

Socio-Economic Profile of Ilaka 7- Bhaktapur

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LOCATION

The Ilaka 7 of Bhaktapur district consists of three village panchayats viz., Dadhikote, Bolkote and Sirutar. It is just half an hour walk from Thimi. The northern boundary of this Ilaka is linked with Balkumari Village Panchayat. On the West, it borders with Lokonthali Village Panchayat. The eastern side touches Gundu Village Panchayat and the southern side borders with Lalitpur district. The shape of this Ilaka is nearly triangular.

The total population of this Ilaka is found to be 11689 in 1981, of which 5743 are male. The rate of growth of population per annum in the Ilaka was found to be 2.95 percent during 1971-1981. The minimum altitude of this Ilaka is 3286 ft. and highest altitude is 4672 ft. above the sea level. It falls in the south east direction of Kathmandu. The Ilaka is very near to the metropolitan cities of Kathmandu valley.

GENERAL FEATURES

At present, the total number of household is about 1900 and average size of the family is 7. Different ethnic groups, particularly Brahmins, Chhetris and Newars reside in this Ilaka. In terms of employment most of the people are involved in agriculture. The main reason for studying this Ilaka is to make aware with the socio-economic condition of the people of such Ilakas which are very near to metropolitan cities i.e. Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan and thereby identify the needs of the Ilaka.

Despite the various programmes launched in this Ilaka for raising the status of the masses, they are still far away from the services which are required to meet their basic needs.

The people of this Ilaka seem eager for development. The society is patriarchal with male domination. The female members of the society are over burdened with work in the field in addition to their domestic drudgery. They are not treated in equal term with their male counterpart.

The principle crops of this Ilaka are paddy, wheat and maize among cereal crops and potatoes, oilseeds and radish are the main cash crops

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produced for domestic and commercial purposes. Besides this, green vegetables are also grown and sold to the military camp in Bhaktapur. Small scale poultry business and animal husbandary is a common practice.

With a relatively higher literacy rate and considerable infrastructure this Ilaka is characterised by massive disguised unemployment.

THE POPULATION STRUCTURE

According to the census of 1981, the total population of this Ilaka is 11689, of which 5743 are male and 5946 are female. During the intercensal period 1971-1981 the population of this Ilaka was found to have increased by 2.95 percent per year. The population growth rate of this Ilaka is higher than the national population growth rate as a whole. The population structure of this Ilaka is given below.

Table 1
The Population Structure of Ilaka 7

| Village Panchayat | 1971 | | | 1981 | | | Average Rate of Growth during 1971-81 percent |
|-------------------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | |
| Dadhikote | 1792 | 1793 | 3585 | 2394 | 2398 | 4792 | 2.94 |
| Balkote | 1363 | 1384 | 2747 | 1769 | 1842 | 3611 | 2.77 |
| Simtar | 1202 | 1207 | 2404 | 1580 | 1706 | 3286 | 3.15 |
| <u>Ilaka 7</u> | 4357 | 4384 | 8741 | 5743 | 5946 | 11689 | 2.95 |

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics.

The Age-sex composition of the Population of Ilaka 7 is given below:

Table 2
Age-Sex Composition of Population

| Village Panchayat | Age Group | | | | Total |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----|-------|
| | 0 - 10 | 11 - 15 | 16 - 59 | 60+ | |
| Dadhikote | | | | | |
| Total | 179 | 90 | 271 | 10 | 550 |
| Male | 98 | 43 | 131 | 8 | 280 |
| Female | 81 | 47 | 140 | 2 | 270 |
| Balkote | | | | | |
| Total | 164 | 94 | 157 | 5 | 420 |
| Male | 90 | 43 | 75 | 1 | 209 |
| Female | 74 | 51 | 82 | 4 | 411 |
| Simtar | | | | | |
| Total | 161 | 123 | 153 | 3 | 440 |
| Male | 83 | 56 | 72 | 2 | 213 |
| Female | 78 | 67 | 81 | 1 | 227 |

Ilaka 7

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|------|
| Total | 504 | 307 | 581 | 18 | 1410 |
| Male | 271 | 142 | 278 | 11 | 702 |
| Female | 233 | 165 | 303 | 7 | 708 |

Source: Field Survey.

The table shows that economically active population (11-59 in case of our country otherwise (16-59) of Ilaka 7 is 62.98 percent and the rest 37.02 percent is dependants. The proportion of economically active population in Dadhikote is highest (65.63 percent) and lowest proportion of economically active population is in Balkote (59.70 percent). In Sirutar the proportion of economically active population is 62.72 percent. The following table gives the marital status and family size of the Ilaka.

Table 3
Marital Status and Family Size

| Village Panchayats | No. of Married Respondents | Percentage | Average Family Size |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Dadhikote | 73 | 96 | 7.2 |
| Balkote | 54 | 87 | 6.7 |
| Sirutar | 57 | 92 | 7.1 |
| Ilaka 7 | 184 | 92 | 7.05 |

Source: Field Survey.

In this Ilaka it is found that the average size of the family is 7.05. The highest size of the family is found in Dadhikote (7.2) and lowest in Balkote (6.7). The proportion of married respondents were highest in Dadhikote (69 percent) and lowest in Balkote (87 percent).

THE OCCUPATIONAL COMPOSITION

If we see the occupational composition of this Ilaka, we see that the main occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture followed by service and business. This is evident from the following table.

Table 4
Occupational Composition

(Percentage of Households)

| Occupation | Dadhikote | Balkote | Sirutar | Total Ilaka 7 |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Agriculture | 88.5 | 91.0 | 93.7 | 90.5 |
| Service | 4.3 | 2.7 | 1.03 | 3.0 |
| Business (Seasonal) | 2.6 | 1.03 | 3.7 | 2.5 |
| Others | 4.6 | 5.27 | 1.59 | 4.0 |

Source: Field Survey.

The table reveals that above 90 percent households, main occupation is agriculture. But it cannot be ignored that the population engaged in other occupations also engage in agriculture. Despite various efforts and engagement in agriculture, the performance of agriculture is not satisfactory in this Ilaka. The poor performance of agriculture is reflected in a very low level of monthly income of the villagers.

THE ECONOMIC STATUS BY INCOME

It is found that majority of the households (41.5 percent) fall in the monthly income bracket of Rs. 401 to 500. Only 36.5 percent households of this Ilaka fall in the income bracket of above five hundred rupees per month. This is seen in the following table.

Table 5
Monthly Income of the Households

(in percentage of households)

| Monthly Income (Rs) | Dadhikote | Balkote | Sirutar | Ilaka 7 |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Less than 100 | 2.6 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 2.5 |
| 101 - 200 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 3.5 |
| 201 - 300 | 6.6 | 1.6 | 6.4 | 5.0 |
| 301 - 400 | 13.2 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 11.0 |
| 401 - 500 | 47.4 | 22.6 | 53.3 | 41.5 |
| 501 and above | 25.0 | 61.3 | 25.8 | 36.5 |

Source: Field Survey.

The table further depicts that in Dadhikote and Sirutar the highest proportion of households is in the income bracket of Rs. 401-500 where as the highest proportion of households in Balkote is in the income bracket of Rs. 501 and above.

EDUCATION

Education is one of the basic components of basic needs which has to be reached to all common folk. Looking at the various aspects of this Ilaka, one can be highly impressed with the progress of education. There are more than 15 schools at present. Those having formal education usually send their children at the district headquarter and even Lalitpur and Kathmandu. Those having informal education send their children in the village schools.

It is also learnt that a significant number of school going age children are not going to the schools. In this Ilaka, the single most significant reason for not sending their children to schools is financial. Less than 20 percent of the households do not send their children to schools because they don't want to send them. This is clear from the following table.

Table 6
Reasons for not Sending Children to Schools

| | Dadhikote | Balkote | Sirutar |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Financial reasons | 63.0 | 74.6 | 81.0 |
| No school in village | 7.4 | 10.2 | 14.0 |
| Do not want to send them | 11.6 | 14.0 | 4.6 |
| Others | 18.0 | 1.2 | 0.4 |

Source: Field Survey.

Table 7
Educational Background and Venue of Education

(in percent)

| Village Panchayat | Education | Education | Illiterate | Educated at District | Educated at Village |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Dadhikote | 74.5 | 21.0 | 4.5 | 49.0 | 51.0 |
| Balkote | 68.2 | 24.3 | 7.5 | 42.3 | 57.7 |
| Sirutar | 54.8 | 25.7 | 19.5 | 31.8 | 68.2 |

Source: Field Survey.

Those respondents who had formal education showed strong preference to choose district headquarter as the venue of education. In particular, the below 35 responds prefer to send their children to be educated at the district headquarter where as 35-50 seem indifferent as to the selection of venue for education. Above 50 people preferred to educate their children in the village.

The high percentage of literacy in this Ilaka indicates that almost all the school going age children go to schools. It is also learnt that the dropouts in the schools is minimum as compared to other rural areas of Nepal.

The maximum travel distance for getting the education in school is half mile to 1 mile. That is why almost all the members of households who have their children having school going age are sending their children in schools with respect to adult education, the local people have realised the importance and there is a programme of adult education in this Ilaka, but non-of the members of the 200 sample households were found to have joined this programme.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The transport and communication system reflects the picture of the area with regard to development. In this Ilaka all the roads which join most of the villages are Kachi motorable roads during winter only. However,

Kathmandu-Bhaktapur road touches Ilaka-7, particularly Balkot and Dadhikote. The walking distance for the people of this Ilaka is not much to reach Thimi. In this context, it can be said that the people are not far behind with the modern road facilities. There are one post offices each at Dadhikote and Balkote and non in Sirutar.

DRINKING WATER SITUATION

The existing situation of drinking water supply is not adequate. Most of the population is still relying upon spring and water ponds locally known as Kuwas located in inconvenient distance from the settlement area.

Apart from pond water a small portion of population relays on tap water. Nonparennial spring and streams, which dry up during winter season are also the main sources of drinking water during rainy season. There is not timely repair and maintenance services in the source of water.

There is great prospect of cattle raising and it could be carried on commercial basis but due to lack of regular water supply it could not have been taken properly.

People are also found to be using community taps. But the community taps are not sufficient for all the households of this Ilaka. The low pace of water in the taps is seen in a Queue of Water Pots in each taps. Before half of the water pots in the queue are filled, the taps are out of water. The drinking water situation can be seen from the following tables.

Table 8
Drinking Water Situation

(In percentage of households)

| | Good | Satisfactory | Bad | Total |
|-----------|------|--------------|------|-------|
| Dadhikote | 5 | 60 | 35 | 100 |
| Balkote | 4 | 37 | 59 | 100 |
| Sirutar | 2 | 28.6 | 69.4 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey.

Thus, it is found that the drinking water situation is moderate in this Ilaka. The following table outlines the sources of drinking water.

Table 9
Source of Drinking Water

(In percentage of households)

| | Personal taps | Community taps | Total |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| Dadhikote | 2 | 78 | 20 |
| Balkote | -- | 91 | 9 |
| Sirutar | -- | 87 | 14 |

Source: Field Survey.

ELECTRICITY SERVICES

At present only the residents of a few pocket areas have enjoyed with electricity services. In this Ilaka around 500 households have been electrified (out of which 300 are in Dadhikot) and in near future electrical facilities have been planned to provide electricity in other areas. Adequate supply of electricity in this Ilaka would promote poultry farming and rice mills.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE

Besides the sub-branch office of Agricultural Development Bank, there is Sajha Society to Supply the inputs and chemical fertilizers. There is one Integrated Livestock Development Programme in this Ilaka. For agricultural extension services two junior technicians have been made available to this Ilaka.

The livestock development programme distributes chicken birds, fodder plants and also provides artificial breeding, training, district agriculture seminar, livestock demonstration etc.

HORTICULTURE

Citrus Fruit Planting can be done on commercial basis in the uplands of this Ilaka. A few households are found planting fruit trees. Some farmers are taking interest in bee-keeping. If people give keen interest and minimal support is made available bee-keeping activities may boost up. The local people should be made aware about the benefit of horticulture development.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

In this Ilaka, there is one Sub-branch of Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal. It is located at Dadhikot and was established in 2033 B.S. Besides this Sajha Societies (cooperatives) and Small Farmers Development Programmes are also functioning. It is learnt from the bank office that most of the people have taken loan for poultry, she-buffalo, cattle raising and processing of beaten rice.

MARKETING

During field survey and field visits it was learnt that there are few shops in each village panchayats of this Ilaka. All the primary necessities like clothes, cigarettes, tea, soap etc. are available. Weekly market, which fall in Saturday is meant for selling farmers' excess products. There are marketable surpluses in many items but those items are not sold in the market. Those who prefer to sale the surplus sold directly in Kathmandu or Bhaktapur.

It was found that 33 percentage of households of this Ilaka have surpluses above Domestic Consumption. The percentage of households saving above domestic consumption was highest in Sirutar (56 percent) and lowest in Balkote (16 percent). This is clear from the following table.

Table 10
Surplus above Domestic Consumption

| Village Panchayat | No. of Households having Surplus | Percentage |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Dadhikote | 21 | 28 |
| Balkote | 10 | 16 |
| Sirutar | 35 | 35 |

Source: Field Survey.

It is also found that most of the farmers of Balkote sale the surplus in the market where as in Dadhikote and Sirutar farmers stock the surplus for future consumption. This is observed in the following table.

Table 11
Use of Surplus Production
(in percentage of households)

| Village Panchayat | Sale | Stock for future consumption | Others |
|-------------------|------|------------------------------|--------|
| Dadhikote | 18 | 10 | - |
| Balkote | 16 | 2 | - |
| Sirutar | 24 | 22 | 8 |

Source; Field Survey.

There is agreement between the farmers and Agricultural Inputs Corporation to purchase the radish seed from the farmers on the conditions that the farmers would buy its seed from this corporation. If such agreement is done in other items it would benefit the farmers.

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING

If we see the knowledge, attitude and prevalence of family planning measures in this Ilaka we find that altogether 41.5 percent respondents had knowledge of family planning measures and only 27.5 percent had practiced family planning measures. The knowledge and practice of family planning measures is seen in the following table.

Table 12
Knowledge and Practice of Family Planning Measures
(in percentage of respondents)

| Village Panchayat | Knowledge | Practice |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Dadhikote | 60 | 34 |
| Balkote | 48 | 36 |
| Sirutar | 12 | 12 |
| Ilaka 7 | 41.5 | 27.5 |

Source: Field Survey.

The table reveals that knowledge of family planning is highest in Dadhikote where, as the practice of family planning measures is highest in Balkote. This shows the effectiveness of family welfare centre sponsored by Family Planning Association of Nepal.

Most of the family planning acceptors are male and temporary measures are in higher use compared to permanent sterilization.

HEALTH

With regards to health condition there is a low frequency of visiting health centres. When they are sick about 60 percent go to hospitals whereas others do not. Those who visit hospitals, only a few go to district hospital. The following table gives the proportion of household visiting hospitals.

Table 13
Proportion of Households Visiting Health Centres/Hospitals
(in percentage)

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Dadhikote | 72 |
| Balkote | 54 |
| Sirutar | 41 |

Source: Field Survey.

Most of the people suffer from stomach pain. They do not have scientific latrines. The area is not hygienic from the viewpoint of sanitation.

ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

In this Ilaka only a few social institutions have some activities. In the health sector Family Planning Association of Nepal has sponsored a programme of Family Welfare in Balkote. The Family Welfare Centre is providing various contraceptives to the rural folks along with child health care. Again in Dadhikote, there is one Paropakar Sanstha which is serving in health services. All most all of our respondents had heard about that Paropakar Sanstha.

Occasionally Nepal Red Cross activities are also available but not of much significance. Red Cross activities are also limited to health sector.

Occasionally Lion's Club organizes health clinic centre. Lions Club has also provided with sports materials and furnitures in one private high school of Dadhikot. Similarly in Balkote Women Jaycee has provided with a few water tanks and a few necessities for the schools. The food for work programme was launched in this panchayat in the year 2040 B.S. for the construction of dam at Charkhandi Khola.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

In this Ilaka no significant project (both national & international) has been launched. There is the Rural Save Grain Programme to help people to save grain from rats, insects etc. This project provides technical assistance and 50 percent cost incurred for the construction of Bhakari (Grain Storage Place). It has widely demonstrated various wastage of grains from rats. This project was started in the year 1982.

Another important project that was in this Ilaka is Food for Work Programme. This programme has constructed dams at Charkhandi & other dams are constructed at Mahadev Khola & Ghatte Khola. These dams have been useful because 75 percent of the land under cultivation has been covered by these dams.

There is one sub-branch of Nepal Family Planning and Maternal Child Health Care Programme providing people with contraceptives, child health and maternal health.

Another project in this Ilaka is Tuberculosis Relief Programme. People in this Ilaka are served by this programme. Fifty percent of our respondents were aware of the existence of this programme in this Ilaka.

Under the health programme 50 percent incurred money cost and technical assistance is provided for the construction of latrines in Dadhikot.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ilaka-7 of Bhaktapur district shows some potentialities for development even with little or unknown natural resource endowments. The human resources are relatively better literate with some of them trained in certain profession but remaining idle. The human resource, climatic condition as well as the existing infrastructure show some potentiality in its future development. This has been identified and discussed in the previous section.

It has been proved by now that social organisations can play a vital role, both in terms of an agent of development or change and as a direct sponsoring agency in uplifting the well-being of the rural mass in a society. In Nepal too, several organisations have been involved in this process of development and change. And SSNCC has been instrumental in this process. In uplifting the well-being of the people of Ilaka-7 of Bhaktapur district SSNCC may have three simultaneous role to play. First, as a central coordinating body it may encourage other social organisations within its frame to come forward in taking up some programmes identified above, be it family planning and child care programme or drinking water programme or some programme related to the income generation of the people. Secondly, SSNCC may request other organisations and government agencies to take a fresh look at the existing infrastructure of the Ilaka and expand it if there is a need. In relation to our identified programmes, SSNCC may request ADB/N to implement intensive banking programme in the Ilaka, request Dairy Development Corporation to explore

feasibility of establishing a milk collection centre in the Ilaka or request Ministry of Agriculture to explore citrus fruit plantation in the Ilaka. Similarly, Ministry of Water Resources can be requested to look at the possibility of extending the existing irrigation dam in the Ilaka etc. Thirdly, SSNCC itself may have to take some of the programmes identified above.