

Analysis of occupational structure in Barmer

^aKapil, ^bRani Singh

^aDepartment of Geography Baba Mastnath University, Asthal Bohar Rohtak (Haryana), India

^bProfessor Department of Geography Baba Mastnath University, Asthal Bohar Rohtak (Haryana), India

Abstract

The study of occupational structure of a population lets us understand the composition of its workforce. It enables social scientists to measure the development of that area and also helps in formulating future plans. This paper shows the distribution of workers in four different categories of economic activity in Rajasthan and Barmer district. It discusses about the main, marginal and non-workers and also draws a comparison between the working population of males and females in various sectors.

Introduction

The occupational structure of a place refers to the percentage of its workforce employed in various economic ventures. In other words, the number of the total working population used in agriculture and associated activities, and the number of them involved in the manufacturing and service sector can be identified from the occupational structure of any place.

Study area

Barmer district is a district in Rajasthan state in India. It is located in the western part of Rajasthan. Barmer is the third-largest district by area in Rajasthan and fifth largest in India. It covers an area of 28,372 km². It is bounded north th by the Jaisalmer district, the northeast district by the Jodhpur district, southeast by Jalore district and Pakistan in the west. It stretches between 24°37' 08.51" to 32' 27.50". The district is part of an arid climatic region. The district lies in the desert area; extreme heat in summer and cold in winter are experienced. Summer temperatures can rise to 51°C and fall near 0°C in winter. Luni is the longest river in the Barmer district. Rainfall in the district is deficient, as the mean annual precipitation is only 307.7mm. Most of the district comes under the Great Indian Desert. It is covered by desert sand and dunes.

Barmer district has 8 Tehsils, with which Gudhamalani Tehsil has the highest number of villages. Barmer district has 2460 villages. Out of them, 2452 villages are inhabited, and eight towns are inhabited. Barmer district consists of 93% rural and 7% urban population. According to the 2011 census, the total population of Barmer is 26,03,751; out of this, 13,69,022 are males, and 12,34,729 are females. The sex ratio of the Barmer district is 902. Out of the total population of Barmer, 24,21,914 people consist of the rural population, and 1,81,837 people comprise the urban population.

Objective

The paper's main objective is to study the occupational structure and economic condition in the Barmer district so that information about an area's economic, demographic and cultural characteristics can be obtained, which are essential elements in the economic development of a site.

Methodology

The study of the occupational structure of the population has been done on a tehsil basis in which all tehsils of the Barmer district have been included in the study area. The population figures have been taken as percentages to study the population's occupational structure; all these figures included in the analysis are according to the population census of 2011.

Meaning of some important terms used in the paper

Primary worker: A person who has worked for a significant part of the reference period (i.e. six months or more during the last year preceding the date of enumeration) in any economically productive activity is termed a 'Main worker'.

Marginal worker: A person who worked for three months or less but less than six months of the reference period (i.e. in the last year preceding the date of enumeration) in any economic activity is termed a 'Marginal worker'.

Non-worker: A person who has not worked at all in any economically productive activity during the reference period (i.e. in the last year preceding the date of enumeration) is termed a non-worker.

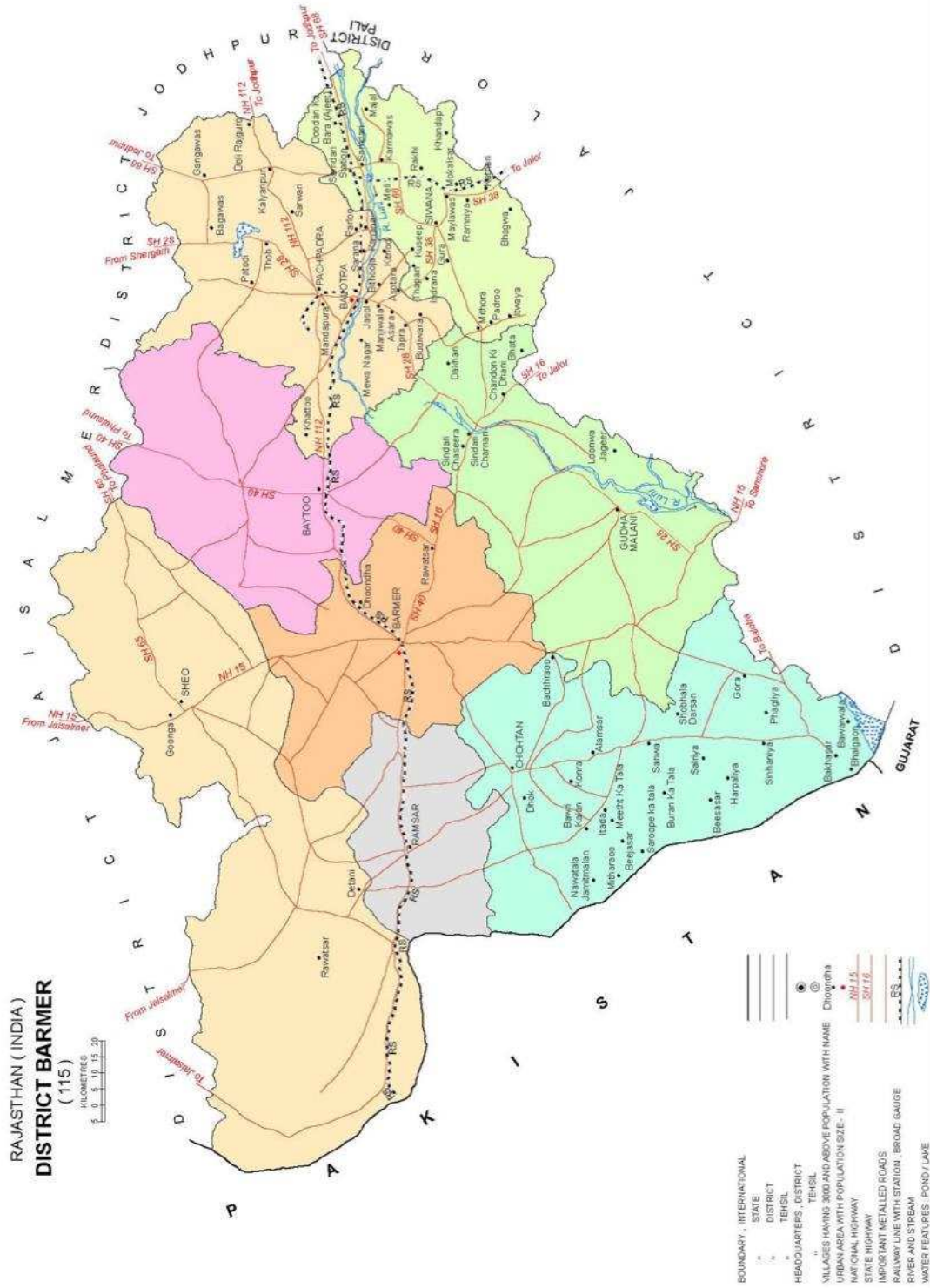


Figure 1- Map of Barmer District

Table 1 Number and percentage of main, marginal and non-workers in Barmer District

Workers and Non-Workers				
Total Workers (Main and Marginal)	Persons	2,98,86,255	43.6	12,02,482
	Males	1,82,97,076	51.47	6,96,240
	Females	1,15,89,179	35.12	5,06,242
A) Main Workers	Persons	2,10,57,968	30.72	7,41,367
	Males	1,52,43,537	42.88	5,26,455
	Females	58,14,431	17.62	2,14,912
B) Marginal Workers	Persons	88,28,287	12.88	4,61,115
	Males	30,53,539	8.59	1,69,785
	Females	57,74,748	17.5	2,91,330
C) Non- Workers	Persons	3,86,62,182	56.4	14,01,269
	Males	1,72,53,921	48.53	6,72,782
	Females	2,14,08,261	64.88	7,28,487

Table 1 Shows the number and percentage of primary workers, marginal workers and non-workers in the state (Rajasthan) and district Bikaner based on sex. The total working population of the district is 46.18%. The proportion of the male working population (50.86%) is higher than the female (41.00%). The total working population of females in urban areas of Barmer is 6.9% which is significantly lower than in other districts. At the same time, the total number of female working people in urban areas of Rajasthan is 12%. More females work as marginal workers (23.59%) compared to men(12.40%).

Table 2 Distribution of workers in four categories of economic activity in Rajasthan and Barmer district.

Important Statistics					
Category of Workers (Main & Marginal)		State		District	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
A) Cultivators	Persons	1,36,18,870	45.57	7,54,260	62.73
	Males	75,18,486	41.09	4,00,004	57.45
	Females	61,00,384	52.64	3,54,256	69.98
B) Agricultural labourers	Persons	49,39,664	16.53	1,32,696	11.04
	Males	21,32,669	11.66	62,514	8.98
	Females	28,06,995	24.22	70,182	13.86
C) Workers in the household industry	Persons	7,20,573	2.41	30,565	2.54
	Males	4,35,561	2.38	17,192	2.47
	Females	2,85,012	2.46	13,373	2.64
D) Other workers	Persons	1,06,07,148	35.49	2,84,961	23.70
	Males	82,10,360	44.87	2,16,530	31.10
	Females	23,96,788	20.68	68,431	13.52

Table 2 shows that out of the total working population (46.18%) in Barmer, 73.77% are engaged in agricultural activities, among which 62.73% are cultivators and 11.04% are agrarian labourers. Only 2.54% work in the household industry, and 23.70% are recorded as other workers. This highlights that the district has an agrarian economy as 73.77% are involved in agricultural activity, and only 26.24% are engaged in non-agricultural activities like household industries and other workers. The participation rate of women as cultivators and agricultural labourers in the primary sector is excellent compared to males. But it is vice-versa in the tertiary sector. The low participation of women in the tertiary sector indicates their low status in society, lack of education and limited employment opportunities.

Conclusion

The Barmer district population is more inclined towards agricultural activities. This is showing an increasing trend in the primary sector. The overall female participation rate could be more encouraging. Also, most women are only limited to agriculture and traditional rural industries.

References

Bose, A. (1967), Patterns of population change in India, Bombay. Census of India (2011): District census handbook, Rewari.

Census of India (2011); District census handbook, Barmer.

Indian Labour Statistics, Labour Bureau, Government of India, Shimla, India

Prasad, Rama (1992): Impact of Consolidation on land use, Printwell Jaipur.

Singh, Jasbir (1974-75): An Agricultural Atlas of India: A Geographical Analysis, Vishal Publications, Kurukshetra, (Haryana, India)

Yadav, Satyaveer (2007): कृषि पारिस्थितिकी एवं पर्यावरण नियोजन