



Journal of Mountain Research

(A Peer Reviewed Journal of Society for Himalayan Action Research and Development)

ISSN: 0974-3030

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF POPULATION IN GARHWAL REGION

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 10.06.2016

Revised: 19.09.2016

Accepted: 28.10.2016

Key words:

*Living, Work force,
Economics activities,
Topography*

Abstract

The participation ratio of various working categories is one of the best indicators of the existing state of employment opportunities for the population in a region. The geographical conditions have a direct bearing on the adoption and location of a particular occupation. The distribution and density of population have no significant value unless and until the population pressure is analyzed in the context of its economic aspect. The demographic, economic, social and environmental factors that are associated with the size and structure of population determine the proportion of workers in a region. The present paper in an attempt to analyses the workforce of Garhwal region in different activities in order to make an assessment of its human resources and identify the factors responsible for it.

INTRODUCTION:

Knowledge of population, which is simultaneously the productive force of the society and the consumer of the material and spiritual values created by this society requires the elucidation and analysis of the extremely complicated and varied ties and the dependences existing between the economy, the population and the nature and society itself. (Boyarsky, 1975). The greatest resource in the world is the man, who plays a vital role in the overall scheme of the development of the resources and brings in his uses the physical landscape. In the region like Garhwal, topography and climate exert more influence on the population features. Lack of adequate employment opportunities and industrial development, people from the hill areas are forced to migrate to big cities and urban centers to pick a suitable living, resulting in high sex ratio which indicates that the women are the backbone of the economy of the region.

STUDY AREA:

Garhwal region lies between 77° 33' 30" E to 80° 6' E. Long and 29° 5' N to 31° 26' 30" N Lat, with an area of 32449 Km². The region is boxed in by Kumaun region in the east, Himachal Pradesh in the west and Tibet (China) in the north. The southern boundary is demarcated by Uttar Pradesh. The region consists 7 districts, namely, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Terhi, Garhwal, Dehradun, Uttarkashi and Haridwar; 30 Tehsils, 54 Development blocks, 382 Nyaya Panchayats, 8658 villages and 50 urban centers. The region has varied topographical features from low river valleys to very high mountains and between these

extremes of elevation are high valleys, narrow plains, foothills, low mountains and plain areas. There are four main physiographic zones of Garhwal – Bhabar – Upper Ganga tract, Shiwalik, Himanchal and Himadri.

The climatic conditions of the region are most important element in their natural setting as they practically influence the entire mixture of physico-cultural phenomenon. Elevation, relief features, slope aspect, proximity of glaciers, forests etc., are the main controllers of climate in the region. Micro-climates are of great significance. The two main climatic characteristics of the Himalayan region are the seasonal rhythm of weather and the vertical zoning (Wadia, 1961). The region has abundant water resources in the form of rivers, rivulets, glaciers, lakes, springs and natural reservoirs. The Ganga and the Yamuna along with their major tributaries, like Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Mandakini, Nandakini, Birahi, Bhilangana, Nayar, Jalganga, Tons, Asan, Supin, Rupin, Pindar, Ramganga, etc. are the main rivers.

The region has long been known as the store house of immense forest wealth and embraces 67.28% of the total area. Major vegetation belts are: Sub Tropical, Temperate, Alpine and Sub-Alpine and Alpine Bush/meadows. Due to varied topography and climate, the forests are also varied in nature and sites. The soils of Garhwal vary as per aspect, vegetal cover, altitude and climate. In the most parts of the hills, the soil layer is thin. Soils of the Doon, plains and river valley are fertile.

EXPOSITION :

While analyzing the economic characteristics, a distinction has to be made between total population that inhabits an area and the man- power. Man- power consists of only those people who could participate in economic activities if there was a demand for them to do so. Thus, the man- power of a nation comprises of only that section of its population which could produce goods and services as per being demanded. This power is further divided into economically active population and economically inactive population, which are generally known as workers and non- workers respectively.

The magnitude of work-force in any area depends upon a variety of economic, demographic and social factors. Economically, type of economy, availability of employment opportunities and levels of income are important. The birth- rate and related age – structure, age at death, migration and average size of family are some demographic considerations. Socially, levels of literacy and educational status of women, age at marriage and general health standards are vital. At the same time, some geographic considerations are also to be borne in mind, such as topography, climate, soil, vegetation, availability of minerals as also the sites of settlements in a region.

The occupational structure of any society is related to a number of factors. The basic foundation is laid by nature and variety of physical resources. The degree of variety is also considered as an index of development. The occupation status of an individual or society is generally correlated with their social status. Of the total population of Garhwal Himalaya, 39.58 percent are the total workers engaged in various economic activities. The corresponding figures for Uttarakhand and India are 36.93 percent and 39.29 percent, respectively. Out of this, the respective figures for males and females are 45.40 and 33.08 percent.

Table 1 Working Population of Garhwal Himalaya (2011)

S. No	District	Total Workers			Main Workers			Marginal Workers		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Uttarkashi	45.99	48.24	43.60	84.62	87.73	80.96	15.38	12.27	19.04
2	Chamoli	43.33	43.32	43.37	60.18	67.04	53.44	39.81	32.96	46.56
3	Rudraprayag	44.40	44.46	44.35	73.51	79.74	67.92	26.49	20.26	32.08
4	Tehri Garhwal	43.89	45.18	42.66	68.25	79.41	56.99	31.75	20.59	43.01
5	Dehradun	31.20	48.00	12.25	84.26	87.79	68.63	15.74	12.31	31.37
6	Garhwal	38.79	40.83	36.95	63.67	72.22	55.15	36.33	27.78	44.85
7	Haridwar	29.51	47.81	8.42	83.11	88.06	50.68	16.68	11.94	49.32
8	Garhwal region	39.58	45.40	33.08	73.94	80.28	61.96	25.98	19.73	38.03

There is almost a similar nature among the hill districts as far as the workforce is concerned, because this figure rotates around 40.0 percent (+) but the plain areas have less than 40.0 percent workers. It is interesting to note that in the hill districts, the percentage of male workers is below 45 percent and that in other districts is more than this. In fact, in these areas females out number males in number as well as in participation because of males out migration. On the country, the female workers are below 25.0 percent in Dehradun and Haridwar districts. The picture will be more clear on analysis of the figures at block level (Table 2)

Table 2 Workers in Garhwal Himalaya (2011)

S.No	Block	Main workers (% to total population)	Agricultural workers	Family Industry	Marginal	Other Workers
1	Joshimath	46.3	66.8	8.0	14.22	12.18
2	Karanprayag	28.4	69.7	2.0	24.67	15.48
3	Dasholi	45.6	74.5	1.8	8.40	11.08
4	Ghat	44.4	82.7	1.0	11.82	8.59
5	Narainbagar	42.6	82.5	0.3	8.88	10.29
6	Gairsain	34.0	80.0	0.7	23.10	10.20
7	Tharali	43.7	74.6	0.2	9.23	15.18
8	Dewal	48.9	83.3	0.0	5.27	9.03
9	Pokhri	44.5	83.2	1.6	6.97	9.62
10	Okhimath	50.0	80.0	0.1	2.02	12.23
11	Agastyamuni	43.1	82.2	0.4	8.26	10.50
12	Jakholi	35.2	84.9	0.7	22.07	6.63
13	Kot	41.6	79.9	0.1	13.28	13.37
14	Kaljikhhal	38.5	79.6	0.1	14.83	12.86
15	Pauri	42.9	77.1	0.3	9.63	14.28
16	Pabou	38.6	80.5	0.3	13.04	11.64
17	Thalisain	37.5	83.5	0.1	15.51	9.89
18	Beeronkhal	31.6	78.5	0.3	20.79	12.34
19	Dwarikhhal	24.8	64.5	0.3	23.38	18.300
20	Dugadda	27.3	55.7	0.9	18.73	18.45
21	Jaiharikhhal	23.1	69.0	0.2	26.33	15.11
22	Ekeshwar	13.7	49.0	0.1	30.36	16.79

23	Rikhnikhal	31.1	80.2	0.1	8.02	11.81
24	Yamkeshwar	29.2	63.3	1.3	17.55	16.66
25	Nainidanda	26.5	75.8	0.8	12.26	11.24
26	Pokhra	32.2	81.2	0.1	9.66	9.44
27	Khirsu	41.9	74.7	0.2	4.76	19.32
28	Pratapnagar	37.8	82.9	0.3	17.56	7.01
29	Bhillangana	41.9	89.1	0.2	9.78	5.60
30	Jakhmidhar	41.6	87.4	0.2	11.20	6.19
31	Jaunpur	46.8	88.6	0.3	10.87	5.32
32	Thauldhar	39.1	78.6	0.2	13.54	9.31
33	Chamba	37.5	76.6	0.2	5.27	11.74
34	Narendra Nagar	36.9	74.1	0.3	17.90	8.20
35	Devprayag	40.6	86.4	0.5	9.07	7.65
36	Kirtinagar	38.0	80.5	0.3	12.24	9.69
37	Chakrata	47.5	57.0	0.5	13.31	4.93
38	Kalsi	43.5	79.6	0.4	16.52	7.70
39	Vikasnagar	34.8	66.7	1.3	13.29	11.65
40	Sahaspur	29.7	48.3	1.3	9.24	21.78
41	Raipur	30.6	26.3	1.7	4.77	31.95
42	Doiwala	33.8	52.4	0.7	7.67	22.24
43	Mori	54.4	87.0	1.2	6.94	4.10
44	Purola	48.1	81.8	0.3	9.031	7.04
45	Nayagaon	50.3	89.5	0.2	6.64	5.04
46	Dunda	47.6	84.0	1.6	4.98	8.61
47	Chinyalisaur	49.8	86.9	0.3	2.93	6.60
48	Bhatwari	45.5	68.6	0.2	5.50	18.36
49	Bhagwanpur	29.4	80.8	2.2	2.62	6.33
50	Roorkee	27.9	67.6	2.5	0.84	10.50
51	Narsan	29.2	72.8	2.2	3.26	9.12
52	Bhadrabad	30.0	75.0	1.2	1.94	7.77
53	Laksar	29.9	80.7	1.2	3.33	6.40
54	Khanpur	32.2	92.5	0.5	1.50	3.03

Table 2 is evident to show that there is almost a similarity among the blocks of hill districts and among the blocks of Dehradun and Haridwar district. There are, however, intra-district and inter-district variations in the workforce in various working categories.

Table 3 Occupational Structure of Garhwal (2011)

S. No	District	Cultivators			Agriculture Laborers			Household industries			Other		
		T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
1	Uttarkashi	75.09	61.85	90.67	1.90	1.92	1.88	1.42	1.48	1.35	21.57	34.73	6.03
2	Chamoli	64.35	46.22	82.17	1.38	1.39	1.37	1.82	1.74	1.89	32.43	50.62	14.56
3	Rudraprayag	75.78	55.25	94.22	0.53	0.56	0.50	0.91	1.54	0.35	22.76	42.62	4.92
4	Tehri	96.84	47.48	92.41	1.20	1.35	1.05	0.85	1.27	0.42	28.09	49.85	6.10
5	Dehradun	18.64	13.95	39.34	7.00	6.12	10.90	2.21	1.85	3.82	72.13	78.6	45.9
6	Garhwal	67.06	44.45	89.67	1.55	1.76	1.33	1.14	1.81	0.47	30.23	51.95	8.5
7	Haridwar	22.63	23.71	15.53	19.06	18.74	21.14	3.95	2.69	12.34	54.32	54.84	50.93

MAIN WORKERS:

Out of the total workforce available (39.58%), nearly 74 percent are the main workers in Garhwal, as compared 74.15% and 77.80% to Uttarakhand and India. This figure is variable from 84.62% in Uttarkashi, closely followed by Dehradun (84.26%) and Haridwar (83.11%). Again in this group, females have an upper hand (59.93%), while in India this figure is also 57.18 percent. Most of the hill districts follow this nature. The main male workers vary from 67.04% in Chamoli to 88.06% in Haridwar district.

Down at block level, the figure is quite different. It is 54.40 % in Mori, followed by 50.30% in Nayagaon and 50.00% in Okhimath. Ekeshwar block of Garhwal district has the lowest figure of 13.70%.

Table 4 Main Workers in Garhwal Himalaya (2001)

S. No.	Category (%)	No. of Blocks	Name of Blocks
1	Below 30	12	Karnprayag, Dwarikhal, Dugadda, Jaiharikhal, Ekeshwar, Yamkeshwar, Nainidanda, Sahaspur, Bhagwanpur, Roorkee, Narsan, Laksar
2	30-40	18	Gairsain, Jakholi, Kaljikhil, Pabau, Thalishain, Veeronkhal, Rikhnikhal, Pokhra, Chamba, Pratapnagar, Thauldhar, Narendranagar, Kirtinagar, Vikasnagar, Raipur, Doiwala, Khanpur, Bahdarabad
3	40-50	21	Joshimath, Dasholi, Ghat, Narainbagar, Tharali, Dewal, Pokhri, Agastymuni, Kot, Pauri, Khirsu, Bhilangana, Jakhnidhar, Jaunpur, Devprayag, Chakrat, Kalsi, Purola, Dunda, Chinyalisaur, Bhatwari
4	Above 50	03	Okhimath, Mori, Nayagaon

MARGINAL WORKERS:

Out of the total workers, 25.98 percent account for marginal workers is variable from 15.38 percent in Uttarkashi to 39.81 percent in Chamoli district. This is almost the same as that of Uttarakhand (25.84%). This is variable for males and females in all districts and blocks. The highest figure (32.96) has been observed for male in Chamoli district and lowest (11.94) in Haridwar. In Haridwar, female marginal workers are 49.32 percent. The respective figures for male and female marginal workers are 19.73 and 38.03 percent for Garhwal region

At the block level the marginal workers are 26.33 % in Jaiharikhal, followed by 23.38% in Dwarikhal. Roorkee (0.84) has the lowest figure.

AGRICULTURE WORKERS:

The mainstay of a majority of the people in the region is agriculture which is justified by the fact that more than a half of the total workers (50.4%) are engaged in agriculture in Garhwal as compared to 49.76% in Uttarakhand and 42.81 percent in India. The figure is again variable from 75.78 percent in Rudraprayag, closely followed by 75.04 in Uttarkashi to 18.64 percent in Dehradun. In all the districts of hilly topography, the agriculture sector is mainly dominated by females. This is also true of all the block of the region.

AGRICULTURE LABOURERS:

This category of working population embraces only 9.0 percent of the total workers as compared to Uttarakhand and 26.69 percent to India. In fact, in hill areas each and every individual regardless of his

economic status does have his own land. These people are not found to be working as agriculture labourers. The agricultural labourers are such workers who do not have their own land or have very less of it and work on the fields of the other. In Garhwal Himalaya, Haridwar (19.60%) and Dehradun (7.0%) have the maximum share of these workers. Equally shared by the males and females.

HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRIES:

Garhwal Himalaya happens to be the least developed region as regard to the industrial development, but cottage and small scale industries are found in Haridwar, Dehradun and in the areas inhabited by the tribal population. Only 1.0 percent workers are engaged in this sector as against 2.23% in Uttarakhand and 4.07 percent in India. The sector is mainly constituted by female both in Garhwal and India. Rudraprayag and Tehri districts have a negligible share of workers in this category. Uttarkashi, Chamoli and some areas of Dehradun district are inhabited by Bhotias and thus have as a better share of workers in it. It includes a series of diverse occupations and is mostly concerned with transformation of resources.

At the block level, the highest figure (8.0%) has been found in Joshimath block and the lowest (0.1%) in Kot, Kaljikhil, Thalissain, Ekeskwar, Rikhnimkhal and Pokhra.

OTHER WORKERS:

All those activities which are not concerned with the actual production of material goods are included in this group. It also includes other services, like trade, commerce, transport and other higher services which need a relatively better education and urbanization. The overall share of workers in this category is 25.98 percent as compared to 39.73% in Uttarakhand and 37.52% in India UK. This is variable from 39.81 percent in Chamoli to 15.38 percent in Uttarkashi district. The share of males and females is 19.73 and 38.03 percent respectively. Haridwar (49.32), Chamoli (46.56) and Garhwal (44.85) have better participation of females in it.

Down at block level, the highest figure (31.95) has been observed in Raipur and the lowest (3.03) in Khanpur, which justifies the relation of literacy to it.

Population is the main productive force in the society. It is the man who puts tools and means of production into operation. It is the man who is the creator of all resources and spiritual values. At the same time, the development of the productive forces and the nature of the relation of production do, in the final count determine all aspects of the life of society including the growth and structure of population.

The socio-economic structures of population change as the productive forces develop and socio-economic formations alter. The concept of the type and results of employment of the population is so varied and complicated in its original and functional ties that a reliable model of the concept has not been built as yet. The population of any region happens to be the most important resource but it should be a qualitative population engaged in various economic activities as labour potential is not being used at all. Most of the working people are employed in government services and agricultural sector.

The development of the productive forces and gradual social progress are a must if an optimal manner and the living conditions are indeed to be improved. In the decade of 1971 – 81, most governments became more clearly aware of the need to include population measures organically in national development programmes.

CONCLUSION:

Garhwal Himalaya is one of the least populated regions of India. Its abundant resources could not be brought under proper use so as to integrate the population with resources and thereby to the employment. In view of the tough physiographic conditions, agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of economic activities in the region. At the present stage in socio-economic development, an increasing number of countries face the need to account, regulate and plan the use and reproduction of man-power. Uttarakhand, which has become the separate state now, is characterized by lack of employment opportunities and massive out-migration. It is hoped that there will open up new vistas of employment for the people in this new state.

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