

# Socio-Economic Profile of Ravine Affected Chakarnagar and Badhpura Blocks of Etawah District, Uttar Pradesh

Hemant Kumar

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, R.P.S.Degree College, Mahendergarh, Haryana

**Abstract:** Land degradation affects the land productivity, accessibility and finally the socio-economic profile of the region. Social and economic profile ravine affected area of Etawah district has been analysed in this study. The region has been compared with overall scenario of Etawah district. The analyses of the village directory data of Census of India 2001 are displaying comparatively weak indicators of socio-economic profile of the study area. This study represents the levels of socio-economic living environment of the study area whose purpose is to make an idea about social-economic status of the people of a degraded habitat.

**Keywords:** Socio-Economic Profile, Degraded Habitat, Land Degradation

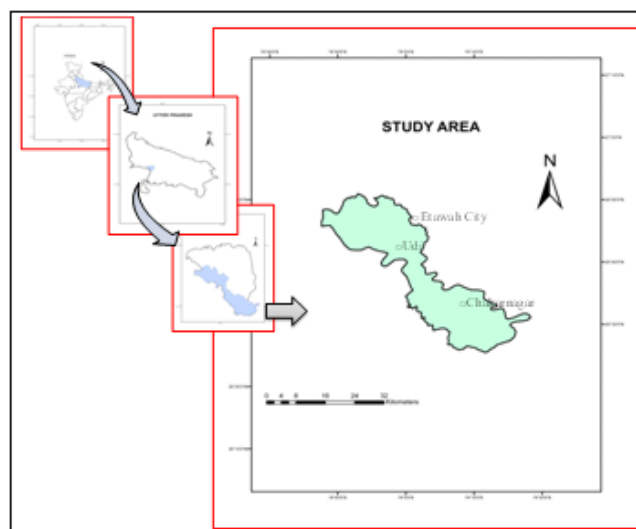
## 1. Introduction

Every natural setting produces a specific living pattern with its physical and social bases. Socio-economic characteristics are the product of interface of physical environment and human culture. It includes technology, investment, traditions, demography and infrastructural facilities. Interaction among human being with each other and flow of external substances with polices and management are the main attributes in formation of socio-economic profile of region.

To get a general idea of the socio economic scenario of the people of a region It is important to study their demographic characteristics first. The demography of a population group is a replica of their ecological setting also.

## 2. Study Area

Study area is spread in South part of Etawah District of Uttar Pradesh. Chakarnagar and Badhpura blocks of south Etawah are severally affected by soil erosion process initiated by Chambal, Yamuna and Kunwari rivers. They flows parallel to each other and confluence in the east. Area of stream confluence is locally known, as pachnada [In this vast stretch region four streams confluence with each-other. Kuwari with Sind and Sind, Chambal with Yamuna. Finally fifth stream runs forward as Yamuna, after taking water of all these streams. Thus there are five rivers (panch Nadia).so area is known as pachnada]. The Plains of this area is divided into three parts by streams of this part. All these plains are severally affected by gully and ravine formation process along their streams. These two blocks of Etawah are spread in 784.5 km<sup>2</sup>.



## Objective and Methodology

Main task of this study is to understand the socio-economic scenario of the people of a land that is severally affected by land degradation process. Various graphs, data tables are created for visual interpretation of different social-economic parameters of the region. Data of village directory of Census of India 2001 is used for this study.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Demographic Characteristics

#### Population Growth Rate

The decadal growth rate of Etawah is 21.59 whereas the state's decadal growth rate 25.80 which is high compare to both national (21.34) and district level. The argument may be supported by the fact that the literacy rate is very low (57.39 percent) in State that might be one of the reason that the decadal growth rate is high in the State. On the other hand, the national (65 percent) and district (70 percent) level literacy rate is quite high, but in the district decadal growth rate is slightly higher than the national level. It may be possible that the some villages are not equally well off compared to the other villages of the district.

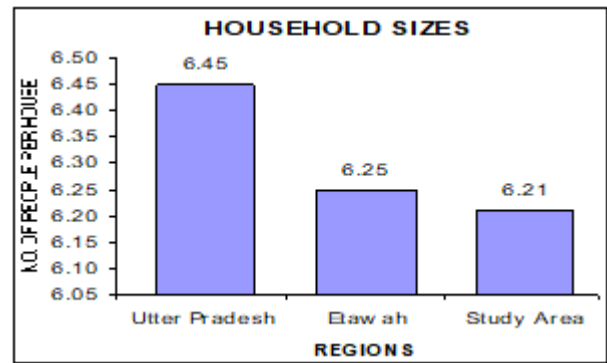
**Urban-Rural Population**

The percentage of urban population tells us about the structure of employment i.e. higher the percentage of urban population higher will be the participation in non-agricultural activities and vice-versa. In our study area, there is no urban agglomeration in Chakarnagar block while in Badhpura there is 44.57 percent urban population (because of district head quarter-Etawah). On the other hand the state Uttar Pradesh has as 20.78 percent urban population that is below than national average that is 27.82 percent. Etawah city is situated in north of Badhpura black that have not been consider in study area. So both block’s studied area is completely rural where agricultural activities are prime economic function of its people.

**Household Size**

The household is a unit that combines the time and endowments of its member. These resources, combined with purchased goods and services, are used to produce output that yields satisfaction. Hence, a household structure is a strategy to organise production and consumption among the individuals (Ermisch, 1988). The average household size indicates the average family size. The family size indicates whether they have joint family or nuclear family system.

The household structure in a given context is determined by three main factors; first, the life cycle stage of the individuals who forms a household (given by their age, marital status, and parity) and the cultural practices regarding their living arrangement; second; uncertainties due to climatic variations or other contingencies or loss of man power due to death or migration may result in loss of income. To cope within such uncertainty people groups in extended household in rural Indian communities.) Third; the patterns of production, particularly in rural communities, can determine to a large extent the type of households that individuals form. If the mode of production is mainly labour-intensive subsistence agriculture, there will be a tendency to avoid land division and favour grouping in to extended households to preserve family production. (M.Anuj, V.Reeve and K. Sunita, 1995) Individuals with lower levels of income and those living in communities with larger variation of climatic conditions will be more likely to live in extended households than nuclear households. In rural setting where labour-intensive agriculture is a major source of income, households with large holdings are more likely to be extended than nuclear. On other hand landless households tend to be less stable and fragment often because they only cooperate in scheduling labour or in pooling for distribution of resources. Several authors have also found a positive association between landholding and House holding extension in rural societies. (Barkat-e-Khuda, 1985; Cain, 1982; Caldwell et al., 1984; Nimkoff & Middleton, 1960)



**Graph 1.1:** Household sizes (2001)

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 1.1 gives the average household sizes. The average household size of the study area is 6.21. (6.18 In Chakarnagar and 6.14 in Badhpura) that is higher than national average that is 5.3. But the average household size of district (6.25) and the state (6.45) is higher than the study area. The average agricultural land holding size of district Etawah is 0.68 hectare only while state average is 0.72 and national average is 1.27 hectares

**Table 1.1:** Household Sizes

Region/Area	House Hold sizes
Utter Pradesh	6.45
Etawah	6.25
Study Area	6.21

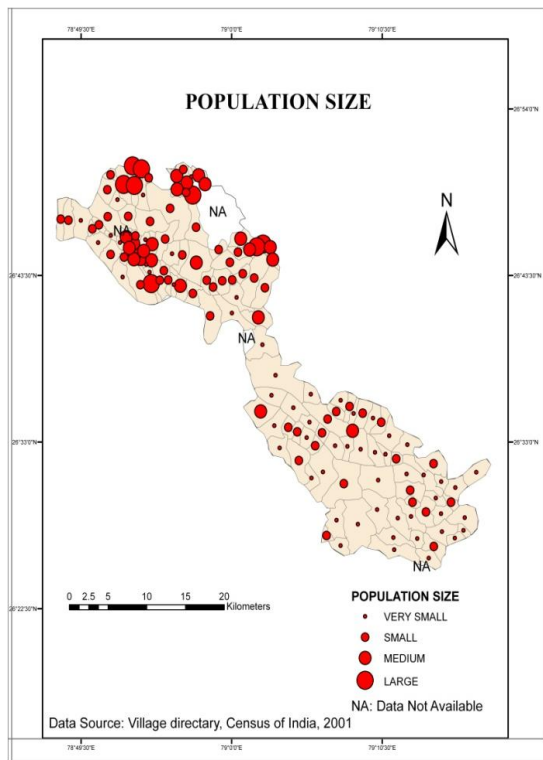
Source: Census of India 2001.

According to agriculture census of India (2001) the average total agricultural land holding of district is also below (0.86 hectares) than the national average (1.33hactres.) So we can say that the small land holding of the people of the study area is one of the major causes of small/fragmented household size in comparison of national level.

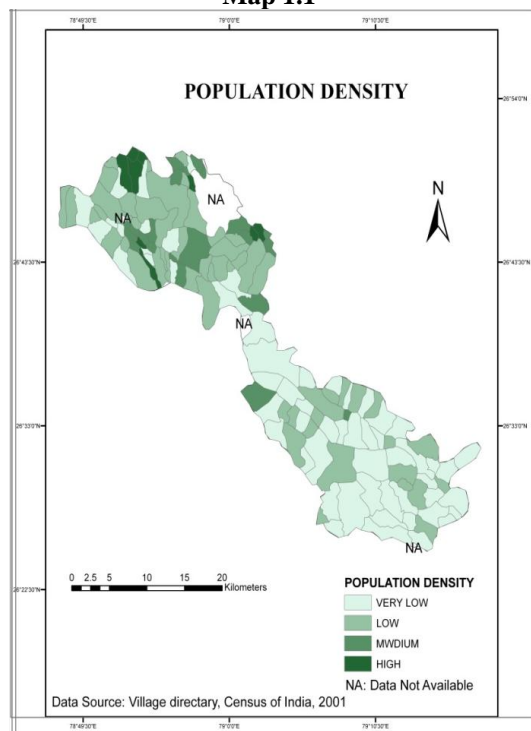
**Population Distribution**

The population density of Badhpura block is 441 and Chakarnagar have only 217 people per square kilometres. The average population density of the study area is 314.65.it is very low compare with average of whole district (586) state (689).national average population density is also slightly high (325) than the study area (315).It shows that the study area comparatively have no good condition for human settlements. Its highly land degradation affected area that have huge extension of bad land topography. Because of less precipitation and undeveloped agricultural infrastructures, this area has very poor agriculture. The bad land topography of the region is a big obstacle in road and transport development that resultant in less connectivity of the people. The south-east and middle part of the study area is having comparatively low population density those are severely affected by land degradation. (Map 1.2)

The village sizes are also small in southeast and middle part of the study area. That is result of their degraded land. There area less good arable land that can not support large size of population while on other side; villages located in mid part of table land are large in size. (Map 1.1)



Map 1.1



Map 1.2

**Sex Ratio**

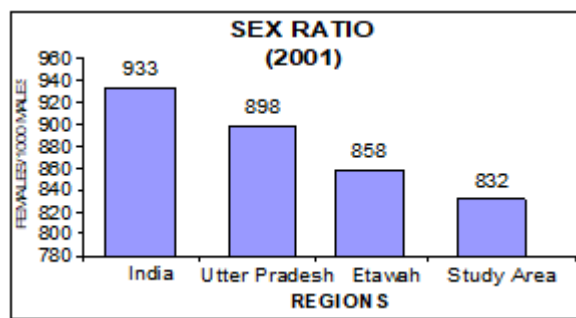
Sex ratio is the most important indicator of the gender inequality in the society. It gives insight in to the social and cultural outlook of the society toward the females. Table 1.2 shows that the sex ratio of the study area is 832. Within study area it slightly high in the western part (827 in Chakarnagar block and 846 in Badhpura block).see Map 1.3. The sex ratio in district Etawah and in the state is 858 and 898 respectively which is below than the national average (933) (Graph 1.2).

**Table 1.2: Sex Ratio**

Region/Area	Sex Ratio
India	933
Utter Pradesh	898
Etawah	858
Study Area	832

Source: Census of India 2001.

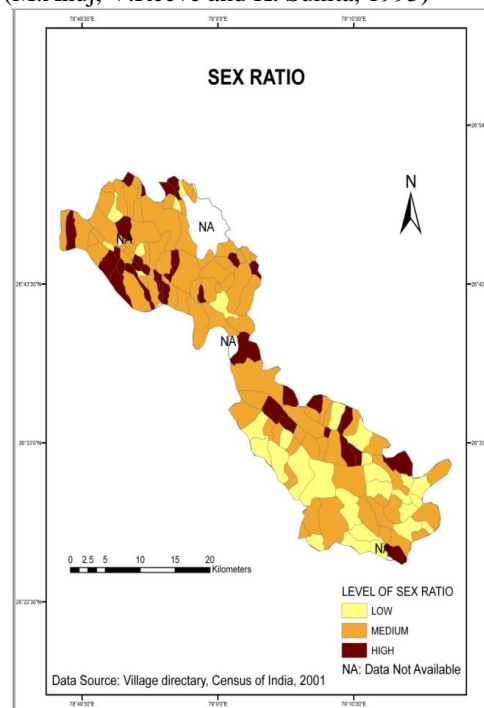
The difference between the national and state average is 35 while the difference is huge in respect of the study area. It is 87 for Badhpura block and 106 for Chakarnagar block. Population below 6 year is around 18 percent of total population of the study area that is marginally below than state average that is 19 percent. The sex ratio of this age group is 894 (904 and 882 in Chakarnagar and Badhpura respectively) that is slightly low before district average 895 and state average that is 916 female per thousand male. The similar fashions have been followed by scheduled caste sex ratio (827).



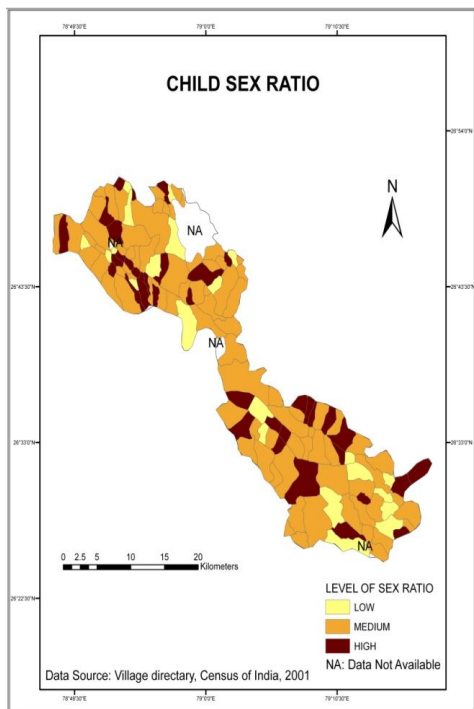
Graph 1.2 (2001)

Source: Census of India 2001.

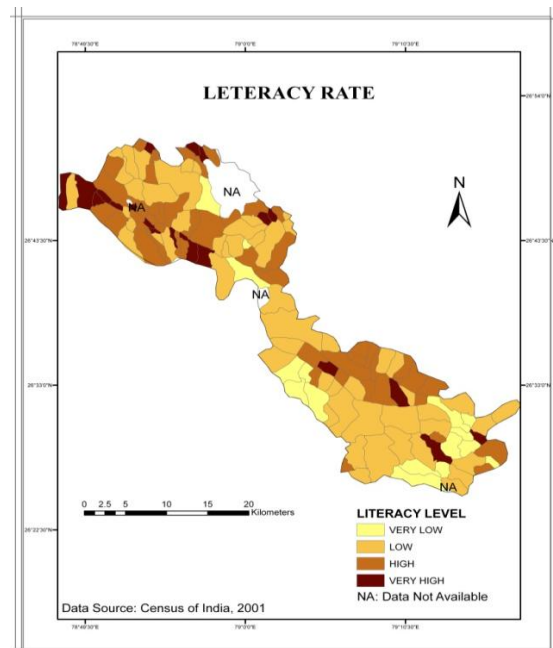
UP is one of the states which follow the patriotic family system. In this kind of system, family bounded by the society pressure that they should have a son. Such societies have high female foeticide that may be a cause of low female sex ratio. ( M.Anuj, V.Reeve and K. Sunita, 1995)



Map 1.3



Map 1.4



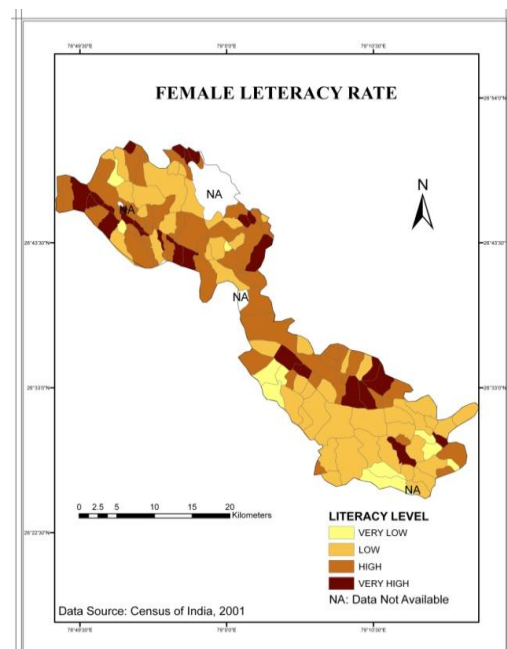
Map 1.5

As a result of social and economic advantages attached to sons, gender discrimination in nutrition and health care manifests itself in higher female than male childhood mortality (Miller 1981; Basu 1989). Sociologists are clear in their perception that a huge dowry associated with marrying off a girl is a major factor pushing the people of Punjab and Haryana (to a large extent) and Western Uttar Pradesh (to some extent), into the clutches of the “female foeticide.”

### Literacy

Human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of the nation the principle institutional mechanism for developing human skills and knowledge is the education system. It is key factor for the development within a country. Diffusion of literacy and education among all the population of the country is a basic requirement for pulling out the people from ignorance and backwardness and is important for the country for its socio-economic advancement.

The literacy rate of district Etawah is much good compare to national average. The average state literacy level is below than both national and referenced district. Etawah as a whole have around 70 percent literacy while the national average is 65. Uttar Pradesh have very low (57.36 percent) literacy. On other hand the female literacy of the study area is very critical compare to whole district. District Etawah have 57.3 percent female literacy. The state female literacy is also very critical that is 52.98 percent. The national average is 53.7 percent while Chakarnagar and Badhpura have 50.76 and 51.86 respectively (Census of India 2001). The male literacy of the district is 80 percent that is much good than state and national average. It is also high in the study area that is above 75 percent. Chakarnagar block have slightly low both male and female literacy level than Badhpura because it have negligible urban population and basic infrastructure is comparatively not in good condition.



Map 1.6

The status of educational **infrastructure** reflects in level of education development of its society. A developing country like India that have two third rural population of its total population, have poor educational infrastructure. The study area is the part of district Etawah that have good literacy (70 percent). There are only 9.2 schools per ten thousand populations in rural Uttar Pradesh while national average is 10.9 schools. So the infrastructure of rural primary education is less developed in state than national and district level. District average is 11.5 schools per ten thousand population that is high than state and national average. Within district, study area has 11.1 schools per ten thousand people that is less than district average. Overall we can say that because of part of a educationally good region study area have good condition of primary infrastructure but within district it have less developed rural primary education infrastructure.



The preferences for sons and the advantages attached to them in Patriarchal culture results in discrimination against the daughters who do survive. Such discrimination usually affects women's access to social resources specially education. (M.Anuj, V.Reeve and K. Sunita, 1995)

On other hand girls have less personal mobility than boys to travel outside their village to attend school, so female literacy rates can be expected to raise when schools are closer to home and where there are single sex opportunities, as a more likely in urban area. It may also be the education rises where communication networks are strongest, as the demonstration effect is more visible. (Lori McDougall 2000).both male and female literacy is showing comparatively low in the southeast part of the study area. (Map 1.5 and 4.6)

The study area is rural in nature. Poor economy is the result of backward agricultures that is suffering by soil degradation. This area also has poor communication networks. These all factors are responsible for wide gender gap in literacy here.

### Health Infrastructure

Health represents a state of physical and mental wellbeing, it is not possible to earn a good living when one is not healthy. In general it can be said if we have healthy people in a society; it will contribute greatly to its efficiency and productivity. There is a direct relationship between good health and economic growth. The development level of health infrastructure in a society indicates the level of people's health. Developing countries like India have poor health infrastructure and particularly rural health infrastructure.

The Study area is the part of a state that already have poor rural health infrastructure. The health infrastructure of the state is very poor compare with national level. In 2001 Uttar Pradesh had 0.44 hospitals per lakh population and only 0.06 hospitals per lakh rural population while it was 0.40 on national levels. There was no allopathic hospitals in block Badhpura but had two dispensaries. In case of Chakarnagar there were three allopathic hospitals and two dispensaries. In 2001 only one Primary Health Centre was there in Badhpura and not even a single PHC was there in Chakarnagar block. The accessibility to health institutions is comparatively low for the people of the interior part of the study area.

### Economic Characteristics

#### Workforce Participation

Table 1.3 is showing that the total workforce participation rate is below than the state and national average in the study area. It is 28 percent here (28.41 percent and 27, 47 percent in Chakarnagar and Badhpura respectively) while in Uttar Pradesh it is 32.48 percent and in India has 39 percent population is reported under working age group. The condition of agricultural land is deteriorated in study area which is because of the land degradation problem that adversely affects the land productivity and crop intensity. Such agricultural activities lead to the poor employment opportunities.

**Table 1.3: Workforce Participation**

	Total worker			Main Workers			Marginal Worker		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	CL	AL	Total	CL	AL
Study area	28.0	45.6	6.8	76.2	61.6	18.0	23.8	15.6	59.3
Dist. Etawah	27.5	45.7	6.3	81.0	50.4	14.2	19.0	18.0	54.7
Uttar Pradesh	32.5	46.8	16.5	72.9	47.0	15.2	27.1	25.2	50.9
India	39.1	51.7	25.6	77.8	33.2	20.3	22.2	26.5	48.5

Source: Census of India 2001.

Within Etawah district, study area is showing comparatively low participation of main workers. The study area is totally rural in nature where cultivation is major source of employment. The arable land is facing the problem of degradation that negatively affects the crop intensity and land productivity. So All land can not be taking under cultivation in all crop seasons here that resultant in lessen the working hours/days. Within study area the Chakarnagar block, which is comparatively have high proportion of degraded land is showing slightly low main worker participation (75 percent) than Badhpura block (77.5 percent).

Within district and state, study area is having slightly high share of cultivators and agricultural labourers among main workers. It is because of totally rural nature of the study area where cultivation is main economic activity.

#### Male-Female Workforce Participation Rate

The female workforce participation is comparatively low in district Etawah and slightly high in study area than district. It is high among marginal worker than main workers. But within Etawah it is slightly high in case of main worker and low in case of marginal workers in the study area. Even within study area Chakarnagar block is having slightly high (7.5 percent) share of female workers than Badhpura (6 percent).

Agriculture is prime activity of this region that has seasonal fluctuation in labour demand. In the harvesting and sowing period more labour requires on cheap wages. This demand is meeting by local female households. On other hand due to poor agricultural development people are facing the problem of inadequate income to support their livelihood that might forces female to do work. Landlessness may be a factor to pushing the females to work out-sides of their house for helping in support of their family.

### 4. Conclusion

On the basis of above discussion, it could be concluded that the social and economic profile of the study area is weak. Degraded land features are restricting the accessibility of people to various facilities as well as land productivity of the region. Poor accessibility is leading an unsafe situation for girls and women of the region. As a result of that social-economic indicators of females are performing very poor here. High land degradation is major cause of poor agriculture productivity that leads economy of peasants to a fragile condition. Insufficient income scenario makes less availability of finance on health and education also. Thus people of this part is facing weak scenario of socio-economic development.

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