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Development Patterns of Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Caste Villages in Azamgarh District: A Comparative Study

*[1]Neeraj Singh and [2]Azizur Rahman Siddiqui

[1]*DPhil Research Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Allahabad*
[2]*Professor, Department of Geography, University of Allahabad*

Abstract

Agriculture in India is very dependent on the vagaries of monsoon. To reduce the unpredictability, it is necessary to develop irrigation facilities. Irrigation is in turn dependent on reliable electricity supply. Thus, developed irrigation and electricity supply is an indicator of economic development in rural areas. In the current paper, development of irrigation and electricity supply in Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Caste dominated villages is assessed. Based on this, the paper tries to find out the development levels of Scheduled Caste dominated villages and compares it with non-Scheduled Caste dominated villages.

Keywords: *Agriculture, Irrigation, Electricity Supply, Scheduled Castes*

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***Author's Correspondence**

Neeraj Singh

DPhil Research Scholar,
Department of Geography,
University of Allahabad

neerajsingh.geo@gmail.com

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Introduction:

Agricultural development of any region depends mainly upon the availability of water resources (Rosenzweig et al, 2004) and electricity supply for irrigation (Saccon, 2018) along with the favourable quality of land and soil resources and other technological inputs. Irrigation is a prominent input which plays a permanent role of insurance against the vagaries of rainfall and drought and helps farmers in adopting new agricultural innovations. It promotes the spatial change in land use. The availability of adequate irrigation facilities transforms the subsistence agricultural landscape gradually into commercial one (Kostov and Lingard, 2004) making agrarian economy market-oriented. Moreover, irrigation is directly dependent on electricity supply as tube wells are run by motor and therefore, need electricity.

Agricultural productivity is thus, dependent on irrigation and electricity supply in a region. To understand the development levels of Scheduled Caste population in Azamgarh, a comparative analysis of SC and non SC dominated villages of Azamgarh is done in this paper.

Study Area:

Azamgarh district is structurally a part of the great Indian plains. It lies between the Peninsular India in the south and recently built Himalayan mountains on the north. This is one of the most fertile plains in the world. The plain is 400 km wide in its broadest part and 2,400 km long. There are several outstanding features of this amazing area. One is the dead flatness of the plain - not a hill, scarcely a mound to break the monotony of the level surface. The geological evolution of the plain remains a matter of discussion (Spate, 1957).

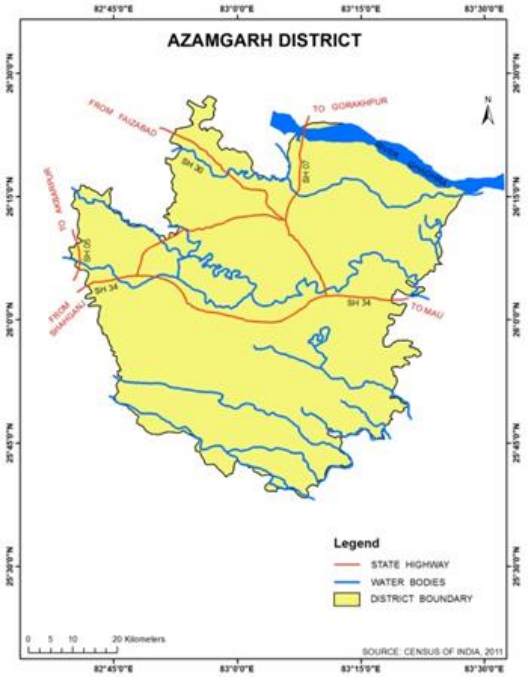

Fig 1: Azamgarh Base Map

The district is named after its headquarter town Azamgarh, which was founded in 1665 by Azam son of Vikramajit, a descendent of Gautam Rajputs of Mehnagar in Pragana Nizamabad. He had, like some of his predecessors, embraced the faith of Islam. He had a Mohamamdan wife who gave birth to two sons, Azam and Azmat. While Azam gave his name to the town of Azamgarh and Azmat constructed the fort and settled the bazaar of Azamgarh in ParaganaSagri. The district comprises of 7 tehsils, 22 developmental blocks (see fig 1)and 4,133 villages. The district is irregular in shape lying south of the Ghaghara river, between the parallels of 25°38' and 26°27' north latitudes and the meridians of 82°40' and 83°52' east longitudes (see fig 2).

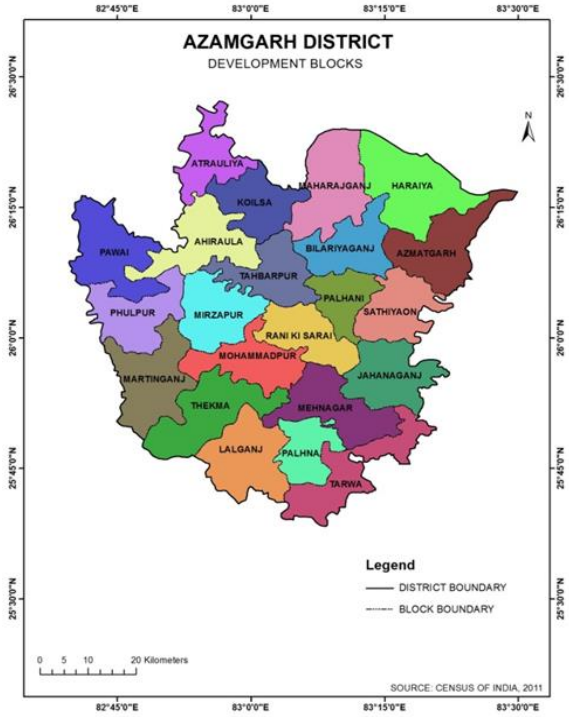

Fig 2: Azamgarh: Study Area Development Blocks

The administrative headquarter i.e. Azamgarh city is located on the Lucknow-Ballia state highway, 269 km from the state capital Lucknow. The Azamgarh district is bounded by the river Ghaghara on the north, by Mau district in the east, by Ghazipur in the south-east, by Jaunpur in the south-west, by Sultanpur for short-distance in the

west and by Ambedkar Nagar in the north-west. The river Ghaghara separates the district from the Gorakhpur district. The district has an area of 4,054 sq. km. and a population of about 4 million (Census of India, 2001). Geographical factors such as geological structure, relief, slope of the land, quality of soils and the climatic conditions exert influence and control over the techniques of irrigation and the area irrigated. The entire distributional system of irrigation water follows the terrain and the slope of the land.

Methodology:

To understand the development parameters of SC population in Azamgarh district, one village with dominant SC population and one village with dominant non-SC population were selected by random sampling from each of the 22 blocks of Azamgarh (total 44 villages selected). These villages were then compared on the basis of different indicators of agricultural development. The indicators for agricultural development were taken from Census of India, and the study is therefore, mainly based on secondary data.

The indicators for agricultural development compared in the study include power supply for agricultural use, total unirrigated area, area irrigated by source, canals area, wells/tube wells area, and tanks/lake area. The villages selected for the study are given in Table 1 & 2.

Comparative Study of Electricity Supply:

Table 1: Villages dominated by SC Population

Village Name	CD Block Name	Total Population of Village	Total Scheduled Castes Population of Village	Proportion of SC Pop
Premapur	Atraulia	347	323	93.08357349
Nizampur	Koilsa	182	182	100
Savayan	Ahiraula	234	230	98.29059829
Arazi Bagahwa	Mahrajganj	698	696	99.71346705
Tari	Haraiya	828	812	98.06763285
Holpur	Bilariyaganj	274	273	99.6350365
Patti	Azmatgarh	217	217	100
Dasu Patti	Tahbarpur	974	949	97.43326489
Chak Roa	Rani Ki Sarai	327	326	99.6941896
Babhanauli Adayee	Palhani	681	681	100
Chak Taajya	Sathiyaon	1082	1078	99.63031423
Mirzapur Khas Or Miyapur Khals	Jahanaganj	448	448	100
Chak Haveli	Mirzapur	348	348	100
Ibrahimpur	Mohammadpur	608	605	99.50657895
Bhorpur	Pawai	248	248	100
Sadarpur	Phulpur	334	334	100
Chak Tewkhar	Martinganj	291	291	100
Jhirwa Kamalpur	Thekma	242	242	100
Deonathpur	Lalganj	646	646	100
Usari	Palhna	355	354	99.71830986
Atarkusa	Tarwa	165	163	98.78787879
Majith Durjan	Mehnagar	244	243	99.59016393

Table 2: Villages dominated by non-SC Population				
Village Name	**CD Block Name**	**Total Population of Village**	**Total Scheduled Castes Population of Village**	**Proportion of SC Pop**
Kanaila	Atraulia	636	0	0
Mijhuri	Koilsa	748	0	0
Jagdishpurhari Banshdhar	Ahiraula	721	0	0
Arazi Semari	Mahrajganj	292	0	0
Dewara Shrinagar	Haraiya	422	0	0
Kadipur Khud Kast	Bilariyaganj	350	0	0
Majhuwa	Azmatgarh	346	0	0
Lakhmanpur Patti Lalarai	Tahbarpur	380	0	0
Araji Bagmati	Rani Ki Sarai	479	0	0
Durgapur	Palhani	495	0	0
Chadi	Sathiyaon	642	0	0
Aspalpur	Jahanaganj	452	0	0
Ramapur	Mirzapur	288	0	0
Shekhpur Husam	Mohammadpur	977	0	0
Chak Mak Sudan	Pawai	234	0	0
Bahira Par	Phulpur	827	0	0
Demri Makhdoompur	Martinganj	1560	0	0
Jamin Karauda	Thekma	344	0	0
Kunebhar	Lalganj	415	0	0
Mantupur	Palhna	436	0	0
Rajjabpur	Tarwa	570	0	0
Chak Kathwari	Mehnagar	393	0	0

The data for electricity supply for agriculture uses in SC dominated villages is given in Table 3 and for non-SC dominated villages is given in Table 4.

Table 3: Electricity supply in SC dominated villages			
Village Name	**CD Block Name**	**Power Supply For Agriculture Use Summer (April-Sept.) per day (in Hours)**	**Power Supply For Agriculture Use Winter (Oct.-March)per day (in Hours)**
Premapur	Atraulia	8	9
Nizampur	Koilsa	0	0
Savayan	Ahiraula	8	8
Arazi Bagahwa	Mahrajganj	6	8
Tari	Haraiya	10	15
Holpur	Bilariyaganj	10	8
Patti	Azmatgarh	8	8
Dasu Patti	Tahbarpur	7	6
Chak Roa	Rani Ki Sarai	0	0
Babhanauli Adayee	Palhani	12	14
Chak Taajya	Sathiyaon	14	14
Mirzapur Khas Or Miyapur Khals	Jahanaganj	10	10

Chak Haveli	Mirzapur	10	10
Ibrahimpur	Mohammadpur	8	8
Bhorpur	Pawai	0	0
Sadarpur	Phulpur	8	8
Chak Tewkhar	Martinganj	8	8
Jhirwa Kamalpur	Thekma	0	0
Deonathpur	Lalganj	10	10
Usari	Palhna	8	8
Atarkusa	Tarwa	6	8
Majith Durjan	Mehnagar	10	10

Table 4: Electricity supply in non-SC dominated villages

Village Name	CD Block Name	Power Supply For Agriculture Use Summer (April-Sept.) per day (in Hours)	Power Supply For Agriculture Use Winter (Oct.-March)per day (in Hours)
Kanaila	Atraulia	8	10
Mijhuri	Koilsa	8	8
Jagdishpurhari Banshdhar	Ahiraula	1	1
Arazi Semari	Mahrajganj	0	0
Dewara Shrinagar	Haraiya	0	0
Kadipur Khud Kast	Bilariyaganj	10	10
Majhuwa	Azmatgarh	8	8
Lakhmanpur Patti Lalarai	Tahbarpur	8	10
Araji Bagmati	Rani Ki Sarai	8	10
Durgapur	Palhani	6	6
Chadi	Sathiyaon	6	5
Aspalpur	Jahanaganj	8	8
Ramapur	Mirzapur	8	8
Shekhpur Husam	Mohammadpur	6	6
Chak Mak Sudan	Pawai	0	0
Bahira Par	Phulpur	8	10
Demri Makhdoompur	Martinganj	8	11
Jamin Karauda	Thekma	8	8
Kunebhar	Lalganj	6	8
Mantupur	Palhna	10	10
Rajjabpur	Tarwa	4	5
Chak Kathwari	Mehnagar	8	8

From the data given above, it is clear that there are 4 SC dominated villages that do not receive electricity throughout the year for agricultural use, while there are 3 non-SC dominated villages that do not receive electricity. On the other hand, some SC dominated villages receive electricity for as much as 14 hours for agriculture, while the maximum that non SC dominated villages receive electricity is for 10 hours. Thus, even though SC dominated villages are in many cases more deprived, in places where awareness about rights of SC is attained, SC dominated villages are prospering.

Comparative study of irrigation facilities:

The different indicators on irrigation development in SC and non-SC dominated villages in the study region are given in Table 5 and 6:

Table 5: Irrigation facilities in SC dominated villages

Village Name	Total Geographical Area (in Hectares)	Total Unirrigated Land Area (in Hectares)	Area Irrigated by Source (in Hectares)	Canals Area (in Hectares)	Wells/Tube Wells Area (in Hectares)	Tanks/Lakes Area (in Hectares)
Premapur	11.04	0.04	8.81	0	8.81	0
Nizampur	35.07	1.05	26.01	10	16.01	0
Savayan	23	2	17	0	17	0
Arazi Bagahwa	44.04	3.03	36.1	0	36.1	0
Tari	38.1	1.01	33.01	0	21.01	12
Holpur	33.64	0	21.18	0	21.18	0
Patti	38.15	1.23	19.25	0	19.25	0
Dasu Patti	114.23	11.21	54.46	0	54.46	0
Chak Roa	16.73	0.01	15.01	0	15.01	0
Babhanauli Adayee	22.83	0.01	14.11	0	14.11	0
Chak Taajya	64.41	5.27	47.56	0	47.56	0
Mirzapur Khas Or Miyapur Khals	32.86	0.8	20.48	0	20.48	0
Chak Haveli	13.91	1.35	4.45	0	4.45	0
Ibrahimpur	79.44	10	42	0	42	0
Bhorpur	35.98	0	25.7	0	25.7	0
Sadarpur	17.28	0.36	8.1	0	6.3	1.8
Chak Tewkhar	25.09	0	18.09	0	18.09	0
Jhirwa Kamalpur	54.17	0	43.57	0	0	0
Deonathpur	30.39	0	21.99	21.99	0	0
Usari	76.62	0.15	63.47	0	63.47	0
Atarkusa	63.08	0.36	58.57	0	58.57	0
Majith Durjan	66.63	0.31	60.77	60.77	0	0
Total:	936.69	38.19	659.69	92.76	509.56	13.8

Table 6: Irrigation facilities in SC dominated villages

Village Name	Total Geographical Area (in Hectares)	Total Unirrigated Land Area (in Hectares)	Area Irrigated by Source (in Hectares)	Canals Area (in Hectares)	Wells/Tube Wells Area (in Hectares)	Tanks/Lakes Area (in Hectares)
Kanaila	146.69	6.84	115.23	31.67	83.56	0
Mijhuri	64.04	2.02	50.04	0	50.04	0
Jagdishpurhari Banshdhar	56.29	1.55	43.04	0	43.04	0
Arazi Semari	156.07	0	143.03	0	143.03	0
Dewara Shrinagar	80.84	34.04	20.1	0	20.1	0

Kadipur Khud Kast	36.04	0	30.04	0	30.04	0
Majhuwa	42.35	0	29.85	0	29.85	0
Lakhmanpur Patti Lalarai	97.66	0.17	62.53	0	62.53	0
Araji Bagmati	23.26	0	12.26	0	12.26	0
Durgapur	58.34	8.45	40.01	0	40.01	0
Chadi	28.16	0.9	18.51	0	18.51	0
Aspalpur	125.26	0.39	104.17	0	104.17	0
Ramapur	46.82	2.31	17.42	0	17.42	0
Shekhpur Husam	29.03	0.98	16.66	0	16.66	0
Chak Mak Sudan	19.34	0	15.51	0	15.51	0
Bahira Par	68.93	2.01	30.5	0	30.5	0
Demri Makhdoompur	0.05	0	0.04	0.04	0	0
Jamin Karauda	42.82	0.19	34.77	0	34.77	0
Kunebhar	45.53	0	30.34	30.34	0	0
Mantupur	38.08	8.71	29.37	29.37	0	0
Rajjabpur	113.45	1.42	87.08	87.08	0	0
Chak Kathwari	45.48	0	35.68	0	35.68	0
Total:	1364.53	69.98	966.18	178.5	787.68	0

From the above tables it is clear that irrigation facilities are more developed in non-SC dominated villages of the districts. While only around 4% of geographical area in SC dominated villages is covered by irrigation, around 80 % of area in non-SC dominated villages is covered by irrigation. Furthermore, non-SC villages have more wells/tube wells (58%) and canals (13%) as compared to non-SC dominated villages (54% and 9% respectively)

Conclusion:

From the data given above, it is clear that while there is greater deprivation in many SC dominated villages, some SC dominated villages that have progressed have become as developed as non SCvillages in Azamgarh district. Thus, it can be concluded that with proper planning, development initiatives, and infrastructure development, SC dominated villages can be developed to the level of non-SC dominated villages in different Blocks of Azamgarh district.

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