

## CHANGING PATTERN OF POPULATION GROWTH AND PLANNING IN BUNDELKHAND DIVISION, UTTAR PRADESH

by

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### ABSTRACT

The twentieth century witnessed an unprecedented rapid improvement in health care technologies and access to health care all over the world; as a result there was a steep fall in the mortality and steep increase in longevity. The population realized these changes and took steps to reduce their fertility but the decline in fertility was not so steep. As a result the global population has undergone a fourfold increase in a hundred years and has reached in billions. This paper will enlighten the changing pattern of population growth and planning in Bundelkhand division, Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh with a population of 16.62 Crores is India's most populist State.

The economy of Uttar Pradesh is mostly dominated by agriculture and allied activities. UP-Bundelkhand region having 12.21% of the State's area is under-populated with population density of 280 when compared to 690 in the State and 325 as National average. Little less than 5% of the State's population lives there.

**KEYWORDS:** Population, Growth, Planning, U.P. Bundelkhand Division, improvement, etc.

### INTRODUCTION

The Bundelkhand region shows evidence of early settlements, seen through the rock paintings found in the Pratha region of Chitrakoot as well as in Sagar, Panna and Chhatarpur districts. In the epic Ramayana, there are many references to the forests of Chitrakoot where Rama, Lakshman and Sita supposedly spent their years in exile [1]. In the Mahabharata, there are descriptions of the Chedi kingdom located between the Ken and Betwa rivers of Bundelkhand. Evidence of urban settlement dating to this period come from the discovery of a large number of coins excavated at Eran, a locality 60 km north-west of Sagar town. In the coins the place was referred to as Erik Ana and seemed to be an important region till the Gupta period. After the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD when the power of the Guptas dwindled, the whole region broke up into miniature kingdoms ruled by warring monarchies, with evidence of the Gond tribals taking over certain parts of Bundelkhand [2-3]. The Chandela Rajputs took over from the Pratiharas of Kannauj and ruled from 10<sup>th</sup> century to 16<sup>th</sup> century AD. They emerged as a formidable power, whose rule was further fortified by Yashovarman and his son Dhanga during the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup>

century when Mahoba was made the capital. The Chandelas were astute architects of temples and tanks, the latter necessary to sustain the needs of large populations in non-monsoon months. They had knowledge of water constraints in the region and built innumerable tanks to cope with the situation. The tanks were usually located near or adjacent to temples, signifying that they attached divine significance to water as a natural resource, especially one which was so scarce. Yashovarman is given credit for the construction of the large Vishnu temples in Khajuraho (Chhatarpur) and the Lakshman temple. His rule was one of tolerance - Jainism must have been a popular as well as a tolerated religion, as evident from a number of Jain temples found within the boundaries of the fort of Deogarh. Brahmins were donated lands, dwellings and given gifts as evident from numerous records of this era [4].

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bundelkhand has a (Census 2001) population of around 15.5 million. The total population of UP Bundelkhand districts was around 8.2 million and the population of MP Bundelkhand districts was around 7.3 million, according to Census 2001 data. The largest population was found in Sagar district (20.2 lakhs) and lowest population was found in Datia district (6.2 lakhs). The table below shows three key characteristics of Bundelkhand demographics: By India standards, the region is marked by low population density [5]. By Census 2001 figures, the population density of UP Bundelkhand as a whole works out to 280 persons per sq km - less than a third of the state average. Related to low population density is low level of urbanization. In all districts of Bundelkhand, except Jhansi and Sagar,

over three-fourths the population was living in rural areas, according to Census 2001; in Chitrakoot district, less than 10% of the population resided in urban areas [3-4]. There is a clear variation in intra-regional distribution of population. There is higher population density in the Bundelkhand Plain areas (particularly in Jalaun and Banda), and Bundelkhand Intermediate region areas (particularly in Jhansi and Tikamgarh), and lower population density in Bundelkhand Upland (particularly in Panna and Chhatarpur) and the southern Damoh and Sagar plateaus.

## 1. Religious Groups in Bundelkhand:

Bundelkhand population is overwhelmingly Hindu. The percentage of Hindu population in UP Bundelkhand is much higher than the percentage in UP as a whole. It is also higher than the MP average in MP Bundelkhand, and including both parts of Bundelkhand, the percentage of Hindu population is much higher than the India average as well. Coexisting with mainstream Hinduism are various streams of folk religion that continue to exert powerful influence in rural areas (read about cults and local deities). Notable also is worship at sati shrines. Bundelkhand main religious groups [6].

## 2. Demographic and Economic Setup in Bundelkhand Region:

Uttar Pradesh with a population of 16.62 Crores is India's most populist State. The economy of Uttar Pradesh is mostly dominated by agriculture and allied activities. UP-Bundelkhand region having 12.21% of the State's area is underpopulated with population density of 280 when compared to 690 in the State and 325 as National average. Little less than

5% of the State's population lives there. The UP-Bundelkhand region is under developed, most backward and frequent flood and drought ridden, where people live mainly at the mercy of nature and climate. According to 2001 census there are only 4 cities with population greater than one lakh; these are Lalitpur Municipal Board (MB) (111892), Jhansi (MB) (383644), Orai (139318) and Banda (134839). Jhansi is the only city with population more than 3 lakh.

District/ Region/ State/ Country	Area (Sq. Km.)	Percent of State Area	Population	Percent of State Population	Population Density per sq. Km.	Below Poverty Line (BPL) Population	BPL population as percent of district/ region/ state/ country
Lalitpur	4460	1.85	977734	0.59	340	261551	26.75
Jhansi	3164	1.31	1744931	1.05	250	374746	21.48
Jalaun	4282	1.78	145452	0.88	241	538487	37.02
Hamirpur	4565	1.89	1043724	0.63	319	371591	35.60
Mahoba	5024	2.09	708447	0.43	348	128753	18.17
Banda	5039	2.09	1537334	0.93	194	528315	34.37
Chitrakoot	2884	1.20	766225	0.46	249	390235	50.93
UP- Bundelkhand	29418	12.21	8232847	4.96	280	2593678	31.50
UP-State	240928	100.00	166052859	100.00	690	49606616	29.87
India	3287240	-	1028737436	-	325	260200000	25.29

Table-1- District wise Distribution of Population in UP- Bundelkhand (2001)

### 3. Economy and Livelihood Pattern:

The economy of Bundelkhand region in both the States is predominantly agrarian; over 80% of population is dependent on agriculture, livestock, usufructs from forest and outsourcing income by seasonal migration after Rabi sowing. Livelihood analysis of Jhansi District in Uttar Pradesh carried out in 2002 is quite representative of Bundelkhand region [7]. On an average 96% of the farmers' income is being earned from crop and livestock enterprise alone. While main enterprise of small and marginal farmers is dairy, the crop component increases and that of dairy decreases with rising land holding size.

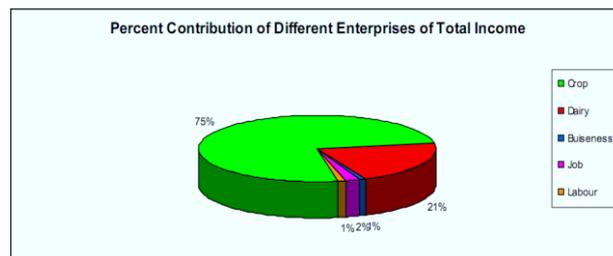


Figure-1- Report of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team on Drought Mitigation Strategy for Bundelkhand Region of UP

Landless villagers mainly depend on labour and dairy. Table given below shows livelihood analysis of Jhansi district in Uttar Pradesh in the year 2002: Mining of stones, sand, gravel and building material, represent very low industrial activity and limited employment potentials for reducing dependence on agriculture [8].

With surface water irrigation more or less developed and ground water irrigation developed to the extent of 25.8% of its resources in UP-Bundelkhand, inadequate maintenance inappropriate management of these resources coupled with age old technologies of agriculture development and under nourished and low yielding bovine population renders the people to remain poor, more than 90% of which depend on these activities.

#### ➤ Land Use:

Land use statistics of seven districts in Bundelkhand region of UP as reported during 2005-06 are given below: Forest area in the districts covered in Bundelkhand is much lower when compared to that in districts covered under MP-Bundelkhand region.

District	Geographical Area (GA)	Forest Cover	Aver. Forest Cover as % of Geographical Area	Barren and Uncultivated Land	Land put to non Agriculture Use	Barren/Cultivable Waste	Land Cover under Misc. Trees & Grooves	Present /other Fallow land	Net sown Area
Lalitpur	507500	76160	15.01	15043	39164	60103	3540	45627	267863
Jhansi	501327	34378	6.86	31662	42130	15701	1812	48847	326797
Jalaun	454434	28177	6.20	11966	37360	1767	1912	24634	348618
Hamirpur	388180	21521	5.54	9257	30461	3760	1114	23408	298659
Mahoba	327429	16213	4.95	8357	37870	11390	640	14906	238053
Banda	438767	5228	1.19	11397	29431	11216	1576	37484	342435
Chitrakoot	338897	59723	17.62	22154	28343	10623	22391	19361	171302
UP- Bundelkhand (% of GA)	2956534 (100%)	241400 (8.16%)	8.16	109836 (3.72%)	244759 (8.28%)	114560 (3.87%)	31585 (1.06%)	155764 (5.27%)	1993727 (67.43%)
UP-State	24201294	1687777	6.97	529748	26548503	529748	407199	1790711	16596765*
India (000'ha)	328726	68980	20.98	19512	22803	9929	11496	13589	142581

Table-1.8- Land Use Area (ha) in UP portion of Bundelkhand (2005-06)

#### 4. Need for a Population Policy:

If the current fertility trends continue, the population of UP will be 216 million in 2011, 325 million in 2031, and 441 million in 2051 (PFI). In five decades, the population will increase by 270 million. The density of the population will increase from the current 578 persons per sq. km. to 1,498 persons in 2051 almost a three-fold increase. About 10 districts in UP would have more than 10 million people and another 18 districts will have more than 6 million. The Population Policy looks at the issues related to population stabilization in a holistic, open and transparent manner [9]. Population stabilization cannot be achieved without addressing the health issues related to women and children. To achieve replacement-level fertility, all development departments have to work in cohesion, and the synergy generated will not only help population stabilization efforts but also the objectives of various departments working to improve the quality of life of the people of Bundelkhand UP [10].

#### CONCLUSION

State of Uttar Pradesh is gifted with plentiful water resources but because of rising population and thereby increasing demand of water for various purposes; its

dearth is becoming evident and getting more pronounced day by day. Besides, there are regional imbalances on account of spatial and temporal distributions. Conspicuous to frequent climatic and hydrological droughts, the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh (and also in Madhya Pradesh) experiences severe agricultural droughts. With majority of population living below poverty line and their livelihood dependant on agriculture and livestock rearing, severe scarcity of food grains and fodder has hit hard on their lives. Administratively, Uttar Pradesh portion of Bundelkhand region (herein after called as UP-Bundelkhand) comprises of 48 blocks under the jurisdiction of 7 districts. The geographical area of the UP-Bundelkhand is 2.94 Mha which is about 12.21% of that of the State.

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