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BIHAR A Comparative Study On Socio – Economic Factors

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Foreword

A large number of old-timers and seniors have expressed a deep resentment and surprise at the way Nitish Kumar and the JDU and Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD have embraced each other and gone over to the Congress camp. These veterans are unable to accept the fact that the same party which threw Jayaprapakash Narayan in prison because he wished to preserve the democratic ethos of India is today being pampered by JP's erstwhile followers. Such political opportunism – to see political disciples of the late Lokanayak join hands with the party which treated him so badly and in such cavalier manner – has not gone down well not only with these people but also with the vast majority of the people in the state for whom "Jayaprakash Babu" still remains a revered icon and symbol.

The Bihar elections and the entire debate it has generated on the issue of "development" versus "jungle raj" has caught the attention of the entire country. Prime Minister Modi and the BJP speak of the need for Bihar's all-round development and argue that it is imperative that Bihar be lifted up from her present state of neglect and marginalization. For decades, Bihar has suffered neglect. Both the RJD and the JDU have in fact invested little time and energy in Bihar's upliftment or in evolving opportunities for the youth of Bihar. The aspirations of Bihar's youth remain unfulfilled and unaddressed. Interestingly whenever BJP has been a ruling component in Bihar, the state has seen growth in a number of fundamental areas and has marched ahead. The BJP's record of performance has outshone others by a large margin.

The Bihar election is being widely followed. Mr. Aseervatham Achary, BJP Member from Tamil Nadu, who was active in the strategy committee during the 2014 General Elections took interest in the debate and has come up with a report which clearly indicates that it was only because of the BJP that Bihar saw some progress and forward march. Sifting through statistics and data and making a comparative study of various years and parameters, Achary has come up with the finding and conclusion that the Bharatiya Janata Party is essential to the progress of Bihar and its rule is necessary for Bihar to emerge out of its present state of neglect. The Congress, JDU and RJD have, between them, ruled Bihar for the longest period and ironically they speak of Bihar's neglect. Achary's finding clearly establishes that on the most crucial development parameters, Bihar has improved only when the BJP was there to direct governance and development. His study comes at a crucial time and needs to be widely read.

It is important that a large section among the intelligentsia takes note of the study and recognize its findings and evolve opinion in that light. After all the larger objective is to see Bihar, a state with a great legacy, mighty history and huge potential, become one the most rapidly developing state of India. Prime Minister Modi's model of development, growth and opportunities is the only way out and forward for Bihar.

- **Dr. Anirban Ganguly**Director,
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

BIHAR

A Comparative Study On Socio - Economic Factors

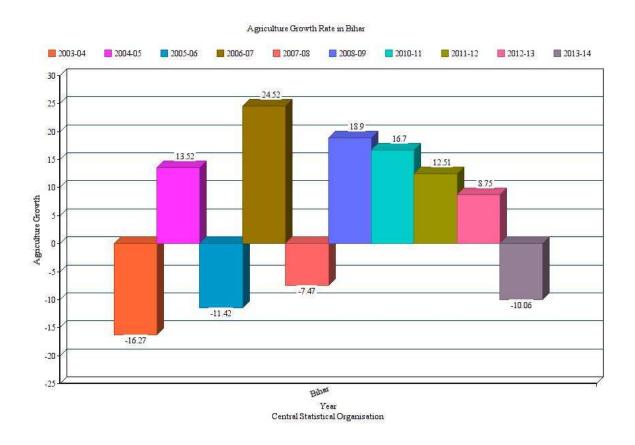
The governance of the state of Bihar during the contemporary period is divided into three periods, namely:

- (1). RJD From 11.3.2000 to 06.3.2005 (1821 days)
- (2). JD(U) & BJP From 24.11.2005 to 16.6.2013 (2761 days)
- (3). JD(U) From 17.6.2013 to date. (825 days)
- 2. The comparative bar charts show how Bihar performed poorly during the Lalu Prasad Yadav regime. Later, under the BJP-JDU coalition, the State began moving forward in its growth trajectory. However, after Nitish Kumar parted ways with the BJP, the State seems to have slid back to its original backwardness.
- 3. The data collected on various Human Resources Indexes and Socio-Economic Factors prove the point that if the people of Bihar want to get back to their development momentum and push the growth trajectory to new levels, they have no other choice except to support the NDA coalition lead by Bharatiya Janata Party.

- 4. For this Study, the following Socio-Economic Factors were taken into consideration:
 - (a) Agriculture Growth Rate in Bihar during the period from 2003-04 till 2013-14;
 - (b) Ease of Doing Business Index;
 - (c) Rate of Unemployment for the Year 2011-12 (comparison between Bihar and other States);
 - (d) Usage of Kerosene as fuel for light in households;
 - (e) Accessibility to Safe Drinking Water (comparison between Bihar and other States) for the last three decades;
 - (f) Access to treated drinking water;
 - (g) Sanitation facility;
 - (h) Statewise Infant Mortality Rate for the Years from 2005 till 2013 (comparison between Bihar and other States);
 - (i) Statewise Literacy Rate for the last 7 decades (comparison between Bihar and other States);
 - (j) Gross Enrolment Ratio for the Age Group of 6-10 Years and 11-13 Years (comparison between Bihar and other States);
 - (k) Pupil Teacher Ratio for Primary School, Middle School and High School (Comparison between Bihar and other States);
 - (1) Poverty Ratio (comparison between Bihar and other States); and
 - (m) Death Rate of Bihar vis-à-vis other BJP ruled States.
- 5. Detailed explanatory notes on the Socio Economic Factors with respective Bars Chart are given below:

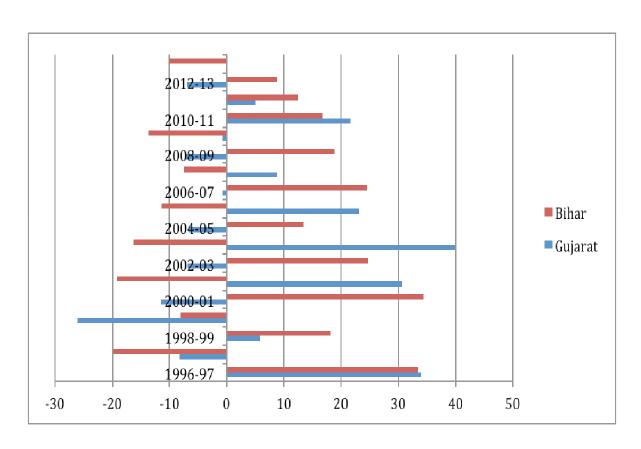
5.1 Agriculture Growth Rate in Bihar:

- 5.1.1 India being an agrarian State, Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. As far as Bihar is concerned, Agriculture has seen a mixed rate of growth during the period from 2003-04 till 2013-14.
- 5.1.2 The year 2003-04 has seen a negative agriculture growth of (-)16.27, obviously under the regime of Lalu Prasad Yadav.



5.1.3 After the State saw the advent of a BJP supported government the agriculture growth started stabilizing gradually. Occasionally it showed negative growths once in 2005-06 and another in 2007-08 because of natural calamity.

- 5.1.4 The period of BJP supported rule in State has given a growth rate of 13.52 in 2004-05; 18.9 in the year 2008-09; 16.7 in the year 2010-11; 12.51 in the year 2011-12; and 8.75 in the year 2012-13.
- 5.1.5 Bihar had the highest agriculture growth rate of 24.52 in the year 2006-07 during the period when BJP formed part of the State government.
- 5.1.6 However, once Nitish Kumar decided to go it alone, the growth trajectory took such a bad fall that the year 2013-14 saw a negative growth of (-)10.06.
- 5.1.7 The pathetic negative agriculture growth rate of Bihar can be compared to Gujarat which has shown excellent growth rate. The graph below shows the negative growth of Bihar vis-à-vis Gujarat on Agriculture Sector:



5.1.8 This clearly demonstrates that Nitish Kumar, on his own, has done little for the agricultural growth of Bihar.

5.2 **Ease Of Doing Business**:

- 5.2.1 The ease of doing business index is an index created by the World Bank. Higher rankings (a low numerical value) indicate better, usually simpler, regulations for businesses and stronger protections of property rights.
- 5.2.2 As per data for September, 2015, Bihar stands at 21st position in the list of 32 States and Union Territories. The score of Bihar is just 16.41%.
- 5.2.3 The highest scoring State with better ease of doing business is obviously Gujarat with a score of 71.14% followed by Andhra Pradesh with 70.12% and Jharkhand with 63.09%.
- 5.2.4 The fourth position is held by Chattisgarh, a BJP ruled State with Score of 62.45% and following by Madhya Pradesh, again a BJP ruled State, with score of 62.00%. The sixth position is also shared by Rajasthan, a BJP ruled State once again, with score of 61.04%.

List of states with rank and scores for Ease of Doing Business (September 2015)

Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score
1	Gujarat	71.14%	17	Himachal Pradesh	23.95%
2	Andhra Pradesh	70.12%	18	Kerala	22.87%
3	Jharkhand	63.09%	19	Goa	21.74%
4	Chhattisgarh	62.45%	20	Puducherry	17.72%
5	Madhya Pradesh	62.00%	21	Bihar	16.41%
6	Rajasthan	61.04%	22	Assam	14.84%
7	Odisha	52.12%	23	Uttarakhand	13.36%
8	Maharashtra	49.43%	24	Chandigarh	10.04%
9	Karnataka	48.50%	25	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9.73%
10	Uttar Pradesh	47.37%	26	Tripura	9.29%
11	West Bengal	46.90%	27	Sikkim	7.23%
12	Tamil Nadu	44.58%	28	Mizoram	6.37%
13	Telangana	42.45%	29	Jammu and Kashmir	5.93%
14	Haryana	40.66%	30	Meghalaya	4.38%
15	Delhi	37.35%	31	Nagaland	3.41%
16	Punjab	36.73%	32	Arunachal Pradesh	1.23%

Source: The World Bank

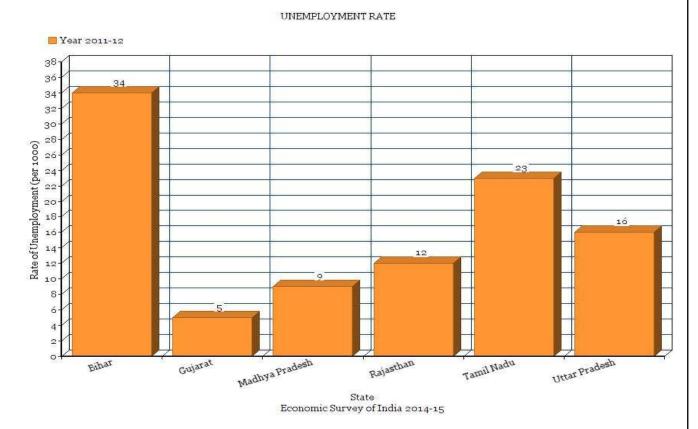
According to World Bank Gujarat emerged as number 1 state in Ease of Doing Business with 71.14%.

- 5.2.5 This data proves that BJP ruled States have traditionally occupied by top positions having got higher scores for Ease of Doing Business, which is an indication of availability of raw material, electricity, transportation, marketing network besides human resources. This also proves that BJP ruled States have transparent method of industrial approvals with no scope for any corruption and red tape.
- 5.2.6 Comparing these BJP ruled States, Bihar stands at a poor 21^{st} position in the table of rank with a score of just 16.41%.

5.3 Rate of Unemployment:

- 5.3.1 Unemployment in a society leads to poverty. If a person does not get a job to sustain himself and his dependents, then the level of poverty automatically increases.
- 5.3.2 Bihar is one among the top States having Unemployment Rate of 34 (34 out of 1000 persons are unemployed in Bihar).
- 5.3.3 The lowest Unemployment Rate is seen in Gujarat which has recorded only rate of 5 (5 persons out of 1000 are unemployed). This shows how Gujarat has exceeded in all the socio-economic indices by utilizing the skills of each and every Guajarati in the State to earn from his skill.
- 5.3.4 Other BJP ruled States have also lower rate of Unemployment, viz., Madhya Pradesh has recorded only 9; Rajasthan recorded only 12.
- 5.3.5 However, Tamil Nadu has shown a litter higher rate of unemployment (namely 23) due to the reason that number of engineering colleges and polytechnics in the State are the highest producing every year lakks of engineers but without any job opportunity.

5.3.6 Gujarat Model of Skill Development is a possible way ahead for Bihar if it aspires to bring down its rate of unemployment.



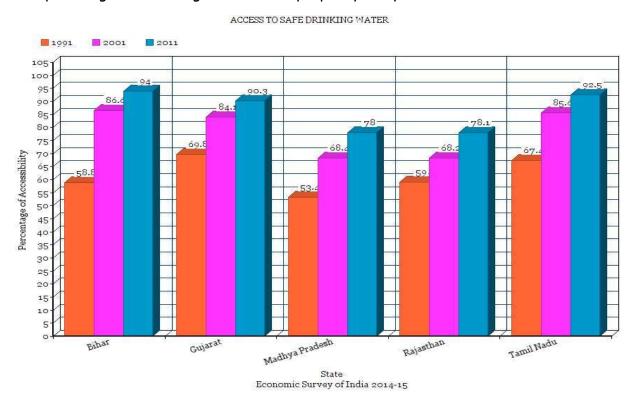
5.4 <u>Usage of Kerosene as fuel for light - An indication of</u> electrification:

- 5.4.1 Bihar is the only State in the country, which has still not switched over to 100% electrification for household light. Bihar still uses kerosene as a fuel for lights in households.
- 5.4.2 27.2% of Bihar's urban households still use Kerosene as fuel for light.
- 5.4.3 Taking into consideration the rural households, a whopping 73.5% of rural households use kerosene as fuel for light in Bihar.

5.4.4 Usage of Kerosene for lighting in households shows the state of poverty in the State of Bihar. The Government of Bihar has not taken steps for taking the electricity to the doorsteps of rural poor, which has resulted in 73.5% of its rural households still depending on Kerosene for lighting their homes. This is the most pathetic situation in Bihar, which urgently requires development in terms of electricity for both rural as well as urban households.

5.5 Access to Safe Drinking Water:

5.5.1 The United Nations through its Millennium Development Goal has envisaged providing safe drinking water to the people by the year 2015 all across the world.



- 5.5.2 All the States in the country have been trying to achieve this Goal through various sustainable water solutions. Bihar has also been striving to achieve this goal under the JD(U) + BJP Government from the year 2005-06 till 2012-13.
- 5.5.3 The pre-Lalu era had provided safe drinking water only to 58.8 percentage of Bihar's population.

- 5.5.4 The year 2001 has seen a marginal increase in its rate to that of 86.6% in Bihar. In fifteen uninterrupted years of his rule Lalu Prasad Yadav, it seems, did not pay much attention to enhancing the reach of safe drinking water across the State.
- 5.5.5 The maximum of 94% was achieved under the combined rule of BJP & JDU in the year 2011 which is far above the maximum achieved by other States, viz., Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc.
- 5.5.6 A positive performance of Bihar in this sector was only possible only by the BJP's visionary approach in focusing on attaining sustainable development in all spheres of society.

5.6 Access to treated drinking water:

- 5.6.1 World Health Organisation has been advocating its member countries to provide treated drinking water so that water-borne diseases do not infect the users.
- 5.6.2 The data regarding availability of treated drinking water by any method during 2012 shows Bihar's position in a poor light. Out of 1000 households in rural areas, only 22 houses get treated drinking water. In case of urban areas, it goes up a little to 119 households.
 - 5.6.3 Compare these figures with Gujarat, Rajasthan or Maharashtra. In the case of Gujarat, 854 households in rural Gujarat and 879 households in Urban Gujarat get treated drinking water.
- 5.6.4 Even Rajasthan and Maharashtra have performed well in terms of providing treated drinking water. In case of Rajasthan, 611 households in rural areas and 703 households in urban areas get treated drinking water. In case of

Maharashtra, 706 households in rural areas and 768 households in urban areas get treated drinking water.

Number per 1000 households treating drinking water by any method during 2012

State/UT	rural	urban	State/UT	rural	urbar
Bihar	22	119	Rajasthan	611	703
Chhattisgarh	451	697	Uttar Pradesh	17	195
Gujarat	854	879	West Bengal	104	315
Jharkhand Karnataka	303 542 397 627	Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra	500 706	725 768	
			all-India	323	544

Source: NSSO

5.6.5 Getting treated drinking water is the right of a citizen and the State is duty bound to provide treated drinking water. See the case of Bihar where its poor performance shows ignorance of this basic facility. It is high time that voters of Bihar get awareness and vote for development agenda by supporting BJP.

5.7 Sanitation facility:

- 5.7.1 Sanitation is a very important area which needs government's attention. *Swachch Bharat Abhiyan* of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been a grand success all over the country and is widely talked about all over the world.
- 5.7.2 A "Clean India" provides for "Healthy India". More the sanitation facility, better will be the standard of living of people.
- 5.7.3 However, Bihar's situation in providing latrine facilities in houses has been very pathetic. The data for the year 2012 shows that 728 houses out of 1000 houses in Rural Bihar do not have latrine facility. Members of these 728 houses defecate in

open area thereby exposing to various types of health hazards. In case of Urban Bihar, again 208 houses out of 1000, do not have latrine facility.

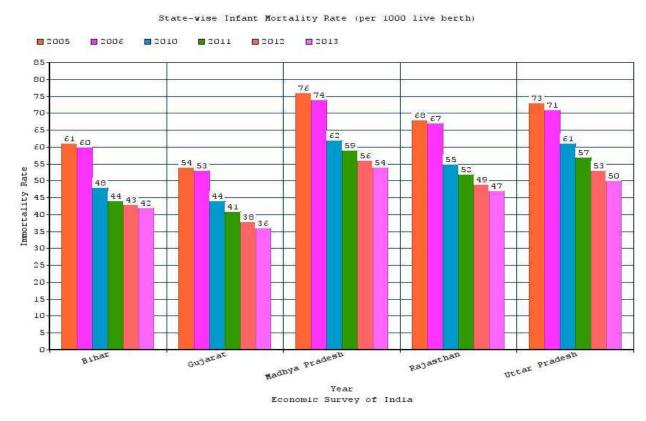
State/UT	without latrine facility		
Ţē.	rural	urban	
Bihar	728	208	
Gujarat	587	62	
Karnataka	708	90	
Madhya Pradesh	790	140	
Maharashtra	540	69	
Rajasthan	730	142	
Uttar Pradesh	753	107	
West Bengal	397	54	
all-India (2012)	594	88	

- 5.7.4 Compare the figures of other States in respect of urban areas, in Gujarat only 62 out of 1000 houses and in Maharashtra only 69 out of 1000 houses do not have latrine facility. Efforts are being made in all these States to provide latrine facility in all the households both in rural as well as urban areas.
- 5.7.5 Is it not hightime the State of Bihar joins rest of India to achieve a Clean India? Swachch Bharat can be achieved only with the cooperation of State Governments. Bihar should not isolate itself from this important nation building activity. Bihar should vote for BJP in order to ensure Clean and Green India.

5.8 Infant Mortality Rate:

5.8.1 Infant Mortality Rate shows the number of deaths of children less than one year of age per 1000 live berths.

- 5.8.2 Lower rate of Infant Mortality Rate shows a system where there is a better availability of nutrition for the mother, better health-care facilities both at the primary and secondary level, the existence of more number of institutional deliveries, better ratio of health professionals vs population.
- 5.8.3 Over the period of 2005 till 2013, one perceives a gradual decline in Infant Mortality Rate.
- 5.8.4 In the year 2005 (Nitish's beginning as Chief Minister), the rate was 61. This rate slowly declined year to year and in the year 2013 it had reached its minimum of 42.



- 5.8.5 The lower Infant Mortality Rate shows that the health sector has been gradually improving in Bihar under the combined rule of BJP & JDU.
- 5.8.6 In comparison, Uttar Pradesh has shown the highest rate of Infant Mortality to the level 73 in the year 2005; and 50 in the year 2013.

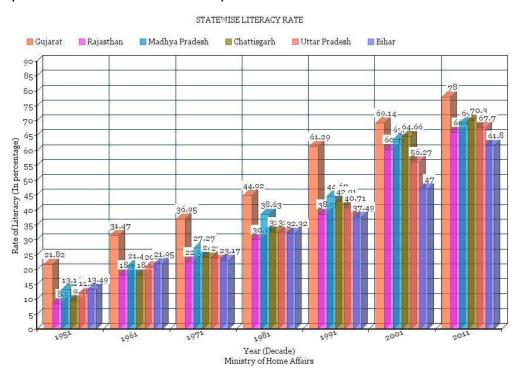
5.8.7 It demonstrates that in Bihar, BJP which was instrumental in providing healthcare facilities at the doorsteps of the users.

5.9 <u>Literacy Rate</u>:

- 5.9.1 According to Chanakya "Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth".
- 5.9.2 The "wealth" which never declines

Is not riches but learning" - Thirukkural (Verse No. 400)

A State's literacy rate shows level of richness in every strata of society. Higher the literacy rate more the State's development index.



5.9.3 The comparison of Bihar with Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh shows an abysmal situation in field of literacy in the State. Even though decade after decade literacy rate is increasing in Bihar, the comparison with

other States always reflects a slow rate of growth in Literacy. We should not forget Bihar was the highest in literacy during the Magadh Dynasty having got Nalanda University there.

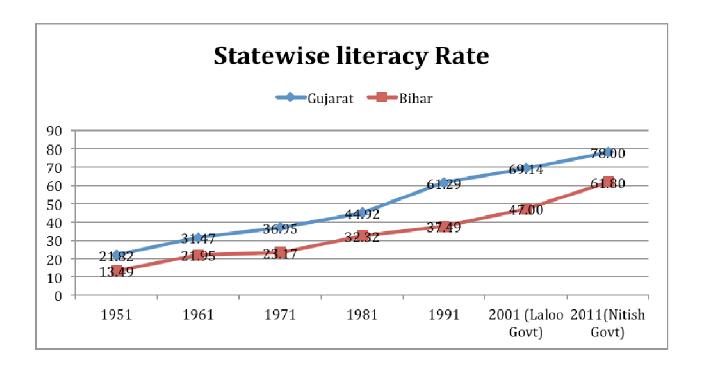
- 5.9.4 A State, which had got world's first University, is showing poor literacy rate in comparison with other States in the country. For the decade ending 2011, Gujarat had the highest literacy rate of 78, following by Chhattisgarh having 70.2 whereas Bihar scored a poor 61.8 only.
- 5.9.5 Compared with the earlier decade ending 2001, the State of Bihar has shown a better progress. In 2001, the Literacy Rate of the State was 47 and it rose to 61.8 in 2011 under the rule of BJP + JD(U).
- 5.9.6 A further comparison of Bihar with Gujarat shows a decline in the Literacy Rate in Bihar. The following table shows the comparison in percentage of Literacy Rates for the period from 1951 till 2011:

State-wise Literacy Rates (1951–2011) (In percent)					
	Gujarat	Bihar			
1951	21.82	13.49			
1961	31.47	21.95			
1971	36.95	23.17			
1981	44.92	32.32			
1991	61.29	37.49			
2001 (Laloo Govt)	69.14	47.00			
2011 (Nitish Govt)	78.00	61.80			

5.9.7 An interpretation of these data will show Bihar's Literacy Rate during the period of RJD and JDU + BJP. In the year 2001, under the rule of RJD, the State of Bihar

scored a Literacy Rate of 47.00 whereas Gujarat was showing a record Rate of Literacy viz., 69.14.

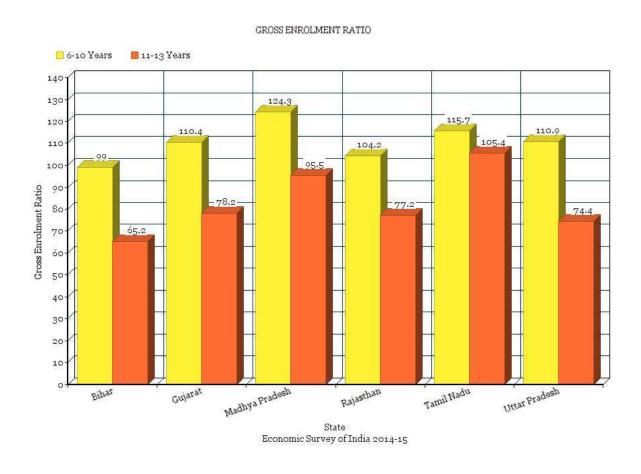
5.9.8 If the data is further analysed for the year 2011, when JDU was running the Government with the support of BJP, the Literacy Rate has risen to 61.80; till Gujarat performed well with the rate of 78.00.



5.9.9 People have to make a choice by selecting the BJP combine in the State elections for achieving higher Literacy Rate so that Bihar can excel in all fields of development. Interestingly in development parameters such as health and education, the State has done much better whenever a BJP government came to power in the State.

5.10 Gross Enrolment Ratio:

- 5.10.1 Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) is a statistical measurement used in education sector to determine the number of students enrolled in school at different grade levels (like elementary, middle school and high school).
- 5.10.2 GER is used to show the ratio of the number of students who live in that State to those who qualify for the particular grade level.



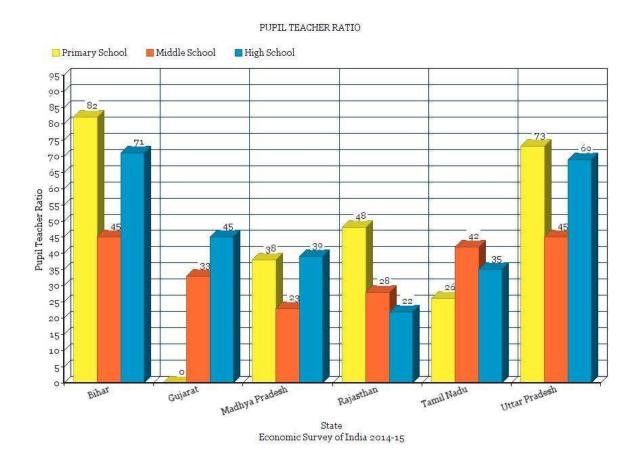
5.10.3 For this study, we have taken two levels of enrolment in the schools - namely, (1) enrolment in the age group of 6 - 10 years; and (2) enrolment in the age group of 11-13 years.

- 5.10.4 Once again, Bihar has shown a very poor performance in the education sector by clocking a poor enrolment ratio of 99 in the age group of 6 10 years and 65.2 in the age group of 65.2.
- 5.10.5 This performance is far behind the level achieved by a Southern State like Tamil Nadu which has got enrolment ratio of 115.7 in the first bracket of entry and again 105.4 in the second bracket of entry to the school level education.
- 5.10.6 Even on its comparison with Madhya Pradesh shows Bihar's Gross Enrolment Ratio in poor light. Madhya Pradesh has scored a high of 124.3 in the age of 6 10 level and again a high of 95.5 in the age of 11 13 years.
- 5.10.7 For achieving better Gross Enrolment Ratio, efforts have to be concentrated in providing better infrastructure at primary school levels, motivating parents to admit their wards in school, employing good primary school teachers; and arranging better school environment with Mid Day Meal Scheme for children.
- 5.10.8 Can Bihar achieve the higher Gross Enrolment Ratio? It can, provided of course, it chooses BJP the Madhya Pradesh model in the respect is there for all to see.

5.11 Pupil - Teacher Ratio:

- 5.11.1 "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart".
- 5.11.2 **Pupil** -Teacher Ratio is the number of students who attend a school or university divided by the number of teachers in the institution. For example, a student-teacher ratio of 10:1 indicates that there are 10 students for every one teacher.

5.11.3 Lower the Pupil - Teacher Ratio, better is the level of education. When a teacher is allotted less number of students to teach, guide and mentor; she or he will do justice to her/his role because of availability of more time, space and energy.

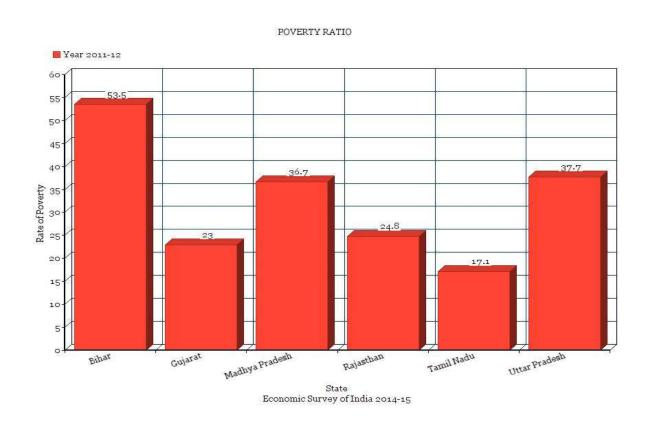


- 5.11.4 Unfortunately, Bihar has shown a very poor performance in the Pupil Teacher Ratio as well. At the Primary School level, the ratio is 82, at the Middle School level it is 45; and at the High School level it is 71.
- 5.11.5 Compare these figures with Madhya Pradesh. For 38 students in Primary School, Madhya Pradesh has got one teacher. In the Middle School level, one teacher teaches 23 children; and in High School level one teacher teaches 39 children.

- 5.11.6 This poor level of Pupil Teacher Ratio shows either the non-availability of good teachers or non-filling up of the vacancies by the Bihar Government.
- 5.11.7 The BJP Government will bridge this huge gap of Student Teacher Ratio by recruiting good teachers and posting them in all the three levels of Schools.

5.12 Poverty Ratio:

5.12.1 Poverty Ratio shows the economic condition of a State. Lower the Poverty Ratio, higher the economic state of the State.



5.12.2 Poverty Ratio also shows the overall rate of growth of a State. Lower rate of Poverty shows the State's better advancement in all the areas of growth.

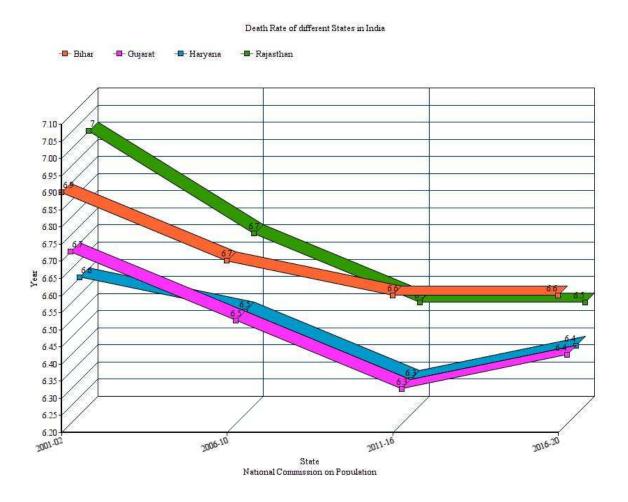
- 5.12.3 However, Bihar has been a State having maximum Ratio of Poverty. Despite its best efforts, Bihar's Poverty Ratio has been rated as 53.5 which is far higher than Tamil Nadu which had only 17.1 in the year 2011-12.
- 5.12.4 This shows that Bihar has to develop in various fields of economic growth viz., agriculture, industry, finance, infrastructure, etc.
- 5.12.5 In order to bring down the Poverty Ratio of Bihar there is an urgent need for bringing NDA Rule in Bihar also.
- 5.12.6 When States and Centre, both are ruled by the same Party, overall growth of the States will improve because the same-party rule in both the places will weed away any political maneuvering for silly political advantages.
- 5.12.7 So, Bihar needs a strong NDA Government for getting away from the higher Poverty Ratio in the years to come.

5.13 Death Rate:

- 5.13.1 Death Rate of a State is the ratio of total deaths to total population of the specified State over a specific period of time. The death rate is expressed as the number of deaths per 1000 of the population per year.
- 5.13.2 If a State has got higher Death Rate, then it signifies that the State is poor in providing health facilities, its lower per capita income, poor management of pollution level and badly managed roads and other infrastructure.
- 5.13.3 The Death Rate of Bihar, on being compared to other BJP ruled States viz., Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan show a not-so-good level of the above mentioned

parameters. Take the year 2001-02, Bihar had death rate of 6.9 whereas Gujarat had only about 6.7.

5.13.4 For the block year 2006-10, Bihar had clocked the death rate of 6.7, whereas Gujarat had only 6.5. The Projected Death Rate for the block year 2016-2020 still shows the poor performance of Bihar as 6.6 whereas Gujarat will be 6.4.



5.13.5 Though Nitish Kumar has been talking all along that he is focusing on "development agenda", whereas his State's death rate is abysmally higher in comparison with other States. If he can't provide decent life to his own people to avert death, what will he do for their development? This question needs answer from the electors of Bihar.

6. Conclusion:

The study has shown that either Bihar has suffered from a lack of development for prolonged periods - periods which saw it sink in the proverbial "jungle raj" syndrome. Whatever development Bihar has achieved was only achieved when there was strong component of the BJP in the ruling structure of the state. If Bihar has to come out of its BIMARU status, then it is urged that people choose the BJP and its Allies in the Assembly Election so that the State can be brought to the level of other developed States, to that of States ruled by BJP. All round human development is the objective of the BJP it has amply proved that in its approach to governance.

About the Author:



Ascervatham Achary, is a Member of the Tamil Nadu Unit of Bharatiya Janata Party. He is also a keen Researcher on Governance and Policy issues. Active in the social field Achary has worked to expose a number of issues and is best known as the whistleblower of 2G Spectrum Scam.

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