

OCCUPATIONAL GAP BETWEEN SCHEDULED CASTES AND NON-SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION OF KAIMUR DISTRICT, BIHAR

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Abstract: *In India unemployment, poverty and landlessness or homelessness enforced scheduled caste population to work at lower wages and all these circumstances restrict the Scheduled caste population to live in the exploitative conditions. A large number of scheduled castes populations are engaged in unclean or menial hereditary occupation. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to analyze occupational status of Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Castes population with reference to main workforce, marginal workforce and work participation rate among them. For this study, secondary sources of data have been obtained from Census of India and District Census Handbook, 2011. The district of Kaimur has been selected as a study area because it constitutes a sizable proportion of Scheduled Caste (22.69 percent) population. There are eleven blocks in the district and each of the blocks has been preferred to fulfill the requirement of the study. Results of the study have been drawn based on simple percentage method. Choropleth maps have been used to show the occupational gap between them. The study reveals that occupational status of Scheduled Caste population in the main workforce is far behind than Non-Scheduled Castes but their condition is reversed in case of marginal workforce. The reason for such poor conditions may be due to lack of land, illiteracy, lack of skill. There should be need to initiate different skill development and to establish or implement governmental policies and programmes for the welfare of the deprived section of the society.*

Key words: SC, Non-SC, Main Workers, Marginal Workers, Work Participation Rate

Introduction

India is adverse country composed of different religious communities as well as many ethnic and linguistic groups. This nature of ethnicity and multi-religious composition of India form a very complex union of various cultural identities having different socio-cultural attributes. Hindu society is divided into several castes and sub-castes. Among them scheduled caste are placed at the lowest ladder of the society. This rigid nature of caste system creates discrimination among people within a religion and society. Scheduled castes have been suffering from various socio-economic and political disabilities in society since generations. Occupation is one of the important indicator to understand the nature and type of work done by a community and related socio-economic conditions. The occupational structure of a community is the product of various socio-spatial and economic factors (Ramotra, 2008). Structure of occupation among people provides a clear picture of their standard of living in a society. Around 70 percent of scheduled caste in the state of Bihar lives below poverty line and only 5-8 percent are having toilets and electricity facility (Sajjad, 2016).

In spite of several efforts made by the government for the improvement of this backward section of the society, they are still foodless, houseless, landless, jobless, segregated, dropped out, illiterate with less political participation. Majority of them are landless agricultural laborers, small and marginal farmers due to lack of resources and the discriminatory nature of the land market. Because of all these factors they get themselves engaged in traditional and low paying jobs such as skin and hide work, carrying carcasses, scavenging and leather work, rickshaw

pulling, pig-rearing, fishing, cutting hair, making shoes, washing clothes, basket and mat making. Scheduled caste constitutes a sizable proportion of India's population (about 16.6 percent) where 31.5 percent of SC population lies below poverty line while it is 25.7 percent in general population. According to NSSO report, 76.6 percent of the agricultural laborers in Bihar are landless. The condition of scheduled caste is worst in terms of landlessness as compare to another caste; around 23.8 percent of all households are fully landless. There is 85.97 percent people holds less than 1 hectare of land in general as compared to 94.27 percent of scheduled caste population in Kaimur district. This scenario is even worse in case of other land holdings category. Scheduled castes were inferior regarding land and size of land holdings as compared to non-scheduled castes (Chandidas, 1969). Low level of literacy among scheduled caste is another important reason for their low occupational status. Only 59.74 percent of scheduled caste is literate in Kaimur district as compared to 77.53 percent of Non-scheduled castes.

Objectives

1. To analyze occupational gap of main workers between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes population.
2. To find out the occupational gap in terms of marginal workers between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes Population in the region.
3. To explore work participation gaps among Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes population in the District.

Study Area

The present study is conducted in Kaimur district of Bihar, which is located between 24°0'13" N to 25°0'24" N latitude and 83°0'19"E to 83°0'51" E longitude. As per 2011 Census of India, Kaimur district ranks 32nd in terms of population (1,626,384) and 6th in terms of area (3,362 Sq. Km) in the state of Bihar. The district has only 4.03 percent urban population as compared to the state which is 11.29 percent. Agriculture has the largest share of employment in the district that is 52.55 percent. There are 23 sub-castes of scheduled caste in Bihar, among them chamar, constituted the maximum proportion of Scheduled Castes population (more than two-third of the total SC population). The literacy rate of the district is 69.34 percent of which 79.37 percent for male and 58.40 percent for female while the literacy rate of scheduled caste population in the study area is only 46.92 percent with 56.64 percent male literacy and 37.92 percent female literacy respectively. The work participation rate of SC is 34.18 percent while it is 31.43 percent among Non-Scheduled Castes. Most of the scheduled castes population is mainly engaged in marginal workforce that is 54.52 percent, while the share of Non-Scheduled Castes is 46 percent (table 3).

Database and Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary sources of data, collected from Census of India (2011) and District Statistical Handbook (2011). Block has been taken as a unit of study. Results of the study have been drawn on percentage basis. Occupational status of Non-Scheduled Castes has been calculated by reducing the occupation of Scheduled caste from the occupation of the total population in the respective worker's group. The occupational gap has been calculated by reducing the occupation of Non-Scheduled Castes from Scheduled Caste. Choropleth maps have been drawn to occupational gap among them.

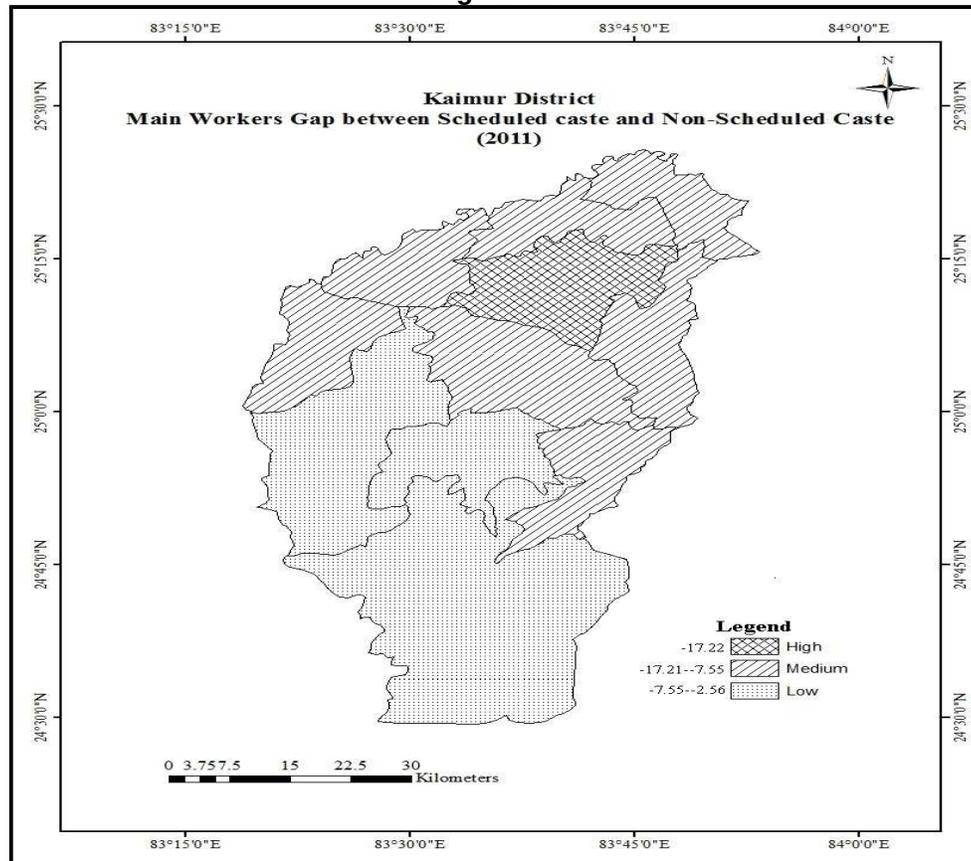
RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Main Worker Gap between Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Castes Population

Main workers are those who worked for six months or more during a year in any economically productive activity (Census of India). Table no. 3 reveals the gap of main work participation between Scheduled Caste and Non-Scheduled Castes population of the District. Mohania block (fig.2) has recorded the highest gap around -17.22 percent because of the large population concentration of scheduled caste like Chamar, Dusadh, and Musahar in the block. The seven blocks of the district, namely Chand (-12.34 percent), Durgawati (-10.53 percent), Kudra (-9.91 percent), Bhabua (-9.72 percent), Ramgarh (-9.52 percent), Nuaon (8.31 percent) and Rampur (-7.55 percent) showed a moderate gap in terms of main workers. It has also been observed that there are only three blocks like Adhaura (-2.56 percent), Chainpur (-3.66 percent) and

Bhagwanpur (-5.44 percent) where main worker gap among scheduled caste and Non-Scheduled Castes is least. There are many factors like small landholding or no land, illiteracy, lack of skill, and poverty of their poor participation in the main workforce. There is a high drop-out rate among the scheduled castes at primary, upper-primary and secondary level education in the district (Economic Survey, Government of Bihar, 2011).

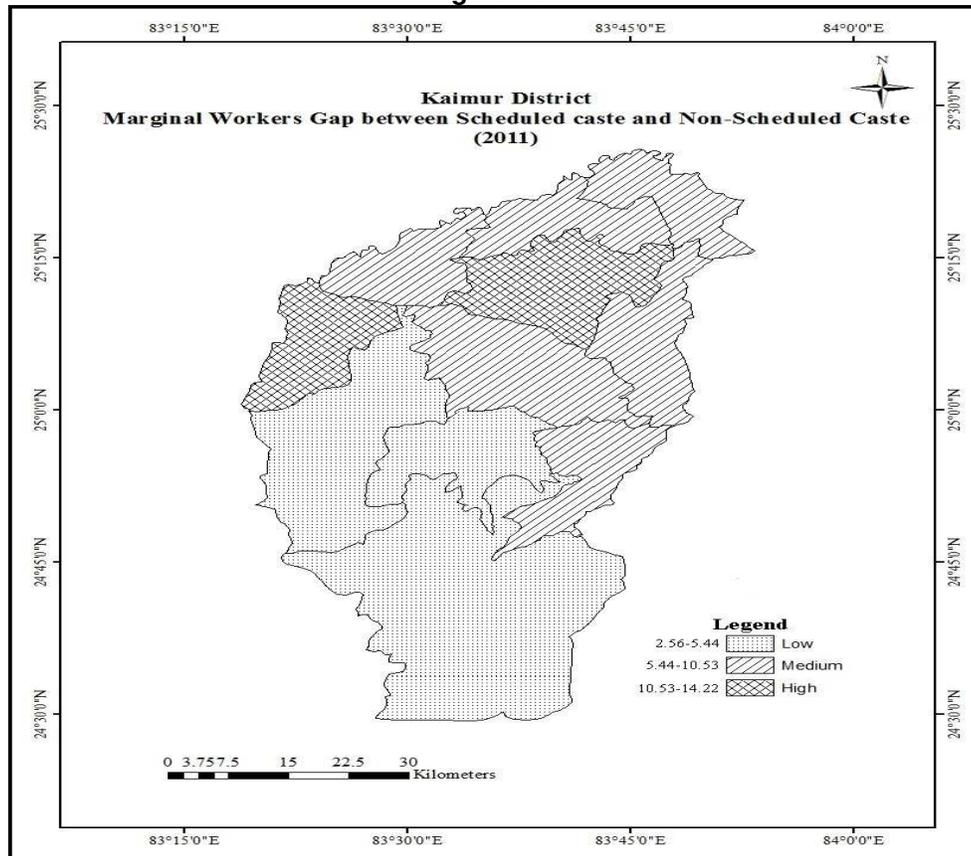
Figure: 01



Marginal Worker Gap between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes Population

Marginal Worker can be defined as people engaged in any economically productive work for only three months or less during a year. It means that they are unemployed in a major portion of the year. After analysis, it is found that scheduled castes are largely engaged in the marginal workforce as compare to Non-Scheduled Castes of the district (table 1, figure 2). There are two blocks such as Mohania (14.22 percent) and Chand (12.34 percent) shown the high participation of scheduled caste under marginal workforce. Six districts come under medium category in terms of marginal work participation rate like Durgawati (10.53 percent), Kudra (9.91 percent), Bhabua (9.72 percent), Ramgarh (9.52 percent), Nuaon (8.31 percent) and Rampur (-7.55 percent). Remaining three blocks namely, Bhagwanpur (5.44 percent), Chainpur (3.66 percent) and Adhaura (2.56 percent) shown a low gap in case of the marginal workforce between scheduled caste and Non-Scheduled Castes of the district. The main reason for the large participation of scheduled castes population in the marginal workforce is illiteracy, lack of skill, no land ownership, poverty, lack of proper implementation of governmental policies and programmes. There are around 26.08 percent of bonded laborers' during 2011-12 hail from Scheduled Castes, which indicates a disproportionately greater incidence of economic hardships on Scheduled castes (Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar, 2011-12).

Figure: 02



Work Participation Gap between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes Population

Work participation rate is to be defined as percentage of the total population engaged in any kind of economic productive work. It can be either in the category of main workforce or marginal workforce. It has been observed (table 3, figure 4) that work participation rate of scheduled caste is high in Chand (4.74 percent), Durgawati (4.16 percent) and Ramgarh (4.06 percent) blocks of the district. There are three blocks which come under medium category namely, Chainpur (3.27 percent), Mohania (3.23 percent) and Bhabua (2.69 percent). Remaining blocks like Adhaura (2.44 percent), Nuaon (2.25 percent), Bhagwanpur (1.83 percent), Kudra (1.74 percent) and Rampur (1.71 percent) have allowed gap in terms of work participation rate. Although, the data regarding work participation rate shows that scheduled castes are better than Non-Scheduled Castes population but they are largely engaged in marginal or menial kinds of occupation. Almost of all the scheduled caste population are doing work as safai karmachari and around 82.54 percent of the total sanitation workers. (Praxis Annual Report, 2011-12).

Male Work Participation Gap between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes Population

Male work participation gap among scheduled caste and Non-Scheduled Castes have been shown in table 1. The district has reported 44.29 percent scheduled caste while 44.48 percent among Non-Scheduled Castes male work participation rate. It is found that there are three blocks such as Adhaura (2.99 percent), Chand (1.28 percent) and Ramgarh (1.09 percent) recorded high gap, while another five blocks namely Chainpur (0.46 percent), Durgawati (0.19 percent), Bhagwanpur (0.06 percent), Rampur (0.03 percent) and Mohania (-0.06 percent) come under medium category in terms of male work participation gap. Three blocks lie in low category like Nuaon (-1.10 percent), Kudra (-0.75 percent) and Bhabua (-0.54 percent).

Figure: 03

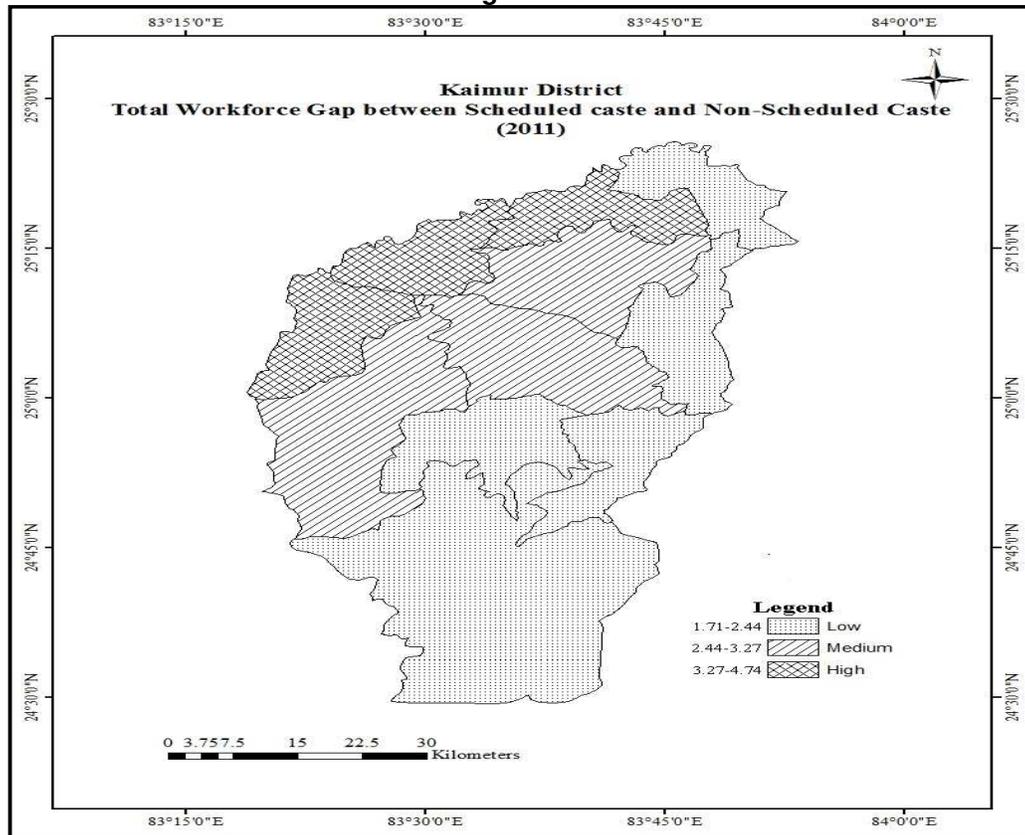


Figure: 04

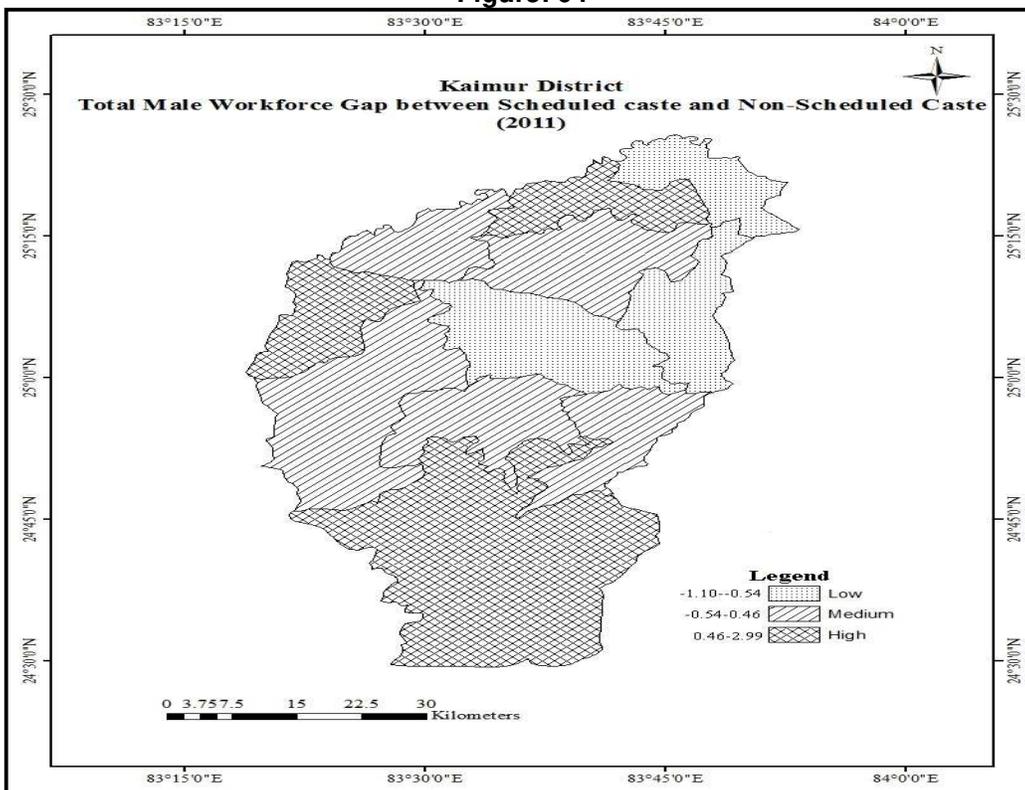


Table 01: Block wise Occupational Structure of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Non- Scheduled Caste (Non-Sc) population in Kaimur district, 2011 (in percentage)

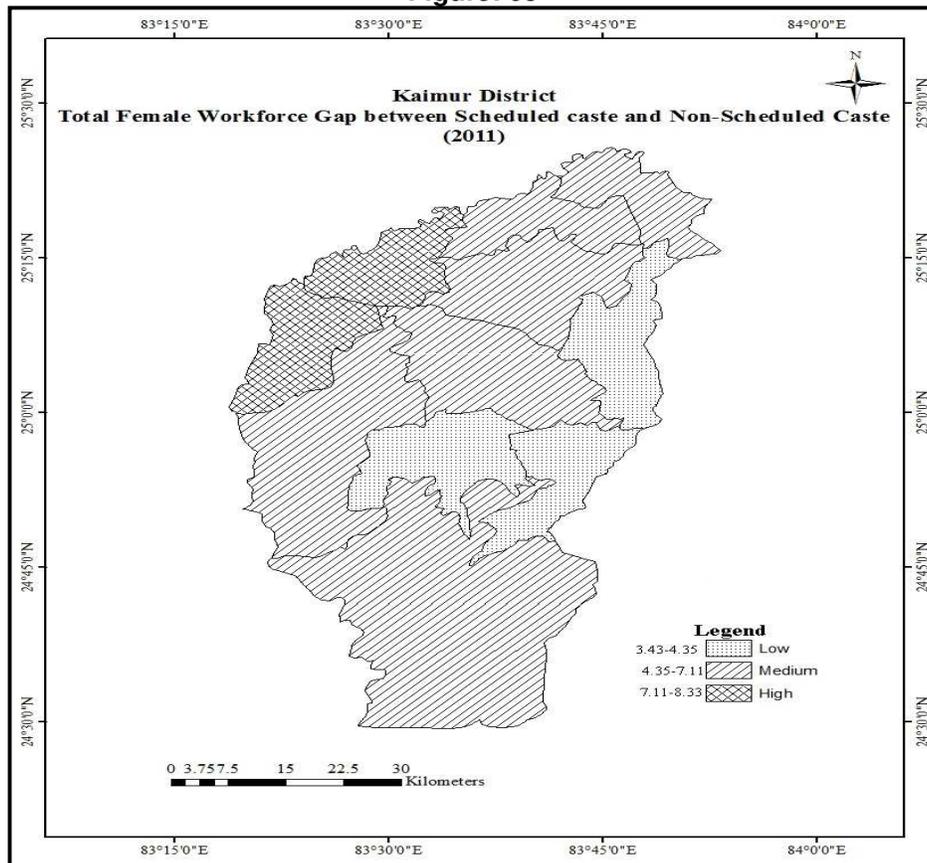
Blocks	Main workers			Marginal workers			Work Participation Rate			Male Work Participation Rate			Female Work Participation Rate		Gap
	SC	Non-Sc	Gap	SC	Non-Sc	Gap	SC	Non-Sc	Gap	SC	Non-Sc	Gap	SC	Non-Sc	
Ramgarh	38.75	48.27	-9.52	61.25	51.73	9.52	36.38	32.32	4.06	45.88	44.79	1.09	26.01	18.9	7.11
Nuaon	55.23	63.54	-8.31	44.77	36.46	8.31	35.07	32.83	2.25	43.91	45.01	-1.1	25.23	19.36	5.87
Kudra	49.14	59.05	-9.91	50.86	40.95	9.91	32.52	30.78	1.74	43.69	44.44	-0.75	20.14	15.78	4.35
Mohania	42.74	59.96	-17.22	57.26	43.04	14.22	32.01	28.78	3.23	43.15	43.21	-0.06	19.89	12.97	6.92
Durgawati	47.87	58.4	-10.53	52.13	41.6	10.53	32.89	28.73	4.16	43.37	43.18	0.19	21.53	13.28	8.25
Chand	46.05	58.39	-12.34	53.95	41.61	12.34	39.42	34.68	4.74	46.47	45.18	1.28	31.6	23.27	8.33
Chainpur	56.85	60.51	-3.66	43.15	39.49	3.66	37.62	34.35	3.27	45.57	45.12	0.46	29.16	22.88	6.28
Bhabua	42.53	52.25	-9.72	57.47	47.75	9.72	31.93	29.24	2.69	43.59	44.13	-0.54	19.17	12.99	6.19
Rampur	42.91	50.46	-7.55	57.09	49.54	7.55	33.2	31.48	1.71	43.92	43.89	0.03	21.52	18.09	3.43
Bhagwanpur	53.75	59.19	-5.44	46.25	40.81	5.44	33.51	31.68	1.83	44.83	44.77	0.06	21.27	17.51	3.76
Adhaura	24.41	26.97	-2.56	75.59	73.03	2.56	45.71	43.27	2.44	48.6	45.61	2.99	42.55	36.73	5.83
Total District	45.48	54.27	-8.8	54.52	46	8.52	34.18	31.43	2.75	44.29	44.48	-0.19	25.3	19.25	6.03

Source: Based on data obtained from District Census Handbook, Kaimur

Female Work Participation Gap between Scheduled castes and Non-Scheduled Castes Population

After analyzing, it is found that the work participation gap is far more among the females in comparison to the males of the district. It has been observed that Female Work Participation of the scheduled caste is 30.25 percent as compare to the Non-scheduled Caste population of the district which is 19.25 percent; it is mainly because of their large involvement in menial or daily wage works. By looking at the block wise study it found that there are only two blocks namely, Chand (8.33 percent) and Durgawati (8.25 percent) that recorded a high gap, while majority of blocks come under medium category such as Ramgarh (7.11 percent), Mohania (6.92 percent), Chainpur (6.28 percent), Bhabua (6.19 percent), Nauon (5.87 percent) and Adhaura (5.83 percent). Only three blocks like, Kudra (4.35 percent), Bhagwanpur (3.76 percent) and Rampur (3.43 percent) showed a low gap in the district. Scheduled castes female are largely engaged in agriculture activities as daily wage workers because they are more illiterate as compare to non-scheduled caste female (table 1)

Figure: 05



Conclusion and Suggestions

Overall analysis of the study shows that large proportions of scheduled castes are involved in marginal work force which signifies their poor standard of living than Non-Scheduled Castes in the district. In case of main workers, they are far less with 8.80 percent gap than Non-Scheduled Castes. This indicates that they are jobless during major portion of the year. The work participation gap of total, male and female among Scheduled castes and Non-Scheduled Castes are 2.75 percent, -0.19 percent and 6.03 percent respectively. Although, the data indicates that their (SCs) work participation rate is better than Non-Scheduled Castes as they (SC) are largely engaged in marginal and menial work force. The low proportion of scheduled castes population in main workforce may be due to the poverty, illiteracy as well as lack of awareness regarding reservation policies that's why they are mainly low skilled. Although, the government of India has adopted various schemes for their development and to eradicate poverty among them like Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), Small Farmer Development Programme (SFDP), Marginal

Farmers and Agricultural Laborers Programme (MFALP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), MGNREGA, JRY but yet they are not get benefitted from these schemes. There should be a need to provide special attentions regarding the enhancement of education, proper implementation of different skill development programs, governmental policies, reservations in job sectors, wage system, to make people aware about the mainstreaming of this backward section of the society.

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