

## **Geographic Study of Factors Affecting Population Distribution In Katihar District**

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### ▪ **Abstract :**

As the population is the only self-mobile resources, therefore the population study of a region is quite essential for the proper study of population resources. The distribution and density of population affect all types of development and its pattern in a region up to a great extent. This is why educated, scientifically developed and cultured population differs from that a illiterate, uneducated, backward and uncultured population. A delicate difference is marked between the terms distribution and density of population. The term “distribution of population” in geography refers to the placing of people in different regions while the density of population is the number of persons in per unit area.

- **Key words:** Population, Distribution, Density, Self-mobile resources, Educated, Human agglomeration.

### ▪ **Introduction:**

The total population of Katihar district is 2392638 in 2001 and 3027524 as according to 2011 while the total area of the district is 3057 square kilometers. The distribution of population is always governed by the site of settlement. The population is not uniformly distributed all over the region. There are several nuclei of human agglomeration. The population tends to be concentrated in patches all along the marginal upland in a region. Satellite patches of population are also found in case of big villages which are mostly inhabited by the low caste people. They work as labourers on farms but in case of a few villages which do not reach up to a marginal upland, the settlement is found on the higher parts. It has been the general case that physical factors control the distribution and density of population. The fertile region generally attracts higher concentration of population while a hilly or unfertile region repel the concentration of population. Rainfall, forest, soil and other socio-

economic and cultural factors jointly determine the distribution and density of population of a region (Verma, S.D., 1956, Pp. 21-34)

## ■ **Distributional Pattern of Population:**

The following table throws light on the major distributional categories. Here in the table major categories are male and female categories and rural and urban population distribution.

Table - 01

Dist. - Katihar

### **Distribution of population - 2011**

Particular	Male	Female	Total
Rural Population	1579812	1448629	3028441
Percentage	52.17%	47.83%	91.89%
Urban Population	142377	124971	267348
Percentage	53.26%	46.74%	8.11%
Total	1722189	1573600	3295789
Percentage	52.25%	47.75%	100%

Source : District Census Handbook, 2011, District - Katihar

The above mentioned table expresses that out of the total population of Katihar district i.e 2392638 in 2001, 90.88% people comprising 2174361 persons live in rural areas while only 9.12% people comprising 218277 persons reside in urban centres i.e at Katihar, Manihari and Barsoi. If the light is thrown on gender wise distribution of population 52.11% belongs to male category and 47.89% belong to female category. In rural sector 47.23% male and 43.64% females of the district live on agricultural practices or other allied activities while in urban sector, 4.88% males and 4.24% females of the district lead their life.

## ■ **Block wise distribution of Population:**

The distribution is based upon the published statistics in District Census handbook 2011. It reveals that there is somewhat even distribution of population in different blocks of Katihar district that ranges from one to eleven percent. Slight difference may be seen in the above mentioned statistics. The highest concentration is found in Kadwa block. The population of Kadwa block is 268917 accounting 11.24 percent to the total population of Katihar district and the area of Kadwa block is also 11.12 percent to the total geographical area of Katihar district. On the other hand, the lowest concentration of population is found in Hasanganj block. The total population of Hasanganj block is 42886 that stand only 1.79 percent of the total population of Katihar district while the total area of Hasanganj block is 77.11 square kilometers that stands 2.52 percent to the total geographical area of Katihar district. The second highest

concentration of population is found in Katihar block. In this block the total population is 264716 that stand 11.06 percent to the total population of the Katihar district, while the total area of Katihar block accounts 4.37 percent to the total geographical area of Katihar district. The percentage of total population of other blocks in Katihar district ranges from 1.79 percent to 10.97 percent to the total population of Katihar district as expressed in the aforesaid table. The distribution of area is also somewhat similar. The biggest area is 339.92 square kilometers in Kadwa block that stands 11.12 percent to the total geographical area of the district. The smallest area is 61.06 square kilometers in Kursela block that stands only 2.00 percent to the total geographical area of Katihar district. Between the mentioned highest and lowest area of the blocks of Katihar, the distribution of population ranges from 2.22 percent to 10.97 percent as mentioned in the aforesaid table.

There is a considerable gap in the distribution of rural-urban population in different blocks of Katihar district. Out of the sixteen blocks, urban population is found only in three block i.e. in Katihar, Manihari and Barsoi. 72.10 percent population of Katihar lives in urban area of while only 27.90 percent population resides in rural areas of Katihar block. 14.61 percent population in Manihari block live in urban and 85.39 percent population reside in rural areas. 2.13 percent population of the block live in Barsoi town and 97.87 percent population lives in rural areas of Barsoi block. Rest blocks like Falka, Korha, Hasanganj, Kadwa, Balrampur, Azamnagar, Prampur, Dandkhora, Mansahi, Barari, Sameli, Kursela and Amdabad have no urban population. Total population of these aforesaid thirteen blocks reside in rural areas only.

## ▪ **Factors affecting distribution and/density of population:-**

Heavy population concentration comes about from a combination of favourable physical factors. The physical factors which affect the distributions of Population in Katihar district are relief, climate, soil, rainfall etc.

### **1. Landform:**

Population distribution of Katihar district is mainly guided by landforms. Figure pertaining the land forms of the district expresses the fact that the concentration of population is higher, where there is low land plain area, but on the floody relief and rugged topography, there is less concentration of population. Thus, there is a closed relation between relief and distribution of population. The southern areas of the district is flood-prone areas, this is why, it has lower concentration of population because of it is diversified topography. Such land formed a poor capability makes the study of settlement and inhabitants and relief, it become obvious that the total population of Katihar

district is confined in north-eastern plain area. The population in this way is concentrated in flood free region of the district. The greater percentage lies in north-eastern plain region and the rest lies in southern floody areas. In general the greater relief is the supporting capability of the village cultivation and the greater necessity of the subsidiary occupation. Thus, the population on higher land happily earns its subsidiary income. They also work as wood cutters grass cutters and chaco turners etc.

## **2. Soil:**

Soil also plays an important role in population distribution in the district. Thickness and fertility of soils guide the crop pattern and ultimately the distribution of population. In the area of fertile lands there becomes concentration of population as we find in areas beside river of Kareh, Kamla and Baghmati etc. Due to alluvial soil, the fertile for agriculture attracts the human concentration whereas on the other hand soil in the area of sphere concentration population. Thus, we find that soil has also influenced greatly the settlement of population.

## **3. Climate:**

Even nature and activities of human beings are also influenced by the climatic conditions. The importance of the role of climatic conditions with respect to population distribution is, therefore, inversely related to the stage of technological advancement reached by any country.

Temperature is an important factor to be considered in climatic conditions. It is obvious that wherever there is extremity of temperature, human life becomes difficult to sustain, and consequently such areas are sparsely inhabited. The most appropriate example of temperature affecting distribution is the one provided by the Arctic and Sub-arctic regions where because of long and very cold winter and low intensity of solar radiation even during the summer, living conditions are extremely difficult and the energy of human beings is spent mainly on struggling against the difficult conditions created by nature. It has been estimated that 6.4 million square miles of the earth are too cold for cropping<sup>7</sup>. When temperature becomes very high and combined with humidity, such conditions may not be too attractive for them who may wish to migrate from their places for other regions, thus affecting population growth due to migration.

## **4. Availability of Water:**

Water supply is also a major consideration in the distribution of population. They generally dwell near the streams but its closeness is avoided due to the inundation. It is evident from the fact that there is higher concentration of population along the area where pure underground water is

available in a depth that provide, facilities or water, the most essential for people. Thus, people establish their life on only those places where water by any means is easily available.

## **5. Flood Prone Area:**

Though, no forest area has been recorded in Katihar district, even yet, the distribution of population is sparse in the Flood Prone areas, because it is generally inaccessible owing to the absence of roads. Extensive flood areas are suitable for settlement. The surface is not hard and is difficult and unsafe to make houses. However, against these negative conditions some positiveness may occur. As for example there are some pockets within floody areas which have rich soils with humus and other organic matters. Though this can support only a scattered population. The collection of lac making of shalac, making of ropes and baskets from grasses etc. are their side occupations. It provides an additional income in many villages. In this way, we come to this conclusion that flood influences greatly the distribution of population. The concentration of population is more in the flood free areas like Kadwa, Balrampur, Katihar, etc. On the other hand, it is sparsely distributed in Hasanganj, Amdabad, Kursela etc. southern part of district.

## **6. Economic Factors:**

Economic factors are equally responsible for the distribution of population in the district. It is obvious that the distribution of population is greatly influenced by the intensity of cultivation. Hence the population is sparse. Agriculture governs the distribution of population, where the agricultural prosperity is high the population density is also high. This is because density of population is higher in Kadwa, Katihar, Barsoi, Azamnagar blocks.

The population is also concentrated in some particular areas where industries either on large scale or in small scale have developed. It is notable feature that in town where industrial activities have been developed the concentration of population is very high. The chief industrial centers are Katihar and Manihari etc. which have a good share of population because different industries have attracted a large number of people to get employment.

## **7. Transportation Facilities:**

Transportation facilities also play an important role in attracting the population. It has been said that "higher is the transportation facilities higher is the population concentration and lower is the population facilities lower is the human concentration".

If we see over the district of Katihar or any other region of the world we shall find that this quotation applies everywhere. This is why, Katihar

the central place of the district where railways and roadways comes from several directions coverage, is highly populated area of the district. Katihar is linked with Kolkata, Howrah, Darjiling, Darbhanga, Patna and new Delhi by railways and roadways spread towards all directions just like rays of the sun. This is why, Katihar is the centre of the highest population concentration in the district, Kadwa, Manihari, Barsoi, Azamnagar etc. are the centers of higher concentration of population.

Marketing facilities are also an important factor in determining the pattern of population distribution. The higher agglomeration of people in Katihar, Kadwa, Azamnagar, Barsoi etc. is specially due to better marketing facilities. This is because people can sell their agricultural products and craft goods at a good profit. They can also purchase their essentials at a reasonable price. As against this a fewer market centres in Hasanganj, Dandkhora, Manasoli, Sameli, Kursela etc. are responsible for poor concentration of people.

## **8. Marketing Facilities:**

Generally, all of the tourist centers attract population concentration on cultural base. It is true in respect of Darbhanga district that cultural factors sometimes become more important than physical and economic factors. Tourists center like kila of Darbhanga Maharaj, Saurashtra Mela, Dog fighting are burning examples of being a centre of higher population concentration. The place where L.N. Mithila University is situated at present had been a barren land before the establishment of the institution. But today, two thousand students study and about five hundred teaching and non-teaching staff work together everyday. Even neighboring are became densely populated. The tendency of rich people is that they are unable to tolerate the living conditions in villages. So, they, of course migrate to nearby towns in the district.

## **9. Cultural Factors:**

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