



## **Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Rural Transformation In Hisar, Haryana: A Multi-Dimensional Survey Approach**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper investigates the key socio-economic factors shaping rural transformation in Hisar district, Haryana, through a comprehensive, multi-dimensional survey approach. Data collected from 500 respondents across several villages illuminate local perceptions regarding access to credit, the role of infrastructure, the impact of industrial development, shifting youth attitudes toward agriculture, and overall satisfaction with rural development. The findings reveal significant variability in experiences and highlight both opportunities and challenges in the ongoing rural transformation process. Results indicate that while many perceive improvements in infrastructure and development, considerable obstacles remain regarding financial access, youth retention in agriculture, and the equitable distribution of development benefits. The study's insights emphasize the need for integrated policy interventions and inclusive planning to support sustainable rural progress in Haryana.

**Keywords:** Rural Transformation, Socio-Economic Factors, Hisar, Haryana, Credit Access, Rural Infrastructure, Industrial Development, Youth Migration, Survey Research

### **1. Introduction**

Rural transformation is a dynamic process characterized by substantial changes in the socio-economic fabric, livelihoods, and demographic patterns of rural communities. In India, where over sixty percent of the population still resides in rural areas, understanding the drivers and impacts of rural transformation is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. The district of Hisar, located in the northwestern state of Haryana, provides a compelling case study for examining these transitions due to its diverse agricultural base, evolving industrial landscape, and proximity to urban growth centers.

Historically, rural development initiatives in India have emphasized agricultural intensification, infrastructural improvements, and poverty alleviation. However, in recent decades, the trajectory of rural change has been influenced by broader forces such as liberalization, technological advancement, demographic shifts, and the expansion of non-agricultural sectors. These forces have not only diversified rural economies but have also introduced new challenges related to resource allocation, labor mobility, and social equity.

Access to financial services—especially credit—remains a cornerstone for empowering rural households, enabling them to invest in agriculture, start enterprises, or cope with shocks. In this context, the ease of accessing credit facilities is both a marker and a driver of rural transformation. Despite the proliferation of rural banks and microfinance institutions, many households in regions like Hisar continue to face bureaucratic hurdles, lack of information, and stringent collateral requirements, as reflected in survey responses.



Rural infrastructure, encompassing roads, electricity, water supply, and communication networks, is widely acknowledged as a critical enabler of economic growth and social progress in rural India. Adequate infrastructure reduces transaction costs, facilitates market access, and improves quality of life. In Hisar, significant investments have been made in rural infrastructure, yet perceptions concerning its adequacy and effectiveness vary, often correlating with disparities in development outcomes.

Industrial development has emerged as a catalyst for rural transformation by generating employment, fostering entrepreneurship, and spurring ancillary service sectors. However, the spatial and social reach of these benefits remains uneven. While some rural communities in Hisar have witnessed tangible improvements in infrastructure and livelihood opportunities due to industrial growth, others remain marginalized or experience adverse effects such as environmental degradation or land displacement. A particularly salient aspect of rural change in Hisar, and across much of India, is the shifting orientation of youth away from traditional agricultural pursuits. Factors influencing this trend include the allure of urban employment, rising educational aspirations, declining profitability in agriculture, and changing socio-cultural values. The migration of youth from agriculture has profound implications for food security, rural labor supply, and the sustainability of agrarian livelihoods.

Overall satisfaction with rural development outcomes reflects the cumulative impact of policies, investments, and socio-economic shifts. In Hisar, survey responses indicate a mixed picture: while a substantial proportion of respondents express contentment with the direction of rural development, a significant number remain ambivalent or dissatisfied, underscoring the need for more inclusive and participatory development processes. Given this context, the present study employs a multi-dimensional survey approach to systematically capture and analyze the perceptions of rural residents in Hisar regarding these key domains of transformation. The findings aim to inform policymakers, development practitioners, and local stakeholders seeking to foster equitable and sustainable rural progress in Haryana and similar regions.

## **2. Scope of the Study**

This study covers rural communities across Hisar district, Haryana, with a focus on five core dimensions: access to credit, rural infrastructure, industrial development, youth migration from agriculture, and overall satisfaction with rural development. The research is confined to primary data collected via structured questionnaires, ensuring a representation of diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The scope includes both qualitative and quantitative analysis to understand the patterns, challenges, and opportunities inherent in rural transformation.

## **3. Objectives**

- To assess rural residents' perceptions of credit accessibility and its impact on economic activities in Hisar.
- To evaluate the perceived adequacy and role of rural infrastructure in supporting local economic growth.
- To examine community attitudes toward industrial development and its direct and indirect benefits to rural areas.
- To analyze the trend of youth migration away from agriculture and explore its socio-economic implications.



- To determine the level of overall satisfaction with rural development initiatives among different segments of the rural population.
- To provide policy recommendations for enhancing rural transformation and equitable development in Hisar, Haryana.

#### **4. Review of the Literature**

Chand and Kumar (2022) provide a comprehensive review of rural transformation in India, highlighting how policy reforms, infrastructure development, and local governance have collectively shaped socio-economic outcomes in rural areas. Similarly, Banerjee and Duflo (2019) emphasize the importance of evidence-based approaches to tackling complex rural development challenges, advocating for policies that are responsive to local contexts and needs. In the context of Haryana, Bisht and Lamba (2024) explore the impact of globalization and industrialization on rural economies, noting both the opportunities and disruptions these forces have introduced. Gupta and Joshi (2024) further analyze the effectiveness of rural development programs in Haryana, finding that targeted interventions can drive economic and social transformation, but their impact often varies across different villages and demographic groups. Rathi and Kaur (2021) specifically address socio-economic disparities in Hisar, revealing persistent inequalities related to land ownership, access to services, and employment opportunities. The role of education and technology in fostering economic resilience and transformation is underscored by Patel and Deshmukh (2023), who argue that investments in human capital are crucial for enabling rural areas to adapt to changing economic realities. Shukla and Tiwari (2025) examine shifting agricultural practices in Hisar, observing that changes in cropping patterns, mechanization, and labor dynamics are altering traditional socio-economic structures. Kumar and Dhawan (2022) also highlight the significance of land use changes in shaping rural development trajectories in northern India, with Hisar serving as a key case study. Other studies, such as Ghosh (2017) and Jha (2011), contextualize rural transformation within broader frameworks of social and political change, pointing to the interconnectedness of economic reforms, cultural shifts, and policy interventions. Narain and Khurana (2013) and Singh (2014) examine the strategic role of governance and rural-urban linkages in addressing rural development dilemmas, while Sharma (2015) discusses the implications of these linkages for socio-economic progress. Research by Shukla (2018) and Sinha and Mishra (2017) investigates the geographical and regional disparities in resource distribution and development outcomes, emphasizing the heterogeneity of rural experiences across India. Ravi (2013) provides a socio-cultural and political lens on rural economic development, highlighting the need for inclusive and participatory approaches.

#### **5. Research Methodology**

The present study adopts a descriptive survey design to explore the socio-economic factors influencing rural transformation in Hisar, Haryana. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to a random sample of 500 respondents across multiple villages representing diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The questionnaire covered five core dimensions: access to credit, rural infrastructure, industrial development, youth migration from agriculture, and overall satisfaction with rural development. Responses were measured using a five-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree." The data were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage) to identify patterns and trends. Cross-tabulation and

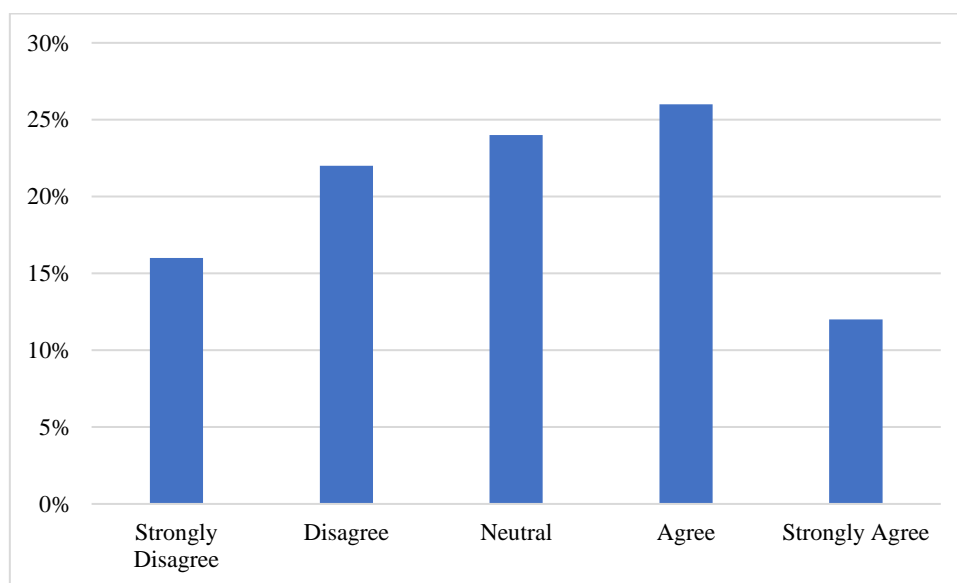
graphical representations (bar charts) were employed for visual clarity and comparative analysis. The methodology ensures robust primary data collection, inclusivity of different demographic groups, and a comprehensive view of rural perceptions in the region. Efforts were made to minimize response bias and maintain respondent confidentiality. The systematic approach provides reliable insights into the ongoing socio-economic transformation affecting rural Hisar.

### 6. Data Analysis and Results

The analysis reveals a nuanced and multi-layered picture of rural transformation in Hisar district. Respondents’ perceptions highlight both progress and persistent challenges across the five surveyed dimensions. While improvements in infrastructure and development are evident, access to credit and the retention of youth in agriculture remain key concerns. The survey results underscore diverse experiences and attitudes, reflecting the complex interplay of economic, social, and policy-driven factors shaping rural life in Hisar.

**Table 1: Access to Credit Facilities is Easy**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	80	16%
Disagree	110	22%
Neutral	120	24%
Agree	130	26%
Strongly Agree	60	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

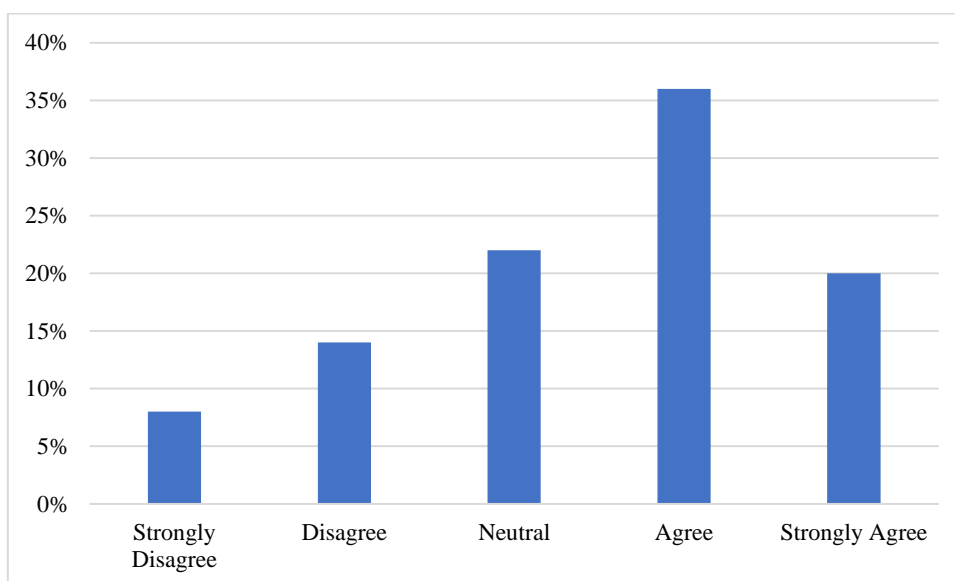


**FIG 1: Access to Credit Facilities is Easy**

The results show that only 38% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that access to credit facilities is easy, while a larger proportion (38%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. The remaining 24% were neutral. This pattern indicates that although some community members can access loans or financial support, bureaucratic hurdles, insufficient financial institutions, and lack of information continue to impede widespread credit access.

**Table 2: Rural Infrastructure Supports Economic Growth**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	40	8%
Disagree	70	14%
Neutral	110	22%
Agree	180	36%
Strongly Agree	100	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

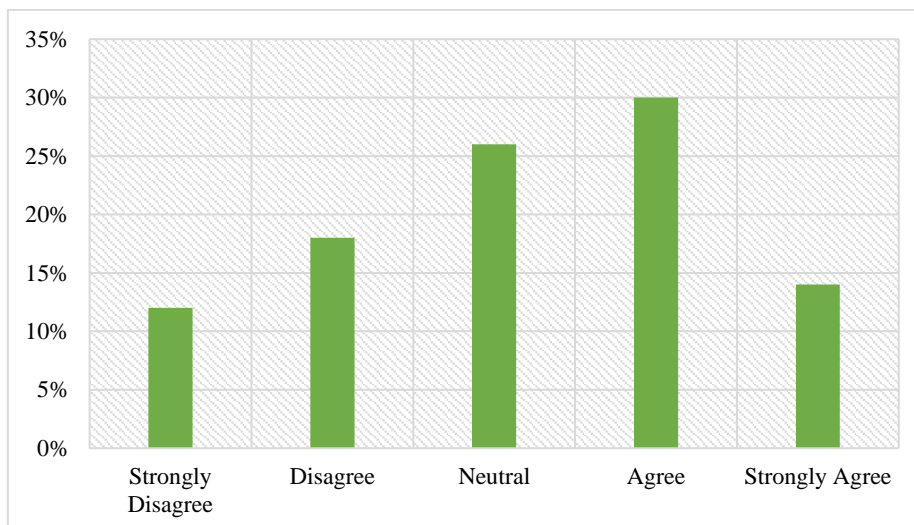


**FIG 2: Rural Infrastructure Supports Economic Growth**

A majority (56%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that rural infrastructure supports economic growth, reflecting positive perceptions of improvements in amenities such as roads, electricity, and water supply. However, 22% expressed disagreement, and 22% remained neutral, signaling that infrastructure gaps and uneven development may persist in certain areas.

**Table 3: Industrial Development Benefits Rural Areas**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	60	12%
Disagree	90	18%
Neutral	130	26%
Agree	150	30%
Strongly Agree	70	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

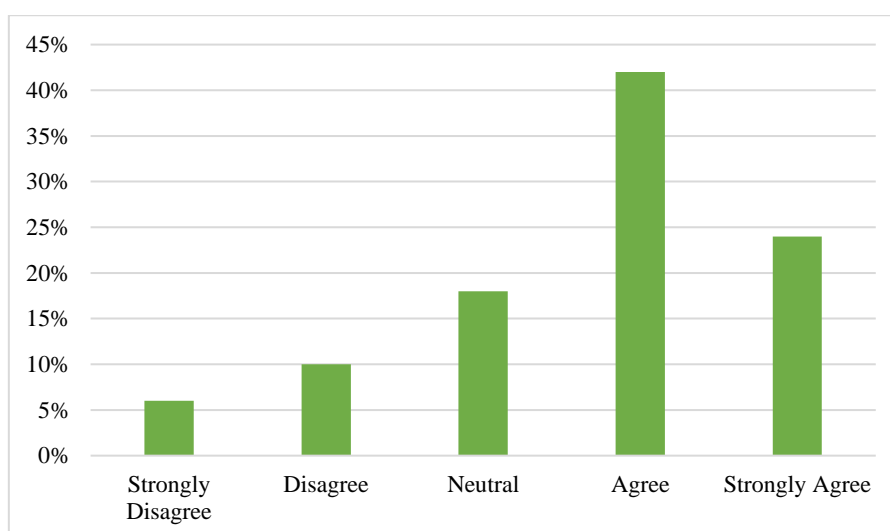


**FIG 3: Industrial Development Benefits Rural Areas**

About 44% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that industrial development benefits rural areas, citing job creation and improved infrastructure. However, 30% expressed disagreement, and 26% were neutral. These responses suggest that while many recognize positive impacts from industrialization, the benefits are not uniformly distributed across the rural population.

**Table 4: Youth are Moving Away from Agriculture**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	30	6%
Disagree	50	10%
Neutral	90	18%
Agree	210	42%
Strongly Agree	120	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

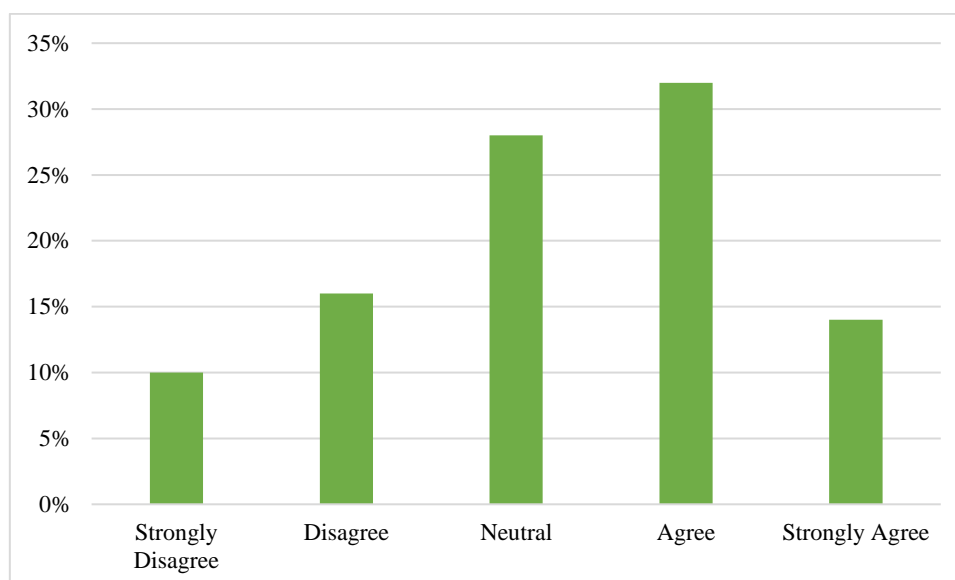


**FIG 4: Youth are Moving Away from Agriculture**

A significant 66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that youth are moving away from agriculture, highlighting a major demographic and economic shift. This trend is attributed to factors such as the allure of urban jobs, higher education, and declining profitability in farming. Only 16% disagreed, and 18% were neutral, confirming the widespread nature of this phenomenon.

**Table 5: Overall Satisfaction with Rural Development**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	50	10%
Disagree	80	16%
Neutral	140	28%
Agree	160	32%
Strongly Agree	70	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>



**FIG 5: Overall Satisfaction with Rural Development**

Responses indicate that 46% of respondents are satisfied (agree or strongly agree) with rural development initiatives, while 26% are dissatisfied and 28% remain neutral. This suggests a generally positive but mixed sentiment, with a considerable portion of the population either ambivalent or dissatisfied with the pace and reach of development.

### 7. Conclusion

The study demonstrates that rural transformation in Hisar is multifaceted, with clear progress in infrastructure and industrial growth but ongoing challenges in financial inclusion and the retention of youth in agriculture. Perceptions are shaped by diverse local experiences, underlining the need for targeted, inclusive, and participatory policy interventions to support sustainable and equitable development.

### 8. Future Scope

Further research could employ longitudinal studies to track changes over time, incorporate qualitative interviews for deeper insights, and expand the survey to additional districts for comparative analysis.



Exploring the impact of government initiatives and technological adoption on rural livelihoods would also be valuable.

## **9. Limitations**

The study is limited by its cross-sectional design, potential respondent bias, and the focus on a single district, which may affect the generalizability of findings. Data were self-reported and may not capture all nuances of rural transformation. Future studies should include larger samples and mixed methods for a more comprehensive understanding.

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