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A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF VILLAGE KATHUR (GARHWAL)

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ABSTRACT

Since human beings are the main users of all the natural resources of any given area, the distribution and patterns of population and settlements is determined by the topography, climate and vegetation of the inhabited area. The study of population characteristics of the area consists of its sex ratio, age structure, cast structure, occupational structure and the state of the literacy of that area. The study of village kathur in the hill area of Pauri Garhwal was undertaken to describe the features of population at micro level and to highlight the problems faced by the villagers. The study tries to show that due to availability of good educational facilities and engagement of a good portion of the villagers in agriculture, small scale business and government jobs at nearby town of Pauri, there was less migration as compared to other villages. It was also because the population engaged in education, business and jobs also contributes in agriculture and related activities.

KEYWORDS: Population, Kathur, Garhwal

INTRODUCTION:-

The geography of population is a recent sprout from the trunk of science of geography in which various population attributes, i.e, biological, social, cultural and economics are studied (Chandna, 1980). Modern geographers consider the human population as a resource. In fact, resourcefulness of the physical element depends upon the capacity of inhabitants to utilize them for satisfying their needs (Zimmerman, 1964). It is rightly said that man is the planner and user of all resources and remains in the centre of all studies. The population of any region in its quality is the real resource. These

qualities refer to various structures like sex-ratio, age-structure, caste-structure, occupational-structure, literacy and urban-rural structure.

In the region like Garhwal Himalaya, Topography and climate exert more influence on the distribution and patterns of population and settlements.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: -

The present study is an attempt to highlight the features of population in a small hilly village of Garhwal at micro level. It also aims at studying the various problems faced by the villagers.

METHODOLOGY: -

This micro-level study is based on the primary data collected from door-to-door survey of the village, supported by a detailed questionnaire.

Study Area: - Kathur Village is situated at 30° 9' N. Lat. 80° 41' E. Long. At an elevation of 1350m. , 3km. away from Dandapani at Pauri-Devprayag Road. The village is surrounded by Khandyusain in the north and Srikon in the west. The western and southern boundaries are demarcated by Kadulgaoun and Kot Farwari respectively. It covers an area of 2-26 sq.km. It falls in the Patti Sitonsyun, Pauri tehsil of Garhwal district. It is necessarily a hilly area having all the qualities of mountain-topography. In view of the facilities, it stands at the top of the villages of Kot block.

This area is best known for its Pauranic legends, according to which in this very place, mother Seeta burried herself alive under the earth and to commemorate it, every year a mansar (fair) is organized here.

GROWTH OF POPULATION:- It refers to the positive change in population in a given time period. The total population of this village in 2014 is 495. in 2010, it was 475. the growth rate in 2010,2011,2012,2013 and 2014 has been 1.06,1.26,0.42,1.86 and 0.61 percent respectively.

Sex-ratio- It is interesting to note that this village has less sex-ratio as compared to other villages of the district. In 2010, it was 907 and it gradually went down in the following years and in 2014 it is 896 only. The reason is that agriculture is the main occupation of the population due to which male out migration is less. About 22% of the total population

is found in trade, commerce and service who are locally engaged. Educational facilities are adequate, resulting in the less migration of males.

Table 1. Population in Kathur Village (2014)

Year	No. of families	Total	Gen. Pop.		S.C.		Density	Sex Ratio	Literacy 0/0
			M	F	M	F			
2010	107	475	179	164	70	62	210	907	71.36
2011	109	481	180	166	72	63	213	908	71.73
2012	109	483	182	167	72	62	214	901	71.64
2013	111	492	186	169	74	63	218	892	72.56
2014	112	495	184	168	77	66	220	896	72.73

(Source: Field visit)

The above table makes it clear that the population during five years have increased, though as a slow pace. The density of population has also increased.

Age –Structure:- The age-structure of population is a good indicator of the quality of the population. In the village most of the population is found in the 30-45 age-group and least in 0-15 years.

Caste-Structure:- There are 112 families in the village of which 78 belong to Rajputs and 12 to Brahmins. Scheduled caste families (22) are in good number. Both the Rajputs and Brahmins constitute 71.11% of population and rest 28.89% by S.C population. The Brahmins have many sub-castes like Gairola, Dobhal, Baluni and Rajputs are sub-divided into Negi, Rawat, Panwar and Shahu, while the sub-castes of s.c are Lohar, Mistry and Darjee.

Table 2. Age-Structure of population of Kathur (2014)

Age	0-15	15-30	30-45	45-60	Above 60	Total
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	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number	38	35	47	42	66	62	64	59	46	36	261	234

Literacy:- Literacy in any region is the best indicator of social development. At present, 85.7% literacy has been recorded in the village, which is quite satisfactory. As for only literates, 51.1% males and 48.8% females belong to this category, while 23.3% people are educated upto primary level, 33.8% upto J.H.S level, 20.0% upto Highschool, 15.8% upto intermediate, 4.4% upto graduation, and 2.5% upto postgraduation level.

Occupational Structure:- Occupational Structure of population denotes the participation of working population in different economic activities. In Kathur, 370 as much as 74.75% people are workers of which 35.76% are engaged in agriculture and allied activities, whereas, 5.45% are in trade and 16.16% in service go to Pauri, Ghurdauri and nearby central places, who return to the village in the evening and they also assist in agriculture on part time basic.

Main Problems:- At present, the village as compared to other villages of Kot block has better amenities but inadequate Medical and Health facilities need to be increased. Drinking water facility also need to be improved. Agro-based industries require to be established in and near the village.

Conclusion:- Despite many problems, village Kathur is best example from where very less migration has taken place due to availability of educational facilities and engagement of people in agriculture, trade and service. Nearness to Pauri town (the regional H.Q. of Garhwal Region) has also played a vital role in checking the migration from the village.

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