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RURAL DWELLINGS AND HOUSE TYPES IN VILLAGE BAS MUTSIL RANILA: A CASTE-WISE ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

In the present paper an attempt has been made to study of the caste-wise distribution of dwellings, house types based on size and building materials in village Bas Mutsil Ranila. Primary data has been collected from 203 sample households by well prepare schedules. There are thirteen castes Rajput, Brahman, and Baniya (*General Population*), Khati, Kumhar, Ahir, Nai, Maniyar and Lohar (*Other Backward Caste*) Chamar, Balmiki, Sirkiband and Doom (*Scheduled Caste*) lived in the village. It is recorded that about 55 per cent of houses have one to three rooms. Most of the households having four rooms and five or more room houses belong to Rajput, Baniya, Nai, Kumhar and Sirkiband castes. It is observed that 73.40 % houses are pucca (wall with burnt bricks, roof with burnt bricks, concretes, stones, tiles and floor with burnt bricks, concretes, marbles and tiles,) while 25.61 % dwellings are mixed types (burnt brick walls, mud roof and floor with mud cum burnt bricks) and only 0.99 % rural dwellings are still kutcha (mud walls, mud/thatched roof with mud floor).

Further, it has also been observed that more than half of the floor of the houses in the village (54.68 %) is built of concrete and burnt bricks and only 3.45 % floor of houses are made of tiles, 19.70 % are made of marbles and 22.17 % are made of mud, are occupied by Rajput, Brahman, Baniya, Ahir, Chamar and Sirkiband castes. The walls of almost all houses are (99.01 %) made of burnt bricks and only 0.99 % houses belong to Chamar caste are made of un-burnt bricks. It is found that most of roofs of houses i.e. 61.58 per cent are made of stones followed by 13.79 % roofs of the houses are made of concretes, 11.82 per cent of burnt bricks, 09.36 % are built of mud and un-burnt bricks and remaining 03.45 per cent roofs of the houses are built of tiles. Finally, it is concluded that three fourth households have better housing conditions due to locally available building materials in the study area.

Key words: Dwellings, house types, kutcha, pucca and mix houses.

Introduction:

“House is a social concept; its nature and cognition are varying with caste, class, religion and region (Unni, 1965)”. In a simplistic way, a house is a ‘shelter’ to live in. It is one of the basic human entitlements which connect its occupant with the society. In 1946, Finch and Trewartha have commented that “as a geographic element ‘house’ is meant to include not only the residential house, ranging from the humblest huts of the poor to the most elaborate and massive city mansions, but all other human structures as well, where people congregate or where their grains or goods are stored, such as warehouses, stores, schools factories and churches etc.” “In geographical literature a house is the most important component of cultural landscape, which reflects the cultural heritage, cultural styles, functional needs, positive and negative aspects of non-cultural environment (Kniffen, 1965)”.

Dwellings are the universal and basic element of settlement geography. Many geographers have studied the dwellings in different forms in India as well as abroad. (Brunhes, 1920) advocated as “the houses are the product of cultural traditions and natural conditions”. (Chamar, 2002) has described “the distribution of rural dwellings, and house types based on shape and size, functional characteristics, building materials and house plan in Bhiwani District, a prominent part of desert land of Haryana. He observed that the general conditions and the architectural design of the houses are good and attractive because of prevailing prosperity of the local people, while houses are generally kaccha and lack modern facilities, are being inhabited by poorer people”.

Chamar and Chamar (2013) studied on “rural dwellings and house types on caste wise distribution of households cross classified by number of rooms, household structure according to population size and building materials used for floor, wall and roof in village Sirsa Kheri, located in south-eastern part of Julana tehsil of Jind district in Haryana state. Chamar and Chamar (2019) examined “the clan-wise distribution of dwellings, house types based on size and building materials of Bazigar caste in north-west Haryana. Clan-wise households has been calculated in percent to describe the households based on numbers of rooms, number of houses based on building materials like floor, wall and roof and variations in house types with the help of various tables. It is observed that the Dasiya clan of the Bazigar caste occupied lowest ladder in term of social and economic conditions. They are found to live in a very poor condition of life. Their houses are mostly kutchha types. On the other hand, Paras clan is the most developed clans among Bazigar caste. The economic conditions are reflected in the magnitude of pucca houses available to them. They possess mostly mix type of houses in terms of building materials. It is observed that Bazigar also use modern building materials as seen in study area for walls, roofs and floors in their houses”.

Here an attempt has been made to analyze the caste-wise distribution of dwellings and house types based on size and building materials.

Study Area:

The village Bas Mutsil Ranila is selected as a study area located in north-eastern part of Charkhi Dadri district in Haryana state. The village is about 17 kilometers away from Charkhi Dadri town on national highway No.-334B which passes through the south of the village. The village is surrounded by the village Ranila on the West, Pilana on the North and Achina on the South.

Source of Data and Research Methodology:

Primary data has been collected from 203 sample households. The data has been collected by using well prepared schedule and personal interviews contacted to the head of the family. Caste-wise households have been calculated in per cent to describe the households based on number of rooms, household structure according to number of rooms, number of houses based on building materials like floors, walls and roofs, and variations in house types with help of various tables.

Demographic Characteristics:

According to field survey 2012, the number of sample households of the village is 203 with a total population of 1129 persons comprising 613 males and 516 females. The village is inhabited by thirteen castes like Rajput, Brahman, Baniya, (*General population*), Ahir, Nai, Khati, Lohar, Kumhar, Maniyar (*Other Backward Castes*) and Chamar, Balmiki, Doom, Sirkiband (*Scheduled Castes*). Rajput and Chamar are two pre-dominantly castes of the village. The village has average size of household is 5.5 persons. The average size of household is recorded 5.1 persons and 5.6 persons among other backward castes and scheduled castes respectively. The Balmiki has highest size of household 6.3 person followed by Kumhar (6.1 person), Rajput (5.8 person) and Chamar and Sirkiband (5.3 persons) while the lowest size of household (3.3 person) is recorded in Nai caste. The total literacy rate of the village is 81.19 % while male literacy is 92.67 % and female literacy is 67.19 per cent. The sex ratio is observed 842 females per thousand males in the village. Brahman, Balmiki and Baniya have sex ratio of more than 900 females per 1000 males except Lohar (1500 females/1000 males) which has only five population comprising two males and three females while the lowest sex ratio is recorded in Nai 428 females per 1000 males (Table-1).

Table-1: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste-Wise Demographic Characteristic.											
Castes	No. of H.Hold	Total Pop	Male Pop.	Fem. Pop.	Total Lit.	In (%)	Male Lit.	In (%)	Fem. Lit.	In (%)	HH Size
(A) General Population											
Rajput	64	372	199	173	278	84.75	163	94.21	115	74.19	5.8
Brahman	24	134	70	64	105	82.03	66	98.50	39	63.93	5.5
Baniya	6	23	12	11	21	91.30	12	100.00	9	81.81	3.8
Total	94	529	281	248	404	85.05	241	95.63	163	73.09	5.6
(%)	46.30	46.86	45.84	48.06	50.06	85.05	47.62	95.63	54.15	73.09	5.6
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)											
Khati	9	51	27	24	36	87.80	22	95.65	14	66.66	5.6
Kumhar	8	49	26	23	32	80.00	19	86.36	13	72.22	6.1
Ahir	5	21	14	7	15	78.94	11	91.66	4	57.14	4.2
Nai	3	10	7	3	5	55.55	5	83.33	0	0.00	3.3
Maniyar	2	7	4	3	6	85.71	4	100.00	2	66.66	3.5
Lohar	1	5	2	3	5	100.00	2	100.00	3	100.00	5
Total	28	143	80	63	99	79.83	63	91.30	36	91.30	5.1
(%)	13.79	12.67	13.05	12.20	12.26	79.83	12.45	91.30	11.96	91.30	5.1
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)											
Chamar	48	258	148	110	178	79.11	123	93.18	55	59.13	5.3
Balmiki	25	158	81	77	101	77.09	60	84.50	41	68.33	6.3
Sirkiband	6	32	18	14	20	64.51	15	83.33	5	38.46	5.3
Doom	2	9	5	4	5	55.55	4	80.00	1	25.00	4.5
Total	81	457	252	205	304	76.96	202	89.78	102	60.00	5.6
(%)	39.90	40.47	41.10	39.72	37.67	76.96	39.92	89.78	33.88	60.00	5.6
T. Village	203	1129	613	516	807	81.18	506	92.67	301	67.19	5.5

Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.

Dwellings Based on Size:

The size of the rural dwellings denotes the economic level of the people. The one room dwellings are fairly distributed in the village with maximum number (06.90 %) of the rural households. About 49 per cent dwellings occupy two or three rooms and most of people of this category belong to economically poor and slightly well castes like Brahman (58.33 %), Chamar (56.25 %), Balmiki (60.00 %), Ahir (60.00 %), Khati (66.67 %), and Lohar and Maniyar both are 100 per cent. It is recorded that most of four room dwellings belong to Doom (50.00 %), Sirkiband (33.33 %), Nai (33.00 %), Brahman (25.00 %) and Rajput (23.44 %) of the total dwellings of this particular category in the village. Five room dwellings belong to Baniya (50.00 %), Rajput (37.5 %) Kumhar (37.5 %), Nai (33.33 %) of the total dwellings of this particular category in the village (Table-2).

Table-2: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste Wise Household and Number of Rooms.											
Castes	No. of House Holds	One Room	In (%)	Two Rooms	In (%)	Three Rooms	In (%)	Four Rooms	In (%)	Five & More Rooms	In (%)
(A) General Population											
Rajput	64	02	03.12	11	17.19	12	18.75	15	23.44	24	37.5
Brahman	24	01	04.17	05	20.83	09	37.5	06	25.00	03	12.5
Baniya	06	00	00.00	00	00.00	03	50.00	00	00.00	03	50.00
Total	94	03	03.19	16	17.02	24	25.53	21	22.34	30	31.91
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)											
Khati	09	00	00.00	01	11.11	05	55.56	01	11.11	02	22.22
Kumhar	08	02	25.00	02	25.00	00	00.00	01	12.5	03	37.5
Ahir	05	00	00.00	01	20.00	02	40.00	01	20.00	01	20.00
Nai	03	00	00.00	00	00.00	01	33.33	01	33.33	01	33.33
Maniyar	02	00	00.00	01	50.00	01	50.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Lohar	01	00	00.00	00	00.00	01	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00
Total	28	02	07.14	05	17.86	10	35.71	04	14.29	07	25.00
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)											
Chamar	48	03	06.25	16	33.33	11	22.92	09	18.75	09	18.75
Balmiki	25	04	16.00	06	24.00	09	36.00	05	20.00	01	04.00
Sirkiband	06	01	16.67	02	33.33	00	00.00	02	33.33	01	16.67
Doom	02	01	50.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	01	50.00	00	00.00
Total	81	09	11.11	24	29.63	20	24.69	17	20.99	11	13.58
T. Village	203	14	06.90	45	22.17	54	26.60	42	20.69	48	23.64
Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.											

House Types Based on Building Materials:

In the study area, the building materials of houses in the village are classified into three groups. These are as follows:

- (i) **Materials for floors:** include mud, burnt bricks, cement, and tiles.
- (ii) **Materials for walls:** include un-burnt bricks and burnt bricks only.
- (iii) **Materials for roofs:** include mud, burnt bricks, tiles, cement and concrete, and stones.

The floors of most of the houses in the village are built of concrete (50.25 %), mud (22.17 %) and marbles (19.70 %) and relatively 04.43 per cent and 03.44 per cent floor are made of burnt bricks and tiles. The walls of almost all the houses (99.01%) are made of burnt bricks and only 00.99 % houses are made of mud cum un-burnt bricks. It is observed that roofs of most of the houses (61.58 %) are built of stone and relatively 13.79 % houses are made of concretes, 11.82 % of burnt bricks, 09.36 % of mud and remaining 03.45 % houses are built of tiles (Table -3).

Table-3: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: No. of Houses Based on Building Materials.

Building Materials	Walls	In %	Roofs	In %	Floors	In %
Mud/Un-burnt bricks	02	00.99	19	09.36	45	22.17
Burnt bricks	201	99.01	24	11.82	09	04.43
Tiles	00	00.00	07	03.45	07	03.45
Concretes (RBC/RCC)	00	00.00	28	13.79	102	50.25
Stones	00	00.00	125	61.58	00	00.00
Marbles	00	00.00	00	00.00	40	19.70
Total Village	203	100.00	203	100.00	203	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012. Compiled by Author.

Caste-wise House Types Based on Building Materials:

Materials for Floors:

The floors of all houses of Baniya and Khati castes are made of concretes and marbles followed by Sirkiband (83.33 %), Ahir (80.00 %), and Rajput (79.68 %) Kumhar (75.00 %), Balmiki (72.00 %) Brahman (70.83 %), Nai (66.67 %), and Chamar (50.00 %) while the floor of the all the houses of Maniyar and Lohar (*Other Backward Castes*) and Doom (*Scheduled Castes*) are made up of mud (Table-4). Very few houses of Rajput, Chamar, Balmiki and Sirkiband castes are made of tiles in the village and no floor of any house among *other backward castes* is made of tiles in the village.

Table-4: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste wise Number of Houses Based on floor Materials.

Castes	No. of H.Holds	Number of Houses with Floor Materials									
		Mud	In (%)	Bricks	In (%)	Con-crete	In (%)	Marbles	In (%)	Tiles	In (%)
(A) General Population											
Rajput	64	08	12.50	04	06.25	33	51.56	18	28.12	01	01.56
Brahman	24	05	20.83	02	08.33	15	62.50	02	08.33	00	00.00
Baniya	06	00	00.00	00	00.00	03	50.00	03	50.00	00	00.00
Total	94	13	13.83	06	06.38	51	54.25	23	24.67	01	01.06
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)											
Khati	09	00	00.00	00	00.00	09	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00
Kumhar	08	02	25.00	00	00.00	06	75.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Ahir	05	01	20.00	00	00.00	01	20.00	03	60.00	00	00.00
Nai	03	01	33.33	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	66.67	00	00.00
Maniyar	02	02	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Lohar	01	01	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Total	28	07	25.00	00	00.00	16	57.14	05	17.86	00	00.00
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)											
Chamar	48	21	43.75	02	04.17	19	39.58	05	10.42	01	02.08
Balmiki	25	02	08.00	01	04.00	12	48.00	06	24.00	04	16.00
Sirkiband	06	00	00.00	00	00.00	04	66.67	01	16.66	01	16.67
Doom	02	02	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Total	81	25	30.86	03	03.70	35	43.21	12	14.81	06	07.41
T. Village	203	45	22.17	09	04.43	102	50.25	40	19.70	07	03.44

Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.

Materials for Walls:

The walls of most of houses (99.01 %) in the village are built of burnt bricks. Only two houses (0.99 %) belong to Chamar caste have made the wall with un-burnt bricks (Table-5).

Material for Roofs:

The roofs of all houses of Ahir, Maniyar, Sirkiband, Doom castes are made of stone followed by 75.00 % houses to Kumhar, 70.83 % houses to Brahman, 66.67 % houses to Chamar, and 64.00 % houses to Balmiki, respectively are made of stone. The roofs of 20.21 % houses belong to *general population*, 28.57 % and 28.38 % houses of *other backward castes* and *scheduled castes* are made of mud, burnt bricks and tiles in the village (Table-6).

Table -5: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste wise Number of Houses Based on Wall Materials.					
Castes	No. of Houses	Number of Houses with Wall Materials			
		Un-burnt Bricks	In %	Burnt Bricks	In %
(A) General Population					
Rajput	64	00	00.00	64	100.0
Brahman	24	00	00.00	24	100.0
Baniya	06	00	00.00	06	100.0
Total	94	00	00.00	94	100.0
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)					
Khati	09	00	00.00	09	100.0
Kumhar	08	00	00.00	08	100.0
Ahir	05	00	00.00	05	100.0
Nai	03	00	00.00	03	100.0
Maniyar	02	00	00.00	02	100.0
Lohar	01	00	00.00	01	100.0
Total	28	00	00.00	28	100.0
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)					
Chamar	48	02	04.17	46	95.83
Balmiki	25	00	00.00	25	100.0
Sirkiband	06	00	00.00	06	100.0
Doom	02	00	00.00	02	100.0
Total	81	02	02.47	79	97.53
T. Village	203	02	0.99	201	99.01
Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.					

Table-6: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste wise Number of Houses Based on Roofs Materials.

Castes/ Verna	No. of Houses	Number of Houses with Roofs Materials									
		Mud	In (%)	Bricks	In (%)	Tiles	In (%)	Con- crete	In (%)	Stones	In (%)
(A) General Population											
Rajput	64	07	10.94	04	06.25	01	01.56	16	25.00	36	56.25
Brahman	24	02	08.33	02	08.33	00	00.00	03	12.50	17	70.83
Baniya	06	01	16.67	02	33.33	00	00.00	01	16.67	02	33.33
Total	94	10	10.64	08	08.51	01	01.06	20	21.27	55	58.51
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)											
Khathi	09	00	00.00	04	44.44	00	00.00	01	11.11	04	44.45
Kumhar	08	01	12.50	01	12.50	00	00.00	00	00.00	06	75.00
Ahir	05	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	04	80.00	01	20.00
Nai	03	01	33.33	00	00.00	00	00.00	01	33.34	01	33.33
Maniyar	02	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	100.00
Lohar	01	01	100.0	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
Total	28	03	10.71	05	17.86	00	00.00	06	21.43	14	50.00
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)											
Chamar	48	05	10.42	07	14.58	04	08.33	00	00.00	32	66.67
Balmiki	25	01	04.00	04	16.00	02	08.00	02	08.00	16	64.00
Sirkiband	06	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	06	100.00
Doom	02	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	100.00
Total	81	06	07.40	11	13.58	06	07.40	02	02.47	56	69.13
T. Village	203	19	09.36	24	11.82	07	03.45	28	13.79	125	61.58
Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.											

On the basis of building materials, three types of houses have been identified in the village 'Bas Mutsil Ranila'. These are following;

- (i) **Kutch House:** (Floors, walls and roofs are made of mud materials).
- (ii) **Pucca House:** (Floor with burnt bricks, cement and tile, wall with burnt bricks, and roof with burnt bricks, concretes, stones and tiles),
- (iii) **Mixed House:** (Floor with mud cum un-burnt bricks, wall with burnt bricks and roof with mud).

(i) **Kutch House:** Kutch houses occupied by those people who are basically very poor and backward as socially and economically in the village. Only two kacha houses (0.99 %) belong to Chamar caste are observed, those floors, walls and roofs are made of mud materials.

(ii) **Pucca House:** It is observed that the pucca houses in the village are occupied by well socially and economically rich people who have good and specious houses. Only 73.40 % houses of the total houses are pucca and made of floor with burnt bricks, cement and tiles, walls brunt bricks and roofs with brunt bricks, cement, concretes, stone and tiles. About 79.79 % households belong to general population (Rajput, Brahman, Baniya) have pacca typed of houses, while 71.42 % houses to other backward castes (Khathi,

Kumhar, Ahir, Nai) and 66.67 % houses to scheduled castes (Chamar, Balmiki, Sirkiband). No pacca typed house is found among Maniyar, Lohar (Other Backward Castes) and Doom (Scheduled Castes) in the village.

(iii) Mixed House:

Mixed typed houses are occupied by people of middle class in the village. About 25.61 % houses are made of floor with mud cum un-burnt bricks, wall with burnt bricks and roof with mud in the village. It is noticeable that all houses of Maniyar, Lohar and Doom castes have mixed typed of houses in the village. While 41.67 % houses to Chamar, 12.00 % to Balmiki (scheduled castes) 37.50 % to Kumhar, 33.33 % to Nai, 20.00 % to Ahir (Other Backward Castes) and 29.17 % to Brahman 17.19 % to Rajput, 16.67 to Baniya castes (general population) have mixed typed of houses in the village (Table-7).

Table-7: Village Bas Mutsil Ranila: Caste Wise Variations in House Types.							
Castes	No. of Houses	Number of Houses					
		Kucha Houses	In Per cent	Pacca Houses	In Per cent	Mixed houses	In Per cent
(A) General Population							
Rajput	64	00	00.00	53	82.81	11	17.19
Brahman	24	00	00.00	17	70.83	07	29.17
Baniya	06	00	00.00	05	83.33	01	16.67
Total	94	00	00.00	75	79.79	19	20.21
(B) Other Backward Castes Population (OBC)							
Khati	09	00	00.00	09	100.00	00	00.00
Kumhar	08	00	00.00	05	62.50	03	37.50
Ahir	05	00	00.00	04	80.00	01	20.00
Nai	03	00	00.00	02	66.67	01	33.33
Maniyar	02	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	100.00
Lohar	01	00	00.00	00	00.00	01	100.00
Total	28	00	00.00	20	71.42	08	28.57
(C) Scheduled Castes Population (SC)							
Chamar	48	02	04.16	26	54.17	20	41.67
Balmiki	25	00	00.00	22	88.00	03	12.00
Sirkiband	06	00	00.00	06	100.00	00	00.00
Doom	02	00	00.00	00	00.00	02	100.00
Total	81	02	02.47	54	66.67	25	30.86
T. Village	203	02	00.99	149	73.40	52	25.61
Source: Field Survey, 2012, Compiled by Author.							

Conclusion:

It is concluded that the pucca houses in village belong to upper caste people who have a more good quality and specious houses rather than other backward caste and scheduled castes people. It is noted that most of pucca houses belong to Rajput, Brahman (general population) which are the landowner castes of village and have good socially and economically status in the village.

During the field survey it was observed that the mixed houses are gradually being replaced by the pucca houses due to improvement in economic conditions of the inhabitants and growing availability and suitability of local building material in recent years. The distribution of different size dwellings also reflects the size of the family. It has also been found that the dwellings of one and two-room represent the single family system while more than five room dwellings claim the jointly family system.

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