

## **Urban Development : A Case Study Of Sitamarhi District**

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### **Abstract**

*In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Sitamarhi. There were total 663,227 children under age of 0-6 against 556,582 of 2001 census. Of total 663,227 male and female were 343,555 and 319,672 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 930 compared to 924 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 19.37 percent of Sitamarhi District compared to 20.75 percent of 2001. There was net change of -1.38 percent in this compared to previous census of India. In 2011, total 255 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. Total Population of all who lived without roof at the time of Census 2011 numbers to 1,113. This approx 0.03% of total population of Sitamarhi district. With regards to Sex Ratio in Sitamarhi, it stood at 899 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 892. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 930 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 924 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data. Average literacy rate of Sitamarhi in 2011 were 52.05 compared to 38.46 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 60.64 and 42.41 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 49.36 and 26.13 in Sitamarhi District. Total literate in Sitamarhi District were 1,436,794 of which male and female were 885,188 and 551,606 respectively. In 2001, Sitamarhi District had 817,711 in its district.*

*Keywords: Sitamarhi, Population, Roads, Traffic and Transportation*

### **Introduction**

**Sitamarhi** is one of the districts of the state of Bihar, India. Dumra is the administrative headquarters of this district. The district is a part of the Tirhut Division and is located along the border of Nepal. This place is considered as birthplace of Sita, the main character of the epic *Ramayana* and a temple dedicated to Sita lies near Sitamarhi town. A Rock cut sanctuary of Mauryan period is found near Sitamarhi. In 1875, a Sitamarhi sub district was created within the Muzaffarpur district. Sitamarhi was detached from Muzaffarpur and became a separate district as of 11 December 1972. It is situated in the northern part of Bihar. The district headquarters is located in Dumra, five kilometers south of Sitamarhi. Sitamarhi district became a full-pledged district when it was split from Muzaffarpur district in 1972. 1994 saw the split of Sheohar district from Sitamarhi. The district is currently a part of the Red Corridor. There is a village in Sitamarhi District named Harpurwa. There is the tomb of Daataa Shah in Harpurwa which is famous in Sitamarhi district. Today's Sitamarhi is a

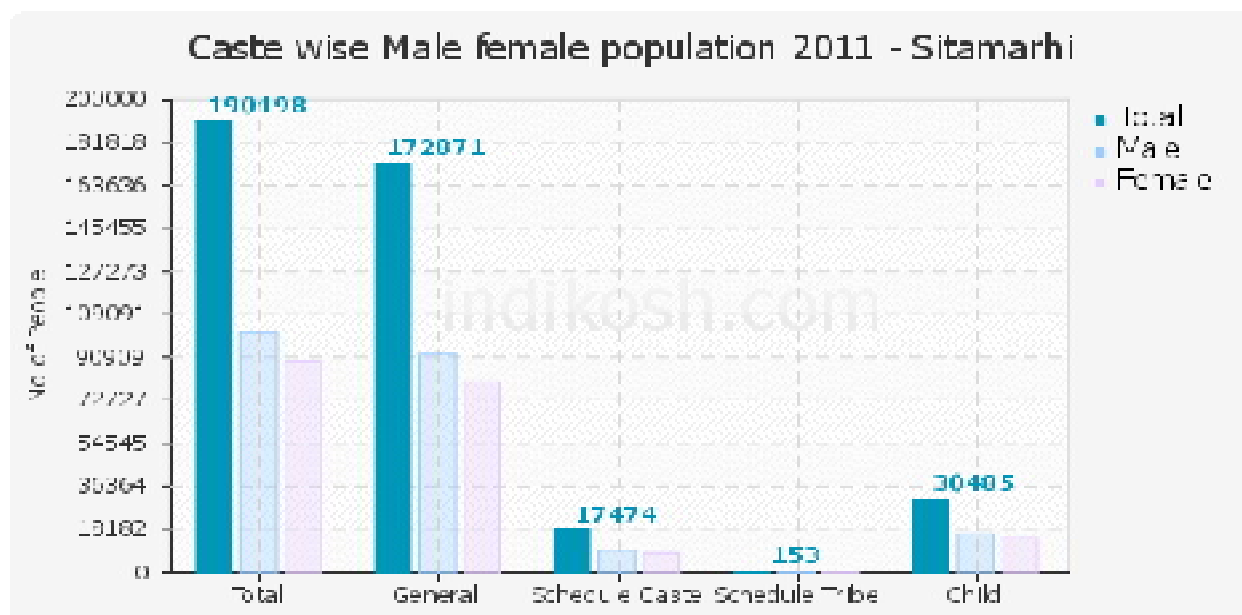
pilgrim centre catering to presentation of tradition and mythology. Its legendary association with the classic story of Ramayana gives it a place in the itinerary of a pious Hindu. Though the district of Sitamarhi is known as a religious destination, along with its shrines and temples, it also holds other attractions, such as the Kanti thermal power station, and the city of Sitamarhi offers natural vistas and fashionable buildings.

### Sitamarhi District Urban Part

Sitamarhi District Urban Part, with population of about 1.9 lakh is Bihar's the 20th least urban populous district, located in the state Bihar in India. Total geographical area of Sitamarhi district urban part is 39 km<sup>2</sup> and it is the 13th smallest urban district by area in the state. Population density of the district is 4891 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. There are 4 sub districts in the district, among them Dumra Urban is the most populous sub district with urban population of about 1.1 lakh and Pupri Urban is the least populous sub district with urban population of about 15 thousand.

### Demographics

The district is home to about 1.9 lakh people, among them about 1 lakh (53%) are male and about 89 thousand (47%) are female. 91% of the whole population are from general caste, 9% are from schedule caste and 0% are schedule tribes. Child (aged under 6 years) population of Sitamarhi district urban part is 16%, among them 53% are boys and 47% are girls. There are about 37 thousand households in the district and an average 5 persons live in every family. Urban population density of Sitamarhi district urban part is 4891 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

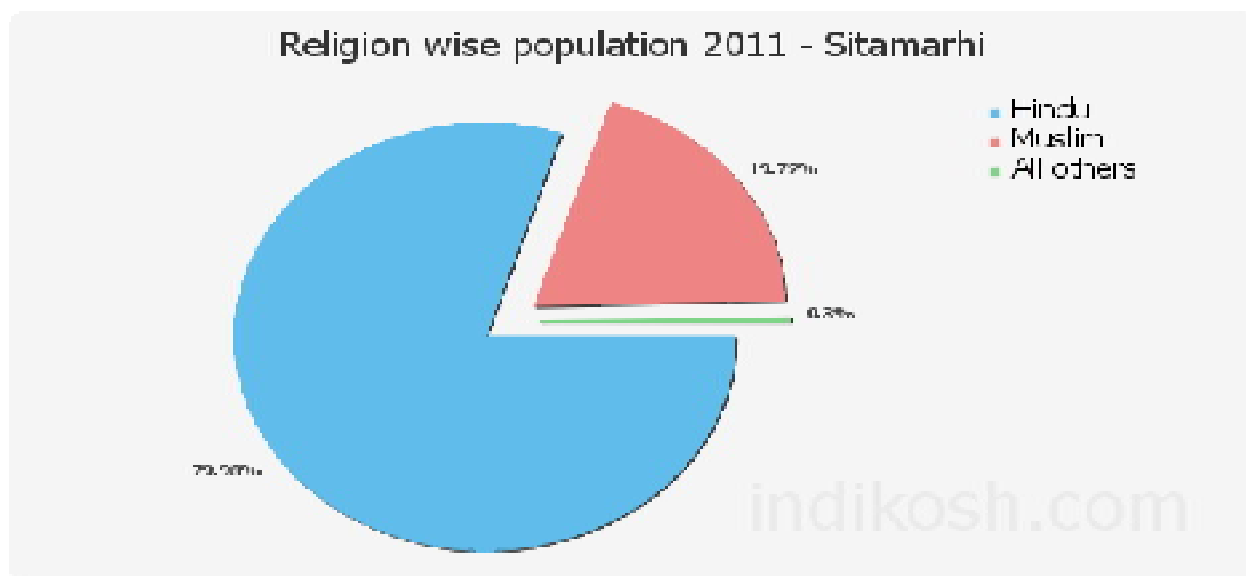


**Caste wise male female population 2011 - Sitamarhi**

|               | Total   | General | Schedule Caste | Schedule Tribe | Child  |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| <b>Total</b>  | 190,498 | 172,871 | 17,474         | 153            | 30,485 |
| <b>Male</b>   | 101,567 | 92,196  | 9,288          | 83             | 16,228 |
| <b>Female</b> | 88,931  | 80,675  | 8,186          | 70             | 14,257 |

**Religion wise distribution of population**

Hindus contribute 80% of the total population and are the largest religious community in the district followed by Muslims which contribute 20% of the total population.. Female Sex ratio per 1000 male in Hindus are 870 in Muslims are 902.



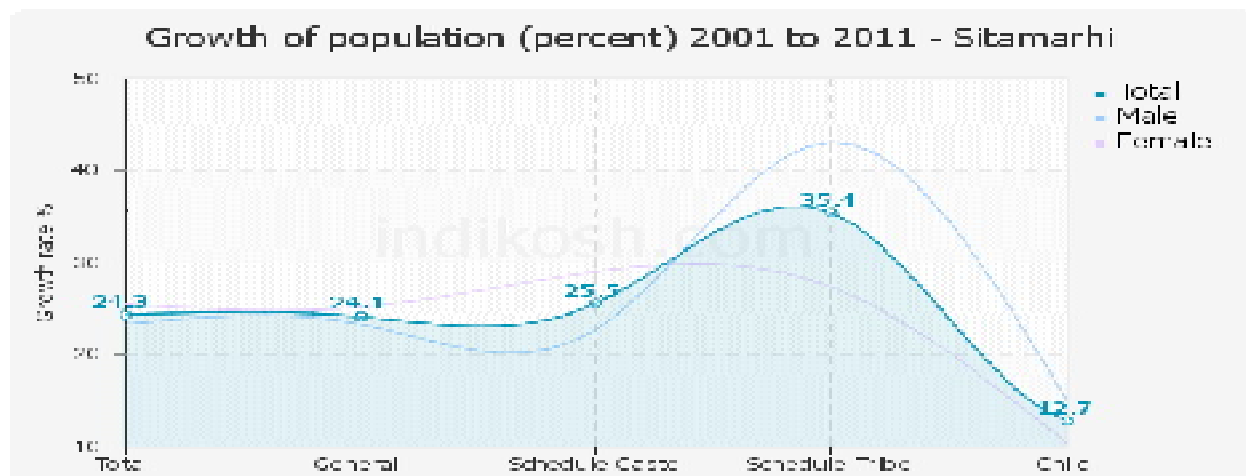
**Religion wise population 2011 - Sitamarhi**

|               | Total   | Hindu   | Muslim | Christian | Sikh | Buddhist | Jain | Others | Not Stated |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|------|----------|------|--------|------------|
| <b>Total</b>  | 190,498 | 152,245 | 37,578 | 261       | 20   | 32       | 18   | 1      | 343        |
| <b>Male</b>   | 101,567 | 81,426  | 19,753 | 146       | 12   | 21       | 10   | 1      | 198        |
| <b>Female</b> | 88,931  | 70,819  | 17,825 | 115       | 8    | 11       | 8    | 0      | 145        |

**Growth of population**

Population of the district has increased by 24.3% in last 10 years. In 2001 census total population here were about 1.5 lakh. Female population growth rate of the district is 25.4% which is 2.1% higher than male population growth rate of 23.3%. General caste population has increased by 24.1%; Schedule caste population has increased by 25.5%; Schedule Tribe

population has increased by 35.4% and child population has increased by 12.7% in the district since last census.

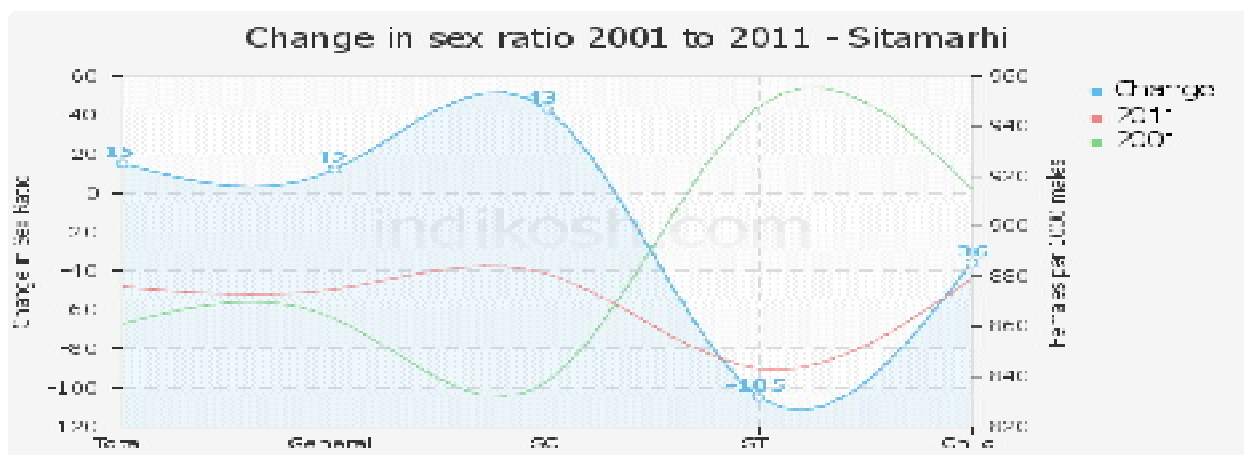


**Growth of population (percent) 2001 to 2011 - Sitamarhi**

|               | Total | General | Schedule Caste | Schedule Tribe | Child |
|---------------|-------|---------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| <b>Total</b>  | 24.3% | 24.1%   | 25.5%          | 35.4%          | 12.7% |
| <b>Male</b>   | 23.3% | 23.3%   | 22.7%          | 43.1%          | 14.9% |
| <b>Female</b> | 25.4% | 25.1%   | 29%            | 27.3%          | 10.3% |

**Sex Ratio - Females per 1000 Male**

As of 2011 census there are 876 females per 1000 male in the district. Sex ratio in general caste is 875, in schedule caste is 881 and in schedule tribe is 843. There are 879 girls under 6 years of age per 1000 boys of the same age in the district. Overall sex ratio in the district has increased by 15 females per 1000 male during the years from 2001 to 2011. Child sex ratio here has decreased by 36 girls per 1000 boys during the same time.



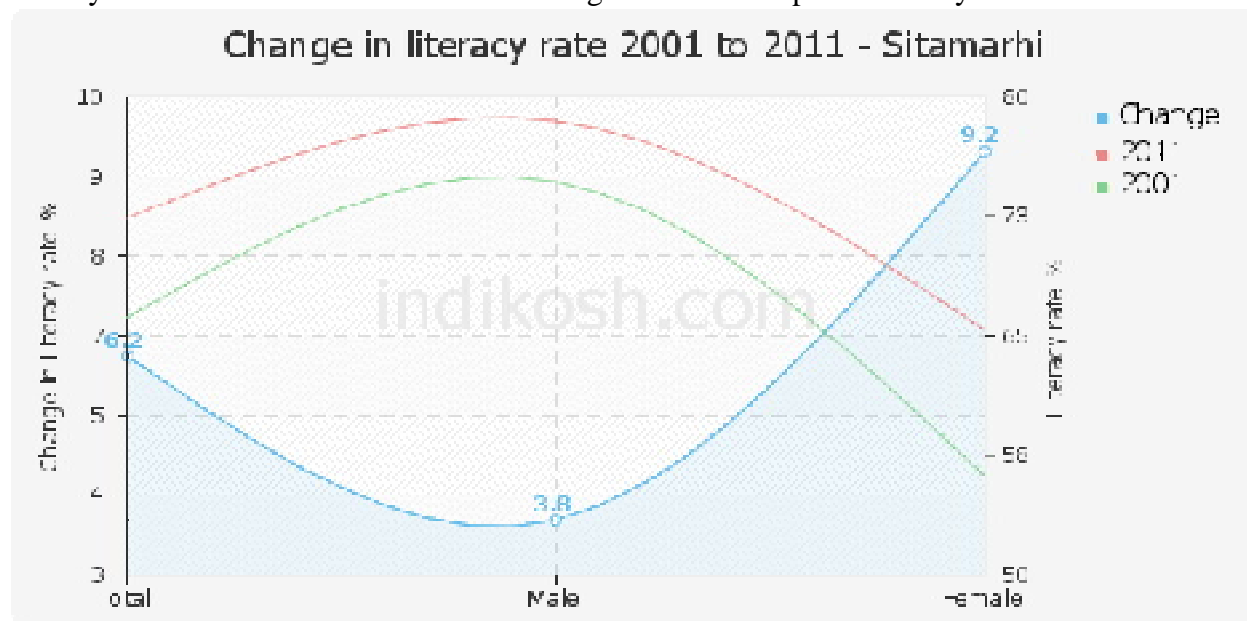
**Change in sex ratio 2001 to 2011 - Sitamarhi**

|               | Total | General | SC  | ST   | Child |
|---------------|-------|---------|-----|------|-------|
| <b>Change</b> | 15    | 12      | 43  | -105 | -36   |
| <b>2011</b>   | 876   | 875     | 881 | 843  | 879   |
| <b>2001</b>   | 861   | 863     | 838 | 948  | 915   |

**Literacy**

Total about 1.2 lakh people in the district are literate, among them about 67 thousand are male and about 49 thousand are female. Literacy rate (children under 6 are excluded) of Sitamarhi is 72%. 79% of male and 65% of female population are literate here. Overall literacy rate in the district has increased by 6%. Male literacy has gone up by 4% and female

literacy rate has gone up by 9%.



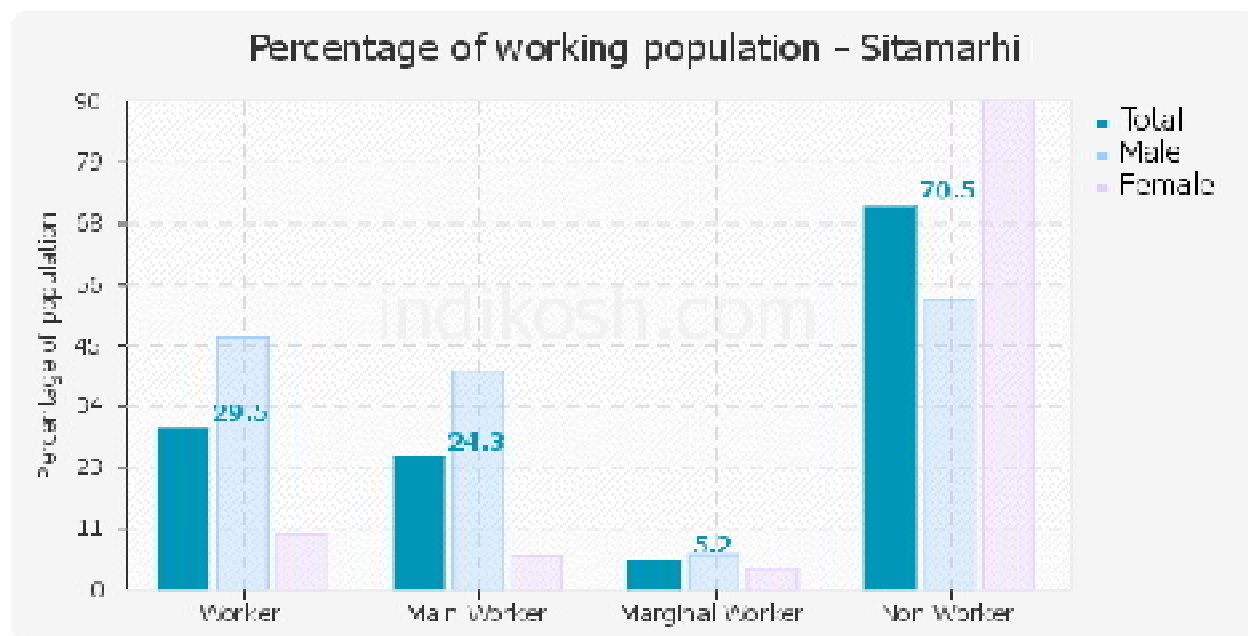
**Change in literacy rate 2001 to 2011 - Sitamarhi**

|               | Total | Male  | Female |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Change</b> | 6.2%  | 3.8%  | 9.2%   |
| <b>2011</b>   | 72.4% | 78.5% | 65.4%  |
| <b>2001</b>   | 66.2% | 74.7% | 56.2%  |

**Workers profile**

Sitamarhi has 30% (about 56 thousand) population engaged in either main or marginal works. 47% male and 10% female population are working population. 40% of total male population

are main (full time) workers and 6% are marginal (part time) workers. For women 6% of total female population are main and 4% are marginal workers.



**Percentage of working population - Sitamarhi**

|               | <b>Worker</b> (Among total population) | <b>Main Worker</b> (Among workers) | <b>Marginal Worker</b> (Among workers) | <b>Non Worker</b> (Among total population) |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Total</b>  | 29.5%                                  | 24.3%                              | 5.2%                                   | 70.5%                                      |
| <b>Male</b>   | 46.6%                                  | 40.2%                              | 6.4%                                   | 53.4%                                      |
| <b>Female</b> | 10%                                    | 6.2%                               | 3.8%                                   | 90%  |

**Roads, Traffic and Transportation**

Sitamarhi town has a total road length of about 34 km that is managed by different departments viz. NHAI, PWD and the ULB. The average road widths vary from 5.5 m to about 3.5m on account of encroachments. Around 53% of the roads are pucca. The town has three bus stands – one for public buses and the other two for privately owned buses. The major roads within the city limits include Mehsaul Road, Gudri Road, Main Road, Station Road, Dumra Road, Mela Road, Thana Road, Nagar Udhana Road, By-pass Road and Sheohar Road. Some of the key issues facing the ULB include the absence of a more extensive network, poor geometry of roads, lack of organized parking spaces, poor traffic management system, absence of road infrastructure and pedestrian facilities viz. footpath subways, dividers, bus stops, signages, markings, signals etc. Traffic congestion is observed in areas such as MehsaulChowk, KargilChowk, Shankar Chowk, Bhawepur Chowk and Sarbari Turning. Existing terminals lack supporting infrastructure and are encroached. The

CDP recommends specific interventions like development of parking spaces at important and congested commercial areas, widening and improvement of the roads along with the provision of other infrastructure, construction of new roads, and refurbishment of bus terminals, junction development and traffic circulation plant.

| PROJECTS   | 1 st Yr.<br>(11-12)      | 2nd Yr.<br>(12-13) | 3rd Yr.<br>(13-14) | 4 th Yr.<br>(14-15) | 2016-20       | 2021-30        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Development of a Transport Nagar along NH-104                        | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | -             | 2500.00        |
| Development of Parking spaces  | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | -             | -              |
| MahantSahChowk   | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | 150.00        | -              |
| MehsaulChowk   | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   |               | -              |
| Gudri Bazar  | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   |               | -              |
| Road Widening & Improvement with Street Lighting (Total length=34Km) | 283.00                   | 850.00             | -                  | -                   | -             | -              |
| Construction of new roads (29 km)                                    | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | -             | 1160.00        |
| Construction of ISBT With commercial complexes                       | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | -             | 1500.00        |
| Improvement & beautification of major intersections                  | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | -             | 500.00         |
| Establishment of city bus based public transport system              | -                        | -                  | -                  | -                   | 400.00        | -              |
| <b>SUB TOTAL TRANSPORT</b>   | <b>283.00</b>            | <b>850.00</b>      | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>            | <b>550.00</b> | <b>5660.00</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>Rs. 7343.00 Lakhs</b> |                    |                    |                     |               |                |

*All figures in Rupees Lakhs*

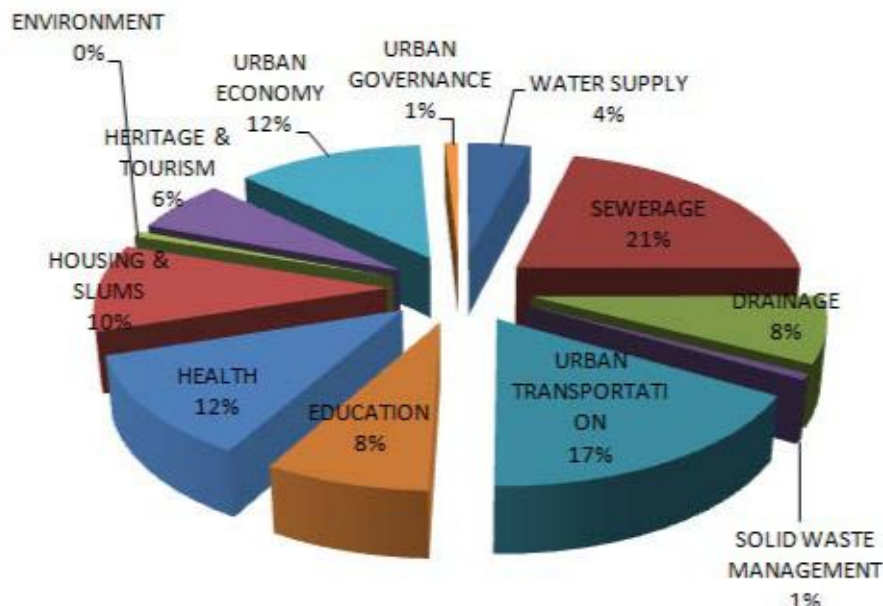
**Housing and Urban Poverty**

Sitamardi Municipal Council has an average household size of 6.1 which is higher than the national and the district average. 75% of the houses are permanent structures, 11% are semi-permanent and the remaining 14% are temporary structures. The town area has 31 slum pockets (SPUR survey 2011), with 52 notified slums, 2890 slum households with a population of 9820 - 14.4% of the 2011 census provisional population figures. The slums have poor access to basic services and mostly rely on hand pumps and practice open defecation. Open defecation together with the absence of drainage and organized garbage management contribute to unhealthy living conditions. Most of the slums have developed along the river bank. Slum redevelopment should be part of the overall strategy at state level. The CDP recommends extension of town level services to slums and exploring options for infrastructure development through community participation.

**Capital Investment Plan (CIP)**

The projects mentioned in the CDP are based on the ULB estimates and aimed at ensuring optimal and efficient utilization of existing infrastructure systems. The total estimated capital investment required for providing efficient services to the population of the ULB by the year 2030 is about Rs. **43005 Lakhs**. The table below presents the summary of sector-wise investment requirements.

| SN | Sector                 | Total Investment (Rs. Lakh) | Phase-I         | Phase-II       | Phase-III       |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|    |                        |                             | 2011-15         | 2016-21        | 2021-30         |
| 1  | WATER SUPPLY           | 1750.25                     | 1750.25         | -              | -               |
| 2  | SEWERAGE               | 8990.00                     | 8760.00         | 140.00         | 90.00           |
| 3  | DRAINAGE               | 3296.00                     | 3296.00         | -              | -               |
| 4  | SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT | 288.92                      | 143.98          | 56.98          | 87.96           |
| 5  | URBAN TRANSPORTATION   | 7343.33                     | 1133.33         | 550.00         | 5660.00         |
| 6  | EDUCATION              | 3350.00                     | -               | 1000.00        | 2350.00         |
| 7  | HEALTH                 | 5100.00                     | -               | 15.00          | 5085.00         |
| 8  | HOUSING & SLUMS        | 4357.00                     | 4357.00         | -              | -               |
| 9  | URBAN ENVIRONMENT      | 285.00                      | 10.00           | 275.00         | -               |
| 10 | HERITAGE & TOURISM     | 2670.00                     | -               | 1170.00        | 1500.00         |
| 11 | URBAN ECONOMY          | 5200.00                     | 100.00          | 500.00         | 4600.00         |
| 12 | URBAN GOVERNANCE       | 375.00                      | 375.00          | -              | -               |
|    | <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>43005.50</b>             | <b>19925.57</b> | <b>3706.98</b> | <b>19372.96</b> |



## Conclusion

Out of the total Sitamarhi population for 2011 census, 5.56 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 190,498 people lives in urban areas of which males are 101,567 and females are 88,931. Sex Ratio in urban region of Sitamarhi district is 876 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Sitamarhi district was 879 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 30,485 of which males and females were 16,228 and 14,257. This child population figure of Sitamarhi district is 15.98 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Sitamarhi district as per census 2011 is 72.38 % of which males and females are 78.51 % and 65.39 % literates respectively. In actual number 115,825 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 66,996 and 48,829 respectively. As per 2011 census, 94.44 % population of Sitamarhi districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Sitamarhi district population living in rural areas is 3,233,076 of which males and females are 1,701,685 and 1,531,391 respectively. In rural areas of Sitamarhi district, sex ratio is 900 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Sitamarhi district is considered, figure is 933 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 632,742 in rural areas of which males were 327,327 and females were 305,415. The child population comprises 19.24 % of total rural population of Sitamarhi district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Sitamarhi district is 50.80 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 59.53 and

41.01 percent respectively. In total, 1,320,969 people were literate of which males and females were 818,192 and 502,777 respectively.

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