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Socio-economic and demographic status of rural areas of district Gopalganj, North Bihar

Ragini Kumari*, Savita Kumari** V.K. Tripathi and Hemant Kumar**
*Department of Geography, BHU, Varanasi, U. P-221005
**Department of Education, BHU, Varanasi, U. P-221005
***College of Forestry, SHUATS, Prayagraj, U. P-211007
Email: raginibhu004@gmail.com

ABSTRACT
Disparity on the basis of landholding, education, families have been common in social, economic and political spheres as well as settlement for generations in India. Social restrictions and degree of discrimination may be attributable, at least in part, to cultural and historical factors and hence could differ from one to another. The status of these indicators can give us a rough picture about our economy. Bihar is one of the eight States of North India. Though, education has been valued as a vehicle of social change but only a few selected sections of the society generally pursued formal education. This naturally led to wide variations in education, occupation and other economic conditions among population belonging to various social groups. In the changing situation of modern India, democratic institutions are giving way to new social patterns and space articulation. Socio-economic condition of the study area is better due better geographical position in the map as well climatic condition which favors the agriculture practices and causes larger population dependency on agriculture and allied works. Comparatively better income from the agriculture sources laid to better housing and life style as well prosperity in the study area.
Keywords: Socio-economic, Education, annual income, family and demography etc.

INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic condition and representation of demographic, human development status etc. are some important indicators which help to measure the development level of any community or state [6]. Measuring the contribution of education to household income is much of importance to policy makers [12]. There are number of Socio-economic and demographic factors which individually or collectively contribute to long life and well being for the people of an area. Improved education increases attention to health and better job option. Increase in life expectancy is an indication of development of a society and as the nations trying to improve their socio-economic condition. Demography play vital role in population distribution, density, family type and cultural development [5]. Among the various factors responsible for the human longevity and high growth of population, a few socio-demographic factors namely sex, place of residence, education, personal income, health rate, marital status, occupation status, caste and leisure time activity have been identified [3]. Study on socio-economic background like education, sex ratio, age and family play an important role in shaping the ambition of the aspirant of the people [4]. The role of educational level in household income and poverty reduction has been well documented in the literature. Most of the studies confirm that education helps in household improvement and their economic welfare [12]. Evidence shows that education brings higher returns for poorer rural households [7]. In North Bihar, most of the population lives in the fertile and verdant Tarai land of its Gandak river systems. Tarai region is best suited for agricultural practices due to rich in fertility and productivity [1]. This paper is based on the primary as well secondary data. The main objective of the study is to explore the socio-economic condition, demographic features and representation of human development status of people of district Gopalganj, North Bihar and its comparison analysis. Bihar is predominantly a rural based state, almost 80 percent of its population still living in rural areas and their main source of income is agriculture based practices [9]. Agriculture based economy is more common in rural areas as compared to urban

[11]. The socio-economic position among the people in rural areas is very pathetic compare to urban area [2]. Dependencies of people for income generation rely upon many sectors and it varies with resources available in the area [8]. Rural poverty is very high that of urban poverty. The population growth in Bihar also implied that there has hardly been any reduction in the absolute number of the poor over the coming years.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
Study site
The village Khalgaon a typical village in sub tropical region known as Tarai land of Gopalganj district of Bihar and inhabited by heterogeneous castes/communities professing mainly backward class is selected for the present socioeconomic survey. Geographically, it is located at 26^0 56' to 26^0 53' North latitude and 84^013' to 84^015'East longitude with 71m MSL (fig.1). The research area has a sub-tropical climate with extremes of summer and winter. During the summer season, the temperature reaches 46 ^{0}C to 48 ^{0}C, while during winter season, especially in the month of Nov. and Jan. temperature drops down to as low as 1-2 ^{0}C. During winter, frost and during summer, hot scorching wind are common features. The average rainfall in this area is around 1021mm, during the monsoon i.e. June to Sept, with a few occasional light showers and drizzles are seen in the winter also. It is the remotely located village of the region, situated 40 KM west of District head quarter along Uttar Pradesh boarder, connecting through village road from Gopalganj-Gorakhpur national highway.

Methodology
The present study was conducted to find out the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Khalgaon village of district Gopalganj, North Bihar during 2016. A total 410 respondents from 80 families were randomly selected for the study. The respondent's data were post-stratified to compare across the education, occupation and other economic conditions, land holding size classes etc. The present work involves the use of various natures of data and maps collected from different sources from both published and unpublished categories. Secondary information is gathered from census of India, literatures, historical records, etc. The primary data has been generated through a census household survey in the village. The data has been collected using well structured questionnaires. The data relating to the socio-economic structure has been recorded at the household level on the basis of their availability and consent. Historical in formations are analyzed and synthesized.
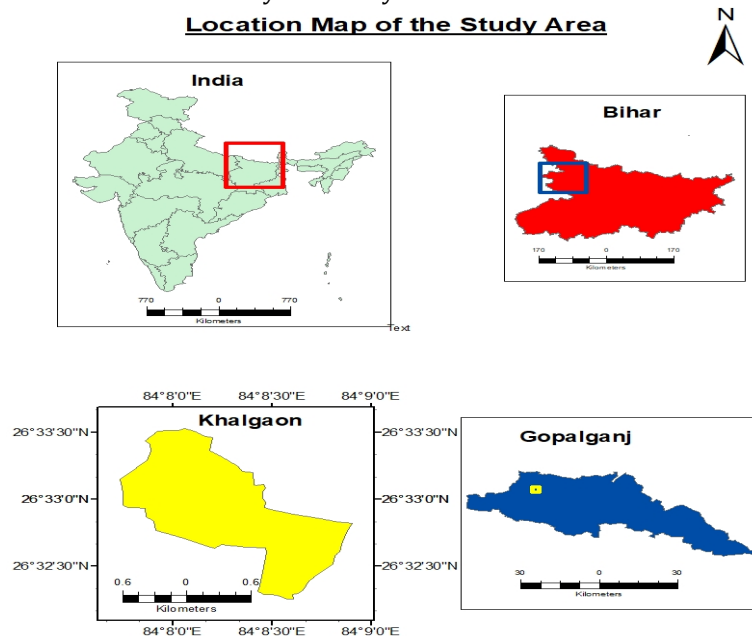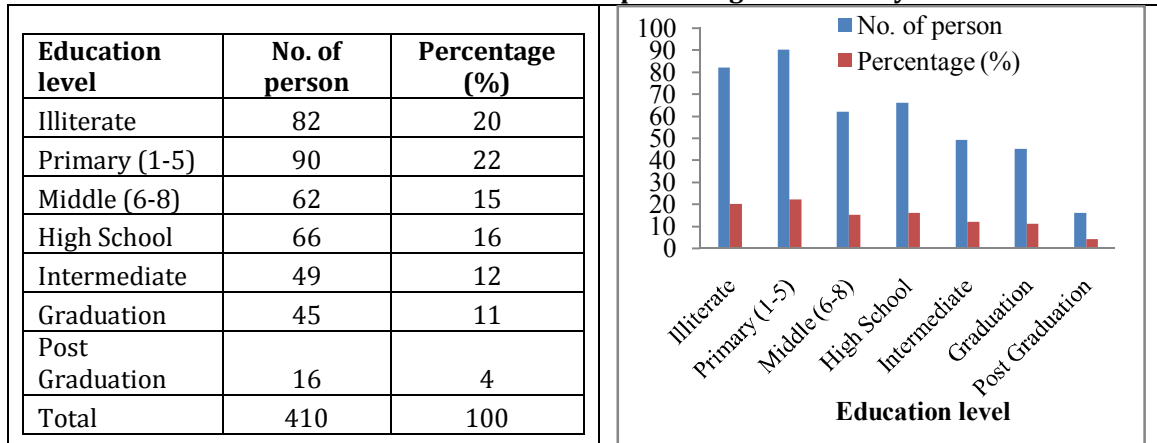

Fig.1 Map of the study area

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The data presented in Table 1 show that literacy of the village is 80 percent. The cooperatively higher(22%) population have only primary education followed by high school (16%) and middle school (15%) while minimum population (4%) are post graduate. The lack of higher education among the population is due to unavailability of college and University nearby the study area as well lack of
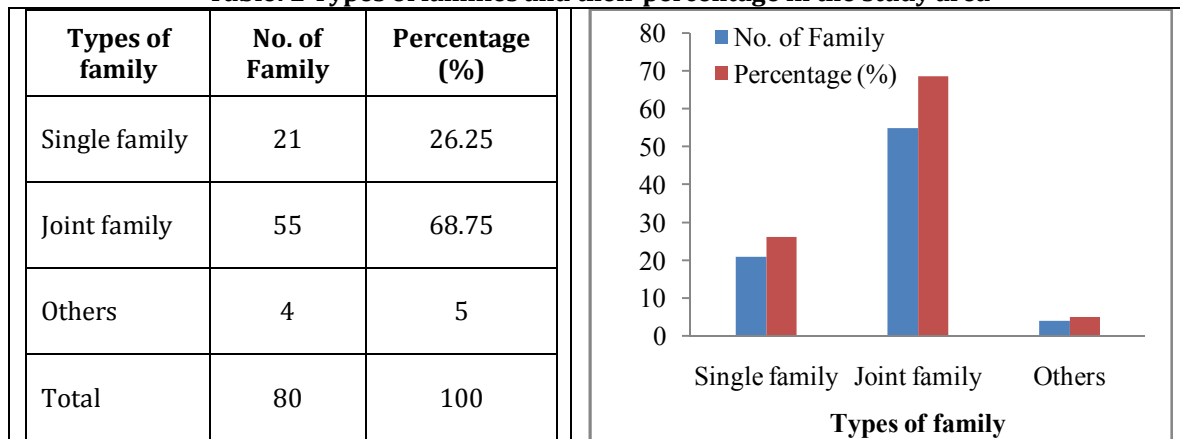
awareness among the mass of population. Comparatively lower rate of higher education affected the minimum share in Govt. jobs in the area.

Table: 1 Education level and their percentage in the study area

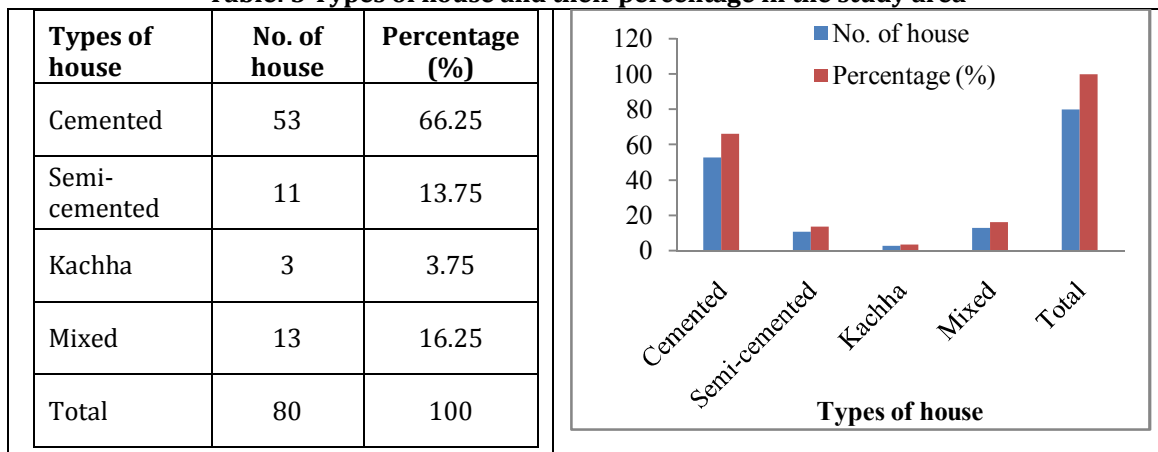| Education level	No. of person	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	82	20
Primary (1-5)	90	22
Middle (6-8)	62	15
High School	66	16
Intermediate	49	12
Graduation	45	11
Post Graduation	16	4
Total	410	100

Data given in Table 2 shows that majority (68.75%) of the respondents belongs to joint family followed by single type (26.25%) while minimum (5%) respondent belongs to some other types. This is good indicator of collaborative working and family prosperity. Joint family play vital role in development of cultural and moral value in life in family members.

Table: 2 Types of families and their percentage in the study area

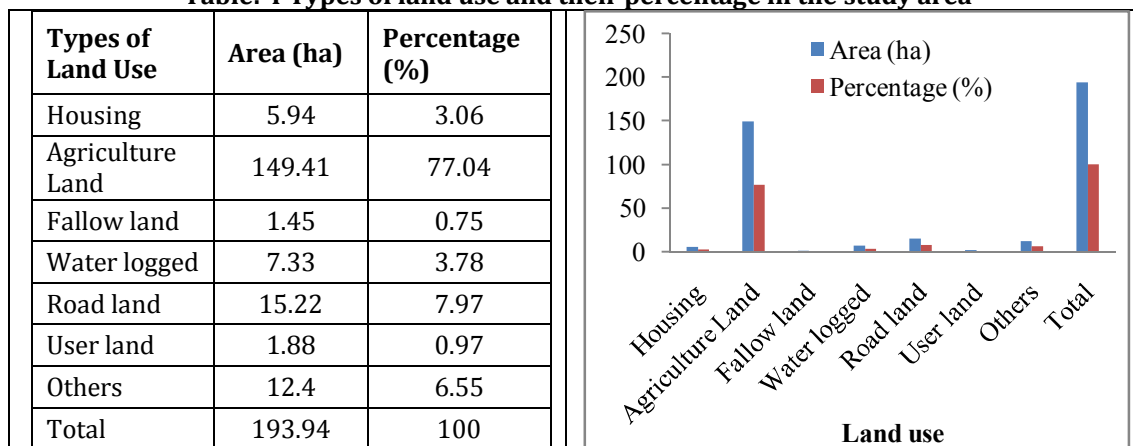| Types of family	No. of Family	Percentage (%)
Single family	21	26.25
Joint family	55	68.75
Others	4	5
Total	80	100

Perusal of data given in Table 3 shows that majority (66.25%) of the respondents were having cemented followed by mixed type (16.25%) while minimum (3.75%) respondent have kaccha house. This shows that life style is comparatively better in the area with respect to national average. It's one of the indicators of prosperity of the area due to their higher income from different sources.

Table: 3 Types of house and their percentage in the study area

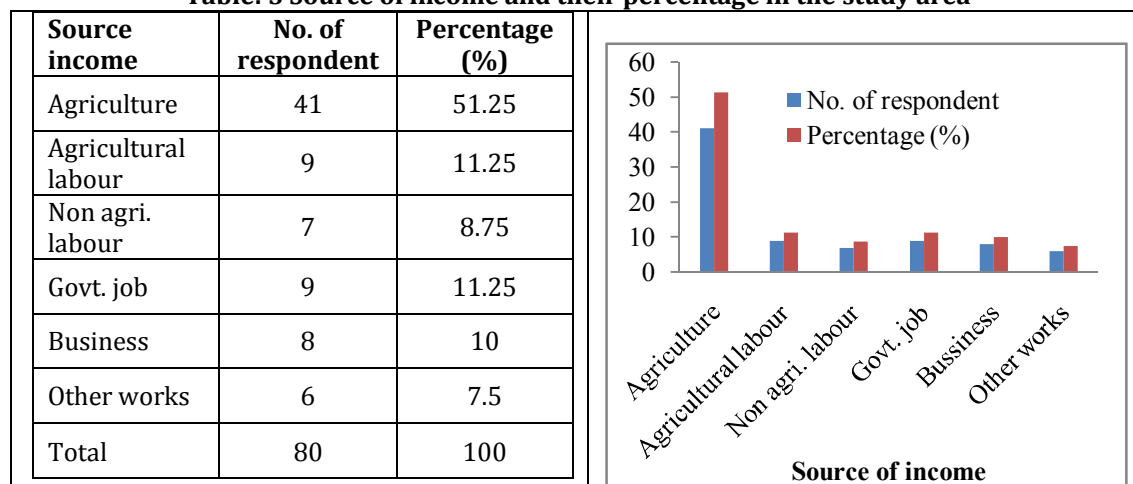| Types of house	No. of house	Percentage (%)
Cemented	53	66.25
Semi-cemented	11	13.75
Kachha	3	3.75
Mixed	13	16.25
Total	80	100

Data presented in table 4 shows that land use and land cover of the study area is in good proportionate. Since study area is belongs in Tarai region having good enough fertility to support vegetation hence mainly utilized under agricultural purpose. Cooperatively large proportion (77.04%) lands of the study area are engaged in agricultural purpose followed by road purpose while minimum area (0.75%) is fallow. Result shows that area has minimum waste land and fallow land. It also indicated that main occupation of the area is agriculture and provide source of dependency.

Table: 4 Types of land use and their percentage in the study area

Types of Land Use	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Housing	5.94	3.06
Agriculture Land	149.41	77.04
Fallow land	1.45	0.75
Water logged	7.33	3.78
Road land	15.22	7.97
User land	1.88	0.97
Others	12.4	6.55
Total	193.94	100

The data presented in Table 5 show that study area is agriculture dominated hence dependency of people on agriculture is higher. This study also shows that, on average, 62% of the total income came from crop production while less than 40% came from non agricultural activities. Agriculture practices are the main source of income of the area which provides employment to more than half of the population (51.25%). A large proportion of the population (9%) is Agricultural laborers and about same number (9%) population are in govt. jobs. Very less numbers of population are engaged in business and other works. Results also reflect that there is less source of fixed income in the area due to minimum govt. employee.

Table: 5 Source of income and their percentage in the study area

Source income	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	41	51.25
Agricultural labour	9	11.25
Non agri. labour	7	8.75
Govt. job	9	11.25
Business	8	10
Other works	6	7.5
Total	80	100

Perusal of data given in table 6 shows that majority (41.25%) of the respondents have annual income more than Rs 75000 followed by range of 15000-45000 (21.25%) while minimum (12.5%) respondent have annual income less than 15000. Annual income of the study area is comparatively less than the nation level. This shows that life style and livelihood is average in the area. Average annual income from different sources is one of the indicators of prosperity of the any area.

Table: 6 Annual incomes and their percentage in the study area

Annual income (Rs.)	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
<15000	10	12.5
15000-45000	17	21.25
45000-75000	20	25
>75000	33	41.25
Total	80	100

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the above study concludes that socio-economic condition of the study area is better due better geographical position in the map as well climatic condition which favors the agriculture practices and causes larger population dependency on agriculture and allied works. Comparatively better income from the agriculture sources laid to better housing and life style as well prosperity in the study area. Village society can be observed as comparatively good economic condition with lagging behind in higher education conditions. Present study mainly seeks to show the socio-economic and demographic position of North Bihar.

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