Chapter – 6

Educational Status of Sampled Villages
The main objective of this chapter is to assess the level of education in the villages of Uttar Pradesh (India). More than 79 per cent population of the state is residing in the rural areas and primarily engaged in agriculture. Therefore, a thorough village study is necessary to explore the ground reality of the level of education in the study area. Three villages have been selected from the districts of high, medium and low level of education as discussed in the previous chapter. In the present study, random sampling of 10 percent households has been made in the selected villages to assess the educational scenario of the particular village. The study followed a methodology of combining field visits, intensive village study based on focus group discussions and personal observations of the researcher.

The detailed description of the observed facts in the selected villages are as follows.

VILLAGE – MUNGHARI

Location

The Munghari village is located in Karchana Tehsil of Allahabad district (Uttar Pradesh, India) on the coordinates of 25°17’ N latitude and 81°56’ E longitude. It is approximately 20 kms from Allahabad on the Allahabad-Mirzapur Road and covers an area of about 972.49 hectares.

Socio-Economic Background

The Munghari village has a population of 8332 people and encompasses about 1170 families. It is a multi-religious and multi-caste village. It has nearly 360 families of scheduled caste and rest belong to the
upper caste Hindus and Muslim minorities. The average size of a family is 6-8 members, however, the scheduled caste (Harijan) families have relatively less (4-5) members.

The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture and there is about 880 hectares of agricultural land. Most of the cultivable land is owned by the upper caste people. Among the scheduled caste, about 5 percent families have agricultural land and the average size of their landholdings is about 1 acre. The remaining scheduled caste population work as farm labourers or industrial labourers in the factories located at Naini in the outskirts of Allahabad city. Availability of fertile, plain and adequate irrigation facilities results into well-developed agriculture. The village has 4 government-owned and 31 privately-owned tube wells and pump sets which provides proper irrigation throughout the year.

Economic condition of the farmers is quite good because of high agricultural productivity on the one hand and availability of job opportunities in the industries of Naini town on the other. Agricultural practices are highly mechanized and most of the farmers are using tractors for farming operations. The villagers also rear cattle for milk production. Selling milk is another important economic activity of this village. Availability of markets in the vicinity is another factor of economic development of the village. Facilities of primary Health Centre (PHC) and Post Office available in the village.
Educational Status

A survey of the village reveals that it is educationally sound. There are 2 government and 4 private schools in the village. Out of these, 3 schools are up to fifth standard, 2 senior basic and 1 higher secondary. About 70 percent school-going children of the village are enrolled in these schools and rest are also attending the school in the nearest town.

Table 6.1
Village - Munghari : Educational Status of Sampled Household

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>72.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>60.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>67.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on personal survey, 2007

It is clear from Table 6.1 that the overall literacy of the sampled population is more than 67 percent. It is noticeable that the female literacy is above the district and state average. It has been observed during the study that most of the girls (75%) are attending the school, which shows the awareness regarding education. High literacy level in the village is due to availability of schools, sound economic conditions, awareness of parents and connectivity of the village with Allahabad and Naini. Availability of higher educational facilities at Allahabad further encourage the students as well as their parents for higher education. Therefore the dropout rate after senior secondary level is very low, and most of the students get themselves
enrolled in university and college. Thus, the educational scenario of village is quite sound which conforms with the overall high educational level of the district.

VILLAGE - RAMPUR

Location:

Rampur village is located in Deoria Sadar tehsil of Deoria district (Uttar Pradesh, India) on the coordinates of 26°34'N latitude and 83°49'E longitude. It is 6 km away from the nearest town Hata (NP) on the Deoria - Gorakhpur road. The area of the village is about 118.7 hectares.

Socio-Economic Background:

Rampur is a densely populated village with a population of about 1500 people. There are about 240 households in the village, of which 55 belong to the scheduled caste. The very peculiar feature of the village is that the number of female (765) is greater than the male population (735). The gap between male and female population in scheduled caste is even more than the upper caste. The average family size of the village ranges from 6-7 members.

Though most of the population of the village is engaged in agriculture, however a big share is living in Middle-East and Mumbai. It is agriculturally advanced village because of availability of canal and tube well irrigation with fertile land. Out of 104 hectares of cultivated land about 101 hectares (97%) are irrigated. Canal irrigation shares about 90% of the total irrigated area. Tractor is used for most of the agricultural operation. Hardly 5 or 6 households are using animal energy for ploughing of fields. However, villagers rear animals for milk. Yadav caste is specially engaged in milk selling in
the neighbouring town. Major portion of the cultivated land is under wheat, rice, sugarcane and pulses. The economic condition of the village is sound because of developed agriculture, availability of market at Hata town and the earnings from Middle East and Mumbai. No mud or thatched house is found in the village. Banking, postal and medical facilities are available within a range of 5-10 kilometres.

Educational Status:

Educational status of any region is dependent on the availability of infrastructure and awareness of the people. During field survey, it is found that there are 2 junior basic, 1 senior basic and 1 higher secondary school in the village. The facility of degree college is also available at 13 kilometre distance. Thus, the availability of the educational infrastructure in proportion to the population is sufficient.

Table – 6.2

Village – Rampur : Educational Status of Sampled Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>67.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>49.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>59.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on personal survey, 2007

Analysis of the sampled household (Table 6.2) reveals that despite the availability of sound educational infrastructure, the literacy rate is not up to the mark. The low enrolment is due to the domination of Muslim population in the village. The socio-cultural causes are more responsible, especially in the case of girls. The dropout rate is also high because of early migration of the
villagers, for the job, to the foreign countries and other metros. The male literacy rate is quite high than the female; however, the overall literacy level is medium category (about 60%). It is slightly more than the district’s average literacy status.

VILLAGE – CHUHA NAGLA

Location :

Chuha Nagla village is located on 28°57' N latitude and 78°48'E longitude in Moradabad tehsil of Moradabad district (Uttar Pradesh, India). It is about 16 kilometres away from the nearest town of Bhojpur Dharampur. The total area of the village is 77.7 hectares.

Socio-Economic Background

Chuha Nagla is one of the most densely populated villages in Moradabad district. The village has a total population of 1320 and 147 households. The average family size of the village is 8-10 members. It is a Muslim dominated village and no scheduled caste population is found.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the village as more than 90% of the population engaged in this primary occupation. Out of 73 hectares of total agricultural land, 69 hectares are irrigated. Tube well is the main source of irrigation. There are 1 government owned and 9 privately owned tube wells in the village. The size of landholdings are so small that mechanical operation of the field can not be done easily. Tractor as well as animals are used for ploughing field. Farmers generally grow the cereals.
Sugarcane and peppermint are grown as cash crops but they have an insignificant share in total areal coverage.

Infrastructural development in the Chuha Nagla village is a thing of the past. No facility is available up to a distance of 5 kilometres. For medical and bank facilities they have to travel up to 5-10 kilometres. Due to poor infrastructure, less productive agriculture and no alternative source of income, the socio-economic conditions of the villagers are poor. Farmers could not get good returns of their agricultural products due to non-availability of markets in their surroundings.

Educational Status

The Chuha Nagla village is educationally very poor. Only one government primary school is located in the village. The senior basic and higher secondary schools are 4-6 kilometres away from the village whereas the degree college is located at 24 kilometres distance. Because of this most of the students left the school during their early stage.

Table 6.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literate</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>35.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>42.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on personal survey, 2007

Sampled data (Table 6.3) clearly shows that the educational scenario of the village is unexpectedly poor. Only 42.64 per cent of sampled population of
the village is literate and the condition of female literacy is even more depressing. The orthodox and traditional society does not permit the families to send their girl child out of the village even for primary education, not to say about secondary and higher education. It has been found during field survey that there are only 5 graduates in the village. Non-availability of infrastructure, poor economic condition and lack of awareness are the major factors responsible for educational backwardness of the village.

Thus, on the basis of the result of the sampled villages it can be concluded that at village level also regional disparity in education occurs throughout the state of Uttar Pradesh. Study further reveals that the levels of education in the villages are in accordance with the overall educational status of the districts.