

Scholar's Name : **Shams Perwaiz**
Supervisor's Name : **Prof. Haseena Hashia**
Department : **Geography**
Title : **Impact of Floods on Socio-Economic Conditions of the People in the Kosi-Mahananda Doab: A Geographical Analysis**

ABSTRACT

The present study is related to the examining the Impact of Floods on Socio-Economic Conditions of the People in the Kosi-Mahananda Doab region of Bihar. Flood, one of the major natural disaster, is responsible for the loss of life, loss of property, loss of infrastructure, loss of agriculture and soil erosion on one hand and for infections, epidemics and water borne diseases on the other hand. In India, Kosi is known as the "Sorrow of Bihar" because of the highly frequent floods and the damages caused by these floods. The present study aims to identify the causes, impacts and the effective management of floods in the region or the part of North Bihar. Further, the present study investigates the institutional challenges hindering optimal performance. In order to analyse the socio-economic conditions of the people of the Kosi-Mahananda Doab, data was collected from both primary data and secondary sources. Apart from official data related to destructions caused by floods, through field work of 300 households in 27 villages. This first-hand information includes data related to the impact on education, children, infrastructure, agriculture, water and sanitation in the study area. The results of primary survey show that water logged conditions created during floods hinders the mobility of the individuals in the flood affected area and consequently, have adverse impact on education of children and occupation of employed people. Further, loss of infrastructure and agriculture are also notable. Flood affected areas do not have provisions of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Further, the medical facilities and other relief materials are not evenly and properly distributed among the affected villagers during the floods. The region is socio-economically backward region and this backwardness is mainly due to administrative problems. The results of primary survey shows that political reasons and Red-Tapism in administrative machinery are two major factors responsible for socio-economic backwardness of the region. Floods, illiteracy and poverty add fuel to the fire. Frequent floods every year result in useless expenditure in the form of maintenance of houses and other expenditures essential for bringing life back on the track. Illiteracy and poverty are inter-related to each other because prevailing illiteracy among the villagers hinders their economic progress as they do not find any respectable job with good emoluments and are compelled to work as daily wage workers. Consequently, this poverty further becomes hindrance in the path to achieve better education and hence, the region is socio-economically backward. Flood Control Management (FCM) practices in collaboration with local bodies like Gram Panchayats are working well and scenario has changed a lot during the past few years.