

“SOCIAL LIFE OF NOMAID WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DIST KUPWARA AND DIST. BANDIPORA”

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ABSTRACT

All tribes have their own distinct ethno-cultural heritage. Every tribe having their Language, Literature, Customs, Art and Architecture, Tradition and History but have rendered backward and poor in the course of time with a very low rate of literacy and have largely taken nomadic life. The main aim and objective of the foundation is to promote Educational and Cultural interests of the tribes. To preserve the Cultural Heritage and to make every possible effort for upliftment and preservation of cultural entity

INTRODUCTION

Gujjar or Gujjar is a pastoral agricultural ethnic group with populations in India and Pakistan and a small number in Afghanistan. Alternative spellings include Gurjara, Gojar, Gūjjar, and Gūjjara. Although they are able to speak the language of the country where they live, Gurjars have their own language, known as Gujari. Religiously, they are Muslims, and Sikhs. The Gurjars are now classified under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category in some states in India. Hindu Gurjars today are assimilated into several varnas. Origin The origin of the from Suryavanshi Gujjars is uncertain. Many of them claim descent Kshatriyas (Sun Dynasty) and connect themselves with the Hindu deity Rama. Historically, the Gujjars were sun worshipers and are described as devoted to the feet of the sun god Surya. Their copper-plate grants and their seals [clarification needed] bear an emblem of the sun. In the past, Gujjars have also been hypothesized to be descended from the nomadic Khazar tribes, although the history of Khazars shows an entirely different politico-cultural ethos. It has been suggested that the Gurjars, along with people from northwestern India, merged with the Hephthalites and formed the Rajput clan.

large population of nomad Gujjars in the state of J&K and H.P alone is living below poverty line. The nomadic gujjars household survey shows that in household income expenditure survey a big discrepancy between total income and total expenditure is found for all income groups except the highest groups and a high proportion of individual households. The survey says the Gujjars of Himalayan ranges are without sufficient food, fodder for their animals and lack of basic facilities like proper shelter, health, drinking water, education, etc. Moreover, most of the nomads are not aware of schemes operating by the state and central governments for their upliftment and poverty eradication. Government policies are considered to be an important tool for improving the status of nomadic Gujjars. Survey conducted on Nomadic Gujjars reveals that economically, socially and culturally they are in a poor position in spite of this that various programmes of central and state governments are running in the state. Therefore, a special programme is needed for them so that we can improve their social, economic, education and political backwardness.

DISCUSSION/MAIN FINDINGS DEMOGRAPHY-

The 200 households sampled (100 households each in Kupwara and Bandipora district) in study constitute population of 1402 with 752 males and 650 females reflecting a sex ratio of 864.36. About 66.48% of the total respondents are in the age group of 25 years. The dependency ratio in the Kupwara district of the study area has been found slightly high i.e. 78.77 percent as compare to 74.29 percent in Bandipora district. In order to ascertain the role of males as well as females in the economy of nomadic gujjars in the study area, sex-wise labor participation rate has been worked out. It has been observed that the rate of female labour force is generally higher (58.62 percent) than that of male labour force (54.92 percent). Because nomadic Gujjar women are working not only at home but also outside the home.

EDUCATION

Maximum number of nomads and their family members in Kupwara (77.56 percent) and Bandipora (86 percent) migrate between upper and lower reaches are illiterate. Generally schools are not within close reach of their settlement and Mobile schools, due to lack of affective supervision, are found to be non functional. Their migratory mode of life also stands in the way of getting regular education. With regard to female population of study area, 89.65 per cent of female population is illiterate just because of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness.

HEALTH

The study shows that 25 percent of Nomadic Gujjars of the study area have a family of 8 (eight) members as against about 28 percent with family size of 7 members. This shows that the families with larger number of members are still prevailing among the tribal communities. It, however, appears that the migrant tribal have not realized the importance of small families and they are not adopting the concept of family planning. In the present study, most of the nomadic Gujjars responded that either they or their family member were suffering from diseases like chronic bronchitis, Gastro-intestinal Dysfunction, Pneumonia, skin related diseases, T.B and malaria. As their economic status and the way of living are backward, they are not taking balance diet regularly because of this their children and ladies are seen pale and anaemic. Also filthy living conditions make them prey to many diseases. It is generally believe that Gujjars use traditional medical system because at higher and lower reaches their access to modern medicine is limited, but in the survey area it is found that their attitude to modern medicine is not hostile.

MIGRATION

The nomadic household Gujjars of the study area migrate with their livestock summer and winter pastures. The basis of their economic activities is keeping buffalo herds. With the approach of summer months, when grass and other fodder as well as water becomes scarce in the lowers regions, the Gujjars take their herds to higher-altitude pastures of Kupwara and Bandipora where grass is regenerated after snow. Winter is spent in the lower reaches/plains. Migration proceeds between predetermined sites along traditionally set routes and according to a more or less fixed time table. The upward and downward journeys take about 10 to 15 days each.

PROBLEM DURING MIGRATION-

The nomadic gujjars of Kupwara and Bandipora district have to face a number of problems at upper, lower reaches/plains and in transition.

The main problems in upper reaches are due to harsh nature, forest department rules, shortage of good quality fodder, accommodation, militancy, education of children, medical facilities, marketing of milk/milk products and drinking water and electricity etc. In lower reaches/plains, they have problem with the local people who raise the objection whenever they to settle in the Govt. land or near to village and from mobile schools which are officially roaming with them but in reality they are not functional on the ground. In the transition period, while ascending or descending journey in both the districts, all the gujjars faced problems like rain, snowfall, heavy storm, hailstorms and landslides which cause not only loss of their near and dears ones but also of their livestock. In the oscillation, most of the timethey have to travel on the national highway where respondents

stated the fear of accident. Non availability of fodder and harassment by security forces/police also creates problem for them.

FODDER-

It is found that overall in both the districts, 53.5% fodder requirement comes from green fodder in plains. Dry feed accounts for about 24.25 per about 2.25 percent of the feed requirements of the livestock. In hills 98.25 percent feed requirement is derived from grazing lands and 1.75 percent from dry concentrates in kupwara and bandipora districts taken together. The nutritive value of feed and fodder directly influence production and productivity of livestock. Majority of the nomads are not satisfied with the quality of pasture land while 25.6 percent (51) are satisfied with the quality of fodder in their traditional meadows.

These pastures are depleted due to over grazing. Besides, no care is taken to plant the good quality grasses either by the forest department or by the graziers concerned, nor any attention is paid to make good the losses due to over grazing. With the result, the milk productivity of livestock is very low vis-à-vis other which are properly fed and looked after.

PRODUCTIVITY-

The average yield of milk per buffalo/day is very poor in the Kupwara district, but the yield rate of milch animals in the bandipora district is comparatively higher. When we compare its productivity through input-output again it has been found that Bandipora is more productive with input-output ratio of 1:1.60 as compared to kupwara with input-output ratio of 1:0.98. Overall, the input-output ratio is 1:1.26. The overall productivity of milch animal in the study is very low. This lower yield of milch animals in the study area is due to the poor availability of feed and fodder resources in term of quantity and quality, inferior breed of livestock, poor veterinary facilities and unhygienic conditions. On the whole, the ratio of milch animals to the dry animals in the study area is 3:2.

INCOME-

Income and expenditure patterns of nomadic Gujjars households in the study area vary between the districts. Overall total household income is Rs. 24145389.12 in the area of study. The major source of household income is animal husbandry, contributing 94.68 percent to the total income of the entire study area. Many nomads in both districts involved in animal husbandry activity also do some other activities to supplement their income. To examine the economic status of the families of nomadic Gujjars, the information about the earning members in the family was collected. It was observed that majority of the nomadic Gujjars of the study area reported 2 to 3 earning members in their family. The broad picture that emerges from the study is that, the bottom 86 percent families in the study area have received a share of about 55.48 percent of total Gujjars income and the top 14 percent have taken a share of about 44.52percent. Thus, majority of the nomads in the study are living in lower income class.

The average annual income per household by district is Rs 156166.86 for Kupwara, Rs 85287.04 for Bandipora. Together, it is Rs 120726.95. Overall Per family monthly income is estimated to be Rs 10060.58. By district it is Rs 13013.91 in Kupwara and Rs 7107.25 in bandipora district. In case of daily income per family, overall it is Rs 330.76 and district wise; it is Rs 427.85 in kupwara and Rs 233.66 in Bandipora. Per-capita income per person is estimated to be Rs 17222.10. District wise; it is Rs 21570.01 in kupwara and Rs12579.21 in bandipora. The Study shows glaring income inequalities among different of nomadic gujjars. It is noticed that per family daily income is Rs. 113.93 in case of families having annual income less than Rs.49,999 income, whereas in families with annual income more then Rs.2,50,000 category are earning Rs 3357.83 per day per family. There are three basic causes of income.

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE PROGRAMME-

The assessment of awareness among the nomads of Kupwara and Bandipora about the tribal development programmes of State and Central Government disclosed that nearly half of the respondents and their family members were aware of such programmes. Out of a total of 200 nomads of both districts who had the knowledge of the tribal development programmes, the percentage of those who were personally benefitted from different programmes was very low. Thus, nearly two-third of the nomadic Kupwara and Bandipora could not get any benefit from any of the Tribal Development Programmes of the State Governments or Government of

India. The Study shows glaring income inequalities among different categories of nomadic gujjars. It is noticed that per family daily income is Rs. 113.93 in case of families having annual income less than Rs.49,999 income, whereas in families with annual income more then Rs.2,50,000 category are earning Rs 3357.83 per day per family. There are three basic causes of income inequalities noticed. Firstly, the large disparity in the distribution of cattle wealth, secondly low productivity of the livestock and thirdly, the law of inheritance.

Conclusion

To examine the social and economic condition of the Gujjars.To analyze the annual pattern of migration from upper hills to lower hills and to plains and backward. The reason behind this migration shall also be examined. To identify the physical and economical problems which Gujjars come across in the oscillation. To examine the loopholes under education and economic policies which have been started by government for their economic and social upliftment. To identify the quality of the livestock, pastures and productivity of livestock reared by the Gujjars. To evaluate the forest policy of the government vis-a vis Gujjars.To identify all sources of their income and pattern of expenditure. To examine the reasons behind indebtedness and extent of indebtedness among the nomadic Gujjars.

