ABSTRACT

Bihar has now divided into two states for tribal development in southern Bihar which is presently Jharkhand. Unfortunately condition of these tribal even after bifurcation, has not changed much. We therefore can say that the true purpose of the bifurcation has not been fulfilled so far. Bifurcation of Bihar into two states in 2000 has adversely influenced the development of the state. Fast growing population makes it difficult to provide even the basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing education and health care to all. Benefits of growth get divided among too many and thus the level of well being cannot be raised to any appreciable extent. Containing fertility and growth of the population is thus, a pre condition for raising the level of human development. The apparent paradoxical situation of undivided Bihar i.e. rich in terms of natural resource and poor with respect to the economic and social development makes it more important to study the issue involved in it. In this context a study on the “Infrastructural Development and Growth of Undivided Bihar after Globalization” is needed.

Keywords: Undivided Bihar; Infrastructural Development; Globalization

INTRODUCTION

Undivided Bihar bounded by Nepal in the North, Orissa in the south, West Bengal in the East and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the West has a geographical area of 168957 Sq. km. And is the ninth largest state of the country. Population, however, ranks it second. Administratively, Bihar is divided into 52 districts. Of course, 10 districts were formed after the 1991 census. As far as natural regions are concerned, the state was divided into two parts, i.e, plains of Ganga and Chotanagpur plateau while undivided, in divided Bihar the plains of Ganga can be further sub-divided into the plains of the north and south. The northern plains are more fertile compared to the southern one. Both the regions are however watered by the tributaries of Ganga namely Gandak, Baghmati, Kamla and Kosi (north) and Punpun, Morhar, Karmnasha and Phalagau (south). The population of Bihar as per 1991 census is 867 lakh with an inter-censal growth rate of 23.5 percent. The sex ratio is 911 females per thousand males, lower than the natural average of 927. Level of urbanization is only 13.14 percent, which is much lower then the all India percentage of 25.71.

Undivided Bihar stood twelfth at an all India ranking of life expectancy. The economy of Bihar is predominantly agrarian both in terms of sectorial contribution to the economy and the workforce it employs. Out of the total of 169 lakh hectare, 115 lakh hectares is the gross cultivated area. Only 85 lakh hectares of land is under cultivation. The principal crops are rice, wheat, maize and pulses.
cash crops are sugarcane, oilseeds, tobacco, jute and potato. Nearly 32.2 per cent of population participate in gainful economic activities such as 29.7 per cent as main workers another 2.5 per cent as marginal workers. 80.7 per cent of the main workers earn their living from agriculture, 43.6 per cent as cultivator and 37.1 per cent as agricultural labour.

In terms of natural resources especially mineral resources and forests, the undivided state was among the richer ones. It accounted for nearly 40% of the total mineral production of the country. The share of Bihar in respect of other mineral i.e. Coal 34.5 per cent , mica 54.8 per cent, copper ore 24.2 per cent, uranium, limestone, Chinaclay, fireclay 10.4 per cent, bauxite 17.3 per cent and kainite 44.9 per cent. Regarding forests, nearly 17 per cent of the total area is under forests. Some of the key forest products are timber, Tendu leaves and lakh, Gum and Sal seeds.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The objective of this research is to find out the infrastructural development and growth of Bihar after globalization during the period 1991-2000. The purpose of this research is to highlight the problems and prospects of Development infrastructure in Bihar and emphasize the role of the infrastructure facilities in the area of development of the human development. Therefore the objective of this research is to fill the void in related literature with the application of research methodology and technique to identify the weakness and to suggest improvements in the policy of the government which will serve as a valuable instrument for the development of infrastructure in undivided Bihar.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on the secondary data. The data were collected from the websites of government and various authorities, different journals, newspapers etc. Data further been analyzed with the help of Statistical tools like Mean, Percentage and IT tools like MS Excel, MS Word.

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

The economic and social prosperity is not in consonance with the richness of natural resources. Bihar is among the lowest in the country on CMIE index, HDI, per capital income etc. The CMIE index, a composite measurement of development stands at 43 against the all India average of 100, the variation across districts is of the magnitude of 38.

Literacy and Primary Education

Education acts as a catalyst to being labour economic, social, cultural and technological changes in a society. The educational scenario has become alarming in Bihar.

The overall enrollment rate in the state is 72.68 per cent i.e almost every fourth child never goes to school. It is much lower among girls (50.9%) than boys (94.23%). Enrollment rate varies widely across districts from a low of 56.21 per cent in Khagaria to 84.36 per cent in Dhanbad. Enrollment among girls is lower than that of boys in all the districts.

Drop out rate is quite high at 65.53 per cent. It is marginally higher among girls than among boys. It is also observed that the drop out rate is higher among scheduled castes than among the rest of the population. Gender disparity in drop out rates is less pronounced among scheduled tribes. As per the 1991 census, literacy rate for SCs & STs are 19.49 per cent and 26.87 per cent respectively. This may be due to not only of lower drop out rates but also of higher enrollment rate among STs. Reason being that Christian Missionaries have played a major role in educating the tribal population in Bihar.

Quality of teaching definitely influences enrollment, drop out and achievement in education. Data show that there were on an average 60 students per teacher in the state (1986-87). The national policy on education suggests that there should be at least one teacher for each class at the primary level to improve the quality of teaching.

Education in general and basic education in particular plays very crucial role in empowering people to achieve social and economic change. According to 1991 census the literacy rate in the country was
52.21% while it was only 38.48% in Bihar. The percentage of literacy among female at national level was 39.29% whereas it was 22.89 in Bihar. The percentage of literacy among male and female varied from district to district. It was the highest in Patna district among both male and female which was 56.33 percent and 41.35% respectively. The lowest percentage among male 26.19 and among female 10.38 was recorded in Araria and Kishanganj districts respectively.

In 1996 in a report issued by the government of Bihar and UNICEF it was admitted that the state has no project worth the name to enroll 77lakh children in the age of 6 to 14 years in 1997. What was more heartening was that even with a sanctioned strength of 2.27 lakhs teaching posts of which 20 thousand were vacant at the last count; Bihar had 1 lakh teachers and 25 thousand schools. Short of making its literacy campaign a success. Keeping in view of resource constraints, Bihar will be unable to realize the target for at least thirty years more. Further the percentage of literacy in rural areas, among Sc. and St. is lower than the state average on the one hand “Bihar missed a bi opportunity to avail of a huge amount of Rs. 612.80 crores from the central Government in 1990-1991 when officials of the central education for the three days and even after that an audience with the officials was not granted.”

The glory of Patna university once called Oxford of the east, has become a thing of past. Five universities established through an Act. In 1992 have not been affiliated to the university grants commission the apex body of higher education in the country because they do not fulfill maximum condition of land, building, cash deposit and remain deprived of sufficient grants from U.G.C. Thus the credibility of education right from primary to university level is on decline without any serious effort on the part of the Government to reserve the trend.

Public Health

In Bihar more than 85% of the population lives in rural areas. Therefore, rural health care facilities assume importance. Health care facilities provided by the government are uniform across the districts. At the state level there were 14794 sub-centers in all and one lakh population is served by 19.71 sub-centers the state average is not far away from the target of one sub-center for 5000 persons. The norm for PHCs per lakh population which is well below the norm on an average, there are 0.92 family welfare center per lakh Urban population, which are meant to provide maternity and child health and services.

According to world health organization health means a complete mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Public health bears direct impact on physical and mental capacity and thus increases productivity of society; public health requires medical facilities which should be in the reach of common man in hour of need.

There were 14799 health sub centers 2209 additional primary health centers, 1974 sub divisional hospitals, 37 district hospitals, 147 referral hospitals and several T.B and leprosy hospitals in the states. But the availability of per capita medical services is low compared to national average. In the state doctor population ratios 1:3431 while the accepted form is 1:1000. The number of hospital beds per million people according to 1991 census report in Bihar was 2307 whereas for the whole country was 2561 and in Kerala 5998. According to per capita expenditure health care Bihar stood last but one among the 15 major states with Rs 36.46 while Punjab stood first with Rs 83.49 in U.P it was Rs 34.62.

The percentage of children registered for natal care was lower than the national average. Some of the important components of health care sanitation, welfare of children and handicapped receive very little attention in the state.

Though per capita expenditure on medical care is low but that too, is unevenly disturbed. About 80% of the population of the state lives in rural areas but more than 80% medical facilities are located in urban areas. Primary health centers located in rural areas often go without doctor and medicine. Thus the medical facilities in the state are beyond the reach of persons below poverty line who live in the rural areas. The goal of health for all is not going to be achieved by the year 2010 AD in the state,
however NRHM by central government playing a pivotal role in building a better health facilities in the state. The State Health Society Bihar and District Health Society in the State too, paving the way as to reach medical facilities in rural areas. Janani Bal Surksha Yojana, Pulse Polio eradication Programme, routine immunization, Muskan ek Abhiyan etc successfully running and achieving its target.

**Roads**

In terms of population undivided Bihar is the second largest state in the country and the ninth largest in the area but in comparison the road length one of the most backward states. Out of total 67546 villages in the state only 32929 villages are linked with roads. Till 1996 the total length of the roads in state was 87956 Kms of which 39760Kms were metalled and 47196 Kms unmetalled. According to further breakup, the length of national high ways was 2237 Kms. State high ways 4:92 Kms district roads 42109 Kms village roads 2701 Kms and other roads over 10,000 Kms.

As per survey report up to March 1990 total national average road length per lakh population in country was 211 Km where as in Bihar it was just 124 Km . Comparative study of study of road situation of various states shows that in case of metalled road length Bihar was below ten states, whereas in total metalled and unmetalled road length it was on the ninth position. Similarly, the total road length over hundred square kilometer areas in Bihar was just 50.58 Km which was far behind, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, U.P. etc. As per report of Gramin Khetra Aivam Rojgar Mantralaya on rural road network the percentage of villages with 1000 population connected with all weathered road for in most of the states and union territories was cent percent whereas in Bihar it was 63.8% . On the one hand there has been inadequacy of roads in the state; the priority for road development has been declining since the second five year plan.

**Irrigation**

Irrigation is said to be the most vital ingredient for modernization of agriculture. It facilitates the use of high yielding variety of seeds and chemical fertilizers. In 1990-1991 the share of primary sector whose main component is agriculture in the total domestic product of the state was 47.6 %. Several industries such as jute, sugar, rice mills, flour mills dal mills and other village industries depend on agriculture for raw materials. Out of the total labour force of the state 43.31% and 37.21% are cultivators and agricultural labours. Thus, agriculture remains the back bone of the economy of the state.

But the growth of irrigation facilities has been sluggish in the state. The created irrigation potential has grown at the rate of 4.11%p.a. over the period 1950-94. However, the state has been able to develop only 51% of its ultimate irrigation potential as compared to 55% for all India. On account of various religions the coverage under irrigation in the state does not exceed 43% of the total shows areas as compared to 95% in Punjab, 78% in Haryana, 58% in U.P. thus 53of the shown area in the state depends on vagaries of the monsoon.

**Electricity**

In Bihar, There are three main sources of generation of electrical power, viz, thermal power, Hydro power and nuclear power. Among these the thermal power generates electricity by coal and diesel whereas Hydro power is generated by Water resource. This power has several advantages because it is the most economical source of energy. There is no problem of population of atmosphere or disposal of waste matter in the generation of Hydro power. On the other hand, the power generated from Coal and diesel affects the atmosphere. Moreover the cost of producing electricity by coal and diesel will also be more the Hydro one.

Per capita energy consumption is taken as an indicator of the level of development. In 1994-95 per capita electricity supply in Bihar was 130 KW where as the national average was 319 KW. In 1991 the number of household having electricity was 12.57 % of which 5 % was in rural area and 58.77 % was in urban area and the national average in the year was 43.37 %, 30.54 % and 75.78% respectively.
Banking facilities

Banking development encourages savings and at the same time provides credit to agricultural and industrial sectors. Due to failure of cooperative movement in the state and apathy of nationalized commercial banks there is birth of credit to agricultural sector. The credit deposit ratio of gramin banks in the state is 40% which has caused drain of rural savings to cosmopolitan cities of the country.

In 1996-97 the deposit of non-banking financial institutions operating in the state was nearly equal to that of nationalized banks. As these non-banking financial institutions do not advance loans to the priority sector their high deposit ratio had become a matter concern. The state Government was also worried from this trend which was to be examined thoroughly. But nothing tangible has come in this regard.

The level of investment in industries is also low compared to industrially developed states. Even the Former chief Minister’s visit to foreign countries could not attract for sign investment in the industrial sector.

Income and Consumption

Level of income and consumption in Bihar is quite low. Per capita SDP in 1990-91 at 80-81 prices was as low as Rs. 1195. This is much lower than the corresponding figures for the prosperous states like Delhi Rs. 4838, Punjab Rs. 3751, Haryana Rs. 3466, Uttar Pradesh Rs. 1612, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 1726 and West Bengal Rs. 1946. Even the poor states of Orissa has the per capital income of Rs.1383. Thus, per capital income of Bihar is the lowest among the states.

Law and Order

Though, there has been a decline in law and order situation in recent years all over the country but Bihar has earned bad name for organized crime and violence of all kinds right from kidnapping, loot, Gangwar etc. to Rangadari tax, from business communities and professionals. The Chief Ministers visit to foreign countries could not attract foreign investment in the state. The apathy and passiveness of the law enforcing and maintaining agencies have made the Chief Justice of the High Court comment that “There is Jungle Raj” in the state.

In 1951 Bihar’s position was fourth from the point of view of per capita income in the country whereas its position declined to 17th with Rs. 1142 per capita income (Per capital net domestic product at 1980-81 prices) in1991-92. During the period 1980-81 to 1991-92 compound annual rate of growth in the state was 1.99 percent which was much below the average national rate of growth. Only three states viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh lagged behind in compound annual rate of growth.

Circumstantial it may appear that socio-cultural factors might have been responsible for slow rate of growth of the economy. But it has been amply made clear that social and physical infrastructure are intermingled in bringing about changes in socio-cultural policies institutions provided they are adequate and qualitative. The low level and poor quality of infrastructure in Undivided Bihar has not been able to other developed state, the level and quality of infrastructure is low in Bihar. Thus its backwardness is the result of inadequacy in infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

In comparison with Indian average undivided Bihar was more like an agrarian economy. Ghosh and Gupta (2010) found that because of lack of development in the non-agricultural sector, there is an inadequate extension in productivity in Bihar. Employment state of affairs during this period also exhibit that the non-agricultural sector was unable to draw people to non-agricultural sector. It was also found in current study that division of Bihar slightly favoring Jharkhand more than Bihar. Distribution of Physical assets were made the basis of ‘on is where is’ . Divided Bihar got 3/4 of liabilities and just 1/4 of assets, so Bihar became poorer state than ever. Many of the industrial units positioned in the Southern undivided Bihar were obviously shifted to newly formed Jharkhand and this
loss resulted into revenue loss of the state. The contribution of industrial sector in revenue of undivided Bihar was around 10% which came to just 1% in undivided Bihar.

REFERENCES