AN ANALYSIS OF SPATIAL ORGANISATION
OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN NORTH-WESTERN BIHAR,INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The distribution or spatial pattern of scheduled caste population in an areal unit can be considered as
of the growth and pattern of development. The nature of distribution of these backward and depres
is a result of historical and socio-economic factors. A sincere attempt has been taken to
demographic structure and the features of scheduled caste population in Siwan, a district locate
western part of Bihar.

INTRODUCTION

The scheduled caste population is linked in space and time as it is a geographical study. The spac
relationship is an important theme in the explanation of the characteristics of the scheduled caste
This study depicts the features of dalits of India in general and Siwan district in the north-we
particular. These communities have made great achievements in their social, political and religious

Despite these achievements, most of the dalits of India as well as the district of siwan still
live below poverty line. They live in abject drudgery and in debtness. Their demographic
condition includes the growth and distribution, density, sex-ralion, literacy ete.

OBJECTIVE, DATABASE AND STUDY AREA

Keeping in view the significance of scheduled caste population in spatio- social attributes, the
present study has been undertaken with an objective to analyse their socio, political and
economic conditions with comparison to other sections of the society. The study is based on
secondary sources of data which have been collected from Census Handbook of Siwan district
and the Statistical Department of Siwan district. Siwan district in the north-western part of Bihar
has been selected as study area. It is located between 25°41'N and 26°23N latitudes and 84°1' E
and 84° 7 E longitudes. It forms a part of the Ghaghra - Gandak basin The present territory of the
district covers 2219.0 Cm^2. Scheduled caste population accounts for 11.38 percent of the total
population of the district.

GROWTH

In the district of siwan the total number of schedule Caste population was 309013 persons
accounting for 11.38 percent of the total population of the district as per 1981 Census. With an

increase of 48857 persons the scheduled Caste population rose to 241867 in 1991 registering addition of 25.31 percent over 1981 figure. During 1991-2001 decade 6944 more persons were added in the total population of scheduled castes of the district and the populations increased to 309013 in 2001. Thus, during the last 20 years the scheduled Caste population of the district increased from 193010 in 1981 to 309013 in 2001 registering 60.09 percent increase during the period.

TABLE 1: GROWTH OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION

Census Year	Total Population	Absolute Growth	% Growth
1981	193010	-	
1991	241867	48857	+25.31
2001	309013	677446	+27.76
1981-2001	-	115996	60.00

SOURCE: District Census Handbook Siwan - 1981

Census Abstract of Bihar – 1991

Primary Census Abstract, Bihar - 2001

The scheduled caste population in Siwan district also Shows rural urban differential. It is evident

from the table 2 that there has been great rural urban variation in the growth of scheduled caste population of the district. During the last 20 years the population of scheduled Castes grew by 262.12 percent in urban areas while rural areas witnessed only 62.25 percent increase

TABLE 2: Rural Urban differential in growth of Scheduled caste population (in percent)

Census Year	Rural	Urban
1981		
1991	27.38	159.44
2001	27.76	27.19
1981-2001	62.75	268.10

Source: District Census Handbook siwan 1981

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION :

The distribution of population refers to the actual placing of man over land. The scheduled Caste population is unevenly distributed in Siwan district. The maximum concentration of Scheduled Caste population in the district is found in Barharia.block (9.55%) followed by Siwan block (8.30%). The minimum Concentration, on the other hand, is found in Lakri Nabiganj (1168%). On the basis of the concentration of scheduled Caste population the blocks of Siwan district may be divided in three concentric zones (Table 3)

1) The area of High concentration:

As many as seven blocks of the district have very high concentration of scheduled caste population having more than 6 percent of the total scheduled Caste population. These blocks include Barharia, Siwan, Pachrukhi, Goriakhothi, Bhagwanpur Hat and Daraunda.

2) Area of Moderate concentration:

The blocks namely Maharajganj, Darauli, Guthani, Ziradai, Siswan, Hussainganj and Hasanpara represent moderale concentration of population having 4 to 6 percent of the total scheduled caste population. They constitute a linear belt in the central part of the district.

3) Area of Low Concentration:

Five blocks namely Lakri Nabiganj,Nautan, Basantpur, Mairwa and Ander represent the area of low concentration of scheduled caste population having less than four percent of the total scheduled

caste population of the district. These blocks are scattered in various parts of the district.
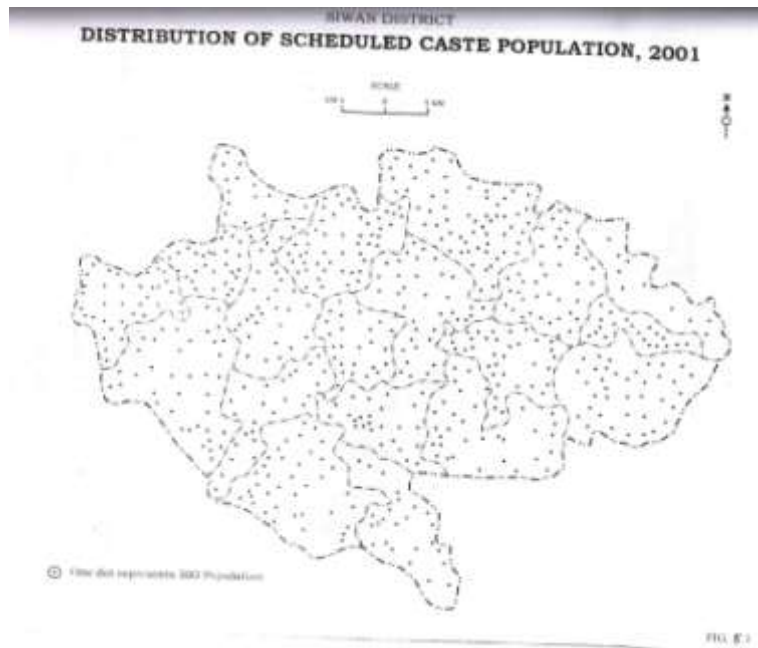
TABLE3: Distribution and Density of Scheduled Caste Population 2001

SI. NO	BLOCK	TOTAL S.C POPULATION	% OF TOTAL S.C POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT	% OF TOTAL S.C POPULATION OF THE UNIT	DENSITY OF S.C POPULATION
1	Nautan	8220	2.88	11.20	127
2	Siwan	25632	8.30	9.41	199
3	Barhariya	29519	9.55	11.58	166
4	Goriakhothi	19407	6.28	10.69	141
5	Lakrinabiganj	5131	1.68	4.85	109
6	Basantpur	9278	3.03	11.26	133
7	Bhagwanpur,Hat	18636	6.05	10.63	125
8	Maharajganj	17542	5.62	11.28	152
9	Pachrukhi	19252	5.42	13.39	111
10	Darauli	18628	6.23	11.46	150
11	Hussainganj	14489	4.69	-	9.79
12	Ziradai	15537	5.03	15.54	123
13	Mairwa	10310	3.24	11.03	129
14	Guthani	16708	5.40	15.58	182
15	Andar	12344	3.99	13.11	104
16	Raghunathpur	19456	5.30	14.46	125
17	Hasanpura	13509	4.60	10.30	139
18	Daraunda	16654	6.23	11.79	134
19	Siswan	13461	4.37	11.96	116
20	Siwan District	309013	100.00	11.38	137

source: compiled from primary census Abstract, Bihar 2001

There is a great block wise variation in the Percentage of scheduled caste population in siwan district. The maximum percentage is found in Guthani (15:58) followed by Ziradai (15.54). The minimum percentage, on the other hand, is found in Lakri Nabeganj (4.85)
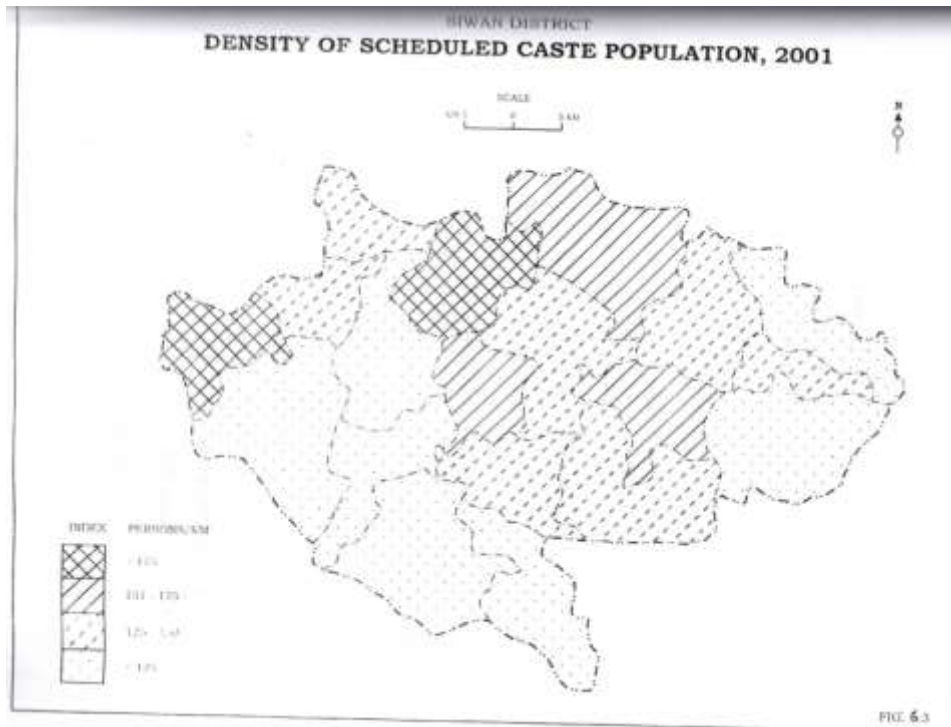
The blocks Ziradai, Guthani, Darauli, Ander and Ragunathpur come under very High Percentage Zone. These blocks are located in the Southern part of the district along the Ghaghra river. This

region experiences flood each year.

High percentage Zone is found around Siwan town. It covers the blocks having 11-12 percentage These blocks form a linear belt along chapra,Gorakhpur railway line extending from Mairwa in the west to Daraunda in the east.

GoriaKothi, Bhagwanpur Hat and Hasanpura blocks form a Compact belt of low percentage zone in the eastern part of the district having moderately low percentage. Three blocks namely Siwan, Hussaingang and Lakri Nabiganj represent very low concentration Zone of scheduled caste population having less than 10 percent of its population under scheduled caste Category.

SIWAN DISTRICT
DENSITY OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION, 2001

DENSITY OF POPULATION:

The density of population refers to the land/man ratio. It expresses the pressure of man on land in an area. It is expressed in terms of the number of persons per unit area. The average density of scheduled Castes in the district is 139 persons per km^2. But it varies greatly from one block to the other. The maximum density is found in Siwan block (199) . followed by Guthani (182) and Hussainganj (171). The minimum density, on the other hand, is found in Lakri Nabigang block. As many as ll out of 19 blocks of the Siwan district have the density of scheduled caste population below the district average.

1) **Very High density class:**

Blocks having the densiity of scheduled castes above 170 form very High Density class. It includes three blocks namely Siwan, Hussainganj and Guthani All these blocks lie in the western part of the district.

2) High Density class:

Blocks having the density of scheduled caste population between 150 and 170 persons per kilometer Square have been grouped under the high density class. If covers there three blocks so namely Barharia, Maharajganj and Pachrukhi located in the north Central part of the district.

3) Low Density class:

Very low density class of scheduled cast population includes four blocks namely Goriakothi,Basantpur, Hasanuura and Daraunda

These blocks have density of scheduled caste population between 130 and 150 persons / km.

4) Very Low Density class:

Very low density class of scheduled caste population Covering 9 out of 19 blocks is the most dominant one. Six of these blocks namely Nautan, Ziradai, Mairwa, Darauli, Ander and Ragunathpur lie in the western part of the district forming a compact belt extending from Nautan in the north to Raghunathpur in the south. Remaining three blocks namely Lakri Nabiganj, Bhagwanpur Hat and Siswan are scattered in the eastern part of the district.

The pattern of the density of the scheduled Caste population shows the same trend as we compare it with the total population of the district. Their concentration in linear or circular pattern is the result of socio-economic and religious factors.

SEX RATIO:

Sex ratio refers to the ratio between males and females in total population of area. It is expressed in terms of the number of females per thousand males. Out of the total population of scheduled castes (309013), 153538 are males and remaining 155155 are females in the district. The average sex ratio of the district works out to 1910. In other words, there are 1910 females in 1000 males. Thus, the Sex ration in the district is male oriented.

But there is a wide variation in the distribution of sex ratio of scheduled castes in the district from one block to other. The maximum sex ratio is found in Maharajganj block (1090) while the minimum is found in Siwan block (9.61)

The minimum Sex ratio in Siwan block owes to its urban nature. Towns, generally have low sex ratio in comparison to rural areas. Young male members of the family living in rural areas usually migrate from their native villages to nearby towns or abroad in search of jobs or to get higher education. The females, on the other hand are left behind in the villages to look after their children. The premature death among women also play negative role in sex ratio in rural areas. The ill heath and poor hygienic conditions among rural women take several premature deaths specially among scheduled caste people.

Six of out of nineteen blocks of the district namely Siwan, Basantpur, Pachrukhi, Hussainganj, Mairwa and Guthani have female oriented sex ratio while in remaining 13 blocks

males dominate the female population. Blocks of very loco sex ratio of scheduled castes constitute a Compact belt in the western part of the district (in and around Siwan town), 1000-1025 sex ratio class covering 8 blocks is the largest one. The sex ratio varying between 1025 and 1050 is found in three blocks namely Ragunathpur, Daraunda and Siswan while Hasanpura and Maharajganj blocks represent very high sex ratio.

LITERACY:

Literacy and education form an important yard stick to measure the degree of development. Literacy refers to the minimum skill of a person. A person who has ability to read or write any message in any of the languages with clear understanding is a called literate. It is expressed as the percentage of literate and educated people to the total population

The literacy among the scheduled caste population of Siwan district generally falls short of the literacy among general castes. The average literacy in the district works out to 41019 percent, but only 27.55

percent of the total scheduled caste population of the district is classed as literate and educated. Moreover, there is great block wise variation is the literacy rate among dalits in the district. It varies between 22.35 percent in Lakri Nabiganj block and 32.79 percent in Siwan block. Siwan, Ziradai, Mairwan and Ander form a compact belt of the maximum literacy class above 30 percent in the western part of the district. 27-30 percent class of scheduled caste literacy covering 6 block of the district is the most dominant one followed by 25-27 percent class (5 blocks). The poor economic conditions and the low status granted by the society to scheduled caste are well reflected in low literacy in Barharia, Lakri Nabiganj, Maharajganj and Gorikothi blocks. In these blocks the children of scheduled caste families start grazing goats and other animals either of their own families or take up some work in families of higher economic order of the society

Among scheduled caste families lag far behind the males in the matter of literacy. 39.32 percent of the total males of scheduled Castes of the district is literate and educated with varying degree from one block to other. The maximum male literacy is found in Siwan block (45.57 percent). The minimum male literacy, on the other hand, is found in Lakri Nabiganj block (32.61 percent). As many as 7 blocks of the district namely Siwan, Nautan, Darauli, Mairwa, Guthani and Hasanpura have the male literacy among scheduled Castes well over 50 percent In lo blocks male literacy varies between 35 and 40 percent. Lakri Nabiganaj and Barharia blocks are the blocks represent the very low literacy class less than 35 percent).

The females of the scheduled castes of the district lag far behind males in literacy. Only 15.92 percent of the females of scheduled castes population is literate and educated. The maximum female literacy is found again in Siwan block (19.49 percent) followed by ziradai (19.15) and Mairwa (18.60 percent). The minimum female literacy among scheduled Castes, on the other hand. is found in Lakri Nabiganj (12.04 percent and Siswan (12.99 percent).

CONCLUSION:

Population in Siwan district is unevenly distributed both in its totality and in regard of Scheduled castes. However, areas of high and low concentration of total and scheduled Caste population may be identified easily. Crowding of scheduled caste population is conspicuous in the blocks which are farther from the flood prone area along the Ghaghra. The density of population of scheduled Castes in the district decreases from west to east. The Sex ratio varies from block to block. The female oriented sex ratio owes to large scale migration of working youths.

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