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**Socio-Economic Status of Working Population in Hazaribag C.D. Block:
A Geographical Study**

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ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to the socio-economic status of working population and the pattern of occupational structure among different social groups by religion, education and economic status of Hazaribag Community Development block in Hazaribag district of Jharkhand. This paper is based on both primary and secondary sources tends to discuss on the socio-economic status of working population in C.D Block, Hazaribag. I've taken random sample survey in five-gram panchayats. From the very beginning of the civilization people always changed their livelihood from time to time for sustaining their lifestyle. This change keeps imprint on occupational structure. Changes in occupational structure mean changes in the socio-economic activities of the society. Socio-economic status encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socio-economic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Socio-economic status is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Thus, socio-economic status is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including research, practice, education, and advocacy. Socio-economic status is a measure of family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on various variables responsible for social and economic development (Gaur, 2013).

KEY WORDS

Occupational structure, Socio-economic status, Economic development, Working population, Financial security.

INTRODUCTION

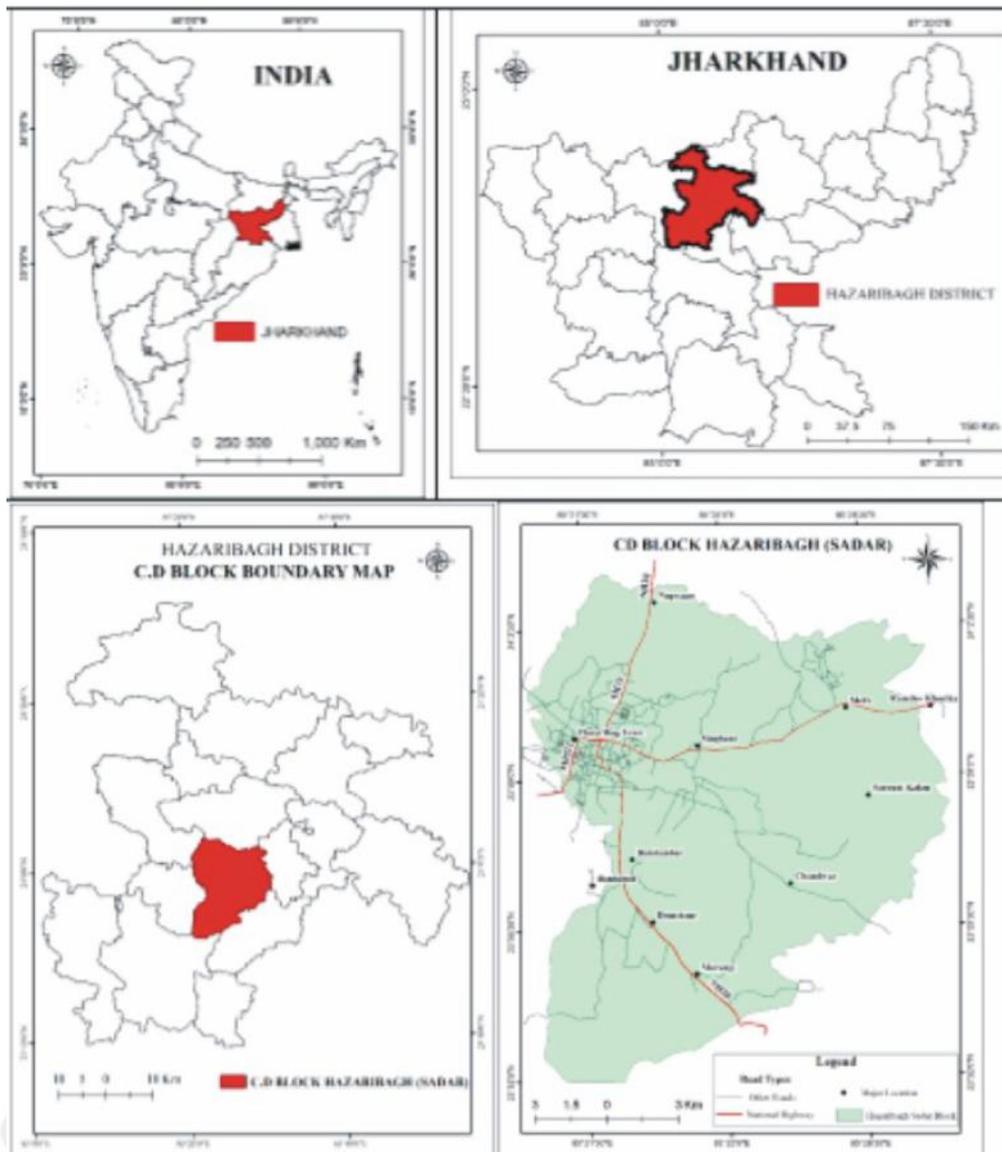
All the economic activities for livelihood are called occupation. The people who are involved in various economic activities form the occupational structure of any region. Occupation is an important activity of any population that affects the social, economic, cultural, and demographic characteristics of a region. This occupational structure varies temporally and spatially which defines the level of development of society and quality of life. The workers are classified into two categories: main workers and marginal workers. Main workers are the ones who work for more than six months in a year, and marginal workers are the ones who work for less than six months in a year. The census of India, over the years, has shown that the marginal workers have been growing way faster than the main workers in the country and have gone on to account for one-fourth of the total working population in India, as stated by the 2011 census. Colin Clerk, in his work “Conditions of Economic Progresses” argues that there is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand and occupational structure on the other hand and economic progress of any region is generally associated with certain distinct changes in occupational structure. A.G.B Fisher said that “In every progressive economy there has been a steady shift of employment and investment from the essential primary activities to secondary activities of all kinds and to a still greater extent into tertiary production socio-economic status affects overall human functioning, including our physical and mental health. Low socio-economic status and its correlates, such as lower educational achievement, poverty, and poor health, ultimately affect our society as a whole.

Study Area

The study area covers the Hazaribag C.D. block of Hazaribag sadar sub division of Hazaribag district of Jharkhand, India. Hazaribag C.D. Block is located in 23°57'49" N – 24°14'6" N and 85°20'0" E - 85°27'26" E. Average height of the study area is 610 meters from the sea level.

The total geographical area is 312.43 sq. km. Hazaribagh C.D. block had a total population of 2,90,098 of which 1,18,276 were rural and 1,71,822 were urban. As of 2011, Sadar, Hazaribagh C.D. block had 25 gram panchayats, 80 inhabited villages and 3 census towns (Meru, Maraikalan and Okni II) Hazaribagh C.D. block is bounded by Ichak C.D. block on the north, Daru C.D. block on the east, Churchu and Barkagaon C.D blocks on the south, and Katkamdag and Katkamsandi C.D. blocks on the west.

Location Map



(Source: Jharkhand Administrative Atlas)

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the current status of occupational structure of the study area.
2. To study the pattern of occupational structure among different social groups by religion, education and economic status.

Methodology

Methodology is the way of achieving the goal through the drawing of inference by observation, collection and differential analysis of relevant data relating to the study of Socio-economic status of the working population of Hazaribagh C.D. block. In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, the methodology of work has been divided into several phases:

1. Collection of Primary Data: Interview and observation method.
2. Collection of secondary data: Secondary data has been collected from different Government and non-Government agencies.

3. Sample size: 5 panchayats (Okni, Kolghatti, Sindur, Singhani and Lakhe) Random Sampling.
4. Discuss through descriptive and analytical methods.

Findings

Current Status of Occupational Structure of Study Area.

Type of Workers

The workers are classified into two categories: main workers and marginal workers.

Main Workers

Main workers are the ones who work for more than six months in a year. The main workers are sub-divided into (a) cultivators, (b) field workers, (c) persons engaged in household industry, and (d) other workers.

Marginal Workers

Marginal workers are the ones who work for less than six months in a year.

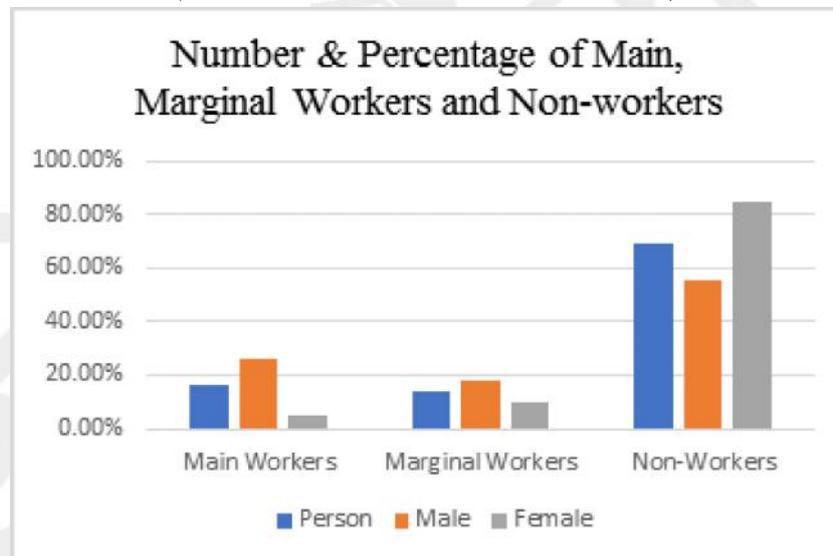
Non-workers

The non-workers are divided into: (i) persons engaged in unpaid home duties; (ii) students; (iii) dependents; (iv) retired persons; (v) beggars; (vi) inmate of jails etc.

Table: Number & Percentage of Main, Marginal Workers and Non-workers.

5 Sample Panchayats	Total Population	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Non-Workers
Person	32851	5365 (16.33%)	4664 (14.20%)	22822 (69.47%)
Male	18292	4838 (26.45%)	3274 (17.90%)	10180 (55.65%)
Female	14559	747 (5.13%)	1469 (10.09%)	12343 (84.78%)

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2011)

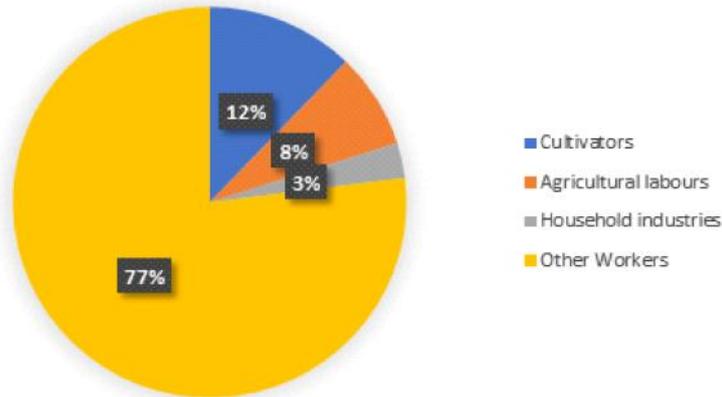


Above table & diagram shows that the total population of five selected gram panchayats 32851 (male 18292 and female 14559). 16.33% of the total population are main workers, 14.20% are marginal workers and rest 69.47% are non-workers. 26.45% of the male population are main workers and 17.90% are marginal workers and rest 55.65% are non-workers. On the contrary, 5.13% of the female population are main workers and 10.09% are marginal workers and rest 84.78% are non-workers.

Table: Distribution of Workers in four categories

	Total Population	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural labours	Household industries	Other workers
Person	32851	10506 (31.98%)	1282 (12.2%)	830 (7.9%)	305 (2.9%)	8089 (77.0%)

Distribution of Workers in four categories



Analysis of the above data and diagram is related to the status of occupation which shows that the class of total workers numbered 10506, cultivators numbered 1282 and formed 12.2%, agricultural labourers numbered 830 and formed 7.9%, household industry workers numbered 305 and formed 2.9% and other workers numbered 8089 and formed 77.0%.

The workers who are engaged in different types of activities i.e., primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary and quinary satisfied 86% of their current employment or job.

Through the analysis of the economic data related to income condition 57% working people earned less than Rs 5000/- per month, 22% people earned 5001-10000, 6% earned 10001-15000/-, 1% earned 15001-20000/- and 14% people earned more than 20000/- per month. The above table indicates that with hard work of more than 8 hours in a day they get their minimum wages.

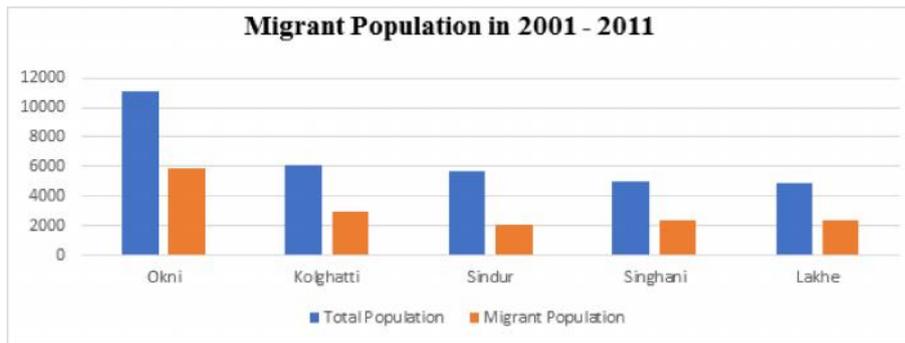
Main factor affecting Occupational structure in the study area

According to both primary and secondary data the main factor which affects the study area is migration. Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national and international levels. It is also a sign of wide disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination.

Table: Migrant population of five selected panchayats.

Panchayat	Total Population	Migrant population in % (2001 – 2011)
Okni	11106	53.05
Kolghatti	6134	48.35
Sindur	5698	36.07
Singhani	5014	47.01
Lakhe	4899	49.19

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2011)



With reference to the above table, it is clear that the nature of migration in the study area seen towards Hazaribag Municipal Corporation. In this sample panchayat maximum people migrates from Okni (53.05%) migrates daily and permanently as this area is the oldest part of the block, today this area is known as Okni, Shivpuri and Lohsinghna. 48.35% migrants from Kolghatti panchayat, 36.07% migrants from Sindur panchayat, 47.01% migrants from Singhani panchayat and 49.19% from Lakhe panchayat migrates. In fact, this is a fringe belt, it includes daily, seasonal and permanent migration.

Occupational Structure among different social groups

1. Economic Status

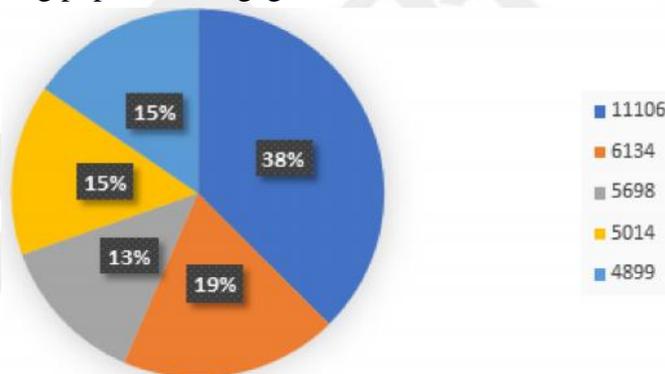
Main working force is composed of five groups: primary, secondary and tertiary, quaternary and quinary workers. The percentage of different working population with respect to total working population is given below.

Table: Working population engaged in different sectors of economy.

Total Working Population	Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Tertiary Sector	Quaternary Sector	Quinary sector
10506	840 (8%)	5464 (52%)	4098 (39%)	52 (0.5%)	52 (0.5%)

(Source: District Census Handbook, 2011)

Working population engaged in different sectors of economy



From the above table, it is clear that the area is mainly dominated by secondary and tertiary activities (other workers).

During the last few years, the proportion of workers engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors. It is surprising that the proportion of workers engaged in primary sectors (cultivators and agricultural labourers) dropped down. Percentage of secondary and tertiary workers are also increasing in nature. There is less impact of primary activity in the region in recent time. Analysis based on village level primary data also stated that have a rapid growth of tertiary workers also.

2. Education

Education in every sense is one of the fundamental factors of development. It plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and improving income distribution. Literacy is a step to

education. As per Census, a person aged seven years and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate and all those who cannot read and write are considered illiterate. The number of literates and illiterates shown in the table.

Table: Number and Percentage of Literates and Illiterates of Hazaribag C.D. Block

Number of Literates			Number of Illiterates			Percentage of Literates		
Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
210888	118661	92227	79210	33590	45620	83.44%	89.39%	76.85%

(Source: Census of India, 2011)

3. Caste and Religion

The working population is the labour force of a country which excludes children below the age of 15 and old people above the age of 60 years. From the analysis of the primary data, it is clearly seen that out of the 5 panchayats (Okni, Kolghatti, Sindur, Singhani and Lakhe) 82 percent are Hindu and 18 percent are Muslim. Majority of the people belongs to OBC category (49%), General (29%) SC (18%) and ST (4%).

Socio-economic change in lifestyle of working population

There was a considerable change in the working population and consequently lifestyle of the respondents.

- A. **Economic Change:** There are some economic changes in lifestyle of working population of the study area:
 - i. **Increase of Income:** During few years it is found that due to shifting of occupational structure into secondary and tertiary sector the income level of the workers has been increased.
 - ii. **Increase expenditure:** With the increase of income level the expenditure of working population of the study area has also been increased.
 - iii. **Health insurance:** Due to change of occupational structure in the study area so many family members has got the facility of health insurance policy.
 - iv. **Life insurance policies:** Not only so, with the increase of income level people has been interested to take the profit of life insurance of policies.
 - v. **Bank account:** After changing occupational structure in the study area the number of bank account has been increased.
- B. **Social Change:** There are some social changes in lifestyle of working population of the study area:
 - i. **Social Satisfaction:** Presently the working population of the study area are more satisfied as they are economically and psychologically satisfied.
 - ii. **Increase of civic amenities:** At present they are more aware about the civic amenities. The people have been interested to get the facility of civic amenities like supply water, sanitation, public transport, electricity, healthcare etc.
 - iii. **Increase responsibility:** With the increase of income level of the working population the responsibility has also been increased.
 - iv. **Increase of food choice:** With the increase of income level of the working population the food choice and food habit are changing day to day. At present they want to take their breakfast and dinner from street vendors and restaurants.
 - v. **Increase of house maintenance:** Due to change of occupational structure and increase of income level the charge of house maintenance has also increased.

CONCLUSION

The above analysis indicates that over all socio-economic status of population in the study area is moderate. The lower income groups of people mainly engaged in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. Most of them are still not getting many facilities like safe drinking water, proper sanitation etc., where comparatively higher income peoples are getting some of these facilities. Although comparatively higher income population enjoy a little better life but lower income population's socio-economic situation is very risky due to mainly low level of literacy and low income resulting create many social issues and pollution.

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