

THE PRESENT SCENARIO OF SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION OF BALASORE DISTRICT OF ORISSA

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ABSTRACT:

Population explosion is a major problem of Balasore District in Orissa. The study area is characterized by agriculture based economy. Over-increasing population results in diversification of economic activities. Balasore District has potential for development in the areas of horticulture, cottage and handicrafts and tourism. There is an urgent requirement of some developmental planning. It has been found in the study that there is a substantial gap between demand and supply of health care infrastructure, both physical and manpower, among the blocks of this district. In the district, the percentage of rural population is 89.11% as against 85.01% in Orissa state. Because of huge rural population and high population density, there is requirement of good number of civic amenities and infrastructure in rural areas of this district. Moreover, 73.72% of the total families are Below Poverty Line (BPL) (1997). These BPL families requires intervention in the shape of livelihood, housing, basic amenities etc. The present paper attempts to find out the present status of social and economic development in Balasore district of Orissa.

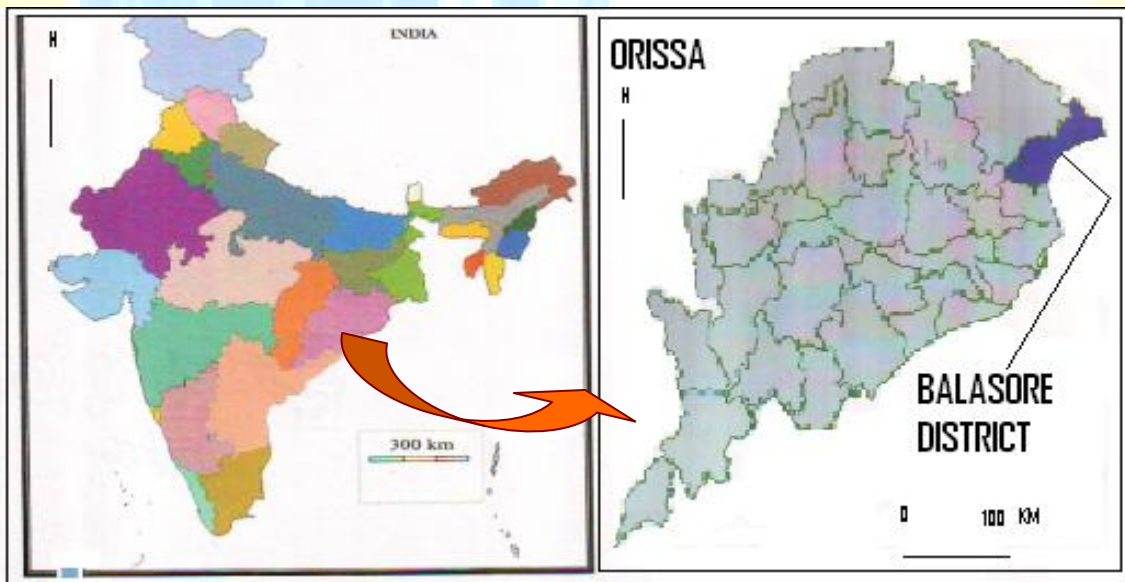
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INTRODUCTION:

Balasore, a district lying in coastal belt of Orissa is a model district of the country where development of agriculture and allied sectors mainly fishery, livestock rearing, horticulture and agro-based industries is the key to overall growth in rural economy and ensuring sustainable rural livelihood. Such a development approach will make the district unique in the state where there will be equitable growth in all the sectors with equitable benefits to the citizens without compromising quality of life and discrimination due to gender, caste or creed.

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA:

Balasore is one of the north-eastern coastal districts of Orissa. The District lies in between 21°03′



to 21°59′ North latitude and 86°20′ to 87°29′ East Longitude. It is bounded by Bay of Bengal in the East, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts in the West, Medinapore district of West Bengal in the North and Bhadrak district in the South. The geographical area of the district is 3806 Sq. km. Balasore, is crisscrossed with perennial and estuarine rivers because of its proximity to sea.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives are-

- (1) To study its present situation and dimension.
- (2) To analyze the evolution and current status of human development by linking them to the social, economic and demographic processes.
- (3) To analyze the background of the problem.
- (4) To identify the possible strategies for human development.

DATA SOURCE:

This work is based on primary data obtained from Questionnaire survey, interview, field visit and secondary data is obtained from Government and Non-Government office. Various maps and diagrams have been collected in order to fulfill the objective of the research.

DATABASE:

Methodology for the present work is statistical as well as cartographic. For analyzing this data, various statistical techniques have been adopted to fulfill the objective. This paper represents the present scenario of social and economic development of Balasore district of Orissa.

Table: 1 showing the rural urban distribution of population.

Total Population (%)		Population Density(person/sq.km)
Rural	Urban	532
89.11	10.89	

Source: Census of India, 2001 & Information Sheet on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Balasore district, 2009

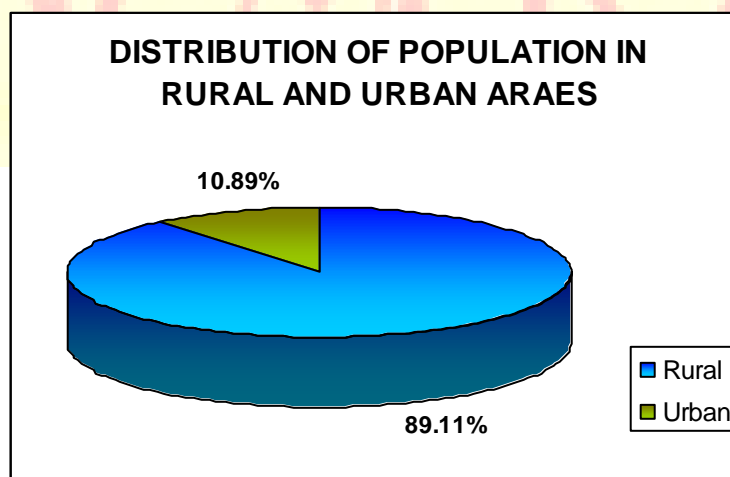


Table: 2 showing the percentage distribution of SC, ST population to total population.

Population (Category in Percentage)	
SC	ST
18.84	11.28

Source: Census of India, 2001 & Information Sheet on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Balasore district, 2009

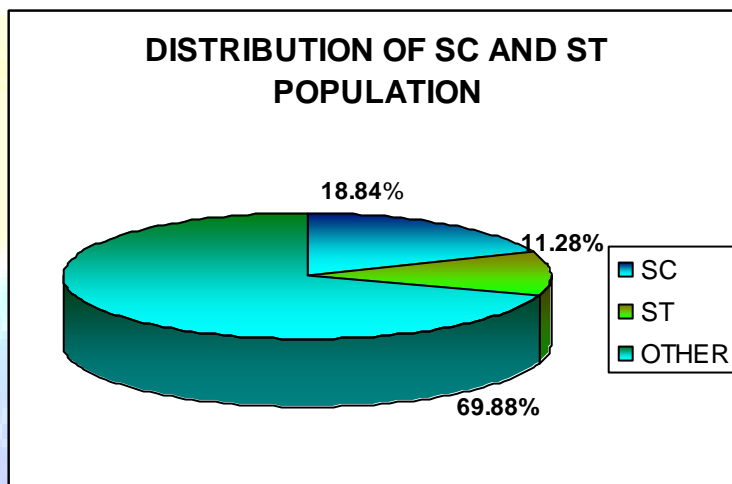


Table: 3 showing the literacy rate of Balasore District of Orissa.

Literacy Rate(Total)	Male	81.69
	Female	58.90
	Total	70.56
Literacy rate(Rural)	Male	81.16
	Female	57.40
	Total	69.52
Literacy Rate(Urban)	Male	85.77
	Female	71.20
	Total	78.80
Literacy Rate in SC population		59.41
Literacy Rate in ST population		31.88

Source: Census of India, 2001 & Information Sheet on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Balasore district, 2009

Table: 4 showing the BPL families of Balasore District

Number of Rural Families	Number of BPL Families	Out of total BPL Families	
		SC	ST
349446	257606	77183	43827

Source: Office of the DRDA, Balasore district

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE STUDY AREA:

It is a densely populated district and people are educated, culturally active and socio economically developed. Balasore is one of the most populous districts of the state. It occupies only 2.44% of the total land mass of the state but accommodates 5.50% of total population. The population density of the district (532) is very high; almost double that of Orissa State (236). The growth rate of population in the district is high (19.33%) as against 16.25% for the State during 1991-2001. As per 2001 census, the total population of the district is 2024508. The district recorded sex ratio of 953 in 2001 Census. Out of 12 CD Blocks, sex ratio is highest in Oupada block (1005) followed by Khaira (998) and Simulia (971). The district has high concentration of Scheduled Caste population (18.84%) and low of Scheduled Tribes (11.28%). Population of Balasore district mainly belongs to Hindu and Muslim religion. Hindus constitute about 95.72% of the total population in the district. Percentage of Muslim is 3.77 as against only 2.07 in the entire state. Population of other religion in the district is marginal. Literacy rates of the district are much higher than State average. The literacy rates of SC population in the district are better than that of state population.

ECONOMY OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE:

Agriculture and allied sectors are the main-stay of the district's economy. It provides both direct and indirect employment to the majority of the workforce (67%). The share of agriculture in the district income is about 41% in the year 2001-02 which is more than the state share in

NSDP. In fact agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the population supplemented by livestock rearing, fishery and horticulture. The district lacks mineral resources and so also major and medium industries. Hence, the rural population of the district mainly depends on agriculture, fishery and other activities allied to agriculture for their livelihood. The district has four major revenue sources like industries, agriculture, fishing and tourism.

- (1) **Fisheries:** sector occupies a pivotal place in national and state economy. It is also an important source of animal protein and a popular economic activity in a coastal district like Balasore. This sector bears potential for substantial income and opportunities in generating employment for the unemployed youth.
- (2) **Mineral resources:** The district lacks mineral resources. But the adjoining district of Keonjhar is rich in chromite and iron deposits. No mineral deposit of economic value beneath the soil of the district has been reported till date. Only sand sources are there because of flowing rivers inside the district.
- (3) **Agro-based industry:** The district Balasore has a potential market for its agro-based industrial products. The adjoining districts like parts of Keonjhar and Bhadrak depend on Balasore. Paddy and fish are the chief commodities in the district followed by vegetables, coconut and sunflower. Post harvest technology and management plays a crucial role in value additions to agriculture. With improvement in food processing, the farmers of the district will get better price for their produce and this will create additional employment opportunities
- (4) **Diary Farming:** Dairy development is a dynamic sector of the district. In spite of all these the district lack critical infrastructures like Livestock Breeding Farms, Feed Mixing Plants, Poultry Producer Cooperative Society and Fodder Seed Production/Demonstration Farms which are essential to develop livestock resources and production in the district.
- (5) **Horticulture:** Balasore district is endowed with natural resources, adequate rainfall and suitable climate for horticulture crop. Though not exploited to the extent possible, the agro-climatic condition of the district is conducive for cultivation of different fruits, flowers and vegetables.
- (6) **Agriculture:** Balasore district is fairly irrigated. Out of the net area sown 55.58% is irrigated in Kharif season and 42.02% in Rabi season. This is much higher than state figures, which is only 46.39% in kharif and 22.27% in Rabi season.

(7) **Tourism:** Balasore has various physical phenomenon as well as religious cultural sights. The western portion of Balasore district is characterized by Kuldiha reserve forest as well as Nilgiri Hill and the eastern portion is characterized by Chandipur beach which occupies the significant place of tourist attraction.

RECOMANDATIONS:

(A)The district performs average among other districts in productivity of important crops, which is the main reason for poor economic status of the farmers. There is lot of scope for improvement. Emphasis is needed to the following activities.

- SRI method of cultivation of paddy.
- Promotion of paddy-cum-Pisciculture.

(B)The following activities may be taken up on priority basis for significant growth in the fishery sector.

- Development of tank and ponds suitable fresh water resources in the district.
- Development of water area suitable for brackish water shrimp farming.

(C)The following are the activities suggested for development of horticulture sector in the district.

- Establishment of private nurseries.
- Promotion of backyard plantation of fruit trees.

(D)District and can be one among future growth engines. In Diary farming sector, the following activities/programmes can be taken up on priority basis.

- Artificial Insemination Centers is at each Gram Panchayat for large scale up gradation of indigenous breeds of cattle. Introduction of Artificial Insemination in Goats.
- Formation of meat and egg production cooperative society.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

Out of the eleven development sectors, social services, transport, rural development, irrigation & flood control and agriculture are the lead sectors of the district. This is because of the fact that Balasore is one of the most populous districts of the state. In the district, the percentage of rural population is 89.11% as against 85.01% in Orissa state. Because of huge rural population and

high population density, there is requirement of good number of civic amenities and infrastructure in rural areas of the district. In addition, 73.72% of the total families are Below Poverty Line (BPL) (1997). These BPL families requires intervention in the shape of livelihood, housing, basic amenities etc. Development of the district can't be possible unless there is an improvement in the standard of living of this rural population, mostly people below poverty line. Priority is on livelihood security for rural poor either through creation of wage employment opportunities or self employment and creation of infrastructures in deficient areas. These infrastructures not only include basic amenities but also infrastructures required for development of productive sectors, disaster management etc. Major issues identified in block level workshops conducted are lack of connectivity/good quality roads, lack of safe drinking water, health and sanitation, provision of irrigation etc. Keeping these issues in view, plan proposals have been finalized giving adequate emphasis to lead sectors.

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