

CHAPTER IV: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE STUDIED PEOPLE

Demography

Demography is a term derived from the two Greek words, 'Demos' meaning the people and 'Graphy', to draw or write that is science. Demography is used nowadays to denote the study of human population by statistical methods, and deals with such questions as the numbers of people living, dying or being born in a country or region and the measurement of fertility, mortality and marriage rates. For some purposes, qualitative as well as quantitative factors are included within the scope of the subject. For instance, one may study psychological attributes in men, or social qualities such as wealth and rank. In general, these border line subjects are associated with demography only in so far as they have an important effect upon its principal constituents, fertility, mortality, marriage and migration (Cox, 1950: 1).

The multilingual demographic dictionary defines demography as the "Scientific study of human populations, primarily with respects to their size, their structure and their development". According to Donald, J. Bogue, demography is the mathematical and statistical study of the size, composition and spatial distribution of human population and of changes over time in these aspects through the operations of the five processes of fertility, mortality, marriage, migration and social mobility. Although it maintains a continuous descriptive and comparative analysis of trends, each of these processes and in their net result, its long run goal is to develop theories to explain the events that it charts and compares. According to Stenford, "In its most formal sense demography is a very technical and highly mathematical study of the vital statistics of human population (especially birth, death and migration) as well as of the characteristics of population structure (including age, sex and marital status) as they contribute to an understanding of population change" (Sinha and Zacharia, 1984: 1-3). Births, deaths and migration are the 'big three' of demography, jointly producing population stability or change. A

population's composition may be described in terms of basic demographic features – age, sex, family and household status – and by features of the population's social and economic context – ethnicity, religion, language, education, occupation, income and wealth. Demography is also very useful for understanding social and economic problems and identifying potential solutions (Thomson, Feb 2007). A census helps provide much of this information, in addition to vital statistic records. In some studies, the demography of an area is expanded to include education, income, the structure of the family unit, housing, race or ethnicity and religion (Franco, M. et al. October 27th 2009: 9). However, to understand the demographic composition of the studied people following aspects have been discussed –

Caste, Community, and Ethnic Composition of the Studied People: To conduct the present study total 250 families were selected in the studied area to fulfill the need of present research work. Among them there were Hindu, Muslim, and Santal tribe found to live in the studied village. Among the Bengali Hindus, there were Brahmin belonged to an upper caste; Jugi and Kapali belonged to OBCs and Rajbanshi and Namashudra belonged to SCs. Apart from these, the people by caste Teli belonged to OBC and the Kshatriya belonged to upper caste came from Behar; and the people by caste Biswakarma belonged to SC is the Nepali linguistic group were also lived there. The details of the caste/community/ethnic composition of the studied people are given below -

Table 4.1: Distribution of Family on the basis of Caste/Community/Ethnic Group

Caste/Community/Ethnic group										
Rajbanshi	Namashudra	Jugi	Kapali	Brahmin	Teli (Behari)	Kshatriya (Behari)	Biswakarma (Nepali)	Muslim	Santal	Total
234	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	250
93.60	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.80	0.40	100.00

It is the fact there were total ten castes/communities. Among them major percentage (93.60%) of the studied families were belonged to Rajbanshi community, followed by Namashudra, Jugi, Kapali each of them had the same percentage and the rest of the

families like Brahmin, Santal and Nepali people were found in very poor in number (Table 4.1). However, there were ten number of castes, communities and ethnic groups and their number of families were varied. Now their population strength may be observed.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Population according to Caste/Community/Ethnic Group etc.

Sex	Caste/Community/Ethnic group										Total
	Rajbanshi	Namashudra	Jugi	Kapali	Brahmin	Teli	Kshatriya	Biswakarma	Muslim	Santal	
Male	594 93.84	10 1.58	5 0.79	9 1.42	1 0.16	2 0.32	2 0.32	3 0.47	4 0.63	3 0.47	633 100.00
Female	568 93.88	7 1.16	4 0.66	7 1.16	3 0.50	4 0.66	2 0.33	3 0.50	6 0.99	1 0.17	605 100.00
Total	1162 93.86	17 1.37	9 0.73	16 1.29	4 0.32	6 0.48	4 0.32	6 0.48	10 0.81	4 0.32	1238 100.00

The total number of population in the studied families was 1238 (100%) of which males were quite more than the females. Among the studied people a large number of population belonged to Rajbanshi community (93.86%) out of which male members were quite more than the females. Meanwhile there were some other caste/communities also but their representatives were very poor (Table 4.2).

Age and Sex wise People: It is first and foremost prime factor in demographic composition of a specific area. On the other hand, to speak sex ratio we understand the number of females for every thousand males in a given population. It is linked to different social outcomes like marriage, family formation, labour supply and gender roles. The details of the above are shown below-

Table 4.3: Distribution of Population according to Age and Sex

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-4	57 44.48	70 55.12	127 100.00	1228
5-9	108 49.32	111 50.68	219 100.00	1027
10-14	125 53.88	107 46.12	232 100.00	856
15-19	47 61.48	29 38.16	76 100.00	617
20-24	31	35	66	1129

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
	46.97	53.03	100.00	
25-29	40 37.04	68 62.96	108 100.00	1700
30-34	47 45.19	57 54.81	104 100.00	1213
35-39	59 58.42	42 41.58	101 100.00	712
40-44	41 74.55	14 25.45	55 100.00	314
45-49	23 42.59	31 57.41	54 100.00	1348
50-54	22 55.00	18 45.00	40 100.00	818
55-59	16 66.67	24 33.338	24 100.00	500
60-64	10 58.82	7 41.18	17 100.00	700
65-69	4 80.00	1 20.00	5 100.00	250
70+	3 30.00	7 70.00	10 100.00	2333
Total	633 51.53	605 48.87	1238 100.00	956

The highest percentage of population (18.74%) was noticed in 10-14 years age group. On the contrary, the lowest percentage of population (0.4%) was found in 65-69 years age group. Particularly among the male, the highest percentage of population (19.75%) was noticed in the age group of 10-14 years and the lowest (0.47%) was in the age group of 70 and above years remarkably while among the female, the highest (18.35%) and the lowest percentage (0.17%) was noticed in the age group of 5-9 years and 65-69 years respectively. On the other hand it is observed that the average sex ratio of the studied people was 956 and it was highest (2333) and lowest (250) at the age group of 70 and above years and 65-69 years respectively (Table 4.3).

Marital Status of the People: Marital status especially is known to be an important predictor of the overall quality of human life. It seems to have a great contribution in the development of society because it is directly related to fertility, family formation and kinship system.

Table 4.4: Marital Status of the People

Sex	Unmarried	Married	Widow	Widower	Separated	Total
Male	368 58.14	259 40.92	-	6 0.95	-	633 100.00
Female	306 50.58	263 43.47	30 4.96	-	6 0.99	605 100.00
Total	674 54.44	522 42.16	30 2.42	6 0.48	6 0.48	1238 100.00

The data reveals the fact that 41.86 per cent male 49.42 per cent female were ever married and unmarried males were more than the females. Apart from both widow and widower there were only separated women also. However, to know more, the details of the marital status of the people are shown in the following table

Table 4.5: Marital Status of the Male and Female

Age group (in years)	Male				Female				Total
	Unmarried	Married	Widower	Total	Unmarried	Married	Widow	Separated	
0-4	57 100.00	-	-	57 100.00	70 100.00	-	-	-	70 100.00
5-9	108 100.00	-	-	108 100.00	111 100.00	-	-	-	111 100.00
10-14	125 100.00	-	-	125 100.00	107 100.00	-	-	-	107 100.00
15-19	47 100.00	-	-	47 100.00	17 58.62	12 41.38	-	-	29 100.00
20-24	22 70.97	9 29.03	-	31 100.00	1 2.86	34 97.14	-	-	35 100.00
25-29	9 22.50	31 77.50	-	40 100.00	-	67 98.53	-	1 1.47	68 100.00
30-34	-	47 100.00	-	47 100.00	-	54 94.74	1 1.75	2 3.51	57 100.00
35-39	-	58 98.31	1 1.69	59 100.00	-	39 92.86	2 4.76	1 2.38	42 100.00
40-44	-	40 97.56	1 2.44	41 100.00	-	12 85.71	1 7.14	1 7.14	14 100.00
45-49	-	23 100.00	-	23 100.00	-	27 87.10	4 12.90	-	31 100.00
50-54	-	20 90.91	2 9.09	22 100.00	-	10 55.56	7 38.89	1 5.56	18 100.00
55-59	-	16 100.00	-	16 100.00	-	5 62.50	3 37.50	-	8 100.00
60-64	-	9 90.00	1 10.00	10 100.00	-	3 42.86	4 57.14	-	7 100.00

Age group (in years)	Male				Female				Total
	Unmarried	Married	Widower	Total	Unmarried	Married	Widow	Separated	
65-69	-	3 75.00	1 25.00	4 100.00	-	-	1 100.00	-	1 100.00
70+	-	3 100.00		3 100.00	-	-	7 100.00	-	7 100.00
Total	368 58.14	259 40.92	6 0.95	633 100.00	306 50.58	263 43.47	30 4.96	6 0.99	605 100.00

However, generally marriage was found to be started among the male members when they crossed the threshold of 19 years age cohort while the same was from 15 years age cohort in case of females. The ever married male members were found to be highest in 35-39 years group and in case of females it was in 25-29 years age cohort while the lowest was found in male members when they crossed the threshold of 60-65 years age cohort and in case of females it was in the age group of 60-64 years. Total six widowers were found in the studied families of which the highest percentage was in the age group of 50-54 years. On the other hand, the number of widow was 30 and the highest percentage was found in two different age group that was 50-54 years and 70 and above years age cohort. No unmarried male was found in 30 and above years age group while no unmarried female was found in 25 years and above age group (Table 4.5).

Family: Family is an old age universal organisation that can be seen in every society even from primitive to civilize stage. It plays an important role in maintaining the social structure. Family is the principal institution for the socialization of children. Anthropologists have often supposed that the family in a traditional society forms the primary economic unit. However, to understand the situation the study was conducted on 250 families. Their caste/community/ethnic group wise number of families have been mentioned in the Table 4.1. Now if we observe the type of family the data reveals that among the studied total 250 families three types of families viz. Nuclear, joint and extended families were found and among them more than 3/4th (76%) were the nuclear families followed by the joint families (21.20%) and extended families (2.80%).

Table 4.6: Size of the Family

Family size	1-3	4-5	6-7	8 & Above	Total
No. of family	30	147	59	14	250
	12.00	58.80	23.60	5.60	100.00

The data also reveals that most of the families were composed of four to five members followed by six to seven, one to three, and eight and above members (Table 4.6) and their average family size was 4.95 i.e. five.

Educational Profile: Education is one of the decisive factors for the development of a society or a community. It is the cradle of a society. Considering its importance, educational status of the studied people is highlighted here.

Table 4.7: Educational Status of the People

Sex	Illiterate		Literate	Total
	Can sign	Cannot sign		
Male	16	204	307	527
	3.04	38.71	58.25	100.00
Female	31	255	208	494
	6.28	51.62	42.10	100.00
Total	47	459	515	1021
	4.60	44.96	50.44	100.00

(Excluded 0-6 age group)

The aforesaid data manifests that around 50 per cent people were illiterate and it was more among the females than the males. Among the illiterate, few of the males and females could sign but not read (Table 4.7). The rate of illiteracy among the female was quite more and behind it there were so many socio-cultural factors which may be discussed later.

Table 4.8: Age Group Wise Educational Status of the Male and Female

Age Group (in years)	Male			Female		
	Illiterate	Literate	Total	Illiterate	Literate	Total
7-9	2	57	59	4	66	70
	3.39	96.61	100.00	5.71	94.29	100.00
10-14	17	108	125	20	87	107
	13.60	86.40	100.00	18.69	81.31	100.00
15-19	11	36	47	9	20	29
	23.40	76.60	100.00	31.03	68.97	100.00

Age Group (in years)	Male			Female		
	Illiterate	Literate	Total	Illiterate	Literate	Total
20-24	9 29.03	22 70.97	31 100.00	29 82.86	6 17.14	35 100.00
25-29	26 65.00	14 35.00	40 100.00	56 82.35	12 17.65	68 100.00
30-34	33 70.21	14 29.79	47 100.00	49 85.96	8 14.03	57 100.00
35-39	34 57.63	25 42.37	59 100.00	37 88.10	5 11.90	42 100.00
40-44	31 75.61	10 24.39	41 100.00	13 92.86	1 7.14	14 100.00
45-49	16 69.57	7 30.43	23 100.00	29 93.55	2 6.45	31 100.00
50-54	15 68.18	7 31.81	22 100.00	17 94.44	1 5.56	18 100.00
55-59	11 68.75	5 31.25	16 100.00	8 100.00	-	8 100.00
60-64	8 80.00	2 20.00	10 100.00	7 100.00	-	7 100.00
65-69	4 100.00	-	4 100.00	1 100.00	-	1 100.00
70+	3 100.00	-	3 100.00	17 100.00	-	17 100.00
Total	220 41.75	307 58.25	527 100.00	286 57.89	208 42.11	494 100.00

(Excluded 0-6 age group)

The data reveals the fact that the literacy rate was high among the male and female population of 7-9 years age group followed by 10-14 and 15-19 years age groups. But it was noticed from the age group of 20-24 years and onwards that the female literacy rate got sharply declined as compared to male literacy rate. In the context of education the females were neglected owing to socio-cultural practices. Most of the parents thought that the female children do not need to be educated rather their prime duty is to serve the family and also have to learn and practice necessary household works because after marriage they have to do it. Therefore, the illiteracy rate was high among the females.

Table 4.9: Educational Standard of the Male and Female

Sex	Educational standard				
	I-V	V-VIII	IX-X	XI-XII	Total
Male	186 60.59	103 33.55	14 4.56	4 1.30	307 100.00
Female	145 69.71	61 29.33	1 0.48	1 0.48	208 100.00
Total	331 64.27	164 31.84	15 2.91	5 0.98	515 100.00

(Excluded 0-6 age group)

The data reveals the fact that among the total 515 (100%) literate people, major percentage of the people had the education up to primary level and around 32 per cent had V-VIII standard whereas very few had more than that. After class VIII the representation of the women was very poor than the male. All over, the educational scenario of the studied people was very unpleasant. So many factors were responsible for the backwardness of their education which may be discussed later.

Working and Non Working Population: The total population in the studied area was divided into two different categories viz. working force and non working force.

Table 4.10: Working and Non Working Population

Sex	Working force (primary and secondary)	Non working force	Total
Male	524 90.97	52 9.03	576 100.00
Female	487 91.03	48 8.97	535 100.00
Total	1011 91.00	100 9.00	1111 100.00

(Excluded 0-4 years; male- 57, female- 70 and total 127)

It is the fact that among the studied people around 91 per cent of male and female were engaged in various works though it was slightly high among the female (Table 4.10).

Occupational Status of the People: The people in the studied area were involved in various works. The details about their working involvement are mentioned below-

Table 4.11: Occupation of the Male and Female

Sex	Type of work (Primary Occupation)						Type of work (Secondary Occupation)		
	Stone based work	Day labour	Maid servant	Driver	Others	Total	Stone based work	Others	Total
Male	489 93.32	20 3.82	-	3 0.57	12 2.29	524 100.00	12 80.00	3 20.00	15 100.00
Female	475 97.54	2 0.41	6 1.23	-	4 0.82	487 100.00	6 100.00	-	6 100.00
Total	964 95.35	22 2.18	6 0.59	3 0.30	16 1.58	1011 100.00	18 85.71	3 14.29	21 100.00

(Excluded 0-4 years age group population)

In respect to primary occupation, it was found that out of 1011 (100%) working population, 95.35 per cent peoples were involved in stone based occupation followed by day labour, others, maid servant and driver. Among the total number of male working population, mostly were engaged in stone based job while very few were involved in day labour, other various occupations and driver. On the contrary, among the total number of female working population, around 98 per cent female members were engaged in stone based job and the rest females were attached to maid servant, other various occupations and day labour work. However, as secondary occupation, only 21 (100%) persons were also engaged in various works. Among them majority were engaged in stone based work while very few were engaged in other various occupations. The mentionable matter was that as secondary occupation, all the working females were involved in stone based work only (Table 4.11).

Monthly Income: To get their actual fiscal state the monthly income of the studied families was divided into five categories like up to Rs. 1000/-, Rs. 1001/- to Rs. 2000/-, Rs. 3001/- to Rs. 4000/- and Rs. 4001/- and above.

Table 4.12: Distribution of Studied Families on the basis of Monthly Income (including the income of working children)

Child workers' family	Monthly income (in Rs.)					
	Up to 1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-4000	4001 & above	Total
No. of family	7 2.80	112 44.80	105 42.00	20 8.00	6 2.40	250 100.00

Among the studied families, around 90 per cent families had the monthly income not more than Rs. 3000/-. On the other hand, around 10 per cent families could earn more than Rs. 3000/- and above per month (Table 4.12). Several factors are responsible behind this economic situation as well as income. The details regarding their economy may be discussed later.

Demography is the science of people. It is a statistical and mathematical study of the size, composition, spatial distribution of human population, and of changes over time in these aspects through the operation of the five processes of fertility, mortality, marriage, migration and social mobility mainly. However, the size and shape of population, aspects related to birth rate and death rate, composition and density of population, socio-economic problems, quantitative and qualitative problems of population may be known very simply. By demography of any particular group of people we may get an idea at a glance related to above mentioned issues.

Through this demographic discussion of the present studied people, we could know the details about the people, their number, age and sex wise distribution, sex ratio, family size, family type, migration, caste, community and ethnic composition, religion, language, marital status, educational status as well as situation, economy etc. The studied people were Hindu, Muslims and Santal tribe. Among the Hindus there were nine castes and among them there were upper caste, OBCs and SCs. Apart from these, the only scheduled tribe, Santals also lived there. However, among the total studied people the Rajbanshis were numerically dominant (93.86%) and Brahmin, Kshatriya, Teli, Biswakarma, Santal each of them had one family. There were Bengali, Hindi and Nepali speaking people. There were total 250 families but the number of family members was varied between 1 and 10 but most of their family size varied between 4 and 5 persons and their average family size was 5. Three types of family were there but most of them were nuclear families.

The total studied population was 1238 where the males were quite more than the females and the sex ration was not equal (956). Further the age wise distribution of population was always not equal. Around 47 per cent people belonged to the age group of 0-14

years. The males were highest in the age group of 10-14 years and the females were highest in the age group of 5-9 years. It is the fact, that after 64 years the number of people both male and female got reduced (2.58%) tremendously. Regarding marital status around 45 per cent of the studied people were married and it was started for the male from 20-24 years age group and for the female it was quite early i.e. from 15-19 years age group. Apart from these, certain numbers of widow, widower and separated women were there. In respect to education half of the people were literate and it was quite more among the males than the females. But most of their education was mainly confined in primary and secondary level and very few could cross this boundary whereas the participation of the females was very rare. The studied people came here and mostly (91%) engaged themselves either primarily or secondarily in various works for survival. In this regards, mostly (95.35%) were engaged in stone based work. Apart from this, few of them worked as day labour, maid servant, driver and others. Though major section of the family members were engaged in various works but most of their (89.60%) monthly income was primarily confined up to Rs. 3000/- where the rest could earn more than that. Moreover, various aspects of the studied people i.e. their composition, age, sex, sex ratio, migration, family, marital status, education, economy, religion etc. as well as changes in various aspects have been known through this above discussion and as whole the changes and other aspects regarding this community highlighted clearly.

However, it may be summarized that with the passage of time the vacated land of the Balasan River Basin has been changed into a permanent village by the migrated people who belonged to various caste/communities/ethnic groups, linguistic groups and religious groups too came from various places and are residing there permanently. For maintaining their livelihood they engaged themselves in various works and mostly in stone based work. The occupational as well as earnings influences may be observed on their family type, size and life span too. Among the ever married people there was married, widow, widower and separated women also. The educational institution, shops and some other infrastructural facilities are available a little bit in this village and its number is increasing regularly. Therefore, it may be said that they are living with various groups of people and various aspects of their life are continuously being changed.

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