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A Geographical Analysis of Occupational Structure in Hazaribag C.D. Block of Hazaribag District, Jharkhand

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Authors

Anup Kumar Panja

Research Scholar

Dept. of Geography

Vinoba Bhave University

Hazaribag, Jharkhand, INDIA

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh

P.G. Department of Geography

M.C.C Hazaribag

Vinoba Bhave University

Hazaribag, Jharkhand, INDIA

Abstract

Humans are one of the many living things that live on the surface of the earth. Human beings have an important role to play in the evolution or change of any kind of activity in various forms on the surface of the earth. Karma based community has developed through continuous human endeavors and scientific approach. Due to the importance and efforts given by researchers in India and around the world, Demographic studies has become one of the most widely studied disciplines today. The study and research of demography and the direction obtained from it can play a role of revolution in many areas. For this, while conducting population census, the working population is divided into main workers and marginal workers. For almost all types of occupation-based population categories, these two groups are divided according to the proportion of working population and work obtained. In this research analysis the working population is considered between the two major categories that is main workers and the marginal workers and again it is divided into agricultural laborers,

cultivators, household industry workers and other workers.

Key Words

Main Workers, Marginal Workers, Cultivators, Household Industry Workers.

Introduction

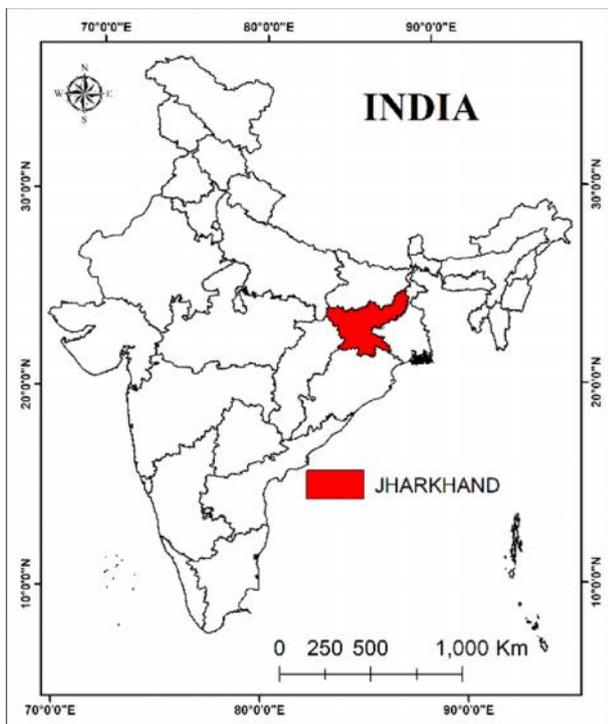
Occupational structure refers to the aggregate distribution of occupations in society, classified according to skill level, economic function, or social status. The occupational structure is shaped by various factors: the structure of the economy (the relative weight of different industries); technology and bureaucracy (the distribution of technological skills and administrative responsibility); the labour-market (which determines the pay and conditions attached to occupations); and by status and prestige (influenced by occupational closure, lifestyle, and social values).. The workers are classified into two categories: main workers and marginal workers. Main workers are the ones who work for more than six months in a year, and marginal workers are the ones who work for less than six months in a year. The census of India, over the years, has shown that the marginal workers have been growing way faster than the main workers in the country and have gone on to account for

one-fourth of the total working population in India, as stated by the 2011 census. Colin Clerk, in his work “Conditions of Economic Progresses” argues that there is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand and occupational structure on the other hand and economic progress of any region is generally associated with certain distinct changes in occupational structure. A.G.B Fisher said that “In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities to secondary activities of all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production socio-economic status affects overall human functioning, including our physical and mental health. The growth of the population is directly related to the character of the occupation. Mukherjee and Sing (1954) have defined occupation as, “The name of the function which a person performs by engaging himself in that particular branch of gainful economic activity which is his industry.”

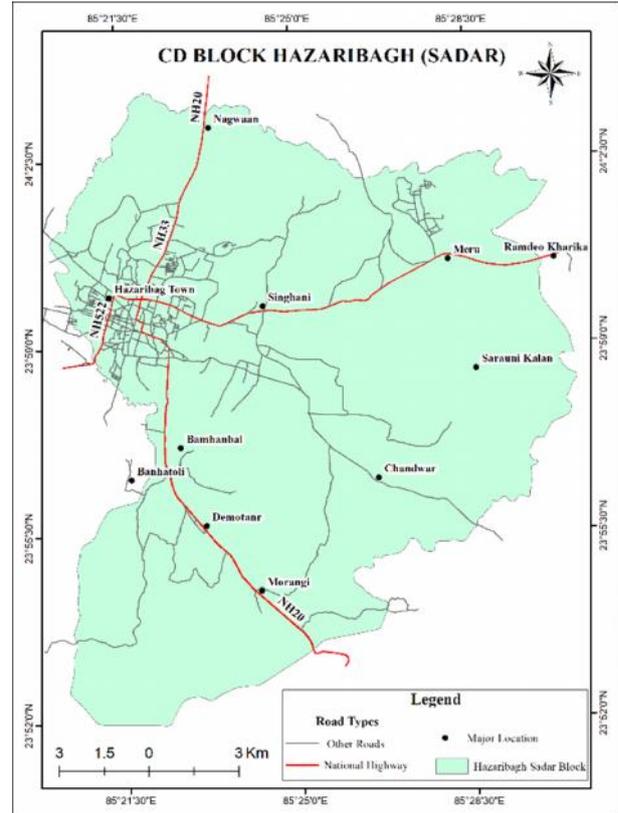
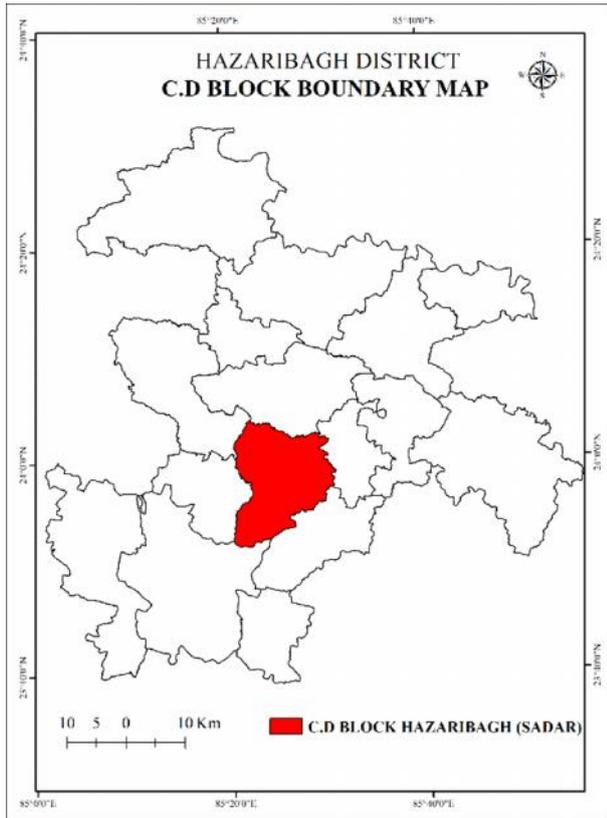
Study Area

The study area covers the Hazaribag C.D. block of Hazaribag sadar sub division of Hazaribag district of Jharkhand, India. Hazaribag C.D. Block is located in 23°57'49" N – 24°14'6" N and 85°20'0" E - 85°27'26" E. Average height of the study area is 610 meter from the sea level.

The total geographical area is 312.43 sq. km. Hazaribagh C.D. block had a total population of 2,90,098 of which 1,18,276 were rural and 1,71,822 were urban. As of 2011, Sadar, Hazaribagh C.D. block had 25 gram panchayats, 80 inhabited villages and 3 census towns (Meru, Maraikalan and Okni II) Hazaribagh C.D. block is bounded by Ichak C.D. block on the north, Daru C.D. block on the east, Churchu and Barkagaon C.D. blocks on the south, and Katkamdag and Katkamsandi C.D. blocks on the west.



(Source: Jharkhand Administrative Atlas)



(Source: Jharkhand Administrative Atlas)

Objectives

To analyse the various types of occupational structure of the study area.

Methodology

Methodology is the way of achieving the goal through the drawing of inference by observation, collection and differential analysis of relevant data relating to the study of different categories of the workers of Hazaribagh C.D block.

Type of Workers

The workers are classified into two categories: main workers and marginal workers.

- **Main Workers:** Main workers are the ones who work for more than six months in a year. The main workers are sub-divided into (a) cultivators, (b) field workers, (c) persons engaged in household industry, and (d) other workers.
- **Marginal Workers:** Marginal workers are the ones who work for less than six months in a year.
- **Non-workers:** The non-workers are divided into: (i) persons engaged in unpaid home duties; (ii) students; (iii) dependents; (iv) retired persons; (v) beggars; (vi) inmate of jails etc.

Distribution of Main, Marginal Labours and Non-workers according to Sex, 2001

	Total Population	Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Total (Main + Marginal)		Non-workers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sadar	-								
Total	270664	58044	21.4	12841	4.7	70885	26.2	199779	73.8
Male	144152	51942	36.0	7689	5.3	59631	41.4	84521	58.6
Female	126512	6102	04.8	5152	4.1	11254	08.9	115258	91.0

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2001)

In the above table, the distribution of population on the basis of activity in Hazaribagh C.D. Block (Sadar) during the year 2001 is shown. In the year 2001, the total population of Hazaribagh C.D. Block (Sadar) was 270664, of which 144152 were males and 126512 were females. Out of this, the total number of main and marginal workers is 70885, which is 26.2% of the total population. These include 59631 males (41.4%) and females (8.9%). If we look at the difference between the total worker and non-worker population, the total workers are 26.2% and non-workers are 73.8%. If we look at it on the basis of gender, it is clear that among the total workers (main and marginal) 59631 (41.4%) are men and 11251 (8.9%) are women. The predominance of men over women is 32.5%. Whereas among the non-workers, women are dominant, in which men are (58.6%) and women are (91.1%). This difference is 32.4% and women are dominant.

Distribution of Main, Marginal Labours and Non-workers according to Sex, 2011

	Total Population	Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Total (Main + Marginal)		Non-workers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sadar	-								
Total	118276	19319	16.33	16790	14.20	36109	30.53	82167	69.47
Male	62156	16440	26.45	11125	17.90	27565	44.35	34591	55.65
Female	56120	2879	05.13	5665	10.09	8544	15.22	47576	84.78

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2011)

In this table, the main, marginal and non-workers have been included in the year 2011. Out of the total population of 118276, 30.53% (36109) are main and marginal workers. While among these, the main workers are 16.33% (19319), of which 26.45% (16440) are men and 5.13% (2879) are women. If we look at the percentage of the total number of marginal workers, then it is 14.20% (men-44.35% and women 15.22%). According to this table, 69.47% are non-workers (82167) population. In this, men (34591) are 55.65% and women are 84.78%. From the table number 3.19 and 3.20, it is clear that there is a clear variability in the working and non-working population. The percentage of main workers was 21.4% in 2001 which decreased to 16.33% in 2011. During this period, the percentage of women in the main workers has increased from 4.8% in 2001 to 5.13% in 2011. If we look at the percentage of main and marginal workers in the year 2001 and 2011, it is clear that their percentage has increased which was 26.2% in 2001 (male 41.4% and female 8.9%) while in 2011 it was 30.53% (male 44.35% and female 15.22%) in the total population.

Major Occupational Groups

The classification of economic activities on the basis of labour is called occupational class. In Hazaribagh Community Development Block, occupational class is divided into the following parts:

- (a) Cultivators
- (b) Agricultural Labourers
- (c) Household Industry Workers
- (d) Other Workers

Distribution of labours according to economic activities in C.D Block Hazaribag – 2001

	Total Population	Number of total labourers (Main + Marginal) (%)	Category of Labours			
			Cultivators (%)	Agricultural Labourers (%)	Household Industry Workers (%)	Other Workers (%)
Person	270664	70885 (26.2%)	8643 (12.2 %)	5599 (7.9%)	2045 (2.9%)	54598 (77.0 %)
Male	144152	59631 (41.4%)	5915 (9.9%)	3020 (5.1%)	1598 (2.7%)	49098 (82.3%)
Female	126512	11254 (8.9%)	2728 (24.2%)	2579 (22.9%)	447 (4.0%)	5500 (48.9%)

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2001)

(a) Cultivators

Cultivators means the labourer who works in his own or someone else’s field. He is called cultivators. By looking at table, it is clear that the regional and temporal pattern of labourers is changing. In 2001, the percentage of farmers (agriculturists) is more than other occupations. Among them, 12.2% was there, whereas in 2011, 9.02% were agricultural class. In 2001, the agricultural class in the entire district was 34.7%, out of which 45.7% were men and 23.6% were women. On the basis of year 2001 and 2011 it is clear that the number of women farmers is more, out of which 24.2% and 20.41% were there respectively.

(b) Agricultural Labourers

Agricultural labourers are not only limited to farming, but it also includes crop production, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, beekeeping etc. Agricultural labourers have an important place in Hazaribagh C.D. Block (Sadar). If we look at the table of 2001 and 2011, it is clear that in 2001 the total number was 7.9%, out of which 5.1% were men and 22.9% were women. In the year 2011, the total percentage of agricultural labourers was 5.52%, out of which 16.3% were men and 28.33% were women. If we look at the data of both 2001 and 2011, it is clear that in 2011, compared to 2001, there was an increase of 5.43% and 11.21% in female and male agricultural workers respectively. But a decrease of 2.38% in the total percentage was seen in 2011. Hence, this is also continuously changing.

Distribution of labours according to economic activities in C.D Block Hazaribag – 2011

	Total Population	Number of total Labourers (Main + Marginal) (%)	Category of Labours			
			Cultivators (%)	Agricultural Labourers (%)	Household Industry Workers (%)	Other Workers (%)
Person	290098	83253 (28.69)	7513 (9.02 %)	3784 (5.52%)	1542 (2.25%)	58710 (85.65 %)
Male	152251	68548 (45.02)	4512 (6.58%)	2398 (16.31%)	1442 (3.01%)	8864 (60.28%)
Female	137847	14705 (10.65%)	3001 (20.41%)	10794 (28.33%)	842 (2.21%)	15880 (41.65)

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2011)

(c) Household Industry Workers

It is also called cottage industry because in this the goods are produced with the help of family. It includes production, processing and manufacturing of goods and services but does not include selling of goods. Although very less workers are engaged in this industry in the study area, in 2001 only 2.9% of the total workers in the study area are involved in this, out of which 2.7% are men and 4.0% are women. In the year 2011, 2.25% of the total workers are persons, out of which 3.01% are men and 2.21% are women. If we look at both 2001 and 2011, then the percentage of men in the total population has increased by 0.31%. Whereas the number of women has decreased by 1.7%.

(d) Other labourers

It is clear from above table that in 2011, 85.65% of the population is included in other workers as compared to 77.0% in 2001. It is clear that the place of people is decreasing from farmers and they are migrating to cities for jobs, wages and as migrant labourers. Along with this, most of the population is getting involved in industry. Along with this, they are also getting involved in cottage and rural industries. Like- Sohrai Kala, Kahebar and Jharcraft (Urban Haat).

Conclusion

The above analysis indicate that the regional and temporal pattern of labourers is changing. The primary sector is not important from urban growth point of view. It has been observed that the occupational structure of primary and secondary sectors is declining. This is definitely showing an increasing trend of the tertiary sector. Similarly, the percentage of workers in the tertiary sector is increasing than primary and secondary sectors.

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