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A PROFILE OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Chapter 2

A PROFILE TO UTTAR PRADESH

"I had been to other countries - in Europe, Asia and the middle East- but none of them had provided even half as much variety, or so much to see and experience and remember, as this one State in northern India. You can travel from one end of Australia to the other, but everywhere on that vast continent you will find that people dress in the same way, eat the same kind of food, listen to the same music. This colourles uniformity is apparent in many other countries of the world, both East and West. But Uttar Pradesh is a world in itself."

-Ruskin Bond

The fullest development of human personality is largely determined by the inter related system that surround life. Therefore, any attempt to improve the situation of masses must be supported by systematic efforts to improve the socio-physical context of their lives. In order to understand the situation of rural masses in its proper perspective, a brief description of the socio-physical setting of Uttar Pradesh is of paramount importance.

The United Provinces of Agra and Oudh were renamed as the state
of Uttar Pradesh in 1950. According to the archeologists, the Gangetic valley was the cradle of ancient Indian civilization. Uttar Pradesh is bounded by Nepal on the North, Himachal Pradesh on the north west, Haryana on the west, Rajasthan on the south west, Madhya Pradesh on the south and south- west and Bihar on the east. Situated between 23° 52'N and 31° 28' N latitudes and 77° 3' and 84° 39'E longitudes, this is the fourth largest state in the country. (A part of Uttar Pradesh has been separated and formed into a new state Uttarakhand on November 9th 2000.

Uttar Pradesh can be divided into three distinct hypsographical regions:

1. The Himalayan region in the North
2. The Gangetic plain in the centre
3. The Vindya hills and plateau in the south

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The total area of the state is 2,40928 sq. km. The whole state consisting of 72 (presently there is 75 districts) districts, 312 tehsils, 689 statutory town, 821 blocks town and 1.07 lakhs villages, is divided into three geographical regions. The plain stretches across the entire length of the state from east to west flanked by Terai and Bhadar areas in the north

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and Vindhyas plateau in the south. The entire alluvial is divided into sub
regions- eastern, central and western. The eastern tract is subject to
periodical floods and droughts and is the least developed. The Gangetic
plain is watered by rivers, Yamuna, Ganga and its major tributaries
Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghra and Gandak. The Whole plain is alluvial and
very fertile, the southern region is demarcated by the Vindhya hills and
the plateau. It comprises of the five districts of Budelkhand division,
Mirzapur district and parts of Allahabad and Varanasi districts. The
ground is strong with low hills at places. The tract is marked by scanty
and erratic rainfall and scarce water resources.

2.2 CLIMATE

The climate of the state is tropical monsoon, but variations exist
because of difference in altitudes. The average temperature varies in the
plains from 3-4°C in January to 43-45°C in May and June. There are three
district seasons- the cold season from October to February, Summer from
March to Mid June and the rainy season from June to September. The
rainfall in the plains is heaviest in the east and decreases towards the
north-east. Floods are a recurring problem of the state, causing damage to
crops, life and property. The worst floods were in 1971, when 51 of the
54 districts of the state were affected and the area involved was nearly 52
lakh hectares. The eastern districts are the most vulnerable to floods, the
western districts slightly less and the central region markedly less. The eastern districts proneness to floods is ascribed, among other thins, to heavy rainfall, low flat country, high subsoil water level and the silting of beds which causes river levels to rise. The problem in the western districts is mainly poor drainage cause by the obstruction of roads, railways, canals, new built-up areas etc. There is water logging in the large areas. The major flood-prone rivers are the Ganga, Jamuna, Gomati, Ghaghra, Rapti, Sarda and Ramganga. The inadequate drainage capacity of the smaller western Sirsa, Kali and the Aligarh drain is also a cause of floods.

2.3 RELIGION AND CULTURE

Uttar Pradesh has been historically the centre of religions activities. It has the largest number of centers of pilgrimage and fairs in India, and nearly 400 fairs, both big and small are held annually in the state attracting millions of pilgrims every year. The KUMBH and ARDHA-KUMBH fairs at Allahabad and Hardwar held alternatively every twelve and six year are the largest fairs in the World, attracting twenty to twenty five million took a holy dip at the Sangam at Allahabad Kumbh on Makar Sankranti day alone. These fairs have always created public health problems and epidemics. Out of the 6 cholera panademics, the second (1927 – 37) the fourth (1966 -70), and the sixth (1992-95) started and
spread from Hardwar pilgrims to north western Punjab, there by the overland route to Afghanistan, Persia, Southern Russia, and many finally invaded Europe and America.  

2.4 DEMOGRAPHY OF U.P.

Demography is the statistical study of human population. It can be a very general science that can be applied to any kind of dynamic human population, that is, one that changes over time or space. It encompasses the study of the size, structure and distribution of these populations, and spatial and/or temporal changes in them in response to birth, migration, aging and death.

Demographic analysis can be applied to whole societies or to groups defined by criteria such as education, nationality, religion and ethnicity. Formal demography limits its object of study to the measurement of population’s processes, while the broader field of social demography population studies also analyze the relationships between economic, social, cultural and biological processes influencing a population. There are a variety of demographic methods for modeling population processes. They include models of mortality, fertility, marriage, disability, population projections and population momentum.

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A stable population does not necessarily remain fixed in size, it can be expanding or shrinking.

Note that the crude death rate as defined above and applied to a whole population can give a misleading impression. For example, the number of deaths per 1,000 people can be higher for developed nations than in less-developed countries, despite standards of health being better in developed countries. This is because developed countries have proportionally more older people, who are more likely to die in a given year, so that the overall mortality rate can be higher even if the mortality rate at any given age is lower. A more complete picture of mortality is given by a life table which summarizes mortality separately at each age. A life table is necessary to give a good estimate of life expectancy.

The fertility rates can also give a misleading impression that a population is growing faster than it in fact is, because measurement of fertility rates only involves the reproductive rate of women, and does not adjust for the sex ratio. For example, if a population has a total fertility rate of 4.0 but the sex ratio is 66/34 (twice as many men as women), this population is actually growing at a slower natural increase rate than would a population having a fertility rate of 3.0 and a sex ratio of 50/50. This distortion is greatest in India and Myanmar, and is present in China as well.
More generally, while the basic demographic equation holds true by definition, in practice the recording and counting of events (births, deaths, immigration, emigration) and the enumeration of the total population size are subject to error. So allowance needs to be made for error in the underlying statistics when any accounting of population size or change is made.

The Demographics of Uttar Pradesh is a complex, which is undergoing dynamic change. Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state. It has a population of about 199,581,477 as per the 2011 census. If it were a separate country, Uttar Pradesh would be the world's fifth most populous nation, next only to China, India, the United States of America and Indonesia. There is an average population density of 828 persons per km² i.e. 2,146 per sq mi. The capital of Uttar Pradesh is Lucknow. Hindus and Muslims consider the state as a holy place. There are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and all the people of different religion live together in harmony. Out of the total population Hindu's constitute eighty two and Muslims constitute seventeen percent. The main language spoken by the people here is Hindi and Urdu is also widely spoken by the Muslim population.

The peripheral regions of Uttar Pradesh, are home to a number of tribal communities such as Agaria, Baiga, Bhar, Bhoksa, Bind, Chero,
Gond, Kol and Korwa. Five of these tribal communities have been recognised by the Government of India as disadvantaged scheduled tribes, viz. Tharils, Boksas, Bhotias, Jaunswaris and Rajis. The Literacy rate of the state according to the 2011 Census is 69.70%. With the literacy rate for Males at 79.20%, while it is 59.30% for the Females. \(^6\) The literacy rate of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe is 46.3% and 35.1% in Uttar Pradesh. \(^7\) While this is still below the national average of 74.04% (82.14% for men, 65.16% for women) the rate of growth has been much higher in Uttar Pradesh as compared to the rest of India.

In terms of languages, most people in Uttar Pradesh speak the various dialects of Hindustani, which in a literate form is referred to as Urdu and Hindi. In addition, Uttar Pradesh is home a number of languages, which are sometimes referred to as dialects. Each of the dialect zone has acquired its own distinctive identity, through myths, legends and folklore. Traditionally, five distinct regions tend to be identified, which correspond to a particular dialect grouping. In western Uttar Pradesh, the region of Rohilkhand and the upper Doab is home to the speakers of Khari Boli. The lower Doab is referred to as Braj Bhum, or the land of Braj, and is home to the speakers of Braj Bhasha. Further south, the Bundelkhand region is home to Bundelkhandi speakers. In central Uttar Pradesh is the region of Awadh, which is also home to the speakers of Awadhi. And final eastern Uttar Pradesh is home to Bhojpuri

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\(^6\) Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 8 (Upto 31.03.2011)
\(^7\) Census of India Report 2011 (Provisional)
speakers. Often these dialects merged into each other, for example in Shahjahanpur, Khari boli merges into Awadhi.

(a) **Size and growth of population of U.P.**

The population of Uttar Pradesh enumerated during Census 2011 is 199,581,477 persons, having 104,592,415 males and 94,985,062 females. If there is net addition of 33,383,556 persons in relation of 2001 population (166,197,921).

**Table 2.4.1**

**Population of Uttar Pradesh**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population (in lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1321*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1662*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011+</td>
<td>1996*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*excluding Uttarakhand  
+ Provisional

**Source:** Statistical Dairy 2011, Page 15
Fig. 2.4.1: Population of Uttar Pradesh and India

Population (In lakh) Uttar Pradesh
Population (In lakh) India
Among the total population, males outnumbered females in a ratio of 4.82 per cent point in 2011 Census. In percentage terms, the growth of population during 2001–11 is 20.09 percent which is lower by 5.76 percent points from the previous decade. Regarding the child population (0–6 years) Uttar Pradesh has recorded 29,728,235 persons during this decade. Among these, 15,653,175 are males and 14,075,060 are females. Thus, the number of males is higher by 1,578,115 to females in absolute terms but percentage wise the variation is limited to 0.15 per cent only.

The population of Uttar Pradesh recorded during 1901 was 486 lakhs persons which increased to 632 lakhs persons in 1951 adding a population of 146 lakhs persons over 1901 figures during last fifty years. After 1951 Census the proportion of addition in population in successive censuses rose multifold. There as net addition of 1030 lakhs persons between 1951–2001. The net addition of 334 lakh persons between 2001–2011 Allahabad district has the highest number of persons (59,59,798) and constitute 2.99 percentage share of the total population of state during the Census 2011. The district rank first in population in state in Census 2001 also. Kanpur Nagar district was at second place (41,67,999) in Census 2001 but in Census 2011 its rank dip down to sixth place (45,72,951). Although number of district dwindled in their rank in population during 2001 and 2011 censuses but a remarkable increase is
noticed in the rank of Ghaziabad. This district was placed at twenty seventh rank (22,30,634) in 1991 Census, improved to thirteen (33,14,070) in Census 2001 and jumped to third place (46,61,452) in Census 2011 respectively.

(b) Density of population

Density of population is calculated to per unit area in kilometer for state and districts in 2011. The population density of Uttar Pradesh during 2011 is worked out as 828 person per square kilometer\(^8\). There is an increase in the density of population (690KM\(^2\)) from census 2001. The increase in density indicates that 139 persons have been added on one square kilometer area during 2001-2011 decade. Density among the districts reveals a similar pattern as per census 2001 except few exception. The top five districts stand in the same row in both the decades. These districts are Ghaziabad (4060), Varanasi (2399), Lucknow (1815), Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi) (1531) and Kanpur Nagar (1449). However Gautam Buddha Nagar district has improved its position being twenty nine (29) rank in 2001 census to twelveth rank (1161) in census 2011.

The lowest density of population in the state in census 2011 is noticed in Lalitpur (242) district. Although Lalitpur district has the

\(^8\) Statistical Dairy Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 1 (Upto 31.03.201).
lowest density in census 2001 also but it has added 48 persons per km² more from census 2001.

(c) Picture of the U.P.

Uttar Pradesh proudly cherishes the title of being the fifth-largest territorial domain in India and the area of Uttar Pradesh is bequeathed with all the marvels of mother nature. Starting from dense woodlands to ample agricultural lands, from emerald blue rivulets to magniloquent knolls, Uttar Pradesh is endowed with all.

The area of Uttar Pradesh is flanked by these dominions:

• North- Nepal
• North-east-Uttarkhand
• North -west-Himachal Pradesh
• West-Haryana
• South-west-Rajasthan
• South- Madhya Pradesh
• East-Bihar

Three discrete realms are yielded if the area of Uttar Pradesh is bifurcated according to the height of land from sea level. These include:

• The Vindhya Range that spans the southern extremities of Uttar Pradesh
- The Gangetic Plain vanquishes the highly fecund landscape in the central region of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Himalayan Range guards the northern outskirts.

The 'Bharbhar' region which forms a major part of the area of Uttar Pradesh, protracts along its entire length and constitutes the primary agricultural fields. On the other hand the terai region is satiated with opulent elephant grasslands, lush forests, and sloppy swamps. The crops that are farmed in Uttar Pradesh are wheat, rice, sugarcane and jute. The
forests in Uttar Pradesh are also clad with exotic flora that will take your breath away. The woods in the Vindhya range comprises of teak, sal, dhar, tendu, salai and chironji.

(d) **Sex composition of U.P.**

Sex ratio denotes the number of females per 1000 males. In Uttar Pradesh the sex ratio depicts an increasing trend. This ratio was 898 per 1000 males during 2001 Census, which increased to 908 in Census 2011. Thus there is gain of 10 females from 2001 to 2011. Census. The sex ratio among the district ranges from 1018 in Jaunpur to 852 in Gautam Buddha Nagar being the highest and lowest in census 2011.

(e) **Age composition of U.P.**

According to the census 2011, the total population of U.P. is 199581477 in which 104596415 male and 94985062 females. The decade growth (2001-2011) of the population is 20.09 percent. Regarding the child population (0-6) Uttar Pradesh has recorded 29728235 persons during 2001-2010 decade among these 15653175 are male and 14075060 are females. Thus the number of male is higher by 1578115 to females in absolute term by percentage wise the variation is limited to 0.15 percent only.

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9 Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 1 (Upto 31.03.2011)
10 Census of India Report, 2011 (Provisional)
2.5 LITERACY

Literacy is one of the important social indicator to measure the development of its inhabitants. It affects the different population dynamics. In census information is collected from each individual about his/her literacy status.

For the purpose of census a person aged Seven and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is treated as literate. A person who can only read but cannot write is not literate.

The total literacy rate in the state recorded in census 2011 is 69-72 percent indicating a temp. of 13.45 percent over census 2001. Among the districts in the state Ghaziabad has recorded the highest literacy rate (85.00 percent) during census 2011.

The rise in female literacy is a healthy phenomenon for the society and the state. It is noted that total female literacy during census 2011 recorded in the state is 59.26 percent which is an increase of 17.04 percent points over the literacy of census 2001 (42.22 per cent). Among the districts in the state spatial variation is very large (44.35 percent) the highest being recorded in Ghaziabad district (81.42 percent) where as the lowest is Shawasti (37.37 per cent).

It is pertinent to mention that the literacy rate for both males and females in the state has shown an upward trend increasing by 12.91 and 4.29 percent point respectively since census 1961.
Fig. 2.5.1: Literacy Rate for Uttar Pradesh 1951-2011 (In percentage)
Table 2.5.1

Literacy Rate for Uttar Pradesh 1951-2011 (In percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>12.02</td>
<td>19.17</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>20.87</td>
<td>32.08</td>
<td>8.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>23.99</td>
<td>35.01</td>
<td>11.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>32.65</td>
<td>46.65</td>
<td>16.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>40.71</td>
<td>54.82</td>
<td>24.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>56.27</td>
<td>68.82</td>
<td>42.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>69.72</td>
<td>79.24</td>
<td>59.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: literacy rates for 1951, 1961 and 1971 related to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 to 2011 related to the population aged seven years and above.

This trend is visible up to census 1991 but a reducing gap between male and female literacy. The 2001 and census 2011 has witnessed a change in the increasing pattern of female literacy, which has superseded the male literacy increasing rate.

2.6 RURAL SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the Indian Union. Kanpur is the biggest city in the state. Other big cities are Agra, Varanasi and Allahabad. The Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas, the three upper castes people of the state who have dominated the political and economic scene over the centuries are in a minority. A major group comprises of the backward classes, scheduled castes and tribes. The central government has recognised five of the tribal communities, viz. Tharus,
Bhoksas, Bhotias, Jaunswaris and Rajis as scheduled tribes. Besides the upper class, there are also other Hindu and Muslim communities. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes live in rural areas and are mostly dependent on agriculture, farming the landless labour class.

The central fact of the social order in Uttar Pradesh is the existence of the caste system among the Hindus who constitute the vast majority of the population. The broad hierarchy in the Hindu social system were the Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras and achhuts or untouchables. Further division based on occupation gave rise to castes like nai (barber), dhobi (washer man), lohar (blacksmith), darzi (tailor) and all of them formed a vital part of the village economy and life. A separate sub-caste, which is lower than the full blooded Brahmans in hierarchy but higher than the Kshatriyas, thereby came into existence, known as Bhumihars. Several other of Khatris and Bishnois can be cited. These arose out of an intermixture of blood and other factors. The rigid caste attitude in the past and the social and political tensions have resulted in the growth of large settlements of particular castes in compact regions in Uttar Pradesh. Thus there are a large pockets of Ahirs, Gujars, Kurmis, Bhumihars and so on in different parts. The scheduled castes and the Harijans have their own settlement everywhere. The village leadership is in the hands of the upper castes while in the Urban areas, the trading class
(Vaishyas), with plenty of money to spend, is a well-knit community and has a large say in the direction of affairs.

A part of Uttar Pradesh mainly tribal areas with the following districts such as Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Hardwar, Pauri Garhwal, Bageswar, Pithoragarh, Almora, Nainital, Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar has been formed into a new state Uttaranchal. So part of the tribal population is now in the state of Uttaranchal. The population of the tribal communities in the state is not large. They constitute the weakest section of the society and form distinct ethnic groups which have preserved their own separate culture identities in their original environment despite the ravages of time. Only five of the state's tribal communities have been recognised by the central government as scheduled tribes in terms of the provisions of the constitution. They are the Bhotia, Bhoksa, Jaunsari, Raji and Tharu tribes, inhabiting the sensitive border area. The remaining tribes with the exception of Bhil, Bora and sections of the polyandrous people of Uttarkashi and Tehri, are termed as scheduled castes (now in the state of Uttaranchal).

The village is the lynch-pin of the state's economy. An assorted, shapeless cluster of mud huts, roofed with thatch or khapsai (earthen
tiles) with hardly any sanitation, drainage or lighting arrangements and only narrow footpaths leading to the outside world constitute a typical Uttar Pradesh village. Cities, signs of prosperity increase. Houses belonging to the prosperous farmers was plastered with cement and reinforced brick-work roofs or arched doors and windows. Land is the status symbol in the village while the landowners generally are from the higher castes, it is their position as land owners which gives them status and power rather than their caste affiliation. Dire poverty and pressure on land impelled the lower caste people of eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh towards the end of the nineteenth century to migrate to distant lands and forced people into deviations from the traditional norms. Since Independence, the concept of welfare state, Zamindari abolition, the latest result of science and technology has benefited the village. Some well-placed educated city-dwellers have taken to the land. All this has changed the traditional concept of village as a self-sufficient unit where the requisite complement of occupational caste workers was always available to meet the needs of the villagers from birth to death. In a survey in the mid-Gangetic valley it was found that no single caste occurred in all the villages surveyed. Chamars, Ahirs, Brahmins, Nai, Lohars, Telis, Dhobis, Kurmis, Kumhars and Baniyas were found in the villages. The Nai (barber) is a journeyman who goes from door to door and village to
village and can minister to the wants of more than one village. Dhobis are scarce because they cater primarily to the upper castes. Baniyas are as sparsely scattered as the Dhobis because a single Baniya can finance operations within a radius of 10 to 20 miles or more. It is not only the lower castes that have abandoned their jajmani (It's a system where services are returned in goods or reciprocal services) obligations. The Brahmins have also done so. They formerly used to officiate at marriages and other ceremonies at the homes of their jajmans and received the traditional offerings in money and goods. The village Brahmins has given up some of their traditional functions. They regard as demeaning the practice of accepting food and charity or settling marriages, cooking food at wedding and officiating as priests. Some of the Brahmins have taken to cultivation and other occupations, such as tailoring and shopkeeping. The exploitative situations exists in other areas where the jajmani system still prevails.

2.7 RURAL ROADS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The network communication is an index of the development of a state. It has been found that, as the distance from Primary Health Centre increases, fewer people make use of the services. According to the draft eight-five Year plan, out of a total of 10899 villages with a population of 1500 and above, 10747 (98.6%) were linked by the weather pucca roads,
by March, 1992. There are 11,396 villages with population of 1000 – 1499 out of which 7,059 (61.19%) were liked with roads by March 1992. However, there will be 58,563 villages with a population of 1000 without link roads at the beginning of the eight Plan, out of which only 720 village will be connected with roads by the end of eight Plan, leaving a balance of 57,843 village without roads. There are wide ranging inter-regional variations. According to the department of rural development Uttar Pradesh, upto the march 2011 more than eighty percent villages are connected by the roads. Most of the village houses are connected through the kharanga roads. Condition of rural roads is improving day by day.

It is recognized that communication plays a very important role in bringing about social development and promoting health in community. In state like Uttar Pradesh which is characterized by heavy rural concentration, the dissemination of information through appropriate networks assumes important role for educating masses. The infrastructure of communication system is up to the mark. Each and every village is connected through the mobile network. The connectivity of the villages through the communication system provide the scope of the rural development. In recent years, there has been wide spread growth of television network through low power transmitter as well wide extension of all India Radio coupled with growth in print media. In Uttar Pradesh
Fig. 2.8.1: Land use in Uttar Pradesh

- Forest
- Cultivable waste land
- Current fallow land
- Barren uncultivable land
- Permanent pasture and other grazing land
- Other fallow land
- Other usable land except cultivation
- Land under misc. tree crops and groves
- Net area sown

- 16589.69%
- 537.2%
- 1232.5%
- 360.1%
- 2801.12%
- 431.2%
- 494.2%
- 65.0%
broad-casting covers cent per cent of the population. The coverage of television is estimated at over hundred per cent of the population.

2.8 LAND RESOURCES

U.P. is the largest state of India in terms of population and fourth largest in terms of geographical area. According to 2011 census it has a population of 199.6 million representing 16.5 per cent of the country's population. Its geographical area of 240928 sq. km. constitutes 9 per cent of the country's total geographical area. The per capita availability of land is bound to decline with increase in population overtime. As a result, the state's per capita total reporting area declined from 0.29 ha n 1971 to 0.27 ha in 1981 to 0.23 ha in 1989. The problem is further compounded on account of two factors. First, 75 per cent of main workers are engaged in agriculture, leading to a high pressure on land, second agriculture is also characterized by the preponderance of marginal holdings of less than one ha. The share of these holdings in the total number of operational holdings was 72.6 per cent in 1986, while it covered only 28.3 per cent of the total area under operational holdings. The average size of the operational holdings in the state comes to 0.80 ha compared to the national average of 1.23 ha.\textsuperscript{11} The total forest area is 1662 hectare in Uttar Pradesh which is 7 per cent of the total land and the total grass cropped

\textsuperscript{11} Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 (Upto 31.03.2011)
area, 16589 hectare which is 69 percent of the total area of Uttar Pradesh.\textsuperscript{12}

2.9 WATER RESOURCES

The ultimate irrigational potential which can be created through all sources of irrigation in India is 113.5 million ha and 22.6 per cent of it belongs to U.P. Against the total irrigation potential available in the state, 69.1 per cent has been created through all sources by the end of 2009-10.\textsuperscript{13} The percent age of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area in the state is about 81. As about 78 per cent of the population is dependent upon agriculture, this coverage falls inadequate. The total gross irrigated area in Uttar Pradesh is 19354 thousand hectare and the net irrigated area is 13383 thousand hectare in 2009-10.\textsuperscript{14} The 71.8 percent (9614 thousand ha) of the net irrigated area is irrigated by the tubewells and 19.1 percent (2558 thousand hectare) by the canals\textsuperscript{15}.

The magnitude of both drought-prone and flood-prone areas in the state is highest among all the major states. The proportion of development blocks under drought-prone area is 14.1 percent in the state compared to 1.5 percent in Haryana, 4.9 percent in Rajasthan, 5.5 percent in West Bengal and 6.3 percent in Orissa. Similarly the extent of flood-prone area

\textsuperscript{12} Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 97 (Upto 31.03.2011)
\textsuperscript{13} Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 145 (Upto 31.03.2011)
\textsuperscript{14} Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 145 (Upto 31.03.2011)
\textsuperscript{15} Statistical Dairy, Uttar Pradesh, 2011 page 145 (Upto 31.03.2011)
in the state is 20 per cent compared to 6.4 percent in Haryana, 10.3 percent in West Bengal and 11.6 percent in Bihar.

2.10 POPULATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

One out of every six persons in India belongs to U.P. with a population of 199,581,477 in 2011 it would have ranked the seventh largest country in the world if it was an independent nation. Its density of 828 persons per sq km is far above 267 for India.

According to 2011 census women constitute 46.9% of the total population of the state resulting in a sex ratio of 908 females per 1000 males. An interesting feature in this regard is a decline in female ratio at the national level but at the state level, there is a marginal increase in the two decades between 1931 to 1951. In fact during the whole 20th century we notice fluctuations during certain periods. The state female ratio however, is uniformly lower than the all India female ratio. The sex ratio differs by region.

The fertility rate is lowest in the hills and highest in the western region. The low fertility levels in the hills is a result of the highest of marriage, highest couple protection rate and highest literacy rate. Excess fertility in the western region should therefore, be entirely attributed to marital fertility in the western region possibly brought about less acceptance of family planning. If we examine the various socioeconomic
indicators of development, the western region although highly developed, industrially and agriculturally lags behind.

U.P.'s demographic transition from high birth rate low birth rate is taking place at a slow pace. Keeping in mind the menace of population explosion in the state and the poor performance of the state family division, the state government at one decided to create a new post of Director General (Family Welfare) in the Directorate of Medical and Health for effective implementation of various family planning schemes. However, the idea had to dropped at a later stage on account of budgetary and other constraints. While the success of the family planning programme is essential, it is not sufficient in the sense that family planning targets may not be attained independently of deeper development concerns. Attempts at reducing population growth can not be delinked from meeting the basic needs of the poorer segments of the population who contribute the most to the high rate birth rate. These needs relate to basic education, essential nutrition, primary health care, shelter and sanitation and to sustain all these, social environment supportive of growth with equity

2.11 HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOR

According to study, the two dominant influences, particularly on the rural society of UP, are religion and caste system. Various rituals
including conjuration, exorcism and holy baths are performed even by the educated, for the prevention and cure of diseases and during epidemics, floods and famines to appease the gods. A large majority of the rural people first look out for the magic religious physician, in whom they still have indomitable faith, their next preference is the use of herbal medicines. The pharmacopeia recognizes 85 drug plants and a lot of these are grown in UP including opium, belladonna, rauwolfia, fox glove, isabgol, dioscorea, liquorice, dill and Japanese mint. These are extensively used in home medicines and in concoctions by Vaids and Hakims. In a large number of cases people go to unregistered and unqualified medical practitioners who abound in rural areas. Only as a last resort do the majority of the people in UP turn to scientific medicines and usually it is a private practitioner. Often, such services are highly priced and beyond the means of the poor majority. The free for all medical care services so extensively provided by the government health care delivery system, are grossly under-utilized by the people of UP except for family planning and immunization. The Indian systems of medicines and homeopathy are more in demand because they are far less expensive and more easily accessible.

2.12 POLITICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

The state has a bicameral legislature – the legislative assembly and the legislative council. The state is administered by a council of ministers
which is collectively accountable to the legislative assembly the council of ministers is headed by the Chief Minister, who is leader of largest political party in the state assembly. UP has not only been the most populous state, but, also has been a powerful state politically and has exerted considerable influence in shaping the politics at the centre. It sends the largest number of 119 members to the national parliament, 85 to Lok Sabha and 34 to Rajya Sabha. The total membership of the parliament is 790, consisting of 545 lok sabha members. It has the distinction of producing seven out of thirteen prime minister of India.

The function of Governance are shared between the central and state Government according to the respective responsibilities and powers assigned under the constitution (seventh schedule), for example public health, sanitation and water supply are ‘state subjects’ while education, labour and economic and social planning fall in the concurrent list with the state and the centre working together in the same field towards agreed aims. In certain areas such as small irrigation and sanitation, planning responsibilities have been further decentralized to elected bodies at the district, block and village levels. A system of decentralised planning introduced in 1982, prescribes that 30 percent of the plan budget be at the disposal of these bodies for allocation to district schemes. In its development effort, the state is highly dependent on the central
Government. The state plan which symbolize the development aspirations of the state are financed for more than 50 percent by the central government. In addition the Central Government also supports non-plan expenditure of the state government.

The state is divided in 75 districts with an average population of 2.2 million the district is further divided into smaller units (for general administration and revenue collection) traditionally called tehsil. There are 312 tehsils in UP, such with an average population of 4.7 lakhs. For development administration the districts are demarcated since early 1950's in to blocks. There are 821 blocks in the state each with an average population of about 1.5 lakh.