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## DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY PATTERNS OF POPULATION IN ANGA PLAIN, BIHAR

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### Abstract:

*Distribution and Density of population are fundamental components of Population Geography. The paper deals with distribution and density of population in Anga Plain of Bihar. The geographical phenomena are the chief reasons for regional variations of distribution and density.*

### KEYWORDS:

Anga plain, standard of living, rural density, waste land, vest land, hilly terrain, urban center, forest land, hill covered area

### INTRODUCTION

The growth of population is very important aspect of Population Geography. The rapid growth of population is a crucial problem in India as well as in Bihar and study region Anga Plain. It affects national and international relation with each other, economic progress and the standard of living of the people (Young, 1968). The study of growth in analyzing population of any region is of vital importance.

### OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the study is to explain the distribution and density of population of Anga plain. The study aims to discuss, interpret, examine and analyze the distribution and density patterns of population of Anga Plain.

### STUDY AREA:

The study area 'Anga Plain' is the eastern most segment of South Bihar Plain constituting the administrative units of Bhagalpur and Munger divisions. It comprises six districts namely Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Jamui, Lakhisarai and Sheikhpura in which there are 58 anchals (Fig. 1). Geographically Anga Plain spreads between latitude 24°22' N to 25°30' N and longitude 86°36' E to 87°36' E. The region covers an area of 12023 sq. Kms. with 7,896,265 persons (male - 4,163,483 and female - 3,732,782) living in 5079 inhabited villages (2001) and 9,812,341 persons (male - 5,172,213 and female - 4,640,128) in 2011 census. It is bounded by the Ganga on the north, Hills of Chotanagpur plateau in the south, Rajmahal hills in the east and Magadh Plain in the west. The region is a homogenous one and has a distinct geographical pismality.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Distribution and density are very close to each other. Both the terms refer to the presence of persons in an area, but still there is some difference between them. 'Distribution shows the way of people

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which is spaced over the globe and the density is actual placing of population over land area."1 It is generally expressed in terms of number of persons per unit area. It is better parameter for man-land relationship.

To support this point Hauser postulated that distribution of population acts as a master-thread capable of weaving into a coherent pattern of the subject.2 without the knowledge of patterns of population distribution and density, we cannot provide community facilities for economic development and for long range regional planning. The socio-economic characteristics can also be observed in the distribution of population. The distribution of population is quite dynamic; it changes from place to place and even from time to time. Isard3 attached enough weight to time and space and observed and suggested that a comprehensive theory of society or economy should embrace both time and space dimension.

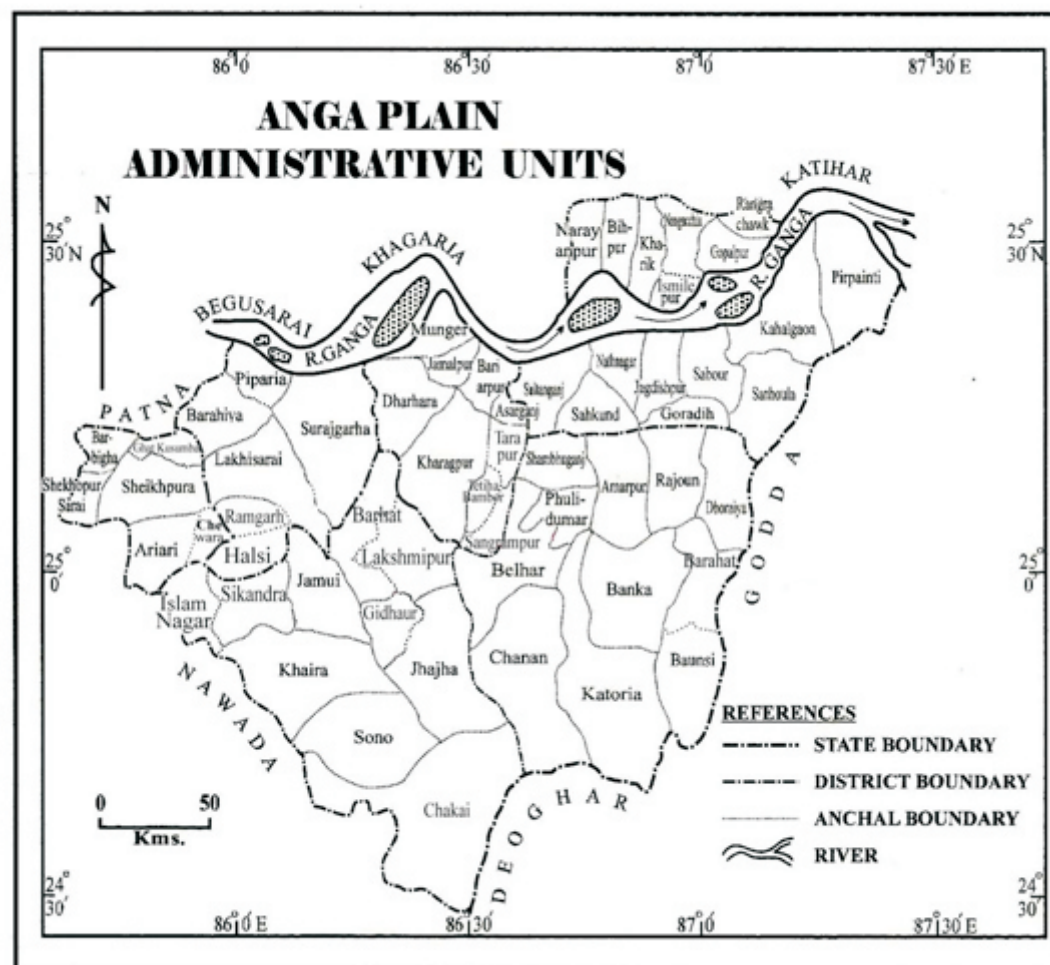


Fig. 1

#### SPATIAL PATTERNS OF DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION:

Geographical distribution of population varies greatly from simple layout of human abodes in forest or on hills and plateaus on the one hand and to composite townscape of crowded human colonies on the other.4 The district-wise data have been computed for analyzing distribution pattern of population within the region as a whole. Population is not evenly distributed in the region. The northern and central parts of Anga Plain (except Kharagpur hill areas) have more population than the southern part. The former areas constitute parts of fertile Middle Ganga Plain, whereas southern parts have forested, plateau and hilly terrain. Hence, they show low population concentration. Most of the people concentrate in urban area or nearer to urban centers like

Bhagalpur, Munger, Jamalpur, Lakhisarai, Jamui, Sheikhpura Barbighs, Naugachhia, Kahalgaon,

Jhajha, Barahaiya, Amarpur, Banka, etc. in the Anga Plain.

The Table 1 given below represents district-wise distribution of population and Fig. 2 shows growth of population (1951-2011) in the Anga Plain. Bhagalpur district accommodates the largest number of people i.e. one third population 2,423,172 persons (30.71 percent) while Sheikhpura has the lowest 525,502 persons (6.66 percent) only. The rest four districts i.e. Banka, Munger, Jamui and Lakhisarai rank second, third, fourth and fifth in population. They have 20.37, 17.71, 14.41 and 10.16 percent population respectively. It is obvious that lakhisarai and Sheikhpura districts have least variation. Lakhisarai's total, rural and urban variation is in between 10.11 percent and 10.43 percent whereas in Sheikhpura it is in between 6.56 percent and 7.20 percent.

**Table 1:**Anga Plain: Distribution and Density of Population, 2001

Name of Districts		Area in Km <sup>2</sup>	Total Population	Male Population	Female Population	%of Total Population	Density
1. Bhagalpur	T	2,569.00	2,423,172	1,291,618	1,133,554	30.71	943
	R	25,14.00	1,970,740	1,049,100	923,640	40.07	784
	U	55.00	452,432	242,518	209,914		8,226
2. Banka	T	3,020.00	1,608,770	843,290	765,480	20.37	533
	R	29,89.90	1,552,350	813,080	739,270	22.94	519
	U	30.05	56,420	30,205	26,215	5.01	1878
3. Munger	T	1,419.00	1,137,790	607,730	530,060	17.71	802
	R	1,380.80	819,950	437,360	382,590	28.15	594
	U	38.17	317,840	170,360	147,480		8,327
4. Jamui	T	3,098.00	1,398,790	729,130	669,660	14.41	452
	R	3,061.60	1,295,550	674,110	621,440	19.14	423
	U	36.32	103,240	55,020	48,218	9.14	2,843
5. Lakhisarai	T	1,228.00	802,220	417,670	384,550	10.16	653
	R	1,176.60	684,480	355,140	329,340	10.11	582
	U	51.33	117,740	62,530	55,209	10.4	2,294
6. Sheikhpura	T	689.00	525,502	273,992	251,510	6.66	763
	R	657.82	444,189	230,820	213,369	6.56	675
	U	31.11	81,313	43,172	38,141	7.20	2,608
ANGA PLAIN	T	12,023.00	7,896,260	4,163,480	3,732,780	100.00	657
	R	11,780.90	6,767,270	3,559,660	3,207,600	85.70	574
	U	242.05	1,128,990	6,03,618	525,172	14.3	4,664

T = Total, R = Rural & U = Urban

Source: Census of India, Bihar, 2001.

#### DENSITY OF POPULATION:

The above Table 1 and Fig. 3 reveal growth of population density of the Anga Plain. The general density of region is 657 persons/km (2001). The highest density 943 persons/km<sup>2</sup> is recorded in Bhagalpur district and the lowest 452 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in Jamui district. Bhagalpur is the largest city and the district has plain fertile land and the Jamui has forest and hill covered area. Rest four districts i.e. Munger, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai and Banka have 802, 763, 653 and 533 persons/km<sup>2</sup> respectively. However, the density of population is highly variable from area to area and district to district in the region.

#### RURAL DENSITY:

The rural density of Anga Plain was recorded 574 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in 2001. Districts having high regional density are Bhagalpur, Sheikhpura, Munger and Lakhisarai which have 784, 675, 594 and 582 persons/km<sup>2</sup> while Banka and Jamui districts have low regional density i.e. 519 and 423 persons/km<sup>2</sup>

respectively. Bhagalpur records the highest rural density due to fertile land and high literacy rate. The other important reason is enormous migration of people from rural to urban areas. Mostly middle class people who cannot afford to meet high cost of land in urban areas, they reside in the rural areas but nearer the city or urban centre.

#### URBAN DENSITY:

In the Anga, Plain, the urban density is 4,664 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. It also varies from town to town. The highest urban density was recorded 8,327 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in Munger district. Here, I.T.C (Imperial Tobacco Co.) and Gun factory at Munger and Railway workshop at Jamalpur attracted large number of rural people to reside in these cities. It may be called twin city (Munger and Jamalpur) that attracted more and more people. The second highest density is recorded as 8226 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in Bhagalpur district. It is due to divisional headquarter and largest city in the eastern Middle Ganga Plain. N.T.P.C, Kahalgaon and most religious town Sultanganj attracted more and more people to reside here. Besides Bhagalpur city where there are two universities i.e. T.M. Bhagalpur University where teaching in different faculties like Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Medical, Engineering, Computer Science, Management and Silk technology and the other Agricultural University at Sabour. These institutions attract students not only from Bihar but from West Bengal and other states also.

The lowest urban density of 1878 persons/km<sup>2</sup> is in Banka district. Rest three districts i.e. Jamui, Sheikhpura and Lakhisarai have 2893, 2608 and 2294 persons/km<sup>2</sup> respectively. These four districts have only two towns each. Lack of towns, infertile and vast waste land, forested track and hilly topography cannot attract people to reside here. Hence, low density is found in these districts.

#### CONCLUSION:

From the above discussion, it may be concluded that the distribution density of population in the Anga Plain is uneven. In the urban areas density of population is high than the rural areas. There is wide gap between both the areas

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