eradication programme of the area. Government is very much conscious about the alleviation of poverty specially in the economic backward regions throughout the nation. Consequently, a series of programme have been designed and implemented. Some of the scheme like IRDP, SEEU, SEPUP, PMNY, Credit Special Component for Minority Community etc. have been launched in the: study region constituent schemes, horticulture development scheme and mini-dairy scheme have been started with the basic objective of mass welfare and specially to the downtrodden people of this area. The financial institution like BSFC, Nationalized Banks, UBKGB(erstwhile MKGB), LMB etc. have come in front to provide term loans to the beneficiaries in the area. But a lot of formalities deprive the rural mass to take advantage from these institutions. Keeping in view the practical approach and mass benefit, it is proposed to avoid some of the extra paper works.

Market, an important infrastructure of trade and commerce, is the backbone of agriculture as well as industrial progress in an area. The study region is in lack of market and marketing facilities which have a clear cut pact on the economy of the area. There are only two regulated markets in the district; one of Shivdhar, Darbhanga and the other at Benipur. These markets perform wholesale trading business specially of grains, makhana, dalda and oils. Retail markets are located at Laheriasarai, Sakri, Behera, bajidpur and mostly at Block Headquarters providing a link between consumer and wholesaler. Apart from these, there are 79 village markets or hats scattered throughout the region. Such markets or hats are the key centres of rural people fro buying and selling of commodities throughout the region. On an average basis at present, to deliver services to these village and the people of the area which is not only impossible but out of task. It is proposed to start daily hats in those village which has population more than 5,000 and some of the infrastructure facilities like metalled roads, schools, health centres, post offices etc, such daily hats in future, may take the shape of permanent bazaars and then will secure the purpose of service centres to the neighbouring villages.

CONCLUSION

After a thorough analysis of the existing and potential resources with different infrastructure avenues of the area, it may be concluded that the socio-economic development of this area is inter linked with the agro-industrial development programmes, in relation to excessive population pressure in the area. Economic stagnation is much greater due to higher agrarian content and a larger density of population throughout the region. Development strategies of the different sectors form the base of overall developmental in the district.

The scope for the extension of agriculture lies with the implementation of improved scientific methods of cultivation. But is has also got certain limitations due to some natural and man-made constituents. Scope for extension of cropland, protection for flood devastation, development of irrigation facilities, improvement in the process of agricultural practices by the adaptation of HYV seeds, fertilizers, multiple cropping, scope for farming other than food crops; advanced technology in farm operations like modern agriculture implements, cold storage; soil management, land reforms, farmer's education, training and financial assistance are some of the strategies for agricultural development in the area.

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