

**SURVEY OF BPL FAMILIES IN AONLA TEHSIL : PRELIMINARY
FINDINGS**



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The problem of poverty is quite complex. Extreme poverty is an evil because it deprives some people to live with dignity, the way more fortunate live. The decrease has to be addressed and eliminated by taking corrective policy decisions. Poverty has traditionally been defined in terms of income or consumption. The level of 'income which ensures the minimum standard of living is taken as the income poverty line'. The persons whose income is less than this poverty line fall in the category of "poor". Even after its impressive performance in the field of science, technology and agriculture during last three or four decades, a vast majority of Indian people is struggling with problems of poverty. They are denied even the basic needs of human life: food, safe drinking water, shelter, health, education and are forced to live in degraded social and physical environment.

More than 65 per cent of India's population is rural, and 58 per cent of the rural labour force works in the agriculture sector. These people are mainly marginal farmers or small farmers cultivating land that accounts for less than one third of the country's total farming area. Overall, the incidence of poverty among India's population dropped from 64 per cent in 1968 to an estimated 26 per cent in 2000. Still, about one third of the population lives under the poverty line of US\$1 a day, and out of them three in four poor people live in rural areas. Thus poverty in India is mainly a rural problem.

We are aware of a number of Five Year Plans having been undertaken and implemented over the last fifty years or so but somehow the poverty alleviation has played hide and seek game. Programmes invariably lose their effectiveness due to leakage, i.e., programmes meant for really poor are not reaching them because they are being transferred to those who do not deserve the benefit. In spite of the enshrining antipoverty programmes and objectives of poverty eradication programs contained in India's five year plans, even after 59 years of independence, the situation is glaring. Anti-poverty programmes constitute important dimensions of the public policy thrust to bring about rapid reduction in rural poverty, and absorb a significant chunk of financial resources. Two major changes have occurred in the poverty alleviation strategy in recent years. Anti-poverty programmes, such as those based on wage employment and credit-cum-subsidy self-employment have been rationalised and significantly modified. Further, these programmes are now the responsibility of the local bodies (panchayati raj institutions) that are expected to influence their performance. The Government of India has launched various programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Area (DWCRA), Wage Employment Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. for the alleviation of poverty but with our all concerted efforts, we are shamefully almost at the same level even today with some see-saw battle **(UNICEF, 1997)**.

The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census in the rural areas of the country in the beginning of each Five Year Plan period, through the State Governments, for identification of persons living below the poverty line. The methodology and criteria for identification of the BPL households in the rural areas are finalised taking into account the recommendations of an Expert Group constituted for the purpose.

The BPL Census was conducted in 2002, based on the recommendations of Expert Group, taking into account 13 scorable socio-economic parameters including operational holding of land, housing, clothing, food, security, sanitation, ownership of consumer durables, literacy, labour force, means of livelihood, status of children, type of indebtedness, migration and the nature of assistance preferred. Each household was ranked according to the total score obtained for classification into 'poor' and 'non-poor'. In the present study the BPL families are considered on the basis of BPL Census 2002.

U.P. is generally divided into five major regions viz. Hill, Western, Central, Eastern and Bundelkhand which have large socio-economic and cultural differences. Even the languages are distinct. The district of Bareilly lying between Lat. 28 degree 1' and Long. 78 degree 58'k and 79 degree 47'E was once the part of ancient Panchala, which was bound by the river Gomati in the east, Yamuna in the west, Chambal in the south and on the north it approaches the Himalayan foot hills. Total population of Bareilly districts is 3618589 of which 2427139 is rural population and 1191450 urban population (**Census 2001**). Present study is carried out in Aonla Tehsil of Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh. There are three blocks in the Aonla Tehsil i.e. Alampur-Zafarabad, Ramnagar and Majhagawn. Total households in Aonla Tehsil are 89,176 out of which 33,222 families (approximately 38%) are Below Poverty Line (BPL Census 2002).

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The overall objective of the present study is to know the status of the BPL families in the Aonla Tehsil. It utilises the primary data collected from a rural area of Aonla Tehsil in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. It also analyses the differing levels and patterns in various segments of the society, the segments being framed on the basis of caste, religion etc. The objectives of the study are:

- (1) To know the housing characteristics of the BPL families in the Aonla Tehsil.
- (2) To estimate the income –consumption pattern of the BPL families in Aonla Tehsil.
- (3) To study the awareness among the BPL families about the selected anti-poverty programmes meant for such families in Aonla Tehsil
- (4) To know the impact of the selected anti-poverty programmes related to BPL families in Aonla Tehsil

Plan of the Study

This is a cross-sectional study. Two stage simple random sampling procedure was adopted to select the sample households, the village being the first stage unit and the household being the second stage unit. In the present study 11 villages are selected out of which 180 households were considered for the present study. A household is developed by defining a household as a group of persons who usually live together and take food from common kitchen. In the present study an attempt has been made to present a brief description of the income distribution of the selected households and head of household. Household income is the income received by all the members of the household from various sources like agriculture, agricultural worker, business/shop, daily workers, cast related worker, housewife, housewife & agricultural worker (for female only), begging and others. Household expenditure was collected under: Expenditure on food and Expenditure on other than food. For the expenditure on food items one month reference period is considered. But for other than food expenditure one year reference period is used. In the present study information related to awareness about the various poverty alleviation schemes and as well as benefit from the scheme has been taken from the surveyed households. Data collection was carried out between November 2006 to January 2007 at certain intervals. The primary tool in this study was pre-designed interview schedule. Relevant data on various

aspects on the schedule were obtained by personal interview method. All the financial support is provided by the institute.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. The sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males) is found to be 818. The total population is 858 persons with 472 males and 386 females in the surveyed households. About forty five percent population is in the age group of 0-14 years. (Annexure 1)
2. The head of nearly all the households (89.4%) is a male member and their median age comes out to be 40 years. (Annexure 3)
3. About 85.6 percent of the households surveyed belong to Hindu religion and 14.4 percent have faith in Muslim religion. (Annexure 3)
4. There was large variation in this phenomenon according to caste; about 15 percent households belong to General Category, 58.3 percent to Other Backward Classes and 27.2 percent to Schedule Caste. (Annexure 3)
5. Main occupation of the household heads is agricultural worker. (Annexure 3)
6. Only 30 percent head of household are literate and among them 1.7 percent are educated up to 10 years and more. (Annexure 3)
7. About 86 percent families are Nuclear and only 13.9 percent families are joint family of the surveyed households. (Annexure 3)
8. Among surveyed households about 92 percent of the households live in houses that are kachcha or semi-pucca or pucca and 2.8 percent lives in others houses (i.e. hut or others). (Annexure 4)
9. The main source of lighting is dibbi in 94 percent of households. (Annexure 4)

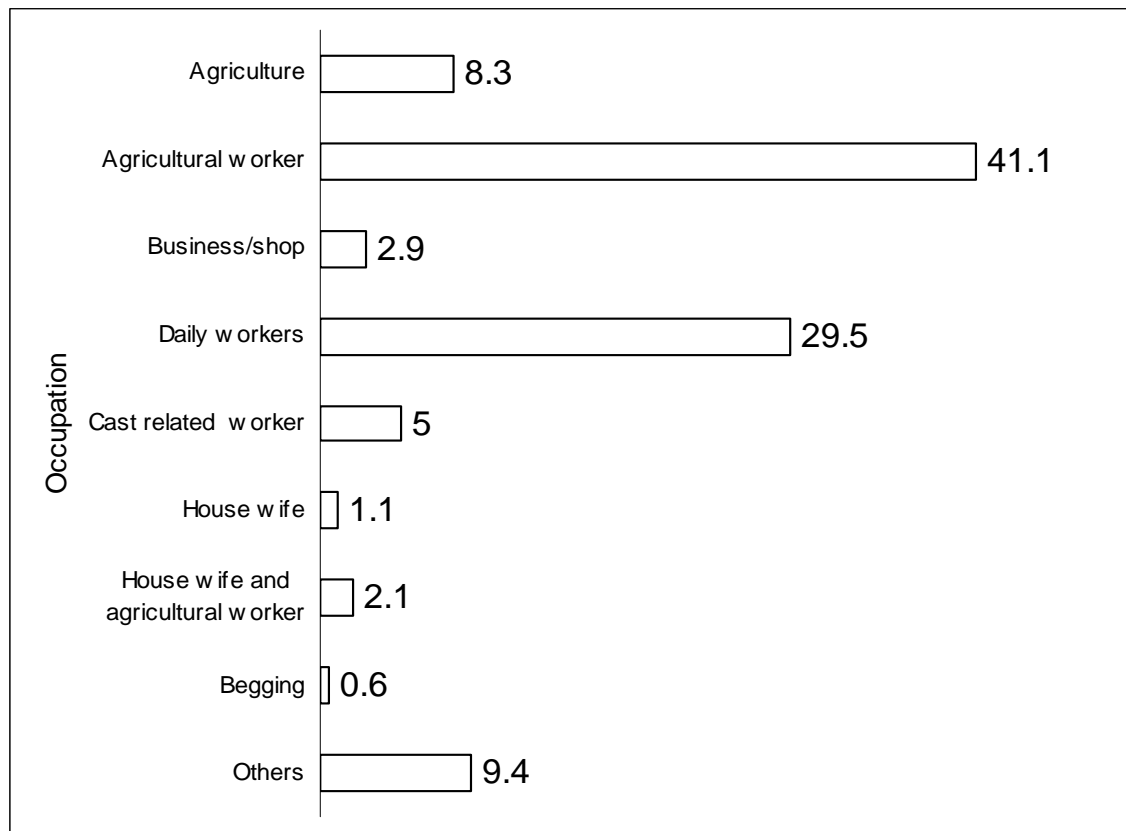
10. Crop-residue/wood/kanda is the most common fuel used for cooking by 99 percent of the households. (Annexure 4)
11. About two percent of the household has stove and one percent households have no blanket or quilt facilities. (Annexure5)
12. The survey results revealed that the average household income per month is 1383/- rupees. (Annexure 6)
13. Among the households, 37.0% female head of households were below Rs. 500/- of total monthly income of the households.
14. Per capita income is estimated by dividing the income of all the households by the estimated number of household population. According to the survey average per capita income is 323 rupees per month. (Annexure 6)
15. The survey results revealed that the mean household expenditure per month is Rs. 1517.0. Of that Rs. 1103 is spent on food, which is about 73.0 percent of the total expenditure. (Annexure 7)
16. Policy wise knowledge of poverty alleviation programme shows that 88.9 percent head of household are aware of Indira Awas Yojana and 88.3 percent are aware Pension Schemes. (Annexure 8)
17. Awareness about Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna is found only 59.4 percent. (Annexure 8)
18. Only 7.2 percent households get benefited from the Indira Awas Yojana and 19.4 percent head of households are the member of Self Help Group. (Annexure 9)
19. Only 9 households or 5 percent households reported having received employment under Wage Employment scheme. (Annexure 9)

ANNEXURE 1: HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

Age Group in years	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	Percent	Number
0-4	52.8	47.2	10.6	91
5-14	57.3	42.7	34.2	293
15-59	54.1	45.9	50.0	429
60+	53.3	46.7	5.2	45
Number of person	472	386	100	858
Sex Ratio (No of females/1000 males)	818			

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 2: OCCUPATION OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLDS



ANNEXURE 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Sex of the HH		
Male	161	89.4
Female	19	10.6
Age of the HH		
<30	27	15
30-39	54	30
40-49	47	26.1
50-59	17	9.5
60+	35	19.4
Religion of the HH		
Hindu	154	85.6
Muslim	26	14.4
Caste of HH		
General	26	14.5
Other backward class	105	58.3
Scheduled caste	49	27.2
Education of the HH		
Illiterate	125	69.4
1-4 years	6	3.3
5-7 years	23	12.8
8-9 years	23	12.8
10 years and above	3	1.7
Source of Income of the HH		
Agriculture	15	8.3
Agricultural worker	75	41.6
Business/shop	5	2.9
Daily workers	53	29.5
Cast related worker	9	5.0
Housewife	2	1.1
Housewife and agricultural worker	4	2.1
Begging	1	0.6
Others	16	8.9
Type of family		
Nuclear	155	86.1
Joint	25	13.9
Mean household size	4.8	
Median age of HH	40	
Number of households	180	

HH: Head of Household

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 4: HOUSING FACILITIES

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Type of house		
Pucca	3	1.7
Kuchcha	68	37.8
Semi pucca	95	52.7
Hut	9	5.0
Others	5	2.8
Ownership of house		
Self	170	94.4
Others	10	5.6
Number of rooms		
No room	7	3.9
One room	128	71.1
Two rooms	40	22.2
Three rooms	5	2.8
Kitchen facilities		
Yes	6	3.3
No	174	96.7
Toilet facilities		
Yes	2	1.1
No	178	98.9
Drainage facilities		
Open	145	80.6
Close	7	3.9
No drainage facilities	28	15.6
Separate place for cattle		
Yes	68	37.8
No	112	62.2
Drinking water facility		
Own hand pump	82	45.6
Others hand pump	18	10.0
Public hand pump	80	44.4
Main source of light		
Dibbi	169	93.9
Lantern	8	4.4
Electricity	3	1.7
Fuel for cooking		
Crop residue/wood/kanda/others	178	98.8
Coal/charcoal/kerosene	1	0.6
Electricity/LPG/biogas	1	0.6
Number of households	180	
Mean household size	4.8	

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 5: ASSETS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS

Name of the Assets	Number	Percentage
Radio		
Yes	22	12.2
No	158	87.8
Watch		
Yes	40	22.2
No	140	77.8
Cycle		
Yes	56	31.1
No	124	68.9
Pressure cooker		
Yes	14	7.8
No	166	92.2
Tailor machine		
Yes	9	5.0
No	171	95.0
Chair		
Yes	4	2.2
No	176	97.8
Stove		
Yes	4	2.2
No	176	97.8
Blanket		
Yes	178	98.9
No	2	1.1
Livestock		
Yes	87	48.3
No	93	51.6
Cart		
Yes	179	99.4
No	1	0.6
Total	180	

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 6: INCOME OF THE HOUSE HOLDS

Characteristics	Average Income			
	Total	No. of HH < average income	Per-capita	No. of HH < per-capita income
Sex of the HH				
Male	1443.0	86	333.0	90
Female	873.0	12	245.0	11
Age of the HH				
<30	1060.0	17	319.0	16
30-39	1484.0	29	309.0	33
40-49	1635.0	23	327.0	28
50-59	1387.0	9	345.0	7
60+	1136.0	20	334.0	19
Religion of the HH				
Hindu	1333.0	80	323.0	82
Muslim	1681.0	13	326.0	16
Caste of HH				
General	1683.0	11	332.0	14
Other backward class	1248.0	57	319.0	59
Scheduled caste	1513.0	26	328.0	27
Education of the HH				
Illiterate	1346.0	62	320.0	68
1-4 years	1289.0	4	239.0	3
5-7 years	1445.0	11	343.0	8
8-9 years	1509.0	14	331.0	11
10 years and above	1661.0	2	439.0	2
Source of Income of the HH				
Agriculture	952.0	9	248.0	10
Agricultural worker	1441.0	44	338.0	44
Business/shop	1290.0	2	347.0	3
Daily workers	1755.0	25	367.0	34
Cast related worker	1140.0	6	291.0	5
Housewife	75.0	1	75.0	1
Housewife and agricultural worker	563.0	1	179.0	3
Begging	400.0	0	400.0	0
Others	877.0	10	257.0	10
Type of family				
Nuclear	1282.0	79	320.0	87
Joint	2012.0	13	344.0	13
Total	1383.0	90	323.0	98

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 7: EXPENDITURE OF THE HOUSE HOLDS

Characteristics	Average expenditure			
	Total	No. of HH < average expenditure	Per-capita	No. of HH < per-capita expenditure
Sex of the HH				
Male	1567.0	90	352.0	97
Female	1092.0	11	346.0	12
Age of the HH				
<30	1217.0	15	369.0	16
30-39	1632.0	29	332.0	34
40-49	1946.0	31	361.0	29
50-59	1280.0	9	340.0	10
60+	1111.0	20	360.0	23
Religion of the HH				
Hindu	1493.0	85	358.0	94
Muslim	1661.0	14	310.0	16
Caste of HH				
General	1798.0	12	357.0	16
Other backward class	1388.0	58	352.0	62
Scheduled caste	1645.0	28	346.0	32
Education of the HH				
Illiterate	1428.0	64	346.0	79
1-4 years	1596.0	4	286.0	3
5-7 years	1446.0	13	316.0	14
8-9 years	2041.0	12	425.0	13
10 years and above	1600.0	1	373.0	2
Source of Income of the HH				
Agriculture	1582.0	8	378.0	11
Agricultural worker	1478.0	39	350.0	44
Business/shop	1444.0	2	389.0	4
Daily workers	1771.0	29	347.0	32
Cast related worker	1506.0	5	326.0	6
Housewife	341.0	1	341.0	1
Housewife and agricultural worker	815.0	2	259.0	2
Begging	403.0	0	403.0	0
Others	1223.0	9	365.0	10
Type of family				
Nuclear	1440.0	82	355.0	95
Joint	1993.0	15	327.0	15
Total	1517.0	97	351.0	109

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 8: KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POLICIES RELATED TO POVERTY ERADICATION

Anti Poverty Programme	Percentage
Indira Awas Yojana	88.9
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna	77.8
Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojna	59.4
Pension Schemes	88.3
Total Number of Households	180

Source: Households Surveyed

ANNEXURE 9: HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED FROM THE POLICIES RELATED TO BPL FAMILIES

Anti Poverty Programme	Percentage
Indira Awas Yojana(IAY)	7.2
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY)	19.4
Member of Self Help Group	19.4
Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojna	5.0
Wage Employment	5.0
Land Received	2.8
Pension Schemes	11.7
Total Number of Households	180

Source: Households Surveyed