

Demographic and Livelihood Characteristics of Sohela Village District Tonk (Rajasthan): A Micro Level Analysis

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ABSTRACT

An understanding of the demographic and livelihood characteristics of the population of an area is very important for policy formulation and developmental perspectives. It not only helps in assessing the present situation but also important in identifying the priority areas to work with. Keeping these points in mind, a micro level study has been carried out in Sohela village.

KEYWORDS: demographic, livelihood, Sohela, village, tonk, Rajasthan, micro, analysis, level

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INTRODUCTION

Sohela village comes under Peeplu Tehsil, district Tonk, Rajasthan and is situated at 26.24 N Latitudes and 75.85 E Longitudes. The village is located 13 km North of Tonk on Jaipur-Kota National Highway. The village lies east of the Aravallis and has Semi-Arid climatic conditions. The mighty Banas River is flowing south-west of this village. Sohela village is a Gram Panchayat with a total Geographical Area of 2154 hectare, 635 Households and a total Population of 3268 people (2011).[1]

Objectives

The objective of the survey is to look into the demographic and livelihood characteristics of the people of Sohela village. The specific objectives include the following:

- To know about the family size, sex composition, age structure, literacy and level of education of the people of Sohela village.
- To look into the Assets ownership pattern, both Land and Non-Land, of the households of Sohela village.
- To find the Household Types of the households of Sohela village on the basis of the main source of their livelihood.[2]
- To look into the level of benefits received from the government programmes and policies available to the rural people.

Data Base and Sampling

The study is based on primary data. A field survey has been carried out for obtaining demographic and livelihood characteristics of the households and the household members. The households are selected on the basis of random number table using simple random sampling without replacement method. A total of 167 households have been surveyed for the purpose (approximately 25per cent of the total households of the village).For obtaining data, the head of the household, other member of the



household or other responsible person has been interviewed.

The majority of the information was sought from the other member of the household who is also the responsible person of the household. In 36.53 per cent cases the information was provided by the head of the household himself/herself. Only in less than 2 per cent of the cases the information was sought from others.[3,4]

Household Characteristics

In this section, attempts have been made to explain the household level characteristics of the Sohela village.

About two third of the respondents were ‘cooperative and able’ which reflects the good quality of response and information received. Another 27.5 per cent of the respondents were cooperative in their response but weak in providing the necessary information. About 7 per cent of the respondents were found to be busy but only 0.6 per cent were reluctant in providing information during the survey.

Table 1: Broad Household Characteristics

S.N.	Characteristics	Number/Size
1	Size of Household	6.21 person
2	Land Owned	1.73 hectare
3	Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure	1949 Rupees

Source: Field Survey, Dec.2019

Table 1 provides the broad household characteristics such as the size of the households, land owned and monthly per capita consumption expenditure. In Sohela village the average size of the household is 6.21 persons per household. The average size of land owned by the households is 1.73 hectares. At the same time, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) is Rupees 1949 in the Sohela village.

Table 2: Households by Livelihood Class

S.N.	Livelihood Class	Percentage
1	Self-Employed in Agriculture	59.28
2	Self-Employed in Non-Agriculture	7.07
3	Agriculture Labour	15.57
4	Other Labour	10.78
4	Others	7.30

Source: Field Survey, Dec.2019

Table 2 provides the detail of the households by their livelihood class. The livelihood class of the households has been identified on the basis of the economic activity pursued by the household members which is also the main source of earning for that household. About 60 per cent of the total households of the Sohela village are ‘self-employed in agriculture’ as their livelihood class which suggests that agriculture is the main source of livelihood in Sohela. Another 16 per cent of the households depend on agriculture but in the form of ‘agriculture labour’. Thus, more than 75 per cent of the households have agriculture as their livelihood source. About 11 per cent of the households have their livelihood status as that of ‘other labour’ and most of them are engaged in construction and other such activities in the nearby urban areas. About 7 per cent households have their status as ‘self-employed in non-agriculture’ and another 7 per cent households have their status as ‘others’ which shows the livelihood diversification towards the high productivity non-farm sectors.[5,6,7]

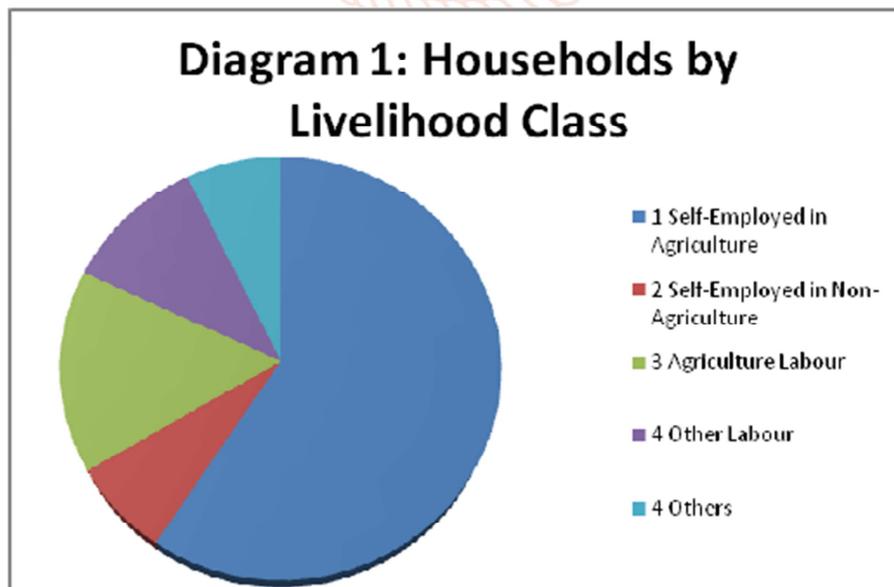
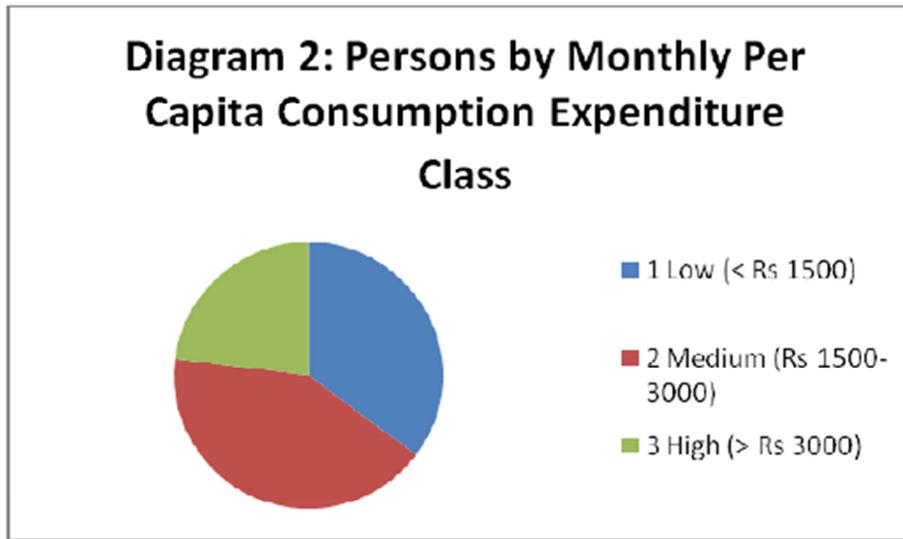


Diagram 2 shows the distribution of people in monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) classes. The average MPCE of the Sohela village is Rs 1949. About 35 per cent of the people have their MPCE is less than Rs 1500. Another 42 per cent people have their MPCE ranging between Rs 1500 and 3000. Only about 22 per cent of the people of the village have relatively higher MPCE (i.e. >Rs 3000)

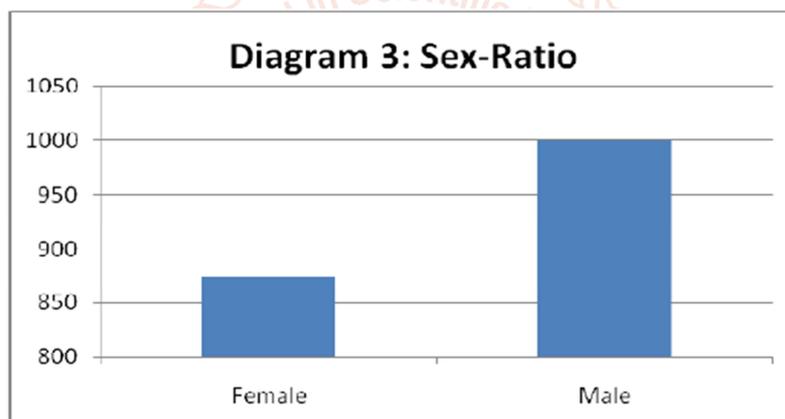


Demographic Characteristics

During the survey, information was also collected on the demographic characteristics of the people on parameters like sex-ratio, age structure, literacy and the level of education. These are the characteristics of the population which has a great impact on type of livelihood pursued, level of income and the overall well-being of the people of that particular area.[8,9]

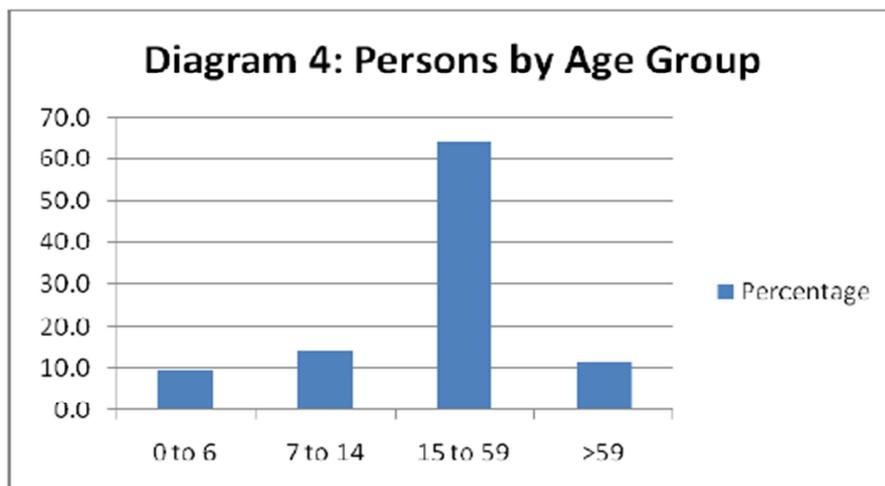
Sex-Ratio

Diagram 3 shows the number of females per thousand males (sex-ratio) of Sohela village. There are only 875 females per thousand males in Sohela village.



Age-Structure

Table 7 shows the age-structure of the population of Sohela village. About 10 per cent of the total population are in the age group of 0-6 years. Another 14 percent falls in the age group of 7-14 years. Therefore, a little less than one fourth of the total population of Sohela are children which come under the category of dependants. It is interesting to note that 64.2 per cent of the total population of Sohela are in the working age group (15-59) which is reflective of 'demographic dividend' being experienced by our country in these years. Only about 12 per cent of the people fall in the category of old age (>65 years).



Literacy & Level of Education

Table 8 provides detailed information about the literacy and the education obtained up to the highest level of the people of Sohela village. About 30 per cent of the total population are not literate in Sohela, however, the figure includes the 0-6 age group (non-school going) population also. About 5 per cent of the total population has the ability to read and write in any one language and thus literate but they have never attended any school.[10,11]

Table 3: Literacy & Level of Education

S. N.	Education Level	Percentage
1	Not Literate	30.6
2	Literate without Formal Schooling	5.3
3	Below Primary	9.3
4	Primary	13.0
5	Middle	11.0
6	Secondary	12.6
7	Higher Secondary	7.5
8	Diploma	1.4
9	Graduation	5.2
10	Post-Graduation	3.9
Total		100.0

Source: Field Survey, Dec 2019

The proportion of people who have attended schools and received education below and up to primary level is 22.3 per cent. People receiving education up to middle and secondary levels are 11.0 and 12.6 per cent respectively. Another 7.5 per cent completed their school education. Less than 2 per cent of the population have done diploma courses. About 5 per cent of the people of Sohela are graduated and a little less than 4 per cent have attained the education up to the post-graduation level.

Summary and Conclusion

The analysis of the household level data shows that in Sohela village, there is a clear dominance of households as 'self-employed in agriculture' followed by the wage labour households engaged in agriculture and non-agriculture occupations. The average household size in Sohela is higher than the state average of 5.5 persons. Sohela village is having an adverse sex-ratio (875), much below the state average. A larger family size and an adverse sex-ratio are reflective of poor performance on social development parameters of Sohela village.[12,13]

The analysis of the individual level data shows that about two third of the population of Sohela village falls in the 'working age group' which is in conformity with the demographic dividend being experienced by the country. However, the literacy and the level of education attained by the people of Sohela are not up to the desired level. Therefore, there is an urgent need to work on this front not only to improve their livelihood but also for the overall well-being of the people of Sohela village.[14,15]

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