IMPACT OF LAND USE PATTERN ON POPULATION IN SHEIKHPURA DISTRICT : A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In terms of population per sq.km. Sheikhpura is the 27th densely populated district in the state with 924 persons per sq.km as against the state's 1,106. In terms of population per sq.km. Sheikhpura is the 27th densely populated district in the state with 924 persons per sq.km as against the state's 1,106. Sheikhpura ranks 7th in terms of sex-ratio (930) against the state's 918. Sheikhpura ranks 15th in terms of child sex-ratio (940) against state's 935. There are 53 uninhabited villages (out of 314 total villages) in the district ofSheikhpura. Teus (under Barbigha C.D. Block) is the most populated village (10,315) andRaghunathpur(under GhatKusumbha C.D. Block) is the least populated villages (1) in the district. C.D. Block Sheikhpura has the highest number of villagesin the district and C.D.Block GhatKusumbha has the lowest number of villages (24). Kusmha (under GhatKusumbha C.D. Block) has the largest area (1,949 hectare) and ChhotiMilki and Kamta under Sheikhpura C.D. Block) have the smallest area (1 hectare) among the villages in the district.

Key words: *Land use, Current fallows, Compound growth rate, Sheikhpura*

INTRODUCTION

The district of Sheikhpura, lies almost on the middle portion of the south Bihar plain. It is adorned with natural beauty, replete with rivers, trees and hillocks. It was mainly carved out of Munger district on the 31st July,1994. It was formed by taking away Sheikhpura sub-division of old Munger district during 1991 Census, adding 24 villages of Lakhisarai district (old Lakhisarai sub-division of old Munger district) and 2 villages of Nalanda district. The district is the western portion of Munger division.The district and sub-divisional headquarters with same name is located on Gaya-Kiul Railway line. Sheikhpura (Nagar Parishad) is the principal town of the district. The district is bound on north side by the district of Nalanda, on south by Nawada and Jamui districts, on east by Lakhisarai district and on west by Nalanda and Nawada districts. The district of Munger was itself carved out of the district of Bhagalpur around 1812. Till 1994, as aforesaid, the bulk of Sheikhpura district was integral part of the Munger district.Though there is no authentic history of Sheikhpura scripted in any book or records but according to knowledge collected from various sources history of Sheikhpura dates back to the age of Mahabharata. It is believed that in the Mahabharata age a demon girl Hidimba lived on the hillocks situated on its Eastern stretch with whom one Pandava brother Bhima married and gave birth to a heroic son 'Ghatotkach'. Later on this hill was called 'Girihinda' after the name of Hindimba or Hidimba. Girihinda village is still situated over there. During the Pallava reign also Sheikhpura was one of the chief administrative centres. It is believed that the famous Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri had got the famous 'Dal Kuan' constructed over here. Till now 'Dal Kuan' and Sheikhpura is believed to be synonymous with each other. During the mughal period, Sheikhpura got the status of Thana. In the British period Sheikhpura was accorded the status of Big Kotwali and after independence it was given the status of Block. On 14th April 1983 Sheikhpura became a Subdivision and on 31st July 1994 it was upgraded to District status. . It is in the Munger division.According to one belief about six hundred years ago a great suphie saint 'Hazarat Makhdum Shah Shoeb Rahamatullah Aleh'

had founded the city of Sheikhpura. He settled over here and the dense forests were cleaned and people started settling over here. Later on it became densely populated. The name of the district owes to Sheikhpura village which is an important village in the district. According to Buchanan the village had derived its origin and name from the tomb of Muslim saint named Sayed, who was a Sheikh. Another view supports that the name of the village was Sheshpur (Abode of legendary snake Shesh) which was corrupted as Sheikhpura. But this view cannot be taken seriously.

Important Statistics						
		State		**District**		
Number of Villages	Total	44,874		314		
	Inhabited	39,073		261		
	Uninhabited	5,801		53		
Number of Towns	Statutory	139		2		
	Census	60		-		
	Total	199		2		
Number of Households	Normal	18,867,444		100,411		
	Institutional	36,303		226		
	Houseless	9,818		64		
Population	Total	Persons	104,099,452		636,342	
		Males	54,278,157		329,743	
		Females	49,821,295		306,599	
	Rural	Persons	92,341,436		527,340	
		Males	48,073,850		272,360	
		Females	44,267,586		254,980	
	Urban	Persons	11,758,016		109,002	
		Males	6,204,307		57,383	
		Females	5,553,709		51,619	
Percentage Urban Population		11.29		17.13		
Decadal Population Growth 2001-2011		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
	Persons	21,100,943	25.42	110,840	21.09	
	Males	11,034,362	25.52	55,751	20.35	
	Females	10,066,581	25.32	55,089	21.90	
Area (in sq Km.)		94163		689.00		
Density of Population (Persons per sq Km.)		1106		924		
Sex Ratio	Total	918		930		
(Number of females per 1000 males)	Rural	921		936		
	Urban	895		900		

Important Statistics					
		State		District	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Literates	Persons	52,504,553	61.8	328,676	63.86
	Males	31,608,023	71.2	196,431	73.56
	Females	20,896,530	51.5	132,245	53.40
Scheduled Castes	Persons	16,567,325	15.91	131,115	20.60
	Males	8,606,253	15.86	67,582	20.50
	Females	7,961,072	15.98	63,533	20.72
Scheduled Tribes	Persons	1,336,573	1.28	617	0.10
	Males	682,516	1.26	305	0.09
	Females	654,057	1.31	312	0.10
Workers and Non-Workers					
Total Workers (Main and	Persons	34,724,987	33.36	224,655	35.30
Marginal)	Males	25,222,189	46.47	151,569	45.97
	Females	9,502,798	19.07	73,086	23.84
(i) Main Workers	Persons	21,359,611	20.52	148,002	23.26
	Males	17,270,690	31.82	109,905	33.33
	Females	4,088,921	8.21	38,097	12.43
(ii) Marginal Workers	Persons	13,365,376	12.84	76,653	12.05
	Males	7,951,499	14.65	41,664	12.64
	Females	5,413,877	10.87	34,989	11.41
Non-Workers	Persons	69,374,465	66.64	411,687	64.70
	Males	29,055,968	53.53	178,174	54.03
	Females	40,318,497	80.93	233,513	76.16
Category of Workers (Main & Marginal)					
(i) Cultivators	Persons	7,196,226	20.72	54,511	24.26
	Males	5,745,420	22.78	41,222	27.20
	Females	1,450,806	15.27	13,289	18.18
(ii)Agricultural Labourers	Persons	18,345,649	52.83	109,696	48.83
	Males	12,570,717	49.84	68,524	45.21
	Females	5,774,932	60.77	41,172	56.33
(iii)Workers in household	Persons	1,411,208	4.06	9,917	4.41
industry	Males	762,118	3.02	5,451	3.60
	Females	649,090	6.83	4,466	6.11
(iv) Other Workers	Persons	7,771,904	22.38	50,531	22.49
	Males	6,143,934	24.36	36,372	24.00
	Females	1,627,970	17.13	14,159	19.37

POPULATION DENSITY - SHEIKHPURA DISTRICT

The total area of Sheikhpura district is 689 km^2. Thus the density of Sheikhpura district is 924 people per square kilometer. As per the initial provisional data of Census 2011, around 44 sq. km. area is under urban region while 646 sq. km. is under rural region.

URBAN/RURAL POPULATION - SHEIKHPURA DISTRICT

As per the Census 2011 out of total population of Sheikhpura, 17.13% people lived in urban regions while 82.87% in rural areas. The total figure of population of urban population was 109,002 out of which 57,383 were males while remaining 51,619 were females. In rural areas of Sheikhpura, male population was 272,360 while female

population was 254,980. The average sex ratio in urban regions of Sheikhpura was 900 females per 1000 males. Also the Child (0-6 age) sex ration of urban areas in Sheikhpura was 910 girls per 1000 boys. Thus the total children (0-6 age) living in urban areas of Sheikhpura were 18,597 which is 17.06% of total urban population. Similarly the average sex ratio in rural areas of Sheikhpura was 936 females per 1000 males. The Child sex ratio of rural areas in Sheikhpura was 945 girls per 1000 boys. The average literacy rate in Sheikhpura for urban regions was 70.99 percent in which males were 78.3% literate while female literacy stood at 62.85%. The total literate population of Sheikhpura was 328,676. Similarly in rural areas of Sheikhpura, the average literacy rate was 62.34 percent. Out of which literacy rate of males and females stood at 72.53% and 51.42% respectively. Total literates in rural areas of Sheikhpura were 264,495.

LAND UTILIZATION PATTERN IN THE DISTRICT: FOREST, AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, MINING

The total geographical area (TGA) of Sheikhpura is 66,894 hectare. The largest block of the district is Sheikhpura which comprises of a TGA of 18,329 hectare i.e. about 27.4 percent of the TGA of the district. Ariari is the second largest block of the district which comprise of 21.7 percent of the total geographical area (14,505 ha). Sheikhpurosarai is the smallest block of the district which comprise of 5685 hectare i.e. around 4 percent of total geographical area of the district.It has been observed from agriculture department's records that the Gross Cropped Area of the district is 67,046 hectare and the Net Sown Area is 36,793 hectare. Sheikhpura block occupies around 27 percent of the gross cropped area of the district followed by Ariari which occupies around 22 percent of the Gross Cropped Area. This is followed by Barbigha and Chewara both of which occupy 16 percent of the gross cropped area. Ghatkusumbha and Shekhopursarai blocks contributes in the gross cropped area to the extent of 9.0 percent and 10.0 percent respective.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion may be drawn from the ongoing discussion that the net sown area in the state hascontinuously declined over the period under study. For further raising the income ofcultivators, the only option is available to raise the cropping intensity or increase the areaunder crops more than once. In other words, it is possible through proper utilization ofdecreasing land availability. Rapid growth in area under non-agricultural uses has been observed for the purpose of settlement of ever-rising population and developmental activities.The most striking feature concerning the land use pattern in the state is that the current fallowland has escalated during the first study period of the present century (2001 to 2013-14). The reason for escalation in the current fallows may probably be given to a very low profit margin accruing in the cultivation of crops, probably due to erratic rainfall, higher wages of labour arising out of diversion of labour to MNREGA and for better employment opportunities in urban areas.The rainfall has been found to be the most important determinant for current fallow lands,however, during the recent period (present century) the current fallow land registered increasing trend probably on account of erratic rainfall. On the other hand, the hypothesis isthat the road length should have negative relation with current fallow but surprisingly the current fallows have developed positive and significant relation with road length, despite the increase in road length in the state this may probably be due to poor marketing facilities for the produce as well as migration of labour from the state to other states. The most important factor affecting the common lands has been identified as non-agricultural uses of land. The other factor population density showed positive and significant impact on common lands; it is perhaps due to migration of sizeable proportion of population to the other distantmetropolitan cities and towns in the quest of better employment/ jobs.

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