

CHAPTER - II

SOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

Section 2.1 : Rasuwa-Nuwakot Planning Districts:

The Rasuwa/Nuwakot Integrated Rural Development Project covers two districts, namely Rasuwa and Nuwakot. They are among the eight districts of the Bagmati Zone, and fall under the Central Development Region of Nepal. Dhading, Kathmandu and Sindhupalchok are their neighbouring districts. Important places of the districts are Ganesh Himal, Gosai Kund, Langtang National Park of Rasuwa, Trishuli Hydro Electric Project and Devighat Hydel projects of Nuwakot. The Nuwakot district has a special historical importance, for the historical leader of the Shah dynasty (present dynasty) Prithivi Narayan Saha, was able to annex Kathmandu Valley from here and thus establish the kingdom of Nepal.

These districts are situated between the Himalayan ranges in the north and the Mahabharat ranges in the south. Generally these parts are rainfed under the influence of the south west monsoon.

The Rasuwa district covering 1544 sq. km. lies in the extreme north, having Tibet (China) as its boundary in the east, west and north. It lies between the latitudes $27^{\circ}2'$ - $27^{\circ}23'$ and Longitude $85^{\circ}1'$ - $85^{\circ}45'$. The districts elevation rises from 905 metres to 7408 m, thus, having some of the country's important peaks such as Ganesh Himal (7408 m) Gosikunds (5122m) and Langtang (7247m). Its climate ranges from subtropical, temperate to alpine, with temperature 22.6°C as maximum and 11.5°C as minimum; and average annual rainfall of 944.3 mm.

The other district Nuwakot has an area of 1121 sq. km. Its boundary stretches upto Rasuwa and other districts in the north and west. And in the south/west it touches Kathamandu district (capital of Nepal). Nuwakot lies between latitudes $27^{\circ}48'$ - $28^{\circ}06'$ and longitudes $84^{\circ}58'$ - $85^{\circ}30'$. It rises from an altitude of 518m to 4876 meters, and has sub-tropical and mid-temperate climate. The average temperature is 26.5°C maximum and 16.3°C minimum with an average annual rainfall of 1431.00 mm.

Comparing the two districts the prospect of development regarding agricultural land is greater in Nuwakot. For it has cultivable land of about 69445 hectares, but Rasuwa has only 1500 hectares. However Rasuwa has rich pasture land, where animal husbandry can flourish. Further with its beautiful peaks and lakes it has become a place of attraction for tourist as well as for pilgrims. The Alpine climate has made it a wild life sanctuary for scarce animals like panda, himal deer, snow bear etc. The government has therefore established Langtang Wild Life National Park for the protection of forest and its flora and fauna, covering an area of 1709.40 hectares.

Even with scarce arable land crops like paddy, maize, wheat, millet and potato are grown on terrace lands, and river banks. However maize and millet are the principal crops. Nuwakot covers valleys and hills, hence the main crops are paddy and wheat grown on low lands; while other crops are maize, millet, black dal grown on slopes.

The snow fed rivers such as Bhote Koshi Trisule of Rasuwa and Likhu, Tadi and Trisule of Nuwakot are good sources of irrigation and

hydro power, but they have been harnessed only negligibly. Electricity facility is available only in Dunché the headquarter of Rasuwa and Trisuli/Bidur the headquarter of Nuwakot. The recent completion of Devighat power project has helped electrification of some rural areas of Nuwakot.

Besides agriculture the other prospects of development are cottage and small scale industries. Cottage industries such as woolen, bambo products and ghee were practised traditionally. Government aid is provided to increase the production of these goods. Cheese and cotton textile industries have also been established by government support in both districts. A lead and zinc factory located at Ganesh Himal has started production recently, enhancing the importance of Rasuwa.

The infrastructure created for the development of these districts is limited. There is only one motorway from Trishule-Dhunché - Somsang of 114 km. in Rasuwa, which has facilitated mini bus service twice a day for this remote area. There exists altogether about 124 km mile tracks connecting some important places of Rasuwa. There is also an airway for small crafts in Langton (near Dhunché) connecting it with Kathamandu. The communication facility consists of a district post office, sub-post office and ten additional post offices. Tele communication service is available from Dhunché - Kathamandu - Nuwakot.

The institutional credit is provided from Agricultural Bank Nepal (ADB/N) and Commercial Bank of Dhunché, and from six Co-operatives known as Sajha established in different village panchayats. The

membership of Sajha was 4321 with share capital of NRS 101432, uptill 1985.

Comparatively, Nuwakot district has more infrastructure facility than Rasuwa. The district headquarter is connected with Kathamandu (Capital) by regular bus service which takes about four hours to reach. One can travel on trucks to the interior parts, to the important rice belts formed by Likhu and Tadi rivers via Chaugadha village panchayat. The communication service provided here consists of a district Post Office, 3 sub-post offices and 19 additional post offices. Telecommunication service is also available from Bidur (headquarter) to all the districts and Zones of the kingdom.

The district enjoys institutional credit facilities from ADB/N and Commercial Bank of Bidur and from 13 Co-operatives. The membership of Sajha was 8715 and its share capital was NRS 136554 uptill 1985¹.

The demographic picture of Rasuwa shows total population of 30,241 with male female ratio of 1:08. And density 19.6 per sq. kms. The total number of household comprised 5,791 with an average family size of 5.2. While Nuwakot has a total population of 202976 with male-female ratio of 1:06. And density of 181.1 per sq. kms. The total number of households constituted 37,137 with an average family size of 5.5. In both districts the main occupations are agriculture, forestry and fishery the percentage being nearly the same as 96.07 (Rasuwa) 96.92 (Nuwakot). The inhabitants of these districts come from various racial trends. The Brahmins and Chhatris who constitute about 31% of families are the socially, economically and politically

dominant castes. Tamangs who are the original inhabitants of the area are still the major ethnic group constituting of about 44% of families, living in clustered villages at higher altitudes. The other ethnic groups are Newars, Gurungs, Ghailes, Magars. The service caste (Kami, Damai, Sariki) as blacksmiths, Tailors and cobblers each constituting about 6% of families (Final Report 1983)². The household settlement is found to live between elevation of 350m and 3500m. Generally the Hindu villages have settlements which are dispersed. Whereas in the higher altitude Buddhist villages are nucleated³.

Regarding health services, there is one hospital (Dhunchhe) and six health posts in Rasuwa. Nuwakot has one hospital (Bidur) and ten health posts. The tap drinking water scheme benefits about 12500 population of Rasuwa and about 21312 population of Nuwakot. The education facility provided uptill 1981 was: (a) primary schools 38 in Rasuwa and 176 in Nuwakot (b) Lower Secondary 8 in Rasuwa and 46 in Nuwakot (c) Secondary 2 in Rasuwa and 13 in Nuwakot. The total annual enrolment for that specific year was 2893 for Rasuwa and 22580 for Nuwakot. And the total number of teachers was 143 in Rasuwa and 648 in Nuwakot. Thus the district, Rasuwa gets comparatively less benefits of infrastructural development than Nuwakot.

2.2 Sagarmatha Planning Districts:

The other project of our study is the Sagarmatha IRDP. Out of six districts of Sagarmatha zone, the project covers three southern districts namely Siraha, Saptari and Udaipur. The zone comes under the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. Siraha and Saptari districts are situated in southern tarai region, touching the boundary of Bihar

(India) in the south, Udaipur in the north, Dhanusha in the west and Sunsari districts in the east. These two districts have extensive flat alluvial land made up by the Koshi river and its tributaries.

The altitude of Siraha rises from 61 metres to 305 metres and lies between the latitude $26^{\circ}25'$ - $26^{\circ}47'$ and longitude $86^{\circ}28'$ - $87^{\circ}7'$. While the elevation of Saptari begins from 78 metres and rises upto 895 m. and lies between the latitudes $26^{\circ}33'$ - $26^{\circ}55'$ and longitude $80^{\circ}6'$ - $86^{\circ}27'$.

The third district Udaipur is totally different. It is the only district of the zone which is made up of hills and inner tarai. It is situated between the Mahabharat and Churia range (both run parallel to each other from east to west). Hence the altitude is higher, rising from 360m to 2310 metres. It lies between the latitudes $26^{\circ}39'$ - $27^{\circ}11'$ and longitudes $86^{\circ}9'$ - $87^{\circ}10'$.

All the three districts have tropical and sub-tropical climate. The maximum temperature being 36.0°C and minimum 17.0°C in Siraha and 29.8°C maximum, 14.3°C minimum in Saptari. The average rainfall of Saptari is highest i.e. 1717.5 mm than Siraha's 1442 mm. The temperature of Udaipur ranges from maximum 38.0°C to minimum 16.0°C with an annual average rainfall of 1668.6 mm.

The geographical area covered by the three districts is 1363 sq. km. , 1188 sq. km. and 2063 sq. km, of Saptari, Siraha and Udaipur respectively. The district headquarters of Siraha, Saptari and Udaipur are Siraha Bazar, Rajbiraj and Gaighat respectively.

Prospects of agricultural development show that in all these districts there is ample scope for increasing production. The area under cultivation is estimated as 10855 hectare of Saptari, 95637 hectares of Siraha and 69,968 hectares of Udaipur. The immense source of power and irrigation of the three districts are the rivers as Koshi, Kamala, Trijuga and Tawa. These are virtually untapped. Thus, despite the potentiality of land and water production is low.

Varied crops are grown, but the poor irrigation facility has resulted in mainly mono-culture pattern of agriculture i.e. paddy in the flat lands and maize in the hills. Other secondary crops are pulses, oil seeds, wheat, sugar cane, jute and tobacco⁴. However, comparative to the Rasuwa/Nuwakot project, more irrigation facility is available here. The district records enlist the irrigated areas in Siraha as 27,606 hec., Saptari 13092 hec. and Udaipur 2726 hec.

Electricity facility is available only in Lahan (Town Panchayat) Siraha Bazar and Rajbiraj and that too from India.

Besides cultivation, the prospects for animal husbandry is also good. There are very few households who do not rear domestic animals. But their productivity is very low resulting "these assets into painful but unavoidable burden to the farmers"⁵.

Physical barriers for establishing transport network in the two tarai districts does not exist. Hence the scope for industrial development is good. Industries based on agricultural and forest production, bricks and tiles, bidi, cotton textile are flourishing. In Siraha besides these there is one Khandsari sugar mill and a distillery factory⁶. In Udaipur, though some physical constrains

exists agro-based and forest-based industries are established but in limited number. One important addition is the establishment of biggest cement factory nearing completion in Udaipur.

The infrastructure facility to develop these area depict a better conditions compared to Rasuwa/Nuwakot (R/N) project. In all the three districts there ~~are~~ regular bus service twice or thrice daily to many important places of the kingdom. The Mahendra Raj Marg which forms a portion of Siraha and Saptari has aided to develop these districts. Many village panchayats have cart routes connecting this road. Important places of these districts also have connection to this road. Besides roads, there is Kacha airway for Twinatter (18 persons) in Rajbiraj providing service from Kathamandu-Rajbiraj, Morang and Khotang.

The communication facility in Siraha, Saptari and Udaipur is the telephone connection located in Siraha bazar and Rajbiraj, Wireless connection from here exists, for major parts of the country. But Udaipur has wireless connection with the districts of Sagarmatha only. In the three districts a post office with money order and savings bank facilities are provided. In addition Siraha has 4 Sub-Post Offices and 10 additional Post Offices, while Saptari has 4 Sub-Post Office and 14 additional post offices and Udaipur has 3 such post offices and 9 additional post offices.

The credit institutions serving Siraha, are Agriculture Development Banks (ADB/N) installed in two places, and the Commercial Banks established in three places. There are 23 Co-operatives (Sajha) with membership of 39,999 and share capital NRs 39,25917. Saptari has ADB/N in one place, Commercial Banks in two places and Nepal Industrial

Corporation in one place⁷. The Sajhas are 23 in number with 56,613 membership and share capital of NRs 80,49092. While Udaipur has ADB/N and Commercial Banks in two places. Sajhas that are serving these areas are 11 in number with share capital of NR 12,58107 and membership of 19155.

Besides these institutions, supporting services as Agriculture Research Farm and Extension, Animal Husbandry development and veterinary services and marketing services are available in all the three district headquarters.

The major exports of Udaipur are paddy, jute, maize, potato, oranges, ghee and woolen materials. Its important trade centres are Katari, Baltar and Gaighat. Siraha exports items as rice, pulses, tobacco, oil seeds, herbs, mango and animal products. The trade centres are Lahan, Siraha bazar, Madda, Sukhipur and Bhawanipur. Saptari exports buffaloes, goats' skins, rice, timber, mango and litchi. The trade centres are Rajbiraj, Kalyanpur and Kanchapur. Governments attempt to develop fishery has shown good results. Sirahas and Saptari are noted to have captured also the Indian fish market. The Rajbiraj fishery development centre of Saptari provides services in 15.76 hectares.

The total population of Siraha is 375358, with male female ratios of 1:08 and density per sq. km. as 316.0 and households comprised of 68,644. Saptari has a total population of 379,055 with male female ratio of 1:06, density per sq. km. 2781.1 and total household numbered as 68,646. And Udaipur has 159,805 total population with male female ratio as 1:02 density per sq. km. 77.5 and total households as 27,457.

The inhabitants of Siraha and Saptari are mainly of the Aryan race like Yadavs, Rajput, Kayastha, Sudies etc. While in Udaipur the inhabitants are a mixture of Mongolian and Aryan. Maithali, Tamangs, Danwar, Sunwar, Sherpa Gurung are main inhabitants. Besides the Hindus and Buddhists the Muslims also are the inhabitants of these districts.

The social welfare conditions prevailing in Siraha are two hospitals and one health post. In Saptari there is one hospital, two health posts and two Ayurvedic centres. In Udaipur there is one hospital and one health centre. The population benefiting from tap drinking water is 9700 in Udaipur, 7830 in Saptari and 38300 in Siraha.

The education facility existing is as such total number of schools in Siraha is 241, in Saptari 269 and 149 in Udaipur. The total students annual enrolment was 27,067 in Siraha with teachers numbering 761. In Saptari students enrolment was 31,082 and teachers 940. In Udaipur it was 14559 and teachers 525. In addition Siraha has one campus with 202 students and 8 lecturers, Saptari has one campus with 560 students and 30 lecturers and Udaipur has 2 campuses with 409 students and 34 lecturers.

2.3 An Emperical Survey of the Village Panchayats.

The village panchayats with sub-division of nine wards is the lowest and most important local level political administrative units. "Villages imply clustered rural settlement which have a considerable degree of social solidarity and self-rule tradionally exercised by

a group of elders called their Panchayat. Today, each village panchayat has typically 10-20 settlement but the range varies from 1 to 40 or 50⁸.

Ramche and Daibung are the two village panchayats (V.P) among the 18 Village Panchayats of Rasuwa district. While Chengadha and Ganesthan are among the 62 village panchayat of Nuwakot district.

The main demarcation of the two village panchayats of Rasuwa is the, Trisule-Dhunchhe-Somdang road. Dhaibung lies on the east of this road and Ramche on the west. While the demarcation of the Nuwakot village panchayats is the Tadi river. Ganesthan lies on the east bank of this river, north of Changadha, while Changadha lies on the west bank.

The elevation of Dhaibung is 1524m which is a ridge overlooking the Betrawati river. And the elevation of Ramche is 1790m and lies on a high span overlooking Trisule valley. The approximate elevation of Chaugadha is 487m (Pipalyto 560m (Gadkhar). It is situated at the confluence of Likhu and Tade river west and east⁹. Whereas Ganesthan the north of Changadha has higher elevation.

The 1981 census shows the total population of Dhaibung village panchayat as 2878 and household as 538. While Ramche's as 1357 and its household 239¹⁰. In both the village panchayat the Tamang race predominates. Dhaibung inhabits Brahmin, Chhetry, Magars in large numbers, but Ramche provides a conspicuous case where other castes are absent. The total population of Chaugadha Village Panchayats is 4490 and households numbered 833, while that of Ganesthan is 5557 and household 1115¹¹. The predominant race in Chaugadha are the Rai,

Tamang and Magar followed by Chhetry and Brahmins. In Ganesthan the Chhetry, Brahmins are in majority followed by Tamang, Magars and Rai.

The main occupation of the inhabitants of Dhaibung is agriculture, supported by animal husbandry and cottage industries. The village panchayat source stated that about 50 households were engaged in making woolen carpets and garments. In Ramche Village panchayat agriculture, though being the major source of income is simultaneously supported by animal husbandry and potterage. There are 15 households engaged in cloth weaving, and about 95 persons are employed by the Bidur/Nuwakot village handicraft industry¹². In the two Nuwakot village panchayat agriculture, mainly cultivation of crops are the main occupation. Animal husbandry and agricultural labour and loading of grains are the secondary occupations.

In all the four village panchayats, four or five households ^{each} in panchayat are found engaged in traditional service occupations. All the four village panchayats are devoid of hat bazars. The household purchase is done in Trisule bazars and Dhunche bazars. Buyers of crops, animals and animal products come from Trisule and Kathamandu. And sellers also go frequently for better profit to Trisule bazars. Whatsoever there are 4 general shops (kerosene oil, salt, sugar, soap, etc.) and one small textile shop in Dhaibung. And also 2 tea shops and 2 inns. Ramche village panchayat has 6 general shops and one tea shop and 2 inns. The Chaugadha village panchayat has 6 general shops, one medicine and one cloth shops while Ganesthan has 2 general and one cloth shop. Both Village Panchayat, has 2 to 3 tea shops but no inns.

Except for Chaugadha Village panchayats all the other three village panchayats have poor infrastructure facilities. Dhaibung has about 20 km foot and horse trail. The distance from village panchayat to Trisule/Somdang road is about 10 km. Ramche Village Panchayat has about 3 to 4 km of foot trails and the distance from the second bus stop is about 20 km. Chaugadha has approximately 15 km. Kachha road. A rough road also connects the village panchayat (from Dhikure) upto Kabilas (10 km) on the Tadi Khola and also continues up the Likhu Khola (4 km) while in Ganesthan there is no roads, only about 4 km Kacha incomplete road exists upto Labdhu near Dhikure market.

The Chaugadha Village Panchayats enjoys the benefit of Agriculture Bank, Sajha, Agricultural input corporation, veterinary service, agriculture extension service and sub-post office. But Ganesthan and Ramche have no such benefit. Even Dhaibung gets the benefit of one health post and veterinary service only. Both Ramche and Chaugadha have their own panchayat office-cum-guest house. The tap drinking water facilities provided in these village panchayats are also very poor. About 200 households in Dhaibung and 75 of Ramche have tap water. While 2239 of the population of Chaugadha have this benefit. Ganesthan has incomplete tap water works, so no idea could be drawn, as to the benefit of such facilities¹³.

Altogether there is one secondary, two lower secondary and two primary schools in Dhaibung, while Ramche has only one primary school. In Chaugadha there is one secondary, one lower secondary and three primary schools, and Ganesthan has one lower secondary and two primary schools only.

2.3 Sagarmatha IRDP

In discussing the three pairs of Village Panchayats in the three districts of Sagarmatha project, we shall first take up the two pairs together of Siraha and Saptari districts. Since they largely represent similar physical and socio-economic conditions.

Sukhipur and Govindpur are the two panchayats among the 110 village panchayat of Siraha. While Kalyanpur and Khojpur village panchayat are among the 114 village panchayat of Saptari. From the headquarter Siraha bazar, Sukhipur lies approximately 12 km far and Govindpur 25 km. And from the co-ordinator's office ^(Lahan) Govindpur is about 10/15 km and Sukhipur 20 km. While Rajbiraj the headquarter of Saptari lies about 23 km far from Kalyanpur village panchayat and 26 km from Khojpur village panchayat. From the co-ordinator's office Kalyanpur is 15 km and Khojpur is 10 km.

From Kalyanpur and Khojpur the nearest Indian boarder can be reached within two hours through Rajbiraj and/or from Hunumannagar via bus service to Kunaule (India). The nearest big towns of India are Madhubani and Darbhanga. While from Sukhipur the nearest Indian boarder can be reached in about 3 to 4 hours walking distance. The nearest Indian town from Sukhipur is Jainagar. Govindpur has no such access.

The demarcation of the two Siraha panchayat is the Mahendra Raj Marga. Sukhipur lies south and Govindpur in the north of this road. The approximate distance from this road to Sukhipur would be 4 to 7 km and Govindpur 3 to 4 km. The difference between the Saptari village panchayat is, that this road runs between them. Comparatively larger part of Kalyanpur lies on the north side of this road compared to Khojpur.

The records of the district panchayats and village panchayats shows that Kalyanpur covers about 4124 bighas (1 bigha = 1.47 hec.) and Khojpur about 1180 bighas. Likewise Sukhipur has 2300 bigha land, and Govindpur has 1825 bighas. Both districts have extensive agriculture potentials but the negligible tapping of their respective water sources has resulted in dependancy on moonsoon rains. Therefore production is not upto the point.

Kalyanpur has about 2000 bighas of cultivable land but irrigation is available to only 200 bighas. Khojpur has about 1000 good land but irrigation is negligible. The perennial rivers as Khadgadha, and Lakayesary of Kalyanpur and Chapin of Khojpur have substantial capacity for irrigation. Kalyanpur village panchayat pradhan remarked that many applications had been forwarded to the irrigation department but no attention was paid to his pleas. Besides these rivers, there are 14 ponds in Kalyanpur and 5 in Khojpur, which are the sources of irrigation and fishery. The other sources of irrigation are hand pumps and wells for small areas which growing vegetables.

The important rivers of Sukhipur are Gagan and Pathara, and of Govindpur are Surray and Khute. The cultivable land is of about 2300 bighas of Sukhipur but only 500 bighas has good irrigation and 1100 bighas from monsoon irrigation. While only 60 bighas has good irrigation among the 1800 vighas of Govindpur and about 100 bighas more are irrigated from rain accumulated water. Sukhipur has about 15 ponds and Govindpur has 5 pons. One important lake of Govindpur is known as Manik daha which could be a good source for irrigation and also for drinking water for the panchayat and other nearby panchayats. But such silt has accumulated reducing the capacity of the lake.

Total population of Sukhipur is 7160, with male population of 3600 and female 3560, and households of about 1309. While Govindpur has 6690, households 1227 and male population of 3301 and female 3389 (1981). The Yadav, Kalwar and Tharu Chaudhury are the dominant caste in Sukhipur; while Yadav Koere and Sudi are dominant in Govindpur, Kalyanpur has total population of 7087, household 1179, with male population of 3539 and female 3548. Khojpur population comes upto 3221 with male 1626 and female 1595. It is the Tharu caste that dominate these two village panchayat. In all four village Panchayats the hill castes (Brahmins, Chhetry, Newar, Magars, Tamangs) and low caste (Harizan, Mochi, Dursat, Domes, Kame, Musher) form the minority caste. In Govindpur compared to other Village Panchayats the households of the hill groups are in greater numbers. Whereas muslim households are also found in minority in Kalyanpur and Khojpur village panchayats.

Farming is supplemented by animal husbandry, fisher and horticulture. Farm and non-farm labour also form the major occupation and engagements of these village panchayats. The 5 private farm nurseries of fruits and vegetables in Kalyanpur are famous. They are lucrative source of income for the farmers. Other engagements that attract attention to the large number of men and women folk (especially marginal farmers and labour class (with no assets) ^{is} felling illegal trees and selling them to Lahen and India border towns. The Kahair wood selling fetches high price, and is known to be encouraged by giving extra money as prizes to those who carry and bring more to the Indian market. The labour class of these village panchayat go

in search for work in road constructions and other works to the Indian boarder and towns as far as Sikkim. Cottage industries as Soap making, pottery, bamboo products, repairing and making farm implements household utensils and tailoring are also the source of income in these Village Panchayats but very few household were engaged in these works. The women folk and the low income groups earn their livelihood by making beaten rice, and puffed rice. Altogether there are six rice and flower mills, one oil mill and one wine distillary in Sukhipur. Govindpur has 2 rice and flour mills and one oil mill. While Kalyanpur has four rice and flour/oil mills, and 2 small bidi factories (cottage industry). Khojpur has no such mills.

In Govindpur, Sukhipur and Kalyanpur hat bazars are held twice a week, while in Khojpur only once. In Sukhipur and Kalyanpur the market is quiet organised and are held in sheds contributed by Integrated Rural Development project. The other two village Panchayat have no such markets. Sukhipur has a big baila hat (animal sale and purchase) held yearly, prolonging for a month. Buyers and sellers come from far and near and even from Indian borders. In all the Village Panchayat except Khojpur there are several consumer goods, cloths, medicine, shops. And tiffin, tea, wine shops etc situated on either side of the main road. Khojpur has only 3 tea/tiffin shops and one consumer goods shop.

From the Mahendra highway all these village panchayats have cart road connection, Sukhipur with a difference has a motorway with a regular daily bus service from Lahan.

Institutional facilities and line agency services have centered around Sukhipur and Kalyanpur. The line agencies and credit institutions are Agriculture Bank, Commercial Bank, Sajhas, Agriculture service centre, Health posts, Animal development and veterinary service, Additional Post Office, Police Chouki and Forest Chouki. Sukhipur has its own panchayat-cum-guest house. But other Panchayats do not have this facility.

The drinking water source of these village panchayats are wells, hand pumps, streams and rivers. Govindpur panchayat has the problem of pure drinking water during the monsoons.

Finally the education facility existing in Sukhipur are, one secondary, two lower secondary and 2 primary schools. But Govindpur has only one primary school. The other levels are availed from the neighbouring Bastipur village panchayat. In Kalyanpur there is only 2 primary schools and only one in Khojpur. Students of these village panchayats go to Lahan, Bastipur and Banarjulla (South of Khojpur) for the upper grades.

We shall now discuss the two village panchayat of Udaipur district. They are Katari and Risku village panchayat, among the 47 village panchayats of Udaipur. This district lies on the north of Siraha and Saptari. Katari and Risku are located on the east side of the district.

The demarcation of the two village panchayats is the Tawa river. On the north east bank lies Risku and on the south-west lies Katari. The distance between the two is about three km. but from Risku interior or last border it comes upto 10 km.

Both village panchayats represent the inner terai region, formed by the Mahabharat and Churia ranges. Hence these panchayats are made up of hills valleys and river basins. The altitude of Katari is 190 metres and Risku's falls approximately in between 190m to 250m¹⁴. These village panchayat lands are formed by the Tawa and Risku rivers, which join the Trijuga and Kamla rivers of the district. The two rivers Tawa and Kakura in Katari flows from the sou-east and north-west respectively. While the Risku and Baj~~n~~ath rivers, in Risku village panchayats flows south-west and north-east of the panchayat. These rivers are a blessing on one hand and a curse on the other. For they are source of irrigation as well as the cause of erosion of good farm land.

The inhabitants of these village panchayat are found growing different varieties of crops. However the principal crops are paddy, wheat, oil seeds, maize and millet.

After the eradication of malaria infested dense forest, Katari U.P. became an important market centre. Its comparatively good location with pleasant climate and fertile soil has made this place a small hub-bub. In establishing this centre, credit can be given to the private sector of the Nepalese Newer community coming from Kathamandu valley.

The reason for the development of this trade centre is because a big hat bazar is held twice a week. The people come from the mountainous areas as Sulokhumbu, Okhalohunga, Diktal, of Sagarmatha zones and Sindhuli of Janakpur zone, to purchase and sell in this bazar.

The population census 1981 shows that Katari has total 9529 population, male 4919 and female 4610 with households of 1594. Whereas Risku has 6707, male 3390, female 3317 and household of 1125. The inhabitants are a mixture of different races. From the mountains, Rai, Tamang, Magar have settled, Newers, Chhetry Brahmins have come from Kathamandu and other hill places. While muslims, and maithali language speaking people have come from the terai. The retired British and Indian army personnels have also been attracted and form the inhabitants of Katari. Hence it is noted that the land value of the market place has scored high, equivalent to the suburbs of Kathamandu valley. In Risku this is not the case. The majority are the inhabitants coming from the Danwar caste. They are one of the most backward class of Nepal. Their houses, apperarance, attitudes and life style look similar to the primitive age. Most of their good land is bought by the Brahmins, Chhetry, Ghalais etc thus these castes also form the households of Risku village panchayat.

The infrastructure created in these Village Panchayats are very negligible. However, Katari is in a better position. The district headquarter Gaighat is 42 km from Katari. And other places as Goder (32 km) Kophle (16 km) and Toksel ghat (29 km), Katari has good tracks connecting these places. The IRDP has constructed (27 km) a good motorway connecting Katari with the Mahendra Rajmorg at Mirchaya. The IRDP co-ordinator's office in Lahan is only about 3 hours journey from Katari. Another important link, with bus service facilities is the Kusaha Gaighat road of 25 km. At present (means after our field Survey period) there is regular bus services from Katari to Kathamandu, Janakpur and Gaighat, Risku village panchayat has no such road links.

There are about 70 permanent shops, selling different varieties of manufactured and cottage industry products. As cloth, ready-made garments, consumer goods, general store, utensils, medicine etc. all established on both side of the main road of Katari. The hat bazar is held on Monday and Friday are like big melas, with display of varieties of goods, animals, sweets, foods and merry makings. The mountain people come to sell ceterus fruits, tejpata (curry leaves) potatoes and potatoe seeds, ghee, herbs, woolen materials etc. They buy salt, kerosene oil, sugar and manufactured goods. The buyers and sellers of Katari are quite organised group and reap good profit from their business, than those who come from the mountain areas. Risku village panchayat has no such hat bazar or shops, just two three small general shops and one tea/tiffin shop. The households go to Katari for their purchase and sale. Petty business men come from the terai and go door to door to do business on the basis of barter system, in Risku.

Besides agriculture and animal husbandry as main occupation, small scale and cottage industries also provide employment to the households of both Village Panchayat. These industries are rice, flour and oil mills, one chocolate sweets factory and one bread factory. The Cottage Industries as bamboo products, baskets, rope, biri, and knitting are also other engagements in the panchayat. There are about 30 to 35 tailors, who have got permanent employment. In the market centre, instead of agriculture the main source of income is business. Except for the retired and present army service men, it is the business community who are well off. In Risku there are negligible households who owns a business. One other lucrative source of income

in both Village Panchayats is the making of wine and jad (local light intoxic beverage). About 30 to 40 households are engaged in Katari and about 20 in Risku.

In Katari there exists 5 tiffin/tea and 3 wine shops, and three hotels for food and lodging. But only one is of decent standard. While Risku has only 2 small tea shops.

The tap drinking water facility is enjoyed only by those households that are clustered in the Katari market place, i.e. about 2000 population have this benefit. The rest of the households drinking water source is river and wells in both village panchayats.

Katari has one high school including in it lower secondary and primary classes. And other 3 primary schools. Risku also has one high school including in it lower secondary and primary classes and additional one primary school.

The offices of line agencies as Commercial Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, Sajha, Development of Livestock and Veterinary service, Health Post, Sub-Post Office, Police Chowki are all located in Katari. These also cater the needs of the households of Risku. An intensive agricultural development programme is run by Rastriya Commercial Bank. This programme covers 3 and 4 number wards (village division of 9 wards) of Katari village panchayat and 1 and 8 number wards of Risku. The programme is introduced especially to help the households below the poverty line, by providing group loan and supportive services. Agriculture Bank recorded that 80% of loan is provided to small farmers, for inputs and animal husbandry, while the big farmers took loan for inputs and pump set. The Sajha society also

provided benefit in supplying inputs and consumer goods and storage facilities.

The detail scenario of the five districts covered by the R/N IRDP and Sagarmatha IRDP, and the respective five pairs of village panchayats reflects the authenticity for the introduction of IRDP in these places. The Base line study of R/N and Sagarmatha IRDP as well as the Appraisal Report of the respective IRDPs also substantiate the implementation of this programme covering the five districts.

Further if we simply compare only two factors such as increasing birth rate by 2.66% (Eastern Development Region) and 2.86 (Central Development Region) one one hand, and on the other the declining land ownership, sums up the necessity of IRDP in these parts of Nepal.

Table 2.1

PER CAPITA LAND HOLDING DISTRIBUTION

DISTRICTS	Per capita Land holdings (in hectare)	
	Year 1971	Year 1981
Rasuwa	0.08	0.05
Nuwakot	0.40	0.34
Siraha	0.31	0.25
Saptari	0.34	0.29
Udaipur	0.62	0.43

Source: Census Reports 1971-1981

The above table shows that land fragmentation is rapidly increasing.

Finally the components of the programme depicts the relevance to the situation, that rural problems necessitates multidimensional programmes and encompasses these issues and their interrelationship. "It is not simple G.N.P. and G.D.P. arithmetic. It is growth with equitable distribution and social justice. It is modernisation of life and economic development. But both of these cannot be achieved by simply transplantation of sophisticated technology to the rural setting. It requires simultaneous and multifaceted efforts to tackle!"¹⁵

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