

CHAPTER - 5

Present Position of Rural Development in Village Panchayat of Saharsa District

5.0 Introduction

Bihar is located in the eastern part of the country. It is an entirely land - locked state, which is bounded by Nepal in the north and by Jharkhand in the south. Bihar has been divided in 9 divisions and 38 districts. It is one of the large states in the country with 45,103 revenue villages in the state and 8,463 panchayats. As per the census data of 2001, the total population of the state is 8,28,78,796 out of which the population of female is 3,97,24,832.

Panchayat Institutions are the vehicles of political empowerment of people at the grass root level for shaping their own destiny. A vast majority of people are living at the grassroots level in the rural and remote areas without any touch of modern day. A large section of such deprived people belong to Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and other Backward casts as also women in general at the grass root level.

The national level plan for improving the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is chalked out in the Roadmap for Panchayati Raj (2011-2017). It has been noted that due to poor resource base and economic activity in rural areas, the Panchayats would continue to depend on State/Central transfers, grants etc. The national roadmap is enabled and assisted by the Central Government by the provision of funds under several schemes, to name few.

Table – 5.1: Showing Rural Development Of 2009-10 /Source: District Plan Report 2009-10 Saharsa

S. No.	Sector	Works	Planned Outlay
1	Roads	162	6,83,94,000
2	Public Health	242	6,09,03,000
3	Drinking Water	105	2,84,75,000
4	Roads & Bridges	66	2,27,50,000
5	Rural Electrification	6	54,80,000
6	Welfare & Weaker Sections	13	35,50,000
7	General Expenditure	11	19,95,000
8	Agriculture	32	19,93,000
9	Education	5	14,80,000
10	Animal Husbandary	8	11,00,000
11	Women & Child Development	2	2,25,000
12	Markets & Fairs	1	2,00,000
TOTAL		653	19,65,70,000

Table 5.2 : Showing Physical Feature of Bihar

Latitude	24°-20'-10" to 27°-31'-15"	North
Longitude	83°-19'-50" to 88°-17'-40"	East
Rural Area	94,163.00 sq. kms	
Urban Area	1,095.49 sq. kms	
Total Area	92,257.51 sq. kms	
Height above Sea-Level	173 Feet	

Main Soil Clay Soil, Sandy Soil, Loamy Soil	
Temperature Varies from a maximum of 44°C in Summer to a minimum of around 5°C in the Winters	
Normal Rainfall	1176.4 mm

Source : Key Statistics Of Bihar

Table 5.3: Showing Administration Of Bihar

Number of Divisions	9
Number of Districts	38
Number of Sub-Divisions	101
Number of CD Blocks	534
Number of Panchayat Samiti	531
Number of Gram Panchayats	8,463
Number of Revenue Villages	45,103
Number of Urban Agglomerations	9
Number of Towns	130
Number of Statutory Towns	125
Number of Non-Statutory Towns	5
Number of Police Stations	853
Number of Civil Police Stations	813
Number of Railway Police Stations	40
Number of Police Districts	43
Number of Civil Police District	39
Number of Railway Police District	4

Table 5.4 : Showing District-wise Demographic Profile of Bihar (2001 and 2011)

State/District	Population (lakh)		Decadal Growth	Density	
	2001	2011		2001	2011
Patna					
Nalanda	47.2	57.7	22.3	1471	1803
Bhojpur	23.7	28.7	21.2	1006	1220
Buxar	22.4	27.2	21.3	903	1136
Rohtas	14.0	17.1	21.8	864	1003
Kaimur	24.5	29.6	20.2	636	763

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Gaya	12.9	16.3	27.5	382	488
Jehanabad	34.7	43.8	26.1	699	880
Arwal--	15.1	11.2	21.3	963	1206
Nawada	7.0	19.0	--		1099
Aurangabad	18.1	22.2	22.5	726	889
Saran	20.1	25.1	24.8	607	760
Siwan	32.5	39.4	21.4	1231	1493
Gopalganj	27.1	33.2	22.3	1221	1495
West-Champ.	21.5	25.6	18.8	1057	1258
East-Champ.	30.4	39.2	28.9	582	750
Muzaffarpur	39.4	50.8	29.0	991	1281
Sitamarhi	37.5	47.8	27.5	1180	1506
Seohar	26.8	34.2	27.5	1214	1491
Vaishali	5.2	6.6	27.3	1161	1882
Darbhanga	27.2	35.0	28.6	1332	1717
Madhubani	33.0	39.2	19.0	1442	1721
Samastipur	35.8	44.8	25.2	1020	1279
Begusarai	34.0	42.5	25.3	1175	1465
Munger	23.5	29.5	25.8	1222	1540
Sheikhpura	11.4	13.6	19.5	800	958
Lakhisarai	5.3	6.3	20.8	762	922
Jamui	8.0	10.0	24.7	652	815
Khagaria	14.0	17.6	25.5	451	567
Bhagalpur	12.8	16.6	29.5	859	1115
Banka	24.2	30.3	25.1	946	1180
Saharsa	16.1	20.3	26.1	533	672
Supaul	15.1	19.0	25.8	885	1125
Madhepura	17.3	22.3	28.6	724	919
Purnea	15.3	19.9	30.7	853	1116
Kishanganj	25.4	32.7	28.7	787	1014
Araria	13.0	16.9	30.4	687	898
Katihar	21.6	28.1	30.0	751	992
Bihar	23.9	30.7	28.2	782	1004
	830.0	1038.0	25.1	880	1102

New District after 2001 Census -Source : Census 2001 and 2011

TABLE 5.5.: Showing Administration Units of Bihar

Number of Divisions	9
Number of Districts	38
Number of Sub-Divisions	101
Number of CD Blocks	534
Number of Panchayat Samiti	531
Number of Gram Panchayats	8,463
Number of Revenue Villages	45,103
Number of Urban Agglomerations	9
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Number of Police Stations	853
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Source : Key Statistics Of Bihar

Table 5.6: SHOWING DEMOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS IN BIHAR

SI No	INDICATORS	BIHAR
1	Population – 2001	82998509
2	Projected population 2009 [in thousands]	95026

3	Density of population – 2001 [person per sq km]	881
4	Population density - rural 2001 [person per sq km in rural areas]	805
5	Decadal growth rate of population – 2001	28.6
6	Area [Sq Km] – 2001	94163
7	Percentage of urban population – 2001	10.46
8	Percentage of rural population – 2001	89.54
9	Proportion of SC population – 2001	15.70
10	Sex Ratio – 2001	919
11	Literacy rate – 2001	47
12	Female literacy rate –2001	33.12
13	Gender gap in literacy [male – female] 2001	26.60
14	Household living in pucca house 2005 – 06	20.00
15	Household with improved source of drinking water 2005 – 06-	96.10
16	Household having toilet facility 2005 – 06	25.20
17	Percentage of population below poverty line 2004	41.40
18	Crude birth rate 2006	29.90
19	Death rate 2006	8.10
20	Infant mortality rate – Srs 2007	60
21	Maternal mortality rate Srs 2007	312
22	Life expectancy at birth 2003	61.42
23	Life expectancy at birth: male 2003	62.02
24	Life expectancy at birth: female 2003	60.12

Source : Key Statistics of Bihar

Table 5.7 : Showing key statistics of sahasrsa District

Particular Area (lakh ha)	
Total geographical area	93.60
Total cropped area	79.57
Net area sown	57.25
Current fallow	4.99
Forest	6.22

Barren and non-cultivable Land	4.36
Land put to non-agricultural uses	16.43
Cultivable waste land	0.46
Permanent Pasture (Grazing land)	0.18
Miscellaneous crops/groves	2.37
Area sown more than once	22.32

Source: 2001 Per Census (Provisional)

Table 5.8: Showing Physical Features Of Bihar

•	Latitude	24°-20'-10" ~ 27°-31'-15" N
•	Longitude	82°-19'-50" ~ 88°-17'-40" E
•	Rural Area	92,257.51 sq. kms
•	Urban Area	1,095.49 sq. kms
•	Total Area	94,163.00 sq. kms
•	Height above Sea-Level	173 Feet
•	Normal Rainfall	1,205 mm
•	Avg. Number of Rainy Days	52.5 Days in a Year

Table 5.9 Showing the List of Panchayat Samiti and Number of Panchayats Source : Key Statistics of Saharsa District

Sl. No.	District	Block/Panchayat Samiti	No. of Panchayats
1	2	3	4

2	Saharsa	1	Nauhatta	14
		2	Mahishi	19

		3	<i>Banama Itahari</i>	7
		4	<i>Sattarkataiya</i>	14
		5	<i>Kahara (Saharsa)</i>	15
		6	<i>Salkhua</i>	11
		7	<i>Simari Bakhtiyarpur</i>	24
		8	<i>Patarghat</i>	11
		9	<i>Saur Bazar</i>	17
		10	<i>Sonebarsa</i>	21

Table 5.10: Key Statistics of Bihar 2011

	- Male	5,41,85,347
	- Female	4,96,19,290
•	Population (0~6 Years Group)	
	- In Absolute Numbers	1,85,82,229
		Male: 96,15,280
		Female: 89,66,949
	- Percentage of Total Population	17.90%
		Male: 17.75%
		Female: 18.07%
•	Literacy	
	- In Absolute Numbers	5,43,90,254
		Male: 3,27,11,975
		Female: 2,16,78,279
	- Percentage of Total Population	63.82%
		Male: 73.39%
		Female: 53.33%
•	Decadal Population Growth (2001-2011)	
	- Absolute	2,08,06,128
	- As Percentage	25.07%
•	Highest Decadal Growth at	Madhepura District (30.65%)

•	Lowest Decadal Growth at	Gopalganj District (18.83%)
	- Civil Police Stations	813
	- Railway Police Stations	40
•	Density of Population	1,102 per sq kms
	- Highest Density	Sheohar, 1882 per sq kms
	- Lowest Density	Kaimur, 488 per sq kms

Source : Key Statistics of Bihar 2011

5.1 Rural development programmes

5.1.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)

•	Most Populous District	Patna: 57,72,804
•	Least Populous District	Sheikhpura: 6,34,927
•	Sex Ratio (Females/Thousand Males)	916
	- Highest Ratio	(Gopalganj) 1,015
	- Lowest Ratio	(Munger and Bhagalpur) 879
•	Highest Literacy Rate	Rohtas, 75.59%
•	Lowest Literacy Rate	Purnia, 52.49%
•	Average Population of a District	27,31,701

Under Section 13 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of MNREGA and at least 50 per cent of MNREGA funds are to be spent by the Gram Panchayats (GPs). For this the Gram Sabhas (GSs) has to recommend special projects to the GPs and conduct social audit of MNREGA works. Also the District Programme Coordinators and Programme Officers are to assist District and Intermediate Panchayats respectively in discharge of their functions.

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide guaranteed work for 100 days for any household wishing to have such employment. Although all households are eligible, the expectation is that only the poorer sections, i.e., landless labour and marginal farmers would actually seek work. The secondary objective is to ensure that employment generated is from works that raise land productivity.

5.1.1 Saakshar Bharat Mission(SBM)

The SBM launched in 2009, is a programme aimed at creating a Literate Society through a variety of teaching learning programmes for non-literate and neo-literate of 15 years and above. The SBM is envisaged to involve community PRI's and women self-help groups in its endeavour. Around 495 blocks with 7,739 panchayats will be covered under the mission. Each panchayat would have a Lok Shiksha Kendra. A male and a female prarak, elected by the panchayat, will comprise a Lok Shiksha Kendra to monitor the volunteers under the mission. Each Lok Shiksha Kendra will have around 50-60 Shiksha Kendras, where each volunteer would educate around 20-30 persons in an area .

5.1.2 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

A fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide all-weather road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas and 250 persons and above in hill States, the tribal and the desert areas.

5.1.3 Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

SGSY is a major on-going scheme for the self-employment of the rural poor. The basic objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families (swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. Credit is the critical component of the scheme whereas the subsidy is an enabling element. The scheme involves organisation of the poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) build their capacities through a process of social mobilization, their training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, creation of infrastructure, provision of technology and marketing support, etc. Under the scheme focus is on the group approach. However, individual Swarozgaris are also assisted. The SGSY is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), banks, line Departments and the 5.1.4.1 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

The credit mobilization under SGSY has been abysmally low. Further, a large number of SHGs are formed but fizzle out midway after availing the revolving fund. To make the scheme more effective it is being re-structured with a sharper focus on poorest of the poor people. A suitable mechanism will be put in place for higher social mobilization, capacity building and institution building among the target population

5.1.4 Rural Housing (Indira Awas Yojana

The IAY is being implemented as an independent scheme since 1996. It aims to provide assistance for construction / up gradation of dwelling units to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) rural households, with special emphasis

on SCs, STs and freed bonded labor categories. A maximum assistance of Rs 35,000 per unit is provided for construction in plain areas and Rs 38,500 per unit for hilly/difficult areas. Rs 15000 is given for up gradation of a dwelling unit for all areas. The funding of IAY is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25. (100% in the case of UTs).

5.1.5 National Social Assistance Programme

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was launched with the aim to provide social assistance benefit to poor house-holds in the case of old age, death of primary breadwinner and maternity. The programme supplements the efforts of the State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum national levels of well-being and the Central assistance is an addition to the benefit that the States are already providing on Social Protection Schemes. With a view to ensure better linkage with nutrition and national population control programmes, the Maternity Benefit Component of the NSAP was transferred to the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with effect from 2001-02. The schemes of NSAP and Annapurna have been transferred to the State Plan with effect from 2002-03 with a view to provide requisite flexibility to the State / UT in the choice and implementation of the schemes.

5.1.6 Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

During the Eleventh Plan, the three area development programmes, namely, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme have been integrated and consolidated into a single programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). This consolidation is for optimum use of

resources, sustainable outcomes an integrated planning. The common guidelines for the Watershed Development Programme have been formulated and are effective from 1.4.2008. An amount of Rs.1825 crore has been allocated for IWMP during 2008-09. The ongoing projects sanctioned prior to 1.4.2008 under DADP, DDP, and IWDP would be continued to be implemented as per old guidelines.

The modified IWMP would adopt a three tier approach in which the upper reaches which are mainly forested and hilly would be treated with the support of Forest Department. For land situated intermediate slopes above the agriculture lands, the IWMP would address all the necessary issues of land treatment by adopting best possible options including cropping pattern, horticulture and agro-forestry etc. In the lower tire, which are plains and mainly agricultural lands, the IWMP would be dovetailed with the employment generating programme such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) an would fill the critical gaps of NREGS and vice versa.

Under the new programme, a cluster approach would be followed with a broader vision of natural hydro-geographical unit of average size of 4,000 to 10,000 ha. comprising of clusters of micro-watershed to be selected as project area. The programme would be implemented by dedicated institutional agencies at state and central level. Professional support (in the form of multidisciplinary expert team) would be provided to support these institutions with proper fund allocation. A core GIS facility with spatial and non-spatial data augmented with satellite imagery data would be set up for giving Controlled access/distribution for local project planning.

The project period is proposed in the range of 5 to 7 years in three distinct phases, i.e. Preparatory, Watershed works and Consolidation phase. The consolidation phase will include livelihood activities, marketing, processing and value addition activities.

5.1.7 National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has revised the NRDWP guidelines under which, from 2011–12, in the inter-State allocation criteria, 10% scheme funds have been linked to States' performance on a Management Devolution Index (MDI) which measures the extent to which a State has decentralized the management of the programme.

5.1.9 BRGF

Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was launched by the Prime Minister at Barpeta in Assam on 19th February, 2006. The Programme covers 250 districts in 27 states. The existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana which covers 147 districts has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund programme.

The programme is designed to redress the regional imbalances in development. Funds are available for supplementing and converging existing developmental activities into identified districts. This programme is being implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels and Municipalities. Though the participative preparation of district plans follows a bottom up approach where all the planning is carried on a micro level.

The structural and institutional structure of backward districts is very poor. These districts lack absorption capacity and hence the desired outcome is

not as per the desired expectation. An inter Ministry task group formed on 4.8.2004 by the Planning Commission concluded that plans ought to be based on perceived need and real capacity in these areas to ensure optimum utilization of resources within the specified timeframe to produce expected results. Hence, BRGF focuses on implementation of the process of participative planning. Centrally sponsored schemes have specific sectoral objectives and targets. Backward Regions Grant Fund can be used to supplement them through a comprehensive macro approach cutting across sectors and meeting inter-sectoral requirements. Creation of capacity for effective planning at district and lower level was seen as a key-pre-requisite to participative planning. Hence there is a specific component in the BRGF programme for the capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

