

Backwardness index for the Naxal affected Districts, Case Study: Bihar

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Abstract – Naxal activity was known to have originated in West Bengal, and has hence spread to neighboring southern districts of Bihar, among other districts, totaling six states. This paper discusses a statistical and theoretical correlation between the degree of backwardness among various districts in Bihar, and the Naxal activities within any particular district. This correlation is proven with statistical data from various government agencies and field surveys by creating an index of backwardness and comparing this with recent news reports of Naxal activity.

Key Words: Naxal, Backwardness, Naxal, Backwardness, Castism, Land Reformation, Poverty, Development.

1 INTRODUCTION

Now a day Naxal becomes one the biggest internal threat to the India. From the past it states that the percentage of Naxal affected area increase, according to the report of Planning Commission. The Naxal name comes from the village of Naxalbari in west Bengal where the movement originated. Initially this movement had central west Bengal. Later it spread to Six states of India approx. Naxal affected areas Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh (planning Commission)

The Naxal problem has become the biggest internal threat to the country. Especially after the comments of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2007, it has become a matter of concern as well as a subject of academic debate. The new thought, innovative ideas and fresh planning have been developed to address this issue extensively and intensively. (Kumar, 2010) In this backdrop, a case study of Central Bihar becomes relevant to focus light on this issue. It is an established fact that Naxalism in Bihar had made its route through Central Bihar. When the Counter insurgency mechanism crushed the first bubbles of Naxalism in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, it found its breeding ground in Central Bihar. Repeated massacres and Naxal terror in Central Bihar became the concern for the country in 1980s and 1990s. It argues that the changing socio-economic conditions along with other factors massively restricted the Naxal popularity and strength in the Central Bihar.

1.2 HISTORY OF NAXALITE

It is said that Naxalism is one of the organization of aggressive communists. In other words it is also called CPI

(MAOIST). After Indian independence in 1947 the communist extremist started armed violence activities first time in 1948 but because of lack of public support the movement couldn't get velocity. These Naxal communists always keep deep belief on violence. From the beginning they had started committing violence by using Arms. Naxalites adopted the way of armed violence revolutionary activities from the Village - Naxalbari in the district - Darjeeling in West Bengal in the year 1967 against exploitation done by Zamindar and Rich men and particular people of the society. Under the leadership of revolutionary leader Charu Mujumdar the Naxalites increased the violence drastically. At that time the aim of the Naxalites was to achieve power of the state by violent revolution. They used to force the local people for abatement of land revenue & tax etc. Actually in the year 1967 their revolutionary activities and violent activities started from the village Naxalbari, hence it is called 'Naxalism' and the supporters are called Naxalites. At the same time the aggressive communist violence activities again started in the Srikakulam area of Andhra Pradesh. However, in Tribal areas the Naxalism remain alive. In meantime, the leadership was taken over by Shri Chandrapulla Reddy, who left the violent way of movement and decided to do violence only when it is very essential, but he too could not succeed. In 1975 after emergency the Naxalite formed another group under leadership of Shri Konda palli Sitaramaiya called C.P.I. M.L. Peoples War Group. By this group no work was done in Democratic way and shown no-faith in government system. The group also took unemployment, economically backward areas as medium for their publicity. For this work, the organization divided in the areas and according to the area Dalam emerged. Peoples War Group chief Kondapalli Sitaramaiya has added the slogan of independent Dandkaranya in all his slogans. The P.W.G. organization declared to include Garhacharoli of Maharashtra, Mahbubnagar, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Warangal of Andhra Pradesh, Korapur, Khampit & Kalahandi of Orissa, and Balaghat & Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh in independent Dandkaranya. The main residents of these areas are tribal, small farmers & laborers. With their aim to form independent Dandkaranya they extended their activities to Balaghat, Bastar & Jagdalpur. (Bhatia, 1997)

1.3 Brief History of Naxalite in Bihar

The Naxalite movement in Bihar can be divided into two phases: the formative phase from 1967 to 1977 and the

current phase from 1977 onwards (Bhatia, 1997). Prior to the imposition of the Emergency in 1975, the movement had been able to spread in parts of two or three districts, but during the Emergency it faced heavy state persecution and had to lie low. However, by the late 1970s, it had been able to reorganize itself and was once again on an upswing. The phase after 1977, therefore, saw the revival of the movement, significant reformulations of its political line, and the emergence of new Naxalite groups. (Sahay, 2013)

During the formative phase, local struggles initially sprung up in the Mushahari region of Muzaffarpur district in north Bihar, in parts of Bhojpur and Patna districts in central Bihar, and in Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum, and Dhanbad districts of south Bihar (now Jharkhand). (Sahay, 2013) These struggles were modeled after the Naxalbari uprising and were initiated by various members of the All-India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries (AICCCR) or its successor, the CPI(ML), as well as by Naxalite groups outside the AICCCR fold (mainly the Maoist Communist Centre). Many of these actions were sporadic, and were not part of a sustained movement. In Bhojpur, however, the Naxalite movement took root, starting from village Ekwari where Jagdish Mahato, a local teacher who had forged links with Naxalite leaders from West Bengal, led a protracted struggle against exploitative landlords. The Naxalite who came to Bhojpur belonged to the 'pro-Lin Piao group', which later developed into the present CPI (ML) Liberation, also known as 'Liberation'. The Naxalite movement in Bihar, as in other Indian states, is heavily factionalized (see the chart for a summary of party history from 1967 to 1982, as viewed by Liberation). (Bhatia, The Naxalite Movement in Central Bihar, 1997)

At the time of my fieldwork, in 1995-96, approximately 17 Naxalite groups functioned in different parts of Bihar. Except for the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), all others were CPI (ML) groups. The most important groups were Liberation, Party Unity and MCC. These factions broadly represent the three main trends within the movement in Bihar and in the country as a whole: on the Naxalite spectrum today in Bihar, MCC is considered to be extreme left, Liberation is drifting towards the 'parliamentary path', and Party Unity is somewhere in between. This section examines some important features of each of these groups. (Bhatia, The Naxalite Movement in Central Bihar, 1997)

2 ROOT CAUSE OF NAXAL

The Naxalite movement is best understood through its actions on the ground.

Basic Economic Rights

- (1) Land rights; -----Land Reformation
- (2) Minimum wages; --- ----- Poverty
- (3) Common property resources; --Resource Management
- (4) Housing-----shelters

- Poverty
- Lack of Connectivity
- Lack of basic Infrastructure.
- Topographical barrier

3 LEVEL OF IMPACT AND NAXAL VIOLENCE

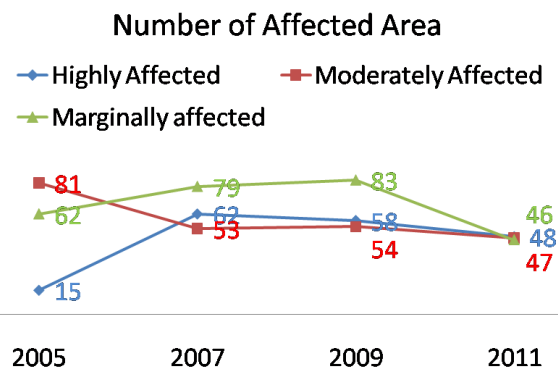
Table -1: Number of District affected by Naxal

| Level of Affected Area | 2005 | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Highly Affected | 15 | 62 | 58 | 48 |
| Moderately Affected | 81 | 53 | 54 | 47 |
| Marginally affected | 62 | 79 | 83 | 46 |

Source-

<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/database/conflictmap.htm>

From the above table it shows that the affected area decrease in recent years but still highly affected area is much more i.e. 48 District.

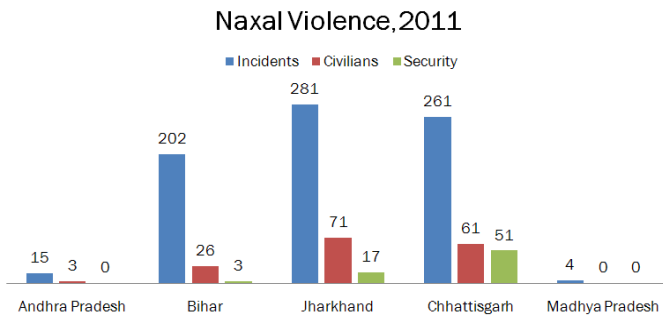


The continuing popularity and strength of the Naxalite movement is perceived to stem from chronic underdevelopment in the affected communities (Borooh, 2008).

The Naxalites are also thought to be banking on the grievances of the tribal population against mining activity,

which has led to large-scale displacement in certain Maoist strongholds(Kujur, 2008).Over the 2005-2010 period, the Naxalite’s activities included the sabotage of government infrastructure (e.g. schools that can be used as polling booths, Gram Panchayat buildings, telecommunication towers) in efforts to increase their political control. The Maoists also staged highly visible attacks against the government’s security forces.

Naxal Violence, 2011



Fatalities in Bihar due to Extremist Violence 2004-2013

| | Civilians | SFs | Terrorists | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2004 | 24 | 6 | 3 | 33 |
| 2005 | 25 | 29 | 52 | 106 |
| 2006 | 16 | 5 | 19 | 40 |
| 2007 | 23 | 21 | 5 | 49 |
| 2008 | 35 | 21 | 15 | 71 |
| 2009 | 37 | 25 | 16 | 78 |
| 2010 | 54 | 24 | 20 | 98 |
| 2011 | 39 | 3 | 19 | 61 |
| 2012 | 16 | 10 | 15 | 41 |
| 2013 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Total* | 272 | 151 | 164 | 587 |

Source: Figures are compiled from news reports and are provisional.

4 METHODS

The paper uses weighted indicators of backwardness to ascertain critical districts affected by backwardness and Naxal influence. All indicators are assumed equal weightage due to lack of research in this particular field of inquiry.

Combined index, ranking and clustering methods are also used to identify the critical districts affected by backwardness and Naxal influence.

5 DATA COLLECTION, SYNTHESIS, ANALYSIS AND INFERENCES

Studies undertaken by various committees found by the government of India identify vulnerability, livelihood potential, social capital, demography and poverty criterion using the following indicators:

1. Vulnerability criteria
 - a. Percentage of rural workers engaged as agricultural laborers
 - b. Percentage of SC/ST among rural population
 - c. Percentage of Muslims in among rural population
2. Livelihood potential criteria
 - a. Cropping Intensity
 - b. Agriculture Productivity (yield of paddy in tonne per hectare)
 - c. Bovine capital per 1000 population
 - d. Percentage of urban population
3. Social Capital Criteria
 - a. Rural literacy Rate (R)
 - b. Rural female literacy rate as a percentage of rural male literacy
 - c. Number of SHGs per 1 Lakh population
 - d. Number of PACS and FCS per 1 lakh population
4. Demography Criteria
 - a. Total population
 - b. Rural population
 - c. Rural population (male)
 - d. Rural population (female)
 - e. Number of rural HHS.
 - f. Urban population
5. Poverty Criteria
 - a. Rural Population below poverty (%)
 - b. Percentage of Rural HHS. with no consumer durables
 - c. Percentage of rural HHS. living in one room
 - d. Work participation rate for females as marginal workers

| Division / District | Vulnerability Criteria | | | | | | | Rank with respect to combined Vulnerability Index | Rank | Clustering |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|------|------------|
| | Percentage of rural workers engaged as agricultural labourers | Percentage of rural workers engaged as agricultural labourers Index | Percentage of SC/ST among rural population Index | Percentage of SC/ST among rural population Index | Percentage of Muslims in among rural population Index | Percentage of Muslims in among rural population Index | Rank with respect to combined Vulnerability Index | | | |
| Rohtas | 23.7 | 0.24031008 | 20.6 | 0.130434783 | 7.9 | 0.124505929 | 0.49525079 | 5 | 5 | |
| Jehanabad | 24.4 | 0.29457364 | 19.7 | 0.065217391 | 7.27 | 0 | 0.35979703 | 6 | 15 | |
| Arwal | 32.1 | 0.89147287 | 18.8 | 0 | 7.27 | 0 | 0.89147287 | 4 | 4 | |
| Aurangabad | 25.8 | 0.40310078 | 24.5 | 0.413043478 | 8.23 | 0.18972332 | 1.00586757 | 3 | 3 | |
| Jamui | 20.6 | 0 | 22.9 | 0.297101449 | 12.33 | 1 | 2.29710145 | 2 | 2 | |
| Gaya | 33.5 | 1 | 32.6 | 1 | 10.26 | 0.590909091 | 2.59090909 | 1 | 1 | |
| Bihar | 34.3 | | 17.4 | | 14.39 | | | | | |

| Division / District | Livelihood Potentials Criteria | | | | | | | Rank | Combined Index | Ranking | Clustering | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|----------|----------------|-----------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Availability of land per rural lab. Hectare | Availability of land per rural lab. Hectare Index | Cropping Intensity Index | Cropping Intensity Index | Agriculture Productivity (yield of paddy in tonne per hectare) | Agriculture Productivity (yield of paddy in tonne per hectare) Index | Bovine capital per 1000 population Index | | | | | Bovine capital per 1000 population Index | Percentage of urban population Index |
| Rohtas | 0.84 | 1.22222222 | 1.43 | 1 | 2.65 | 1 | 2.65 | 0.473988 | 13.3 | 0.0000794 | 4.037186 | 1 | 1 |
| Jehanabad | 0.29 | 0 | 1.26 | 0.5 | 1.82 | 0.450331126 | 201 | 0.277457 | 12.1 | 0.000110 | 1.748192 | 2 | 4 |
| Arwal | 0.29 | 0 | 1.2 | 0.329259 | 1.7 | 0.370882927 | 153 | 0 | 12.1 | 0.000110 | 1.748192 | 3 | 5 |
| Aurangabad | 1.74 | 1 | 1.42 | 0.976568 | 1.81 | 0.443708628 | 288 | 0.76324 | 6.4 | 0.000110 | 1.748192 | 2 | 3 |
| Jamui | 0.37 | 0.177777778 | 1.09 | 0 | 1.14 | 0 | 326 | 1 | 7.4 | 0 | 1.777778 | 6 | 6 |
| Gaya | 0.44 | 0.333333333 | 1.38 | 0.852941 | 1.53 | 0.258278146 | 264 | 0.641618 | 13.7 | 1 | 1.987719 | 3 | 3 |
| Bihar | 0.46 | | 1.38 | | 1.58 | | 198 | | 10.5 | | | | |

| Division / District | Social Capital Criteria | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------|---------|------------|
| | Rural literacy Rate (R) | Rural literacy Rate (R) Index | Rural female literacy rate as a percentage of rural male literacy | Rural female literacy rate as a percentage of rural male literacy index | Number of SHGs per 1 Lakh population | Number of SHGs per 1 Lakh population Index | Number of PACS and FCS per 1 lakh population | Number of PACS and FCS per 1 lakh population Index | Combined Index | Ranking | Clustering |
| Rohtas | 47.3 | 1.237704918 | 57.2 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 3.237705 | 2 | 3 |
| Jehanabad | 42.9 | 0.87704918 | 56 | 0.916666667 | 61 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2.733716 | 4 | 4 |
| Arwal | 44.2 | 0.983606557 | 53.8 | 0.783888889 | 44 | 0 | 6.04651163 | 5 | 2.352147 | 5 | 4 |
| Aurangabad | 44.4 | 1 | 56.9 | 0.979166667 | 18 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 2.979167 | 3 | 3 |
| Jamui | 32.2 | 0 | 42.8 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 0.604651163 | 8 | 1.104651 | 6 | 2 |
| Gaya | 36.7 | 0.368852459 | 52.8 | 0.694444444 | 115 | 2 | 2.256813953 | 10 | 0.833333 | 4 | 1 |
| Bihar | 34.8 | | 51.5 | | 34 | | | | | | |

| Division / District | Demographic Pattern | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---|
| | Total population Index | Total population Index | Rural population Index | Rural population Index | Rural population Index (male) | Rural population Index (female) | Rural population Index (Female) | Number of rural hbs. Index | Urban population Index | Urban population Index | Combined Index | Ranking | Clustering | |
| Rohtas | 2451 | 0.64508151 | 2124 | 0.637207952 | 1110 | 0.65206813 | 1074 | 0.621276596 | 503 | 0.35344276 | 307 | 0.68697479 | 2 | 3 |
| Jehanabad | 524 | 0.11658154 | 413 | 0.02064448 | 420 | 0.02064448 | 393 | 0.02064448 | 221 | 0 | 112 | 0.2828417 | 2 | 4 |
| Arwal | 590 | 0 | 590 | 0 | 590 | 0 | 590 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Aurangabad | 2313 | 0.493583073 | 1843 | 0.320665019 | 851 | 0.52311436 | 892 | 0.517448029 | 296 | 0.19386517 | 170 | 0.38714288 | 2 | 1 |
| Jamui | 1789 | 0.2828417 | 1296 | 0.2828417 | 874 | 0.2828417 | 821 | 0.2828417 | 221 | 0 | 123 | 0.21628555 | 1 | 4 |
| Gaya | 3473 | 1 | 2297 | 1 | 1530 | 1 | 1459 | 1 | 553 | 1 | 476 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

| Division / District | Poverty Criteria | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----------------|---------|------------|
| | Rural Population below poverty (%) | Rural Population below poverty (%) Index | Percentage of Rural hbs. with no consumer durables | Percentage of Rural hbs. with no consumer durables Index | Percentage of rural hbs. living in one room | Percentage of rural hbs. living in one room Index | Work participation rate for females as marginal workers | Rank with respect to combined Poverty Index | Combined Index | Ranking | Clustering |
| Rohtas | 33.3 | 0.535947712 | 45.9 | 0 | 20.5 | 0.153846154 | 9.3 | 0 | 0.68979387 | 6 | 3 |
| Jehanabad | 36.6 | 0.751633987 | 55.2 | 0.519553073 | 17.2 | 0.026923077 | 33.1 | 1 | 2.28110104 | 2 | 3 |
| Arwal | 36.6 | 0.751633987 | 55.2 | 0.519553073 | 17.2 | 0.026923077 | 14.1 | 0.20168067 | 1.49979091 | 4 | 4 |
| Aurangabad | 40.4 | 1 | 45.9 | 0 | 16.5 | 0 | 12.3 | 0.12605042 | 1.12605042 | 5 | 4 |
| Jamui | 25.1 | 0 | 63.8 | 1 | 42.5 | 1 | 20 | 0.44957983 | 2.44957983 | 1 | 1 |
| Gaya | 38.8 | 0.895424837 | 57.4 | 0.642458101 | 18.5 | 0.076923077 | 11.7 | 0.10084034 | 1.71964635 | 3 | 3 |

| | Vulnerability Criteria | Livelihood Potentials Criteria | Social Capital Criteria | Demographic Pattern | Poverty Criteria | Combined Factors of All |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Rohtas | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Jehanabad | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Arwal | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Aurangabad | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Jamui | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Gaya | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

1. Partial Affected, 2. Moderate, 3. More than Moderate, 4. Highly Affected, 5. Extremely Affected

6 CONCLUSIONS

From the above data and analysis, we show that there is a very high correlation between the Naxal affected districts and degree of backwardness.

Some districts, like Jehanabad and Jamui are suffering from backwardness across most criteria and are shown to be among the most backward districts within the comparison. Arwal also has comparatively high Naxal activity and are considered the backbone of Naxal activities across the state.

Rohtas shows a lesser degree of backwardness and recent news reports also mirror that statement by portraying declining Naxal activity within the region.

Gaya district has shown the maximum improvement due to tourism activities and recent investments in tourism infrastructure, promoted by central and state governments. It is also a Naxal free district, the only one among this comparison.

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