

Some Demographic Characteristics of the Rural People in Bareilly Area

O P Mishra¹, P N Kaul² and A K Singh³

1. Introduction

Social changes are taking place in the rural areas. Improved technical know-how are being transferred by various government, non-government and voluntary organizations in the area. Government development schemes are running in the rural area. A number of studies have also been conducted in the area dealing with rural development programme, adoption of scientific technologies, communication behaviour, etc. But, there was a need long back realized to undertake the research study pertaining to demographic aspects of the rural people of Bareilly area. A clear cut understanding of demographic characteristics of rural people of this area will help planners and administrators of the rural development/social change schemes in successful implementation and bringing desirable social changes.

2. Methodology

This study was conducted in the Bhojipura Block of Bareilly district in Uttar Pradesh. Out of 101 revenue villages 2 villages of the block were selected randomly. There are 192 households in one of the villages and 330 households in the other village. Thus, the sample consists of a total of 522 households. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Simple statistical techniques like, mean and standard deviation were applied for the analysis of the data. Mean and Standard Deviation of 37 studied variables are presented in Table 1.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Age and Numbers

It is evident from Table 1 that average age of head of household is 43.27 years. This means that a person of about 43 year age can assume the responsibility of a household. Average age of household was found 23.36 years which shows that the household is comparatively young. Average age of males was 23.02 years. Males of the study area are very young. Average age of females was 24.13 years. Females were slightly older than males. Average number of males (3.65) in household was found greater than average number of females (3.05) in the household. Average number of members in the household was 6.70. This shows that size of the family is optimum.

3.2. Occupation

Occupation of the rural people was categorized into two groups, viz. paid occupation and unpaid occupation. Occupations from which people were drawing actual monetary gain were considered as paid occupations (e.g. farming, mazdoori, agricultural labourer, government employee, etc.). Occupations from which there was no direct monetary gain were considered as unpaid occupations (e.g. housewife, student, etc.)

When the occupation aspect of the rural people of Bareilly area was analyzed, it was found that proportion of members in paid occupations (0.30) was lesser than proportion of members in unpaid

1 & 3 Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Communication, College of Agriculture, GBPUA & T, Pantnagar, US Nagar, (Uttaranchal) 263145

2. Principal Scientist, Division of Extension Education, IVRI, Izatnagar (Bareilly) U P -243122

occupations (0.70). Proportion of males in paid occupations (0.55) was higher than that of proportion of females in paid occupations (0.02). Proportion of females in unpaid occupations (0.95) was higher than proportion of males in unpaid occupations (0.44). Proportion of members unemployed was (0.42). This occupation analysis shows that majority of females were restricted to house work. Their mobility outside the house was very less. They were busy in home work and not going for paid occupations. Males were the major earning members of the family. They get paid occupation in the village and in found the lean season they get paid occupations in the town/city. Mobility may be one of the important factors contributing in getting paid occupation. Social norms may also confine women to the indoors.

Table 1 Mean and Standard Deviation on Variables

Name of the variables	Mean	Stand. Dev.
Age of head of household	43.27	14.33
Average age of household	23.36	9.97
Average age of males	23.02	10.90
Average age of females	24.13	12.08
Number of males	3.65	2.12
Number of females	3.05	1.82
Proportion of members in paid occupations	.30	.17
Proportion of members in unpaid occupations	.70	.17
Proportion of females in paid occupations	.02	.13
Proportion of males in paid occupations	.55	.26
Proportion of females in unpaid occupation	.95	.19
Proportion of males in unpaid occupations	.44	.26
Proportion of members unemployed	.42	.20
Family size	6.70	3.51
Proportion of males	.54	.16
Proportion of females	.46	.16
Proportion of sons per couple	1.64	1.10
Proportion of daughters per couple	1.04	.99
Proportion of family literate	.28	.26
Proportion of literate per family	.12	.24
Number of literate females per family	.45	.90
Proportion of literate males	.41	.37
Number of literate males per family	1.54	1.66
Years of schooling of head of household	2.66	4.06
Total years of schooling of the family	11.35	15.21
Average years of schooling of the family	1.58	1.82
Average years of schooling of the males	2.54	2.76
Average years of schooling of the females	.53	1.32
Total of classes passed by the whole family (years)	10.41	14.30
Average classes passed by the whole family (years)	1.45	1.72
Average classes passed among males	2.35	2.62
Average classes passed among females	.48	1.26
Class passed by head of household (years)	2.57	3.95
Occupational experience of head of household in years (only for paid occp.)	23.90	14.86
Average occupational experience of members of household in paid	17.70	9.83
Total number of paid occupations in the household	1.61	.70
Number of paid occupations of head of household	1.30	.55

N = 522 (for each variables)

3.3. Family Size

Average number of members in a family was 6.70. This indicates that size of family in the rural area of Bareilly is neither too large nor too small. Proportion of males in the family (0.54) was found higher than proportion of females (0.46) in the family. Proportion of sons per couple (1.64) in the family was greater than proportion of daughters per couple (1.04) in the family. This shows that number of females in this area is smaller than number of males. The reason behind this may be mortality among the girl child may be greater than mortality among the boys. Care of girl child may not be as good as the care of boy in the family.

3.4. Education

It is most striking to note that proportion of family literacy (0.28) is very small. When this was analyzed sex wise it was observed that proportion of literate females (0.12) is smaller than proportion of literate males (0.41). Average number of literate females per family (0.45) was also lesser than average number of literate males per family (1.54). On the whole literacy rate was very less. Furthermore, literacy among females was lower than literacy among males. People of this area may not be given that much importance to education as required. Poverty may be another factor contributing towards illiteracy.

After making an analysis of schooling aspect of the rural people it was found that average years of schooling of the head of household (2.66) is very less. The mean of the total years of schooling of the family (11.35) was also very less. This means that on an average they have not even completed their primary education. Average years of schooling of the family (1.58) was found too less. Average years of schooling of the males (2.54) was higher than average years of schooling of the female (0.53). This shows that people are giving more importance to male education than female education. Mean score of total of classes passed by the whole family (10.41 years) and average classes passed by the whole family (1.45 years) were very -very low. Average classes passed among males (2.35) was greater than average classes passed among females (0.48). Average class passed by head of household (2.57) was again low. One thing is very much clear from this analysis that years of schooling of the people in area is greater than classes passed by the people in the area. This shows that people of this area are passing less number of classes in more number of years of schooling.

3.5. Occupational Experience

Average occupational experience of head of household in years (only for paid occupations) was reasonably high (23.90). Average occupational experience of members of household in paid occupation was 17.70 years. Mean of the total number of paid occupations in the household was 1.61. This shows that family members are involved in more than one paid occupation. Average number of paid occupations of head of household was 1.30. This means that head of household were also engaged or involved in more than one paid occupation.

4. Conclusion

It can be concluded from the results that a person of about 43 years age can assume the responsibility of a household. Households in the area are comparatively young. Proportion of family members involved in paid occupation is lesser than proportion of members involved in unpaid occupations.

Proportion of females in unpaid occupations is quite high. Size of family in this part of rural India is optimum. Proportion of daughters per couple in the family is lesser than proportion of sons per couple in the family. People of this area are poorly educated. Literacy rate among females is very low. Households are engaged in more than one paid occupation. Occupational experience of head of household is reasonable high.

There is a dire need to make the people aware about the importance of education. Education and health of female in general and girl child in particular should be taken care of. Rural people should be trained to take up self employment.

5. Bibliography

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