

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE RURAL POOR: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHAPRA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The countries across globe have decided to not focus just on the uplifting of poor in economic terms rather in socio-economic terms. Socio-economic is a branch of the economic which not only focuses on the economics of the people but also on the social aspects which are in line with the economics of the poor in rural areas. The dynamic of developing country as of India is very evident difference in backgrounds of the people in the rural parts in comparison to the urban parts of the country. The difference is not just limited to economic aspects of living rather it is very evident in Social and cultural aspects as well. Socioeconomic determine the living standard as it is an indicator of level of knowledge, skills, and income which are conditions for living. Though, it won't be wrong to state that it the economic status which determines the lifestyle of the individual. No society or region can be developed with the exception of any part remaining lag behind. This idea has been proved in many countries as if any segment of the economic areas are lagging it pulls down the entire system with it.

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**Keywords:** Socio-Economic, Industrial Development, Agriculture, Liberalization, Globalization.

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### **Introduction**

There are various factors which could be seen as indicator of socioeconomic development of rural poor. The area in which study was carried out is mainly comprised of the low level of development to medium level of development. This can be seen in characters like low level income (Per Capita Income), poor economic base, no or very little presence of industrial development. The major source of economy of the area is agriculture. The economy of the area is centered on the agriculture. Rural poor are involved in agriculture directly or are dependent on the agriculture related activities majorly. Others work a manual labor and some have minor sources of the self employment. There socioeconomic Status of the rural poor can be understood after measuring family' economic condition, social position relative to others and person's individual experience with the work that he does, education and occupation. All these in combination decide the socioeconomic status. There are three categories that Socioeconomic Status can be divided into, i.e. High Socioeconomic Status, Medium Socioeconomic Status, Low Socioeconomic Status. These are depending mainly on four variables (Income, Education, Basic Needs and Occupation) and these are analyzed in the study to reach conclusion regarding the objectives of the study.

### **Review of Literature**

In her study on the "Health and Socio-Economic status of the tribal population in Orissa" stated that there is need to build the capacity building of the poor to enable them so that they can be lifted from poverty. Also, not just livelihood measures, rather this world of liberalization and globalization the utmost need is to strengthen the public health facilities and the education system in the Tribal area.

**Dr. Monirul Islam and Dr. Mustaquim** in their study, "that they attempt has been made to find out the actual socio-economic status of population of different income groups. The entire study is based on primary data which have been collected by door to door survey with a suitable questionnaire by the researchers. All the data have been classified into five income groups and simple percentage method is followed to analyze the actual situation. In the study area, 44.8% population's monthly per capita income is below Rs 500 and only 4.34% population's monthly per capita income is above Rs 2000. Only few percentages of people enjoy little better life where most of the people lie in risky situation.

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**Patnaik et. al.** in their study, “Managing The Human Resources For Poverty And Socio Economic Development Of Mayurbhanj District” stated that the Socio-Economic conditions of the tribal’s in the district and to found out the innovative schemes for human resources development by way of Education, Training and other Social Facilities to the tribal’s of Orissa in India.

**Objectives of the Study**

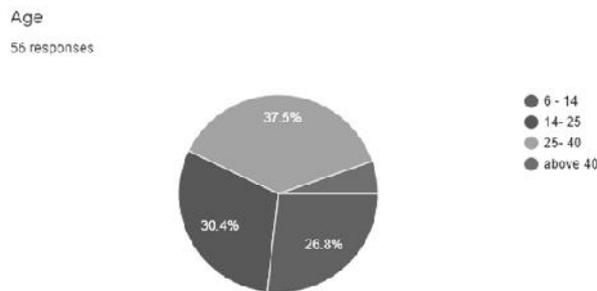
- To Examine the Socio-Economic Status with special reference to their source of occupation, income and educational status of Rural Poor.
- To examine the problems and basic needs of Rural Poor.

**Research Methodology**

The research focuses on studying the rural poor of the Chapra district in the state of Bihar. The study has focused on Caste and Gender factors of demography. The Sampling method used in carrying out study used is Convenience sampling. There is the focus on the all caste category i.e. General, Other Backward Class (OBC/EBC), Schedule Caste (including Atipichada Varg), and Schedule Tribe of the Rural poor. For the proposed study Questionnaire was distributed with enumerator for the illiterates. In total 100 questionnaires were distributed out of which only 56 were fully complete. The low response could be due to COVID 19, and lack of technological knowledge even with presence of enumerator.

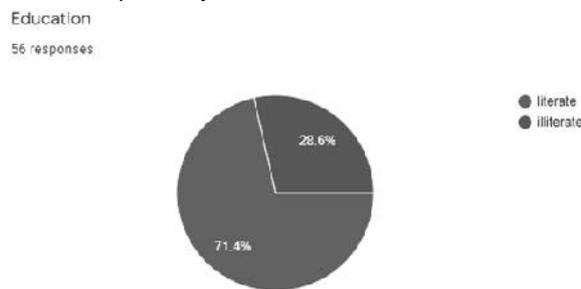
**Data Collection and Discussion**

Data has been collected for the different criterion in which basic data were based in the Age, Literacy, Occupation (Based on the gender), and Sufficiency of food. Data collected is presented using pie-charts and graphical tools.



**Figure 1: Age of the Respondents**

The first figure, Pie-Chart presents the distribution of the age of the respondents of the study. There were four age groups were created for the purpose of the study i.e. first from age 6 to 14 in which 26.8% of the respondent belonged to. The second age group was from 14 to 25 in which 30.4% of responded were part of. After that in third age group was 25 to 40 in which there 37.5 % of respondent that market it. And in last age group of above 40 there were 5.4 % of respondent. The Age group of 25 – 40 had maximum respondent followed by 14-25 and 6-14 and above 40 had least respondent i.e. 21, 17, 15, and 3 respondents respectively.



**Figure 2: Education**

In the second figure the focus was on knowing the educational background of the respondent. The focus was only on knowing whether the respondents were literate or not. There was no further classification made to simplify the study and were not considered necessary for the proposed study. The data collected showed that there 71.4% of the population were literate and the rest of the respondent i.e.

28.6% were illiterate. In absolute numbers, 40 respondents were literate and 16 were illiterate. Here those who can read on language and can write in any one language are considered literate. Also, the age group of the 14 to 25 has the highest number of the literate respondent in comparison to the above 40 age group of the respondent were least in number of literate respondent showing that younger population though poor but are more inclined towards literacy in comparison to the older population.

Nature of Living

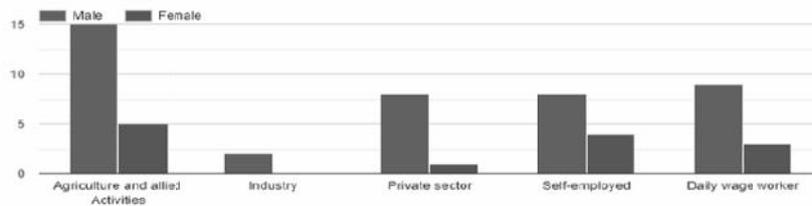


Figure 3: Occupation and Distinction between Male and Female

In this graph we can see that study has focused on the nature of the living of the respondent which is an important indicator of the living standard as few jobs are considered to be ones that yield higher in pay in comparison to other and demand skilled work too. The categories that are included were chosen keeping the fact in mind the demography as well as economical activity are based in the state of the Bihar in general. Thus the very First occupation is the Agricultural and allied activities. In this we clubbed the activities which are directly related to production, cultivation, fishing, poultry farming etc. in the second category, the focus is on the Industrial activities that are carried out in the region and if the respondent is working in such industry or associated with any such industrial activity. The third category created was of the Private sector except in the industry as it is separately made into a category. The fourth category is of the respondents who are self employed. In this category there were respondent who had small shops of were vendors who had very small movable base and they go place to place daily to sell the goods. In the last category there were people who work in the construction or some other works where they are hired as daily wage workers. That excluded seasonal workers who work in the agricultural farms during harvesting of the produce. Addition distribution in the data was made to look into difference that is present due to gender distinction in the occupation.

Now looking at the data collected, Agricultural and Allied activities is the occupation in which most of the respondents are employed. In this, the total respondents whose nature of earning living is related to agriculture are 20 in which there are 15 male and 5 female. It was followed by the two occupation which had same number of respondents working in them i.e. Self-employed and daily wage worker. Both in these occupations 12 respondents each are earning their livelihoods. But there is difference in the ratio of the male and female. In case of Self-employed occupation there are 8 males to 4 females whereas in case of the Daily wage workers, it is 9 males to 3 females. Among the last two categories, Private sector has 9 respondents earning their livelihood from working and 2 respondents working in the industry. In private sector the male respondents are 8 and 1 female and in industry there were no female working. The data showed that Agriculture is leading in providing the livelihood to both male and female respondents followed by self-employed in which the women working ration were slightly better than daily wage worker. The industry listed last in terms of providing employment with no female.

Sufficiency of Food Items

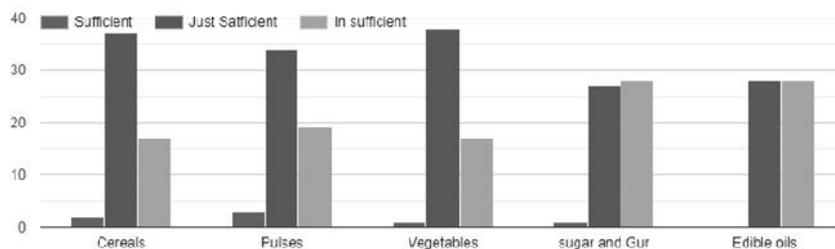
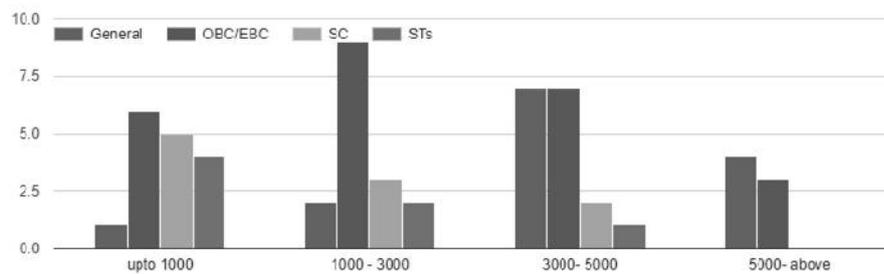


Figure 4: Sufficiency of Food

In this graph, the focus is on the different food items and if they are available to the respondent in sufficient amount, or are just sufficient to live the daily lives and sometimes face hardship or they have been insufficient and respondent have not been able to fulfill or have enough to meet the need of that item for the family. Here the list is not for the individual himself rather it is in context to the entire family of the respondent. The items that were listed were Cereals, pulses, vegetables, Sugar, Edible oil.

First in Cereals, out of all the respondents only 2 responded that they had enough cereal consumption, 37 responded that it was just sufficient for the family and not enough, other 17 respondent had insufficient cereals in their family diet. In case of pulses, 3 respondent stated that they had enough for the whole family, 34 had just enough for the family and the other 19 had had insufficient consumption of pulses. In case of vegetable, only one respondent had sufficient vegetables on the family table, 38 had just enough for the family and 17 had not enough for the family. In the last two items of the list, majority of respondent didn't even had the just enough for the family to eat. i.e. in case of sugar and Gur, half of the respondent (28) had insufficient amount for the family where in can of edible oil it was again half of the respondent that had not nearly enough for the family to cook food.

Distribution of Income Among Different Caste Groups



In the last graph we study, the distribution of income in different ranges of the respondents along with the distribution on the lines of the caste category of the respondent to get the bigger picture of the income in relation to caste of the respondent. There were four categories that were taken in the case of the castes were General, OBC, SC and ST. the level of the income ranges that were formed for the study was below 1000, 1000-3000, 3000- 5000 and above 5000. First lets look at the data from the prospects of the income. According the data the income range of 3000 to 5000 has the maximum number of the respondents with the number of 17. It is followed by two categories with equal 16 respondents i.e. below 1000 and 1000 to 3000 had 16 responses each. There were very few i.e. only 7 respondents who stated that their income is above 5000.

Now comparing data caste category wise shown that there was no respondent who belonged to the ST category fall in above 5000 income range while maximum ST respondent were in range of below 1000 i.e. 4 respondents. The numbers the ST category respondents for the other two ranges were 2 and 1 respectively. The General Category respondents were highest only in range of above 5000 in other cases their numbers were lower than other categories. OBC respondents were maximum in case of the below 1000 and 1000-3000 income range. Also numbers of OBC respondents in each range were 6, 9, 7 and 3. The same for the General category respondents were 1, 2, 7, and 4 and SC respondents were 5, 3, and 2. There were no ST and SC respondent who had income above 5000 in the proposed study.

**Conclusion**

The countries across globe have decided to not focus just on the uplifting of poor in economic terms rather in socio-economic terms. Socio-economic is a branch of the economic which not only focuses on the economics of the people but also on the social aspects which are in line with the economics of the poor in rural areas. There are various factors which could be seen as indicator of socioeconomic development of rural poor. The area in which study was carried out is mainly comprised of the low level of development to medium level of development. This can be seen in characters like low level income (Per Capita Income), poor economic base, no or very little presence of industrial development. The major source of economy of the area is agriculture. The objectives of the study were identified as the status and problems of the rural poor and to understand the basic needs, education, and employment of the rural poor. It was shown that the socio-economic condition of the poor in the rural parts of the Chapra district has low status. A lot can be done in field of education and in terms of providing livelihood with skills enhancement programs. These steps can greatly benefit the rural population especially poor of the district.

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