Changes In The Economic Conditions of The Scheduled Caste Population In Vaishali District: A Geographical Study.

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Abstract: There has been remarkable occupational changes during recent year. During early days different caste people had distinctive occupational specialization but these caste based occupational specialization has become of lesser importance. Certainly, agricultural activities have dominance in rural areas and only limited persons have involvement in non-agricultural occupation. Day-by-day involvement in tertiary occupation is increasing because of educational development, increasing non-agricultural activities and impact of urbanization. The census of India has broadly categorized population into workers and non-workers and workers have been further divided into main workers and marginal workers. These two groups have been further classified into cultivators, agricultural labours, household industrial workers and other workers. In the present study attempt has been made to analyze occupational structure of the Scheduled caste people of the selected villages of Vaishali district based on 2011 census and self generated primary data..
Key words: Occupational Structure, Migration, Agro Industries.
Occupational Structure: It deals with the participation of people in different economic activities like primary, secondary and tertiary.

Migration:
Migration is movement of people from one place to another permanently or semi permanently leading to cultural diffusion and social integration.

Agro- Industries in the study region:
It includes small-scale industries run by the villagers with very small capital and much of manual labour. The products include pickles, papad, biri, tobacco packet etc and also manufacturing edible oil, juice and jam, rice flour and pulse mills, etc.

I. OBJECTIVES
The following are the main objectives of the present study-
(i) The study attempts to analyze the geographical conditions influencing economic change.
(ii) It also analyzes differential development of different scheduled caste communities who have contributed migrants for other places.
(iii) It further gives comparative account of the migrant and non-migrant scheduled caste population of the study area.

II. METHODOLOGY
The study is based mainly on primary data generated through questionnaires and schedules. Some data concerning population, economic conditions have been taken from the census reports and other government publications.

STUDY AREA

The Vaishali district is located in the central portion of the North Bihar plain. It is surrounded by Muzaffarpur on the north, Ganga river & Patna on the south, Samastipur on the east and river Gandak and the Saran district on the west. It extends from 25° 29' to 26° N latitudes and from 85° 05' to 85° 40' E longitudes and has an area of 2036 sq.km. There are 16 development blocks, 1638 revenue villages and 3 main urban centres Hajipur, Lalgang and Mahnar. This district has a total population of 34,95,021 (yr.2011 census).
The selected villages are Kamalpur, Nasir Chak, Phulwariya, Chandaleh, Mohanpur and Dubha of the development blocks Lalgang, Patepur, Mahua, Hajipur, Raghopur and Sahdae Buzurg respectively of the Vaishali district.

Table: 1

Name of Villages	Name of the Panchayat	Police Station No.	Name of the Block	Latitude & Longitude	Distance From Metalled Road	Distance From District Head Quarter
			Location of the Selected Villages			
Kamalpur	Khanjahan Chak	94	Lalganj	25°22.5'-25°53' 85°8.5'-58°9.5'	1km	19km
Nasir Chack	Teknari	447	Patepur	25°52'-25°53' 85°31'-85°31.5'	1km	23km
Phulwariya	Mahua	161	Mahua	25°47'-25°48' 85°23'-85°23.5'	1km	10km
Chandaleh	Balwakuari	122	Hajipur	25°43'-25°43.5' 85°12.5'-85°13'	0.5km	2km
Mohanpur	Saidabad	391	Raghopur	25°32.5'-25°34.5' 85°19'-85°20'	4km	22km
Dubha	Pohiar	564	Sahadei Buzurg	25°42'-25°42.5' 85°29'-85°30'	0.5km	21km

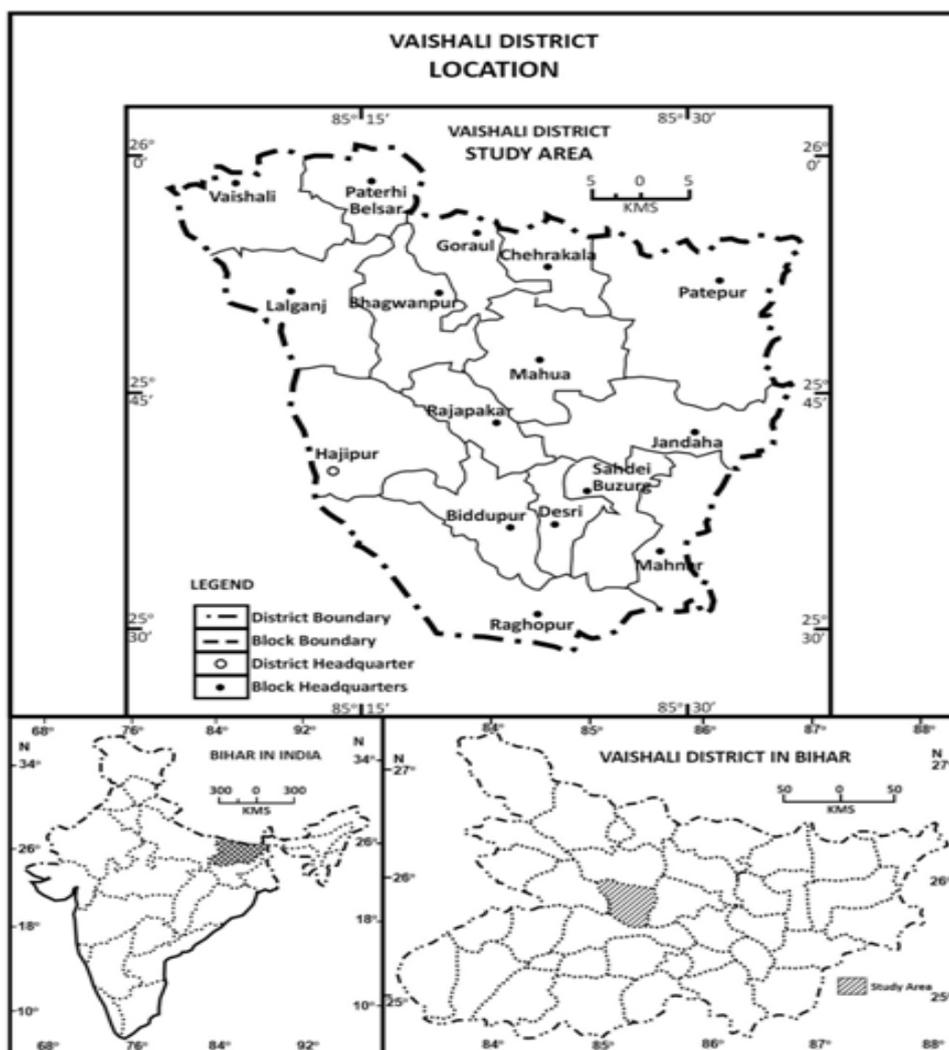*Source :District Census Hand Book of Vaishali and Field Work*

Fig. - 1

Basic Features of the Economy of the Vaishali District

This district is bounded by river Ganga in South and Gandak in the west and surrounded by Muzaffarpur district in the North and Samastipur in the east. The sample villages have location in the following development blocks having distinctive conditions.

(1) Raghopur development block having mostly Diara land.
(2) Sahdei Buzurg having more flood affected area.
(3) Lalganj having mostly flood free area.
(4) Patepur food grain growing area.
(5) Hajipur specially in fruit and vegetable products, &
(6) Mahua noted for tobacco cultivation.

Human occupation is broadly classified into primary, secondary and tertiary. Agriculture is in the primary sector of the economy. Not all people of this region are engaged in agricultural activities. The young and old people do not participate in any economic activity. They are non- workers. Some people who are engaged in any occupation for limited time are categorized as marginal workers.

The analysis of table-2 reveals that there are 20.49% main workers and 9.85% marginal workers in the sudy area. The non-workers constitute almost two-thirds (69.77%). The main workers are unevenly distributed. The highest percentage of main workers is found in the Jandaha development block (23.69%). The other development blocks having more than the regional average main workers (20.49%) include Paterhi Belsar and Goraul (23.09% each), Deshri (22.40%), Chehrakala (21.48%), Hajipur (21.44%), Bhagwanpur (21.00%) and Raghopur (20.52%). The remaining development blocks have less than the regional average main workers. These blocks include Vaishali, Lalganj, Patepur, Mahua, Rajapakar, Mahnar, Sahdei Buzurg and Biddupur.

There are 9.85% Marginal workers in the study area. The highest percentage has been noted in Patepur (13.30%) followed by Mahua (12.68%), Paterhi Belsar (12.03%), Lalganj (11.85%), Vaishali (11.79%), Chehrakala (11.76%), Sahdei Buzurg (11.04%), Rajapakar (10.82%) and Bhagwanpur (10.14%). Development blocks having marginal workers less than the regional average include Goraul, Jandaha, Hajipur, Biddupur, Deshri, Mahnar.

Table -2.

Occupational Structure, 2011								
Sl. No.	Blocks Share (%)	Pop.	Main Worker	Marginal Worker	Non-Worker	Main Cultivator	Main Agriculture	Mai HH	Main Other Worker
1	Vaishali	187486	36872 (19.67)	22101 (11.79)	128513 (68.55)	13809 (37.45)	15530 (42.11)	874 (2.37)	6659 (18.06)
2	Paterhi Belsar	95669	22091 (23.09)	11511 (12.03)	62067 (64.88)	6241 (28.25)	9670 (43.77)	689 (3.12)	5491 (24.86)
3	Lalganj	265384	50807 (19.14)	31371 (11.82)	183206 (69.03)	11612 (22.86)	18741 (36.89)	2825 (5.56)	17629 (34.70)
4	Bhagw-anpur	207762	43638 (21)	21085 (10.14)	143039 (68.85)	12928 (29.63)	17987 (41.22)	1349 (3.09)	11374 (26.06)
5	Goraul	177586	41011 (23.09)	13147 (7.4)	123428 (69.50)	14638 (35.69)	15994 (39)	714 (1.74)	9665 (23.57)
6	Chehrak-la	131004	28136 (21.48)	15405 (11.76)	87463 (66.76)	8679 (30.85)	12943 (46)	871 (3.10)	5643 (20.05)
7	Patepur	370182	69891 (18.88)	49223 (13.3)	251068 (67.82)	23491 (33.61)	30562 (43.73)	2639 (3.78)	13199 (18.89)
8	Mahua	284526	52653 (18.51)	36076 (12.68)	195797 (68.81)	17330 (32.91)	21960 (41.71)	1634 3.10	11729 (22.28)
9	Jandaha	276217	66188 (23.96)	22029 (7.98)	188000 (68.06)	20365 (30.77)	32126 (48.54)	1261 (1.91)	12436 (18.79)
10	Rajapak-ar	158130	31101 (19.67)	17112 (10.82)	109917 (69.51)	8234 (26.48)	14573 (46.86)	912 (2.93)	7382 (23.74)
11	Hajipur	443976	95180 (21.44)	26762 (6.03)	322034 (72.53)	16818 (17.67)	26611 (27.96)	3304 (3.47)	48447 (50.90)
12	Raghop-ur	232909	47804 (20.52)	21638 (9.29)	163467 (70.18)	14380 (30.08)	23962 (50.13)	1463 (3.06)	7999 (16.73)
13	Biddup-ur	268849	53292 (19.82)	20892 (7.77)	194665 (72.41)	15005 (28.16)	20486 (38.44)	1317 (2.47)	16484 (30.93)

14	Deshri	87606	19623 (22.4)	6135 (7)	61848 (70.60)	6957 (35.45)	6222 (31.71)	442 (2.25)	6002 (30.59)
15	Sahdei Buzurg	127396	23375 (18.35)	14068 (11.04)	89953 (70.61)	6639 (28.40)	6718 (28.74)	986 (4.22)	9032 (38.64)
16	Mahnar	180339	23375 (19.04)	15783 (8.75)	130212 (72.20)	9467 (27.57)	1549 (33.63)	1377 (4.00)	11951 (34.79)
	Total	**3495021**	716006 (20.49)	344338 (9.85)	2434677 (69.66)	206593 (28.85)	285634 (39.89)	22657 (3.16)	201122 (28.09)

Source :District Census Hand book.

Engaged in Non-Agricultural work

It has been seen earlier that people of the Scheduled Caste communities have also changed in their traditional occupation. Those who have gone out to urban centres of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat have done so because they can earn much more money than at their native places. These people motivate in the villages to develop agriculture in scientific manner and also to get engaged in non-agricultural occupations like running shop or small scale industry or other activities which enable them to earn additional money. It is true that the rural people prefer to remain linked with agriculture and also other activities to improve their economy. These activities to start include dairy, poultry, agro-based industry and trade of agricultural products. This is the reason why people prefer to remain engaged in agriculture and at the same time put up shops or dairy or poultry industries. Such families remain economically better off. Some Scheduled Caste families have also bettered their economy in this way.

Table-3depicts migrant and non-migrant families who have developed interest in non- agricultural activities like small scale industry or dairy farming or some other activities in the selected villages. Families having migrant members have taken up non-agricultural work because of the experience gain from the migrants.

Dairy Farming:

The migrant families are interested more in dairying than the non-migrant families because they are knowing of how to get government subsidy to purchase cattle. In case they are capable they start the vocation with their own money. Village Kamalpur recorded 29 migrant and 15 non-migrant families engaged in dairying. Village Nasirchak also recorded 15 migrant and 9 non-migrants families in dairying. Village Phulwariya has much more migrant and non-migrant families engaged in dairy activities because this village is located in the cash crop growing area especially tobacco. Tobacco cultivation enable them to earn much more money. In this village there are 49 migrant and 41 non-migrant families engaged in dairy activities.

Village Chandaleh has 27 migrant and 7 non-migrant families having dairy farms, because of greater demand of milk in the neighbouring urban centre of Hajipur. Village Mohanpur has also 26 migrant and 17 non-migrant families having interest in dairy activity. Village Dubha has also 19 migrant and 9 non-migrant families running dairy farms, because this village is located in the flood prone area where the crops are damaged sometimes by flood water.

Poultry is not as popular as compared with dairy. Sometimes this activity is not liked by socially conscious people, thinking is declining in almost all the selected villages which have some families engaged in poultry activities. Village Kamalpur has 2 migrant and 1 non-migrant families having developed interest in the poultry farm. In village Nasirchak only 1 migrant family has developed interest in poultry. Village Phulwariya has 3 migrant and 2 non-migrant families running poultry farm. Similarly, Village Chanadleh has 3 migrant and 1 non-migrant family engaged in poultry farm. Mohanpur and Dubha villages have 2 migrant and 1 non-migrant families each having poultry farms.

These days there has been increase in the interest of people in business because the production of cash crops, vegetables, seasonal fruits and surplus agricultural products have motivated some people to get engaged in business of either surplus agricultural products like food grains, spices, vegetables, seasonal fruits or other products of the village. The village having rural market or urban centre at short distance motivates people to get engaged in business. Previously only business communities used to be engaged in business. But, these days there is no caste restriction to be in business. Table-3depicts the Scheduled Caste migrant and non-migrant families in business. Village Kamalpur has 5 migrant and 2 non-migrant families engaged in business. Village Nasirchak has 2 migrant and 1 non-migrant families engaged in business. Village Phulwariya has 4 migrant and 3 non-migrant families involved in business because, this village is located in a tobacco growing area and therefore business of tobacco is more important in this village. Village Chandaleh has 4 migrant and 1 non-migrant families having interest in business because this village is located near the urban centre of Hajipur. Village Mohanpur has only 1 migrant family engaged in business. Even village Dubha has only 1 migrant and 2 non-migrant families is in business because located in a flood prone areas. The non-agricultural activities

include basket making, preparing of pickles, Papar, Dari, weaving woollen cloths, toy making, handy-crafts etc. Village Kamalpur has 2 migrant and 2 non-migrant families engaged in other work. But, in village Nasirchak there are only 1 migrant and 2 non-migrant families engaged in other work. Village Phulwariya has 5 migrant and 3 non-migrant families engaged in other work because it has more well to do people. Village Chandaleh has 2 migrant and 2 non-migrant families engaged in other work. Village Mohanpur has 1 migrant and 1 non-migrant family engaged in other work. Village Dubha has only 1 migrant family engaged in other work.

Table: 3

Involved in other than Agricultural Work						
Name of Village	**No. of Family**	**Small Scale Industry**	**Dairy Activities**	**Poultry**	**Business**	**Other Work**
Kamalpur	Mig-127 (%)	11	29	2	5	2
		8.66	22.83	1.57	3.94	1.57
	Non Mig-90 (%)	5	15	1	2	2
		5.56	16.67	1.11	2.22	2.22
Nasirchak	Mig-29 (%)	3	15	1	2	1
		10.34	51.72	3.5	6.9	3.45
	Non Mig-23 (%)	1	9	--	1	2
		4.35	39.13	--	4.35	8.7
Phulwariya	Mig-147 (%)	9	49	3	4	5
		6.12	33.33	2.04	2.72	3.4
	Non Mig-113 (%)	5	41	2	3	3
		4.42	36.28	1	2.65	2.65
Chandaleh	Mig-53 (%)	15	22	3	4	2
		28.3	41.51	5.66	7.55	3.77
	Non Mig-38 (%)	3	7	1	1	2
		7.89	18.42	2.63	2.63	5.26
Mohanpur	Mig-57 (%)	3	26	2	1	1
		5.26	45.61	3.51	1.75	1.75
	Non Mig-31 (%)	1	17	1	--	1
		3.23	54.84	3.23	--	3.23
Dubha	Mig-79 (%)	3	19	2	1	1
		38.02	24.05	2.53	1.27	1.27
	Non Mig-48 (%)	2	9	1	2	--
		4.17	18.75	2.08	4.17	--

Source: Field Work

III. CONCLUSION

The study revealed changes in traditional occupation of all most all Scheduled Caste because of educational development, out-side exposure, social awareness among younger generation. They have developed more interest in lucrative jobs and business. Out-side exposure has motivated migrant families to get involved in small scale, house hold industry, dairy activities etc.

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