



SCENARIO OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract : In Himachal Pradesh, tribal communities are one of the backlog communities which are basically classified on the geographical bases and are in all districts of the State. However, district Kinnaur, district Lahaul and Spiti and areas of Pangi and Bharmaur of Chamba district of the State are the areas of tribal population. The tribes of Himachal Pradesh belong to the famous Indo-Aryan family group. The tribal constitute about 5.71 percent of the total population of the State (census 2011). Over the past five decades, these communities have been provided regulatory support to strengthen literacy and employability resulting to change their quality of life. Although the Government has provided a series of facilities to uplift tribal communities still the process of their development and prosperity is a research question and the present study emphasizes upon the scenario of tribal development in Himachal Pradesh in terms of their literacy growth and ranking according to human development index.

IndexTerms - Tribal Development, literacy, Human Development Index

I. INTRODUCTION

The marginalized section of the society crossed phases of development with the promulgation and implementation of regulation and policy initiatives to establish equitable non-discriminatory social set-up by providing opportunities to those backlog communities who could not reach to the main stream so far. In Himachal Pradesh, tribal communities are one of the backlog communities which are basically classified on the geographical bases and are in all districts of the State. However, district Kinnaur, district Lahaul and Spiti and areas of Pangi and Bharmaur of Chamba district of the State are the areas of tribal population. The tribes of Himachal Pradesh belong to the famous Indo-Aryan family group. The tribal constitute about 5.71 percent of the total population of the State (census 2011). The topographical conditions of these communities are quite tough in the mountainous regions most of the times engulfed in snow. The quality of life of the tribal communities has improved and has been ranked much better in comparison to that in some other regions. It is however, still pertinent to accept that although the Government has provided a series of facilities to uplift tribal communities still the process of their development of the quality of life, and prosperity is a research question and the present study emphasizes upon the scenario of tribal development in Himachal Pradesh in terms of their literacy and ranking according to human development index.

Review of Literature

Government of Himachal Pradesh (1971)¹ conducted an empirical study in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh to know about household income. The results of the study show that the horticulture produce, honey production, sheep and yak-breeding were the major sources of household income: In the earlier times, these horticultural products were not sold and kept only for self use. But with the pace of time, production of horticulture has increased and the surplus products are sold in market in order to supplement of household income.

Directorate of Economics and Statistics (1983)² conducted a socio-economic survey of Gujjar community of Himachal Pradesh. The results of the study reveal that income from animal husbandry estimated Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 of 4.37 percent of the sampled households, whereas, 9.47 percent of the families earn between 1.501 to 3000. There were 11.83 percent families receiving Rs. 10001 to 15000 and another 35.50 per cent families receiving Rs. 6000 to 10000 per annum. A few families had income higher than Rs. 15000 per annum. The average annual sale proceeds of Gujjar families from animal husbandry have been estimated at Rs. 6369.82. Their average income from land is extremely limited and on the average it comes to Rs. 100 per families: Since very few of the nomadic families are engaged in agriculture the limited income that becomes available from agriculture also gets allocated to limited number of families. The annual consumption expenditure of Gujjar families has been Rs. 3,327.44. The percentage of consumption expenditure on cereals has been 47.47 percent followed by sugar and gur i.e. 10.91 per cent, vegetable 4.50 percent and pulses is 3.89 per cent. The expenditure percentage on species and beverages, tea, kerosene, clothing and foot wears, medicines, festivals and

others is 2.95, 2.45, 3.37, 7.50, 3.43, 4.51 and 8.96 percent respectively.

Planning Department of Himachal Pradesh (1983)³ conducted an empirical study to know about the socio-economic conditions of Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh. The study reveals that the nomadic Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh is about 40 percent spread as 33 percent engaged in cultivation, 3.77 percent in live stock and forestry and 1.33 percent as agriculture labour. About 35.5 percent Gujjar families earned up to Rs 6 to 10 thousand per annum and another 11.89 per cent earned between 10 to 15 thousand per annum. Their outlay on food is about 72 percent of their total consumer outlay. The rest of the money is spent on kerosene, clothing, foot wears, and medicines, Very few Gujjar families were in debt. Those who took loans, get these from money lenders, friends and relatives and none had taken loan from bank.

I. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Objectives:

- To examine the tribal development of Himachal Pradesh in terms of their literacy growth
- To assert the ranking of tribal population of Himachal Pradesh according to the Human Development Indices of the State

Scope and Methodology:

The study is based upon the secondary data taken from the different issues of Statistical Outline and Abstracts of Directorate of Statistics and Economics and department of planning, Government of Himachal Pradesh. Data for the period till 2020-21 has been taken for analysis and descriptive tools of research analysis like mean, standard deviation CV and ranking have been applied for research analyses.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In accordance to the objectives of the research, the data analyzed and interpretations are as under:

Literacy Growth in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has achieved remarkable progress in India in the socio-economic and overall development front during the past five decades after getting independent statehood. The state is one of the highly literate states of India despite of challenges faced for developing infrastructure and facilities in the scattered villages. The density of population of the State is 123 and the literacy rate is 82.8 percent. Tribal regions are though at far off tough regions bound with snow for more than one half of the year, yet have developed in a very fast pace in terms of all development parameters. Attempt has been made to examine the district wise literacy rate of Himachal Pradesh to understand literacy growth of the tribal regions in comparison to the other districts of the State.

Table No. 1**District-wise Literacy Percentage in Himachal Pradesh**

District	Literacy Percentage								
	Total (1991)			Total (2001)			Total (2011)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Bilaspur	67.17	77.97	56.55	77.8	86.0	69.5	84.59	91.16	77.97
Chamba	44.70	59.96	28.57	62.9	76.4	48.8	72.17	82.59	61.67
Hamirpur	74.88	85.11	65.90	82.5	90.2	75.7	88.15	94.36	82.62
Kangra	70.57	80.12	61.39	80.1	87.5	73.0	85.67	91.49	80.02
Kinnaur	58.36	72.04	42.04	75.2	84.3	64.4	80.00	87.27	70.96
Kullu	54.82	69.64	38.53	72.9	84.0	60.9	79.40	87.39	70.91
Lahaul &Spiti	56.82	71.78	38.05	73.1	82.8	60.7	76.81	85.69	66.84
Mandi	62.74	76.65	49.12	75.2	85.9	64.8	81.53	89.56	73.66
Shimla	64.61	75.96	51.75	79.1	87.2	70.1	83.64	89.59	77.13
Sirmaur	51.62	63.20	38.45	70.4	79.4	60.4	78.80	85.61	71.36
Solan	63.30	74.67	50.69	76.6	84.8	66.9	83.68	89.56	76.97
Una	70.91	81.15	61.01	80.4	87.7	73.2	86.53	91.89	81.11
Himachal Pradesh	63.86	75.36	52.13	76.5	85.3	67.4	82.80	89.53	75.93

Source: *Statistical Abstract of Himachal Pradesh, 2020-21*

District-wise Literacy Rate of Himachal Pradesh (2011 Census)

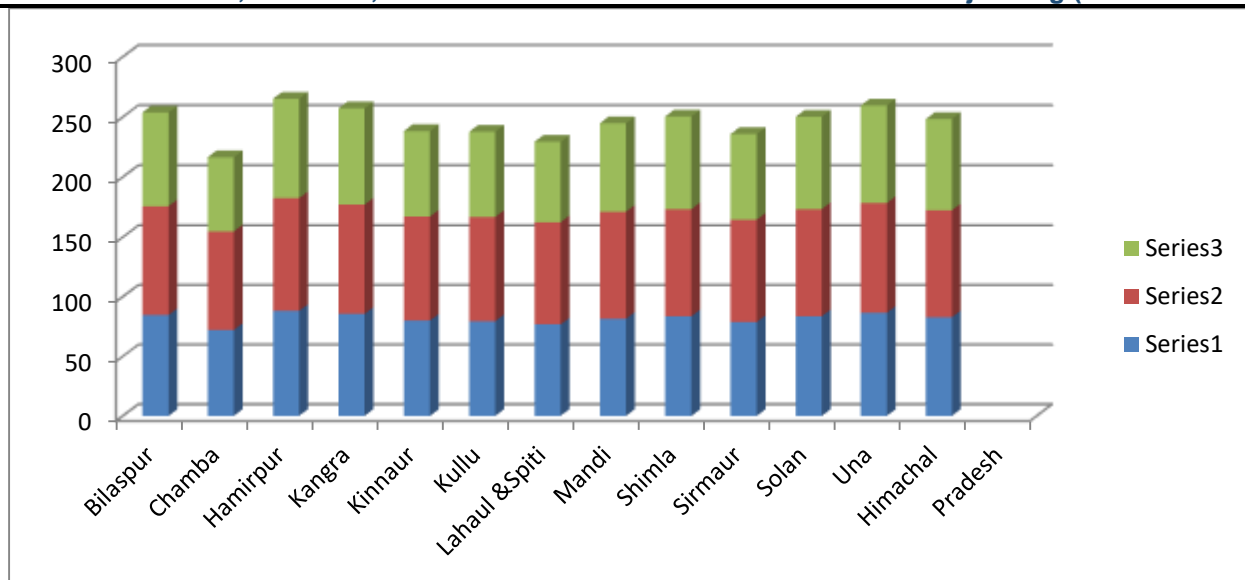


Table no. 1 furnishes that literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh has improved very well (82.80% as per 2011). However the literacy rate of the tribal regions is still low in comparison to that of the State (Kinnaur 80%, Lahaul&Spiti 76.81% and Chamba 72.17%). But it is pertinent to mention that for the last two decades, there has been a tremendous growth in literacy in all the districts and moreover, the male-female disparity in the decade of 1991 which was quite extensive, has declined so high that more than 75% of female in the State are literate as per 2011 census. Even in the tribal regions, more than 60% women are literate. Admittedly, literacy rate of males and females of the two tribal districts, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti during the three census periods was low in comparison to the literacy rate of the State but literacy rate of these regions drastically improved in the decades 2001 and 2011 in comparison to it in 1991. Interestingly, female literacy has shown excellent improvement which is indicative of overall literacy movement expected to impact development in a much better manner in the coming time with the improvements in awareness.

District-wise Human Development Indices:

So far, it has been analyzed that the literacy rate in the tribal regions of Himachal Pradesh with reference to district Kinnaur and Lahaul-spiti have registered excellent growth and since literacy is considered instrumental for overall development and awareness about economizing of resources. In Himachal Pradesh, the parameters of socio-economic development indicated in the human development indices analyzed in different time intervals reveal that the tribal regions are not any way lagging behind. Even the farthest region of the state i.e. Chamba district is ahead of some other districts in human development whereas, it also consists of two blocks which are considered as tribal regions. The following table no. 2 shows district-wise human development indices for the years, 1991, 1997 and 2002 in Himachal Pradesh.

TABLE NO. 2

DISTRICT-WISE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICES

Sr. No.	District	Year	Rank	Year	Rank	Year	Rank
		(1991)		(1997)		(2002)	
1.	Bilaspur	0.423	6	0.487	8	0.423	7
2.	Chamba	0.423	7	0.485	9	0.423	7
3.	Hamirpur	0.404	9	0.436	11	0.404	9
4.	Kangra	0.432	6	0.490	7	0.432	6
5.	Kinnaur	0.510	3	0.590	1	0.510	3
6.	Kullu	0.534	1	0.589	2	0.534	1
7.	Lahaul &Spiti	0.469	4	0.514	5	0.469	4
8.	Mandi	0.390	11	0.434	12	0.390	11
9.	Shimla	0.518	2	0.586	3	0.518	2
10.	Sirmaur	0.409	8	0.491	6	0.409	8
11.	Solan	0.454	5	0.566	4	0.454	5
12.	Una	0.399	10	0.444	10	0.399	10
	Himachal Pradesh	0.433		0.493		0.433	

Sources: Computed by the department of planning, Government of Himachal Pradesh & District-Wise Human Development Indices for the Year 2008, HDIs calculated for the year 1997 are based on Life Indices calculated for the year 1991

As per Table no. 2 which shows district-wise Human Development Indices for the years 1991, 1997 and 2002, district Una is the only district which has retained its rank. The ranks of majority of the districts like Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi and Shimla have fallen down from what they were in the earlier period. Kinnaur, Sirmaur and Solan are the only districts which have improved their ranks in 1991 to 1997. Further, The Human Development Index for Himachal Pradesh has been worked out as 0.433.

The district Kullu tops in Human Development as it has the highest HDI. Shimla, Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti and Solan are the other districts which have higher Human Development Indices than the State as a whole, and these districts have second, third, fourth and fifth ranks, respectively. It is worth to mention that both the tribal districts viz. Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti fall in this category of human development better than of the State and are within Five top ranked districts out of twelve districts of the State. All other districts have a lower Human Development Index than that for the State-with Mandi district at the bottom (0.390). Both Bilaspur Chamba hold the seventh with the HDI at 0.423. Una, Hamirpur and Sirmaur are the districts with tenth, ninth and eighth ranks, respectively. Thus, it is

analyzed that in terms of human development, the districts have advanced in terms of all indicators of socio-economic development.

Conclusion:

From the secondary analysis it has been concluded that tremendous progress is taking place in the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh in terms of literacy and socio-economic development which indicates that the motive of regulatory provision to strengthen the tribal communities who deserve for development, are realistic, practicable and justified. However, still these communities could not reach to the level of mainstream, there is a need to boost-up the initiatives for strengthening the pace of development of these regions in the interest of backlog communities and equitable social development.

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