



Changing Pattern Of Occupational Structure In Katihar District: A Geographical Analysis

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Abstract:

Occupational structure refers to those activities, which are carried out by the population in the area to get livelihood. It is referred to as trade or profession in general scenes' whose distribution among the population depends on degree of the social and economic development of the particular area. The study of occupational structure of the population in the particular area and society is of great importance. It is also important tool that assesses the ratio of the entire working and non-working population and present a clear picture of its entire work force. It is also providing insights of level of socio-economic development and future planning. The basic objective of the present research paper is to access the change in the agriculture sector and other occupations, which is mainly based on the secondary data published in the district census handbook 2001 and 2011. Katihar district is basically a district with an agrarian rural economy. Most of its working population depends on agriculture and agro-based industries for livelihood, because there is a complete lack of minerals and minerals - based industries. Which are the factors responsible for the low socio-economic development of the entire region. In order to assess the change taken place in the district. The working population classified under different categories mentioned in the census has been analysed with the help of various statistical techniques.

This clearly shows the substantial difference between 2001-2011 in the occupational structure of study area.

Key words :- Occupation, Working-force, Non-Worker, Agrarian, livelihood **Introduction:**

An essential element in the investigation of socioeconomic disparity is occupational structure. Occupational factors have a significant impact on both present and future economic prospects. They are also linked to varying degrees and trends of socioeconomic development¹. Both the terms economic composition or occupational structure are often used with the same meaning which means the population living in a particular area which country beats to economic and production activities. Although the concept of occupational structure is a dynamic ideology, which is constantly shifting in terms of place and time and deeply influences it's socio-economic and cultural development². However, analysis of this gives improvement knowledge of various demographic, economic, social and cultural factors in the context of the area.

Occupation is a continuous process adopted by humans for their subsistence, under which they earn their livelihood by doing various activities such as hunting, fishing, animal husbandry, agriculture forestry, mining, and various types of services whose basic objective is not only earning a living, but also archive a certain socio-economic level. Thus, occupation is the only permanent source of economy. Various factors, including the relative weight of various industries in the economy, technological advancements, political conditions, bureaucracy (the distribution of technological skills and administrative responsibility), labour and market (which determines the pay and conditions associated with occupations), status and prestige (influenced by occupational closure), social-cultural and economic circumstances, lifestyle, gender issues, etc influence the formation of the occupational structure in each historical period³. The dominance of these components depends on socio-economic change over a time. Since occupational structure is determined and controlled by various factors like natural, demographic, socio-cultural and economic. So it's study has special importance for geographers.

Social scientists find that an analysis of the labour force is a valuable tool for gauging the degree of social and economic development that a region has reached (Maitra, 1969)⁴, but also for making plans for the future (Chandana and Sidhu 1980)⁵, for mobilizing its man power (Sinha 1971)⁶. Furthermore, the degree of labour force participation serves as a gauge of a society's social and economic makeup. (Radhakrishnan and vijaylakshmi 1974)⁷ however, it is a result of a society's age structure as well as its socioeconomic and political constraints (you, 1971)⁸. It's thus clear that after through study of the occupational structure, the main characteristics of the population of a particular area. Such as total working and non-working population occupational structure, regional pattern of economic development, purchasing power, regional prosperity or poverty, barriers to economic growth and future plans, clear knowledge is obtained. On the basis of this a society is divided into the category of primary, secondary and tertiary civilization or under developed, developing and developed economy respectively.

One important factor in the manifestation of a region's demographic composition is its occupational structure. It offers an accurate representation of the working and non-working population in a region or nation⁹. From the economic point of view, the population divided into two major categories first working and second non-working population. The entire working population was divided into 4 categories mainly primary (hunting, fisheries, animal husbandry, agriculture, forestry and mining) secondary (industry based on primary occupation) tertiary (various trade, transport and communication service) and quarterly (art and literature, knowledge, science and research) etc. By the census of India, it has been classified into two measure 1.) men workers 2.) marginal workers and four sub-categories 1.) cultivator, 2.) agriculture labour, 3.) domestic and household industry's workers and 4.) other workers Working and workers and other workers.

Objective:

The primary goal of the research paper that is being given is to examine the pace of occupational change and the shift from the agricultural to the non-agricultural sectors, as well as the changes in the occupational structure of the study area between 2001 and 2011.

Methods and Methodology:

The methodology of the research area varied according to what was required for a particular theme. The study's objectives guided the collection and processing of the data and information required for the investigation. It used secondary data. The requirements of a particular theme dictated the data mode selection. The relevant data on occupational structure was collected from different volumes of the Census of India and the Statistical Abstract of Katihar district. All elements have been accurately represented using cartography by employing the appropriate techniques and methods. The processed data is represented by appropriate diagrams.

Study area:

Bihar's northeastern region is known as the Katihar district. On October 2, 1973, it broke away from Purnia district to become an autonomous district. Formerly, Purnia district included Katihar district as a subsidiary. Purnia district establishes its borders in the north and west, while the boundaries in the south are determined by Bhagalpur (Bihar), Sahebganj (Jharkhand), and Malda (W. Bangal) districts. With a total geographic area of 3057.0 square kilometres, its geographical extension is from 25° 42' to 26° 24' north latitude and 87° 10' to 88° 05' east longitude. The three principal rivers in the district are the Ganga, Kosi and Mahananda. The area is vulnerable to flooding since it is home to three of India's most significant rivers. The ground becomes slightly sandy as a result of the river's sand deposits. The district is primarily formed by alluvial soil, and sub-tropical monsoon climates prevail there. Owing to the area's rich soil and ideal climate, the main productive crops grown there are oil seeds, maize, bananas, makhana, and potatoes. The primary industry are paper and pulp mills. With the exception of a tiny hill lock (Chhota Pahad) made of nodular limestone located in the southern portion of the manihari block, there are no highlands in the district.

Finding and discussion -:

In the study of occupational structure, the working (main and marginal workers) and non-working population are studied in the area. The working population is that part of total population, which is engaged in economic production activities in any form, physical and mental. Whereas, under non-working population that part of the population is included which does not contribute to economic production activities in any way. It mainly includes child and old age group. In total number of workers engaged in to diverse economic activities give a clear picture to that level of economic and social development of the study area.

According to the 2011 census only one third 33.01% of the total population of the study area (mean or marginal workers) are engaged in various gainful economic activities, while the remaining 67% is non-working i.e. dependent population. Whereas 21.7% of the total working population are found as main workers and only 11.8% as marginal worker the occupational structure of Katihar district has seen very significant changes in the last decade from 2001 to 2011. In the year 2001, the working population was 37.5% of the total population in which the percentage of mean and marginal worker was recorded at 27.8% and 9.8% respectively. From the observation of table number-1 and figure number-1 it is known that ratio of men and marginal workers alone with total worker has increased/decreased during this decade. The total working population of the study area registered a significant decline of - 4.5% in the year 2011 as compared to the year 2001. Rural area recorded a decline of - 5.3% more than the district average, while in increased by + 3.4% in urban area. Uncertainty of agriculture and allied activities, increase in population and rural-urban migration of population in search of employment it's are responsible factor of the change at the district level. The year 2011 registered a negative growth of minus 6.1% in main worker over the preceding decade. Where's marginal farmers showed a marginally positive growth of 1.4% similarly, in rural area, there was a decrease of -6.8% in the main workers and an increase of +1.4% in the marginal workers. In the contrary along with the total worker in urban area, the main and marginal worker also registered a positive growth of +3.4%, 1.3% and 2.1% respectively compared to the previous year. The non- working population witnessed a positive growth of +4.5% during the period of 2001-11.

Table -1 Population of worker and non-worker to total population in Katihar district 2001-2011

Categories	2001			2011			Decadal change		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Main workers	28.4	21.7	27.78	21.61	23.03	21.74	-6.4	+1.3	-6.1
Marginal workers	10.5	3.1	9.8	11.86	5.16	11.27	+1.4	+2.1	+1.4
Total workers	38.8	24.8	37.5	33.38	28.19	33.00	-5.3	+3.4	-4.5
Non- workers	61.2	75.2	62.5	66.52	71.81	67.00	+5.3	-3.4	+4.5

Source: District Census Hand Book of Katihar 2001-2011

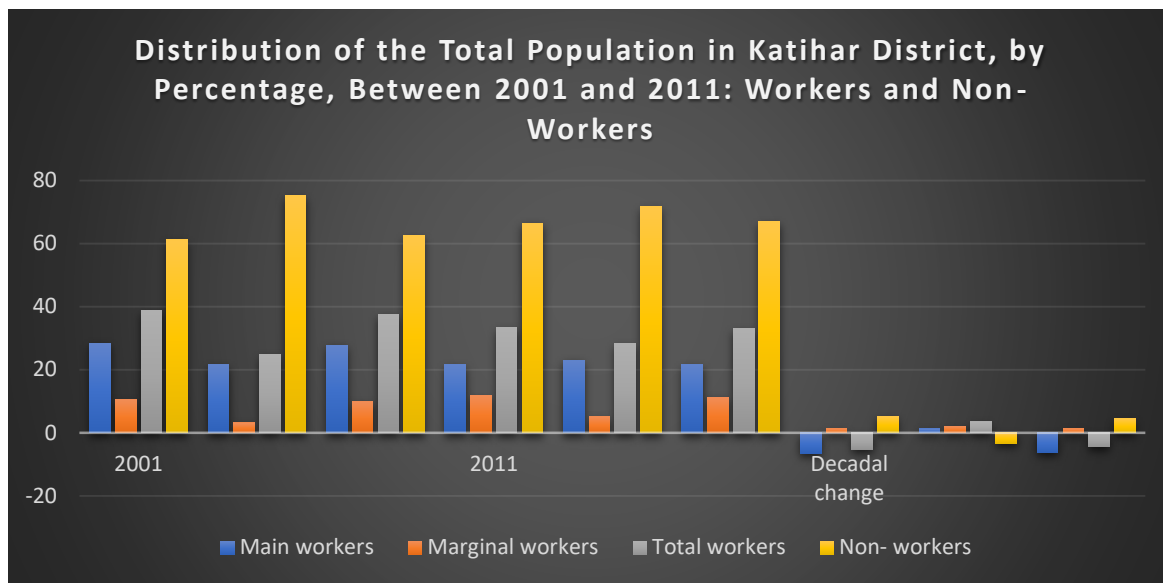


Figure number-1

In the rural areas it was +5.3% while the urban areas it registered a significant decline of -4.3%. Thus, the non-working population increased from 62.5% (rural 61.2% and urban 75.2%) to 67.00% (rural 66.52% or urban 71.81%) in the year 2011. It may be mentioned that the proportion of non-working population in the study area remained above 60% in 2001-2011 census years. It is clear that the burden of non-working population on working - population is maximum.

Decadal growth of working population in study area -:

Analysis of the occupational structure of Katihar district in both the decades shows that the percentage of working population has increased under different categories. During dedicates (2001-11) the total number of workers at the district level increased by 12.8%. Although the district level main workers show an increase of only +0.5% but marginal worker registered a significant increase of +9.4%.

Table -2 Decadal Growth of Workers and Non-Workers in Katihar District 2001 and 2011

Categories	Rural	Urban	Total
Main workers	-2.0	+33.0	+0.5
Marginal workers	+46.0	+111.9	+9.4
Total workers	+ 10.9	+42.71	+12.8
Non- workers	+39.9	+19.8	37.7

Source: Plotted by Author

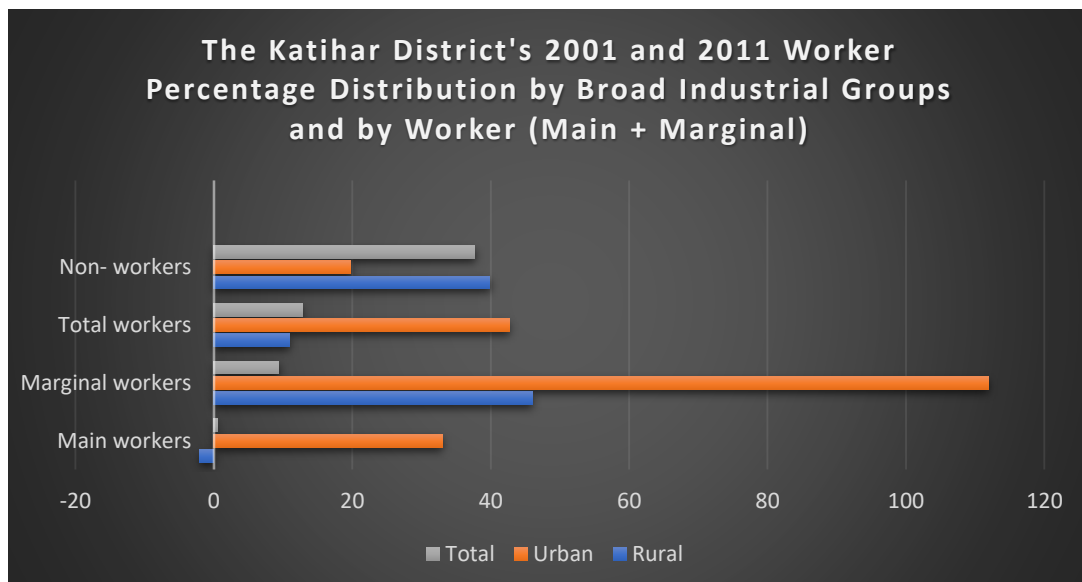


figure number-2

The growth of total mean worker was 10.9% in rural and 42.7% in urban areas. The percentage of increase in total main working population in urban area was found to be much higher than the district and rural average. Rural area shows -2.0% decrease in among the main workers while marginal workers registered in outstanding increase of +46.0%. Similarly, urban area registered an increase to 33.0% in the main workers and 111.9% in the marginal workers. The main reason of the rapid increase in the working population of study area in the degree of urbanization, employment, opportunities and rural - urban migration. The highest increase in non-workers during this period, whose recorded in rural area 39.9% which was much higher than the district 37.7% and urban average 19.1%.

The increasing pattern of non-working population in the study area indicates increased population growth, mass poverty, unemployment and low level of socio-economic economic development.

Changing pattern of occupational structure:-

The employment is a crucial factor in determining the overall development of households and persons. The structure and composition of employment and unemployment is the result of a complex phenomenon, which encompass socio-economic and household characteristics of person and location¹⁰.

After independence the process of diversification of India's economy started to accelerate economic development. The expansion of the secondary and tertiary service sector in recent decades has further encouraged them, due to which was a decline in the proportion of tenants/cultivator. Apart from this, land acquisition and redistribution on reduced size of land holdings etc, also encouraged the reduction in the agricultural sector. The general change being experienced in the traditional occupational structure in the contest of the study area is not exception but it's clear signs can be seen at the national and state level.

In the year 2001 the study of distributional pattern of workers under different categories in Katihar district shows that the proportion of cultivators in the total working population was 22.4%. in the rural areas this ratio was observed to be 23.7% and in urban areas only 2.6%. the ratio of cultivator population to total workers showed a decrease in 5.7% in the decades 2001-2011 this the decreased from 22.4% to 16.7% in the study area in the rural area it registered a decreased of 6.1% is compared to the previous decade to 17.6% while the urban areas it registered a growth of 2.4% to 5.0% the frequency of floods in the study area uncertainty in agriculture work due to education and awareness the density of people to other occupation should be the factors responsible for the decrease in farmers cultivator ratio.

Table-3 Distribution of Worker (Main + Marginal) by Brod industrial Categories in Katihar District

Categories	2001			2011			Decadal Change 2001-2011		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Cultivators	23.7	2.6	22.4	17.8	5.0	16.7	-6.1	+2.4	-5.7
Agricultural labourer	64.3	9.1	61.0	70.5	16.1	66.3	+6.2	+7.0	+5.3
Workers in Household industries	2.5	3.5	2.5	1.9	3.5	2.0	-0.6	0	-0.5
Other workers	9.5	84.8	14.1	10.0	75.4	45.0	+0.5	-9.4	+0.9

Source: District Census Hand Book of Katihar 2001-2011

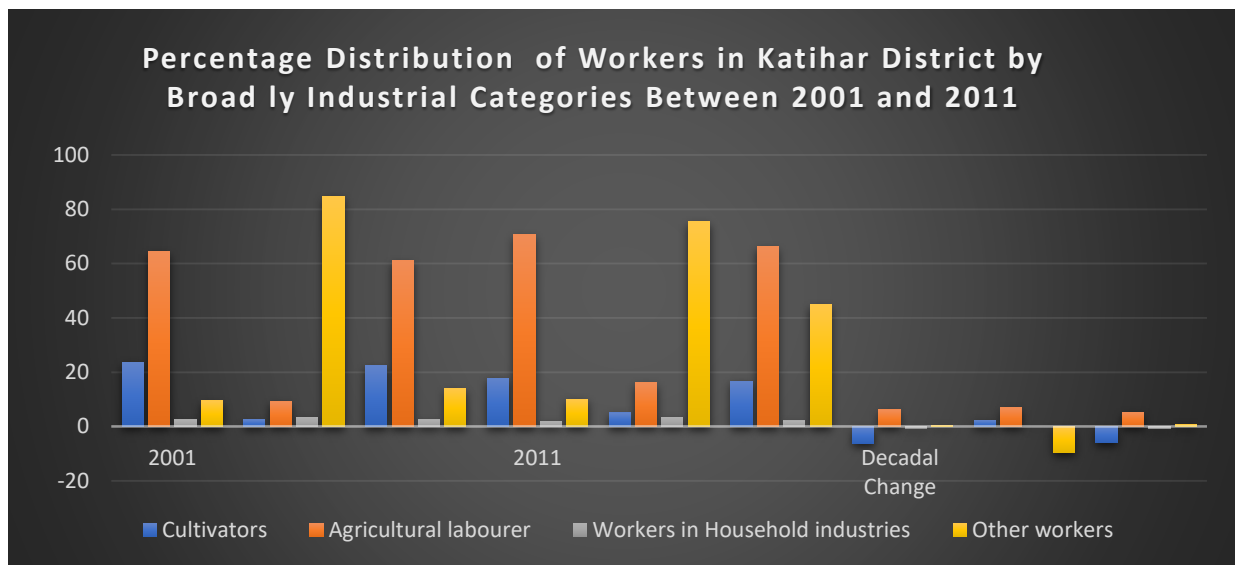


Figure number-3

The trend of increase in the proportion of agricultural labours in the study area was observed at the district, rural and urban level as compared to the previous year. In 2001 the proportion of agricultural labours at the rural, urban and district level was seen to be 64.3%, 9.1% and 61.0% respectively. In 2011 it registered in increase of +5.3% + 6.2% and +7.0%. Thus, the proportion of agricultural labour increased to 70.5% in rural area 6.1% in urban area and 66.3% at district level. The proportion of agriculture labour was maximum in rural area as compared to the district and urban average, where the maximum increase was experienced in urban areas. Like the cultivators, a negative growth trend was observed in the proportion of workers engaged in household industries in the study area. In 2001, 2.5% population was classified as household worker which declined to 2% in the year 2011 with a negative growth of 0.5%.

The percentage of working population classified under other workers in the study area showed a positive (+0.9%) growth trend in 2011 compared to the previous decade. It was a positive growth of + 0.5% in rural area and negative growth of - 9.4% in urban area. Thus, the proportion of other workers in the study area has increased 14.1% (rural 9.5% or 84.8%) in 2001 to 45.0% (rural 10.0% and urban 75.4%) in 2011.

The proportion of cultivators should decrease of 16.2% during the decade 2001 to 2011 the percentage in rural areas stood at 17.5% why the urban area showed an astonishing positive growth of 172.6%. The main reason for this was the production of commercial crops such as makhana, fruits and vegetables and a large scale in urban areas.

Table-4 Decadal Growth of Workers by Broad Industrial Categories in Katihar District

Categories	2001-2011		
	Rural	Urban	Total
Cultivators	-17.5	+172.6	-16.2
Agricultural labourer	+21.5	+152.6	+22.7
Workers in Household industries	-14.0	+42.6	-9.3
Other workers	+16.4	+26.9	+20.2

Source: Plotted by Author

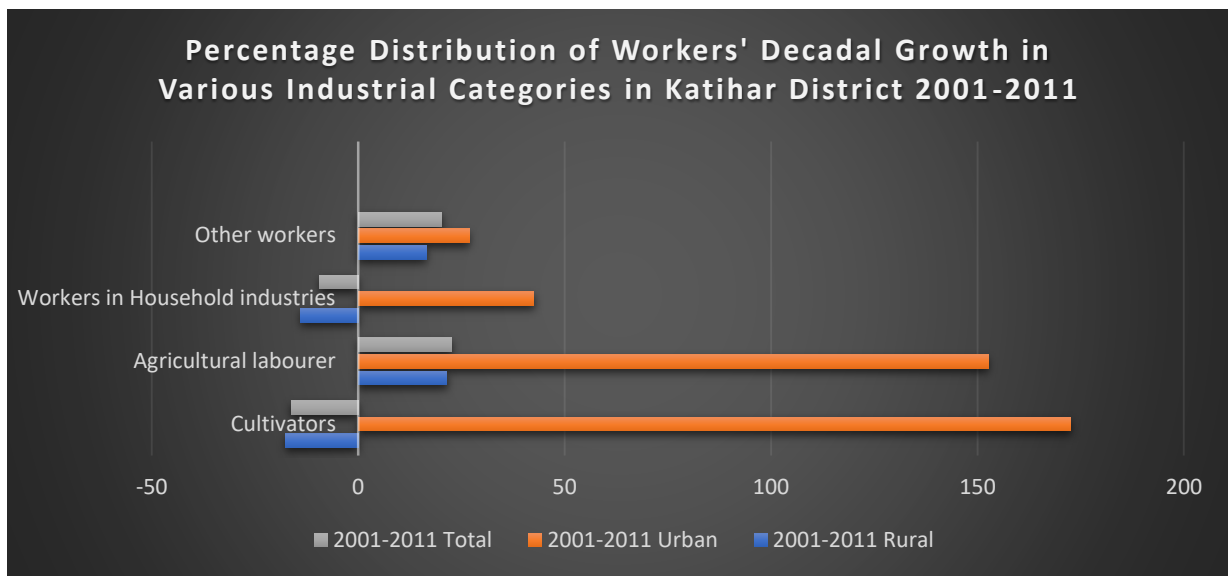


Figure number-4

At the district level many factors such as the frequency of flood in most area, uncertainty in agricultural work and not getting desired benefits even after maximum Time, capital and labour force have given rise to the tendency of differences among the population towards agriculture work.

The percentage of agricultural labourers and other workers has seen an increase of 22.7% and 20.2% in this decade (2001–11).

Among agriculture labours 21.5% increase was observed observed in rural areas and 152. 5% in urban areas. The proportion of other workers in rural and urban area experienced 16.4% and 26.9% respectively. While the proportion of workers engaged under domestic and family industries registered negative decadal growth of -9.3% at the district level. It registered a negative growth of -14.0% in rural areas while a positive growth of 42.0% was registered in urban areas.

It is thus clear that driven by many factors like limited economic development opportunities in agriculture and household industries uncertain uncertain profits, increasing population and need, insufficient supply, availability of maximum opportunities of economic growth in urban area. The transfer of labour in the reason for various economic activities which is largely giving rise the trend of rural - urban migration in the study area.

The size off work force in the population of an area and its division into different economic activities explain the status of socio-economic development of that area. The trend of the work force and the ratio of these with in different job categories shows the pattern of change in occupation of a particular sector. Table number 2 and figure number 2 shows the percentage of the population engaged in agriculture activities during the decade 2001 2011. The observation of which clearly shows that most of the total working population here is engaged in agriculture and allied activity.

In the year 2001 83.40% of total working population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In the rural area the ratio was highest at 88.9%. while the wild urban areas the lowest was recorded at 21.1%. but a decreasing trend was observed in 2011.

Table-5 Agricultural Workers and Non- Agricultural Workers in Katihar district (As percentage to Total Workers)

Categories	2001			2011		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Agricultural Workers	88.09	21.1	83.40	88.01	11.71	82.98
Non- Agricultural Workers	11.90	78.89	16.59	11.99	88.28	17.01

Source: District Census Hand Book of Katihar 2001-2011

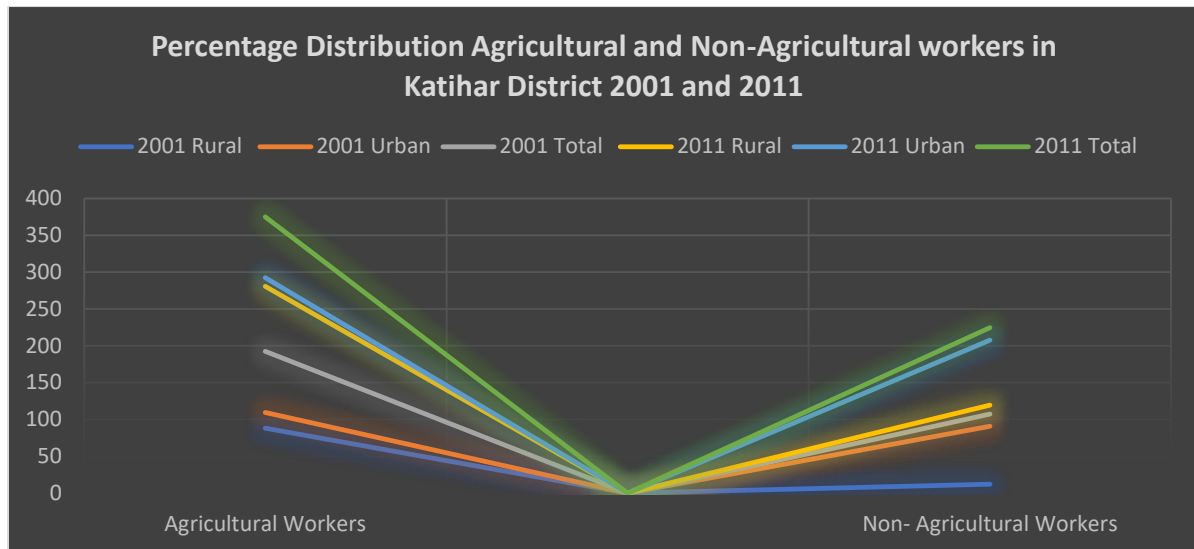


Figure number-5

The ratio of total agricultural labour to agriculture labourers has decreased marginally at the district and rural levels, by 0.42% and 0.08%, respectively. The highest reported percentage, 9.39%, was found in urban regions. Consequently, in 2011, the overall number of workers in agriculture and cultivation increased to 82.98%, consisting of 88.01% rural and 11.71% urban workers.

However, only 16.59% of workers (household and other workers) were employed in non-agricultural sectors in 2001. Merely 11.90% (the lowest) and 78.89% (the maximum) of workers in rural and urban areas, respectively, were involved in non-agricultural activity. In 2011, there was a 0.42% increase in the total number of workers under the age of thirty. As a result, the study area's overall non-agricultural worker percentage rose from 16.56% to 17.01%. The percentage of non-agricultural workers grew to 11.99% (2001, 11.90%) and 88.28% (2001, 78.89%) in rural and urban areas, respectively, with positive growth rates of +0.09% and +9.93%. 2011 saw a considerable shift in labour from agriculture to non-agricultural sectors. But their share is quite small.

Conclusion:

A community's overall distribution of jobs, categorized by social standing, economic function, or skill level, is known as its occupational structure¹¹. From the description above, it is evident that compared to non-agricultural activities, agricultural operations in the study area are under the greatest amount of pressure. Since 83.9% of the working population in this area still depends on agriculture and related industries for their sustenance, this puts it in the category of primary civilization. Just 17.1% of working-age males are employed in non-agricultural jobs, compared to 82.69% in the agricultural sector, indicating a less developed and underdeveloped economy. The overall working population saw a negative increase of -4.5% during the decadal year 2001-11, while the non-working population saw a positive growth of +4.5%. Consequently, the reliance ratio rose from 41.1% in 2001 (2576.6%) to 298.7% in 2011. That is the rate at which the working population within a given population is shrinking while the total dependent population is growing. Thus, the working population is under constant pressure from the dependent population, which is the primary cause of its low socioeconomic and cultural standing.

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