

***Socio-economic Conditions of Gaddi Tribe in Himachal Pradesh: A
Comparative Study of Chamba and Kangra Regions.***

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Abstract: The Gaddis being a pastoralist, agriculturist and nomadic tribe, mainly resides on both sides of the Dhauladhar Range of Himachal Himalayas. Basically, they belong to Bharmour sub-division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. Historically, they have been migrated along with their flocks of sheep and goats from lower hills of northern Indian regions like; Punjab, Jammu and lower part of Himachal Pradesh and still they are moving with the livestock in summer to high reaches and in winter to the lower regions and presently mostly found in the some of the areas of Kangra district and some of them settled there. Because of geographical, social and economic reasons they have been given the status of scheduled tribe.

The paper is an attempt to study socio-economic conditions of Gaddis in the both districts, i.e., Chamba and Kangra and make a comparative analysis. By concentrating on two variables; place of origin (PoO) and place of destination (PoD), investigated by collecting primary data, interview schedules and observation. By using stratified random sampling method, 8 villages were selected and 10 respondents from each village, hence 80 households/respondents were interviewed from both study areas (PoO and PoD). The collected data is classified, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using suitable statistical techniques/software, like; SPSS.

The study concluded that the socio-economic conditions of Gaddis in Kangra district are better than those of the Gaddis of Chamba district because of many factors like; lack of education, health, employment and transportation and communication facilities in Chamba district and are differ socially and economically from each other. This difference needs immediate policy intervention and the Gaddis must be given special attention at the PoO to check the migration before it is too late.

Key Words: Gaddi tribe, place of origin (Chamba district), place of destination (Kangra district), socio-economic development.

Introduction: The social and economic backwardness of a consortium of families, living in a territory, isolated from the main stream and having peculiar customs is taken as the tribal region. The Bharmour and Holi sub-tehsil of Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh manifests it well. Majority of Gaddi's live in the east of Chamba district. Gaddi tribe is agriculturalist, pastoralist and nomadic. Gaddi's have become a tribe by circumstance and not due to any particular natural calamity and they are designated as a tribe for upliftment of their social, economic and geographic conditions which are due to hardship faced by them. Due to hilly terrain, there is less agricultural land so they had adopted the main occupation by rearing sheep and goats in the surrounding green wild pastures. Due to heavy snowfall in winters, the majority of these people migrate with their flocks of sheep and goats to the lower hills of Himachal Pradesh (Thakur B. R., & Sharma D. D., 2012). The Gaddi's are a semi pastoral and semi agricultural tribe and they own a large flock of sheep and goats, which are their major source of income.

The socio-economic development is one of the important variables based on which a particular area is declared as backward. As started earlier, the Gaddi's of Chamba and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh. Is their economy different from other surrounding economies? To answer this question an attempt will be made in this chapter to find out similarities or dissimilarities in their occupation patterns, property, literacy, family structure and income etc.

A person's occupation is regarded as one of the most important indicators of one's social position in the society. Occupation is defined as the economic activities with a market value which an individual continually pursues for the purpose of obtaining a steady flow of income and to achieve social status and in order to get personal satisfaction. So occupation has great significance in the individual's life not only because it determines his social position and style of life but also the economy of the region in which the people live and work.

Socio-economic conditions involve a combination of social and economic factors. Social means relating to how society is organized. Economic means concerned with the question of how money is organized. However, social factors are interrelated with income. In the present study researcher has taken different aspects of socio-economic development of Gaddi tribe in

Himachal Pradesh. For example in basis of sex, literacy, family structure, property and monthly income of the family would give statistical representation of Gaddi's life and land. Socio-economic development of Gaddi tribe in the place of origin and place of destination are followed by Education, Family structure, Occupation, Monthly income, Property in place of origin and place of destination, Flocks of sheep and goats, House in place of origin and place of destination etc.

Educational Qualification:

Education is an important means of socialization. Adequate education and knowledge not only leads to strengthening one's position in family and society but also supplies strength to retain that position. Hence, it is important to know about the educational background of the respondents. Here we can understand the educational status of Gaddi tribe in place of origin and place of destination. Table 3 shows the distribution of the respondents by their educational status.

Table 1

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Educational Qualification

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category	Frequency	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	13	32.5	Illiterate	7	17.5
Primary	12	30.0	Primary	11	27.5
Matric	10	25.0	Matric	9	22.5
Secondary	4	10.0	Secondary	8	20.0
Graduation & Post-Graduation	1	2.5	Graduation & Post-Graduation	5	12.5
Total	40	100	Total	40	100

Table 3 shows that (32.5%) of the respondents in the place of origin are illiterate and (17.5%) of respondents in place of destination are illiterate, in place of origin (30%) of the respondents have studied upto primary and in place of destination (27.5%) of the respondents have studied upto primary. In the place of origin (25.0%) of the respondents have studied upto matriculation, and in the place of destination (22.5%) of the respondents have studied upto matriculation. In the place of origin (10.0%) of the respondents have studied upto secondary education, and in the place of destination (20.0%) of the respondents have studied. And last only (2.5%) of the respondents have studied graduation and more in place of origin, and in the place of destination (12.5%) of the respondents are studied upto graduation and post-graduation. Respondents in place of destination are more educated as compared to place of origin because the place of destination has more educational facilities.

Occupation:

The majority of the Gaddi's are now landowners and practice agriculture as their primary means of livelihood. They are also pastorals and own large flocks of sheep and goats. As geographical conditions are hostile during the winter season so they are forced to move lower hills, thus forcing them to adopt a nomadic way of life. This has also resulted in decline of their *bartandari* (customary) rights on forest land as these lands are now mostly government owned. Today, many of them have also taken up jobs as teachers, in government and private organizations and other white collar jobs. Some are also working as unskilled labourers in the public works department and forest departments to augment their income. They have agricultural land holdings where they are growing apples, nuts, corn, potatoes, vegetables etc. The women are taking care of the farming, cattle and the households whereas they are now moving out in the world to look for ways of earning money. The community has a total dependence on the local market, where at times they use a barter system with their meager surplus cereal produce with the shopkeeper, who acts as middlemen between the people and the market. Horticulture produce is sold to bigger markets through local collecting agents. Nowadays, Barter is rarely resorted to and cash forms the usual medium of exchange. The children below 15 years, both boys and girls, assist their parents in and outside the household activities and also tend the cattle. While working

as casual labour in road maintenance they also receive wages in cash. Education and employment have brought them in contact with the wider world (Verma V., 1996). Liberalization of the caste Considerations have been observed in families which have got education and moved to urban centers. The Gaddi's are taking part in political activities at the regional level in the State Assembly and the cabinet. Table 5 shows the occupation patterns of Gaddi tribe.

Table 2

Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Occupation

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category	Frequency	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	17	42.5	Agriculture	11	27.5
Sheep and goat breeders	9	22.5	Sheep and goat breeders	8	20.0
Govt. employee	4	10.0	Govt. employee	13	32.5
Others	10	25.0	Others	8	20.0
Total	40	100.0	Total	40	100.0

Researcher observe that there is (42.5%) respondents are agriculralist in place of origin, and (27.5%) in place of destination. In place of origin (22.5%) respondents are sheep and goats breeders and (20%) sheep breeders are also found in place of destination. There are (10%) govt. employees in place of origin and (32.5%) govt. employees are in place of destination. In place of origin (25%) of respondents works as an others occupation like shopkeepers, private jobs and

labours, and (20%) respondents in place of destination respectively. So it is clear that Gaddi's are not dependent on any one occupation. They are very hard working people. When they have free time from one field without delay they go for work in another field.

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Sheep and Goats:

The present study was confined to the Gaddi's migration of Chamba and Kangra districts in Himachal Pradesh. Our previous discussion on their occupation pattern has helped to conclude that only few of Gaddi's have their traditional occupation of pastoralists and others have been left their occupation. Sheep and goats are the main property of Gaddi tribe. Majority of Gaddi's join govt., private and other jobs. They have left their traditional occupation. In table 6 shows that distribution of flocks of Gaddi tribe

Table 3

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Flocks

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category	Frequenc y	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
<10 Flocks	1	2.5	<10 Flocks	2	5.0
11-100 Flocks	10	25.0	11-100 Flocks	2	5.0
>100 Flocks	8	20.0	>100 Flocks	10	25.0
None	21	52.5	None	26	65.0
Total	40	100	Total	40	5.0

Table 6 shows that (52.5%) respondents in place of origin have none of flocks and (65.0%) in place of destination. In the place of origin (47.5%) respondents and place of destination (35.0%) respondents are keeping sheep and goats, and only (20%) have above 100 in place of origin and (25.0%) respondents keeping sheep and goats in place of destination. So it's

clear that younger generation have not shown their interest in sheep breeding. Only some of middle-aged and old-aged people have continued their traditional occupation.

Monthly Income:

Income is an important variable which determines the social status and power of the family in the society. Income of the Gaddi families is based on agriculture, sheep and goat breeding, shopkeepers and govt. employees. Majority of Gaddi family in place of destination had left their traditional occupation, they joined govt. and private jobs, and in place of origin majority of income was based on agriculture, horticulture and sheep rearing. So in table 7 researcher show the monthly income of the respondents.

Table 4

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Monthly Income

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category (Rs. /p.m.)	Frequency	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
<5000	7	17.5	<5000	3	7.5
5000-10000	20	50.0	5000-10000	18	45.0
10000-20000	8	20.0	10000-20000	6	15.0
20000>	5	12.5	20000>	13	32.5
Total	40	100.0	Total	40	100.0

As shown in table 7, total respondents in our study are 80, out of which 40 each are from place of origin and place of destination. (17.5%) have an monthly income less than 5000 thousands in POO and (7.5%) respondents have less than 5000 thousands in place of destination, (50%) respondents in POO have 5000-10000 thousands monthly income and (45%) have in place of destination, (20%) have their monthly income in between 10000-20000 thousands in

place of origin and (15%) have in place of destination, and last (12.5%) respondents in place of origin have their monthly income above 20000, and in place of destination (32.5%) respondents above 20000 monthly income. Taking into account the average total household income we find that the respondents of place of destination have higher income as compared to the respondents in place of origin because employment source are more in place of destination rather than place of origin.

Distribution of Property:

The discussion on economic status would not be complete without understanding property dynamics. Possession of property not only gives the person recognition but also a sense of achievement, and helps an individual in case of need. In most of the Indian villages, property is equated with land. It is due to this reason that sociologists have taken land as the basis of social stratification in the village and have grouped the individuals into hierarchical categories like land owners, tenants and landless. In addition to land, immovable property like animals, agriculture implements, ornaments, cash etc. also determine one's economic standing in the tribe. In table 8 researcher show the distribution of property in Gaddi society.

Table 5

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Property

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category	Frequency	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
< 2 Bighas	19	23.8	< 2 Bighas	29	36.3
2-5 Bighas	23	28.8	2-5 Bighas	21	26.3
5-10 Bighas	28	35.0	5-10 Bighas	16	20.0
>10 Bighas	8	10.0	>10 Bighas	5	6.3
No Property	2	2.5	No Property	9	11.3

Total	80	100.0	Total	80	100.0
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For understanding property dynamics, researcher interviewed all 80 respondents as respondents in a sample of 40 each might have property at both locations i.e. place of origin and place of destination. As table 8 shows that (23.8%) respondents in place of origin and (36.3%) at place of destination had less than 2 bighas of property. Small proportion (10.0% and 6.3%) of respondents in these two places had more than 10 bighas of land, (28.8% and 26.3%) respondents in had 2-5 bighas property in place of origin and place of destination respectively. In the place of origin (35.0%) of respondents had 5-10 bighas of land and in place of destination (20.0%) of respondents had 5-10 bighas land. And lastly (2.5%) people in place of origin had no land. They have permanently migrated to the place of destination and in place of destination (11.3%) respondents had no land, because they have seasonally migrated with their flocks of sheep and goats. So it is clear from the table there are little differences in the two places as far as ownership of land is concerned. But the fertility of land is undoubtedly much higher at the place of destination as compared with place of origin. This is all because the irrigation facilities are available in place of destination but on the other hand at place of origin all land depends upon natural methods of irrigation.

As far as the system of leasing in or leasing out of land is concerned it seems to be unpopular among the Gaddi tribe. Researchers did not find a single family or respondents at both places who have either leased in or leased out their land.

Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Housing:

For understanding housing structure, researcher interviewed all 80 respondents as respondents in a sample of 40 each might have home at both locations i.e. place of origin and place of destination. In place of origin majority of Gaddi's have kachha houses because they live in hilly terrain and lack of transport and communication facility for building pakka houses. By kachha house I mean those houses where more wood and a little bit of mud and stone have been used. Pakka stands for those houses where more stone or bricks with concrete and cement have been used. Table 9 shows the distribution of housing structure of Gaddi tribe.

Table 6

Distribution of Respondents on Basis of Housing

Place of Origin			Place of Destination		
Category	Frequency	Percentage	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Kachha	47	58.8	Kachha	12	15.0
Pakka	3	3.8	Pakka	54	67.5
Kachha-pakka	26	32.5	Kachha-pakka	4	5.0
No home	4	5.0	No home	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0	Total	80	100.0

As per table 9 shows that the majority of the respondents (58.8%) at place of origin have kachha house and in place of destination majority of the respondents (67.5%) have pakka house. Researcher found only (3.8%) respondent in place of origin those have pakka house and (15.0%) of respondents have their kachha houses at place of destination and (32.5%) and (5.0%) respondents at place of origin and place of destination respectively had kachha-cum-pakka houses. At place of origin, 5.0% respondents have no home in upper areas while 12.5% respondents have no home in lower areas.

In short, researcher found the differences in the type of houses at both places. In the place of destination the majority of respondents have pakka houses and in place of origin majority respondents have kachha houses.

Above depicted data are representing the holistic story of the universe selected for the study. The life of the Gaddi's is highly associated with the land and hilly terrain of Himalayan region. The stated data was demarcated to serve the need and requirement of the study. Age, gender, education, occupation, income, property, housing, etc. are the indicators to assess the life of the given population. Researcher tried his level best to statisticize the Gaddi's life and land; however, there were many limitations.

Conclusion:

In the present study researcher has taken different aspects of socio-economic development of Gaddi tribe in Himachal Pradesh. Socio-economic development of Gaddi's have little difference in place of origin and place of destination e.g. districts Chamba and Kangra. Traditional occupation of Gaddi's was rearing the sheep and goats and leading a nomadic way of life. But a present study revealed that approximately 10.0% of the respondents at place of origin were state and center government employees and 42.5% of the respondents have shown agriculture as their main occupation. Researcher found only 22.5% respondents at place of origin who were pursuing their traditional occupation of the Gaddi's as sheep and goat breeders. On the other hand at the place of destination the majority of the respondents (32.5%) were state and center government employees and a significant majority group 27.5% was engaged in agriculture followed by sheep rearing and other occupations like private jobs and shopkeeper's group 20% each. In short, we notice that the Gaddi's have almost abandoned their traditional occupation; they want to join government as well as private jobs. Majority of the respondents (42.5%) at the place of origin and 27.5% in place of destination gave agriculture as their subsidiary occupation is new, confined to those who gave agriculture as their main occupation and subsidiary occupation; we would notice that their percentage comes to approximately double then others.

This fact supported our contention that the Gaddi's of the both places are adopting settlement as their way of life instead of transhumance. Settlement is a gradual process and it would take generations together to give up their traditional occupation and way of life.

With regards to their formal educational attainments, researcher found that 32.5% respondents at the place of origin were illiterate whereas at the place of destination only 17.5 % respondents were illiterate. One of the major reasons was that their particular kind of occupation e.g. sheep breeding and migration with them, limits the opportunities to attain schooling. Educational institutions demand permanent settlement that was missing in the transhumance way of life. However, the literacy rate in younger generations was quite high as compared to aged people in both places but only 2.5% respondents of district Chamba were graduate and postgraduate; and 12.5% from district Kangra. So it's clear that the respondents of Kangra district were found to be more conscious about the importance of education in comparison with that of Chamba district. Another reason behind higher rate of education among Kangra district residents is better civic infrastructure, availability of better schools and easy transportation facility in addition to permanent residence.

As far ownership of land is concerned it is almost the same in the two districts. Majority of respondents have less than 10 bighas land in both the places. But fertility of land is undoubtedly much higher at district Kangra as compared with that of Chamba District. This is all about the irrigation facilities available at Kangra district. If we take into consideration the type of the houses the Gaddi have in these two districts, we find that in place of origin majority respondents have kachha 58.8% and mixed 32.5% houses; only 3.8% respondents have Pakka house. On the other hand, at the place of destination, the majority of respondents 67.5% have a Pakka house and only 15% and 5% respondents have their Kachha and Mixed house respectively. So we notice that respondents or Gaddi's of Kangra district are comparatively better placed. Taking into account the average income from the main as well as from the subsidiary occupation it was found that the Gaddi's of Kangra districts were better off.

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