

**SOCIO-ECONOMICS PROFILE OF MUSLIMS IN THE KOSI MAHANANDA
DOAB:
A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS**

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Muslims constitute an important web in the social fabric of India. The present study is about the Muslims of eastern part of India belonging to the Kosi and Mahananda rivers.

The region is known for its fertile soil with heavy rainfall associated with frequent floods. poverty, illiteracy and natural hazards such as floods, The conditions of Muslims are more pathetic because of higher unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, high dependency ratio etc. as compared to their counterparts. Keeping all these in to considerations, it was decided to select this area for the purpose of research.

A large section of Muslims in this region are poor, illiterate and working as laborers in the agricultural fields. Due to frequent floods, they have not been able to over come their agricultural poverty. This has resulted a sharp decline in terms of socio-cultural and economic milieu. The deteriorating condition of Muslims in the region needs an extensive fieldwork to determine the process leading to such a miserable socio-economic condition of Muslims. The study will be of great help in order to develop their socio-economic condition of the Muslim living in the region.

Objectives of the Study

- 1 To see the spatial distribution of Muslims in the region at the block level and to identify the areas of high, medium and low concentration of Muslim population.
- 2 To study the levels of family size, literacy, dependency ratio, work force labour force, economic sectors and per capita income of the Muslims.
- 3 To assess the levels of socio-economic conditions of Muslims at the district level.
- 4 To study the parameters which have been responsible for higher illiteracy, poverty and unemployment among the Muslims.
- 5 To identify a set of socio-economic variables and their relationship with the status of Muslims.

- 6 Finally, an effort has been made to provide a suitable model and guidance to improve the quality of life in the region in general and for Muslims in particular.

Data Base and Methodology

In order to achieve the socio-economic conditions of Muslims, data have been collected from both secondary and primary sources. The secondary data have been collected from Census of India . Gazetteers of India, magazines, and professional journals, statistical digests and the climatic data from Meteorological Department, New Delhi have been consulted.

The primary data have been gathered through questionnaires at the household level based on purposive random sampling. Questionnaires have been prepared to collect the information of socio-economic conditions of Muslims.

Out of 6 districts in the region, 3 blocks have been selected from each district. Three villages have been selected on the basis of high concentration of Muslims population from each block. Altogether these have been 54 villages. It was decided to conduct a door-to-door field survey in 10 households from each village. Altogether 540 households were visited for collecting the field data.

A village was divided into three categories such as high, medium and low-income groups. Three households from high, four households from medium and three households from low category were taken into consideration for the purpose of generating the data.

In order to know the socio-economic condition of Muslims an exercise of correlation have been carried out. Per capita income is one of the important parameter determining the status of a person. Although these may be many more variables which may determine. Further the result of the correlation (coefficient values) have been divided into two main categories, positively correlated and negatively correlated. Each one (positively and negatively) has been further sub-divided into three ranges of categories i.e, high medium and low ranges of coefficient correlation values. To calculate the social welfare index status of Muslims in the region an exercises of S. Ginis and Atkinson's welfare index was carried out. Their exercises were done at the district level. The details of the methodology were given at the appropriate chapter.