

## **A Geographical Study of Agricultural Land Utilization of Piprahiya Village in Paschimi Champaran District, (Bihar)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In this paper concept of Population Geography will be applied to the selected area. It is an important branch of Geography which presents an accurate orderly and rational description and interpretation of population as well as its various attributes. Population Geography is the simple description of location of population number and other attributes of population the explanation of the spatial configuration of the number and other attributes and phenomena i.e. the inter-relation among area differences in population with those in all or other elements within geographic study of an area. It is a recently developed branch of science of geography that studies about the growth, distribution, density and other spatial variation of population on the surface of the earth. It also studies the demographic features. The central theme of population study is the areal differentiation and understanding the process of spatial organization, while the population constitutes the most dynamic and pivotal elements in such process of population provides the focal point in geography. The proposed paper will apply different types of methodologies. Facts procured from the data will be described and analyzed with full concentration of study area. Even data will be represented by different cartographic method. Besides adopting the analytical methodology in presenting facts, quantitative techniques like correlation, deviation, regression etc, will also be applied for their clarification. Various types of models may be developed or already existing models may be context the facts of Paschimi Champaran district.

**Keywords: Geography, Population, Spatio-Temporal, Demographic, Density, literacy**

### **Introduction**

Geography of population presents an accurate, orderly, systematic and rational description of population and its various characteristics. Population geography doesn't study man as a phenomenon but as an area-characterizing and area-differentiating element while dealing demographic phenomena. Population geography is concerned with spatio-temporal expression of various population attributes. The explanation of such spatio-temporal expression and the processes involved in the creation of this spatio-temporal expression. Glenn.T.Trewarth of the United States was perhaps the first and foremost personality to elevate population studies to the status of a systematic branch of geography. area differentiation is one of the themes of geography in general and of population in particular. Since man not only the utilize of physical earth but also the creator of cultural earth. Population Geography is the most important branch of today. This branch is concerned with the nature and man in general and their inter relationship in particular. since the evolution of geographical ideas, the concept of nature and man has developed. Clarke has however defined that population geography is concerned with demonstrating how spatial variation in distribution, composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variation in the nature of places. Clarke also emphasized upon spatial aspects of population and distinguished geography from demography. this demographer is devoted to numbers and depends heavily upon statistical methods. But the population geographers related number to area and realizes upon maps, the form of spatial patterns. Another prominent American geographer, Edward

Ackerman assigned the distinctive role of geography in population research while delimiting the problems of population geography at various levels. Melezin puts the soviet concept of population geography as the study of population distribution and productive relationship existing within various population groups, the settlement network and its fitness, usefulness and effectiveness for productive goals of society. thus, population geography does not study man as a phenomenon in itself but as an area-characterizing and area differentiating element population geography, while dealing with demographic phenomena, it is concerned with the temporal-spatial expressions of various population attributes: the explanations of such temporal-spatial expression and the processes involved in the creation of these temporal-spatial expressions.

II. OBJECTIVES To evaluate the various characteristics of population in the contest of Paschimi champaran district. This has influenced the overall socio-economic structure. The most important amongst all the resources mobile, usable and useful for themselves, but the human resources is neither evenly distributed nor equally beneficial everywhere.

III. METHODOLOGY AND CARTOGRAPHY APPLIED The methodology largely depends upon the conceptualization of the discipline itself. it implies that as the philosophy of a discipline changes with time, its research techniques also undergo a change so as to meet the requirements of the widened subject matter.

### **Piprahiya Village :**

Piprahiya village is situated at the Jogapatti block of Paschimi Champaran District. It covers an area of 1146.13 hectatres and contains a total population of 3224 persons (2011). At a distance of approximately 5 km in the south from Sheohar, the headquarter of the district as well as block it can be approached from all the directions easily by roads.

### **Physical Aspect:**

The direction of slope in the village and its surrounding is towards the river in the south and south-east. The whole village from higher site but local variations are apparent from the homestead land occupying the middle section of the village. Gradually eastward and southward the ground becomes lower. Likewise on both sides of Pota village, road radiates more. Altogether over a very extensive area of Pota the ground being lower is suitable for the low lying fields. The soil developing with the influence of silt and loam on the higher site and clayey loam on the intermediate ground and clayey soil in the low lying fields.

### **Demographic Characteristics:**

Piprahiya has a total population of 1787 persons (according to the Census of 1981) of which 902 and 885 are males and females respectively. Thus, the sex ratio was 981 females per 1000 males. The number of total workers was 1015 that accounts for 56.80% of the total population. Out of the total workers 67.68% (687) are farm workers. The data expresses that the agriculture is a predominant economic activity in the village. Out of 687 farm workers 412 (59.57%) are cultivators and 275 (40.03%) agricultural labours.

The total population of Piprahiya village according to Census of 2011 is 3224 persons. Out of the total population 1654 are males and 1570 are females. The sex composition is 949 females per 1000 males. The work force as percentage of the total population accounts for 35.11% (1132 persons). The percentage of farm workers however is in considerable strength (around 50%) in Piprahiya village. The non-farm activities are mostly related to the secondary and tertiary activities taking place at Piprahiya. Transport, construction, storage, business, services etc. are the main non-agricultural activities here. Among farm-workers the cultivators claiming higher strength (54.43%) of the total farm workers are dominant. The

agricultural labourers accounting 47.5% are around half of the total farm work force. Recently however in the wake of recent agricultural development opportunities of livelihood have been created within the bounds of the village.

It is also significant to note that the work-force compared to 1981 has decreased in 2011. It may be assigned to the increase in the percentage strength of population in the age group of 0-14 years as well as in 60 plus. There is some change in the farm- force as well. The work-force decreased from 56.80% to 35.11% during the period of 30 years. The number of cultivators is also decreasing because people are on move to the other direction for livelihood hence the share of cultivators decreased from 59.97% to 54.43% during the said period. The agricultural labourers which increased from 40.03% in 1981 to 45.57% in 2011 are on increase. It may be assigned to either of the following reason-

- (1) The cultivators may decline to the status of agricultural labourer may be assigned to the division of holding successively with the growing population and increasing no. of the co-shares in the land.
- (2) The shift of labourers from non-agricultural activities to the farming leads to an addition to the number of agricultural labourers since most of them are wage-earners and on return to the countryside, they contribute to the farming as agricultural labourers. The following table highlights some important informations:

BLOCK Jogapatti (Paschimi Champaran)

#### PRIMARY INFORMATION

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| S.N Sample Village:Piprahiya          | 2011-12 |
| 1.Geographical Area in Hect.          | 1146.13 |
| 2.Total Pop.,2011                     | 4245.00 |
| 3 Malr Pop.,2011                      | 2219    |
| 4 Female Pop.,2011                    | 2026    |
| 5 Sex Ratio                           | 913     |
| 6. Literacy in percentage             | 48.67   |
| 7.%age of total workers to total pop. | 48.39   |
| 8 Net Sown Area in Hect.              | 737.81  |
| 9. Area Sown more than once in Hect.  | 337.40  |
| 10.Total cropped area in Hect.        | 1075.21 |
| 11. Irrigated area in Hect.           | 498.58  |
| 12. Current Fallow in Hect.           | 79.97   |
| 13. Orchards & Grooves in Hect.       | 33.27   |
| 14. Pasture and Grazing Land in Hect. | 20.61   |
| 15. Forest in Hect.                   | 74.60   |

#### Land Utilization(2011-12):

Among agricultural categories, the net area sown reserves 60.73% which have been used for raising crops during 2011-2012. The current fallow land covers 14.08% and old fallows land claimed 5.47% of the reporting area. The non-agricultural categories dominated by area not available for cultivation (3.18%) that reserves 15.58 hectares of the land. Other uses in this Categories are non culturable waste land (5.93%), culturable waste land (4.25%) and pastures and grazing land(3.24%).

**Agricultural Land Utilization 2011-12:**

The agricultural land use (2011-12) of the village Piprahiya reveals that agahani rice with 37.02% of the total cropped land is the leading crop but uncommonly it had to spare considerable area of the total cropped land for a large number of the crops. The following table highlights some important information:

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**Table of Agricultural Land Utilization , 2011- 12**

| S.N | Crop Area (hect.) | Seasonal Area ( Hect.) |        |        |       | %age of TCA |        |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|--------|
|     |                   | Bhada Agahani          |        |        |       | Rabi        | Garma  |
| 1   | Rice              | 325.07                 | 139.35 | 125.21 | 12.69 | 47.82       | 44.06  |
| 2   | Wheat             | 215.07                 | 84.68  | 56.92  | 36.31 | 37.91       | 29.25  |
| 3   | Maize             | 152.57                 | 84.69  | 25.84  | 10.39 | 31.65       | 20.68  |
| 4   | Millets           | 1.99                   | 0.63   | .....  | ..... | 1.36        | 0.27   |
| 5   | Gram              | 11.57                  | ....   | .....  | 7.64  | 3.93        | 1.57   |
| 6   | Other pulse       | 4.64                   | ....   | .....  | 3.96  | 0.68        | 0.63   |
| 7   | Rai               | 0.11                   | ....   | .....  | 0.10  | 0.01        | 0.01   |
| 8   | Fodder            | 7.53                   | 4.61   | .....  | ..... | 2.92        | 1.02   |
| 9   | Fibre             | 4.78                   | 0.03   | .....  | 2.69  | 2.06        | 0.65   |
| 10  | Potato            | 4.76                   | ....   | 2.68   | ..... | 2.08        | 0.65   |
| 11  | Vegetables        | 6.68                   | 1.62   | 1.25   | 1.67  | 2.14        | 0.91   |
| 12  | Spices            | 1.65                   | ....   | .....  | 0.78  | 0.87        | 0.22   |
| 13  | Fruits            | 0.64                   | 0.24   | .....  | ..... | 0.40        | 0.09   |
|     | Total             | 737.81                 | 315.85 | 211.90 | 76.23 | 133.83      | 100.00 |

Wheat ranks second with over 18% of the total cropped land followed by maize (8.10%) and maize followed by pulses (6.30%). Among crops with considerable percentage strength (1-2%) are oil seeds groundnuts, potato , onion and gram.

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