

## **Socio-Economic Status Of Rural Families: With Special Reference To BPL Households Of Pauri District Of Uttarakhand**

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**Abstract:-** The Study Has Confined Only To The Rural Areas Of Pauri District, With Special Reference To Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households. The Main Objective Of The Study Was To Understand The Socioeconomic Status Of The Rural Below Poverty Line Families In Pauri District. Research Approaches: Review The Available Data, Reports And Surveys Of The Pauri District And Initial Consultations With The Stakeholders, Government Officials To Understand The Capabilities, Assets And Activities Required For The Means Of Living. Data Collection Has Conducted On Different Parameters Followed By Surveys, Field Visits, Etc. With The Help Of Self-Made Questionnaire. The Data Were Collected From BPL Households Of Pauri District By Using Stratified Sampling Technique. The Socioeconomic Status Serves To Understand The Way People Survive And Making A Living In Poor Rural Areas.

**Key Words:** *BPL Households, Socio-Economic Status*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Socioeconomic Is An Important Determinant Of The Livelihoods As It Influences Levels Of Knowledge, Skill And Income Conditions Which Mean For Their Living. The Rural Areas Of Pauri District Is Largely Characterized By Medium To Low Level Of Developments, Which Are Reflected In Low Per Capital Income, Poor Economic Base, And Limited Industrial Development. Agriculture Is One Of The Major Economy Bases Of The Area. While Wage Employments Are Other Important Means Of Livelihood In The Hilly Areas, Logging, And Cultivation Are The Traditional Sources Of Additional Income. Socioeconomic Status (SES) Is An Economic And Sociological Combined Total Measure Of A Person's Work Experience And Of Family's Economic And Social Position Relative To Others, Based On Income, Education, And Occupation. The Household Income, Earners' Education, And Occupation Are Examined As Well As Combined Income, Versus With An Individual, When Their Own Attributes Are Assessed.

Socioeconomic Status Is Typically Broken Into Three Categories, High SES, Middle SES, And Low SES To Describe The Three Areas Of A Family. Placing A Family Into One Of These Categories Any Oral Of The Three Variables (Income, Education, Basic Needs And Occupation) Has Assessed. Meher<sup>[1]</sup> Studied On Health And Socio-Economic Status Of The Tribal Population In Orissa And Recommended That Capacity Building Of Poor Tribal's To Enable Them To Come Out Of The Poverty Trap, Apart From Livelihood-Sustaining Measures In An Era Of Economic Liberalisation And Globalisation, Strengthening Of Public Health Care Facilities In Tribal Areas Needs Foremost Attention. Patnaik Et.Al.<sup>[2]</sup> Studied On Managing The Human Resources For Poverty And Socio Economic Development Of Mayurbhanj District In Orissa, India And Analysed The Socio-Economic Conditions Of The Tribal's In The District And To Found Out The Innovative Schemes For Human Resources Development By Way Of Education, Training And Other Social Facilities To The Tribal's Of Orissa In India. On The Basis Of Our Objectives, We Identified The Status, Problem Of BPL Household And Try To Reveal The Basic Needs, Education, Employment (Government And Self-Employment) Of BPL Households. The Study Through Meeting Its Objectives Was Not Only Help The Organisational Executives In Implementing The Scheme, But Also The Authorities Concerned In Drafting Effective Policies Which Caters To The Needs And Requirements Of The Deprived Sections Of The Societies.

### **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To Examine The Socio-Economic Status With Special Reference To Their Source Of Occupation, Income And Educational Status Of The BPL Households.
- To Examine The Problems And Basic Needs Of The BPL Households.

### **III. POPULATION AND SAMPLING**

The Present Study Focused On Studying The BPL Households Of Hill Rural Areas Of District Pauri Garhwal In Uttarakhand State. The Total Numbers Of BPL Households In Hill Rural Areas In Pauri Garhwal

District Are 60909. Among Which 14504 Belongs To Schedule Caste And 331 To Schedule Tribes Category. (Data Source And Year: Rural Development Department, State Government, Uttarakhand, Year-2009).

#### IV. SAMPLING METHOD

The Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling Method Has Been Adopted For The Study. The Stratified Sampling Are Focus on Including All the Caste Category Households i.e. General, Other Backward Classes, Schedule Caste, And Schedule Tribe of BPL Households.

#### V. SAMPLE NUMBER

For The Proposed Study Out Of Fifteen Development Blocks Of District Pauri Garhwal Randomly Six (6) Development Blocks Has Been Selected. Out Of Each Development Block Randomly Four Villages Has Been Selected For The Study. Out Of Each Village A Minimum Of 15 BPL Households Are Randomly Selected. So A Minimum Of 360 Households Were Studied For Meeting The Objectives Of The Study.

#### VI. METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

A Comprehensive Questionnaire Was Prepared And Used For The Primary Data Collection. Observation Method And Indirect Oral Investigation Methods Were Also Be Utilised For The Study.

#### Socio-Economic Profile-

##### 1. Occupation

**Table1. Nature Of Living And Income Generating Activities**

Field Of Employment	Number Of BPL Household Members		
	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture And Allied Activities	89(20.27%)	248(60.78%)	337(38.03%)
Industry	0	0	0
Private Sector	172(39.18%)	1(.24%)	173(19.52%)
Self-Employment	11(2.51%)	39(8.72%)	50(5.64%)
Wage Employment (Daily Wage Employment)	167(38.04%)	159(38.97%)	326(36.79%)
Total	439	447	886

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Above Table Revealed The Distribution Of BPL Household Members In Different Income Generating Activities In This Region. This Study Revealed That Agriculture And Allied Agriculture Is The Major Source Of Occupation In Which The Participation Of Females Is High In Comparison To Males. The Second Major Source Of Occupation Reported By BPL Households Was Wage Employment; In Which The Female Work Participation Is Almost Similar To The Male Work Participation. Only 19.52 Percent BPL Household Members Are Engaged In The Private Sector In The Surveyed Villages. It is Also Observed In The Surveyed Villages That Non-Availability Of Industry Sector is The Main Reason Behind The Involvement Of Majority Of BPL Household Members In Agriculture And Allied Agriculture Sector and Wage Employment. As Per The Female Work Participation Concern They Involved In Those Sectors Which Provide Jobs In Nearby Their Home Only And As Per Male Work Participation Concern Majority Of BPL Household Members Involved In Those Sectors Which Provide Better Earning Sources. These Sources Was Feasible Only When They Migrating From Their Native Place To Urban Areas.

##### 2. Income Level

Income Is One of The Most Important Components through Which Everyone Trying to Secure Their Livelihood brings Power, And Take Prestige Position. To Secure The Adequate Standard Of Living, It Is Essential To Secure An Adequate Level Of Income and Resources. This Section Is An Attempt To Analyze The Income Level, Income Inequality, Per-Capita Income And Sources Of Income Of BPL Households In Pauri District.

**Table2. Distribution Of BPL Households By Monthly Income Level**

Income Level	No. Of Households	Percentage Of Households
Upto 1000	60	16.67
Rs. 1001 To Rs. 2000	101	28.05
Rs. 2001 To Rs. 3000	70	19.44
Rs. 3001 To Rs. 4000	57	15.83
Rs. 4001 To Rs. 5000	32	8.89
Rs. 5001 To Rs. 6000	12	3.33

Rs. 6001 To Rs. 7000	7	1.94
Rs. 7001 To Rs. 8000	7	1.94
Rs. 8001 To Rs. 9000	2	.55
Rs. 9001 To Rs. 1,0000	6	1.67
Rs. 10,000 And Above	6	1.67
Total	360	100

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Above Table Revealed The Income Distribution Among The BPL Households. The Study Of BPL Households Revealed That 16.67% Of Households Have An Income Upto Rs 1000 Income Level, Whereas Only 1.67 Percent Households Have An Income More Than Rs 10000. Largest Income Accounts (i.e. 28.05%) Among BPL Household Lie In Between Rs 1001-2000. This Study Also Revealed That Majority Of BPL Households Have An Income Less Than 5000 Which Constitutes 88.89 Percent And Remaining Households Have Income More Than 5000. The Above Table Suggested That Majority Of BPL Households Have Poor Economic Resources Through Which Are They Unable To Meet Or Cover Up Their Basic Minimum Requirements. Further, This Study Revealed That The Ratio Of Income Inequalities Is High Among The BPL Households, Which Was Further Reflected In The Existence Of Poor Assets Holdings, Inadequate Employment Generation And Most Important Imbalance Regional Growth.

**Table 2.1 Distribution Of Income Levels Among Different Caste Groups**

Income Level	Distribution Of Caste Structure And Number Of Bpl Households			Total
	General	OBC	SC	
Upto. 1000	24(12.56%)	4(10.53%)	34(25.95%)	60
Rs. 1001 To Rs. 2000	69(36.12%)	5(13.16%)	27(20.61%)	101
Rs. 2001 To Rs. 3000	36(18.85%)	10(26.31%)	24(18.32%)	70
Rs. 3001 To Rs. 4000	26(13.61%)	5(13.16%)	26(19.85%)	57
Rs. 4001 To Rs. 5000	17(8.90%)	6(15.79%)	9(6.87%)	32
Rs. 5001 To Rs. 6000	3(1.57%)	3(7.89%)	6(4.58%)	12
Rs. 6001 To Rs. 7000	5(2.62%)	1(2.63%)	1(.76%)	7
Rs. 7001 To Rs. 8000	3(1.57%)	2(5.26%)	2(1.53%)	7
Rs. 8001 To Rs. 9000	1(.52%)	0(0%)	1(.76%)	2
Rs. 9001 To Rs. 10,000	3(1.59%)	1(2.63%)	1(0.76%)	6
Rs. 10,000 And Above	4(2.09%)	1(2.63%)	0(0%)	6

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Above Table Showed That Majority Of The BPL Households Who Derives Monthly Income Less Rs 1000 Are Belong To Schedule Caste Category. This Reflected The Existence And Impact Of Low Social Status On The Economic Status Of The Rural Households. Although, The Overall Analysis Of The Income Distribution On The Basis Of Caste Category Also Revealed That The Economic Deprivation Also Exists Among The Caste Categories.

### 3. Basic Needs

**Table 3. Extent Of Sufficiency Of Food Items**

S.No	Food Items	No. Of Households		
		Sufficient	Just Sufficient	In Sufficient
1	Cereals	-	319	41
2	Pulses	-	303	53
3	Vegetables	-	271	89
4	Milk And Milk Products	-	84	276
5	Meat/Egg/Fish	-	18	342
6	Edible Oils	-	268	92
7	Sugar And Gur	-	256	104
8	Fruits	-	23	337

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Above Table Reveals That Majority Of BPL Households Reported As They Just Satisfied From The Consumption Of Cereals, Pulses, Vegetables, Edible Oil, Sugar And Gur Whereas Other Remaining Food Items Such As Meat/ Fish/Egg, Milk And Milk Products And Fruits Is Not Satisfied Their Needs. It Is Inducted From The Table That Majority Of BPL Households Is Not Satisfied From Their Consumption Pattern And The Reason For Low Satisfactory Is A Poor Economic Condition Which Provides High Insufficiency In The Consumption Of Food Items.

Figure 1.



The Study Of BPL Households Reveals That Majority Of Households Are Just Satisfied In Those Food Items Which Is Locally Produced Or Facilitated By The Target Public Distribution System. Other Remaining Food Items Such As Meat, Milk And Fruits Come Under Their Insufficient Category. This Study Indicates That Major Nutritious Food Such As Milk, Meat And Fruits Are Misplaced From Their Dietary Of BPL Households Due To Its Unaffordable Cost of These Products But It Is Essential For The Good Health. Therefore, These Poor Section Largely Depends Only On The Cereal And Pulses For Their Continued Existence.

Table 3.1 Level Of Importance Of Non-Food Items Among The Bpl Household Members

S.No	Items Of Consumption	Highly Important	Just Important	Not Important
1	Fuel	356	4	0
2	Medicines	357	3	0
3	Clothes And Accessories	332	28	0
4	Education	313	43	4
5	Travelling	302	57	1
6	Social Functions And Ceremonies	260	95	5

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Study Of BPL Households Reveals That All The Non-Food Items Are Highly Important For Them But Among These Items Fuel And Medicine Secured High Importance Is Shown In The Above Table. In The Surveyed Villages, BPL Households Reported As They Travel A Long Distance To Reach Or To Take Medical Facilities And Fuel Sources But Their Condition Is Worse Than That. The Reason For Worseness Is Lacks Of Transport Facilities With Poor Economic Conditions Which Are Further Credited To Make Heavy Hurdle In The Way To Take These Facilities. Further Fuel Is The Important Source Of Cooking And In This Region; The Majority Of BPL Households Use Wood For Their Cooking The Food And Their Burden For Fetching The Firewood From The Forest Is Also Come On The Females. This Study Reveals That Role Of The Female Is Not Limited To Domestic Serves But It Is Multi-Dimensional They Also Engaged In Outdoor Serves As Well.

#### 4. Educational Status

Education Is A Key Indicator In The Development Of Society. Education And Literacy Is A Superior Input Which Enables Our Innate Abilities For Better Understanding And Experiences. Education Is The Important Indicator For The Overall Development Of Child And Its Outcome In The Form Of Better Health, Better Economic Condition, And Population Control And Most Important Is Better Awareness. In This Section We Discuss The Level Education Among BPL Households:

**Table 4. Age Wise Distribution Of Educational Status**

Age Distribution	Education Status	
	Literate	Illiterate
6 To 14 Years	93.14	6.85
15 To 18 Years	99.35	.65
Above 18 Years	66.48	33.52

Source-Primary Data 2014-15

The Above Table Clearly Distinguishes The Level Of Illiterate Rate And Literate Among The BPL Household Members. Among The Age Group 6 To 14 Years, The Literate Rate Is 93.14 Percent But Matter Of Concern Is 6.85 Percent BPL Children Is Illiterate Among The Age 6 To 14 Years. Literate Rate Among Age Group 15 To 18 Years Is Very Good In Comparison To Other Age Group Because Illiterate Rate Is Very Low. Literate Rate Among Age Group 18 Years And Above Is 66.48 Which Is Worse Than Others. This Study Reveals That Most Of BPL Households Are Illiterate Or Highly Dropped Out In The Age Group 18 Years And Above.

## VII. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

It Was Observed In The Surveyed Villages That Non-Availability Of Industry Sector Is The Main Reason Behind The Involvement Of Majority Of BPL Household Members In Agriculture And Allied Agriculture Sector And Wage Employment. In The Surveyed Village An Important Aspect Have Been Arises By Knowing The High Illiterate Rate Among Age Group 18 And Above Which Further Reveals That Economic Condition Of BPL Households In Hill Rural Areas Is Very Low Poor Someone Who Want To Educate Their Children But Poor Economic Resources Make Some Hurdles To Educate Them. The Ratio Of Income Inequalities Is High Among The BPL Households, Which Is Further Reflected In The Existence Of Poor Assets Holdings, Inadequate Employment Generation And Most Important Imbalance Regional Growth.

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