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Socio economic and demographic analysis of vishunpur village of Gorakhpur district

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Abstract

This study undertakes a comprehensive socio-economic and demographic analysis of Vishunpur village in Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh, through the application of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques. Organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Belipar, the study captures a multi-dimensional profile of the village, encompassing landholding patterns, cropping systems, literacy levels, livestock assets, technological penetration, and infrastructural status. The PRA approach enabled active community involvement in identifying key developmental gaps and potential interventions. The findings indicate that despite a strong literacy rate and increasing access to farm mechanization and ICT tools, significant challenges persist in terms of land fragmentation, irrigation facilities, and support for marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes. The study contributes actionable baseline data to aid policy makers, planners, and development agencies in crafting targeted and inclusive rural development strategies.

Keywords: Participatory rural appraisal, socio-economic analysis, Vishunpur village, agricultural productivity, rural development, krishi vigyan kendra, livelihood, infrastructure, ICT, demographic study

Introduction

The role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) as front-line agricultural extension agencies under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is pivotal in promoting rural prosperity. KVK Belipar in Gorakhpur district has adopted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as an inclusive method for planning and implementing development interventions. PRA is an interactive tool designed to integrate local knowledge and perspectives into development programs by empowering rural communities to participate actively in their own growth process.

Vishunpur village, located in Block Bansgaon, approximately 35 km from Gorakhpur district headquarters and 13 km from KVK Belipar, was chosen for the present study due to its agro-ecological relevance and socio-economic diversity. The village lies in a fertile belt with

dominant crops like paddy, wheat, and vegetables. Given its mixed demographic structure, including a considerable Scheduled Caste population, Vishunpur offers a representative sample for understanding the challenges and opportunities of rural Uttar Pradesh.

The study is premised on the need for integrated rural development, focusing on participatory decision-making, livelihood enhancement, infrastructure improvement, and climate-resilient agriculture. By analyzing primary data collected through PRA exercises, this research aims to provide an evidence-based foundation for micro-level planning and policy formulation.

Research methodology

1. The study adopted a mixed-methods approach grounded in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques to assess the

socio-economic and demographic profile of Vishunpur village. The methodology was structured into the following phases

1. Site selection and orientation

Vishunpur village (Block: Khajjani; Tehsil: Bansgaon; District: Gorakhpur) was selected based on its accessibility, cropping diversity, and active participation of stakeholders. A preliminary visit was conducted to establish rapport with the village leadership and stakeholders.

2. Stakeholder engagement and rapport building

Initial meetings were held with key informants, including the Sarpanch, Naib Sarpanch, Lamardar, progressive farmers, and women SHG members. These sessions emphasized the objectives of PRA, the role of community members, and the participatory nature of the study.

3. PRA techniques used

Social and Resource Mapping - To visualize land use, infrastructure, natural resources, and social institutions. Seasonal Calendars - To identify cropping patterns, labour dynamics, and availability of resources across seasons. Transect Walks - To capture field-level observations on crops, soil, vegetation, livestock, and irrigation. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) - Conducted separately with men, women, youth, and marginalized groups to capture diverse perspectives. Semi-structured Interviews - With 20 households representing different landholding sizes and social categories.

4. Data collection and analysis

Data was collected through observation, note-taking, structured schedules, and participatory tools. Quantitative data was tabulated, and descriptive statistics (mean, percentage) were used for analysis. Spatial data from mapping exercises were digitized using basic GIS tools.

5. Ethical considerations

Prior informed consent was obtained from all participants. The identity of respondents was kept confidential, and findings were shared with the community for validation.

6. Limitations

As PRA depends heavily on participant involvement, there may be minor biases in self-reported data. However, triangulation through multiple tools helped in cross-verification. This methodological framework ensured that the study was rooted in ground realities while maintaining academic rigour.

Table1: Demographic information and literacy rate of village

Total Population			No. of Households	No. of Literates			Literacy Rate	Sex Ratio
Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total		
5160	5055	10215	1220	4472	4109	8581	84.01	979

Table 1: Demographic information

The total population of Vishunpur stands at 10,215 with a balanced gender distribution (5160 males and 5055 females), reflecting a healthy sex ratio of 979 females per 1000 males. The literacy rate of 84.01% indicates good educational awareness among the villagers, which is significantly higher than the rural average in Uttar Pradesh.

Table2: Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population in village

SC Population			ST Population		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1429	1443	2872	0	0	0

Table 2: Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population

Scheduled Castes (SC) constitute around 28.1% of the population, totaling 2,872 individuals. There is no Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in the village, which reflects the region's demographic structure and may influence policy targeting and resource allocation for backward classes.

Table 3: Distribution of the farming families on the basis of size of land holding in village

S.No	Land Holding (Ha)	No. of families	Percent
1	>4(Large)	18	1.48
2	2-4(Medium)	58	4.75
3	1-2(Small)	98	8.04
4	0-1(Marginal)	671	55.00
5	Landless	375	30.73
6	Total	1220	100.00

Table 3: Landholding pattern

A large majority of the population are marginal farmers (55%), followed by landless families (30.73%). Only a small proportion (1.48%) of the families hold more than 4 hectares of land. This fragmentation of landholdings restricts the scalability of modern farming techniques and mechanization

Table 4: Area under different agricultural crops in village

Season	Crops	Area (ha)	Productivity (q/ha)
Kharif	Paddy	292	36
	Arhar	29	7
	Maize	08	
	Til	15	4
	Cucurbits	06	252
Rabi	Fodder (Chari)	14	850
	Wheat	304	38
	Barely	08	
	Mustard	21	18
	Chick pea	05	14
	Field Pea	10	16
	Potato	06	
	Veg. Pea	4	80
	Barseem	12	830
	Cucurbits	04	210
Zaid	Fodder (Chari)	07	

Table 4: Area under agricultural crops

The major Kharif crop is Paddy covering 292 ha with a productivity of 36 q/ha. The Rabi season is dominated by Wheat (304 ha, 38 q/ha). Crops like Arhar, Maize, Mustard, and various vegetables ensure crop diversification. High productivity crops like Barseem and Cucurbits show potential for income generation.

Table 5: Area under different horticultural crops in village (Hectares)

Plants	Area (ha)	Productivity (q/ha)
Mango	2.1	80
Papaya	2.3	-
Guava	0.4	175

Table 5: Horticultural crops

Mango and Papaya are the major horticultural crops, with Guava showing the highest productivity (175 q/ha). These

crops can be further promoted through processing and value addition initiatives.

Table 6: Livestock population in Village (Nos.)

Village- Bishunpur	Indigenous Cows	Crossbred cow	Buffaloes	Goat	Sheep	Poultry Birds	Fish pond
No. of animals/ pond	63	388	168	2840	0	10 (35000)	05
Productivity (Milk /animal/lactation (meat in kg)	1089	1291	1456	11.9	0	1.1	0.94

Table 6: Livestock population

Goat rearing is dominant with 2,840 heads, followed by poultry (35,000 birds). Buffaloes and cows are significant sources of milk. The presence of fish ponds also points towards integrated farming systems in the village.

Table 7: Basic village amenities in village-Vishunpur (Nos.)

Panchayat Ghar	School	Anganwaricentre	Health Centre	Ration Depot
01	03	02	01	01

Table 7: Basic village amenities

The village has basic infrastructure with 3 schools, 2 Anganwadi centres, a health centre, a Panchayat Ghar, and

one ration depot. While the presence of these facilities is essential, their quality and accessibility should be periodically evaluated to ensure inclusive development

Table 8: Information and communication technology (ICT) tools available in the village

TV	Mobile	computer/laptop	Internet	Other
1240	7892	280	yes	

Table 8: ICT tools in the village

With 7,892 mobile phones and 280 computers, the village shows high digital penetration. Internet availability can help facilitate e-governance, online education, and agri-advisory services to rural households.

Table 9: Sources of transportation available in the village

Transportation			
Car	Motorcycle	Cycle	Other
192	1080	700	27

Table 9: Transportation Availability

The village has 1,080 motorcycles, 192 cars, and 700 bicycles, indicating significant personal mobility. These

resources help reduce rural isolation and increase access to markets, education, and healthcare services

Table10: Farm machinery available in the village

Farm machinery								
Tractor	Power Tiller	Combine	Cultivator	Disc plough	Disc Harrow	Seed cum Fert. Drill and Super seeds	Thresher and Bhusa Maker	Sprayer
102	1	01	102	01	58	14	27	340

Table 10: Farm Machinery Availability

The availability of 102 tractors and various tools like cultivators, seed drills, and sprayers signifies progressive

mechanization. However, equitable access remains a challenge, especially for small and marginal farmers

Table11: Irrigation facility in village – Bishunpur

Govt. Tube well	Private Tube well	Cannal	Well	Drip irrigation	Sprinkler
02	278	0	8	0	0

Table 11: Irrigation Facilities

Private tube wells (278) form the mainstay of irrigation, with limited public irrigation infrastructure. The absence of canal

and drip irrigation indicates a potential area for investment in water-use efficiency technologies.

Table12: Transect walk depicting following natural resources of village

Sl No.	Particulars	Natural Resources
1	Vegetation/Plantation	Sagon, Mahogani Mahua, Mango, Euckeliopatus, Sheesham, Arjun, Bomboo etc.
2	Grasses	Doob, Motha, Parthenium,
3	Soil	Loam and sandi loam
4	Crops	Cereals, Pulses, oilseed, horticultural crops Fodder crops etc.
5	Live stock	Cattle, Buffalo, Poultry, Goat etc.
6	Land use	Habitation, crop land, orchard, etc
7	Water resources	Tube well, Ponds, Wells etc

Table 12: Natural Resource Mapping (Transect Walk)

The PRA exercise documented various natural resources such as trees (Mahua, Mango, Eucalyptus), grasses (Doob, Motha), loamy soil, and diversified crops. Livestock, water bodies, and land use patterns highlight the village's agro-ecological richness and scope for sustainable development.

Conclusion

The socio-economic and demographic appraisal of Vishunpur using PRA techniques presents a comprehensive understanding of the village ecosystem. While there is evidence of promising development in literacy, mechanization, and crop diversity, challenges such as fragmented landholdings, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and SC community inclusion persist. The study recommends targeted policy support in resource development, ICT utilization, and training for enhanced livelihoods and rural transformation.

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