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Prospects of Non-farm Employment in Eastern Bihar: A Primary Level Study of Bhagalpur District

Amalendu Kumar, Asha Kumari Sinha* and R. S. Singh

Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi, India

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipu, Bihar, India

Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India

**Corresponding author*

ABSTRACT

To study the status of non-farm employment in the state and the factors affecting it, a survey was made during 2012-13 selecting two districts Bhagalpur and Kishanganj in Bihar. Selection of these two districts was made on the basis of higher and lower concentration of rural non-farm workers across the district. Thereafter, one town from each district (Naugachia from Bhagalpur and Kishanganj from Kishanganj district) was selected and on the basis of distance (3 & 10 kms away from the town) from the town, two cluster villages were selected from each town. A total of 120 households were formed the sampled size of the study. The study finds that the non-farm employment at village level and household level varied with the variation of village location and the villages nearer to the town have a significant concentration of non-farm employment as compared to the villages away from the town. It was also found that the higher pressure of engagement in the district was on rural non-farm employment i.e. in transport, storage and communication (20.0 % to 26.7%) whereas low concentration was observed in retail traders (16.7 % to 20.0%), private construction and marginal workers (16.7 % to 23.3%). Due to this the households were largely engaged in private construction, retail trade, transport, storage, etc. activities in the sampled area. The analysis showed that agricultural labourers and non-agricultural wage earners were engaged in greater diversification of economic activities as compared with the sampled industrial workers. The monthly income of salaried class workers found varied as per the categories of workers. The retail traders and transport activities workers get comparatively higher salary as compared to other categories of workers. Both the sampled districts had higher concentration of non-farm activities and most of the households were engaged in more than one economic activities for generating their income but in case of low concentration of rural non-farm employment, the diversification of activities were narrow and restricted to only one activity.

Keywords

Non-farm
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level

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Introduction

Rural non-farm employment in India is rising gradually over the time in absolute terms (Rao, M. Kaleswara, 2000). Presently, nearly 55 million workers are employed in this sector. These numbers of worker constitute

about more than one-fourth of the total workforce in the country. The rest work force directly dependent on farm and other related employment. As per the available data, around 27.0 per cent of main workers were found engaged in Rural Non-Farm sector (RNFS) within the country (2011 census). The

state wise picture showed that the highest share of RNFS workers was 71.43 per cent in the state of Kerala and only 14.5 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. However, in Bihar this share of RNFS employment was only 18.78 per cent (Agricultural Statistics at a glance 2016, GOI).

As per the census data of 2011 rural population of the state was about 88.66 per cent in the total population and out of it approximately 67.72 per cent of the total workers. The trends of RNFS employment since the year 1961 to year 2011 (Six decades) period showed declining over the decades (The Economic Survey, 2015-16, Bihar).

This trend compel to the researchers, policy makers, academicians and planners for a strong initiatives in this light for creating conducive environment for generation of rural non-farm employment not in the state but in country also. In the above background, an attempt has been made through this paper to analyze and study the current pattern of rural non-farm employment at primary level in the state. The findings of the study will certainly give an idea about the status of economic activities of workers in the state on one hand and the determinants of employment, on the other.

Materials and Methods

In order to understand the status and determinants of rural non-farm employment in the state, data were collected from two districts of Bihar namely Bhagalpur and Kishanganj. Sampled districts were selected on the basis of higher and lower concentration of rural non-farm workers across districts. Accordingly, from each sampled district, class-II town selected purposively. The sampled Naugachia towns selected from Bhagalpur district and Kishanganj town from

Kishanganj district. In the next stage of sampling, from each sampled town, a cluster of villages selected on the basis of locations i.e villages situated at a distance of three km from the town and at more than ten km away from the town were selected. An altogether from each sampled village cluster, 30 households who engaged in potential seven types of employment activities were selected proportionately. Proportion was made on the basis of the distribution of the household categories who engaged non-farm activities in the villages. From the seven categories of employment, at last three household's form each category were selected and thus, a total of 120 households were formed the sampled size of the present study. The detail household information was collected through a well structured and per tested schedule.

Rural non-farm employment (RNFE) in the sampled villages

Profile of the sample villages

It is evident from Table-1 that in case of village cluster- I of Bhagalpur district.

10,250 per sons while in case of cluster- II of the same district there were 8955 persons. In Kishanganj district, the population of village cluster-I stood at 3930 and in village cluster-II 1998 persons. Out of the total population in Bhagalpur district of village cluster-I and II, the male population was 52.45 per cent and 53.64 per cent respectively while in Kishanganj, it was 60 per cent and 56.80 per cent respectively. The number of households in Vill C-I and Vill-C-II of Bhagalpur district were 2130 and 1665 and in Kishanganj these were 686 and 913 respectively. The average number of persons per household in Vill C-I and Vill C- II of Bhagalpur district were 4.94 person and 5.38 persons respectively. Out of the total households in village cluster, there were 5.73 and 5.47 persons respectively. Out

of the total households in village cluster I of Bhagalpur district, 26.86 per cent were general, 60.28 per cent backward, 11.83 per cent scheduled castes and 1.03 per cent scheduled tribes categories of households while in cluster II of the same district 23.07 per cent belonged to general, 62.94 per cent backward, 13.03 per cent scheduled caste and 0.96 per cent scheduled tribes categories of households. In Kishanganj, village cluster I comprised 18.55 per cent general, 72.45 per cent, 7.34 per cent scheduled castes and no any scheduled tribes households was found. In the village cluster I and II of Bhagalpur district the literacy percentage were 52.89 per cent and 46.87 per cent respectively.

In Kishanganj district literacy in sampled cluster were 28.74 per cent and 22.39 per cent respectively. The village cluster-I of Bhagalpur is 3 kms. near to the town and village cluster II of the same district these village were more than 12 kms away from the town. While in village cluster- I of Kishanganj the distance was only two kms from the town, whereas village cluster II of the same district was above 14 kms. away from the town. In case of Bhagalpur village cluster-I out of the total number of cultivators i.e.1459, the number of marginal category farmers were 61.27 per cent, small category 26.18 per cent, medium category 10.21 per cent and large category only 2.34 per cent while in village cluster II of the same district, out of 1315 number of cultivators 56.19 per cent were marginal, 31.26 per cent were small, 11.41 per cent were medium and 4.73 per cent were large, while in village cluster II of the same district out of 712 number of cultivators, 62.78 per cent were marginal, 23.87 per cent small, 9.97 per cent were medium and 3.38 per cent large. In Bhagalpur district, the total number of non-farm households in village cluster I and II were 336 and 168 respectively, while in Kishanganj district of village cluster I and II, the number were 186 and 36 respectively.

Results and Discussion

Out of the total number of non-farm households in village cluster I of Bhagalpur district 28.86 per cent were engaged in manufacturing, 8.63 per cent in construction, 33.93 per cent in trade & commerce, 19.44 per cent in transport, 5.57 per cent in services, The seasonal migrant population in village cluster I of Bhagalpur was 27.79 per cent and permanent migrant in this village cluster was only 9.94. While in village cluster II the seasonal migrant were 22.84 per cent and permanent migrant 13.86 per cent respectively. In case of Kishanganj in village cluster II the seasonal migrant as 33.88 per cent and permanent migrant were 3.69 per cent. While in village cluster II of the same district these were 30.28 per cent seasonal and 5.85 per cent permanent migrants.

The overall discussion indicated that relation established between nearer to the town villages and away from the town villages in the sampled districts in almost all respects. Similar observations were also made by Vaidyanathan (1983).

The table-2 indicated that in case of village cluster I and II of Bhagalpur district, the average land holding sized were 0.94 and 1.33 ha respectively, while in Kishanganj district in village cluster I and II the average size, were 0.69 and 0.98 respectively.

Out of the total average land holding, irrigated land in village cluster I and II of Bhagalpur were 0.45 and 0.96 respectively while in Kishanganj, village cluster I and II were 0.16 and 0.42 respectively. In case of village cluster I of Bhagalpur, out of the total irrigated area about 63.24 per cent were irrigated through tube wells/ wells, 19.84 per cent through tanks and 16.92 per cent through other sources while in village cluster II of the same district about 71.39 per cent were

irrigated through tube well and well, 8.24 per cent through canal, 9.26 per cent through tanks and 11.11 per cent through other sources.

In village cluster I of Kishanganj district, about 47.44 per cent were irrigated through tube wells/ wells, 14.30 per cent through canal and 38.26 per cent through tank while in village cluster II of the same district, 56.40 per cent were irrigated through tube wells and wells, 26.23 per cent through canal, 13.27 per cent through tanks and 4.10 per cent through other sources, It means tube well and wells are the major sources of irrigation in the sampled areas.

Source wise distribution of employment on the sampled households

The table-3 stated below showed that in case of village cluster I of Bhagalpur district, out of the total sampled respondents of 30, the households employed in manufacturing were 6.67 per cent private construction 20.00 per cent in public construction, in wholesale activities 6.67 per cent in retail traders 16.67 per cent, in transport, storage & communication 20.00 per cent and in small and marginal activities 16.66 per cent. In village cluster II of the same district, the percentage of respondents engage in manufacturing, processing, etc. were 9.67 per cent, in private construction, 13.33 per cent in public construction, 9.67 per cent in retail traders, 20.00 per cent in transport, storage, etc. 26.67 per cent in small & marginal categories 20.00 per cent.

In case of Kishanganj district it was observed from the table that out of 30 sampled respondents in village cluster- I, 9.67 per cent were found engaged in manufacturing, 23.33 per cent in private construction, 16.67 per cent in public construction, 3.33 per cent in wholesale trade, 20.00 per cent in retail traders, 9.67 per cent transport, storage and

communication and 16.67 per cent in small and marginal categories, While in village cluster- II 3.33 per cent found engaged in manufacturing, 16.67 per cent in private construction, 9.67 per cent in public construction, 16.67 per cent in retail traders, 30.00 per cent in transport, storage and 23.33 per cent in small and marginal categories. The table concludes here that households were engaged largely in activities like private construction, retail trade, transport, storage, etc. in the study area as were also reported by Vaidyanathan (1983).

Status of economic activities in study areas

The collected data were analyzed for the study of economic activities performed in sampled areas. The details are presented in table.4.

The table-4 reveals that average number of economic activity per workers performed in study areas. The table further indicates that in Bhagalpur district under the sampled cluster on an average economic activity of per workers were found varied with the variation of industrial categories.. In this cluster agricultural labour were found engaged in 4.66 activities followed by non-agricultural wage labour, 3.25 activities self employment in manufacturing, processing 2.50 activities in public construction 2.25 activities and other workers were engaged in less than 2.00 activities. As far as the position of cluster II in the same district is concerned again agricultural labour found performing higher activities 4.50 followed by non-agricultural wage labour 2.71 and public construction activities 2.66 per workers in industrial categories.

Again in Kishanganj district of cluster villages non-agricultural wage labour found perform average 2.80 activity numbers, followed by public construction and agricultural labours workers having 2.40 and

2.33 activities respectively. All other categories witnesses less than 2.0 economic activities. The position of cluster II villages of the same district again non-agricultural wage labour found performed 2.66 activity per workers followed by agricultural labour 2.50 activity, 2.33 public construction, 2.30 in communication and 2.0 in manufacturing and other industrial categories performed below 2.0 activities per workers.

The analysis finds that agricultural laborers and non-agricultural wage earners have greater diversification of economic activities as compared to the industrial workers. In case of very few industrial categories it was observed that the average number of economic activities was varied with the distant from the town i.e. nearer to the town in both the sampled districts.

Industrial categories of workers' wages, income and employment pattern: - An effort was taken for calculating the wages, income and employment in study areas. The details are presented in table – 5.

The Table-5 stated below revealed that the industrial categories of manufacturing in cluster village I of Bhagalpur district, the average monthly income was estimated to Rs. 1360 and in Kishanganj district it was 875 in village cluster 1 & 920 in village cluster -11.

In case of wholesale trade activity in Vill. cluster-I of Bhagalpur district had salaried group was found existed with average monthly income of Rs. 1050. In the same table observed that the category of retail traders per month average income was Rs. 1940 and Rs. 1750 in the cluster-I and cluster II respectively. In Kishanganj district in the same cluster it was Rs. 1430 and Rs. 1160 respectively. The table further showed that in case of transport and storage category the salaried workers of all the sampled cluster villages of both districts were found higher

i.e., Rs. 1940 and Rs. 1750 for Bhagalpur and Rs. 1350 and Rs. 1120 for Kishanganj. In case of small and marginal category under Vill- CI and Vill- CII of Bhagalpur district was worked out to Rs. 570 and Rs. 465 respectively and in the same categories of Kishanganj district were Rs. 625 and Rs. 375 per month. The sum of the categories average income indicated that Rs. 1163 and Rs. 894 in cluster I and cluster II of Bhagalpur district and Rs. 881 and Rs. 841 in cluster I and cluster II of Kishanganj district.

The above analyses conclude that the monthly income of salary group varied with categories of workers. It has been observed from the village clusters that nearer to town better salary in comparison to village cluster away from the town.

The traders and transport activities workers get comparatively higher salary to other industrial categories of workers in the samples area.

Average monthly income of the sampled workers

Table-6 stated below showed that the monthly income of self-employed workers in Vill C-I and Vill- CII of the Bhagalpur district worked out to Rs. 1506.16 and Rs. 1255.56 respectively. The higher monthly income was observed in case of Vill C-I of the district in categories of wholesale traders and the lowest income in the same cluster was Rs. 690 under the activities of transport storage. whereas in Vill C-II it was recorded at the lowest in case of transport & storage i.e. Rs. 470 and highest in manufacturing Rs. 1411.66 Similarly in Kishanganj district the all categories average monthly income was Rs. 1230.03 and Rs. 959.63 respectively in Vill C-I and Vill C-II.

The average income found highest in case of retail traders Rs. 2364.50 in Vill C-I and in the same cluster lowest income in the

categories of private construction Rs. 756.14.

Similarly in Vill C-II the highest income was found in retail trade categories and lowest in transport, storage, etc. categories. Over all

above analysis reveals that the industrial categories incomes were nearer to the town were comparatively observed on higher side with compared to away from the town.

Table.1 Demographic details of sampled villages of selected Districts.

Demographic details	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Village population	10520	8955	3930	4998
Male: Female	52.45: 47.55	53.64: 46.36	57.60: 42.40	56.80: 42.20
No. of households	2130	1665	686	913
Average persons per Hh.	4.94	5.38	5.73	5.47
General households	-	-	-	-
Backward households	26.86	23.07	18.55	15.01
Scheduled castes Hh.	60.28	62.94	72.45	77.65
Scheduled tribes Hh.	11.83	13.03	9.00	7.34
Percentage of literate	1.03	0.96	0.00	0.00
Distance from nearby town (kms)	52.89	46.87	28.74	22.39
Total agricultural labour (Nos.)	3	12	2	14
Cultivators (Nos.)	305	182	97	165
Cultivators (Nos.)	1459	1315	403	712
(i) Marginal > ha.	894 (61.27)	739 (56.19)	212 (52.60)	447 (62.78)
(ii) Small > 1 ha.	382 (26.18)	425 (32.13)	126 (31.26)	170 (23.87)
(iii) Medium < 2 ha. -4 ha.	149 (10.21)	123 (9.35)	46 (11.41)	71 (9.97)
(iv) Large > 4 ha.	34 (2.34)	28 (2.15)	19 (4.73)	24 (3.38)
Total Non-Farm Households	336 (17.19)	168 (10.10)	186 (27.13)	36 (3.95)
(i) Manufacturing, etc.	97 (28.86)	38 (22.62)	57 (30.64)	7 (19.44)
(ii) Construction	29 (8.63)	36 (21.43)	26 (13.98)	8 (22.22)
(iii) Trade & Commerce	114 (33.93)	44 (26.19)	48 (25.80)	12 (33.33)
(iv) Transport	69 (20.53)	26 (15.47)	42 (22.58)	7 (19.44)
(v) Service	27 (8.05)	24 (14.29)	13 (7.00)	2 (5.57)
Migrant seasonal (%)	27.79	22.89	33.88	30.28
Migrant permanent (%)	4.94	13.86	3.69	5.85

Source: Collected from panchyats and block level available records

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Table.2 Land and Irrigation status of the sampled villages.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
AVg. size of land holding	0.94	1.33	0.69	0.98
Land irrigated out of the total average land	0.45	0.96	0.16	0.42
Percentage net area irrigated by different sources				
Tube well/ wells	63.24	71.39	47.44	56.40
Canal		0.8.24	14.30	26.23
Tanks	19.84	9.26	38.26	13.27
Others	16.00	11.11	-	4.10

Source: Collected from panchyats and block level available records

Table.3 Distribution of sampled households by source of Employment.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Manufacturing, processing, etc.	2 (6.67)	3 (9.67)	3 (9.67)	1 (3.33)
Private construction	6 (20.00)	4 (13.33)	7 (23.33)	5 (16.67)
Public construction	4 (13.33)	3 (9.67)	5 (16.67)	3 (9.67)
Wholesale traders	2 (6.67)	0 (0.00)	1 (3.33)	0 (0.00)
Retail traders	5 (16.67)	6 (20.00)	6 (20.00)	5 (16.67)
Transport, storage, construction	6 (20.00)	8 (26.67)	3 (9.67)	9 (30.00)
Small and marginal farmers	5 (16.66)	6 (20.00)	5 (16.67)	7 (23.33)

Table.4 Average number of economic activity per worker industrial category wise in the sampled village cluster.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Agriculture labour	4.66	4.50	2.33	2.50
Allied activity of Agri.	1.83	1.80	1.33	1.62
Self-employment in manufacturing processing, etc.	2.50	1.33	1.66	2.00
Self-employment in private construction	1.66	1.75	1.57	1.40
Self-employment in public construction	2.55	2.66	2.40	2.33
Non-agricultural wage labour	3.25	2.71	2.80	2.66
Self-employment in service	1.20	1.00	1.75	1.25
Self-employment in communication	1.25	1.10	1.22	2.30
Transport, storage	1.50	1.25	1.50	1.30

Source: Collected from block level records.

Table.5 Average monthly income of salary employed in the sampled villages clusters.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Manufacturing, etc.	1360.00	0.00	875.00	920.00
Private constructions	0.00	0.00	740.00	0.00
Public construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wholesales traders	1050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Retail traders	1365.00	1208.00	1430.00	1160.00
Transport, storage	1940.00	1750.00	1350.00	1120.00
Small & marginal	570.00	465.00	625.00	375.00
All categories average	1163.00	694.00	881.00	841.00

Table.6 Average monthly income of self-employed workers in the sampled villages clusters.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Manufacturing, etc.	1855.00	1411.66	1132.67	676.00
Private constructions	711.16	901.50	756.14	529.00
Public construction	1525.75	1135.33	1053.20	0.32
Wholesales traders	3122.50	0.00	1875.00	0.00
Retail traders	2902.00	2790.00	2364.50	2640.00
Transport, storage	690.00	470.00	776.66	508.55
Small & marginal	-	-	-	-
All categories average	-	-	-	-

Table.7 Average monthly income of casual laborers in the sampled villages clusters.

District/ contents	Districts			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Manufacturing, etc.	2220	89	1710	1440
Private constructions	3450	2700	3120	2610
Public construction	2160	2040	2070	1890
Wholesales traders	2430	1860	0.00	0.00
Retail traders	1740	1290	1470	1320
Transport, storage	1260	1080	1110	1020
Small & marginal	1380	1170	1230	1080
All categories average	2070	1530	1860	1440

Source: - Collected from field level

Table.8 Category wise extent of employment of different labourers' in the sampled cluster.

Industrial category	Self employment				Salary employed				Casual labour			
	Bhagalpur		Kishanganj		Bhagalpur		Kishanganj		Bhagalpur		Kishanganj	
	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII	Vill-CI	Vill-CII
Manufacturing, etc.	16 (53.33)	12 (40.00)	9 (30.00)	14 (46.66)	2 (6.66)	0 (0.00)	4 (13.33)	1 (3.33)	2 (6.66)	0 (0.00)	5 (16.66)	7 (23.33)
Private constructions	2 (6.66)	1 (3.33)	3 (10.00)	6 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (13.33)	0 (0.00)	10 (33.33)	13 (43.33)	11 (36.66)	14 (46.66)
Public construction	8 (26.66)	2 (6.66)	1 (3.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (13.33)	6 (20.00)	3 (10.00)	5 (16.66)
Wholesale traders	9 (30.00)	6 (20.00)	3 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	6 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	5 (16.66)	2 (6.66)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Transport, storage & communication	5 (16.66)	4 (13.33)	6 (20.00)	10 (33.33)	5 (16.66)	4 (13.33)	3 (10.00)	2 (6.66)	4 (13.33)	5 (16.66)	4 (13.33)	2 (6.66)
Small & marginal category	11 (36.66)	13 (43.33)	16 (53.33)	12 (40.00)	7 (23.33)	2 (6.66)	2 (6.66)	1 (3.33)	6 (30.00)	8 (26.66)	6 (20.00)	3 (10.00)
Retail traders	4 (13.33)	5 (16.66)	7 (23.33)	9 (30.00)	5 (16.66)	3 (10.00)	5 (16.66)	8 (26.66)	9 (30.00)	9 (30.00)	7 (23.33)	5 (16.66)
All industries	55	43	45	51	25	9	16	12	40	43	36	36

Source : Bihar Through Figures, various issues.

Self-employed workers

Similarly in Kishanganj district the all categories average monthly income was Rs. 1230.03 and Rs. 959.63 respectively in Vill C-I and Vill C-II. The average income found highest in case of retail traders Rs. 2364.50 in Vill C-I and in the same cluster lowest income in the categories of private construction Rs. 756.14. Similarly in Vill C-II the highest income was found in retail trade categories and lowest in transport, storage, etc. categories. Over all above analysis

reveals that the industrial categories incomes were nearer to the town were comparatively observed on higher side with compared to away from the town.

It is noted from Table-7 that in village cluster I of Bhagalpur district, the average monthly income was Rs. 2220 in case of industrial categories manufacturing etc. while in the same categories of Kishanganj district it was Rs. 1710 and Rs. 1440 respectively. In the categories of private construction the average monthly income of Vill C-I and Vill C-II of

Bhagalpur district was Rs. 3450 and Rs. 2700 respectively whereas in case of Kishanganj district it stands at Rs. 3120 and Rs. 2610, respectively. In the categories of public construction of village cluster- I and II of Bhagalpur district were Rs. 2160 and Rs. 2040 respectively and in Kishanganj district it stands at Rs. 2070 and Rs. 1890 respectively. In the categories of wholesale traders, the average monthly income was worked out for Vill C-I and Vill C-II of Bhagalpur district to be Rs. 2460 & Rs. 1860 respectively. In Bhagalpur in Vill C-I and Vill C-II of retail trade categories average monthly income the figures stood at Rs. 1740 and Rs. 1290 whereas in Kishanganj district of the same cluster the figures stood at Rs. 1470 and Rs. 1320 respectively. In the categories of transport, storage, etc. of Bhagalpur it stood at Rs. 1260 and Rs. 1080 while in Kishanganj, the average income was Rs. 1110 and Rs. 1020 respectively. In the small and marginal categories in Bhagalpur district of Vill C-I & Vill C-II, the average income was Rs. 1380 and Rs. 1170 while in Kishanganj district, the same was Rs. 1230 and Rs. 1080 respectively. Over all the average income of all categories was estimated for Vill C-I and C-II, the average income was Rs. 1380 and Rs. 1170 while in Kishanganj district, the same was Rs. 1230 and Rs. 1080 respectively. Over all the average income of all categories was estimated for Vill C-I and C-II of Bhagalpur district to be Rs. 2070 and Rs. 1530 whereas for Kishanganj it was Rs. 1860 and Rs. 1440 respectively.

From the above analysis the monthly income of the casual labour is found higher than salaried and self-employed workers. This is due to the fact that most of the casual labourers are employed during the peak period and so they changed higher wage. Another reason for their high monthly income is that they shift their employment opportunity to those sectors generating higher

income. They work for the higher wage rate because of need of the enterprises. The analysis also indicates that those workers who live nearer to the town got higher wages and vice-versa.

Extent of employment in the study areas

The extent of employment in study area was analyzed and presented in table-8.

The above table showed that the extent of employment found varied with the variation of industrial categories activities. The table is self explanatory and reveals that higher number of workers engaged in manufacturing activities followed by small and marginal categories works and public constructions. The table again showed that the number of self employment was higher than that of salary and casual workers. At the overall level we conclude here that employment pattern varied with the variation of categories of economic activities in the study area.

It may be observed from the above discussions that the non-farm employment at village level and household level found varied with the variation of village location. The findings indicate that the villages nearer to the town have a significant concentration of non-farm employment as compared to the villages away from the town in both the studied districts. On this basis, a clear relation was found between nearer and away villages from the town with respect of rural non-farm employment. It was also found that amongst the major sources of employment in the study areas, the higher pressure of engagement in the district on rural non-farm employment by sampled households i.e. in transport, storage and communication (varied between 20.0 % to 26.67%) whereas low concentration was observed in the sampled district of retail traders (16.67 % to 20.00%), private construction and marginal workers (16.67 %

to 23.33%). Due to this the households were largely engaged in private construction, retail trade, transport, storage, etc. activities in the sampled area. The analysis showed that agricultural labourers and non-agricultural wage earners were engaged in greater diversification of economic activities as compared with the sampled industrial workers. The study also observed that the average number of economic activities varies with the nearer to the town in similar manner in both the sampled districts may be due to greater opportunities of employment in private or public sectors and they easily shifted from one economic activity to another activities for earning income & according to their suitability, profitability etc.,. The monthly income of salaried class workers found varied as per the categories of workers. The retail traders and transport activities workers get comparatively higher salary with compared to other categories of workers in the sampled areas. The self employed workers found engaged in the current occupation since long time or in other words generation to generation. The income of those workers who engaged as worker in nearer to the town getting comparatively better amount as compared to villages away from the town. Both the sampled districts possessed higher concentration of non-farm activities and most of the households were found engaged in more than one economic activities for generating their income but in case of low concentration of rural non-farm employment district, the diversification of activities, were narrow and restricted to only one activity. The

overall conclusions from the study is that in the study areas there was the need for development of non-farm economic activities through establishment of various agriculture and allied economic units and focuses on other sectors for creating non-farm employment infrastructural facilities at the micro level. This study certainly provide useful inputs to the policymakers, planners, academicians and other researcher in discussion on rural non-farm employment and its improvement at village, district, state and national level in future. The study will also be helpful to rationalize non-farm employment policies in a Bihar at regional context.

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