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A Study of Socio-Economic and Commercial Problems with Particular Reference to Bhagalpur City, Bihar

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Abstract: This paper makes an analysis of the variety of problems growing in the Indian cities and specific problem of Bhagalpur in particular. The problems are numerous such as ecological, social, economic, commercial, demographic, etc. The study is most pertinent in the sense that Bhagalpur like other growing and fast developing Indian cities is faced with numerous problems which require planning and management in terms of making it green, clean and eco-friendly living.

Index Terms – Social Network, Urbanization, Socio-Economic Problem, Demographic, Industrialization

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of problem

Urban Geography is one of the important branches of Geography and its importance is increasing day by day due to rapid urbanization all over the world especially in the developing parts of the world like India. The rapid growth of urbanization has created varied urban problems which have to be solved before an optimum and balanced regional development takes place. The growth of urban life has got intensified during last few decades. The people living in cities have experienced considerable changes in terms of way of life like living standard, the houses with modernized look and amenities, transport network, inclination towards accumulation of wealth and luxurious items, etc., The changes in the attitude of people have given a big jolt in the way of life, occupations, etc., Rural-urban migration has remarkably increased and this process has led to aggregation of large number of skilled and unskilled people of different occupations social habits. As a matter of fact, urban centers are now beset with innumerable, variegated and complex problems which have assumed dimensions of greater proportion, the problems pertain different aspects of urban life being environmental problems, economic problems, social problems, etc. They range from unplanned and haphazard growth of urban centers, shortage of housing units, migration and squatter settlements to environmental maladies, inadequate and inefficient amenities. Almost a quarter of Indian population lives in urban areas which is expected to rise in the coming years, thus increasing urban problems to great extent. Among the other problems the silk industry in Bhagalpur had been facing three major problems- Lack of Working Capital, Shortage of Yarn and Lack of Marketing Support. As regard problem of working capital, the weavers are not able to grease the palms of bank officers. They have not been financed by the banks as yet despite getting approval from the concerned department. The silk weavers always felt acute crisis of yarn. Due to marketing problem, due to lack of working capital and the yarn as well, the weavers were not able to fulfill the demands of buyers from foreign countries. Under such adverse condition, the quality of the world-famous silk of Bhagalpur had also deteriorated in the recent past.

1.2 Study Area

The city of Bhagalpur lies in the – south Bihar Plain on the southern bank of river Ganga. The township of Bhagalpur is bounded by the river Ganga in the north as well as in the west, while in the southern and eastern sides, the boundary is artificial one. In the eastern portion, it is demarcated by the local rail road connecting Bhagalpur Junction and Barari Ghat. In the southern portion relatively lower land works as barrier for southward development. Geographically, of the Bhagalpur is located on 25.15N latitude and 87.02 E longitude and is spread over an area of 30.20 sq. kms. It contains a population of 483559 persons according to 2001 census. The city is divided into 51 wards. It is long and linear city (Length approximately 10 kms.) with small southward extension in the center. Bhagalpur being the divisional headquarter of Bhagalpur division possesses some regional significance. It forms the administrative focus, as it is the Head quarter of the district and division. At the same time, several important services found within the city have significance outside the division also. It is connected by the means of transportation from other regions. Since it is an important junction of the eastern railway, people from different places come to avail service facilities. It is well connected with Mandar Hill in the south, ferry service in the north. The loop line of eastern railway connects Howrah in the east and Delhi in the west which runs almost along the southern boundary of the city. The city of Bhagalpur lies on the Patna-Sahibganj State Highway which transverses the city in the east – west direction. It is also connected with several important urban centers like Dumka, Godda, Deoghar, Banka, Munger, Ranchi, etc. The city has good trade connection with Patna, Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai. It has reputation of being one of the biggest commercial centers in between Kolkata and Varanasi.

The city is only 425 kms. west of Kolkata and lies about 220 kms. to the east of Patna. It has played a significant part in fixing the scene of urban development along the river Ganga. The present structure of the town scape is directly the result of site and situation. The city of Bhagalpur is noted for its historical background. This town retained its original character till the advent of Muslims who came to India in the 12th century. After independence, the city of Bhagalpur has recorded phenomenal growth on the point of view of internal structure. The city of Bhagalpur has experienced a remarkable change specially in terms of the mode of arrangement of roads and streets, development of residential, commercial, administrative and other functional areas. As regards distribution of population in the city, it is highly concentrated in certain areas, while wards located in outer areas have relatively sparse population. The other demographic characteristics show marked variation.

1.3 Objectives

The aims and objectives of the proposed study is based on a few hypotheses:

- (a) Rapid growth of population may accelerate the formation of slum areas.
 - (b) Arrival of large number of male migrants may balance sex ratio, the arrival of unskilled migrants in the city may increase informal activities.
 - (c) Growing unemployment and lack of proper jobs and inequalities in living conditions encourage anti-social activities and crimes.
 - (d) Migrants formulates social network based on the places of origin or caste or equal status.
- Important hypotheses concern with the formulation of social network, socialization pattern, anti-social activities, etc.

1.4 Justification

The present work is relevant and pertinent in the sense that the problems of growing cities in India resembles very much like that of the city Bhagalpur. Innumerable varying and complex problems faced by the growing urban centers are categorized into environmental, social, political, demographic and economic for the convenience of analyses. Bhagalpur city faces all such problems like that of growing cities in India, the slum problems and haphazard growth requires urban renewal and reconstruction.

1.5 Sources of Data

For the present study, data from different sources will be gathered with the help of questionnaire and schedule, primary data will be collected relating to social conditions and the changes for ward wise population data, published census records will be consulted. Data concerning transportation, sewerage, industries and other features will be gathered from government offices, industries and other sources.

1.6 Methodology

While analyzing data of different nature, enumeration problems, a large number of maps and diagram will be used, suitable statistical methods will be applied in order to reveal the relative importance of facts, through intensive field work, problem concerning physical growth, unplanned development of functional areas, transport problem, housing shortage, will be found out.

1.7 Review of Literature

Bhagalpur city faces numerous urban problems, viz., haphazard growth, lack of urban amenities, unexpected arrival of rural migrants, pollution, poor transportation, and disparity in living conditions, shortage of houses, development of anti-social activities, crimes, etc. These aspects have been widely considered by the geographers in India as well as abroad.