Increasing Population in Sheikhpura District Impediment to its Development

Abstract

A population could be an asset for countries where labour situation, requires a high rate of population growth But in India increasing population proces a variety of impediments to development. A major share of development resources is observed by the requirement of just maintaining the essential supplies and services The size of population is not an index of development or growth of an area. In fact, the quality of people could certainly be better with a slower increase in population The current family planning programmes have been useful to some extent in bringing down the birth rate in study area. Infant and child mortality are inversely related to the education of mothers which deserves high priority in developmental programmes. Certainly. Education, which would be of great help in changing the attitude of people The long term remedy is the education of women and illiterate adults. The desire to have a better standard of life in Sheikhpura district is universal and education will bring home the message that a smaller family is a happier family.

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Introduction

Man is a dynamic creature. His multiplying number needs and necessitates his accomplishments which determine degree of his development. The story of population consists of various chapters of its growth, geographical distribution and functions in response to utilization of resources Human resources are an important variable in the overall efforts of development. The size of population is not an index of development of any area in fact, the quality of life people would certainly be better with a slower increase in population. The study area Sheikhpura district is smallest (38th) in terms of population (636342) and 36th in terms of area (689 sq. km in the state of Bihar in terms of population perso km Sheikhpura is the 23rd densely populated district in the state with 924 persons per sq. km. as against the state's 1106. The decadal population growth (2001 - 2011) rate in the district 21.09 per thousand is lower than state population growth rate 25.42%. Here population growth can be attributed to the excess of Births over deaths, due to create in medical facilities, low literacy rate, rice as main food and early marriage ete wigh increasing rate of population in the district is an impediment to its proper development.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to identify the nature of population in Sheikhpura district and cause of high birth rate. A critical review of physiography socio-economic factors and its impact on increasing nature of population in study area and field oriented suggestions of this acute problem is the main objective of this paper.

Methodology

Methodology proper deals with the position and scope of the field within the total system of the science and with the character and nature of its concepts. It is a system of methods, rules and techniques as well as a product of scientific inquiry and research focussing on the philosophical issue of a subject. The method of analysis adopted in this paper is very popular in current geographical expression i.e. choropleth map for density.

Sources of Data and Informations

Data and informations of study have been collected from Census Handbook of Sheikhpura district 2011, District Gazetteers of old Munger

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district, District Development offices and personal field observation of the study area. The primary data made available from the data processing division, Govt. of Bihar Patna were verified during field observation and the errors detected were carefully rectified.

Study Area

Study area, the district of Sheikhpura is located in the most westerly district of Munger division. It is situated between 24°59' North latitude to 25^0 16' North latitude, and 85°36' East longitude to 86°00' East longitude. It extends over the area of 689.00 sq. km, and has a population 636342 as per 2011 census report. For administrative purpose it is divided into six blocks: Sheikhpura, Ghat Kusumbha, Barbigha, Shekhopur Sarai, Ariari and Chewara. The headquarters is situated at Sheikhpura. It is located at Gaya-Keul railway line (E.R., South Bihar Branch) and in the heart of united Bihar state (Bihar and Jharkhand). The district is well connected with its neighbouring areas by rail and roads.

Its total population 636342 is sub-divided into 527340 as rural and 109002 as urban. According to 2011 census the average density of population in the district is 924 persons per km as against the state's 1106, the level of literacy is 63.86 percent.

Nature of Population

Population study is a part and parcel in any regional Study, because population is the greatest resource among all the resources. The differentiation in economy of the region is the combined result of natural environment, its resources and the existing demographic structure of the region. It is indeed through analysis of population features that an appreciation of regional differences can be fully made. Human resources are an important variable in the overall efforts of development.

Distribution of Population

Of all the geographical attributes, population is the only animate element which has far reaching effects in modifying the face of the earth. Its size determines the nature and pattern of human development, while its distribution shows the varying nature of man's adjustment to physical resources

The distribution of population refers to the spatial arrangement of human numbers in relation to the physical and economic resources of any specific area.

Sheikhpura district has 314 inhabited villages and two (2) towns. Its total population is 636342 as per census 2011 and divided into 82.87 percent as rural and 17.63 percent as urban. Distribution of population according to the blocks and towns in the district is not uniform. Sheikhpura C.D. Block shares maximum population as 21 39 percent and Barbigha town shares only 7.24 percent of the Sheikhpura district. The following table shows the distribution of population in the district. (Table-1 and Fig.-1)

Table - 1

S. N.	Blocks and Towns	Population (2011)	Population (%)
1	Barbigha	90092	14.16
1 (a)	Barbigha Town	46075	7.24
2	Shekhopur Sarai	67481	10.61
3	Sheikhpura	136084	21.39
3 (a)	Sheikhpura Town	62927	9.89
4	Ghat Kusumbha	48346	7.59
5	Chewara	73267	11.51
6	Ariari	112070	17.61
	Total	636342	100.00

Source : Data compiled by scholar from Census Handbook of Sheikhpura district, 2011, Village PCA P. 54-107 and Urban PCA, PP. 110-115.

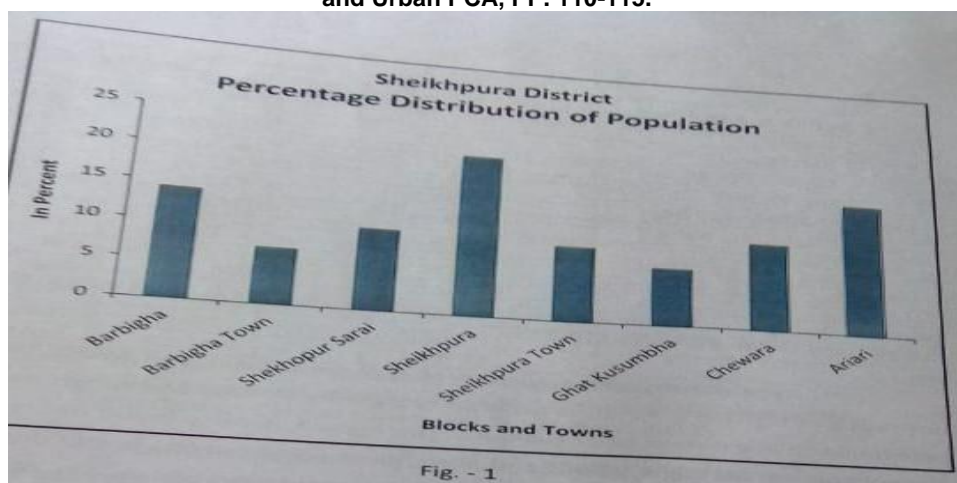
Fig. - 1

Density of Population

A significant part of regional population study is the examination of the distribution of population in relation to the capabilities of the environment types. District has a density of population of 924 persons per km according to the census of 2011 which is lower

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than those of Bihar 1106 (persons per kmi'), It varies considerably from block to block and town to town being as high as 2255 in Sheikhpura town and 2954 in Barbigha town, 1445 in Barbigha block, 1220 in

Shekhopur Sarai, 1074 in Sheikhpura block, 764 in Ariari block, 937 in Chewara and 522 in Ghat Kusumbha blocks. Table-2 given below shows the density of population in Sheikhpura district.

Table - 2

S. N.	Blocks and Towns	Area in Km^2	Population	Density per Km^2
1	Barbigha	7861.58	14.16	1445.00
1 (a)	Barbigha Town	15.6	7.24	2954.00
2	Shekhopur Sarai	5532.39	10.61	1220.00
3	Sheikhpura	15732.51	21.39	1074.00
3 (a)	Sheikhpura Town	27.9	9.89	2255.00
4	Ghat Kusumbha	9259. 95	7.59	522.00
5	Chewara	11504. 8	11.51	637.00
6	Ariari	1462.71	17.61	76400
	Total	68903.94	100.00	924.00

Source District Census Handbook, Sheikhpura district, 2011, From Village PCAP 54-107 and Urban PCA, PP 110-115

The density of population of different blocks and towns has been portrayed in Fig.-1. Figure gives ordered categories of rural and urban density of population in the district of Sheikhpura. The highest density found in both urban centres such as Barbigha (2954) and Sheikhpura (2255) towns in the district and blocks have intermediate position in density of population per sq. km. Shekhopur Sarai (1220), Sheikhpura (1074), Ariari (764) and Chewara (637). The lowest density of population is observed in Ghat Kusumbha (522) block in the district.

Population Growth

The spatial extent or area of a region is the base to which a geographer refers the facts of his

population study. The population growth in the district can be attributed to the excess of births over death. Sheikhpura district, little known about the size of its population in ancient and medieval times Scholars have provided some estimates, but these estimates are not based on solid facts figures. Our knowledge of the growth of population trends comes mainly from the census of India. It is a matter of satisfaction that records are available for the last 1901 to 2011 years which provide finally reliable figure of the population and the growth rate of population Table 3 gives an account of the absolute population and its growth rate in Sheikhpura district.

Table3

Years	Population	Decadal Variation	9% of Decadal Variation(1901-2011)
1901	145438		
1911	142493	-2945	-2.02
1921	159986	12493	12.28
1931			
1941			
1951	192981		
1961	262774	69793	36.16
1971	276111	13337	5.07
1981	350802	74691	27.05
1991	424606	73804	21.03
2001	525502	100896	23.76
2011	636342	110840	21.09

Source (1) Bihar, District Gazetteers, Munger, 1960, P. 67, 1901-1951
(2) Census Book of ind, 1971 and Bihar General Population
(3) District Census Handbook Sheikhoura, 2011

Above table shows that from 1901 to 2011 the population of the district has recorded an increase. Although the rate of Increase has varied from the decade to decade

The rate of growth in different decades of the district is varied as shown in figure 2. After 1951 population growth rate is higher than before 1951 period and it is the highest during 1951-1961 decade. After 1951-1961 decade above table shows the population on growth in the district of Sheikhpura So far as the rural and urban population growth is concerned the region is dominated by rural

population, But due to the improving in means of transport and communication, educational facilities and other infrastructure, the urban centres of the district rapidly began to flourish. Rural-urban migration has started in the search of job opportunities, means of livelihood and other civic facilities. So, the rate of population growth in rural areas of the district is lower than the urban population.

Major cause of increasing population is high birth rate and low death rate. Low death rate in the district continued with implementation of medical facilities in post-independence period. But high birth

rate effected by rice as main food. Early marriage year and law literacy rate in the district is less than state and country.10.% ad female eray rate a eny 20 as per 2011 census infant ant And mortality are inversely related to the education of mothers which deserves Smart del programmes So, education would be of great hel changing 1he attitude of the people The long term remedy the education of women and terate adults of the district. While education is treated as a component of the official programme to promote family planning and it has a played an important role in spreading the awareness of the feasibility of controlling the family size So the desire to have a better standard of life in the district is universal and education will bring home the message that a smaller family is a happier family. Although family planning and smaller family are the remedy of this acute problem, but superstitions and religious view are hindrances in the way of successful implementation of the welfare programmes.

Conclusion

To conclude, planners must plan for a population, they cannot plan the size of population Chinese mato of "one child family policy is the ultimate solution

Population problem in India in general and in Sheikhpura in particular has in fact, assumed an explosively alarming situation. It has been consistently throwing a menace to the Govt. and planners of Indian families. The result is a thwarting confrontation between the unabated growth of human babies and the ceaseless efforts of the Govt. and the planners to check its monstrous growth. More than anything else is the need to make the millions ignorant and iterate citizens, conscious of the utility and usefulness of a small family. The dangerously terrifying problem of population will be solved the moment Indians begin to realise that the secret of happiness lies less in having a large family and more in having a small one. It is consciousness all the way that matters for all of us.

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