

स्थल पर उल्लिखित है कि इन्द्रादि देवता उनके दर्शन करने के लिये क्षीरसागर के तट पर गये थे। देवों की स्तुति के पश्चात् जब विष्णु प्रकट हुए तो वे शंख, चक्र और गदा धारण किये हुए गरुड़ पर आरूढ़ थे। विष्णुपुराण के अनुसार उनकी आँखें विकसित कमल के समान हैं, वे पीताम्बर धारण करते हैं, उनके अलंकार किरीट, केयूर, हार, कटक आदि हैं उनकी चारों भुजाओं में शंख, चक्र, गदा और पद्म सुशोभित होते हैं। पौराणिक विष्णु-भक्ति का सूक्ष्म स्वरूप औपनिषदिक वर्णन से बहुत साम्य रखता है। जैसे- विष्णुपुराण में नारायण को हृदयस्थ माना गया है।¹² इसी प्रकार काठक संहिता में भी उपास्य देव की स्थिति आत्मा में बतायी गयी है।¹³ वैष्णव-भक्ति की पराकाष्ठा अन्य ग्रंथों में भी व्यक्त की गयी है। महाभारत के शान्तिपर्व में उल्लिखित है कि श्रीकृष्ण को किया हुआ एक प्रणाम भी दश अश्वमेध यज्ञों के समान है।¹⁴

संदर्भ ग्रन्थ-

1. इष्ट्वा यमिन्द्रो यज्ञानां शतेनामरराजताम्। - विष्णुपुराण 5/17/7
2. यत्राम्बु विन्ध्यस्य बलिर्मनोज्ञा- मन्वन्तरं पूर्णमपेतशत्रुम्।।- विष्णुपुराण 5/17/30
3. भक्त्या तुष्यति केशवः। -मत्स्य पुराण 100/36
4. आराधयामास विभुं- भक्तितः - नान्यमानसः। - विष्णुपुराण 3/18/55-56
5. विष्णुपुराण- 1/11/40-49
6. विष्णुपुराण 4/15/17 अयं हि भगवान्- सम्यर्वग्भोक्तमतामिति।।
7. विष्णुपुराण- 1/11/53-55
8. विष्णुपुराण 3/18/55
9. अविकाराय- नित्याय-विश्वस्य स्थितौ सर्गे तथा प्रभुम्।-विष्णुपुराण 1/2/1-5
10. विष्णुपुराण 1/2/10-13
11. स एव सृज्यः स च सर्गकर्ता। - विष्णुपुराण 1/2/70
12. नारायणोऽयनं धाम्नां तस्याधारः स्वयं हृदि।। - विष्णुपुराण 2/9/4
13. तमात्मस्थं येऽनुपश्यन्ति धीरास्तेषां शान्तिः शाश्वती। - काठक संहिता 2/5/12
14. एकोऽपि कृष्णस्य कृतः प्रणामो दशाश्वमेधावभृथेन तुल्यः। - महा0 शान्तिपर्व 47/91

Characteristics Of Scheduled Caste Population In Gopalganj District : A Case Study

Dr. Manish Parashar*

INTRODUCTION:- According to Article 341 of the Constitution of India, "Scheduled castes mean such castes, races or tribes, parts or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under Article 341 to be the scheduled caste for the purpose of the Constitution of India. Under article 341(1) and 342(1) of the Constitution of India, the castes or tribes to be treated as scheduled caste or scheduled tribes for a particular state are specified by public notification by the President of India, Minister of Home Affairs, notification number SRO 2477A dated 29th October, 1956 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes orders(Amendments) Act, 1976 dated 18th September 1976 (census of India, 1981, Final population totals, pp.7-8).

According to this notification, important scheduled castes of Bihar and the study area are Chamar, Dom, Pasi, Halalkhar, Dhobi, Dusadh, Mehtar, Mushar etc. These castes have a very low socio economic status. In spite of a large number of measures undertaken by the Government, they are still at the lowest ladder of the society. The government of Bihar has again subdivided these castes into two groups, i.e., Dalit and Mahadalit. Only Dusadh caste is now known as dalit while all others are called Mahadalit.

Purpose of Study:- The purpose of the present paper is to analyze the situation of Scheduled caste People in the study area. Gopalganj District is situated in the north western portion of the State. It is bounded by the river Gandak in the east, Deoria district of the U.P in the north and west and Siwan district in the South.

Methodology:- The methodology used in the present study includes blocks of the study area, field work, selection of data and their analysis. The Study covers the whole Gopalganj district.

*Coordinator, Centre For Geographical Studies, Patna

Characteristics Of Scheduled Caste Population-In Gopalganj district, scheduled castes form about 12% of the total population of the district. During 1981-2001, the population of this caste increased from 165012 in 1981 to 208382 in 1991 and 267277 in 2001. The growth of population of scheduled caste is given in table 1.

Table – 1

Gopalganj District : Growth Of Scheduled Caste Population

Year	Total Sc Population	Decadal Growth	% Decade Growth
1981	165012	-	-
1991	208382	43370	26.28
2001	267277	58895	28.26

Source: Census of India

This table shows that during 1981-91, the population of scheduled caste increased by 26.28% as against the district average of total population of 25.12%. During 1991-2001, the rate of growth of scheduled caste population increased 28.26% as against 26.11% growth of total population during this period. Thus, the growth of population of scheduled caste has been slightly more than that of the total population of the study area.

There has been spatial variation in the distribution of scheduled caste population in the district. It is seen that in 1981, Bijaipur had the highest proportion of 15.13% scheduled caste population. Katiya (13.60%), Manjha (13.08%), Bhorey (12.62%) and Hathua (12.56%) also had high proportion of scheduled caste. On the other hand, Uchkagaon and Barauli had less than 12% scheduled caste population. On an average, the district had 12.11% scheduled caste population.

Table – 2

Gopalganj District : Scheduled Caste Population (1981 – 2001)

BLOCK	TOTAL SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION (IN%)		
	1981	1991	2001
1.KATIYA	13.60	13.97	14.69
2.BIJAIPUR	15.13	15.36	16.02
3.BHOREY	12.62	13.04	13.34
4.PACH DEURI	-	-	13.28
5.KUCHAIKOTE	11.5	12.09	12.09
6.PHULWARIA	-	-	12.44
7.HATHUA	12.56	12.98	12.35

8.UCHKAGAON	10.97	10.69	11.13
9.THAWE	-	-	13.27
10.GOPALGANJ	11.92	11.54	11.40
11.MANJHA	13.08	13.27	13.05
12.BARAULI	10.96	10.82	10.99
13.SIDHWALIA	-	-	12.17
14.BAIKUNTHPUR	11.15	11.00	10.88
TOTAL	12.11	12.22	12.41

Source: Census of India

In 1991, the percentage of scheduled caste in the district increased slightly to 12.22%. In this census also Bijaipur had the largest of 15.36% scheduled caste. Similarly, Katiya, Bhorey and Manjha had more than 13% scheduled caste population. As in the previous census, Uchkagaon and Barauli had less than 11% scheduled caste population.

In 2001, scheduled caste increased its share to 12.41%, which is slightly more than the previous decade. In this census also, the similar pattern of distribution is found. Bijaipur increased its share of scheduled caste population at 16.02% of the total population belonging to scheduled caste. Katiya has more than 14% and Bhorey, Pach Deuri, Thawe and Manjha have more than 13% scheduled caste population. On the other hand, Barauli and Baikunthpur have less than 11% scheduled caste population.

As regards the sex ratio of scheduled caste population, female outnumbered males in 1981. Out of total scheduled caste population, 50.68% were females and 49.32% were male. In all the blocks, females outnumbered males. But Gopalganj block was the exception were males constituted 50.49% and female 49.50% of the total scheduled caste population. In 1991 and 2001, the numbers of male was higher than that of female. In 1991 there were a total of 106300 males and 102082 females in the district constituting 51.02% and 48.98% of the scheduled caste population respectively. In this census, all blocks had more males than females. The percentage of male varies from the lowest of 50.38% in Bijaipur to 51.93% in Gopalganj block. Almost similar pattern of sex ratio is found in 2001 census where out of a total scheduled caste population, males were 50.43% and females 49.57%. Among the blocks, however, four had more females than males. These are Katiya, Bijaipur, Bhorey and Barauli. In all these blocks, males constituted 49.12% to 49.94% of the total scheduled caste population. The proportion of

scheduled caste male was highest (52.41%) in Gopalganj block and second highest (51.19%) in Hathua block.

The level of literacy of scheduled caste population has always been lower than that of total population. In 1981, as against the total level of 21.36% literacy, only 10.38% of the scheduled castes were literate. Similarly, in 1991, 34.95% of the total population was literate while 20.26% of the scheduled castes were literate. In 2001 census also, the total literacy was 47.48% while the scheduled caste literacy was 31.93%.

The level of literacy of scheduled caste population also differs from one block to another. In 1981, Uchkagaon had the highest of 12.72% literate scheduled castes. Baikunthpur, Bijaipur and Barauli had less than 10% scheduled caste literate. In 1991, the level of scheduled caste literate increased in all blocks. The highest level of more than 22% literacy was recorded among the scheduled caste of Uchkagaon and Kuchaikote while the lowest level of about 17% literacy was recorded by Barauli and Baikunthpur blocks.

Table –3

Scheduled Caste Population Literacy (1981 , 1991 & 2001)

BLOCK	% OF TOTAL SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY		
	1981	1991	2001
1.KATIYA	10.77	19.95	31.57
2.BIJAIPUR	9.11	20.40	30.44
3.BHOREY	11.02	21.60	30.17
4.PACH DEURI	-	-	31.43
5.KUCHAIKOTE	11.11	22.32	32.71
6.PHULWARIA	-	-	34.92
7.HATHUA	10.29	21.12	34.89
8.UCHKAGAON	12.72	22.64	34.83
9.THAWE	-	-	37.44
10.GOPALGANJ	10.14	20.75	35.45
11.MANJHA	10.62	19.35	31.17
12.BARAULI	9.40	17.76	29.04
13.SIDHWALIA	-	-	25.45
14.BAIKUNTHPUR	8.49	17.07	27.56
TOTAL	10.38	20.26	31.93

Source: Census of India

The occupational structure of scheduled caste population shows that, these people are mostly agricultural labourers. They constitute more

than two third of total workers. Very few of them are cultivators, industrial, or other workers. In 1981, 31.24% of the total scheduled castes were main workers. Out of them, 20.62% were agricultural labourers, 8.27% cultivators, 0.66% household industrial workers and 1.7% other workers. There was small block wise variation in the proportion of these workres, which can be seen in table -4

Table – 4

Scheduled Caste Population : Occupational Structure (1981)

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION - OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE (IN%)						
BLOCK	TOTAL SC POP.	TOTAL SC MAIN WORKER POP.	TOTAL SC MAIN CULTIVATOR OR	TOT. SC MAIN AGRICULTURE LABOURER.	TOT. SC H.H INDUSTRY WORKER	TOT. SC MAIN OTHER WORKER
1.KATIYA	13.60	34.50	8.42	24.43	0.77	0.88
2.BIJAIPUR	15.13	30.99	6.73	22.92	0.43	0.92
3.BHOREY	12.62	29.75	9.15	19.40	0.26	0.93
4.HATHUA	12.56	30.60	9.93	18.39	0.52	1.76
5.UCHKAGAON	10.97	28.40	9.28	16.34	0.71	2.07
6.KUCHAIKOTE	11.54	32.05	8.14	20.95	0.92	2.04
7.GOPALGANJ	11.92	31.51	7.19	20.60	0.50	3.23
8.MANJHA	13.08	32.07	7.36	22.20	0.91	1.61
9.BARAULI	10.96	30.50	8.10	20.03	0.77	1.60
10.BAIKUNTHPUR	11.15	31.40	8.23	21.22	0.52	1.42
TOTAL	12.11	31.24	8.27	20.62	0.66	1.70

Source: Census of India

In 1991, the proportion of the main workers in the scheduled caste population decreased to 30.96%. Among different anchals, Kuchaikote had the largest percentage (33.51%) of scheduled caste main workers and Uchkagaon had the lowest percentage (27.20%). Among the scheduled caste main workers, 69.30% agricultural labourers, 23.39% cultivators, 1.41% household industrial workers and 5.87% other workers. Agricultural labourers had the highest concentration (75.83%) in Kuchaikote and the lowest of 65.44% in Uchkagaon. The position was reserved in case of cultivators who were the largest in percentage in Uchkagaon and smallest in Kuchaikote. Household industrial worker constituted one to two percent of the total scheduled caste population in different blocks. As regards other workers, Gopalganj block was the

most important were 11.43% of the scheduled caste main workers were engaged in business, transport, administration etc. In other block, 32.7% of the main workers were engaged in other services.

Table – 5

Scheduled Caste Population : Occupational Structure (1991)

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION : OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE (IN %)					
BLOCK	TOTAL SC MAIN WORKER POP.	TOTAL SC MAIN CULTIVATOR	TOT. SC MAIN AGRI. LABO.	TOT. SC H.H INDUS. WORKER	TOT. SC MAIN OTHER WORKER
1.KATIYA	31.67	22.99	71.99	1.09	3.47
2.BIJAIPUR	33.14	25.09	69.73	0.78	4.39
3.BHOREY	32.18	30.71	63.13	0.65	5.49
4.HATHUA	29.79	24.34	67.66	1.28	6.70
5.UCHKAGAON	27.20	36.01	55.44	1.87	6.67
6.KUCHAIKOTE	33.51	16.82	75.83	1.64	5.67
7.GOPALGANJ	30.31	17.73	68.98	1.84	11.43
8.MANJHA	31.58	21.50	71.72	1.23	5.54
9.BARAULI	30.59	23.07	68.84	1.95	6.11
10.BAIKUNTHPUR	29.91	21.63	73.39	1.47	3.49
TOTAL	30.96	23.39	69.30	1.41	5.87

Source: Census of India

In 2001, the percentage of scheduled caste main worker again decrease to 24.08%. Among them 69.07% were agricultural labourers, 15.39% cultivators, 3.09% household industrial workers and 12.43% other workers. Agricultural labourers were highly concentrated in Sidhwalia, Bijaipur, Kuchaikote, Manjha block etc. While phulwaria and Hathua had comparatively low proportion of scheduled caste agriculture labourers. Cultivators had comparatively high concentration in Phulwaria and Bhorey blocks while Gopalganj had the lowest concentration of 6.08% cultivators. Manjha and Sidhwalia also had low proportion of cultivators. Household industrial workers increase their proportion to 3.09% in 2001. Among different block, they varied from 2% to 5% of the scheduled caste main workers. Other workers again improved its concentration in Gopalganj were more than 28% of scheduled caste main worker were engaged in other services, mainly in the Gopalganj urban centers. Uchkagaon(17%), Hathua(15%) and Barauli(14%) also had comparatively high proportion of scheduled other worker. Katiya, Bijaipur, Bhorey, Phulwaria and Sidhwalia had less than 10% scheduled caste other workers.

Table – 6

Scheduled Caste Population – Occupational Structure (2001)

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION - OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE (IN%)					
BLOCK	TOTAL SC MAIN WORKER POP.	TOTAL SC MAIN CULTIVATOR	TOT. SC MAIN AGRI. LABO.	TOT. SC H.H INDUS. WORKER	TOT. SC MAIN OTHER WORKER
1.KATIYA	23.10	16.25	72.41	3.10	8.21
2.BIJAIPUR	24.85	14.77	74.16	2.90	8.15
3.BHOREY	23.23	25.86	62.44	1.84	9.84
4.PACH DEURI	26.76	20.93	69.42	2.58	7.04
5.KUCHAIKOTE	24.70	13.03	73.59	2.39	10.96
6.PHULWARIA	19.88	27.81	57.62	3.27	11.27
7.HATHUA	20.58	18.59	60.68	5.17	15.54
8.UCHKAGAON	24.25	19.33	61.24	2.28	17.13
9.THAWE	22.78	13.38	72.72	1.80	12.08
10.GOPALGANJ	24.45	6.08	61.99	3.72	28.19
11.MANJHA	27.08	9.21	75.47	3.34	11.96
12.BARAULI	24.78	14.15	68.20	4.03	13.65
13.SIDHWALIA	29.47	10.32	78.74	4.18	6.75
14.BAIKUNTHPUR	23.94	16.47	70.92	2.27	10.32
TOTAL	24.08	15.39	69.07	3.09	12.43

Source: Census of India

Rural-urban variations in the distribution of scheduled caste population is almost similar to that in total population. In 1981, only 4% of the scheduled caste were living in urban areas and 96% in rural areas. There were three towns situated in Uchkagaon, Gopalganj and Barauli blocks. In Gopalganj block, about 19% of the scheduled caste lived in Gopalganj town and the remaining in rural areas. In Barauli, about 11% of the scheduled caste lived in urban areas and in Uchkagaon about 7% in Mirganj town. The remaining populations were rural.

Table – 7

Scheduled Caste Population : Rural Urban Ratio (1981, 1991 2001)

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION RURAL URBAN RATIO (IN %)						
BLOCK	1981		1991		2001	
	RURAL SC POP.	URBAN SC POP.	RURAL SC POP.	URBAN SC POP.	RURAL SC POP.	URBAN SC POP.
1.KATIYA	100	-	90.81	9.18	83.69	16.30
2.BIJAIPUR	100	-	100	-	100	-

3.BHOREY	100	-	100	-	100	-
4.PACH DEURI	-	-	-	-	100	-
5.KUCHAIKOTE	100	-	100	-	100	-
6.PHULWARIA	-	-	-	-	100	-
7.HATHUA	100	-	100	-	100	-
8.UCHKAGAON	93.12	6.88	93.86	6.13	91.44	8.55
9.THAWE	-	-	-	-	100	-
10.GOPALGANJ	80.59	19.41	79.57	20.42	72.86	27.13
11.MANJHA	100	-	100	-	100	-
12.BARAULI	88.51	11.48	89.00	11.00	85.70	14.29
13.SIDHWALIA	-	-	-	-	100	-
14.BAIKUNTHPUR	100	-	100	-	100	-
TOTAL	96.00	4.00	95.28	4.71	100	4.98

Source: Census of India

In 1991, the proportion of scheduled caste living in urban areas increased to 4.71%. In this census one town, Katiya was added. The proportion of scheduled caste living in urban areas of different anchals were almost similar to that in 1981, such as 20% in Gopalganj, 11% in Barauli and 6% in Mirganj of Uchkagaon. In Katiya block, about 9% of scheduled caste populations were living in town. In 2001 also, the proportion of scheduled caste persons living in urban areas increase to 98%. In all the blocks, the level of urbanization among scheduled caste increased. Now about 27% of the scheduled caste of Gopalganj block live in town, 14% of scheduled caste of that of Barauli, 16.3% of that of Katiya and 8.55% of that of Uchkagaon live in urban centres.

REFERENCES:

1. UNFPA State of the World's population 2011 report.
2. Fraklin, S.H., (1936) "The pattern of sex ratio in New Zealand", Economic Geography, Vol.32
3. Clark, J.I., (1973) "Population in movement" in Chisholm, M. and Rodgars, B. (eds) Studies in Human Geography, London, pp. 85-124.
4. Trewartha, G.T., (1969), A Geography of Population : World Pattern, John Willey : New York.
5. Wattal, R.K. (1958), Population Problem in India-census study, Minerva Book shop, New Delhi.
6. Lal, Hira (1993) Population Geography (In Hindi), Vasundhra Prakasan, Gorakhpur.
7. Census of India, 2001, Provisional Population Total, p.19.
