



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Geography

CASE STUDY OF KATIHAR DISTRICT: BIHAR, INDIA

**KEY WORDS:** Bihar, Household, Katihar, Population, Socio-economic status.

**Sharqua Noori Ansari**

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga-Bihar, India.

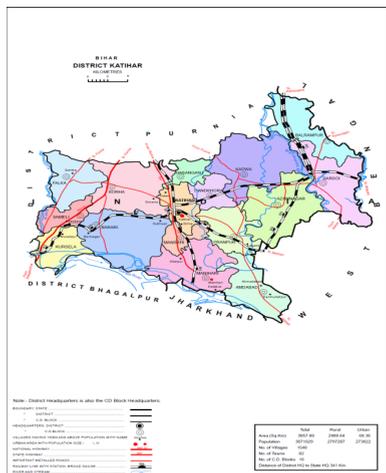
**ABSTRACT** Objectives to establish socio-economic status of the population/household of katihar district, Bihar. The socio economic status (SES) is an important determinant of health, nutritional status, mortality and morbidity of an individual. SES also influences the accessibility, affordability, acceptability and actual utilization of available health facilities. Paper finding depend upon primary data collection demographic features of household survey & age-wise distribution of male & female population of katihar district.

**Introduction**

Like other districts of Purnia Division, Katihar is primarily a rural district. Of the total population, 90.88 percent live in the rural areas. The urban population is found mainly in Katihar (72%), Manihari (14.61%) and Barsai (2.13%) Tehsils of the district SCs constitute 8.5 percent and STs 6.3 percent of the total population. The district has substantial number of Muslim (minority) population that constitutes 44.8 percent of the total rural population. In five out of 16 tehsils/blocks Muslims constitute more than fifty percent of the total rural population. The largest concentration is in Barsoi Tehsil (72.3%), followed by Azamnagar (55.3%), Balrampur (51.6%) and Kadwa (51.6%). Other minorities constitute merely 0.6 percent of the total rural population. The rural literacy rate in Katihar is 31.1 percent as against the state average of 43.9 per cent. Female literacy rate is merely 19.7 per cent against the state average of 29.6 per cent. The overall Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the rural population is 38.83 percent in the district, a little higher than the state average of 34.65 percent. Agricultural labourers constitute 64.31 percent of the workers, about 13 points higher than the state average. Cultivators constitute the second largest group and household industrial workers merely 2.46 percent. The trend is uniform across the Tehsils. As per the 2001 Census, primary schools are available in 72.6 percent of the villages and middle schools in 21.6 percent of the villages. There are 79 industrial training schools in the district. Health facilities are also dismal. Primary Health Centers (PHCs) within a distance of 5 kms are found in 32.7 percent of the villages, while maternity and child welfare centers are available only in 20 per cent of the villages. The availability of other village level infrastructural facilities is also poor. Only 37.8 percent of the villages are connected with the paved roads and 36.2 percent have electricity supplies.

**Survey Findings: Socio-economic Conditions and Other Amenities in 2008**

In 2008, Katihar lagged behind all-India level in five out of eight indicators and also in two health indicators. The table below shows the gap between all-India and district level figures vis-à-vis the ten indicators and priorities the development intervention vis-à-vis the eight indicators. The district level data are based on the survey findings (2008) and all-India data are for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all-India data may be less, as the all-India data are a little old.



**Sample Distribution:**

The sample consists of 534 Muslims, 355 Hindu, 08 Sikh and 02 Christian and one other household. Since the number of Sikh, Christian and other households are too small they have not been included as a category in the sample.

**Demographic Characteristics:**

The demographic characteristics of the population/households have been shown in terms of average size of the household, sex ratio, dependency ratio, male and female literacy rate and male and female work participation rate.

**Table - 1: Demographic Features of the Households surveyed (%)**

Comm unity	Distrib ution Of Sample Populat ion	Depen dency Ratio	Sex Ratio	Averag e HH Size	Literacy Rate in Percentage % (7 and Above)		
					Male	Female	Total
Hindu	33.29	10.5	875	5.5	67.00	39.07	54.07
Muslim	65.80	10.4	882	5.9	60.12	48.27	54.61
All	100.00	10.4	880	5.8	62.74	45.44	54.71

(Source: Survey)

The average size of the household is 5.8, and the size is marginally larger in Muslim than in Hindu households. The dependency ratio is 1.04, which is almost the same in Hindu and Muslim households. However, the sex ratio is relatively higher among Muslims than among Hindus. Also the overall sex ratio is low, which is lower than the state and national average. Similarly, the overall literacy rate is low and is lower than the national average by 12.5 points. Though inter-community differential is negligible, yet there is a sharp gap between the male and female literacy rates among both Hindus than in Muslims. Further, the male-female difference is higher for Hindus than Muslims. The overall work participation rate is 38.72 percent. However, the WPR is higher for Hindus than Muslims with regard to male and female population.

**Table - 2: Age-wise Distribution of Male and Female Population of Katihar (%)**

Age Group	Hindu			Muslim			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	15.47	16.88	16.13	15.58	15.33	15.46	15.44	15.87	15.64
5-14	27.79	29.88	28.77	27.99	32.54	30.12	27.84	31.56	29.58
15-24	17.27	11.57	14.61	19.52	14.34	17.09	18.90	13.53	16.39
25-29	7.46	6.66	7.09	5.37	6.62	5.96	6.01	6.63	6.30
30-44	17.16	20.74	18.83	16.27	18.85	17.48	16.58	19.32	17.86
45-49	10.86	10.64	10.76	10.66	10.02	10.36	10.62	10.29	10.46
60	3.99	3.63	3.82	4.61	2.30	3.53	4.61	2.80	3.76
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(Source: Survey)

Age-wise distribution of male and female population (Table - 2) shows that about one third of the population is in the age-group of

5-14 and another 16 percent in the age group of 0-4; both of them constitute the non-working population. Another 16 percent of the population is in the age-group of 15-24 years. It seems that a large number of population is about to join the labour force in the near future. This will further increase pressure on agriculture unless suitable strategy is adopted to provide employment to them in the non-farm sector.

#### **Discussion and Conclusion of Socio-Economic Conditions of Katihar District:**

An unequal socio-economic distribution in populations is the result of historical, cultural, political, economic and governance processes. These factors ultimately influence the resources available to individuals and populations and shape the nature of investments in public infrastructure related to education, health services, social welfare, household food availability, housing, employment opportunities, transportation, and environmental controls, among others. Socio-economic differentials have generally been associated with significant differences in the general health of populations. These differences are accompanied by many differences in quality of life, both at the individual and the community level that may adversely affect health and survival of populations. The effect of socio-economic inequality on population and household reflects a combination of negative exposures and lack of resources by individuals. In conclusion, "live better, live longer" is not only the privilege of those in highly developed countries.

#### **References**

1. A baseline survey of minority concentration district of India, Ministry of minority affairs, Govt. of India and Indian council of social science research.
2. [www.ihindia.org](http://www.ihindia.org)