



International Journal of Engineering, Science and Humanities

An international peer reviewed, refereed, open-access journal
Impact Factor: 7.9 www.ijesh.com ISSN: 2250-3552

Socio-Economic Geographical Analysis of Village Jakhod Khera, District Hisar, Haryana

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Abstract

Rural areas form the backbone of the Indian economy, and understanding their socio-economic structure is essential for sustainable development planning. The present research paper attempts to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of Jakhod Khera village located in Adampur tehsil of Hisar district, Haryana. The study is primarily based on field survey and primary data collected through structured questionnaires. Secondary data from Census of India and government reports have also been used for supportive analysis. The paper examines the physical setting, demographic structure, housing conditions, literacy level, occupational pattern, income and expenditure structure, agricultural practices, irrigation facilities, livestock resources and availability of basic amenities such as drinking water and energy. The findings reveal that agriculture is the dominant occupation of the village, but it is largely dependent on monsoon rainfall due to limited irrigation facilities. High unemployment, low female literacy and small landholdings are major socio-economic challenges. The study emphasizes the need for livelihood diversification, improvement in infrastructure, promotion of renewable energy and enhancement of educational and employment opportunities for achieving sustainable rural development.

Keywords: Socio-economic development, Regional study, Rural geography, Agriculture, Hisar district

Introduction

Geography as a discipline is deeply concerned with the study of spatial variations and the relationship between human activities and the physical environment. Regional and field-based studies play a significant role in geographical research because they provide first-hand knowledge about the real conditions prevailing in a particular area. In India, where more than two-thirds of the population resides in rural areas, the study of village-level socio-economic conditions becomes extremely important for policy formulation and development planning.

Socio-economic surveys help in understanding the demographic structure, occupational pattern, income distribution, educational status and living conditions of rural communities. These studies also highlight the problems and potentials of rural areas and provide a scientific basis for planning and implementation of development programmes.

The present study focuses on Jakhod Khera village of Hisar district, Haryana. This study is based on survey conducted in 2023. The village represents a typical semi-arid rural settlement where



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agriculture and allied activities form the main source of livelihood. Despite the availability of basic amenities, the village faces several developmental challenges such as unemployment, dependence on monsoon rainfall and limited non-agricultural employment opportunities. The study aims to present a comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the village and to suggest suitable measures for its overall development.

Study Area

Jakhod Khera village is located in Adampur tehsil of Hisar district in the state of Haryana. It lies about 17 kilometres north-west of Hisar city and comes under Hisar-II Community Development Block. Administratively, the village falls under the Adampur Vidhan Sabha constituency and Hisar Lok Sabha constituency. The demographic and social characteristics of Jakhod Khera provide an appropriate basis for examining rural socio-economic conditions in semi-arid regions of Haryana. The village is surrounded by Ladwi, Mallapur, Nyoli Kalan, Siswal, Kajla, Matrashyam, Mingni Khera, Mothsara and Mahalsara villages, which indicates its rural setting and inter-village linkages. Administratively, the village is governed by a Gram Panchayat. The population consists mainly of Hindu communities with a very small Muslim population. The social structure of the village reflects traditional rural characteristics, where social relations are largely influenced by caste, kinship and agricultural activities. Agriculture and livestock rearing are the dominant economic activities of the village, and most households depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood.

Objectives of the Study

- The present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:
- To examine the physical and geographical background of Jakhod Khera village.
- To analyze the demographic structure including population composition, sex ratio and literacy.
- To study housing conditions and availability of basic amenities.
- To assess the occupational structure, income and expenditure pattern of rural households.
- To analyze agricultural practices, irrigation facilities and livestock resources.
- To identify major socio-economic problems of the village and suggest measures for sustainable rural development.

Data Sources and Methodology

The study is based on both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data were collected through an extensive field survey using structured questionnaires. Information related to population, education, occupation, income, expenditure, housing conditions, agriculture, irrigation, livestock, drinking water and energy resources was collected from selected households of the village.



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Secondary data were obtained from Census of India publications, statistical abstracts of Haryana, government reports and standard geographical literature. The collected data were systematically classified, tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical techniques such as percentages and averages. Descriptive and analytical methods have been used to interpret the results. Tables, diagrams and maps are used to interpret the data.

Physical Setting of the Study Area

Relief and Soil

Jakhod Khera village forms a part of the Indo-Gangetic plain and lies in the Yamuna sub-basin. The relief of the area is almost flat with occasional sand dunes, which are characteristic of the semi-arid regions of western Haryana. The average elevation of the village ranges between 208 and 211 metres above sea level. The village covers a geographical area of about 1,070 hectares. The major soil types found in the village are grey desert soil and sandy soil. These soils are moderately fertile but require adequate irrigation and proper management practices for higher agricultural productivity. Soil salinity in some areas also affects crop yield.

Climate

The climate of Jakhod Khera village is tropical semi-arid in nature. Summers are extremely hot, while winters are cold and dry. The average annual rainfall is about 416 mm, which is unevenly distributed and largely concentrated during the south-west monsoon season. Nearly 81 percent of the total rainfall is received during the monsoon months.

The maximum temperature rises up to 41.6°C during May and June, whereas the minimum temperature falls to around 5.5°C in January. Occasional cold waves during winter and dry spells during summer significantly influence agricultural activities.

Natural Vegetation

The natural vegetation of the area is mainly semi-arid and sub-tropical in nature. Trees such as neem, shisham, babool, kikar and shrubs are commonly found. Due to agricultural expansion and human activities, natural vegetation has been reduced considerably.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

Demographic Structure

According to Census 2011, the total population of the village is 3,647, comprising 1,925 males and 1,722 females, which indicates a relatively low sex ratio. The population includes 447 children in the 0–6 age group. A significant proportion of Scheduled Caste population (955 persons) is reflecting the village's social composition. The literacy level of the village is moderate, with 2,256 literates and 1,391 illiterates, though a noticeable gender gap exists in literacy.

According to the field survey, the total population of Jakhod Khera village is 4,198, out of which 2,216 are males and 1,982 are females. The village is inhabited by people from various categories, including the general category, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes.



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Sex-Ratio and Literacy

The sex ratio of the village is 894 females per 1,000 males, which is lower than the national average and indicates gender imbalance. The overall literacy rate of the village is 74.7 percent. Male literacy stands at 81.2 percent, whereas female literacy is comparatively lower at 68.2 percent. About 58 percent of the population has attained education up to the senior secondary level. (Table 1)

Level of Literacy	Percentage of Total Population
Illiterate	25.3
Primary	15.3
Middle	11.3
Matric	13.8
Senior Secondary	17.5
Graduate	11.4
Post-Graduate	5.4

Table 1: Level of Literacy in Jakhod Khera

In terms of educational infrastructure, the village is well served, having two primary schools, one high school, and one senior secondary school. The senior secondary school attracts students not only from Jakhor Kheda but also from neighboring villages. Additionally, a separate girls' primary school has been established, reflecting efforts to promote female education and improve educational access for girls.

Housing Conditions

The housing condition of Jakhod Khera village has been analysed on the basis of construction material, internal structure and drinking water facilities. Based on construction material, houses have been classified into pucca and semi-pucca categories. The study reveals that about 83 per cent of the houses are pucca in nature, mainly belonging to middle- and high-income groups.

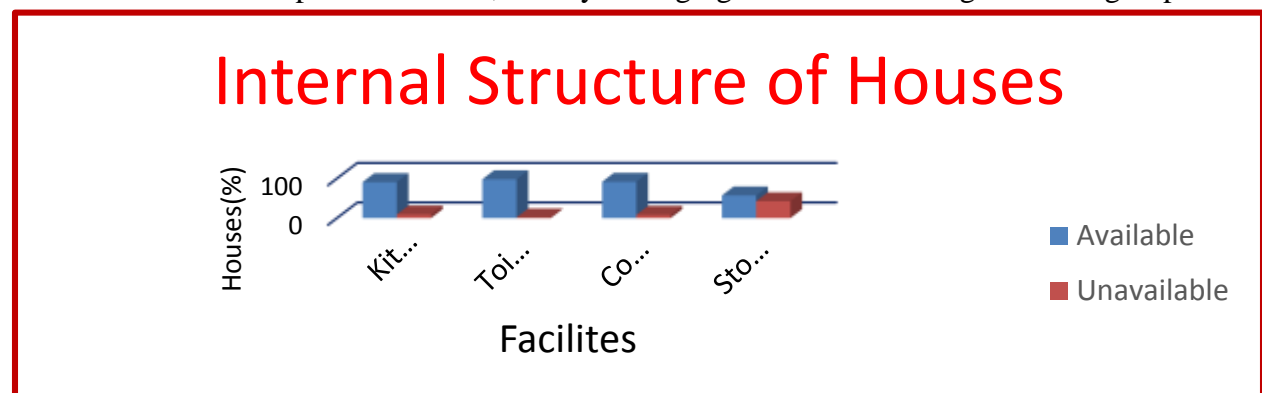


Figure 1: Internal structure of Houses



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These houses are constructed using cement, concrete and iron, while materials such as marble, granite and tiles are commonly used for flooring, indicating an improved standard of living. In contrast, nearly 17 per cent of the houses are semi-pucca, with brick walls and roofs made of wood and mud, and are predominantly occupied by low-income households.

An assessment of internal structure shows that most houses are provided with basic facilities such as kitchens (90.9 per cent) and toilets (98.2 per cent), reflecting better sanitation conditions. **(Figure1)** Out of total families, 42.8% have 1-3 rooms, 44.4% have 4-6 rooms, and remaining 12.8% have 7-9 rooms. Considering the economic situation in Jakhod Khera, most people have access to durable goods for entertainment and household use. The majority of people have facilities such as a TV, refrigerator, wardrobe, fan, and mobile phone. **(Figure 2)**

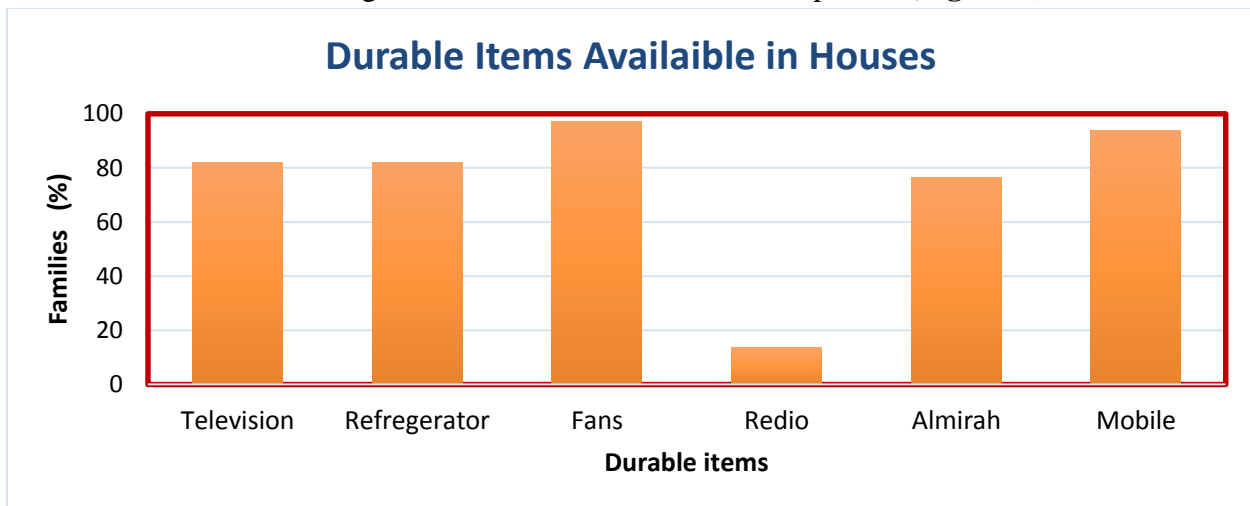


Figure 2: Durable Items Available in Houses in Jakhod Khera

Drinking Water and Energy Resources

Drinking water is mainly supplied through tap water provided by the Public Health Department, which covers about 97.2 percent of households. Hand pumps are used mainly for livestock and other domestic purposes.

Electricity is the major source of energy in the village, supplied by the state electricity board. However, power supply is limited to 12–16 hours per day. A few households have adopted solar energy as an alternative source. Only 21 percent of households use LPG for cooking, while the majority depend on traditional fuels such as cow dung cakes and agricultural residues.

Occupational Structure

Agriculture is the dominant occupation of the village, engaging nearly 40 percent of the population. Other occupations include agricultural labour, non-agricultural labour, small-scale craftsmanship and service sector jobs. Only a small percentage of the population is engaged in government and private jobs. (Table 2)



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Occupation	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	23.3
Skilled Labour	3.4
Service / Job	7.6
Agricultural Labour	3.6
Non-Agricultural Labour	15.2
Unemployment	46.9

Table 2: Occupational Structure of the village

The unemployment rate in the village is very high, around 47 percent, which adversely affects the economic condition of households and forces seasonal migration to nearby towns.

Agriculture and Irrigation

Jakhod Kheda village has suitable land for agriculture, which is why the main occupation here is farming and animal husbandry. Approximately 57.4 % of the families in the village own cultivable agricultural land.

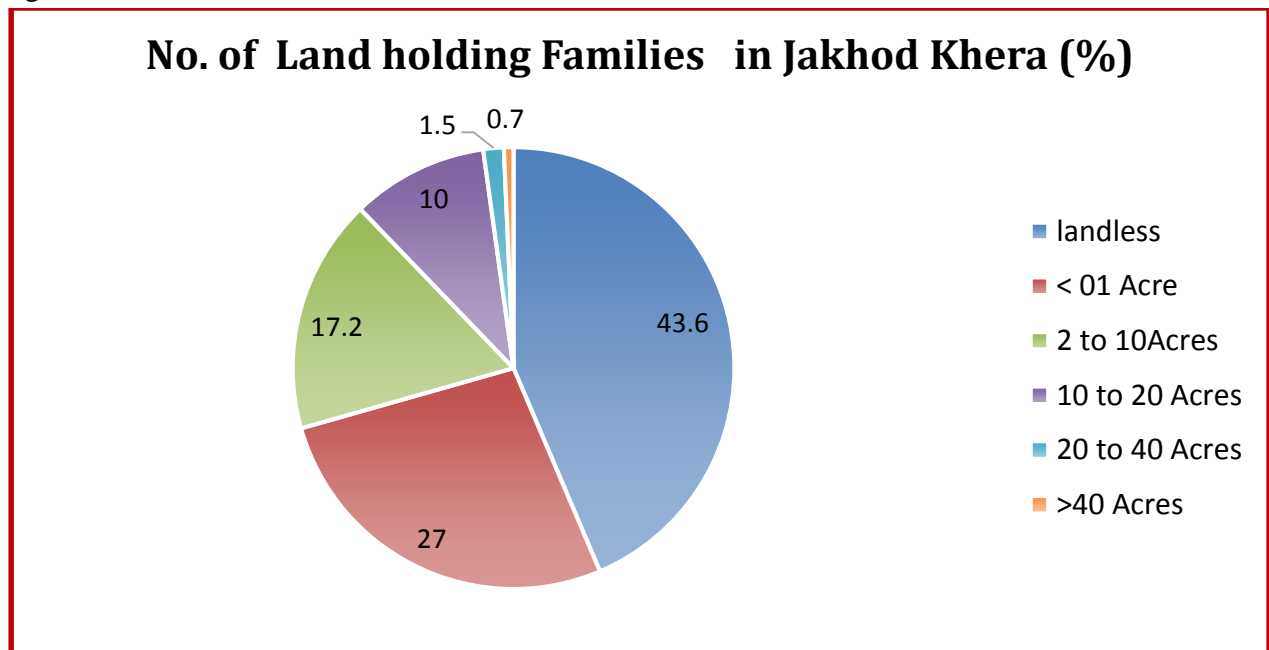


Figure 3: No. of Land holding Families in Jakhod Khera (%)

The size of landholdings ranges from 1 to 42 acres. Of these, approximately 27% of families own less than 1 acre, 17.2% own 2 to 10 acres, and 10% own 10 to 20 acres of agricultural land. (Figure



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3) Only 1.5% of families own 20 to 40 acres, and 0.7% own more than 40 acres of agricultural land.

Agriculture in Jakhod Khera village is largely dependent on monsoon rainfall due to limited irrigation facilities. Canal water is the main source of irrigation, while tube wells are very few because of saline groundwater. Major crops grown include wheat, mustard, bajra, cotton, gram and guar. Small landholdings and inadequate irrigation facilities limit agricultural productivity and income generation.

Animal Husbandry

Agriculture is the main occupation in this village, and therefore animal husbandry is also widely practiced. Approximately 80% of the families keep livestock for milk. 62.7% of the village families raise buffaloes for milk, and 17.3% raise cows. Some families also keep oxen and camels for agricultural work. Sheep and goats are also kept by people in the lower income group.

Income and Expenditure Pattern

The economic condition of the villagers in this village is not very good. 45.5% of the people have an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh. 26.4% of families have an annual income between ₹1 lakh and ₹2 lakh. 16.4% of families earn between ₹2 lakh and ₹4 lakh annually. Only 14.5% of families have an annual income between ₹4 lakh and ₹5 lakh.

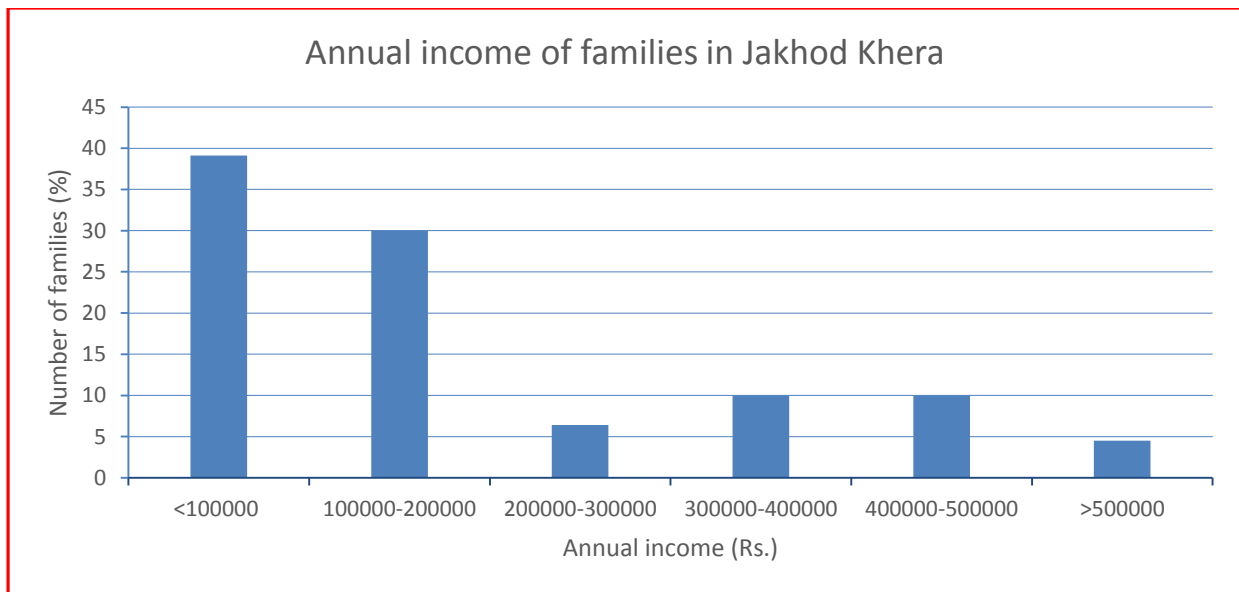


Figure 4: Annual income of families in Jakhod Khera

(Figure 4)

A major portion of household income is spent on food, followed by education, energy and other household needs. Low income levels restrict savings and investment in productive activities

Results and Discussion



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The analysis of socio-economic conditions of Jakhod Khera village reveals the prevailing characteristics of a semi-arid rural settlement of Haryana, where demographic, economic and environmental factors jointly influence the development process. The village has a total population of 4,198, with a sex ratio of 894 females per 1,000 males, indicating a noticeable gender imbalance that reflects deep-rooted social attitudes and comparatively lower educational and socio-economic status of women. Housing conditions in the village show a gradual improvement, as a majority of households reside in pucca houses provided with basic facilities such as kitchens and toilets; however, the existence of semi-pucca houses among economically weaker sections points towards uneven socio-economic development within the village. The availability of drinking water through tap connections to almost all households represents a significant achievement of rural development programmes, though dependence on this single source raises concerns regarding sustainability. Electricity supply is widespread, yet limited duration of power availability and low adoption of clean cooking fuels compel a large section of households to depend on traditional sources of energy, which adversely affects health and environmental conditions. Occupational structure clearly indicates the dominance of agriculture, engaging nearly 40 per cent of the working population, but agricultural activities remain largely dependent on monsoon rainfall due to limited irrigation facilities and the saline nature of groundwater. Canal irrigation constitutes the main source of irrigation, making agricultural production vulnerable to irregular water supply. A major concern highlighted by the study is the high level of unemployment, estimated at about 57 per cent, reflecting the absence of adequate non-agricultural employment opportunities and prevalence of disguised unemployment in the rural economy. Income levels in the village are relatively low, with nearly half of the households earning less than ₹1 lakh annually, resulting in an expenditure pattern primarily oriented towards food consumption, education and energy needs, leaving limited scope for savings and capital formation. The literacy rate of 74.7 per cent indicates moderate educational development; however, a significant gender gap persists, restricting women's participation in economic activities and decision-making processes. Livestock rearing, particularly dairy farming, plays an important supplementary role in the rural economy, yet its potential remains underutilized due to inadequate veterinary facilities and lack of organized marketing systems. Overall, the results suggest that although basic infrastructural facilities have improved in Jakhod Khera village, structural constraints related to agriculture, employment and social inequality continue to limit balanced socio-economic development, thereby emphasizing the need for integrated and region-specific rural development strategies.

Suggestions

- Promotion of allied agricultural activities such as dairy, poultry and horticulture.
- Establishment of skill development and vocational training centres.
- Improvement in irrigation and water management systems.



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- Encouragement of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy.
- Special emphasis on female education and employment generation.

Conclusion

The study concludes that Jakhod Khera village represents a typical semi-arid rural settlement of Haryana where agriculture and livestock form the backbone of the economy. However, inadequate irrigation facilities, unemployment and low income levels hinder socio-economic development. Planned rural development, diversification of livelihoods and effective implementation of government schemes are essential for improving the quality of life of rural households.

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