ASSESSMENT OF LIVING AND HOUSING CONDITION OF BPL HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL HILLY REGIONS OF UTTARAKHAND: A STUDY OF PAURI BLOCK IN PAURI DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is a multi dimensional concept. Trap of poverty not only sunk the income but also sunk the basic necessity needs i.e., decent life equality of opportunity, healthcare, education, sanitation etc. In this paper we analyzed the status poor by exploring their standard of life. One reason for exploring the status of poor i.e., Pauri-Garhwal region mainly suffering from lack of secondary and tertiary sector which means ultimate burden comes on the primary sector i.e. agriculture but over the time climatically change makes unsuitable agricultural climate has been created and leave huge mass of unemployed agricultural labour specially in hill regions. In hill region of Uttarakhand we have seen that there are lacks of irrigational facilities, lacks of modern farm equipment, lacks of fertilizers, lacks of transportation and communication facilities, lack of industrial sector etc. On behalf of this, this paper analyzed the standard of life by exploring their living and housing conditions. This study contrasting data from 80 BPL households which were randomly selected from one development blocks out of fifteen blocks of the district. This study reveals the status of poor people of Pauri Garhwal district which is residing in poor unhygienic condition.

Keywords: Poverty, Rural Hill Region, Living Condition and Housing Condition.

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Introduction:

Development of any region basically depends on the capacity and capability of its natural resources. These resources may lead the society towards the worse or better condition. Himalayan hill is renowned for their natural setting but each space/area is not equal because each region has its own set of problems and potential due to its typical land setting. This region have a number of constraints like lack of industrial sector, lack of transport and communication facilities, soil erosion, small land holding size, less diversified economy, large number of uncultivable wasteland. Subsides of god (i.e. natural resources) traditional freely used by the people of this region but now a day some new issues have been arisen i.e. environmental degradation and unsustainable development. These all due to tremendous pressure of population in hill region which lead towards the deforestation and soil erosion and more important thing is also underlying that is the springs of water which is main life line/beauty of hills have been gone to dry due to environmental degradation. These kinds of constraints may directly or indirectly enact to make worse situation in these regions. Traditionally, subsistence economy was widely depending on the bounty of nature which gives food, water, fuel wood and other things. But now the scenario is totally opposite to farmer one. People travel miles to collect water, grass for animals, agriculture also faces worse condition. More important thing is that women come under the nest of worse condition because constraints economy makes huge chunk of migration (this district one of them which shows negative degradable population growth in 2011 (census 2011)) of male candidate from this regions in the search of job opportunity and to earn and to retain their livelihood and remittance to their families. In this paper we are going to analyze the present condition of housing and living in Pauri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand.

Review of literature

Home is the hub of everyone but now a day problem related to living and housing condition is arisen due to huge chunk of population exploitation in our country. There are many financial institutions helping the poor to fulfill their dream of owned house because home environment directly or indirectly affects the individual life. There are many studies found on this topic, some of them discussed below:

Masavi, M.I (1976) stated in his study that tribal area faces the problem of high incidence of poverty and there is urgent need to improve the standard of living by providing them job opportunity. Ranhacharyulu, S.V. (1994) has found in his study that APL Households enjoy better status than the BPL Households. Naik (1981) revealed in his study that house is one of them important ingredient for human being because it polarized the human being. Krishnamchari (1980) stated in his study that shelter is a basic human need and crucial part of human settlement because it closely linked with the process of overall socio-economic development. It also fulfills the social needs of the households. Aggarwal (1958) and Despande (1975) revealed that housing problem in our country is arisen due to population exploitation.

Objectives

- To identify the living condition of BPL Households in Pauri-Garhwal district.
- To identify the housing condition of Households in Pauri-Garhwal district.

Research methodology and Study Area

This study is conducted in Hill region of Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand and based on intensive research. Stratified random sampling is proposed for extracting the sample. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data's are collected through questionnaire, while secondary information is collected through published and unpublished sources like books, journals, reports, publications, and concerned web sites etc.

The present study has focus on BPL Households of hill region of Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand is the 27th state of Republic of India. For the proposed study out of fifteen development blocks of district Pauri Garhwal randomly one block will be selected. Out of each development block randomly four villages will be selected for the study. Out of each village a minimum of 20 BPL households will be randomly selected and 80 BPL Households (40 households are Schedule Caste and 40 households are General Caste) forms the total sample of the study.

Research Findings

1. Brief profile of BPL household members:

Literacy is a social indicator which helps in to achieve the social development. It is the most important ingredient in the process of modernization because it explains the quality of population i.e. literate person can be more productive than the illiterate one. Which further express in the form of more productivity; more productivity is the example of developed countries which have higher literacy rate than the developing countries.

Table no-1 Education Status of Respondents

Education status	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	41	51.3
Lower Primary	11	13.8
Upper Primary	5	6.3
High School	19	23.8

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Intermediate	4	5.0
Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

The above table revealed that 51.3 % of respondents are illiterate, approximately 20% of respondent reached the lower and upper primary school, 5% of respondents have an intermediate schooling and finally 23.8% of respondents have high schooling. It is clearly depicted that majority of respondents dropout from the school during the stage of lower primary and high school.

Table no-2 Income of Households

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percent
Upto 1000	32	40.0
1001-2000	24	30.0
2001-3000	19	23.8
More than 3001	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

The above table revealed the economic instability of the respondents because only 5 respondent have more than 3001 monthly income and 40% of rural respondent have only upto1000 monthly income, 30% have 1001 to 2000 monthly income, 23.8 have 2001 to 3000 monthly income.

2. Housing status: - problems and requirements

Housing is a major element of household which cover the basic needs such as shelter from weather, personal security and other all these things. It represents the material living standards of households. Good housing conditions are also essential for people's health and affect childhood development. In our study, observed that all respondents have owned houses and self constructed, on the basis of this we studied the following characteristics of the house and the dwelling unit of the household's viz. the type of house, size of house, member residing.

In this survey, type of house was categorized as puccha, semi-puccha and kaccha. This categorization was on the basis of materials used in the construction of roof and wall of the dwelling unit.

Paccha house was one whose walls and roofs were made of paccha materials such as cement, bricks, stone, iron, plastic, wood, plywood etc.

Kaccha house was one whose walls and roofs were made of non-paccha material such as unburnt bricks, bamboo, leaves, stone, wood, soil, etc.

Semi paccha house was whose walls and roofs made up of combination of paccha and non-paccha material i.e. his walls made up of paccha material and roofs made up of non-paccha.

Table no- 3Type of House

Type of house		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Puccha	23	28.8
	Kuccha	18	22.5
	Semi- puccha	39	48.8
	Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

The survey revealed that the standard of houses in Pauri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. Majority of houses comes under the semi-puccha house structure i.e.48.8%, around 22.5% houses are kuccha and 28.8% houses were made up of puccha material. This study reveals that large proportion of population residing in the semi-puccha houses.

Table no-4 Number of Rooms in House.

Rooms		Frequency	Percent
Valid	one room	14	17.5
	two room	42	52.5
	more than three room	24	30.0
	Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

The above table reveals that the majority of respondents reside in the two room set and the proportion are 52.5%. 30% respondents reside in the more than three room set and 17.5% of respondents reside in the one room set for living their lives.

Table no-5 Size of Room

Size of Room		Frequency	Percent
Valid	100 sq. ft	11	13.8
	150 sq. ft	40	50.0
	more than 150 sq. ft	29	36.3
	Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

Table no-   reveals the area/space that respondents reside in hill region of Uttarakhand. Table clearly depicted that majority(50%) of respondents reside in space only 150 sq. ft. 36.3% respondents live in space more than 150 sq. ft. and least number of respondents reside in 100 sq. ft. (i.e. 13.8%).

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Table no-6 Members of Family

Members of Family		Frequency	Percent
Valid	0-3 person	17	21.3
	4-7 person	54	67.5
	8-10 person	7	8.8
	11- above person	2	2.5
	Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

A larger proportion of respondents have around 4 to7 members in their family. This large portion is made up of extended (joint) family and on the other hand, less availability of nuclear family in hill regions of Pauri Garhwal district. Table no- clearly reveals that only 21.3% respondents have only 0 to 3 members in their family and on the other side there is clear sign of extended family because approximately 79% respondents have more than 4 members in their family.

3. Living status: - facilities: problems and requirements

In this section we are going to elaborate the living condition of BPL households of Pauri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. Standard of living basically depend on different facilities i.e. toilet, sanitation, electricity, ventilation, kitchen, livestock and water. These all are important ingredient of dwelling unit. Inadequate facilities makes impact not only households but also on the communities. Below discuss:

Table- 7   Status of dwelling unit

		Toilet facilities		Sanitation facilities		Electricity facilities		Ventilation facilities		Separate Kitchen facilities	
		No.	%age	No.	%age	No.	%age	No.	%age	No.	%age
Yes		45	56.3	36	45	69	86.3	56	70	32	40
No		35	43.8	44	55	11	13.8	24	30	48	60

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

Majority of the households have a separate toilet facility in their houses (56.3%) and remaining households have not a toilet facilities. Most of the households have not the sanitation facilities i.e. 44% but some extended availability (36%) of sanitation facilities in the rural hill regions of this state. Electricity is also an important element of dwelling unit which wear the quality of life of population. From the above table it is clear depicted that around 86.3% households have the electricity facilities and 13.8% households have not the electricity facilities in their house. Ventilation is one of the important ingredients of dwelling unit. Important in the sense it provide

good hygienic environment in the home and their surroundings. In this study reveals that 30% households have not the ventilation facilities in their house and kitchen, 70% household has good ventilation. 60% respondents have not a separate kitchen facilities, so they use their living room for cooking the food. Around 40% households have a separate kitchen facilities. These above facilities are the important ingredient of every house. These all define the surrounding environment and standard of living. If missing than unhygienic environment is created in their surroundings. Proper drainage system is require as above table reveals because drainage system is meant for carrying out waste water and human waste also.

Table no 8 Cattle

Place		Frequency	Percent
Valid	separate area	23	28.8
	living area	10	12.5
	no cattle	47	58.8
	Total	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

The above table reveals that 58.8% respondents have not been cattle and around 41.3% respondents have cattle. But 12.5% of respondents who have a cattle said that they are living with their cattle because there is no separate place for residing their cattle. Around 28.8% respondents have a separate place to reside their cattle.

Table no 9 Water Facilities

Water Facilities	Frequency	Percent
Outside home tap water	80	100.0

Source: Primary survey (2014-15)

Water is most important element of dwelling unit. In our study which is conducted on the hill regions of Uttarakhand which reveals that all households have a water facility but not in home. All the respondents trouble for water and for survival they use tap water which is beyond the house area.

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Conclusion

In the introductory part we discussed that each region is not equal due to typical land setting which means some extent physiography acts as a constraint on the way of development. Constraints make worse situation for poor who already under the trap of poverty. Housing condition of Pauri-Garhwal district is not good our study revealed i.e. only 28.8% households have a paccha house(Ghar) and majority of respondents have a semi-paccha house i.e. 48.8% (semi-paccha house made up of paccha and non-paccha materials), in the least 22.5% household have a kuccha house. Kuccha and Semi-Paccha houses needs special attention regarding their maintenance and maintenance need cost which is heavy duty or load on the head of poor. On the other hand number of members of family show the negative impact on the number of rooms, size of room and facilities. In our study approximately 67.5% respondents have a family of 4 to 7 member in their household, more ever 60% households have not a separate kitchen facilities which may raise the issue of privacy and also provide unsuitable environment for child development. Living condition of households is similar to housing condition. Around 44 households have not a toilet, 55% households have not sanitation facilities, 30% households have not a ventilation facilities these all may leads toward the unhygienic condition made around the surrounding environment. Electricity in the current scenario is the life line of living beings; in our study around 13.8% households have not electricity facilities. Water is the important element of dwelling units but typical structure of this region with the raising problem of environment degradation might raise the big issue of water in this region. Most interesting thing is that all households have trouble regarding the water status because springs of water gone to dry due to environmental degradation. Mostly in our study we seen common tap water is the main source of water. On the basis of above discuss, study revealed that living and housing condition of this region is not in good position, so there is urgent need to improve the standard of living by providing sufficient infrastructure.

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