

CHAPTER - 4

Social Factors and Physical Facilities in Saharsa District

4.0 Introduction

An attempt is made in this chapter to analyse the social factors in Saharsa District, On the basis of the sample survey of 16 villages in the four blocks of this region. First, the social factors will be dealt with on the block basis, and later on, at the regional level.

It may be noted that the progress of family planning makes in any given region today represents the social and cultural progress. The progress of family planning depends not only on administrative implementation and on people's co-operation but also on the social and cultural modes of the people, which are governed by religion, caste, community, family system, and educational status. After reviewing the social factors, an attempt will be made to correlate them with family planning.

4.1 Religion of Saharsa in Comparison with Bihar

India is a multi-religious country with almost all the important religions of the world such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jains

naturally Bihar is also a religious state. The following table shows the religious composition of the people.

TABLE 4.1
Showing Religion of Saharsa in Comparison with Bihar

Religion in Bihar	Population	Bihar (%)	Saharsa (%)
Hinduism	84,076,919	82.69	79.39
Islam	19,722,048	16.87	20.17
Christianity	53,137	0.12	0.26
Sikhism	20,780	0.02	0.04
Buddhism	18,818	0.02	0.01
Jainism	16,085	0.02	0.03
Other	52,905	0.01	0.00
not stated	37,817	0.24	0.11
Total	100,998,509	100	100

Source Complied

In Bihar while the pattern of religious composition of the population is similar to that of India with the predominance of the Hindus, the percentage of Hindus is higher than that of the Muslims. Interestingly the percentage of Christians in the state is higher than that of India as a whole. Hinduism is practiced by 82.7% of the population and forms the majority religion in the state. Islam is practiced by 16.9% of the population, and other religions less than 1%.

TABLE 4.2
Showing Hindu Castes of Saharsa District of Bihar Bihar

S. No.	FC in Bihar	%	BC	%
1	Rajputa	4.2	Yadavas	15.4
2	Brahmins	4.1	Banias	6.6
3	Bhumihar	3.2	Kurmis	3.5
4	Kayasthas	0.7	Kushwahas/Koeris	4.7

5	Most Backward Clases	22.9	Mahadalits	12.9
6	Paswan	5.4	Muslims	16.4

Source Danik Jagaran 11 Nov, 2015

4.2 Hindu Castes of Saharsa District

In View of the policies persued by the Government of India since independence, several measures were initiated to improve the lot of the weaker sections and the down trodden. Accordingly division of the society into forward communities (F.C.), backward communities (B.C.), schedule castes (S.C.), and schedule tribes (S.T.) has become the normal classification and a matter of daily usage.

There are many forward castes in Saharsa district, the leading castes being Rajputs, Brahmins, Kayasths and Bhumihar. The B.C. group comprises a large number of castes in Saharsa as in other parts of Bihar. They are Yadavs, Kurmis, kushwahas, Koeris, Telis, Dusadhs, Musahars, etc. In the following pages, an attempt is made to give a picture of the community composition of population.

4.3 Block wise SC and ST Castes of the Sample Villages

The Sample village Dhamsena has the lowest SC population as the table 3.4 shows that the males was 135 and 129 females of the SC and total 264 schedule castes. The highest population of Schedule Castes has 1151 males and 1103 females of SC total 2254 Sc in Sahuria village of Banma Etahari Block. The ST in sample villages was negligible. The Highest population of schedule tribes in sample village Sahuria was 2 males and 2 females and total 4 schedule tribes and 3 males 6 females and total 9 schedule caste only in Tiri village. This can be shown in Table 4.4.

TABLE 4.3

Showing SC of Blockwise Sample Villages of Saharsa District

S. No.	Name of the sample Blocks	S. No.	Name of the Sample villages	Total SC,	Total Male	Total Female
01	Saur Bazar	01	Dhamsena	264	135	129
		02	Sahuria	1468	747	722
		03	Silet	1496	758	738
		04	Tiri	1744	929	815
02	Sonbarsa	05	Sonbarsa	990	516	474
		06	Maina	942	472	470
		07	Jalsima	33	20	13
		08	Dehad	1708	833	875
03	Simri Bakhtiyarpur	09	Bhotia	511	260	261
		10	Paharpur	1086	570	516
		11	Sankarpur	438	221	217
		12	Sonpura	305	161	144
04	Banma Itahari	13	Sahuria	2254	1151	1103
		14	Sugma	1914	980	934
		15	Rasalpur	458	234	224
		16	Kusumihi	375	191	184
Total	04 CD Blocks		16 Villages			

Source DCHB 2015

TABLE 4.4

Showing ST of Blockwise Sample Villages of Saharsa District

S. No.	Name of the sample Blocks	S. No.	Name of the Sample villages	Total ST,	Total Male	Total Female
01	Saur Bazar	01	Dhamsena	-	-	-
		02	Sahuria	4	2	2
		03	Silet	1	-	1
		04	Tiri	9	3	6

02	Sonbarsa	05	Sonbarsa	-	-	-
		06	Maina	1	1	-
		07	Jalsima	4	1	3
		08	Dehad	-	-	-
03	Simri Bakhtiyarpur	09	Bhotia	1	1	-
		10	Paharpur	-	-	-
		11	Sankarpur	-	-	-
		12	Sonpura	1	1	-
04	Banma Itahari	13	Sahuria	1	1	-
		14	Sugma	-	-	-
		15	Rasalpur	-	-	-
		16	Kusumihi	-	-	-
Total	04 CD Blocks		16 Villages			

Source DCHB 2015

Table 4.5
Showing SC and ST of the Villages of Nauhatta Block

S. No.	Panchayat	SC	ST	GEN	TOTAL
1	Bakunia	2226	0	10427	12653
2	Chandrain	1347	85	11671	13103
3	Darhar	1110	0	11681	12791
4	Hati	2395	0	10700	13095
5	Kashimpur	2557	0	12360	14917
6	Kedly	2130	6	17379	19515
7	Kharka Telwa	1966	208	5591	7765
8	Mohanpur	1259	0	8508	9767
9	Muradpur	979	0	3283	4262
10	Nauhatta	1819	3	6138	7960
11	Nauhatta East/West	3675	380	21293	25348
12	Nauhatta West	5	0	633	638
13	Naula	2018	6	10503	12527
14	Sattour	1651	0	9745	11396
15	Shahapur	505	0	8456	8961
Total		25642	688	148368	174698

Source DCHB 2015

A significant feature of Hindu social organization is the caste system. In view of the policies pursued by the government of India since independence, several measures were initiated to improve the lot of the weaker sections and the down trodden. Accordingly division of the society into forward community (F.C.) backward communities (B.C.), Schedule castes (S.C.) and schedule tribes (S.T.) has become the normal classification and a matter of daily usage. There are many forward castes in Saharsa district, the leading castes being Rajput, Brahmin, Kshatriya, Kayastha, Bhumihar . The B.C group comprises of a large number of castes in Saharsa district as in other parts of the Bihar. The table below indicates the household sample survey of the broad ethnic groups of Banma Itahari Community Development Block.

Table 4.6

Block-wise Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and General (Forward Castes) Population in Saharsa

S. No.	Block	SC	ST	GEN	TOTAL
1	Banma Itarhi	16995	3	79900	96898
2	Kahara	17987	27	130211	148225
3	Mahishi	52118	104	173267	225489
4	Nauhatta	25642	688	148368	174698
5	Patarghat	32794	905	112508	146207
6	Salkhua	29297	18	110774	140089
7	Satar Kataiya	20435	1371	129999	151805
8	Saur Bazar	30817	27	166074	196918
9	Simri Bakhtiarpur	46072	90	235076	281238
10	Sonbarsa	51468	3256	198835	253559
Total		323625	6489	1485012	1815126

Source: DCHB 2015

Mostly population of Saharsa District has been speaking in Hindi 65% whenever mostly population of Bihar has been speaking in Hindi 70.12% languages in Saharsa District and Bihar.

Table 4.7

Showing SC, ST and General Castes in the Villages of Mahishi Blocks

S. No.	Panchayat	SC	ST	GEN	TOTAL
1	Aina	1690	3	7531	9224
2	Aiua	221	0	2077	2298
3	Arrah Patti	4206	3	8660	12869
4	Baghwa	3101	4	10038	13143
5	Bir Gion	8	0	2031	2039
6	Ghoghe Pur	2996	1	12347	15344
7	Jhara	2980	9	8317	11306
8	Kundah	2298	1	5393	7692
9	Mahi Sarho	3982	2	16525	20509
10	Mahishi Nor Sout	3819	5	15776	19600
11	Mahisi	600	4	965	1569
12	Mahisi South	0	0	420	420
13	Maunar	4344	3	9611	13958
14	Naharbar	561	4	5699	6264
15	Naharwar	1160	0	2484	3644
16	Passat Bar	4347	10	6345	10702
17	Rajan Pur	4215	14	9981	14210
18	Sirbar Birbar	2508	16	10007	12531
19	Telhar	2219	4	6236	8459
20	Telwa East@West	3729	7	16756	20492
21	Telwa South	658	5	1	664
22	Tolher	149	7	641	797
23	Valahi	1228	0	9035	10263
24	Virgoan	1099	2	6391	7492
Total		52118	104	173267	225489

Source DCHB 2015

Table 4.8

Showing SC, ST and General Castes in the Villages of Salkhua Blocks

S. No.	Panchayat	SC	ST	Gen	TOTAL
1	Alani	2804	0	7849	10653
2	Chanan	2008	0	7495	9503
3	Gordah	4968	1	9276	14245
4	Harewa	1682	0	11420	13102
5	Kabira	7544	4	15759	23307
6	Koparia	1836	3	11978	13817
7	Mobarak Pur	2248	2	8277	10527

Source DCHB 2015

Table 4.9

Community Composition Of Bihar

Castes of Saharsa Districts of Bihar

Caste	Population (%)
OBC/EBC	51% (Yadavs -14%, Kurmis- 4%, (EBCs - 30% - includes kushwahas - 6% Koeris -8%, Teli-3.2%))
Mahadalits*	+ 16% (includes Dusadh- 5%, Musahar- 2.8%)
Dalits(SCs)	
Muslims	16.9%
Forward caste	15% (Bhumihar -3%, Brahmin-5%, Rajputs- 6%, Kayasth- 1%)
Adivasis(STs)	1.3%
Others	0.4% (include Christians,Sikhs,Jains)

Source: Economic Survey 2015

Table 4.10

Showing languages of Saharsa District and Bihar

Language	Language family	Speakers (%) in Bihar	Speakers (%) in Saharsa
Hindi	Indo-Aryan	70.12%	65%
Bhojpuri	Indo-Aryan	14%	5%
Magahi	Indo-Aryan	12%	2%
Maithili	Indo-Aryan	51.27%	55%
Urdu	Indo-Aryan	16.91%	8%

Bengali	Indo-Aryan	0.53%	0.1%
Santali	Austroasiatic	0.47%	0.0%

Source Complied

Bihar is India's third most populated state and almost 90 per cent of its people live in rural areas. The male literacy rate is almost double (59.7 per cent) the female literacy rate (33.1 per cent). Bihar has the third largest population of Scheduled Castes (SC) among all states and their literacy rate is at 28.5 per cent. Katihar has a literacy rate of 35.1, much lower than the state average. A large number of drop-out children belongs to the SC groups like Dom, Mehtar and Mushars. Sitamarhi has 38.5 per cent literacy. The female literacy stands at 26.1 per cent. Children are engaged in traditional jobs like tailoring, garage mechanics and as casual labour in agriculture.

4.4. Bihar Literacy Challenges

Bihar has significantly raised the literacy rate as per the 2011 census. The literacy rate has risen from 39% in 1991 to 47% in 2001 to 63.8% in 2011. The Government of Bihar has launched several programmes to boost literacy, and its Department of Adult Education even won a UNESCO award in 1981.

Table 4.11
Showing Literacy of Sample Villages

S. No.	Name of the sample Blocks	S. No.	Name of the Sample villages	Literate persons	Total Male	Total Female
01	Saur Bazar	01	Dhamsena	1071	673	398
		02	Sahuria	3693	2505	1188
		03	Silet	2411	1587	824
		04	Tiri	3780	2522	1258
02	Sonbarsa	05	Sonbarsa	6173	3658	2515

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		06	Maina	1497	975	522
		07	Jalsima	668	401	267
		08	Dehad	1906	1125	780
03	Simri Bakhtiyarpur	09	Bhotia	1097	641	456
		10	Paharpur	3087	2142	945
		11	Sankarpur	1566	907	661
		12	Sonpura	1540	999	541
04	Banma Itahari	13	Sahuria	2792	1767	1025
		14	Sugma	3568	2185	1383
		15	Rasalpur	2351	1532	819
		16	Kusumihi	1308	819	489
Total	04 CD Blocks 16 Villages					

Source DHCB 2015

Table 4 12

Showing Education in Bihar

Level	Persons	Male	Female
Literate without educational	1,715,049	1,109,731	605,318
Below Primary	7,890,329	4,754,137	3,136,192
Primary	8,334,709	5,130,917	3,203,792
Middle	4,390,226	3,012,151	1,378,075
Secondary	4,751,560	3,439,918	1,311,642
Higher Secondary	1,826,093	1,385,282	440,811
Technical Diploma	24,989	20,088	4,901
Non-technical Diploma	48,532	40,458	8,074
Graduate & above	2,109,415	1,737,651	371,764
Unclassified	18,675	14,043	4,632

Source DCHB 2015

Bihar has a total literacy rate of 47%. Overall Male and Female literacy rate is 59.7% and 33.1% respectively. Total Rural literacy rate is 43.9%. In rural areas of Bihar, Male and Female literacy rate is 57.1 and 29.6 respectively. Total Urban literacy rate is 71.9. In urban areas of Bihar, Male and Female literacy rate is 79.9 and 62.6 respectively. Total number of literates in Bihar

is 3,16,75,607 which consists 2,09,78,955 Male and 1,06,96,652 Female. Patna has highest Literacy Rate of 63.82% followed by Rohtas (62.36%) and Munger (60.11%). Kishanganj has lowest Literacy Rate of 31.02% followed by Araria (34.94%) and Katihar (35.29%).

4.5. Sex wise Literacy Rates

The sex wise comparative literacy rates for males and females over last six decades (1951 to 2001) can be viewed from Statement–4 placed below:

Table 4.13

Literacy Rate from 1951-2001 of Bihar				
S. No.	Year	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1951	13.49	22.68	4.22
2.	1961	21.95	35.85	8.11
3.	1971	23.17	35.86	9.86
4.	1981	32.32	47.11	16.61
5.	1991	37.49	51.37	21.99
6.	2001	47.53	60.32	33.57

Source DCHB 2015

Note Literacy rates for 1951, 1961, and 1971 relate to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 to 2001 relate to population aged seven years and above.

It is evident from the above statement that literacy rates for both males and females are improving over the decades in the state. The literacy rate for Bihar has, however, remained lower than the all India average for all the Census years. It is, however, worthwhile to note that literacy rates for 1951, 1961 and 1971 relate to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 to 2001 relate to population aged seven years and above.

In the Statement-5 given below, comparative literacy rates for males and females in the districts of Bihar during 1991 and 2001 Censuses have been presented.

4.6. Districtwise Literacy in Bihar

Variation in male and female literacy is another important factor. The sex-wise break-up of the literacy rate clearly indicates that females have outnumbered males so far as decadal increase in literacy percentage points is concerned. While the increase in percentage literacy points among females varies between 18 points (Kaimur district) and 7 points (Purnia) approximately, the rise in percentage literacy points among males have been observed to vary between 12 percentage points (Araria) and 4 percentage points (Patna). Female literacy rate is highest in Patna district (52.17), followed by Munger (47.97) and Rohtas (46.62) districts. Female literates, as a percentage, are found to be lowest in Kishanganj district (18.49), followed by Supaul (21.02), Araria (22.14) and Madhepura (22.31) districts. The districts have been arranged below in decreasing order of literacy rates during 2001 Census:

Table 4.14
Comparison of Districtwise Literacy Rate of Bihar

Decreasing Order of Literacy Rates during Census 2001		
Rank in 2001	District	Literacy rate
1	2	3
1.	Patna	63.82
2.	Rohtas	62.36
3.	Munger	60.11
4.	Bhojpur	59.71
5.	Aurangabad	57.50

6.	Buxar	57.49
7.	Jehanabad	56.03
8.	Kaimur	55.57
9.	Nalanda	53.64
10.	Siwan	52.01
11.	Saran	52.01
12.	Vaishali	51.63
13.	Gaya	51.07
14.	Bhagalpur	50.28
15.	Sheikhpura	49.01
16.	Begusarai	48.55
17.	Lakhisarai	48.21
18.	Gopalganj	48.19
19.	Muzaffarpur	48.15
20.	Nawada	47.36
21.	Samastipur	45.76
22.	Darbhanga	44.32
23.	Banka	43.40
24.	Jamui	42.74
25.	Madhubani	42.35
26.	Khagaria	41.56
27.	West Champaran	39.63
28.	Sitamarhi	39.38
29.	Saharsa	39.28
30.	East Champaran	38.14
31.	Supaul	37.80
32.	Sheohar	37.01
33.	Madhepura	36.19
34.	Purnia	35.51
35.	Katihar	35.29
36.	Araria	34.94
37.	Kishanganj	31.02

Decreasing Order of Female Literacy Rates during Census 2001

Rank in 2001	District	Literacy Rate
1	2	3
1.	Patna	52.17
2.	Munger	47.97
3.	Rohtas	46.62
4.	Bhojpur	42.81
5.	Aurangabad	42.04
6.	Buxar	40.36
7.	Jehanabad	40.08
8.	Nalanda	39.03
9.	Kaimur	38.90
10.	Bhagalpur	38.83
11.	Vaishali	38.14
12.	Gaya	37.40
13.	Siwan	37.26
14.	Begusarai	36.21
15.	Saran	35.74
16.	Muzaffarpur	35.20
17.	Lakhisarai	34.26
18.	Sheikhpura	34.13
19.	Gopalganj	32.81
20.	Samastipur	32.69
21.	Nawada	32.64
22.	Darbhanga	30.35
23.	Khagaria	29.62
24.	Banka	29.10
25.	Sheohar	27.43
26.	Jamui	26.92
27.	Madhubani	26.56
28.	Sitamarhi	26.35
29.	West Champaran	25.85
30.	Saharsa	25.31
31.	East Champaran	24.65
32.	Katihar	24.03
33.	Purnia	23.72

34.	Madhepura	22.31
35.	Araria	22.14
36.	Supaul	21.02
37.	Kishanganj	18.49

Source DCHB 2015

Bihar lies in the tropical to sub-tropical region. Rainfall here is the most significant factor in determining the nature of vegetation. Bihar has a monsoon climate with an average annual rainfall of 1200 mm.

When children do get educated, the general lack of economic progress in the state means that government jobs are the only alternative to farm labour, yet these jobs, in practice, require bribes to secure – which poorer families cannot afford. This leads to educated youths working on the farms, much as uneducated ones do, and leads parents to question the investment of sending children to school in the first place. Bihar's government schools have also faced teacher absenteeism, leading the state government to threaten withholding of salaries of teachers who failed to conduct classes on a regular basis. To incentivise students to attend, the government announced a Rupee 1 per school-day grant to poor children who show up at school.

4.7. Conclusion

India is a multi-religious country with almost all the important religions of the world such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jains naturally Bihar is also a religious state. The following table shows the religious composition of the people.

A significant feature of Hindu social organization is the caste system. In view of the policies pursued by the government of India since

independence, several measures were initiated to improve the lot of the weaker sections and the down trodden. Accordingly division of the society into forward community (F.C.) backward communities (B.C.), Schedule castes (S.C.) and schedule tribes (S.T.) has become the normal classification and a matter of daily usage. There are many forward castes in Saharsa district, the leading castes being Rajput, Brahmin, Kshatriya, Kayastha, and Bhumihar. The B.C group comprises of a large number of castes in Saharsa district as in other parts of the Bihar. The table below indicates the household sample survey of the broad ethnic groups of Banma Itahari Community Development Block. Bihar has significantly raised the literacy rate as per the 2011 census. The literacy rate has risen from 39% in 1991 to 47% in 2001 to 63.8% in 2011. The Government of Bihar has launched several programmes to boost literacy, and its Department of Adult Education even won a UNESCO award in 1981.

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