



SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF

GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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FOREWORD

The “Socio-economic Survey of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh” will go a long way in reorienting the policies and programmes for improving the livelihood strategies of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. This survey would provide the baseline information in deciding the benchmarks for the overall welfare of this predominantly nomadic tribe to be achieved within the specified timeline. The report highlights the demographic, economic, social and culture aspects of the Gujjars of the State and makes recommendations with regard to alternative livelihood strategies that these tribes can adopt to increase their income. The impact of seasonal migration on their socio-economic profile has also been explored. I sincerely hope that the policy makers and social scientists will find the survey extremely useful as it is one of the first of its kind in terms of its scope and coverage.

I express my gratitude to R.G. Foundation and Dr. Partha Sarthi Das in particular, who is the Director of the organization, for undertaking the field survey and writing the draft report. I also thank Dr. Suryanarayan Mungilla Hillemane of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai who reviewed the draft report and gave his valuable suggestions and comments which have made this report more meaningful. I also extend my special thanks to Ms. Ritu Mathur and Ms. Swayamprabha Das from the UNDP whose continuous and encouraging support helped bringing out this report. I also owe appreciation for the team of the Himachal Pradesh Human Development Research and Coordination Society (Regd.) of the Planning Department headed by Sh. Basu Sood, Joint Director, Department of Planning that coordinated the efforts and helped in providing information and data required for bringing out the report.

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PREFACE

Gujjars constitute one of the major pastoral tribes of Himachal Pradesh and account for 23.6 percent of the total Scheduled Tribe population of the State. Gujar population is primarily concentrated in Chamba, Sirmaur, Solan, Kangra, Mandi and Bilaspur districts of the State. Predominantly, a nomadic tribe, a good proportion of it has now settled down along routes traversing through above mentioned six districts which they use to tread along during different seasons of the year. The remaining population of Gujjars still moves up the hills during summers and starts descending to the plain areas as the winter sets in. Animal husbandry and forests are two major sources on which Gujjars depend for livelihood. Settled population has started taking up agriculture and other activities as a means of livelihood.

The present survey is an attempt to undertake an in depth analysis of the socio-economic survey of the nomadic Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. It tries to ascertain the factors responsible for the present socio-economic survey of the Gujjars after portraying its profile. It also explores the possibility of Gujjars adopting alternative means of livelihoods other than buffalo rearing which, they have been doing traditionally. An analysis has been undertaken to know if the benefits of the ongoing schemes are actually reaching the Gujjars of the State and the study goes on to suggest the measures required to be taken to ensure that the Government runs programmes which benefit the community to the maximum possible extent and their socio-economic status is improved.

An objective approach has been followed in examining the situation from different perspectives and in collecting the field level data. The recommendations made are based on the actual findings and analysis of the observed and collected information. All the views contained in the report are based on the objective findings of the research and no part of the findings of the report and recommendations made in report are derived opinions of the Planning Department of Himachal Pradesh Government.

This survey is the culmination of the efforts made by the team of the Planning Department who are members of the Himachal Pradesh Human Development

Research and Coordination Society (Registered) in coordinating various aspects of the study and providing relevant information to the R. G. Foundation, New Delhi which did the field survey, data analysis and report writings; and, the United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi which provided financial and technical assistance under the Project “Human Development for Bridging Inequalities”. Valuable comments and suggestions provided by Dr. M. H. Suryanarayan, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai who reviewed the draft report have contributed in improving the quality of the report.

The study will help the policy makers, various Government departments, academicians, NGOs, other national and international agencies and all those who are engaged in socio-economic empowerment of the Gujjars in the State.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Awas	Home
Anganwari	Pre-School Centre
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
Antoday	A programme being run by the Government for the rural poor
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
BDO	Block Development Officer
Block	A development administrative unit comprising of villages
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CHC	Community Health Center
Kendra	Centre (of activity)
Mandal	Group
Panchayat	Elected local self -government-body at the village -level
Pariwar	Family
PHC	Public Health Centre
Rabi	Food grains grown during the season of October - May of a year
Rojgar	Employment
Siksha	Education
Sarvodaya	Development of each and everybody
Samiti	Committee
Sarpanch	Village Panchayat Chief (Pradhan)
SHG	Self Help Groups
Thakur	A higher caste, supposed to be dominating in feudal society
Vikas	Development
Vigyan	Science
Zilla	District

Executive Summary

Introduction:

The Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh assume special significance since they are one of the most marginalized communities of the country. Living in the far-flung areas, these tribes are the first to be hit by vagaries of nature such as: drought, flood, infectious diseases, economic and cultural displacement, etc. Isolated from the main stream, they have long suffered social and economic marginalization. Their basic economy revolves around rearing of buffaloes, and they survive by selling milk and milk products to the settled villagers. They often rely upon middlemen, owing to whom many are now indebt. The nomadic Gujjars have difficulties in having land ownership, and at times are subjected to eviction from their camp sites. But the settled Gujjars have a more comfortable life and have resorted to pastoralist. The level of literacy among the Gujjars is low especially among girls. Special attention and care therefore, is required in the development process and in view of the development initiatives on '*inclusive growth*'.

In the backdrop of the above, that Government of Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with the UNDP and the R.G. Foundation, New Delhi undertake the present study in order to assess the socio- economic status of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. The information generated from this socio-economic survey is very crucial for providing desired direction for future planning.

Objectives:

The basic objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic status of the nomadic Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh and to comeout with strategies for improving their socio-economic status.

The specific objectives of the socio-economic survey are:

- To have an overview of the socio-economic condition of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh.
- To study the problems faced by them in relation to their socio-economic condition, caste and educational background.
- To ascertain their pattern of work and engagement.
- To ascertain the job opportunities available for their employment and economic empowerment.
- To understand factors that contributes towards their discrimination.
- To judge the extent of benefits they are receiving from the government, otherwise, to empower them.
- To understand their traditional pattern of livelihood.
- To assess the present pattern of livelihood in terms of selected indicators comprising of five capitals viz. Human Capital, Physical Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital and Natural Capital.
- Finally, to recommend strategies to empower and enable them to take up livelihood opportunities based on sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in Himachal Pradesh.

Methodology:

Methodology adopted include both descriptive as well as quantitative analysis. This survey adopted a variety of tools and strategies including household interviews (834), in-depth interviews with policy makers/stakeholders (15 nos.), Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with selected Gujjars (15 nos.) and desk research.

In order to collect qualitative information from the field, tools like Participant Observation, In-Depth Interviews (DIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD's) were used. By adopting the method of in-depth interviews, data was collected from the state/district/block level officials, NGO's, Gram Panchayat Pradhans and Support Functionaries (like ANM/AWW) working at the grass root level.

Later, data collected from primary and secondary sources was carefully scrutinized and transcribed before the commencement of data tabulation and then interpreted using statistical tools. Descriptive statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean, and ratio were used to analyze the primary data. The analyzed data was presented in the form of tables, diagram, pie charts, flow charts and text. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software and Microsoft excel tools were used to process the data. Finally, this draft report was prepared.

Summary of the Findings:

Gujjar Population in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, the Gujjar community is a part of Scheduled Tribes generally residing in rural/tribal areas. Himachal Pradesh has a total population of 68,56,509 (Census, 2011). Out of this, all categories of scheduled tribes together constitute 3,92,126. As a part of schedule tribes, Gujjars comprise of 92,547 persons. Out of the total scheduled tribes population in the state, Gujjars constitute about 23.6 percent, whereas 97.5 percent of the Gujjars are residing in rural areas of the state.

Basic Profile of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Traditionally, the Gujjars were pastoralists, but some of them have started practicing settled agriculture and other things. They sell milk and milk products in the market mostly through middlemen for cash and occasionally engage in barter. The principal crops grown by the Gujjars include wheat, gram, maize and green fodder for cattle.

Demographic Profile of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Literacy – About 64 percent of Gujjar respondents in the sample districts are illiterates. Chamba has the highest illiterate Gujjar population (86%) from amongst the four sample districts. With regard to females in the study areas, higher proportion of females is illiterate because of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness and gender bias.

Marital Status – Majority (89%) of the respondents mentioned that they are married and the remaining 11 percent are unmarried. By the age of 29 almost all males have been married whereas 100 percent marriages of females take place by the age of 25.

Household Size & Type –About two-third of the respondents have up to 4 members in their family. However, district Sirmaur has more households (11 percent) with 8+ family members as compared to other districts. Majority of the respondents (80.9%) have single/nuclear family while only 19.1 percent live in joint families.

Social Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Caste and Religion

The caste system is prevalent among both Hindu and Muslim Gujjars. As of 2001, the Gujjars in parts of Himachal Pradesh were recognized as Scheduled Tribes.

Out of the total Gujar population in the State 14.0 percent of them are Hindus and 86.0 percent are Muslims.

It is found that 100 percent Gujjars of Chamba, Sirmaur & Kangra are Muslims whereas, Gujjars residing in Solan District have only 1.4 percent Muslims and 98.6 percent Hindus.

Living Condition

Housing –Majority of the dwelling places of these tribal groups are still unhygienic. In many cases, the cattle and human beings share the same shelter, without proper ventilation, thus being prone to disease. Majority of the Gujjars have kucha houses (temporary shedding) with 1-3 rooms. Some of the Gujjars have made cattle sheds for their cattle. Survey data indicates that, 38.3 percent of the Gujar respondents are living in kucha houses, 11.8 percent live in huts, whereas 31.7 percent have kucha-pucca houses and only 18.2 percent have pucca houses. Huts are owned by nomadic or migrant Gujjars of Muslim community living in interior areas inside jungles, indicating that they are the most backward section among the Gujjars. Only a few households have separate kitchen and cattle shed. Toilets are not constructed and only 3.5 percent of the households have access to toilets whereas the rest of the households do not have it. Most of them have to resort to outdoor defecation.

During the course of field survey, it was observed that Hindu Gujjars are mostly settled, whereas the Muslim Gujjars are semi-nomadic. Due to this, the Muslim Gujjars remain cut off from the mainstream of society, thereby losing all opportunities. This makes them poorer and hence, more vulnerable than the Hindu Gujjars.

Water & Electricity – Maximum respondents from the study area do not have access to any proper facility for water. Data on access to drinking water facility reveals that 48.6 percent Gujar respondents have proper water facility in their area and 51.4 percent do not have proper water facility. Gujjars of Solan have better water facilities than other districts. In other districts, they collect water from bowlies, springs or one or two public taps available in their areas. They have to cover a long distance to fetch water for their daily use and for drinking thus causing immense hardship.

The nomadic Gujjars are inhabitants of forest area where drinking water facilities are not available, and more often, they prefer to have drinking water from sources like rivulets, springs, stagnant ditches, etc. mostly open and unfit for consumption.

Most of the settled Gujjar households have access to electricity. Majority of households having migrated population remain without electricity as they do not have a permanent house in their name, or rent receipt which deters them from getting the electricity connection.

Source of Energy for Cooking –Majority of the Gujjar households use firewood or dung cakes as their primary source of energy for cooking. Only a small percentage of settled Gujjars use clean fuel with LPG connection.

Road Connectivity –Solan and Kangra have stable road conditions, mostly pucca motorable roads with connectivity to almost all villages with Gujjar population concentration. Chamba has poor road conditions with most of the roads being kucha-pucca with poor inter-village road connectivity as the Gujjars mostly live in the interiors or forest areas. Sirmaur is found to have moderate road conditions with both pucca and kucha-pucca roads.

Condition of Gujjar Women in Himachal Pradesh –The tribal Gujjar women of Himachal Pradesh live in utter deprivation due to poverty, illiteracy, nomadic way of life, superstitions, traditional neglect and lack of awareness of welfare schemes. The Gujjar women are not aware of their rights and schemes being run by the government for their education, health and social upliftment as they live in far-flung and remote areas and are nomadic, constantly moving from one place to other. The facilities offered to the women in this community are inadequate.

Women are the worst affected section in this section of the society. Gender discrimination is still prevalent and girls' education is largely neglected. The health condition of women is not well and superstition and inaccessibility to health services further worsen their conditions. Women generate 80% of the family income, but own hardly a single pie. They do not have right in ancestral property, which makes them secondary in the society.

Health Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh –In the survey area, the health services availed by the Gujjars are classified into four different categories, viz. home remedy, modern health care provided by qualified doctors of various Government and private institutions, jhola-chhap doctors/un-qualified quacks without any formal/authorized medical degree, and medicines taken as suggested by pharmacists in medical shops. Almost all Gujjar households avail of a combination of treatments.

During health problems, multiple health care sources are availed by the Gujjars. For general ailments like fevers, cold etc., about 96.6 percent of Gujjar households use home remedies as first aid. Apart from this, they also avail treatment from Government hospitals/ dispensaries, private doctors and clinics. About 10 percent of them visit unqualified doctors, 2.9 percent avail treatment from quacks and another 10.2 percent just buy medicines from chemist shops as per pharmacist's advice.

Educational Profile –Female illiteracy rate is much higher as compared to males. More than half of the sampled Gujjars are illiterate whereas only 1.7 percent are able to attain any qualification higher than High School or Senior Secondary School level. About 23.8 percent have studied up to class IV, 11.9 percent have studied up to class IX and only 4.6 percent have passed High School or Senior Secondary School examinations. Chamba has the highest illiteracy rate, while Solan has the least. This reflects the lack of educational facilities, interest and

awareness that has restricted enhancing the level of education of the nomadic Gujjars in Chamba district.

Illiteracy rate is higher among the female Gujjars than their male counterparts. It may be observed that the percentage of females with various levels of qualification is quite low as compared to their male counterpart.

Economic Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Occupation –From the present study, it is observed that the major occupation of the Gujjars is dairy farming. More than half of the respondents are engaged in dairy farming (52.7 percent), followed by unskilled work at 18 percent (engaged as agricultural labour, construction labour or factory worker in nearby industrial sheds) and farming at 17.4 Percent.

Monthly Income– Income is considered to be an important factor in determining socio-economic status of the households. As per the survey, majority of the Gujar households (45.4 %) are earning less than Rs. 5000/- per month. Across districts, the same is true with 52.7 percent in Kangra followed by 50.7 percent in Solan, 49.7 percent in Sirmaur and 28.6 percent in Chamba district. There are about 40 per cent households earning above Rs. 5000, but less than Rs. 10,000/- per month.

The highest percentage of households earning between Rs.5000 to Rs.10,000 is reported from Chamba at 55.5 percent, followed by Solan, Sirmaur and Kangra districts with percentage of households being at 36.9 percent, 38.2 percent and 34.4 percent, respectively. There are only 13.7 percent households who have income of Rs.10,000 or above. Across the districts the similar pattern is observed with 15.8 percent in Chamba followed by 13.3 percent in Sirmaur, 12.9 percent households in Kangra and 11.2 percent in Solan with the monthly income of more than Rs. 10,000/-.

Monthly Expenditure –About 32.3 percent of the Gujar households incur expenditure less than Rs.3000/-per month. The highest percentage of Gujjars spending less than Rs. 3000/-per month is found in Solan (49.3 %), followed by Sirmaur (36.6%), Kangra (26.7%) and Chamba (16.7%).

This indicates that Solan has the highest percentage of Gujjars in the lowest expenditure bracket followed by Sirmaur, Kangra and Chamba. In the next expenditure group i.e.between Rs. 3000/- to Rs.5000/- highest percentage is reported from Kangra (42.7%), followed by Chamba (39.3 %), Sirmaur 38.7% and Solan (23.7%). In other words, it is found that in the bottom two expenditure groups together, the highest percentage of households is Sirmaur (75.3%) and Solan (73.0%) as against relatively lower percentages in this category are in Kangra (67.4%) and Chamba (56.0%). This depicts the relative status of Gujar residing in these districts in terms of monthly expenditure.

Borrowings–With regard to borrowings, only 8.4 percent of Gujar households have borrowed money from some source or the other according to their needs. Across the selected districts, the percentage of households reported having borrowed is almost the same in Kangra at 13.3 percent and Chamba at 13.4 percent, followed by Solan at 6.0 percent and 5.0 percent in Sirmaur. However 2.5 Percent of the respondents have refused to give information on borrowing by their families.

PROBLEMS FACED BY GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **LACK OF BASIC FACILITIES**– The Gujjar concentrated areas of Himachal Pradesh are characterized as follows in terms of availability of basic amenities:
 - Pathetic housing condition- Mostly kucha or kucha- pucca or huts
 - Unhygienic living conditions
 - Shortage of schools and hospitals
 - Inadequate water and electricity
 - Road and transport problem
- **EDUCATION** –There are various reasons for low level of education and literacy among the Gujjars. The people of this community do not prefer to send their children, especially daughters, to schools out of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness. Mobile schools are not functional and therefore, not many opportunities are there for the nomads to be educated. Generally, schools are not within close proximity of the settlement of nomadic Gujjars and hence, women largely remain deprived educationally. There are not many incentives for these women to be educated or to send their girl child to schools. In some areas, schools are closer to their residential areas. But in some areas, they have to walk an average of 3 to 4 kms.to reach school. (Especially in Tissa Block of Chamba) The areas where the schools are situated donot have adequate strength of regular teachers. The teachers from other areas do not prefer to serve in these remote places where Gujjars stay and those who are posted in these remote hilly areas either get themselves transferred to the schools in the urban areas or resort to absenteeism thereby causing heavy academic loss to the poor nomadic students particularly females for no fault of theirs.
- **HEALTH**– Tribal Gujjar women donot have access to comprehensive,affordable and quality health care. They face high risk of malnutrition and diseases.

Women are very little awareof their reproductive rights, delaying early marriages and various health problems like malaria, TB, hypertension and cardio-vascular disease. Modern medical facilities like hospital deliveries, prenatal check-up and care are not available to them so the population is prone to high infant mortality and maternal mortality incidence.

- **OTHER PROBLEMS**

- Dairy farming is increasingly becoming less remunerative.
- Non-availability of fodder for cattle, round the year.
- Lack of marketing facilities for milk and milk products etc.
- Non-availability of veterinary hospitals/ doctors for their cattle
- Improper implementation of Government schemes in the Gujjarinhabitedareas.
- Non-availability of regular work for daily wage earners.
- Non- availability of opportunities in Government/private jobs.
- Lack of knowledge of Government schemes/Tribal Sub-Plan and other programmes.
-

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION

The socio-economic and educational status of Gujjars in the state of Himachal Pradesh is not upto the mark. No doubt, a few families have achieved good education, majority of them still suffer due to illiteracy and poverty. There is widespread poverty, illiteracy and backwardness among the Gujjarpopulationas is evident from the survey data.

Immediate action and sincere efforts by the development agencies is required. It is the Government through its implementing agencies that should take up responsibility and initiatives to further plan for the betterment of Gujjar community and, thereby, for the development of the State and the Nation.

The research team had the opportunity to interact with the Gujjars for a few months in order to study and analyse their socio-economic condition. On the basis of the data findings and observation of the field team, the following suggestions and recommendations are being made.

REHABILITATION OF NOMADIC GUJJARS

- In the past, the Government of Himachal Pradesh allotted land to the homeless poor people like Gujjars for settling them permanently. Some of them are utilizing this opportunity for their betterment, while others disposed off their allotted land for getting money and are still continuing with migratory life style. So, a provision should be made to prevent them from selling theirallotted land by the Government.
- The housing condition of the Gujjars is very pathetic. Most of them are staying in kucha or kucha-pucca houses or in temporary shelters. Therefore, housing assistance is required for them. Under the Pradhan Mantri Yojana and other housing schemes run by theState Government pucca houses need to be provided. As most of them are landless and are staying in unauthorized Government lands; they are not getting benefits under these schemes. Therefore, land for housing along with a house should be provided to them so that they are able to settle themselves at one place permanently. At the same time, strict provision should be made to `prevent them from selling that government land/ house allotted to them.

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

- Access to education is essential for takingGujjarurgently communities forward. Therefore, availability of schools in nearby areas is urgently required. Generally, schools are not within close reach of the settlement of nomadic Gujjars and hence, children, especially, girls remain deprived educationally.
- There are, no doubt, a multitude of factors, other than absence of a school, that limit enrollment in school education. The Gujjarcommunity is not in favour of sending their children, especially daughters, to schools out of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness. Therefore, awareness among the Gujjars needs to be generated and they need to be motivated to send their children to schools.

- Enrollment, retention and reducing dropouts of Gujar children in schools are equally important. Thus proper planning needs to be done by the Education Department.
- Adult literacy programmes should also be initiated targeting the older Gujar population.
- The incentives for sending Gujar girl children to school, need revision as the presently available incentives do not appear to be motivating the Gujar population for sending their wards to Schools.
- Mobile schools are not functional and therefore, not many opportunities exist for the nomads to be educated.
- In the survey areas, professional training aimed at skill development is almost non-existent. So, in the long run, skill development will be required for off-farm activities. Skills training/vocational education is needed for both men and women.
- We need to overcome all these impediments in order to make education more accessible to Gujjars.

IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH FACILITIES

- Tribal Gujjars must have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. Establishment of more PHC's in Gujar concentrated areas is required.
- Field report suggests that in some cases the available health services for Gujjars are discriminated against by the hospital staff. Therefore, access to the available health services for them has to be improved with sufficient orientation of the staff to treat the Gujjars in a humane manner.
- In view of the high risk of malnutrition and disease that the tribal Gujar women face, measures should be taken by the Government to enable women to be informed regarding their reproductive rights, delaying early marriages and various health problems like malaria, TB, hypertension and cardiovascular disease.
- Outreach based on mobile clinics and community based system can be more helpful. Mobile medical facilities should be introduced, particularly in inaccessible areas, to reduce the cost of medication and effective prevention of diseases.
- Modern medical facilities like hospital deliveries, prenatal check up and care should be made available to them in order to check infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate. For that, Anganwaris need to be made available/functional in Gujar inhabited areas.
- A holistic approach to women's health should be developed which includes both nutrition and health services with special attention to the needs of women and girls at all stages of life.

LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

- Poverty is a major reason among tribal Gujjars for their deplorable economic condition as they don't have any employment opportunities available to them. Employment opportunities in handicrafts etc. should be made available to them. A mechanism is required to be established to ensure not only preservation of traditional skills but also passing these skills to younger generations and provision of expanded market linkages.
- Need based training and counseling should be imparted to increase their awareness and to empower them with skills for off-farm income generation. Better access to advanced education would prepare them for better employment opportunities.
- Scientific training based on technologically advanced tools and processes in dairy farming for Gujjars could also prove to be useful in augmenting their income.
- Formation of Self Help Group (SHG's) (through NGO's) will help increase their savings and credit opportunities.
- Promotion of small and micro enterprises could give them alternative means of livelihood and economically empower them.

IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS

- Efforts should be made to improve their living condition as it is evident from the above findings that tribal Gujar women are living in a miserable condition with no electricity and water available to them. It is also seen that they are suffering from malnutrition due to their unhealthy eating habits. Proper initiatives need to be taken for providing them with electricity and water connection. In order to overcome their malnutrition, anganwaris need to be established so that proper food, medical facilities can be made available to them.
- Construction of roads in the areas where Gujjars live is required to ensure benefits of overall economic growth to these communities.

POLICY AWARENESS

- Various schemes have been launched by State and Central Governments to uplift them socially, economically, educationally, and culturally. The need of the hour is to make tribal Gujar women aware of the various initiatives launched for them in order to take their full advantage. Programmes like Integrated Child Development Programme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya can go a long way in improving their socio - economic condition.
- Make Government schemes more accessible to them and empower them for the same.

FOCUS ON GUJJAR WOMEN

- The problems faced by tribal Gujjar women are multifarious, the most crucial of them are overburdening them with work from outside and within the domestic sphere, gender discrimination, loopholes in educational and economic policy etc. Steps for improving their condition can go a long way in improving the socio-economic condition of nomadic Gujjar women.
- Check on the social evils like child marriage, domestic violence, gender discrimination etc.
- Women need training and counselling to increase their awareness and empowerment and enhance skills for off-farm income generation. Better access to higher/advanced education would empower them as well. Perhaps that would enable women to have greater involvement in community decision-making and in household financial management.
- Scientific training on improved dairy farming for women would also be useful in improving the dairy sector productivity.
- Nutritional education for women (and men) is necessary to improve the nutritional status of their children.
- Increased savings and credit opportunities through SHG's and micro credit for women would make them more independent and better equipped to cope with contingencies.

IMPROVEMENT OF DAIRY SECTOR THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVES

The dairy sector of Gujjars is characterized by scattered, and unorganized milch animal owners; low productivity; inadequate and inappropriate animal feeding and health care; lack of an assured year-round remunerative price for milk; an inadequate basic infrastructure for provision of production inputs and services; an inadequate basic infrastructure for procurement and transportation; processing and marketing of milk; and lack of professional management.

In order to address these problems, in the Gujjar rehabilitated areas (especially in Chamba district) establishment of Primary Cooperatives at the village level for collection of milk and Secondary Cooperatives at district /Tehsil level for processing and marketing of milk and milk products are urgently required.

IMPROVED DAIRY FARMING

- Gujjars who live in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh contribute significantly to the rural and urban economy by providing milk and milk products. Being committed to their cultural tradition, it is imperative that special attention be given to this tribe of Himachal Pradesh so that they are able to improve their socio-economic condition through improved dairy farming. Various developmental agencies should concentrate their efforts on dairy development for the Gujjars.
- The introduction of high-yielding breeds of buffaloes and cross-bred cattle could improve the economy of the Gujjars. It was observed that special programmes are essential to train the tribal Gujjar men and women in

scientifically managed dairy farming. Conservative Gujjars should be educated to scientifically improve their breed of buffaloes.

- Providing free insurance cover to nomadic people for their cattle will be a positive step towards their livelihood security and economic empowerment.
- Promotion of veterinary health services to look after the health of cattle is highly essential. Veterinary hospitals need to be established near to the Gujjar concentrated areas.
- Development of pasture land with the help of Forest Department and cooperative societies.

CHAPTER-I

THE CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh are one of the most marginalized communities of the country owing to their tribal and nomadic status. Living in the far-flung areas, these tribal groups are the first to be hit by vagaries of nature, such as drought, flood, infectious diseases, economic and cultural displacement, etc. Isolated from the main stream, they have long suffered social and economic marginalization. Their basic livelihood depends on rearing of buffaloes, and they largely depend on earnings through selling milk and milk products to settled villagers. At present, most of them have settled down and have resorted to pastoralism.

The Twelfth Plan document of Himachal Pradesh aims to achieve faster and more inclusive growth. One of the ways that could help in achieving this goal is to uplift the socio-economic status of the underprivileged sections of the society. For all round development of this primitive Gujjar tribe, it is very essential to understand their socio-economic and cultural characteristics in order to formulate scientific and realistic plans for their development. Availability of sound database related to these communities on various indicators of human development which include economic, health, education and availability of basic amenities is very much crucial for framing effective policies. However, it was found that there is a paucity of comprehensive data covering various aspects of the Gujjars Community. As a step in this direction, Himachal Pradesh Human Development Research and Coordination Society (HPHDRCS), Planning Department, Himachal Pradesh Collaborated with the UNDP and outsourced the study on assessing the socio-economic States of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh to the RG Foundation.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1 Main Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic status of the Nomadic Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh have traditionally been dependent on the livelihood strategies that revolved around rearing and management of buffaloes. It would also be an endeavor to explore into the possibility of their adopting alternative livelihood strategies that could improve and uplift their socio-economic status.

1.2.2 Broad Objectives of the Study

The broad objectives of the Study include:

- To conduct a socio-economic assessment study on Gujjars in HP
- To study the current socio-economic status of Gujjars in the region covering sub-sectors like education, health, sanitation, water and food security.
- To recommend practical strategic interventions for their empowerment

1.2.3 Specific Objectives of the Study

Specific Objectives of the Study are as under:

- To understand the socio-economic condition of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh.
- To study the problems faced by them in relation to their socio-economic condition, caste and educational background.
- To ascertain their pattern of work and engagement.
- To ascertain the job opportunities available for their employment or economic empowerment.
- To understand the factors contributing towards their discrimination
- To judge the extent of benefits they are receiving from the government, or otherwise, to empower themselves.
- To understand their traditional pattern of livelihood
- To assess their present livelihood as indicated by select indicators of five capital viz. Human Capital, Physical Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital and Natural Capital.
- Recommend a new strategy to empower and enable them to take up livelihood opportunities based on sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in Himachal Pradesh.

1.3 MAJOR RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study attempts to probe the following research questions:-

- What is the socio-economic status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh?
- What are the problems faced by the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh?
- What are the benefits they receive from the developmental programmes implemented by government agencies?
- Whether the implementation of the developmental programmes has made a tangible impact on the standard of living of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh?
- What are the suggestions for improving the status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh?

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the proposed study includes:

- Make an assessment of the socio-economic status of the Gujjars, both- Nomadic Gujjars and those settled in the residential colonies/areas in Himachal Pradesh.
- To measure the extent of unemployment and poverty among them by age, educational level and socio-economic status.
- In-depth analysis of the livelihood strategies being adopted by the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh and suggesting alternate strategies which could uplift their socio-economic status
- Assess the impact of different schemes/programmes initiated by Government for their welfare.
- Analyze the existing policy framework and recommendations of various Committees and Commissions for the welfare of Gujjars, and;
- Suggest the nature of intervention(s) for improving the socio-economic status of Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh.

1.5 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Data gathering is crucial for any planning and programme and it is equally an important tool for all local and international players involved towards improving the quality of life of the people. For all round development of Gujjars, it is very essential to understand the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of this primitive tribe distinctively as they differ from each other in extent and character, in order to formulate scientific and realistic plans for their development. Availability of sound database on various aspects related to these communities is crucial for framing effective policies for their socio-economic upliftment. During the course of the study it was found that there is paucity of comprehensive data covering various aspects of these communities.

It is hoped that this study would go a long way in providing desired inputs to policy makers, government functionaries, international agencies and all those concerned for the upliftment of the Gujjar community in Himachal Pradesh.

1.6 NATURE OF THE STUDY

'Gujjar' is the name of a widely spread tribe in the north-western India. They are found in great numbers in every part from the Indus to Ganges from the Hazara Mountains to the peninsula of Gujarat. Outlying the Pakistan province, today the Gujjars are mostly concentrated in the states of the Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat of the Indian Union. In this study the focus will be purely on the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh.

Origin

Sociologist **G. S. Ghurye (2004)** believes that the name Gujjar is derived from the principal profession followed by the tribe: cattle-breeding (the Sanskrit word for cow is gau and the old Hindi word for sheep is gadar)., though "Gujjar" has come from "Gurjar" which is a Sanskrit word which according to Sanskrit Dictionary (Shakabada 1181), has been explained thus: Gurjjar; 'Gur' means 'enemy' and 'jar' means 'destroyer'. The word means "Destroyer of the enemy". The word "Gurjar" predicts the qualities of a warrior community.

While the origin of the Gujjars is uncertain, the Gurjjar clan appeared in ancient northern India. In the 6th to 12th Century, they were primarily classed as Kshatriya and Brahmin, and many of them later converted to Islam during the Muslim rule in South Asia. Today, the Gujjars are classified under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category in some states in India. The Hindu Gujjars today are assimilated into several varnas of Hinduism. While in Pakistan the Muslim Gujjars are considered a tribe.

The origin of the Gujjars is uncertain. There are various references talking about their origin. Most of the Gurjars claim descent from Suryavanshi Kshatriyas (Sun Dynasty) and connect themselves with Shri Ram Chandra. Historically, the Gurjars were Sun-worshippers and are described as devoted to the feet of the Sun-god (God Surya). Their copper-plate grants bear an emblem of the Sun and on their seals too, this symbol is depicted. Also, the Gurjar title of honor is Mihir which means Sun. Ancient Sanskrit Poet Rajasekhara in his plays styled Gurjar rulers as Raghu-Kula-Tilaka (Ornament of the race of Raghu), Raghu-Gramani (the leader of the Raghus) and so forth.

In Ramayana, it is described that a war was fought among demons and gods. Gurjars fought against demons under the leadership of King Dasharatha. There are also references of Gurjar widows in Yoga Vasistha, whose husbands laid down their lives in the battlefield, having their heads tonsured as a mark of their bereavement. In the battle of Kurukshetra (Mahabharata) also Gurjars fought and later on along with lord Krishna migrated from Mathura to Dwarka, Gujarat.

Ethnologist Ibbetson (1916) writes that a Gujar kingdom existed in Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat and western Uttar Pradesh around 5A.D. up to the 8th-9th centuries AD. With the Muslim invasions from 11th century AD onwards, the kingdom disintegrated and many Gujar were converted to Islam, forcing others to flee to the foothills of Punjab and the hills of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc. and lead nomadic lives.

Under the provisions of the Indian Constitution the Gujar are notified as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. This listing grants them special benefits like fixed quotas in Government jobs and higher educational institutions as well as lower benchmarks in competitive examinations. The Gujjars regard themselves as equivalent to the Jats, Ahirs and Rajputs in social status, but in the contrary, the Jats and the Rajputs consider Gujjars of lower status.

For the purpose of the present study, the data were collected, covering several socio economic parameters, viz. type of dwelling unit, possession of agricultural land, farm implements, livestock and animals, ownership of vehicles, education of the head of the family, occupation of head of the family, monthly income from all sources, drinking water facilities, sanitation facilities, social participation, newspapers/ magazines among others.

1.7 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to Munshi (1944) Gujjars are basically of Indian origin and the people of Rajputana, Malwa, and modern Gujarat, the whole region called Gurjaradesa, were one homogeneous people, whose Gurjara empire started disintegrating following disintegration of Chalukya Empire by the end of the thirteenth century.

Gujjars of north-western India have ethnic affinities with the Rajputs, Jats, Ahirs, and belong to one ethnic stock (Bingley, 1978; Ibbetson, 1983). Gujjars were once a nomadic pastoral community, but a majority of them, including Gujjars of Delhi, today are living sedentary lives. Their primary occupation is cattle rearing and marginal farming. Gujjars are widely distributed over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. They were originally Hindus, however, Muslim Gujjars are found in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (Verma, 1954; Singh, 1998).

Renowned historian Dr. K.S.Lal (1995) has noted that: "...thereafter and right to the end of Islamic rule, far from welcoming Islamic conquerors as liberators, the 'lower castes' and 'Tribes'- Meo, Bachgoti, Baghela, Barwaris, Gonds, Gujjars, Bhils, Satnamis, Oraons, Mina, Kunbis, "Shudras"- are the ones that put up the most determined resistance to the invaders." As a result of it, the history of Gujjars has been one of migration, nomadic pastoralism, semi sedentarization (semi settled agriculturist), exploitation, displacement and dispossession and marginalization.

The reasons of their present day condition may also be attributed to this background to a certain extent.

Baines (1893) said of the Gujjars that, “.....The Gujjar is another northern tribe....it is composed of varied elements. In the Punjab it is mainly agricultural, though it tends towards cattle grazing in the southern plains. Elsewhere in India the title generally implies the latter occupation....”As per racial classification of Indian tribes, Gujjars have been grouped under the category of Caucasoid along with other pastoral and cattle breeder type communities such as Toda, Rebari, and Bakarwal etc. The tribes in India are derived from four racial groups. (Singh, 1994)

The Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh, have been given Scheduled Tribe status. In Uttarakhand Gujjars are found in the Rajaji National park who are semi nomadic and rear buffalos for their livelihood. The Uttar Pradesh Government has already recommended Scheduled Tribe status to the (van)Gujjars of Rajaji National Park way back in 1994. The term ‘Van Gujjar’ has been created artificially by some scholars. Accordingly the so called Van Gujjars of Rajaji National Park are similar to the Gujjars of Rajasthan settled in and around National Parks of Sariska(Alwar) and Ranthambor(Sawai- Madhopur) and who are proposed to be displaced or “rehabilitated” from the tiger reserve to save the tigers.

Socio-Economic life of Gujjars

Thakur and Sharma (2012) studied in their article that a number of development programmes, policies and projects have been introduced to improve the well- being of tribal people. But the issue of tribal development is still alive. It clearly indicates that we have achieved too less in this regard.

Chatterjee and Das (2013) explored the indigenous perception of the uses of space among the ‘Gujar’ of Himachal Pradesh and the meanings attributed to specific space/s by the people of different age groups in their research study. The unique life-ways of the ‘Gujar’ pastoral community of India have evoked significant interest in recent time as they are struggling hard to retain their cultural identity against the increasing pressure of different forces of change. The ‘Gujjars’ are wedded to herding buffaloes since long past and nurturing a distinct socio-symbolic mosaic of their own.

Dabral and Malik (2004) in their research paper have recently noted a decline in the fertility rate among Gujjars, although sex-ratio is high among Gujjars. All the females and nearly all males have been married by age of 29 years. There is no case of divorce or separation. Overall, among Gujjars though the literacy is high, the level of education attained is low. Young Gujjars, particularly the females show improvement in the level of education. Negligible proportions of females are employed. Many of them have combined their traditional occupation of pastoralism and marginal cultivation by working in private sectors, government offices and small businesses. Residence characteristics indicate semi-urbanized nature of settlement.

Koundal (2012) in his article has discussed Jammu & Kashmir the extent of poverty in the nomadic society of Gujjars in the Udhampur and Kangra District of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, respectively. Nomadic Gujjar constitute a sizable chunk in the Jammu & Kashmir state population whereas in Himachal Pradesh they are a very small part of state’s population. This segment of

population has been suffering neglect and deprivation even after six decades of independence. It cannot be believed that a millennium has gone by, without even remotely touching the Gujjars community.

Major findings of this paper are that large population of nomad Gujjars in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh alone are living below poverty line. The nomadic Gujjar household survey shows that in household income expenditure survey, a big discrepancy between total income and total expenditure is found among all income groups (except the highest income group) and a high proportion of individual households. The survey also reflects that the Gujjars of Himalayan range are without sufficient food, fodder for their animals and lacks basic facilities like proper shelter, healthcare, drinking water, education, etc. Moreover, most of them are not aware of the schemes implemented by the State and Central Governments for their upliftment.

Government policies are considered to be an important tool in 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 the fact that various programmes of Central and State Governments are running in the state. Therefore, a special programme is needed so that we can improve their social, economic, educational and political condition.

Meelu and Jeevan (2007) analysed the past and present circumstances of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. This also discussed the status of Gujjars based on various parameters, such as: family size and sex-ratio, economic status, annual income, occupation, source of income, land holding, living conditions, social status, financial system, women in Gujjar community, marriages, and relations with other communities, culture, education, health & treatment, political status, participation in politics at grass root level.

1.8 CHAPTER SCHEME

The present report incorporates the details of the background, methodology adopted, and the findings of this socio economic survey. The report has been organized into eight chapters.

Chapter 1 has already outlined the background, scope and objectives of the study. Chapter 2 details the research design and methodology. The next five chapters of the study present the results of the field survey. Chapter 3 presents the profile of the study area. Chapter 4 presents the demographic profile of the Gujjars. Chapter 5 & Chapter 6 describe the social and economic status of the Gujjars in the study areas. Chapter 7 presents the magnitude and patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh. Chapter 8 tries to assess the perception and experience of the Gujjars towards the different Government schemes/programmes run by Central as well as State government. Chapter 9 tries to assess the livelihood pattern and migration of Gujjars in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

The concluding remarks and policy recommendations are given in the last chapter, Chapter 10.

1.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE SURVEY

The information in this survey has a number of limitations that must be considered while reading the report.

- 1) The topography of Himachal Pradesh is not only diverse but also difficult to survey. The settlement pattern of Gujjars is very scattered due to hilly topography. The villages inhabited by Gujjars are widely spread over and are difficult to reach. The Interviewers had to walk long distances to cover the individuals and beneficiaries' households.
- 2) The respondents were very apprehensive in answering questions. They evaded answering a few questions, especially related to the monthly income of their family. The evasiveness was due to the fear of not getting any benefit from the Government in case they revealed the truth.
- 3) In certain cases, monthly income and expenditure data of the respondents and Gujjar households have been under-reported. Therefore it was very difficult to estimate the average Household monthly income and expenditure.
- 4) Though the survey team was supposed to interview both male and female respondents at 50: 50 ratio; yet during the survey, females were quite hesitant to express their views. Therefore, males have been represented more (58 percent) in comparison to females (42 percent). However, data has been weighed to prevent over representation of men.
- 5) In Himachal Pradesh, Gujjars of only four districts viz. Chamba, Kangra, Sirmaur and Solan only were covered.

CHAPTER –II

RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

A study of this kind could be possible only through application of different methods. Keeping in view the major objectives of the study and socio-economic background of the respondent households, a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted.

2.2 PLAN OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted in four phases. The first phase involved familiarization with the study area and making observations with respect to the aims and objectives of the study. In this phase, an attempt was made to study the broad physical, demographic, socio-cultural and ecological characteristics of the study area. In addition, a review of relevant available literature on different aspects was also undertaken.

The second phase of the study was in respect of finalization of the methodology of the study on the basis of literature review and secondary data obtained in the first phase. This includes developing a suitable framework for data collection and analysis as well as formalizing the research design.

The third phase of the study involved the collection, editing, coding, and organizing the data collected from secondary and primary sources, and systematically bringing together the data and other information collected in both the first and second phase.

The fourth and the final phase comprised of data analysis, interpretation of results and report writing.

2.3 THE METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

The research design and methodology for undertaking this survey was based on major objectives and scope of the study. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The research design of this study consisted of an initial desk research followed by primary survey, which was both quantitative as well as qualitative in nature.

For conducting the Quantitative Survey, questionnaires were structured and for Qualitative survey (In-Depth Interviews and Focused Group Discussions) 'Discussion Guides' were prepared. Later, data gathered from both primary and secondary sources were analyzed using various statistical packages like SPSS, & Win Cross, following which the report was drafted.

2.3.1 Primary Sources

The data from primary sources was collected by the following means:

- **Face-to-Face Interviews** –Structured questionnaires based on quantitative indicators were used to collect information from randomly selected Gujar respondents.
- **In-Depth Interviews** were conducted with the key stake holders like -
Government Officials (State/District/Block/Panchayat Level)
Local NGOs, Social workers
- **Focused Group Discussions** were conducted with various stakeholders/Gujjars to gather information on their socio-economic problems, accessibility to support services, their own views/expectations about their empowerment etc.
- **Case studies** highlighting the socio-economic condition of the Gujjars.

2.3.2 Secondary Sources

Secondary data was obtained from published and unpublished documents, journals, articles, theses, survey reports etc. It was useful for interpretation, comparison, and assimilation of information gathered from other sources. Furthermore, different survey reports offered qualitative information that was used to support the analysis of the surveys conducted.

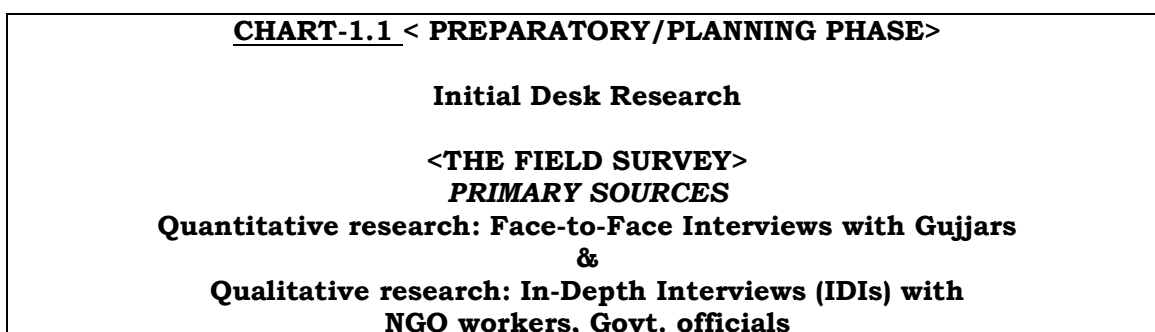
The secondary data was collected from

- Reports/ documents available with Department of Tribal Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment/ University Libraries, National and State Commission for SC/ST's
- Reports available from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Books and other literature published on the plight of the Gujjars
- Newspaper clippings
- Internet

2.4 STUDY FRAMEWORK

The detailed framework, being the essential part of the study, is presented in the flowchart given below:

The project had various defined stages with the following activities:



**&
Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)
With Gujjars**

**SECONDARY SOURCES
Reputed Institutions, Libraries, Internet, Newspaper Articles etc.**

**<ANALYSIS & REPORTING>
Analysis and Preparing the Reports**

**<FINAL STAGE>
Final Report Submission**

The primary data was collected in order to assess the socio-economic condition of the Gujjars, the difficulties being faced by them in terms of livelihood and living conditions, social stigma and ways to address them. Participatory observation method was also used to understand the living conditions of the Gujjars.

2.5 QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

To examine the socio-economic status of the Gujjars, the household survey was undertaken. The definition of “household” used by the Census of India (GOI, 2007) - “a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen” - was followed in the study. The questions were composed in English and then translated into Hindi and interviews were documented in English.

At the beginning of the interview, respondents were informed that their participation in the survey was completely voluntary and information provided would be helpful in future management practices. However, each respondent was also requested to answer our questions as accurately and honestly as possible.

One adult (≥ 18 years old) from each household was interviewed (one interview at each “dera” i.e. traditional hut or household). Usually the household head (either male/female) was interviewed; in his/her absence, any member willing to participate was interviewed resulting in more male than female respondents.

Interviews were conducted through conversation by memorizing the questions and probing to gather the desired information.

While conducting the household survey, the Gujjars in four selected sample districts of Himachal Pradesh were interviewed by conducting door-to-door survey to collect information on: demographic structure of the households (information on family size, age and sex of the family members), number of people in working age group, occupation, size of land holding etc.

In addition, data on dependence of the families on fuelwood, timber, fodder etc., were also collected. The data collected through Face-to-Face interviews included information on access to facilities such as PHC's, schools, bus services, kerosene distribution centres, type of roads, markets, location and distribution of settlements with respect to the state.

2.5.1 Sample Proposed & Collected

Table 2.1 - Sample Size Proposed &Realized

Districts Covered	Blocks Covered	Sample Proposed	Sample Realized
Chamba	Chamba	100	100
	Tissa	100	110
Kangra	Indora	100	124
	Nurpur	100	93
Sirmaur	Nahan	100	93
	Paonta Sahib	100	95
Solan	Baddi	100	99
	Nalagarh	100	120
Grand Total	Total	800	834

Note: Detailed list of villages covered under this survey is given in the Annexure-II

2.5.2 Sampling Frame:-

Selection of Gujar concentrated Districts:

- Districts with more Gujjar concentration have been identified through purposive sampling method. The sampled districts are Chamba, Kangra, Solan and Sirmaur.

Selection of Gujar concentrated Blocks:

- Blocks with higher concentration of Gujjars were also identified through purposive sampling method.
- From amongst the identified 4 blocks were selected, applying Systematic Random Sampling method

Selection of Gujar concentrated Villages/clusters:

- Villages with higher concentration of Gujjars were identified by following the Directory of villages having concentration of scheduled tribe population in Himachal Pradesh (published by the Government of Himachal Pradesh)
- Block level officials were also contacted and their suggestions were sought while identifying these villages.
- In each block, 4-5 villages were selected by following Systematic Random Sampling method

Selection of Gujar Households:

- In each village, Gujar households were visited and Face-to-Face interviews were conducted. Depending upon the population, the sample size varied from 10 to 15. Households were identified by following 'Right Hand rule' method. Field Investigators went in the right direction and followed the right hand rule in screening each eligible household.
- The sample interval was 5.
- Quota of 10 interviews per village/cluster was maintained.

Selection of Respondents:

One respondent from each household especially head of the household was interviewed for the survey. When the head of the household was not available, another adult member of that family was interviewed.

2.5.3 Research Tools

The following tools were used for the purpose of data collection:

- Questionnaire for Conducting Face-to-Face Interviews
- Discussion Guide for conducting In-Depth Interviews
- Discussion Guide for conducting Focused Group Discussions

2.5.4 Major Variables for Data Collection

Different types of research tools were developed and used for undertaking the survey. The questionnaire for the Household survey was divided into 9 sections, briefly described below:

- *Section I* – Introduction of the Interviewer and Respondent's Background: This section recorded the information on the interviewer; and, place, date and time of the interview.
- *Section II* – Migration history of the household: This section collected information regarding the family's migration history; from where and when his/her family migrated to the present place and for what reason.
- *Section III* –Demographic & Educational Details: This section also had questions to collect information on the respondent's age, education, caste, annual income, household assets, living arrangements, etc.
- *Section IV* – Occupation: This section collected information on the occupational status of the chief wage earner. It also includes questions on the occupational status of the respondent. Whether, the respondent is partially or fully unemployed.
- *Section V* – Family Income (Monthly/Annual): This section collected the total income of the households from different sources.
- *Section VI* – Agriculture and Horticulture: This section collected data on total land holdings of the household, farming type etc.
- *Section VII* –Developmental Schemes: This section collected information on development schemes being implemented in the state/district/area. Respondent's exposure to Government schemes, benefits they have received and their perceptions of Government interventions were assessed.
- *Section VIII* – Respondent's Comments: The comments of the beneficiary regarding the method of implementing development schemes were collected under these sections.

- *Section IX– Interviewers and Supervisors Comments:* It contained the comments of the interviewers and supervisors.

2.6 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH:

Apart from the quantitative survey, qualitative survey was also conducted. It was purely subjective in nature. This included in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and case studies.

Qualitative research was carried out to collect additional explanatory information on the survey. While the survey through the structured questionnaire generated quantitative information, the qualitative research through depth interviews and focus group discussions explored the descriptive aspect of Gujjar's life and issues faced by them in day to day life.

This phase consisted of FGDs and IDIs with different stakeholders and Gujjars in general in the study area. It was proposed to carry out 4 FGDs and 12 IDIs. However, 5 FGDs and 15 IDIs were conducted.

2.6.1 Sample Size for the Qualitative Research

Details of the qualitative research are given below.

QUALITATIVE SURVEY:

		Target Group	Sample Proposed	Sample Realized
QL	Depth Interviews/Stakeholder consultations	Policy Makers, Consultants/Experts NGOs/Social workers	12	15
	FGDs	All Stakeholders	4	5

2.6.2 In-Depth Interview

Systematic collection of public and official opinion through in-depth interviews with policy makers, State level and district level Government officials, representatives of Non-Government organizations, were carried out in Shimla as well as in sampled districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Depth interviews were conducted, wherein detailed notes were taken. The notes were translated into English and principal domains/themes extracted. Each DI lasted for around 30 to 45 minutes. Some interactions were held in English whereas others were in local language (Hindi).

Through in-depth interviews, respondents were encouraged to provide detailed information on their experience, feelings and beliefs. The interviewer worked as a guide who allowed the discussion to cover all topics that the respondent considered important.

The in-depth interviews involved the following steps;

- 1) Preparation of Discussion Guide
- 2) Identification of Respondents
- 3) Fixing up Appointments
- 4) Conducting In-Depth interviews
- 5) Recording the In-Depth interviews
- 6) Translation and back translation of Interviews (from Hindi to English)
- 7) Analyzing the interviews

The discussion guide was used to conduct the depth interviews smoothly and systematically. The interviewer consulted it while interviewing to avoid any digression from the subject. The researcher moderated the interviews in such a way so as to get an insight into the issues related to the proposed study.

Discussion points for Government officials, consultants, NGOs

- Socio-economic status of Gujjars in the state
- Their Lifestyle
- Steps taken by Government. & non-Government agencies for improving their status
- Government policy towards their upliftment
- Existing schemes and practices
- Suggestions for improving their socio economic status

2.6.3 Focused Group Discussion (FGD)

Group discussions provide access to a larger body of knowledge of general community information (Mikkelsen, 1995; Borrini-Feyerabend, 1997). Group discussions enable quick access to many people and are also cheap and quick to conduct compared to individual interviews with the same number of respondents. The reason for such grouping was to capture the perceived needs and problems faced by Gujjars.

Five FGDs were conducted (Gujjar community having 8-12 participants), wherein, detailed notes were taken. The notes were translated into English and principal domains/themes extracted. Each FGD lasted for around one hour. All interactions were held in local language (Hindi).

Like the In-Depth Interviews; the Focused Group Discussions involved the following steps

- Planning for conducting the FGDs
- Preparation of the Discussion Guide/Discussion Questions
- Identification of Participants
- Selection of Participants
- Fixing up the Date and Venue
- Conducting the FGDs
- Analysis of the FGDs

2.6.4 Case Studies:-

During the field work, a few case studies on the life of Gujjars were documented.

2.7 REFERENCE PERIOD

The reference period of this study is 2014-15.

2.8 DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected from primary and secondary sources was carefully scrutinized and transcribed before the commencement of data tabulation and interpreted through statistical tools. The quantitative and qualitative information collected through the questionnaire and survey were coded and entered into the FOX PRO and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software; where descriptive analyses such as percentages, cross tabulations were performed to show the response in percentages. Descriptive statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean, and ratio are used to analyze the primary data. The analyzed data was presented in the form of tables, diagrams, Pie charts, flow charts and text.

2.9 REPORTING

The output of this socio-economic survey is based on the assessment of the present situation of the Gujjars in the state of Himachal Pradesh. This meets the project objectives and addresses the research issues outlined above. This report presents the findings on analyzing the results for the sampled districts of Himachal Pradesh. The report includes an introduction, study design, findings, and, finally, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER-III

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The present chapter brings out basic information on the physical and socio-economic profile of the state of Himachal Pradesh and its four sample districts i.e. Chamba, Solan, Kangra and Sirmaur and the sample villages which have been selected for the study. The main focus of this chapter is to highlight the physical, social, economic and demographic characteristics of the state as the development of Gujjars has close links with physical accessibility, Government policies and socio-economic aspects.

3.2 HIMACHAL PRADESH – BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Hilly areas in India constitute 21 percent of the total geographical area and nine percent of total population of the country. The hill areas hold basic life support system and natural resources. A large part of population in the plains is dependent on hill resources especially of the Himalayan region. Most of the perennial rivers in the country originate and have their watershed in the Himalayas.

Out of the 13 hill states and regions, Himachal Pradesh is observed to be the most progressive state, which has made remarkable achievements in socio-economic development of its people. The state is being viewed as a model for development of Hindukush Himalayan region. The present study in addition to pursuing the laid down objectives, also endeavors to examine the experience of Himachal Pradesh and to draw lessons to be implemented in other hill areas. The state has created a new concept in the development of the hill economy through transformation brought about in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry (Verma and Pratap, 1992).

Himachal Pradesh is located in the northern part of the country. It has an international border with Tibet in the east, Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Punjab in the west and southwest and Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the south. The state forms a part of the western Himalayan Zone. It has a hilly terrain, mountainous and undulating topography with altitude ranging from 350 to 6,975 meters above mean sea level.

Total geographical area of the state is 55,673 sq. kms. Its population, as per 2011 census, is 68,56,509 residing in 20,690 villages and 59 towns providing a density of 123 persons per sq. kms. Villages in the state are scattered and small. Average population per inhabited village is 331. Scheduled Castes constitute 25.19 per cent and Scheduled Tribes 5.71 per cent of the total population. Scheduled Tribes are concentrated in tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti and Pangi valley of Chamba district. For administrative purposes and implementation of development programmes, H.P. is divided into 12 districts, 78 Community Development Blocks. In addition, 3226 elected Gram Panchayats are taking active part in implementing rural development programmes.

In the heartland of Himachal Pradesh, a multitude of tribal communities have settled down over the years. Amongst them, the Gujjar tribal community is held in

high esteem. Gujjars are also known as Goojar, Gujar or Gurjara. The anthropological evidences stress that the Gujjar tribes are reckoned as scheduled tribes.

In Himachal Pradesh, a sizeable population consisting of Hindu and Muslim Gujjars reside in various parts of the state with variation in population. The Gujjars are a pastoral community that used to be nomadic but many now live in settled communities. The word Gujjar is derived from the term gaucharana, meaning to graze cows. They are well-built people, medium to tall in stature. While the Hindu Gujjars have permanently settled, their Muslim counterparts are still sticking to nomadic pastoralism.

These nomads climb up the hills during summers and return to the plains in winters. The economy of these Gujjars is mainly dependent on animal husbandry and forests. Most of them are landless and their economic status depends upon the number of buffaloes one possesses. Illiteracy has been found to be the major cause of their backwardness.

3.3 GUJJAR POPULATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A SNAPSHOT

Gujjars are the largest tribal community in the state of Himachal Pradesh. As per Census 2011, the population of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh is about 92,547 of the total 3,92,126 tribal population. The tribals constitute about 5.71 percent of the total population of the state (Census 2011). Gujjar population is the highest among the tribal population forming 23.6 per cent of the tribal population of the state is Gujjars. The districts with high concentration of Gujjars are Chamba, Sirmaur, Solan, Kangra Mandi and Bilaspur.

Table 3.1: Scheduled Tribes and Gujjar Population

State Name	Total Population		
	Person	Share of STs & Gujjars to total population of the state	Share of Gujjars to total tribal population of the state
Himachal Pradesh	68,56,509	100%	
All Scheduled Tribes	3,92,126	5.71%	
Gujjar	92,547	1.39%	23.6%

Source: 2011 census

3.4 DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES AND GUJJAR POPULATION IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH BY SEX AND AREA

Table 3.2 illustrates the distribution of Scheduled Tribes and Gujjar population in the state of Himachal Pradesh by sex and area. Gujjar community is a part of Scheduled Tribes generally habited in rural/tribal areas. Himachal Pradesh counted a total population of 68,56,509 out of which 34,73,892 are males and 33,82,617 are females (Census 2011).

The total Scheduled Tribes population of the state is 3,92,126. This population is almost equally shared by both males and females being 1,96,118 and 1,96,008 respectively.

From the rural/ urban distribution, it is found that the majority of the ST population are inhabited in rural areas (3,74,392) and a small part of them are in urban areas (17,734).

Further, out of total rural ST population, males constitute 1,86,896 and females 1,87,496 showing hardly any difference. In contrast, the population of Scheduled Tribe males in urban areas is 9,222 and of females is 8,512.

Gujjars too being a part of the ST Community constitute 92,547(1.39%) of the state's total population with 47,576 males and 44,971 females.

Majority of the Gujjars (97.46 %)live in rural areas and a very few (2.54%) live in urban areas. Out of the total rural Gujar population (90,247), 46,293 are males and 43,954 are females. Similar is the case of urban Gujar population where out of 2,300 urban Gujjars, 1,283 are males and 1,017 are females.

Table 3.2: Scheduled Tribes and Gujar Population

State Name	T/R/U	Total Population		
		Person	Male	Female
Himachal Pradesh		6856509	3473892	3382617
All Scheduled Tribes	Total	3,92,126	1,96,118	1,96,008
All Scheduled Tribes	Rural	3,74,392	1,86,896	1,87,496
All Scheduled Tribes	Urban	17,734	9,222	8,512
Gujjar	Total	92,547	47,576	44,971
Gujjar	Rural	90,247	46,293	43,954
Gujjar	Urban	2,300	1,283	1,017

Source: 2011 census

3.5 SHARE OF SCHEDULED TRIBES AND GUJJAR POPULATION IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH ACROSS GENDER AND AREA

Table 3.3 is the evidence for the proportion of Scheduled Tribes and Gujar population across genders and rural/urban areas of the state. Males contribute 50.7 percent to the total ST population whereas females contribute 49.3 percent. In the case of scheduled tribes comprising only 5.7 percent to State's total population is equally shared (50 percent each) by both males and females.

Majority of the scheduled tribes (95.5%) are residing in rural areas where the proportion of male and female is almost equal. The urban schedule tribe population constitutes only 4.5 percent of the total ST population with male and female at 52 percent and 48 percent respectively.

Again eyeing the percentage share of the Gujar population of the state, it may be noted that, out of the total scheduled tribe population of the state, 23.6 percent are contributed by the Gujar communities having male and female carve up to 51.4 percent and 48.6 percent respectively. Majority of Gujar population (97.5%) are residing in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. Only 2.5 percent Gujjars stay in urban areas and among them 55.8 percent are males and 44.2 percent are females indicating higher gender disparity as compared to rural areas.

Table 3.3: Scheduled Tribes and Gujjar Population across Genders and Rural/Urban areas (%)

State Name	T/R/U	Total Population		
		Person	Male	Female
Himachal Pradesh		100	50.7	49.3
All Scheduled Tribes	Total	5.7	50.0	50.0
All Scheduled Tribes	Rural	95.5	49.9	50.1
All Scheduled Tribes	Urban	4.5	52.0	48.0
Gujjar	Total	23.6	51.4	48.6
Gujjar	Rural	97.5	51.3	48.7
Gujjar	Urban	2.5	55.8	44.2

Source: 2011 census

3.6. SEX-RATIO OF SCHEDULED TRIBES AND GUJJARS IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Table 3.4 indicates the sex-ratio of scheduled tribes and Gujjars in the state. Looking at the table it may be noticed that for every 1000 males there are 974 females in the state. As against this, the male female ratio of the Schedule Tribes population in the state is 1000: 999 indicating lesser gender inequality. However, the sex-ratio of scheduled tribes varies significantly across the rural and urban areas. In rural areas, the tribal sex-ratio is at 1000:1003, whereas, in urban areas it is 1000: 923, pointing to a higher gender inequality among the urban scheduled tribe population.

As regards the Gujjars sex-ratio in the state, there are 945 females for every 1000 males, lower than the sex-ratio of schedule Tribes at 999 females for every 1000 males. The sex-ratio of the rural Gujjars is 1000: 949 lower than that of the rural Scheduled tribes. The sex-ratio of the urban Gujjars is the lowest at 1000:793, which is much lower than the sex-ratio of urban Scheduled Tribes, thus being a matter of concern.

Table 3.4: Sex-Ratio of Scheduled Tribes and Gujjars (%)

SEX-RATIO				
State Name	T/R/U	Total Population		
		Person	Male	Female
Himachal Pradesh		1000	1000	974
All Scheduled Tribes	Total	1000	1000	999
All Scheduled Tribes	Rural	1000	1000	1003
All Scheduled Tribes	Urban	1000	1000	923
Gujjar	Total	1000	1000	945
Gujjar	Rural	1000	1000	949
Gujjar	Urban	1000	1000	793

Source: 2011 census

3.7 GUJJAR POPULATION ACROSS DISTRICTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Table 3.5 illustrates the Gujjar population across the districts and by gender (Census 2011). Out of total Gujjar population of 92, 547 in the state, 47,576 are males and 44,971 are females.

Table 3.5: Gujjar Population by Gender and Districts

Area Name	Total Population		
	Person	Male	Female
HIMACHAL PRADESH	92,547	47,576	44,971
Chamba	9,784	5,084	4,700
Kangra	11,390	5,759	5,631
Lahaul & Spiti	9	6	3
Kullu	1,246	656	590
Mandi	11,278	5,632	5,646
Hamirpur	2,736	1,360	1,376
Una	8,379	4,326	4,053
Bilaspur	10,278	5,283	4,995
Solan	23,728	12,309	11,419
Sirmaur	10,545	5,498	5,047
Shimla	3,157	1,654	1,503
Kinnaur	17	9	8

Source: 2011 census

From the distribution of Gujjar population across districts (Table 3.5) it may be observed that out of twelve districts in the state, Solan has the highest Gujjar population of 23,728 (12,309 males and 11,419 females). Lahaul & Spiti has the lowest Gujjar population restricted to just 9 (6 males and 3 females) followed by Kinnaur at 17 (9 males and 8 females). However, Solan, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Chamba are the major Gujjar populated districts of the state.

After Solan, Kangra has the highest Gujjar population of 11,390 with 5759 males & 5631 females, followed by Mandi 11,278 (5,632 males & 5,646 females), followed by Sirmaur 10,545 (5,498 males & 5,047 females) and Bilaspur 10,278 (5,283 males & 4,995 females). However, Chamba, Una, Shimla, Hamirpur and Kullu have Gujjar population below 5 digits but much higher than Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur. Chamba has only 9784 Gujjar population (5,084 males & 4,700 females).

3.8 DISTRICT AND GENDER-WISE SHARE OF GUJJAR POPULATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Table 3.6 gives an idea of the proportion of Gujjars across districts and by gender. Exploring the table, Solan is found to be the highest in stake of Gujjar population (25.6 %) with male: female proportion at 25.9 and 25.4 percent respectively. After Solan, Kangra has the next highest Gujjar population (12.3 %) with male to female proportion at 12.1 percent and 12.5 percent respectively. Similarly Mandi with population share of 12.2%, the male and female proportion being 11.8 & 12.6 percent, district Hamirpur with 3% population, the male and female proportion is at 2.9 percent & 3.1 percent.

Table 3.6: Gujjars by Gender and Districts (%)

Area name	Total Population		
	Person	Male	Female
Chamba	10.6	10.7	10.5
Kangra	12.3	12.1	12.5
Lahaul & Spiti	0	0	0
Kullu	1.3	1.4	1.3
Mandi	12.2	11.8	12.6
Hamirpur	3	2.9	3.1
Una	9.1	9.1	9
Bilaspur	11.1	11.1	11.1
Solan	25.6	25.9	25.4
Sirmaur	11.4	11.6	11.2
Shimla	3.4	3.5	3.3
Kinnaur	0	0	0
HIMACHAL PRADESH	100	100	100

Source: 2011 census

Bilaspur has equal male and female proportion with each 11.1 percent, contributing 11.1 percent to states total Gujar population. Chamba with 10.6 percent share in total Gujar population with male and female proportion at 10.7 percent and 10.5 percent. Sirmaur contributes 11.4 percent to the state Gujar population with male and female proportion at 11.6 percent and 11.2 percent. However, two districts namely Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur do not have any significant Gujar population.

3.9 GUJJAR POPULATION ACROSS DISTRICTS (URBAN RURAL AREA WISE) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

As a part of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh, nomadic Gujjars happen to live in the interior forest area. Table 3.7 below furnishes information on the population of STs and Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh across districts and rural/urban areas.

The state has a total Scheduled Tribes population of 3,92,126, a majority of them (3,74,392) are residing in rural areas and a few of them (17,734) are in urban areas. Similarly, out of a total of 92,547 Gujjars in the state, 90,247 are in rural and only 2,300 are in urban areas. Further analysis of the Gujar population across the district shows that the majority of the Gujjars are in rural areas and a very few of them are in the urban areas.

In district Chamba, out of 9,784 Gujjars, 9,752 are in rural areas and the remaining 32 are living in urban areas, being the lowest among all the districts. Similarly Kangra has 11,124 rural Gujar population out of the total of 11,390. The remaining 266 form the urban population. Mandi has rural Gujar population of 11,104 out of 11,278 with urban population numbering at just 174.

Table 3.7: Scheduled Tribes and Gujjar Population across the Districts and Rural /Urban Areas

T/R/U	Total	Rural	Urban
Himachal Pradesh	3,92,126	3,74,392	17,734
Himachal Pradesh	92,547	90,247	2,300
Chamba	9,784	9,752	32
Kangra	11,390	11,124	266
Lahaul & Spiti	9	9	0
Kullu	1,246	1,197	49
Mandi	11,278	11,104	174
Hamirpur	2,736	2,641	95
Una	8,379	8,261	118
Bilaspur	10,278	9,974	304
Solan	23,728	22,840	888
Sirmaur	10,545	10,406	139
Shimla	3,157	2,922	235
Kinnaur	17	17	0

Source: 2011 census

In Sirmaur, rural Gujjar inhabitants constitute 10,406 and urban just 139 only out of the total of 10,545 Gujjar population of the district. However, Solan has relatively higher number of urban Gujjar population at 888, than other districts, with 22,840 rural Gujjars out of the total 23,728 Gujjars in the district. Whereas, the presence of Gujjars in urban areas of district Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur is almost nil.

3.10 DISTRICT AND AREA-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF GUJJAR POPULATION IN HP

In Himachal Pradesh, 97.51 percent of Gujjar population inhabits rural areas and only a few of them (2.55%) are in urban areas (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8: Distribution of Gujjar Population across Rural /Urban Areas by Districts (%)

T/R/U	Total	Rural	Urban
HIMACHAL PRADESH	100	97.51	2.55
Chamba	10.6	10.54	0.04
Kangra	12.3	12.02	0.29
Lahaul & Spiti	0	0.01	0
Kullu	1.3	1.29	0.05
Mandi	12.2	12	0.19
Hamirpur	3	2.85	0.11
Una	9.1	8.93	0.13
Bilaspur	11.1	10.78	0.34
Solan	25.6	24.68	0.98
Sirmaur	11.4	11.24	0.15
Shimla	3.4	3.16	0.26
Kinnaur	0	0.02	0

Source: 2011 census

More than one-fourth of the total Gujjar population of the state is in Solan (25.6 %). Out of this, 24.68 percent are rural inhabitants and only 0.98 percent belong to the urban areas.

At the same time Kullu has the least percentage of Gujjar population (1.3%) with 1.29 percent rural counts and only 0.05 percent urban counts. District Kangra has the next highest percentage of Gujjars population in the state at 12.3 (12.02 % Rural and 0.29 % urban). Mandi has 12.2 percent total Gujjars (12 % rural and 0.19 % urban). District Sirmaur has 11.4 percent share (11.24 % rural and 0.15% urban) However Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur have an insignificant share in the total Gujjar population of the state.

3.11 BASIC PROFILE OF THE GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Traditionally, Gujjars were pastoralists, but at present most of them practice settled agriculture and animal husbandry, rearing cows, buffaloes and sheep. They sell milk and milk products in the market mostly through middlemen for cash and occasionally barter. The principal crops grown by the Gujjars include wheat, gram and maize. They also grow pulses, vegetables and sugarcane besides green fodder for cattle.

Some educated Gujjars are in government or private service, while a few work as daily wage labourers. In some urban centres like Delhi and Chandigarh many Gujjars run petty businesses like grocery shops, and some work as contractors and traders. In Punjab they have established dairy farms. There are also businessmen, artists, defense and police personnel, political leaders and professionals among the Gujjars.

Culture:

Gujjars are culturally very much involved in dancing, religious rites and customs etc. The tribes have got an inclination towards religion. Some of them have been converted to Islam during the medieval period. They are the tribes who strictly follow old traditions and customs. They still follow the custom of early marriages, where girls are married at an age of 14-15 years and boys at 17-18 years.

Dress:

Gujjars have an exquisite tribal way of dressing with both men and women having a distinctive pattern. Men wear colorful turbans with unique style of wrapping making a distinct tribal Community. 'Topi', also termed as 'Afgani hat' is worn by the aged men. Women folk wear shirt studded with varieties of buttons and embroidery on it with a black shalwar, duppatta with multiple colours and round cap with a trail of coarsely threaded bands. The women folk, young and old are alike fond of wearing heavy jewellery, kangan, karras, seheeri, mahail lounge, bali are commonly used. The females also use beautiful cloth called 'Duppatta' which looks like a shawl. They are also fond of jewellery and have a fascination for the necklace with a triangle pendant, studded with a beautiful stone in the center. It symbolizes 'evil eye' and is mainly utilized to avert bad luck.

Diet:

The Hindu Gujjars have a mostly vegetarian staple diet that consists of cereals like wheat, rice, gram, maize, pulses, vegetables, oilseeds and seasonal fruit as well as milk and milk products. The Gujjars of Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh also have non-veg food on their menu. The Muslim Gujjars are non-vegetarians and those living in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand eat beef.

Hindu Gujjars mostly depend on milk and milk products as their staple food besides cereals, wheat and maize. The favorite dishes of Gujjars are "Maki ki Roti" Ganhari / Sarson ka Sag, Lassi, Kalari, Karan, etc. It is surprising that Gujjars are mostly vegetarians. The Banhara Gujjars mainly live in "Kullas" made from special type of grass, while Bakerwals live in temporary Daharas and in Tamboos. Settled Gujjars mainly live in "Kothis".

Alcohol is occasionally consumed by men except for the Muslim Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh for whom it is prohibited. The Gujjars chew and smoke tobacco from hookah. Both men and women chew paan (betel leaf).

Family life:

The Gujjars are an endogamous community but observe exogamy at the clan and, often, village levels. They have a number of subgroups and clans depending on the regions they reside in. The clan and surnames are often the same.

The Muslim Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh are made up of two subgroups – the Bhatariye and Bhanariye. It is believed that these Gujjars were originally Hindus and got converted to Islam.

Monogamy is practiced among the Gujjars, though polygamy is not unknown. Adult marriages are slowly replacing child marriage and are arranged by negotiation. In Himachal Pradesh, child marriage is still prevalent.

Sindur (vermilion mark), bindi (coloured dot on forehead), glass bangles, nose and finger rings are marriage symbols for Hindu women. Dowry is given in both cash and kind. Divorce is rare, though permitted in cases of adultery. Widow, widower and divorcee remarriage is allowed. Junior and senior levirate and junior surrogate are common among most Gujjars.

Extended families are a norm and each son inherits an equal share of the parental property. Daughters have no inheritance except for Muslim Gujjar women who are granted the right according to the Sharia (Islamic law). Gujjar women have a secondary status to men but play a very important role in the economic activities of the family. Besides collecting fuel, fodder and water and cooking food, they work in the fields alongside their menfolk and also help in taking care of the animals. They also have a vital role in social and religious spheres.

Gujjar women are well-known for their talent and interest in music and dance and have many traditional folksongs, dances and folktales. In Himachal Pradesh, Gujjar women are skilled in making wall paintings, as well as making idols of the Durga (militant goddess who slays demons). Tattoos are common among many older women. Gujjar women are skilled in embroidery.

A community panchayat (council) exercises social control and resolves disputes regarding land, marriage, inheritance and other issues.

Language

The Gujjars tribal community has their own beautiful language Gujari, also called as Gojri. The language belongs to the Rajasthani language group. The communities have also developed fluency in other languages such as Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, Pothohari, Pahari like Kangri and Dogri.

Religious Beliefs

All Hindu Gujjars worship the gods and goddesses like Shiva (Destroyer), Vishnu (Preserver), Kali (wife of Shiva), Durga, Krishna (who has pastoral attributes), Rama (righteous prince), Hanuman (the monkey god regarded as a protector against danger) and others. There are a few adherents to the Arya Samaj or the guru-centric Radhasoami sects.

The Brahmin (highest priestly caste) performs all birth, marriage and death rituals and ceremonies. The dead are cremated and the ashes immersed in a river preferably the holy Ganges. Ancestor worship is performed during the months of September-October each year. Tiny shrines dedicated to the memory of ancestors are commonly found scattered in fields. They celebrate all Hindu festivals like Holi (festival of colours), Diwali (festival of lamps), Dussehra and Janamashtami (Krishna's birthday). At every new moon of each month, Teej and Mavasa are also celebrated by many Gujjars.

Muslim Gujjars belong to the dominant Sunni sect and follow the tenets of their faith. A mullah, imam or maulavi performs all rituals relating to life cycles and teaches religious truths to children and is also an exorcist. They celebrate Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Zuha, Shab-I-qader, Miraj-alam and others. The dead are buried and a mourning period is observed.

Festivals

Festivals are of a part and parcel of the Gujjar Tribal Community. They celebrate all events of national importance, apart from their own religious beliefs and customs. Id is one of the main festivals for the Muslims which they celebrate with great festivity and enthusiasm.

3.12 PROFILE OF THE GUJJARS IN SAMPLED DISTRICTS

CHAMBA DISTRICT

Chamba is one of the important districts amongst the twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh. This district in its present form came into existence on 1st November 1966 consequent upon the reorganization of the erstwhile Punjab. The district is situated in the bosom of the Himalayas. It is bound in the North-West by the state of Jammu & Kashmir, on the north east and east by Bara Bhangal area of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh and on the south east and south by the districts of Gurdaspur (Punjab) and Kangra (Himachal). The district is wholly mountainous. The district has a total area of 6,522 sq. km. i.e. 11.71% of the State area, and houses 5,19,080 people i.e. more than 8% of the total population of the State. The sex-ratio is 986:1000 (census 2011) which is quite good as compared to other districts. In Chamba district, there are seven Development blocks, eight Tehsils, three sub-Tehsils and seven Sub- Divisions.

Gujjars belong to nomadic herdsmen of the Islamic community. They have a distinct language and culture than the main town. Gujjars are likely to have come from Kashmir as many Gujjars stay in Kashmir too. The border of Chamba with Kashmir provided route for their nomadic herdsmen of Islamic community. These nomadic tribesmen have their own language and culture and have kept more or

less aloof from the political scenario of Chamba in olden times. They travel to lowlands of Punjab every autumn with their livestock to avoid the cold winter of the hills. Later, when the weather warms up they return to the hills in Chamba district.

The main occupation of this tribe is cattle rearing. Due to lack of enough grass in Kishtawar area (J&K) they went out in search of grasslands for their cattle. As Chamba is next to the Kishtawar and takes about three to four days on foot to reach the high hills of Chamba, here they found sufficient quantity of grass. After some time, they settled in the interiors of Chamba.

These Gujjars of Chamba mostly rear buffaloes and their main source (of income) is from milk selling. There are mainly three scheduled tribes named Pangwala, Gaddi and Gujjar in district Chamba. The Gaddi and Pangwala are Hindus and are engaged in agricultural as well as animal (sheep and goats) rearing activities whereas Gujjars (Muslims) rear buffaloes and move up and down between mountains and plains according to seasons. The first two are economically and socially well-off than the Gujjars. Most of them are settled and availing facilities like education, health, water, etc. But the Gujjars live a nomadic life and remain mostly uncovered by the welfare/development schemes of the Government.

KANGRA DISTRICT

Kangra is the most populous district of Himachal Pradesh and has its administrative headquarters at Dharamshala. As per Census 2011, Kangra district has a population of 15,07,223. The district has a geographical area of 5,739 km. which constitutes 10.31% of the geographical area of the State. The district has a population density of 263 inhabitants per square kilometer (680/sq. mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 12.56%. Kangra has a sex-ratio of 1013 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 86.49%.

The Gujjars are asemi-nomadic tribe of the Kangra district. They are found in Dehra, Nurpur and areas adjoining the plains (Kandi areas). The Muslim Gujjars are deeply attached to their tribal customs, rites and rituals.

The nomadic Gujjars of Kangra climb up the hills during summers and return to the plains in winters. The economy of these Gujjars is mainly dependent on the animal husbandry and forests. Most of them are landless and their economic status depends upon the number of buffaloes one possesses. Illiteracy has been found to be the major cause of their backwardness.

The Gujjars of Kangra indulge in cattle breeding and selling of milk products particularly "Khoya" to earn their livelihood. They are Hindu as well as Muslim by religion.

There has been a slight change in the life of Gujjars with the passage of time. The children who were staying at home to help their parents are now going to school. People are raising voice against evils like child marriage, intermarriage and other superstitions. The occupation is also losing its grip as many among the youth do not see a better future in nomadic life as well as in cattle rearing. Labour work is the second main occupation of the community and some of the people are going in for business and jobs, too.

They have mobile phones for communication and occasionally listen to radio (on batteries). Gujjar Community has a close-knit social structure where interchange of

family members for marriages (called as Chala) and early marriages (as early as 6 months of age) are common.

SIRMAUR:

Sirmaur is the south-eastern district of Himachal Pradesh. It is largely mountainous and rural, with 90% of its population living in villages. It includes the towns of Nahan (its administrative headquarters), as well as the Shivalik Fossil Park at Suketi, where fossils over 85 million years old have been found. According to the 2011 census, Sirmaur district has a population of 5,30,164. This gives it a ranking of 542nd in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 188 inhabitants per square kilometer (490/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 15.61%. Sirmaur has a sex ratio of 915 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 79.98%.

Gujjar is a Tribal and Backward Community of Sirmaur District who visit/travel with their Cattle in different forests of Sirmaur. Every Gujjar family has 5 to 50 cattle like buffaloes, cows, oxen and goats with them. Every day, they sell their milk or milk products in local market for their livelihood. These people are mostly dependent on flocks and a few have adopted agriculture as their means of livelihood.

Population of the Gujjar Community in District is about 10,500 out of which 90% are settled. Maximum number of the Gujjar population of Sirmaur are followers of Islam and they have no interest in formal education and modernization.

The literacy rate among these Gujjars is very low. Though the district has a good network of schools but Gujjars of the area are backward because they are staying far from the mainland where school facilities are easily available.

Besides that, due to their inherent tendency towards their traditional profession adopted by their forefathers, the parents as well as their children do not take interest in education.

During summers (4 to 5 months), they shift to cool jungles/forests of Trans-Giri /Giripar area (Sangrah, Shillai and Rajgarh Block of Sirmaur- 7,000 to 11,000 feet high). Semi-nomadic Gujjars are 'Summer Visitors' for Trans-Giri area/ Sangrah, Shilai and Rajgarh Development Block and they live in Churdhar Hills, Piulani, Thyanbag, Chandpurdhar, Pajhota Valley and Theerdhar etc. forests during summers. After first snowfall in the area, they move to the plains like forests of Paonta, Doon, Dholakuan, Nahan Chassi, Ginni-Ghar and Kala-Amb etc.

The condition of nomadic Gujjars is very pathetic as compared to the settled Gujjars of Sirmaur district. Efforts are on for the social and economic upliftment of Gujjars in Sirmaur district. The efforts initiated so far have not yielded much result due to lack of water resources and fertile land in the areas where Gujjars are living; shortage of teaching staff in the schools; due to frequent movement children can't continue their education; less awareness about different govt. schemes and programmes.

SOLAN DISTRICT

Solan district is one of the twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh in northern India. Solan town is the administrative headquarters of the district. The district occupies an area of 1936 km². According to the 2011 census, Solan district has a population of 5,76,670. This gives it a ranking of 532nd in India (out of a total

of 640). The district has a population density of 298 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 15.21%. Solan has a sex ratio of 884 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 85.02%.

Solan is the only district in Himachal Pradesh, where settled Gujjars live in maximum numbers. Maximum Gujjar population lives in Nalagarh Block, Arki Block and Baddi Tehsil of the Solan district. Nomadic Gujjars also constitute a good number of Gujjars in the district. The major profession of Gujjars includes dairy farming, agriculture, sheep flocking and business of dairy products.

Population of the community in the district is about 23,728 and 90% of them are settled. Maximum Gujjars of Solan are followers of Hinduism and they have strong interest in formal education and modernization. The literacy rate among Gujjars in this district is better than that of Gujjars of other districts. The district has a good network of schools and school facilities are easily available to them.

Government healthcare facilities are utilized in routine by the Gujjar community of the district owing to their better location (physical accessibility), sensitive attitude of health care providers towards them and good outreach facilities of healthcare. The standard of living of Gujjars of this district is better as compared to other districts.

CHAPTER IV

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

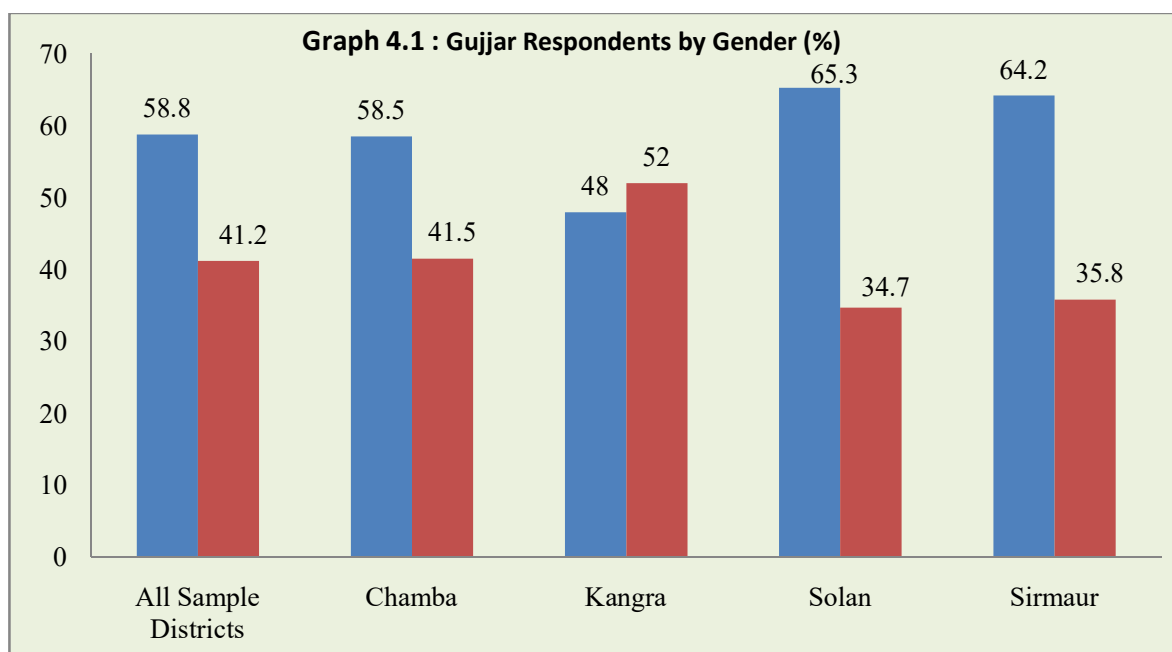
The demographic profile of Gujjars varies with their own characteristics, such as age, marital status, religion, and caste, as well as the characteristics of their households, such as economic status. Additionally, educational exposure is an important catalyst in health and demographic change. This sub-section of the report summarizes the demographic characteristics of respondents. An understanding of the demographic background of the respondents is an important and valuable initial step for further understanding, analysis of the subject under review. Therefore, the present chapter deals with the demographic profile of the respondents. An attempt is being made to describe analytically the demographic profile of the respondents.

4.1 GENDER PROFILE

Gender and age are two of the most important factors for the study of population structure, on the basis of which, other type of demographic data, such as population count, educational level, etc., are cross-classified and analyzed. The table below establishes that majority of the respondents were males at 58.8 percent and females were 41.2 percent.

Table 4.1: Gujjar Respondents by Gender (%)

	ALL Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Male	58.8	58.5	48.0	65.3	64.2
Female	41.2	41.5	52.0	34.7	35.8



The table also reveals that a large majority of the respondents who came forward were also males. This may be due to the fact that the females are mostly conservative and they seldom interact with outsiders, especially males. But during

the field work female investigators tried to convince them and took their interview. Their participation in the survey is about 41.2 percent, which is quite significant. Their participation rate varies from district to district from the minimum 34.7 percent in Solan to 52.0 percent in Kangra. In Chamba, the proportion of female respondents is 41.5 percent whereas in Sirmaur it is 35.8 percent.

4.2 AGE

Age factor is a matter of universal concern for determining on individual's behavior and responsibilities in a society. In the life of an individual, age has a very important role in determining what is expected from an individual in performing various roles in society and in occupation. The social and occupational engagements and obligations increase and decrease with age. It is significant to find the age distribution of respondents of our sample. In order to get a clear picture or idea, the entire sample has been classified into four broad categories. The first category includes respondents from the age of 18 to 30 years; the second, category includes respondents from the age of 31 to 40 years; the third one includes respondents from the age of 41 to 50 years; and the fourth one includes respondents above the age of 51 years. The distribution of the respondents in these four age groups is as under. (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Gujar Respondents across Age-Group (%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
18 to 30 Years	15.2	7.2	18.3	12.6	22.8
31 to 40 Years	28.0	21.4	27.4	31.8	31.2
41 to 50 Years	30.0	32.9	31.2	28.2	27.7
51 and Above	26.8	38.5	23.1	27.4	18.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

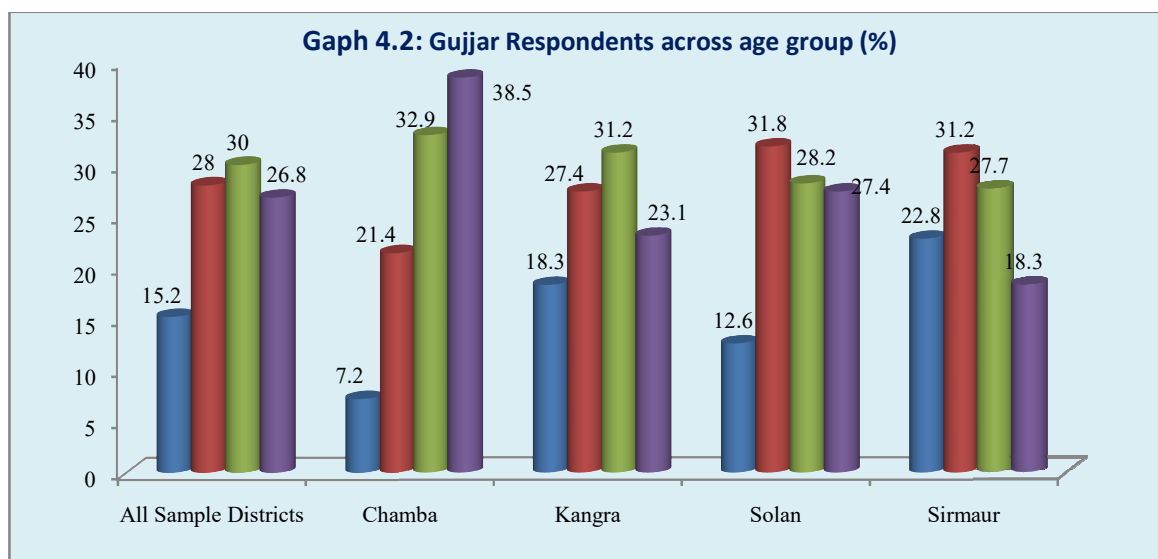


Table 4.2 clearly shows that a majority of the respondents were quite young at the time of data collection. Further as shown in the given table, it becomes clear that the majority of respondents are placed in the age category of 18 to 40 years of age i.e. 43.2 percent of the total samples taken; secondly, 30 percent respondents were placed in the second category i.e. 41 to 50 years and rest 26.8 percent belong to the

third category i.e. above 51 years of age. Sirmaur has the highest percentage of young population (54%) placed in the age category of 18 to 40 years of age; whereas Chamba has the least (28.6%). At the same time Chamba has the highest percentage of survival after 51 (38.5%) as compared to that of Sirmaur (18.3%).

From the above analysis, it can be inferred that one of the possible reasons for low percentage of population is the age group of 51 years and above can be that the life expectancy of the Gujjars in Sirmaur district is less than the rest of the three districts among others. This may be due to the inefficient healthcare facilities or less consciousness about health in old age. However 28 percent of the Gujjar population from the study area is in the hard-working age group of 31 to 40 years.

Table 4.3: Proportion of Gujjar Respondents by Gender and Age-Group (%)

Age groups	Male	Female
18 to 30 Years	15.9	16.8
31 to 40 Years	32.1	32.9
41 to 50 Years	26.1	25.8
51 and Above	27.0	24.5
Mean Age	28	27

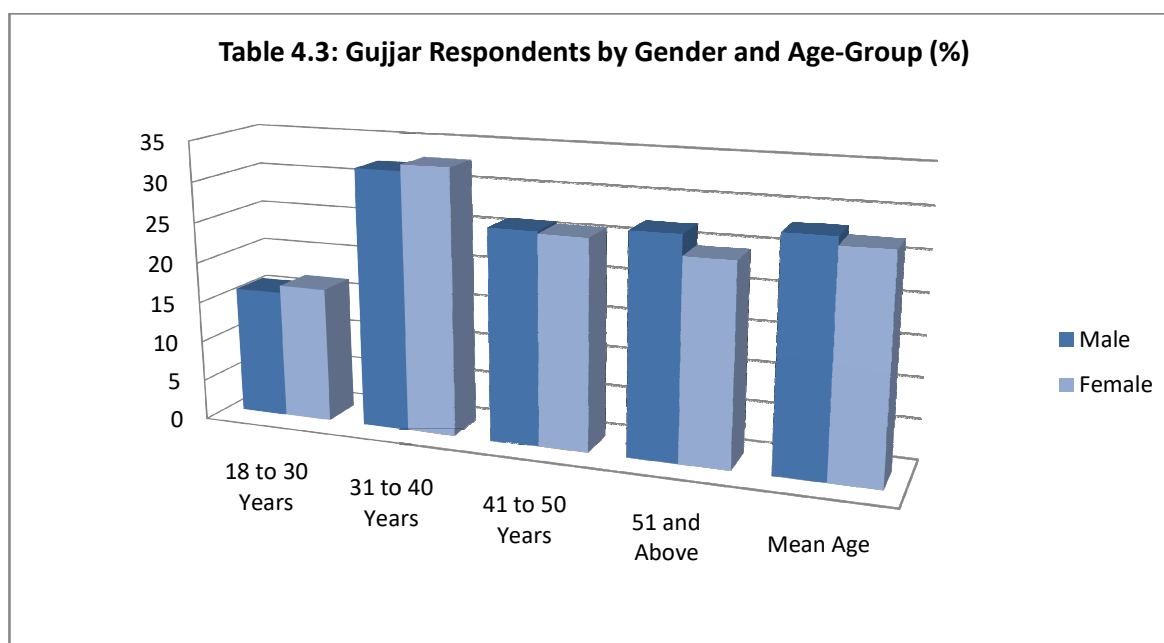


Table 4.3 depicts the percentage distribution of gender across age group. The mean age of respondents is 28. It is 28 for male and 27 for females. This shows proper representation of gender in the sample.

4.3 LITERACY RATE

Education is one of the most pertinent factors that affect human behavior and occupational status. The literacy level of Himachal Pradesh as a whole and the Gujjars & Scheduled Tribes of Himachal Pradesh in particular is depicted in Table 4.4.

It is observed from the table that at the gross level, 36 percent Gujar respondents are illiterate. But the illiteracy level is lower in case of Scheduled Tribes of Himachal Pradesh. It is just 26.4 per cent as against the total illiteracy rate of 16.2 percent in the state.

With regard to female population in the study area, higher proportion of female population is illiterate just because of sheer neglect, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness. Maximum number of nomadic Gujjars migrate with their family members between upper and lower reaches, and are illiterate.

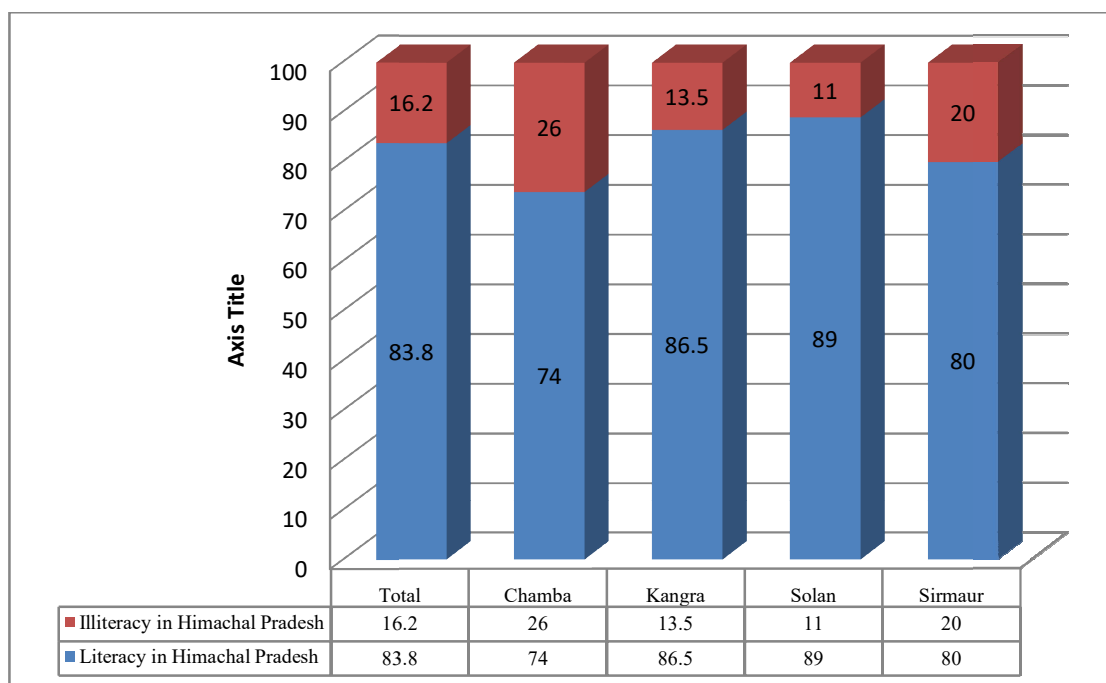
Table 4.4: Literacy and Illiteracy among Gujjars and STs in Himachal Pradesh (%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
LITERACY/ILLITERACY in HP-Overall (Census 2011)					
Literacy in Himachal Pradesh	83.8	74.0	86.5	89.0	80.0
Illiteracy in Himachal Pradesh	16.2	26.0	13.5	11.0	20.0
LITERACY/ILLITERACY-ST Population (Census 2011)					
Literacy among ST's of Himachal Pradesh**	73.6	69.1	74.1	73.1	59.7
Illiteracy among ST's of Himachal Pradesh**	26.4	29.9	25.9	26.9	40.3
LITERACY/ILLITERACY- Gujjars in H.P. (As per the Survey)					
Literacy among Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh*	64.0	57.0	68.0	75.0	67.0
Illiteracy among Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh*	36.0	43.0	32.0	25.0	33.0

Note: * Sample data as per the survey

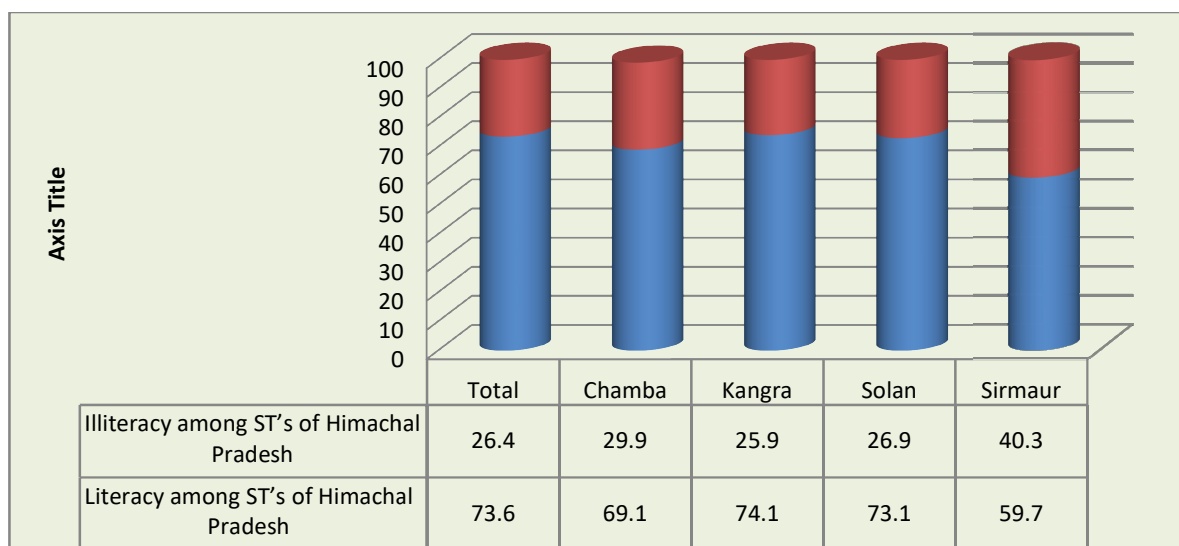
** Census data as per 2011 census

Graph 4.4: Literacy & Illiteracy rate in Himachal Pradesh (%)



Data clearly shows that literacy is 83.8 percent in Himachal Pradesh. It is very high in case of Solan (89%) followed by Kangra (86.5%), Sirmaur (80%) and Chamba (74%).

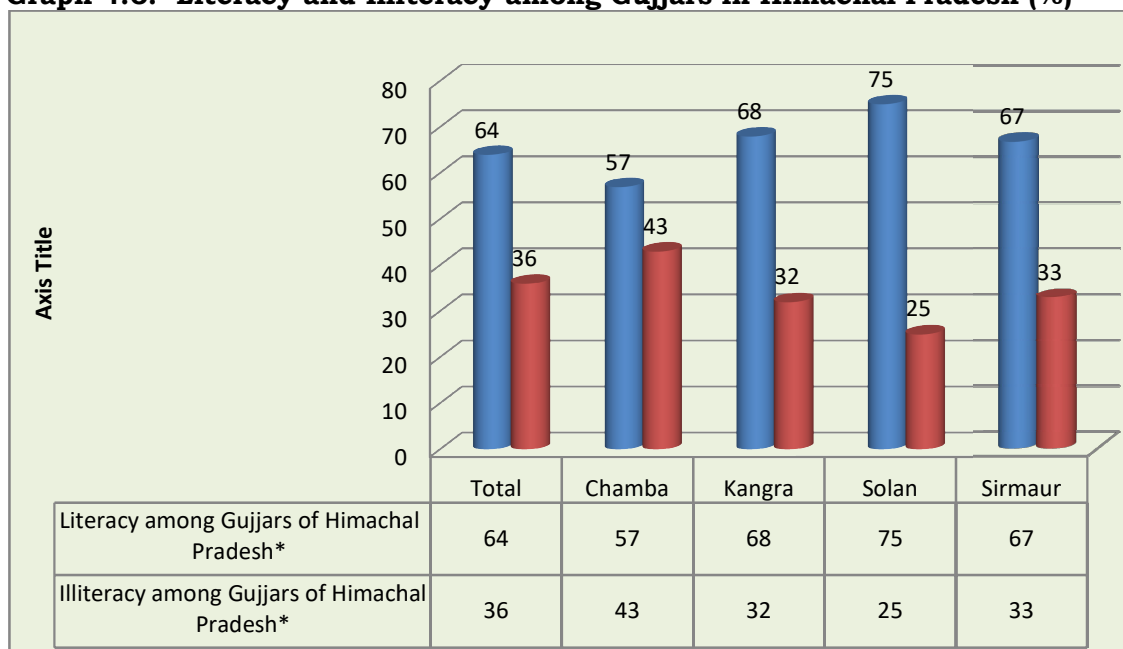
Graph 4.5: Literacy and Illiteracy among STs in Himachal Pradesh (%)



Literacy among ST's is lower as compared to the general masses of Himachal Pradesh. It is 73.6 percent as compared to 83.8 percent in Himachal Pradesh. It is very high in case of Kangra at 74.1 percent followed by Solan at 73.1 percent, Chamba at 69.1 percent and Sirmaur at 59.7 percent.

Literacy rate across gender shows that there is a low level of literacy among females than males.

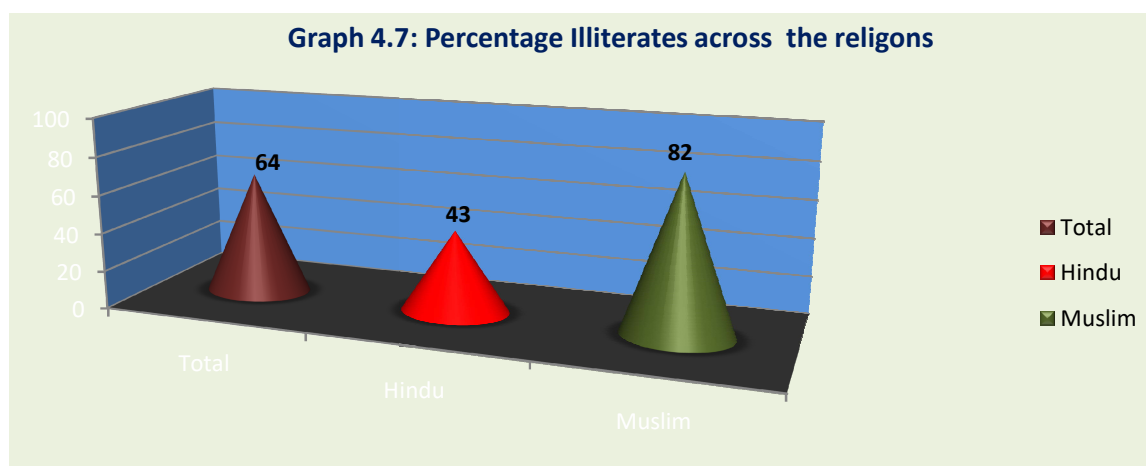
Graph 4.6: Literacy and Illiteracy among Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh (%)



Literacy among Gujjars is about 64 percent as per the survey data. Data across districts shows Solan has the highest number of literate Gujjars (75%) followed by Kangra (68%), Sirmaur (67%) and Chamba (57%).

Among the settled Gujjars, the literacy rate is increasing day by day. In most of the cases, the students of new generation are taking interest in education. Their parents are also taking responsibility to send their children to schools. In settled areas, as usual, the availability of schools and other educational facilities are better and this is one of the factors responsible for increasing literacy rate among settled Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. In Chamba, as most of the Gujjars are migrants, they fail to avail the educational facilities; therefore the literacy rate is lower among them as compared to other settled Gujjars.

Generally schools are not within close proximity to their settlement. Mobile schools are in operation in a few areas. Due to lack of interest on part of the students as well as their parents and ineffective supervision of the scheme, the mobile school scheme is found to be non-functional. Their migratory mode of life also stands as hindrance in the way of getting regular education.



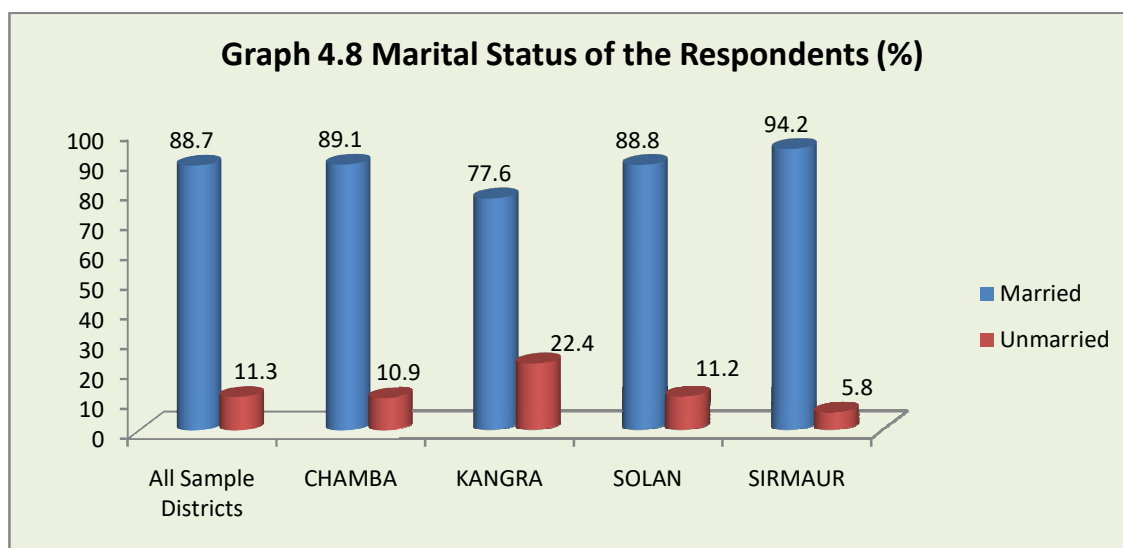
Among religions, Muslim Gujjars are found to be more illiterate than Hindu Gujjars as most of the Muslim Gujjars are nomadic in nature and unable to avail the required facility for the education.

4.4 MARITAL STATUS

According to marital status, respondents were classified into two categories i.e. married and unmarried. The following table on the succeeding page presents the distribution of the respondents in this regard.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Gujar Respondents by Marital Status (%)

Status	All Sample Districts	CHAMBA	KANGRA	SOLAN	SIRMAUR
Married	88.7	89.1	77.6	88.8	94.2
Unmarried	11.3	10.9	22.4	11.2	5.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100



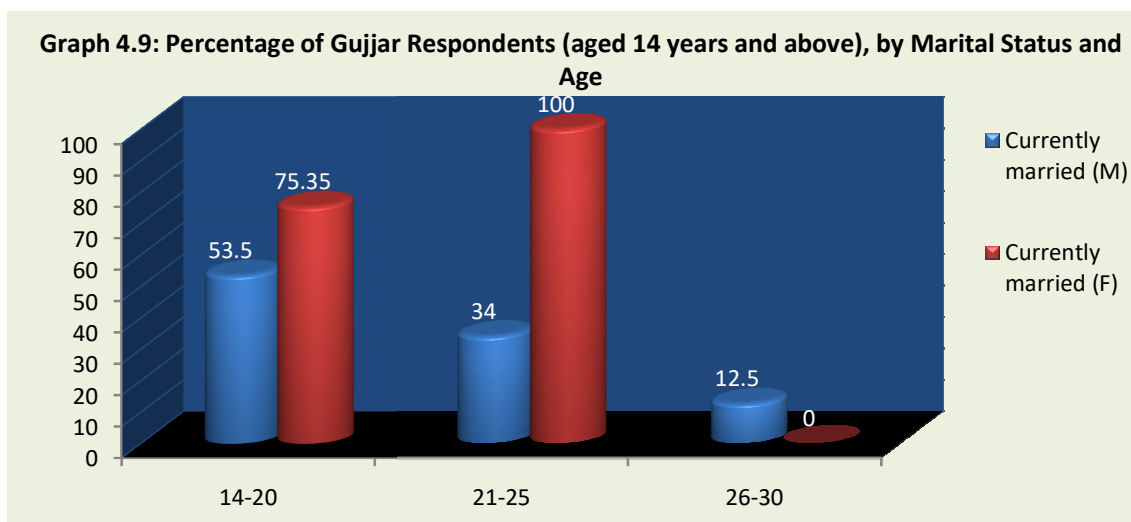
It is found that 88.7 percent Gujar respondents are married and the remaining 11.3 percent are unmarried. This may be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were head of the households.

Table 4.6: Distribution of Gujar Respondents (14 years and above) by Marital Status and Age-Group (%)

Age groups (in years)	Male		Female	
	Currently married	Currently married (Cumulative)	Currently married	Currently married (Cumulative)
14-20	53.5	53.5	75.35	75.35
21-25	34.0	87.5	100.0	100.0
26-30	12.5	100.0		
Total	100	100	100	100

Note: There is no case of divorce or separation

Table 4.6 shows the marital status of the Gujjars of the study area. A look at the marital status of the males indicates that by the age of 29 almost all of them have ever been married, whereas marriages of Gujar female starts at 13-14 years and by the age of 25 all of them are married. However the percentage of married females in the age group of 14-20 years is about 75.35 percent. This is higher than that of the ever married male i.e. 53.5 percent which shows that early marriage of the Gujar girls is still prevalent in this community.



Being rich in culture, no cases of divorce or separation were found in the sample area whereas majority cases of widowhood were seen at the old age of both males and females. This is one of the indicators sharing existence of a closely knit Gujjar Community in Himachal Pradesh.

4.5 HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The size of the household is an important variable required for assessing the socio-economic condition of a family. The family size is always considered to be an important factor affecting the socio-economic condition of a family. The lower the family size, the better is the socio-economic condition. Table 4.7 represents the percentage distribution of the household size of Gujjars in the study areas. It shows that only 6.5 percent of the households have the lowest family size of 1-3 members. The family size of about 50.0 percent of the households consists of 4-5 members. Another 18.3 percent households have family size of 6 members. The remaining 30.0 percent of the households have family members more than 7.

Table 4.7: Distribution of Gujjar Households by Family Size and Districts (%)

Family size	Chamba	Kangra	Sirmaur	Solan	All Sample Districts
1-3 members	1.1	0.9	2	22.3	6.5
4	22.9	24.8	22.3	30.6	25.1
5	21.6	22.3	24.4	28	24
6	24.1	20.4	19.4	9.2	18.2
7	9.3	8.6	8.9	3.2	7.5
8	8.8	12	11	4.5	9
9 & Above	12.1	10.9	12	12.2	11.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100

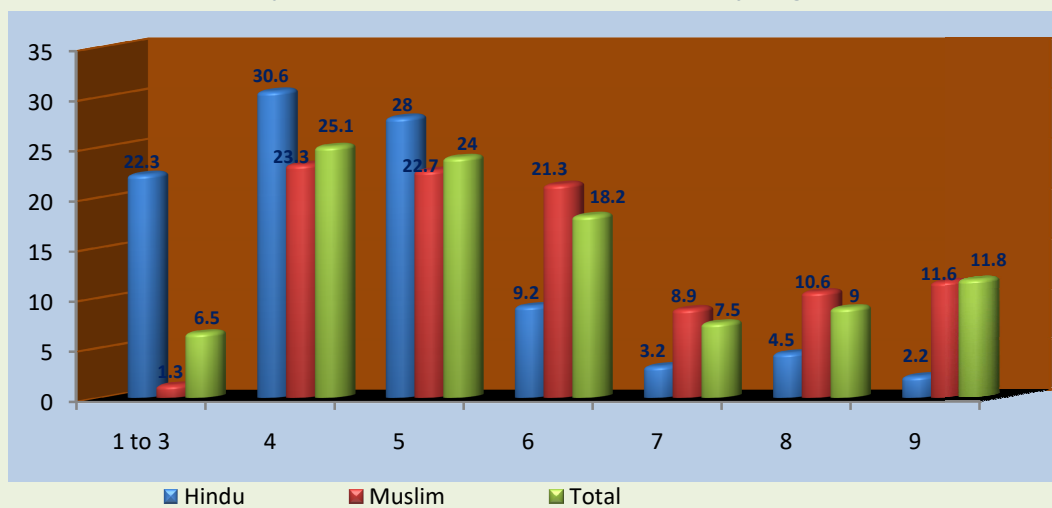
About 11.8 percent households fall into the category of a large family having 9 or more members in the family. However Sirmaur, Chamba and Solan districts have more households with 9+ family members as compared to Kangra. This indicates that there is lack of awareness among the Gujjars about family planning methods.

Table 4.8 shows the percentage distribution of household size by religion. It may be observed that only 1.3 percent Muslim Gujjars have families with 1-3 members where as 23.2 percent have 4 members in a family. At the same time Hindus have 22.3 per cent 1-3 members' family and 30.6 have 4 members family. But in the larger family size category, Muslims are much ahead of Hindus. Data shows that Hindu Gujjars are mostly following small family norms whereas Muslim Gujjars are not aware about it and its impact.

Table 4.8: Distribution Gujjar Households by Family Size and Religion(%)

Family size	Hindu	Muslim
1-3 members	22.3	1.3
4	30.6	23.3
5	28	22.7
6	9.2	21.3
7	3.2	8.9
8	4.5	10.6
9& Above	2.2	11.6
Total	100	100

Graph 4.10: Distribution of household size by religion (%)



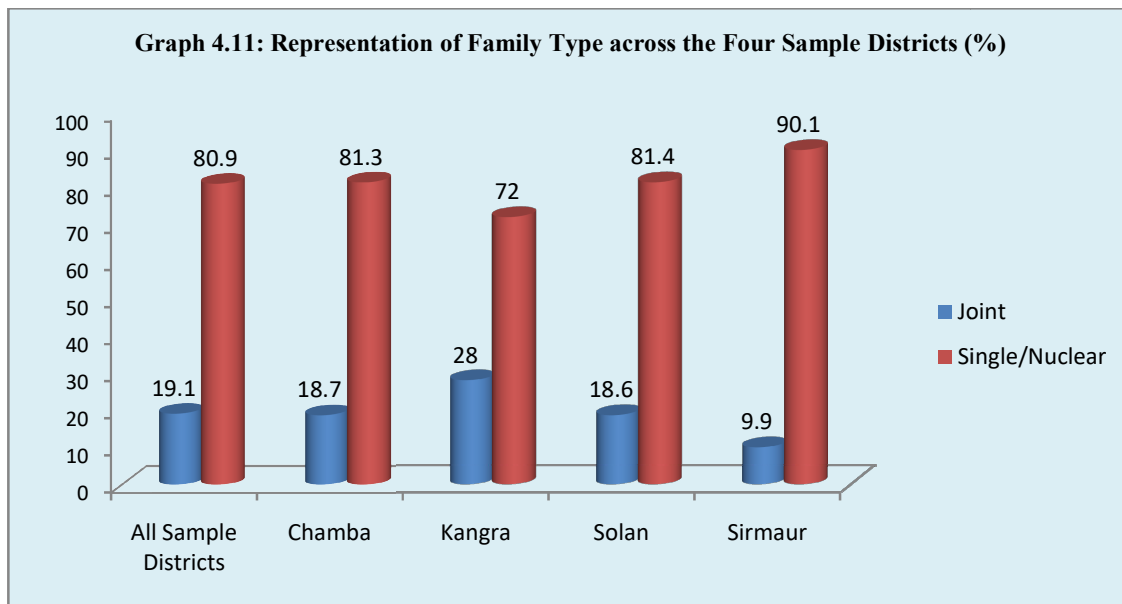
4.6 FAMILY TYPE

Family type is another indicator to analyze the social characteristic of a household. Family structure is conceptualized as the configuration of role, power, status, and relationships in the family. In India, the structure may of family can be seen broadly as **Joint Family**, where married sons and brothers may live separately, but they continue to have joint property and share income irrespective of sharing the same kitchen and **Nuclear type** of family, in which the group consists of a male, his wife and their children with no place for others.

Table 4.9: Distribution of Gujjar Households by Family Type across Five Sample Districts (%)

Family Type	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Joint	19.1	18.7	28.0	18.6	9.9
Single/Nuclear	80.9	81.3	72.0	81.4	90.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.9 concludes that a majority of the respondents have single/nuclear type of family (80.9%) while only 19.1 percent live in joint families. Kangra illustrates a higher number of joint families at 28 percent followed by Chamba at 18.7 percent, Solan at 18.6 percent and Sirmaur at 9.9 percent.



CHAPTER V

SOCIAL STATUS OF THE GUJJARS IN Himachal Pradesh

Social characteristics such as religion, caste, and housing type, availability of basic amenities like water, electricity, road connectivity, health status, and literacy level are the indicators which have been used to determine the social status of the Gujjars in the study area. The information on the social background of the respondents has been collected and presented as follows.

5.1 CASTE AND RELIGION

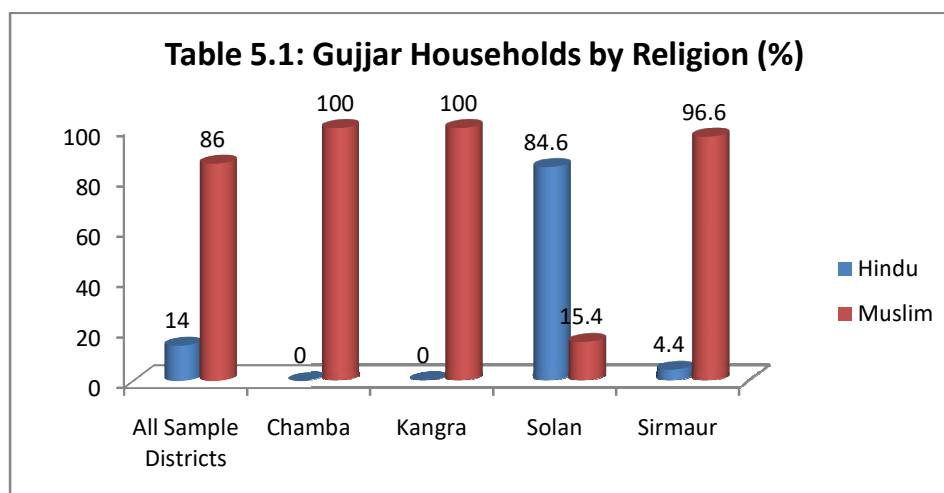
The caste system is a very deep rooted and is a mighty institution in the Indian society. It has important impact on all other institutions such as social, economic, political, religious and also educational. As caste system has relevance in all aspects of life, it was considered necessary to collect information on castes of the Gujjar respondents.

The caste system is prevalent among both Hindu and Muslim Gujjars. The Gujjars are now recognized as both Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class (OBC) in some states of India. As of 2003, the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh were recognized as Scheduled Tribes. The Gujjars already living in old Himachal were having the Scheduled Tribe status. However, the Gujjars who inhabited the newly merged areas (1971) were granted the status of Scheduled Tribe in January, 2003.

Table 5.1 provides the information on the distribution of Gujjars by religion in four selected districts. In Himachal Pradesh, both Hindu and Muslim Gujjars are there. The share of Hindus and Muslims are 14 percent and 86 percent respectively. It is found that 100 percent Gujjars of Chamba & Kangra are Muslims whereas, Solan has only 15.4 percent Muslims & 84.6 percent Hindus, and Sirmaur has only 4.4 percent Hindus as against 96.6 percent Muslims.

Table 5.1: Gujjar Households by Religion (%)

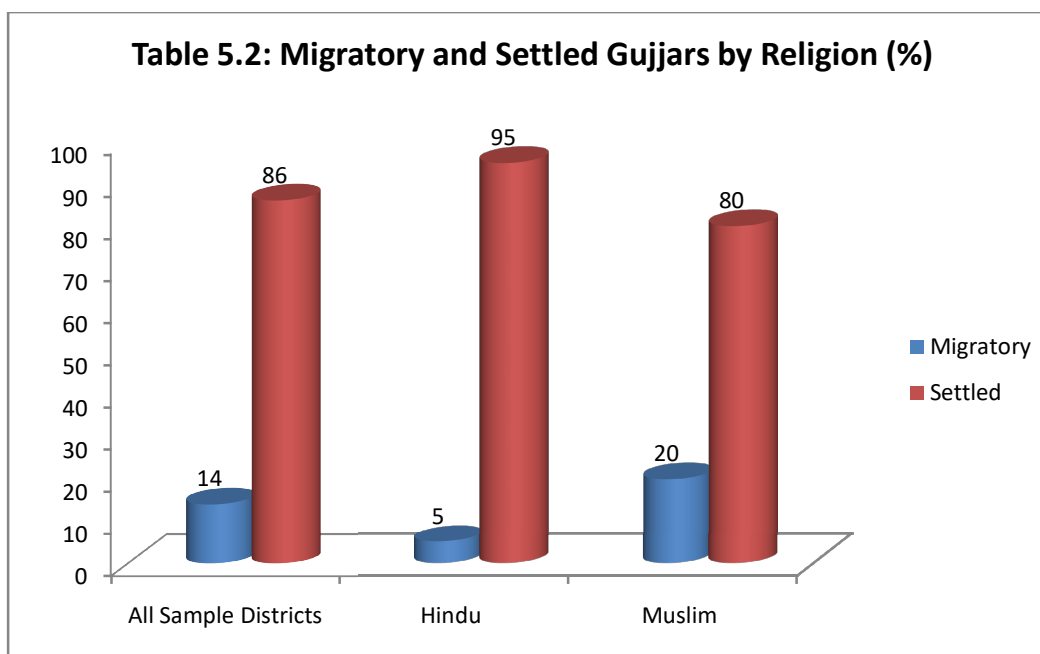
Religion	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Hindu	14	0.0	0.0	84.6	4.4
Muslim	86	100.0	100.0	15.4	96.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



The distribution of migratory and settled Gujjars by religion is presented in Table 5.2. Among the Hindu Gujjars only 5 percent of them are migratory and 95 percent are settled whereas, 20 percent of the Muslim Gujjars are migratory 80 percent of them have been settled now. It may be concluded that the incidence of migration of the Muslim is higher as compared to the Hindu among the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh.

Table 5.2: Migrated and Settled Gujjars by Religion (%)

	Total	Hindu	Muslim
Migratory	14.0	5.0	20.0
Settled	86.0	95.0	80.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



5.2 LIVING CONDITIONS

5.2.1 Housing

Housing condition is one of the basic indicators of quality of life and social status. In the present study (Table 5.3), 30.6 percent of the Gujar respondents are found to be living in Kucha houses, 28.8 percent in huts whereas 20 percent live in kucha-pucca and pucca houses.

About 64.8 percent pucca houses are in Solan, followed by Sirmaur at 14.9 percent, Kangra only at 0.9 percent, and Chamba do not have any pucca houses among the four sample districts. As far as the Pucca-Kucha houses are concerned, Sirmaur has the highest number of houses of this type at 40.3 percent, Solan has 33.4 percent, Kangra at 6.1 percent, and again Chamba does not have any of this type of houses.

Further, out of 30.6 percent of the kucha houses with thatched roof and mud wall, a major percentage is in Kangra at 85.4 percent, Sirmaur has 20.1 percent and Chamba has 17.4 percent.

About 28.8 percent of the total respondents are still living in huts made up of timber, grass, and mud. This type of huts are largely seen in Chamba (82.6 %) & Sirmaur (24.7 %) mostly owned by nomadic or migrant Gujjars of Muslim communities living in the interior areas surrounded by the jungles, indicating that they are the most backward community among the Gujjars.

Only a few households have separate kitchen and cattle shed. Toilets are not constructed and only 3.5% of the households have toilets whereas the rest of the households do not have it. As a result, most of them go for outdoor defecation.

Table 5.3: Gujar Respondents by Type of Dwelling Unit(%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Pucca	20.1	0.0	0.9	64.8	14.9
Pucca-kucha	20.0	0.0	6.1	33.4	40.3
Kucha	30.6	17.4	85.4	0.0	20.1
Hut	28.8	82.6	7.6	0.0	24.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

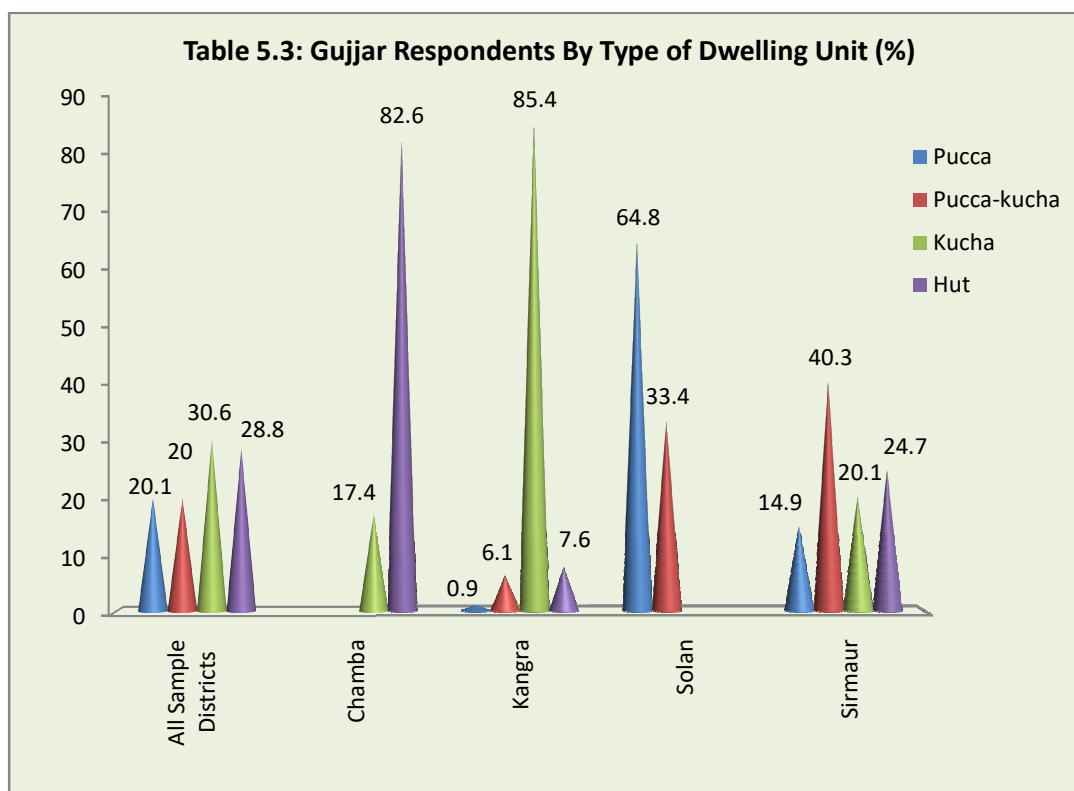


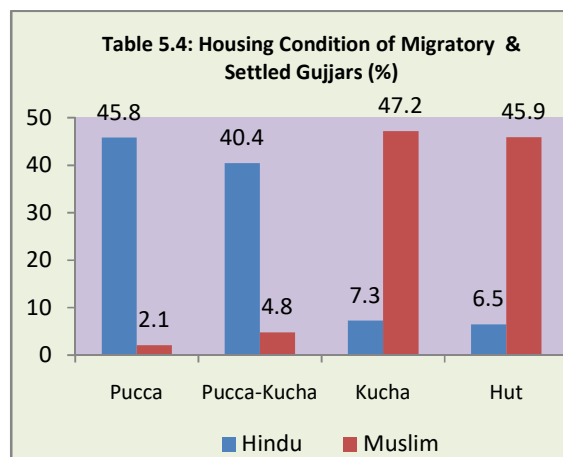
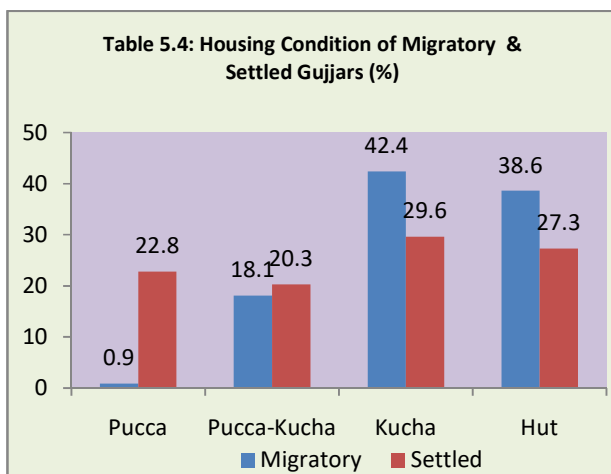
Table 5.3 shows that most of the pucca houses are owned by settled Gujjar households at 23 percent. At the same time 18 percent of the migratory Gujjars and 20 percent of the settled Gujjars have pucca-kucha houses. About 42 percent of nomadic Gujjars and 29 percent of settled Gujjars reside in kucha houses. But Huts are mostly occupied by nomadic Gujjars (38%) while 27 percent of the settled Gujjars live in Huts.

Table 5.4: Migratory&Settled Gujjars by Type of Dwelling Unit (%)

	Migratory	Settled
Pucca	0.9	22.8
Pucca-Kucha	18.1	20.3
Kucha	42.4	29.6
Hut	38.6	27.3
Total	100	100

Table 5.5: Gujjars by Type of Dwelling Unit and Religion (%)

	Hindu	Muslim
Pucca	45.8	2.1
Pucca-Kucha	40.4	4.8
Kucha	7.3	47.2
Hut	6.5	45.9
Total	100	100



It is found that 46 percent of Hindu respondents own a pucca house whereas only 2 percent of the Muslim respondents own one. With regard to pucca-kucha houses, the figure is 40 percent in the case of Hindus and only 5 percent for Muslims. About 47 percent of Muslims live in kucha houses as against only 7 percent in case of Hindus. Again, as high as 46 percent of the Muslim respondents live in huts as compared to only 6 percent in case of Hindus. This indicates that Muslim Gujjars live in poor housing conditions as compared to Hindus.

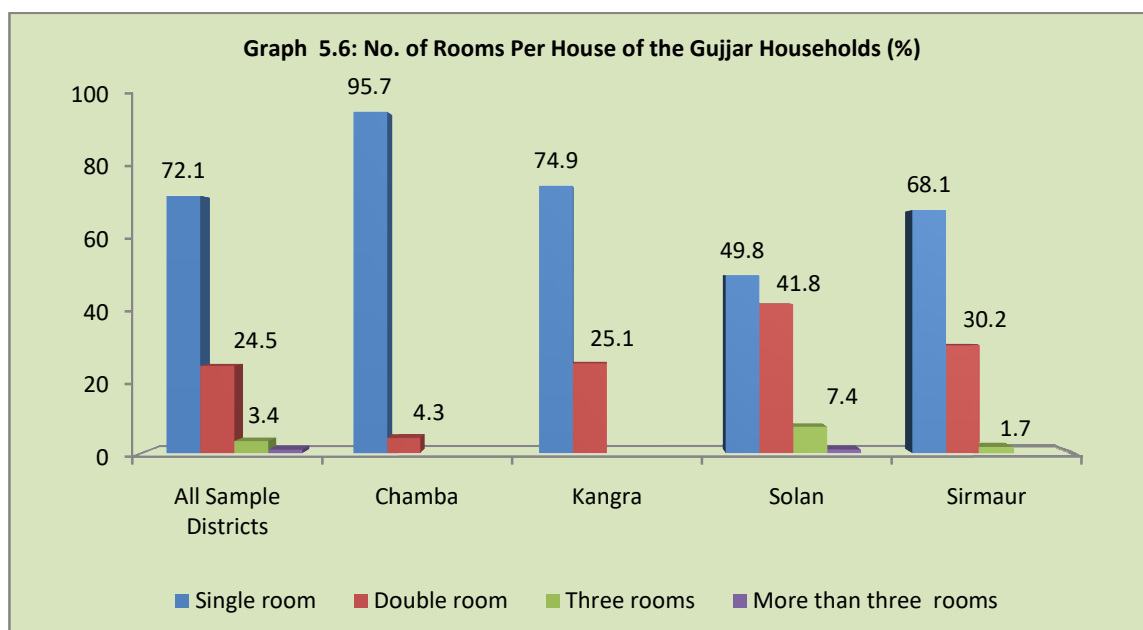
Field observation report shows that Hindu Gujjars are mostly settled whereas the Muslim Gujjars are mostly nomadic inhabited in interior parts with little availability of basic amenities. This also indicates the poor socio-economic condition of Muslim Gujjars as against that of Hindus.

Table 5.6 specifically indicates the number of rooms in the Gujjar households they live in. Most of the households are living in a single room house (72%). About 24 percent of the households have double room houses.

Three rooms or more than that are found in very rare cases. However, in Chamba, 96 percent of the Gujjars live in single room houses and only 4 percent have double room houses. Similarly in Kangra, 75 percent Gujjar households have single room and rest of the 25 percent have double rooms. Three room houses and larger are only seen in Solan and Sirmaur district.

Table 5.6:Gujjar Households by No. of Rooms in their Dwelling Units (%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Single room	72.1	95.7	74.9	49.8	68.1
Double room	24.5	4.3	25.1	41.8	30.2
Three rooms	3.4	0.0	0.0	7.4	1.7
More than three rooms	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



5.2.2 Water

Access to drinking water for the majority of respondents is still very less. Data reveals that 48.6 percent Gujjar respondents have proper water facility in their area whereas 51.4 percent don't have it. This means that maximum respondents don't have access to proper water facility.

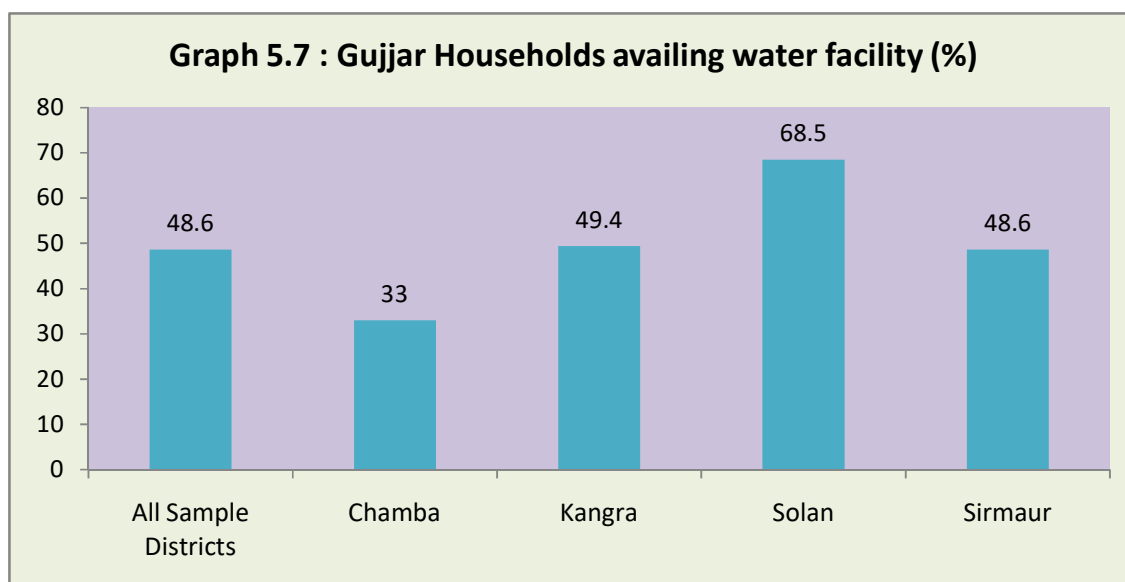
Across districts, 68.5 percent Gujjars of Solan have better water facilities than other districts. The Gujjars of Chamba, Gujjars of Indora block of Kangra district (Kathgarh & Kurshan Panchayat) and Sirmaur districts do not have proper water facilities in their areas. They collect water from Bowli's, springs and one or two public taps available in their areas. They have to cover a long distance to fetch water for their daily use and drinking purposes thus facing great hardship.

Table 5.7: Gujjar HH's With and Without Proper Water Facility in their Area (%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
With proper water facility in their area	48.6	33.0	49.4	68.5	48.6
Without proper water facility in their area	51.4	67.0	50.6	31.5	51.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

During the Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), the nomadic Gujjars revealed that during summer and spring season, in the hilly areas, they get fresh natural water from natural streams, which is good for their health and in all other respects.

But during winters when they arrive in the plains, they face lot of problems due to inaccessibility of water supply. Earthen pots, old buckets and used containers are used by Gujjars to store drinking water in their houses.

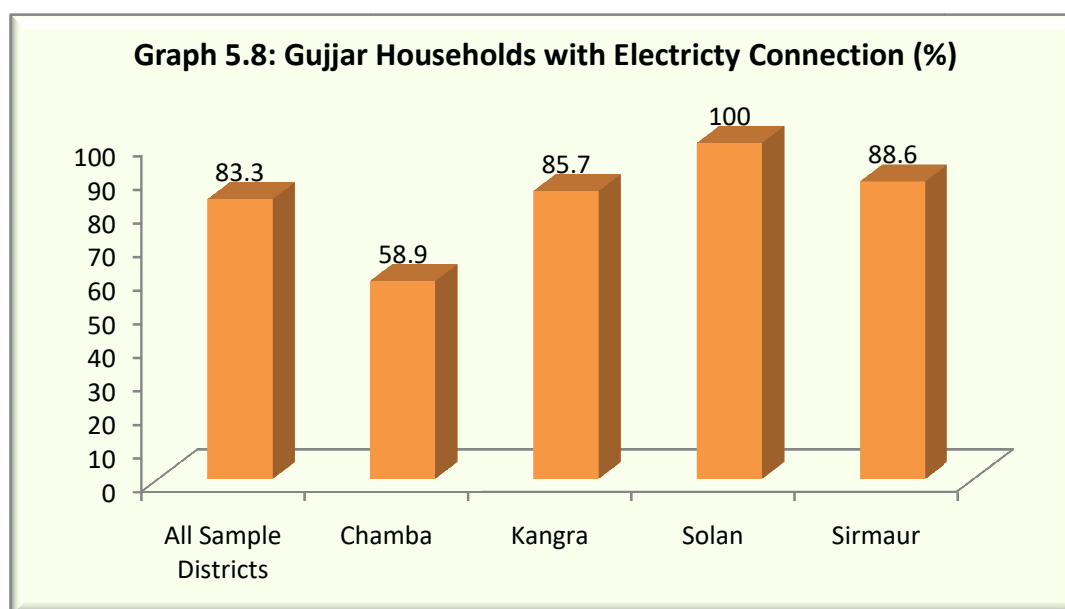


5.2.3 Electricity

Data on availability and use of electricity (Table 5.8) reveals that most of the Gujjar households (83.3 %) have electricity connection. Only 16.7 percent Gujjar households do not have access to electricity.

Table 5.8: Gujjar Households With or Without Electricity Connection (%)					
	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Availability of Electricity	83.3	58.9	85.7	100	88.6
No Electricity Connection	16.7	41.1	14.3	0	11.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Across the four selected districts, percentage of households with electricity varies between 58.9 percent in Chamba to 100 percent in Solan district. In Chamba, most of the Gujjars are nomadic. They do not have permanent house in their name, nor do they get rent receipt which deters them from getting an electricity connection. It is at the lowest among the four districts in respect of electricity connection.

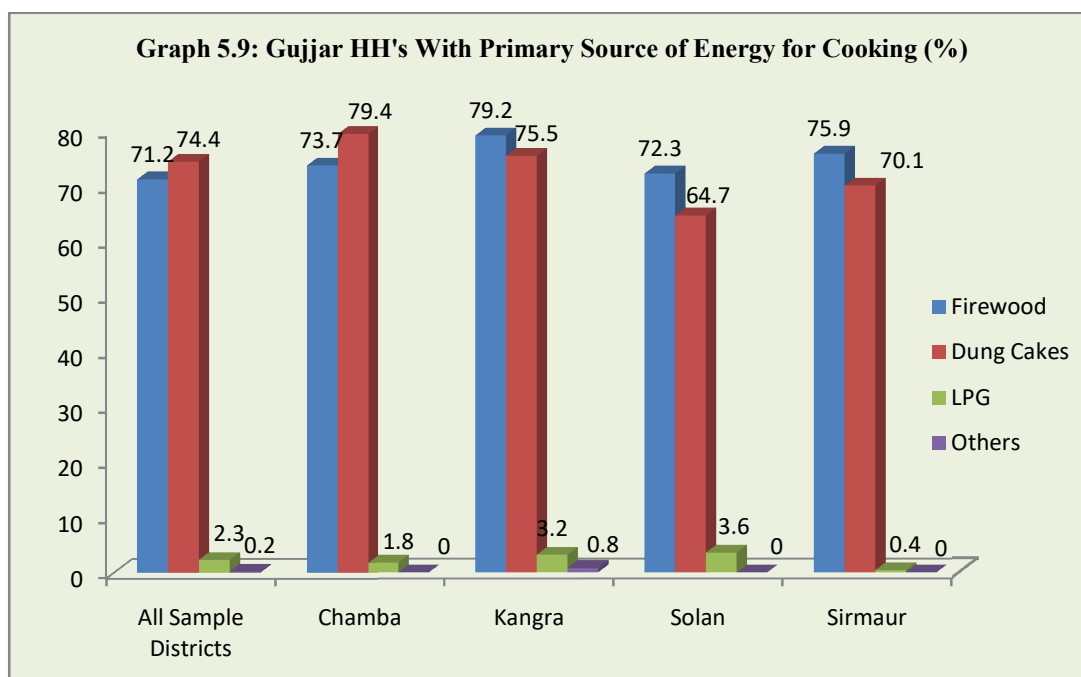


Households with no electricity are the highest in Chamba at 41.1 percent. In Solan all the Gujjar households have electricity connection.

5.2.4 Cooking

From Table 5.9 it is found that majority of the Gujjar households use firewood or dung cakes as their prime source of energy for cooking. Percentage of houses using firewood and dung cakes is 71.2 percent and 74.4 percent respectively. Kangra has a greater proportion of households using firewood (79.2%) while dung cakes are mostly used by respondents of Chamba (79.4%). Again, in case of LPG, only 2.3 percent Gujjar households have access to it. Data across districts show that Solan has more LPG users at 3.6 percent followed by Kangra at 3.2 percent, Chamba at 1.8 percent and Sirmaur at the lowest of 0.4 percent. This may be due to the fact that Kangra and Solan have more settled Gujjars who have been living there for more than 30-60 years.

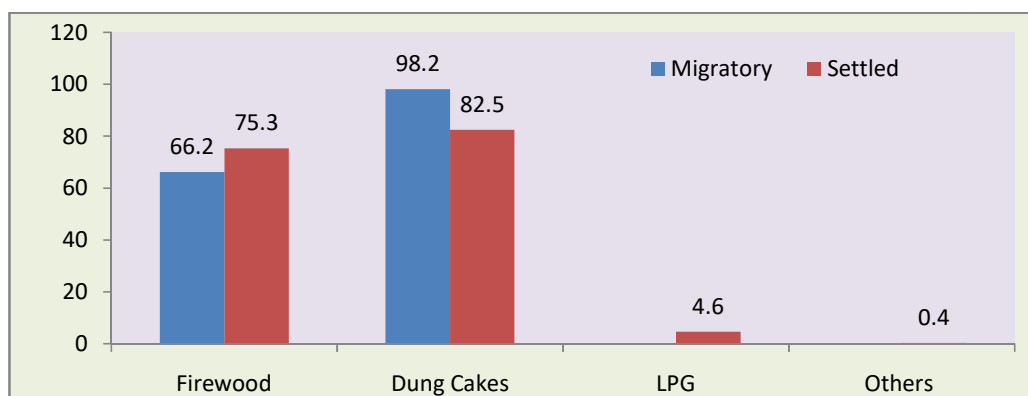
Table 5.9: Gujjar Households by Primary source of Energy for (%)					
	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Firewood	71.2	73.7	79.2	72.3	75.9
Dung Cakes	74.4	79.4	75.5	64.7	70.1
LPG	2.3	1.8	3.2	3.6	0.4
Others	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0



For the purpose of cooking, Gujjars are using multiple sources. In most of the cases they are using dung cakes. Along with that many of them are using firewood. Across migratory and settled Gujjar households who are using biofuels (firewood) for cooking purpose, are 66.2 percent and 75.3 percent, respectively (Table 5.10). Dung cakes are also largely used by the nomadic Gujjars as 98.2 percent of them use it. Only a small percentage of settled Gujjars (4.6 %) are using clean fuel with LPG connection.

Table 5.10: Sources of Energy for Cooking (%) used by Gujjar HH's in HP		
Source of Energy	Migratory	Settled
Firewood	66.2	75.3
Dung Cakes	98.2	82.5
LPG	0.0	4.6
Others	0.0	0.4

Graph 5.10: Energy Sources for Cooking used by Migratory & Settled Gujjar HHs (%)



5.2.5 Road Connectivity

Rural road connectivity is one of the basic infrastructure required for all round development of villages in the rural areas as it promotes access to economic and social services, thereby generating increased agricultural productivity, commercialization, mechanization, employment generation and growth of services sector too. This expands rural growth opportunities, real income and poverty.

While analyzing the condition of roads and road connectivity across the four sample districts, both Solan and Kangra are found to have stable road conditions mostly pucca motorable roads with connectivity to almost all the villages having Gujjar concentration. The condition of roads in Solan is found to be of good quality as maximum roads are pucca with a small percentage being either kucha or kucha-pucca.

Solan has relatively better road connectivity with all villages as compared to Kangra. Chamba has moderate road conditions but with good connectivity to inter-village roads where half of the roads are pucca and half are kucha-pucca. Sirmaur is found to have poor road condition with maximum roads being kucha-pucca and also poor inter-village road connectivity as the Gujjars mostly live in the interior or forest areas.

5.3 CONDITION OF WOMEN GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

The tribal Gujjar women of Himachal Pradesh live in utter deprivation. The Gujjar women are not aware of their rights and schemes launched by the government for their education, health and social upliftment as they live in far-flung and remote areas and are nomads moving from one place to another. The facilities offered to the women in this community are inadequate.

Social Condition

The nomadic Gujjar women are undergoing thorough exploitation. They have to attend to all the chores of the household from cooking to selling milk and helping their men at farming and cattle feeding. The dull lifestyle and hard work from morning till late at night makes them physically as well as mentally fatigued. Beside this the nomadic Gujjar women have been victim of superstitions despite their excessive work load. They are not getting due respect and position in their society. Ultimately they do not get time even to think of their own social status.

Biological determinant

Gujjar women are subject to risks related to pregnancy and childbearing. Where fertility is high and basic maternity care is not available, they are particularly vulnerable. They are not getting proper care and balanced diet during pregnancy.

Economic factors

Poverty underlies the poor health status, and Gujjar women represent a disproportionate segment of the poor. Furthermore, the cultural and socio-economic environment affects Gujjar women's exposure to diseases and injury, their diet, their access to and use of health services, and the manifestations and consequences of disease. Gujjar women belong to poor households which have much higher fertility rates and this deteriorates their health conditions further.

Malnutrition

Nutrition plays a major role in an individual's overall health. Psychological and physical health status is often dramatically impacted by the presence of malnutrition. Gujar women don't get proper and balanced diet which makes them anemic in terms of iron deficiency. One of the main drivers of malnutrition is gender specific selection of the distribution of food resources. Maternal malnutrition has been associated with an increased risk of maternal mortality and also child birth defects.

5.4 HEALTH STATUS

Like other essential public utilities, health is one of the major indicators of human development. The network of health services in India is divided into rural health care and urban health care services. Rural health care services catering to the needs of majority of population living in rural areas consists of three - tier health services viz., Sub-centers (SCs), Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs). Urban health care services constitute government run hospitals and dispensaries at the state level, district and in urban settlements.

Before interpreting the survey results, it is pertinent to present the observations from field survey on the methods of treatment being availed in the study area.

In the survey area, the available health services could be classified into four different categories, viz. home remedy, modern health care services by various Government and private institutions, Jhola-Chhap doctors or quacks, and medicines taken as suggested by pharmacists in medical shops. The home remedy is a traditional healing system with indigenous medicines and spiritual exorcism. The treatment consists of package of practices and knowledge transmitted by ancestors through generations. The other form of home remedy is the 'Faith healing', based more on beliefs and rituals performed by a person claimed to possess spiritual healing power. As sayings go, this is partly a divine gift and partly is taught following completion of Islamic medical training.

The other category of traditional healing is exorcism which consists of black magic that embodies mixture of witchcraft and magic secrets to drive out evil spirits entering into a patient's body.

Next is the modern system of medicine and health Services provided by qualified doctors, technicians and para-medical personnel in various health facilities including Government/Private Clinics and Dispensaries. Here, the medicines are prescribed to the patients by well qualified and certified doctors after diagnosis thorough proper investigation.

The third type of Health Service is of 'Jhola-Chhap doctors' who are unqualified quacks without any formal/authorized medical degree. These type of doctors prescribe medicines on trial and error basis at the risk of patient's life and expense incurred by the family. Quite often, due to wrong treatment, the disease aggravates and reaches an advanced stage with no option but to take the patient to a qualified doctor or hospital.

The fourth type of curative method involves diagnosis and dispensing medicines by chemists of pharmaceutical /medical shops with little knowledge of medicines only

as they are dealing with the various drug companies without any of adequate knowledge of the disease.

Data shows that almost all Gujar households are not following any single method for curing their illness. Multiple health care sources are availed by them as per their need. For general sickness like fever, cold etc. they generally take traditional home based medicines.

Table 5.11 provides information on the health services availed by Gujar Households in four selected districts. About 96.6 percent of Gujar households are using home remedies as first aid, whereas 31.5 percent visit Government Dispensaries / PHC/CHC for their treatment. Data also shows that Government Hospitals are visited by 6.8 percent Gujjars, Private Hospitals/ Nursing Homes are visited by 13.0 percent and Private Doctors/Dispensaries are visited by 10.3 percent Gujar households. Apart from the formal treatment from authentic sources, 10.2 percent visit unqualified doctors and 2.9 percent just buy medicines from chemist shops as per chemist's advice. In most of the cases the Gujjars use two or more methods of treatment.

About 41.6 percent households from Solan district are visiting Government Dispensaries/ PHC/CHC followed by Kangra at 25.2 percent, Sirmaur at 23.7 percent and Chamba at 16.1 percent. Government Hospitals are visited by 9.4 percent Gujjars in Solan, followed by 7.9 percent in Sirmaur, 7.7 percent in Kangra and 2.2 percent in Chamba.

While the services of Private Hospital/ Nursing Home is availed by 13 percent of total Gujar households across districts, the maximum is from Solan (16.5 %), followed by Kangra (15.3 %), Sirmaur (10.2 %) and Chamba (9.4 %).

Similarly, 10.3 percent Gujar households seek treatment from Private Doctors/Dispensaries. In Solan about 20.1percent Gujar households visit Private Doctors/Dispensaries, followed by Sirmaur at 8.9 percent, Kangra at 7.5 percent and Chamba at 7.3 percent.

Table 5.11: Gujar Households by Source of Medical Treatment (%)

Source	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Home remedy	96.6	100.0	96.0	92.0	98.0
Government Dispensary/ PHC/CHC	31.5	16.1	25.2	41.6	23.7
Government Hospital	6.8	2.2	7.7	9.4	7.9
Private Hospital/ Nursing Home	13.0	9.4	15.3	16.5	10.2
Private Doctors/Private Clinics	10.3	7.3	7.5	20.1	8.9
Unqualified Doctors/Quacks	10.2	10.5	11.0	12.5	7.8
Pharmaceutical/Medicine Shop	2.9	2.5	3.2	3.0	3.0

Note: Multiple responses

Percentage of households visiting unqualified doctors/quacks is 10.2 percent in all the sample districts varying between 12.5 percent in Solan and 7.8 percent in Sirmaur. Households buying medicine directly from medical shops form 2.9 percent in all the sample districts with highest 3.2 percent in Kangra and lowest 2.5 percent in Chamba.

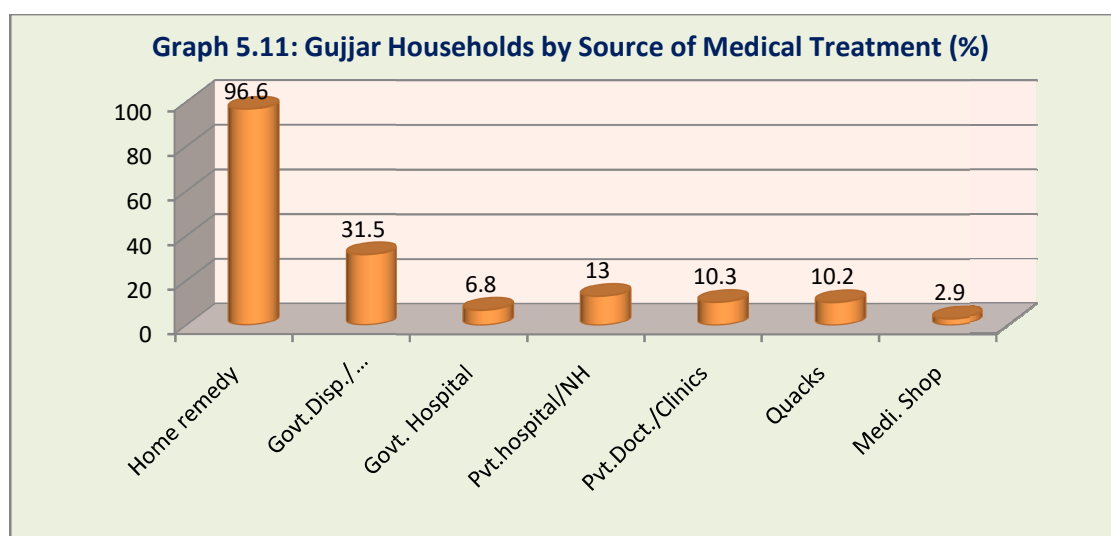


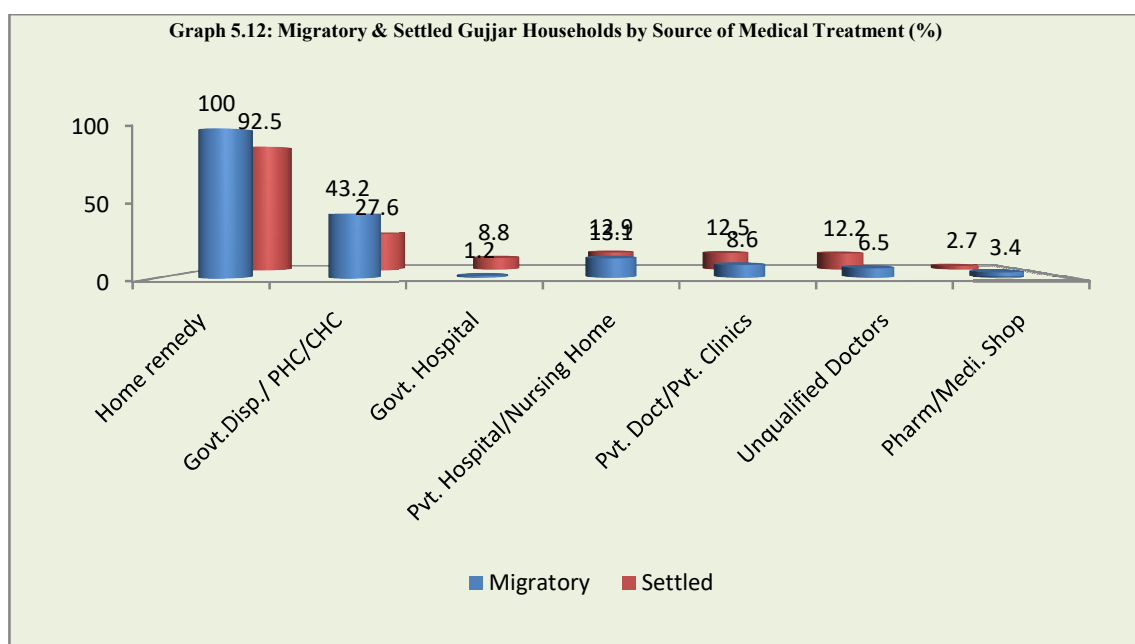
Table 5.12 presents distribution of migratory and settled Gujar households by source of health services availed. In case of nomadic Gujjars, almost all adopted home remedy as their first line of treatment during illness, while 43.2 percent visit Government Dispensaries/ PHC/CHC, 1.2 percent go to Government Hospitals. About 8.6 percent prefer Private Doctor/Private Clinics and 13.1 percent visit health services of Private Hospitals/ Nursing Home. Yet 6.5 percent approach unqualified doctors while 3.4 percent reportedly buy medicines directly from chemist shops.

Table 5.12: Migratory&Settled Gujar Households by Source of Medical Treatment (%)

Source	Total	Migratory	Settled
Home remedy	96.6	100.0	92.5
Government Dispensaries/ PHC/CHC	31.5	43.2	27.6
Government Hospital	6.8	1.2	8.8
Private Hospital/Nursing Home	13.0	13.1	12.9
Private Doctors/Private Clinics	10.3	8.6	12.5
Unqualified Doctors	10.2	6.5	12.2
Pharmaceutical/Medicine Shop	2.9	3.4	2.7

The percentage of settled Gujjars visiting Government Hospitals is higher than the nomadic Gujjars at 8.8 percent. This is because the nomadic Gujjars during the period of migration are not able to avail these health care facilities. While 27.6 percent of settled Gujjars go to Government Dispensaries/PHC/CHC, 12.5 percent avail health services from Private Doctors/Private Clinics and 12.9 percent visit Private Hospitals/Nursing Home.

Still a very high proportion of settled households (92.5 %) use home remedies and follow traditional healing systems as their first option for treatment, 12.2 percent rely on unqualified doctors for their treatment and about 2.7 percent take medicines directly from pharmaceutical/medical shops.



5.5 EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

After health, education is another major indicator of human development. Education brings absolute transformation in the attitude of individuals and helps in strengthening the value system and enhancing status in society. As Sheppard stated, “Education of course may affect the individual's chances for bringing in a

given occupation, which in turn predetermines other life chances, including health, status and job security”, (Sheppard, 1976). The educational level of Gujar respondents has been classified into five broad categories i.e. illiterates, up to class IV, Class V to IX, X/XII and higher than X/XII.

Table 5.13 describes the educational status of the Gujarars from the sample areas. More than half of the sampled Gujarars are illiterates whereas only 1 percent are able to attain qualification higher than X/XII level. About 15.2 percent have studied up to class IV, 11.5 percent studied up to class IX and 8.7 percent have been able to pass X/XII.

Chamba has the highest rate of illiteracy at 88.1 percent followed by Kangra at 74.8 percent, Sirmaur at 64.8 percent and Solan being the least at 24.3 percent. At the same time, Solan has the highest percentage of X/XII pass at 27.9 percent, followed by Sirmaur at 4.7 percent, Chamba with the least at 2 percent and none from Kangra.

The table given below shows that Solan has highest proportion of Gujarars who have crossed their primary level education (29.7 %) whereas in the remaining three districts are quite low. It shows the lack of educational facilities, interest and awareness that have restricted the growth of education among the Gujarars especially the nomadic Gujarars.

Table 5.13: Educational Status of Gujar Respondents across districts (%)

Qualification	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Illiterate	64.0	88.1	74.8	24.3	64.8
Up to class IV	15.2	5.9	22.1	15.1	20.2
Class V to IX	11.5	4.0	3.1	29.7	9.1
X / XII	8.7	2.0	0	27.9	4.7
Higher than X / XII	1.0	0	0	3.0	1.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

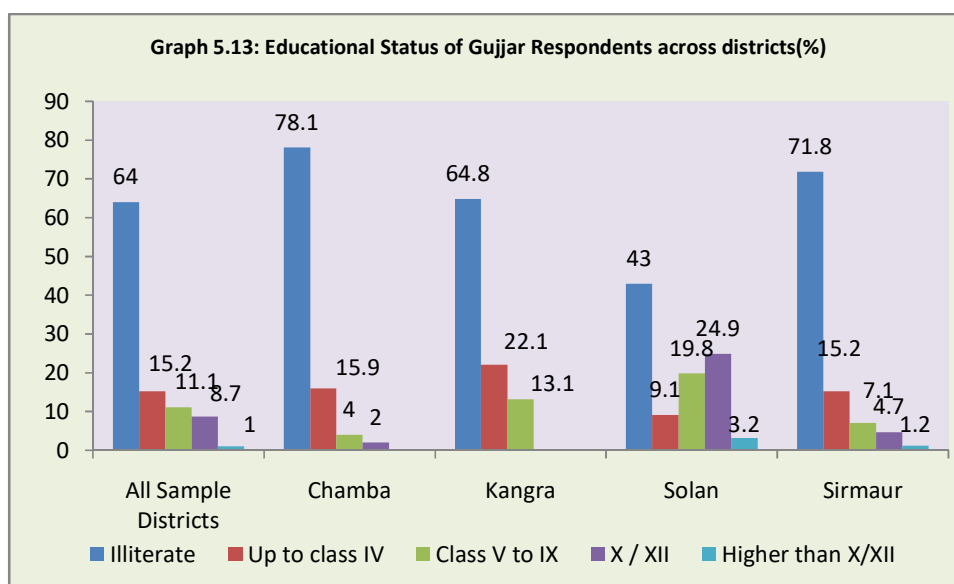


Table 5.14 illustrates the illiteracy rate among the females (77.9%), which is much higher than that of the males (52.1%). The percentage of X/XII pass out is more in case of males (6 %) as compared to females (1.3 %). It may be observed that the percentage of females with various level of qualification is quite low as compared to males. This suggests that the female Gujjars have largely confined themselves to their domestic work and have got left behind in respect of opportunities for education. However, the present generation girls (especially settled) are taking interest in education.

Table 5.14: Educational Status of Gujjar Respondents in HP (%)

	Total	Male	Female
Illiterate	64	56.1	77.6
Up to class IV	15.2	14.2	19.5
Class V to IX	11.5	14.7	2.9
X/XII	8.7	11.9	0.0
Higher than X/XII	1.0	3.1	0.0
Total	100	100	100

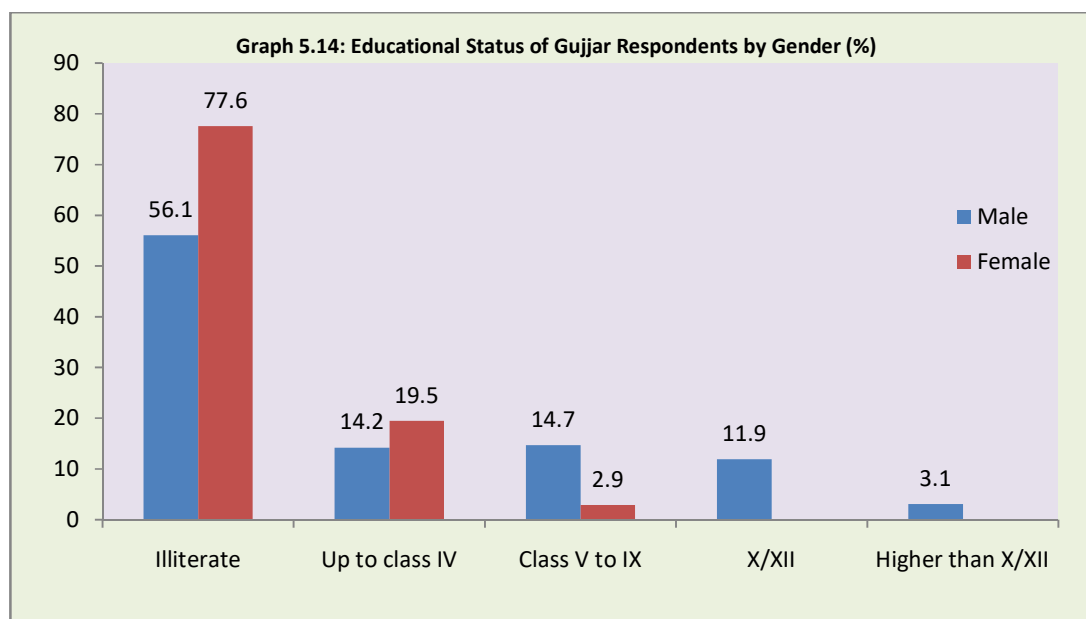
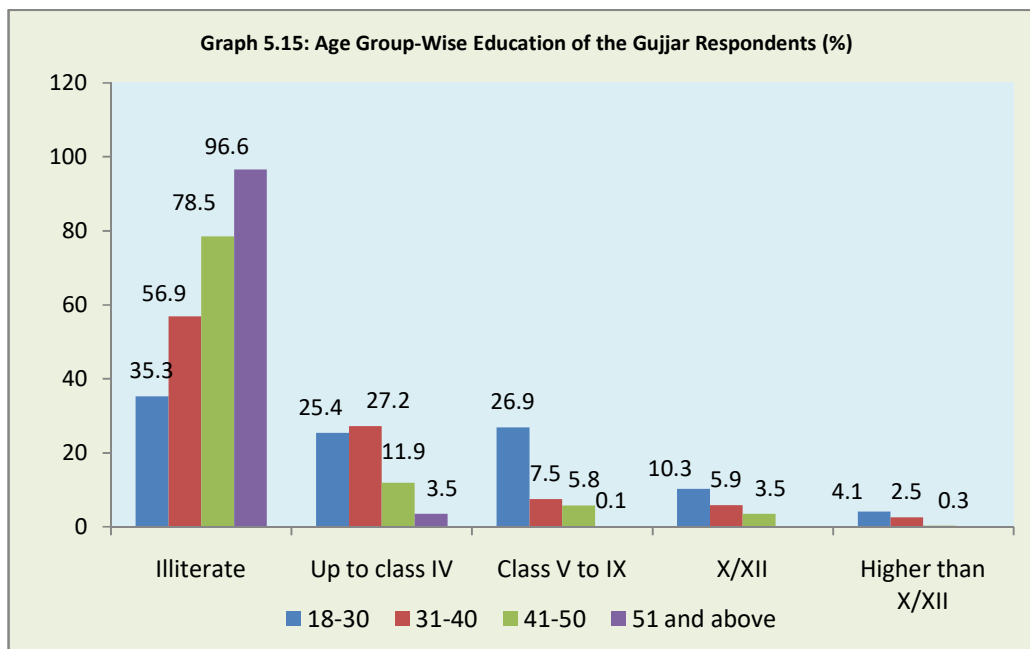


Table 5.15 lays out the education of the Gujjar respondents by their age groups. Analytically, it has been observed that in the age group of 18-30 years, 35.3 percent are illiterates. Beyond this age group, the rate of illiteracy is steadily increasing with age. In the age group of 51+ almost all respondents (96.6%) are illiterate. The rate of illiteracy in the age group of 41-50 is at 78.5 percent, and in 31-40 years of age group it is 56.9 percent. With this trend, it may be concluded that the present generation of the Gujjars are more responsive towards their education. However, higher education beyond SSC/HSC level is largely found in 18-30 years of age group. Their proportion is around 4.1 percent.

Table 5.15: Age group wise Qualification of Gujar Respondents (%)

Qualification	Age Group (years)			
	18-30	31-40	41-50	51 and above
Illiterate	35.3	56.9	78.5	96.6
Up to class IV	25.4	27.2	11.9	3.5
Class V to IX	26.9	7.5	5.8	0.1
X/XII	10.3	5.9	3.5	0.0
Higher than X/XII	4.1	2.5	0.3	0.0
	100	100	100	100



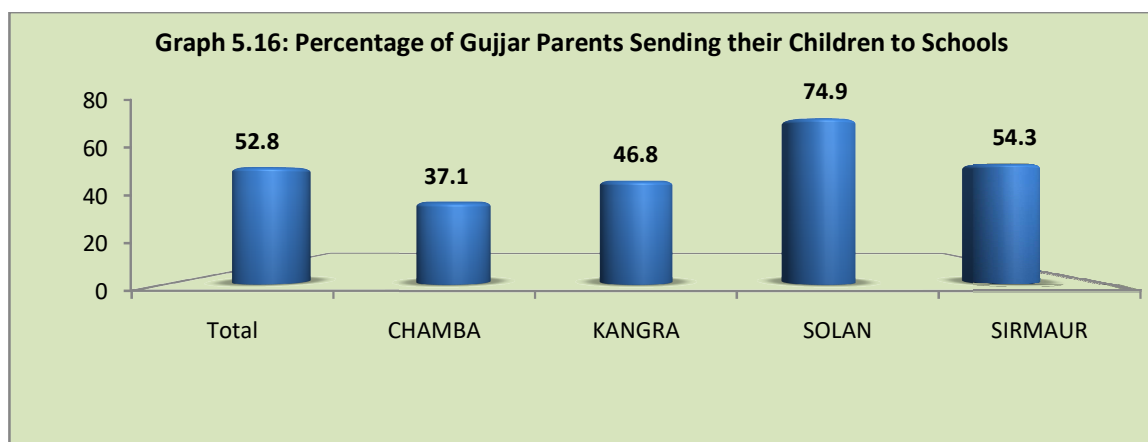
The literacy rate among the Gujjars is low as compared to other inhabitants of the state. Although the state government has implemented the mobile school schemes for spread of education among the nomadic Gujjars, it has not been found that effective for them due to poor monitoring and flaws in implementing mechanism. Nomadic parents are hardly bothered about the education of their children. They don't take interest in sending their children to the existing schools in the area or to the mobile schools visiting their area. Though in most of the cases the educational expenses are nil, the parents are not interested in sending their children to school. Most of the parents tend to seek help of their children for their domestic work or rearing livestock, resulting in poor attendance of Gujar students already going to school.

Table 5.16 gives a striking picture of the situation of accessibility to education by the Gujjars indicating that only 52.8 percent of the parents are sending their children to school while 32.9 percent of them are not. However, 14.3 percent of them have no eligible children to enroll in schools (between 4-14 years of age). While analyzing the status of the school-going children across the four sample districts, it is found that Solan has the highest proportion of parents (74.9 %) sending their children to schools followed by Sirmaur at 54.3 percent, Kangra at 46.8 percent and Chamba being the lowest at 37.1 percent. This indicates that the Gujjars of Solan are more aware about the benefits of education, whereas Gujjars

of Chamba show less interest in education as they are normally nomadic, struggling for their livelihood and thus miss out on all support provided by the government.

Table 5.16: Percentage of Gujjar Parents Sending their Children to Schools

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Yes	52.8	37.1	46.8	74.9	54.3
No	32.9	57.6	35.6	10.8	22.6
No eligible Child for sending school	14.3	5.3	17.6	14.3	23.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100



The settled Gujjars take more interest (54.3 %) in sending their children to schools than the nomadic/migrated Gujjars (40.2 %) (Table 5.17).

Table 5.17: Proportion of Gujjar Parents Sending their children to Schools

	Total	Migratory	Settled
Yes	52.8	40.2	54.3
No	32.9	49.0	30.8
No Eligible Child for sending to school	14.3	10.8	14.9
Total	100	100	100

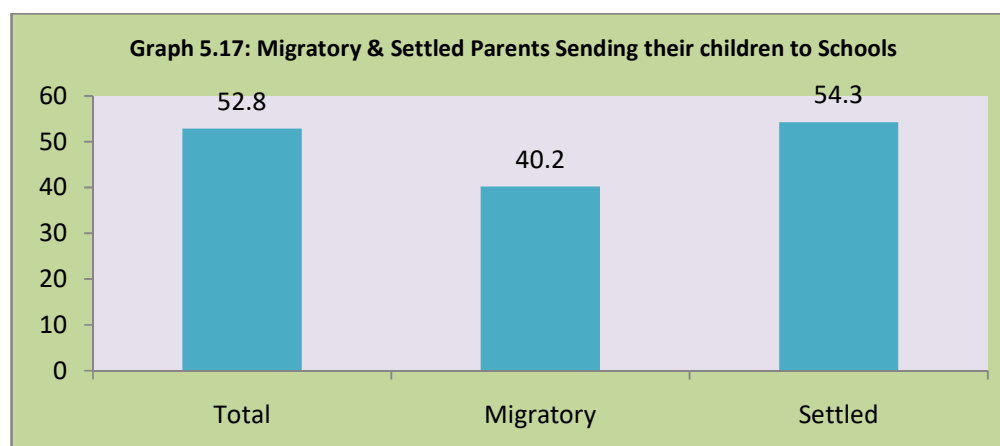
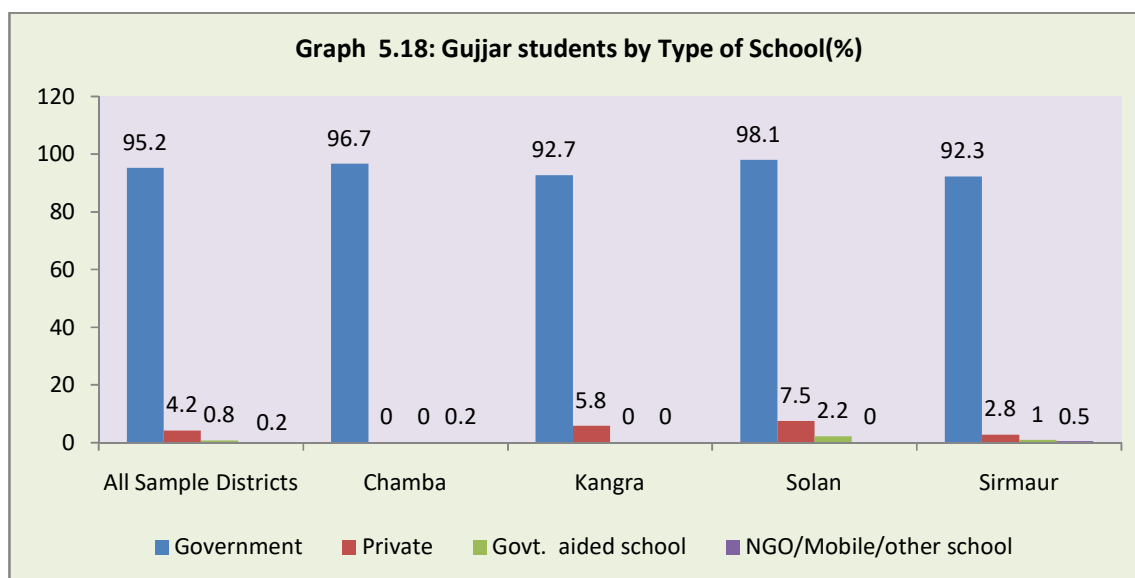


Table 5.18 presents the use of different types of schools by both nomadic and settled Gujjars. Most of the Gujar children from the four sample districts (95.2%) are studying in Government schools. The same varies between the highest in Solan at 98.1 percent to the lowest in Sirmaur at 92.3 percent. In Solan, 7.5 percent students are going to private schools, while in Kangra 5.8 percent and in Sirmaur 2.8 percent are going to private schools. A very negligible number of students are going to Government aided schools/ Private Schools or NGO managed schools or Mobile schools etc.

Table 5.18: Gujar Students by Type of School (%)

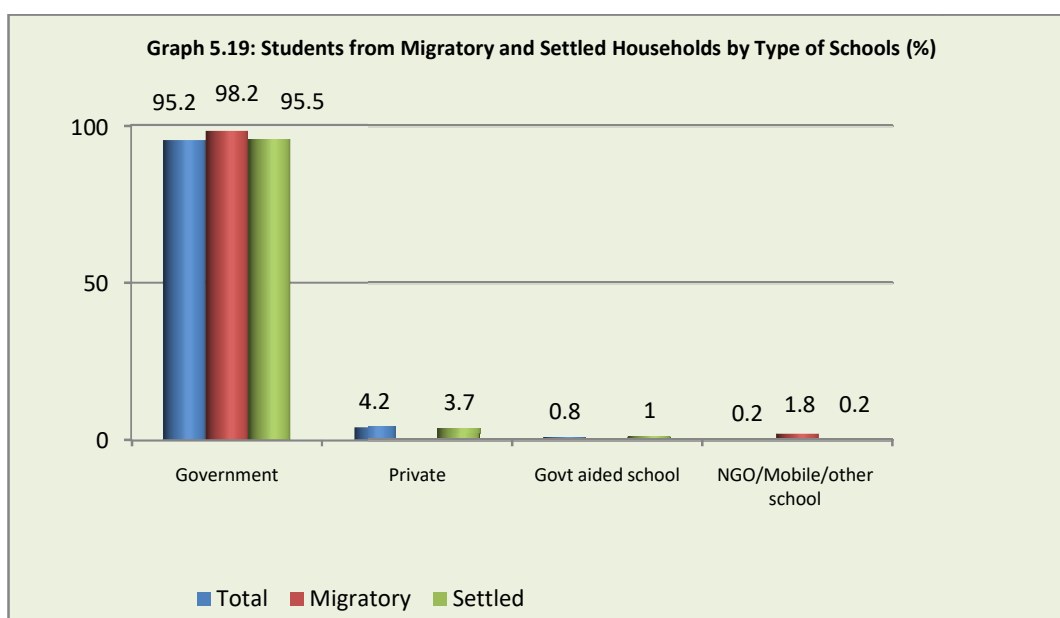
Type of School	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Government	95.2	96.7	92.7	98.1	92.3
Private	4.2	0.0	5.8	7.5	2.8
Government aided school	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.0
NGO/Mobile/other school	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

From the above, it is quite evident that majority of students in all four districts are going to government schools and there is hardly any association between the ratio of Gujjars in the four districts to the total population of Gujjars in the state and the type of schools their children are studying in.



The proportion of nomadic Gujar children going to Government schools is slightly higher at 98.2 percent as against 95.5 percent from settled Gujar children (Table 5.19). The proportion of migratory Gujar children going to NGO/Mobile/other school is higher at 1.8 percent than the settled Gujar children at 0.2 percent. Migratory children study in only these two types of schools. The settled children, apart from attending government and private schools, are also studying in government aided/ private schools and NGO run schools /other schools at 1 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Table 5.19: Students from Migratory and Settled Households by Type of Schools (%)			
	Total	Migratory	Settled
Government	95.2	98.2	95.5
Private	4.2	0.0	3.7
Govt. aided school	0.8	0.0	1.0
NGO/Mobile/other school	0.2	1.8	0.2
Total	100	100	100



5.6 ACCESS TO ANGANWARI CENTRES

In 1975, Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI, launched a unique early childhood development programme called “Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)” addressing health, nutrition and the development needs of young children, pregnant and nursing mothers. It is designed to promote holistic development of children under the age of 06 years, through strengthening the capacity of care givers and communities and improving access to basic services at the community level. It provides the interface/platform between communities and system such as primary health care, primary education, water and sanitation among others.

Under this programme, Anganwari Centres (AWC) are established in villages/hamlets in rural as well as in urban areas to provide nutrition to the children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant/ lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Besides this, immunization and referral services are also provided.

Anganwari Centres also provide non-formal pre-school education and initiate periodic health checkups of the beneficiaries. It is designed to ensure holistic-physical, psycho-social, cognitive and emotional development of children under the age of six years by way of better nurturing, protective child friendly and gender sensitive family, community.

AWC is the first village outpost for health, nutrition and early learning with adequate infrastructure which provides crèche facilities to such children whose

mothers leave home for work. Focusing on “early childhood care and education” (ECCE) as a core service, AWCs provide dedicated four hours of early childhood learning sessions followed by supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring and other related interventions.

Among the Gujar respondents who are sending their children to Anganwari Centers (Table 5.20), a majority of them are from Chamba (42.8 %) followed by Sirmaur at 30.7 percent, Kangra at 17.2 percent and Solan at 13.6 percent. In Chamba, although there are few Anganwari Centers, Anganwari workers from the nearby centre regularly visit these villages and provide the said services at their doorstep which results in highest share of children availing the Anganwari services. Gujar of Solan district being settled and having good economic condition, are showing less interest in availing the services of AWCs than other districts.

Table 5.20: Gujar Sending their Children to AWC (%)

	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Yes	32.1	42.8	17.2	13.6	30.7
No	67.9	57.2	82.8	86.4	69.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

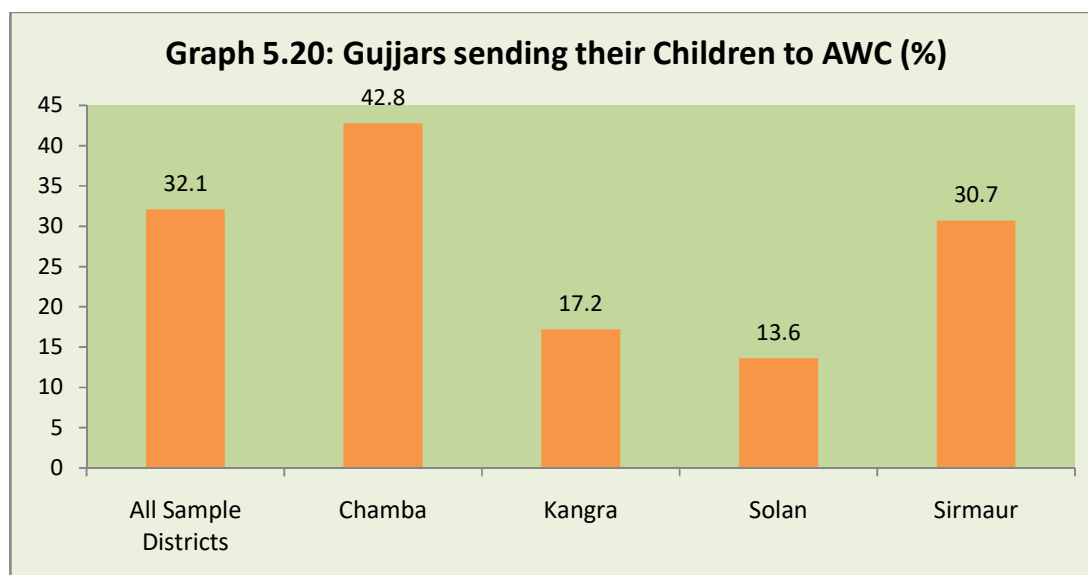
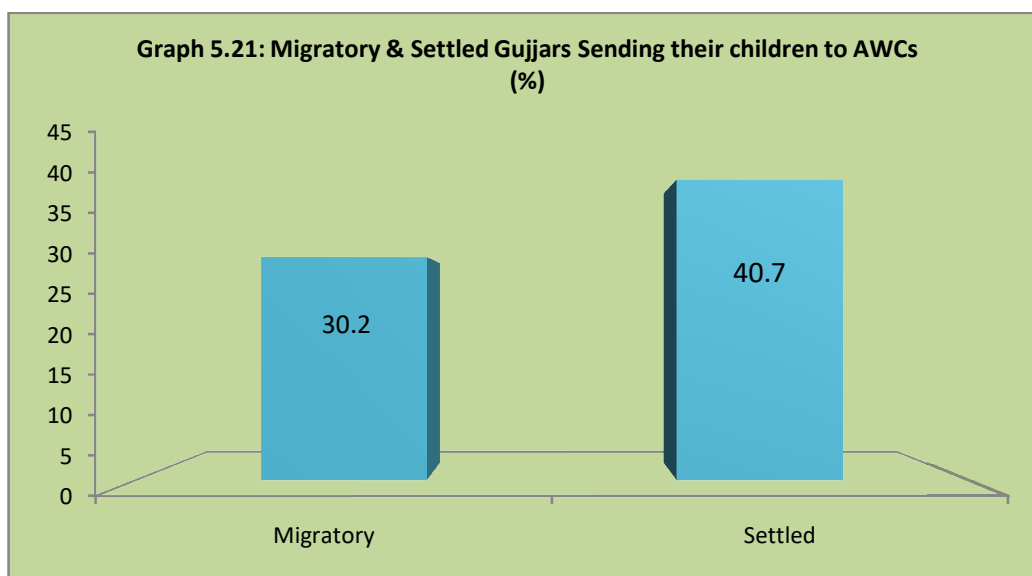


Table 5.21 shows the extent of interest of the Gujar, both nomadic and settled to send their children to the AWCs. Data clearly shows that about 40.7 percent of the settled Gujar and 30.2 percent of nomadic Gujar are sending their children to the AWCs.

Table 5.21: Migratory&Settled Gujar sendingtheir children to AWCs(%)

	Total	Migratory	Settled
Yes	32.1	30.2	40.7
No	67.9	69.8	59.3
Total	100	100	100



Data given in the table 5.22 shows the type of support received by Gujar households from the Anganwari centers (AWCs). About 68.4 percent households reported that they are getting nutritional food from AWCs. Across districts, majority of the respondents are from Solan (95.5%), Sirmaur (94.8 %) and Kangra (87.2%).

Supply of medicines from AWCs was received by 64.3 percent respondents. Most of them are from Solan (97.1 percent) followed by 80.8 percent from Kangra, 75.6 percent from Sirmaur and 48.5 percent from Chamba.

While 64.9 percent of the Gujjars from Kangra district discuss health related issues with the Anganwari workers, the same is 60.8 percent in Solan, 61.2 percent in Chamba and 58.1 percent in Sirmaur.

Guidance on family planning from AWCs is received by only 12.5 percent respondents. Across districts, 31.5 percent respondents are from Kangra, 21.6 percent from Sirmaur, 7.4 percent from Chamba, and 3.2 percent from Solan.

Table 5.22: Support from AWCs to the Gujar HH's (%)

Support	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Supply of food (nutritional)	68.4	43.2	87.2	95.5	94.8
Supply of other Materials	11.5	7.4	18.1	6.4	12.8
Guidance about Family Planning	12.5	7.4	31.5	3.2	12.6
Discuss Health issues	61.2	59.6	64.9	60.8	58.1
Give medicines	64.3	48.5	80.8	97.1	75.6

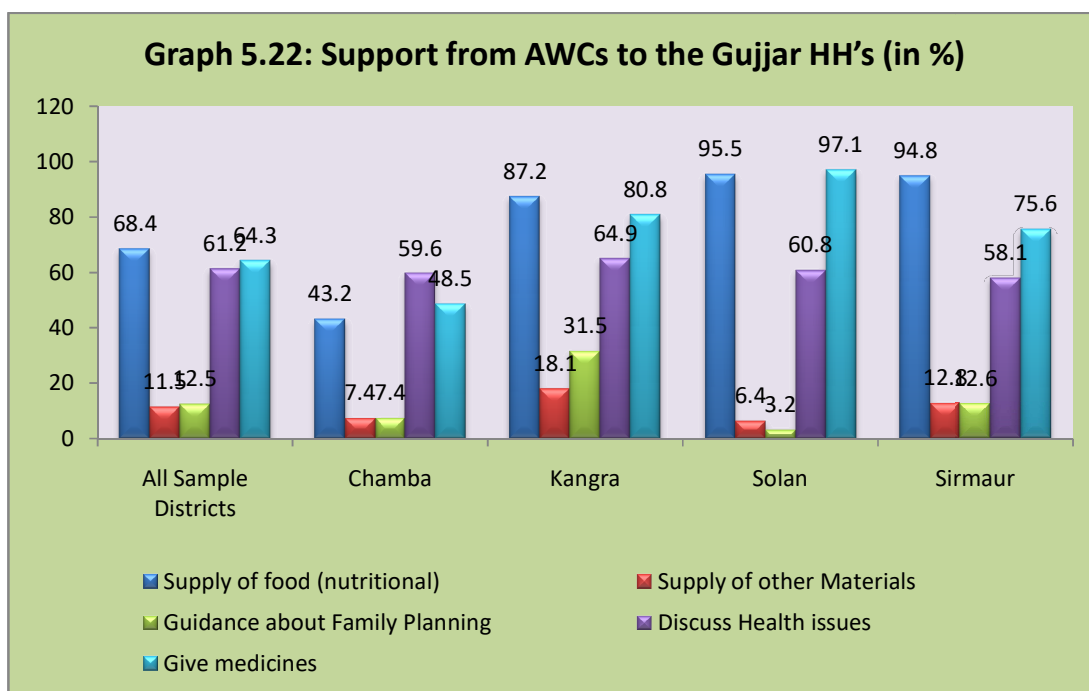


Table 5.23 shows that the support received by migratory and settled Gujjars from Anganwari Centers for various services are almost equal in proportion. However, for health related issues, about 69.4 percent of the settled Gujjars receive medicines from AWCs while in case of migratory Gujjars it is 51.3 percent.

Table 5.23: Support from AWCs to the Migratory & Settled Gujjar HH's (%)

	Total	Migratory	Settled
Supply of Food	68.3	68.8	67.9
Supply of other Materials	11.5	11.9	11.2
Guidance about Family Planning	12.5	15.4	9.7
Discuss Health issues	61.2	62.8	59.7
Give medicines	64.3	51.3	69.4

CHAPTER VI

ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

This Chapter deals with the economic status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh. Since the sample comprises both nomadic/migratory and settled Gujjars, an attempt has been made to compare the status of both in terms of certain basic parameters like monthly income, monthly expenditure, loan status, savings etc. Also, the status of agricultural land holdings, livestock ownership, household assets, and their economic problems have been addressed for the study.

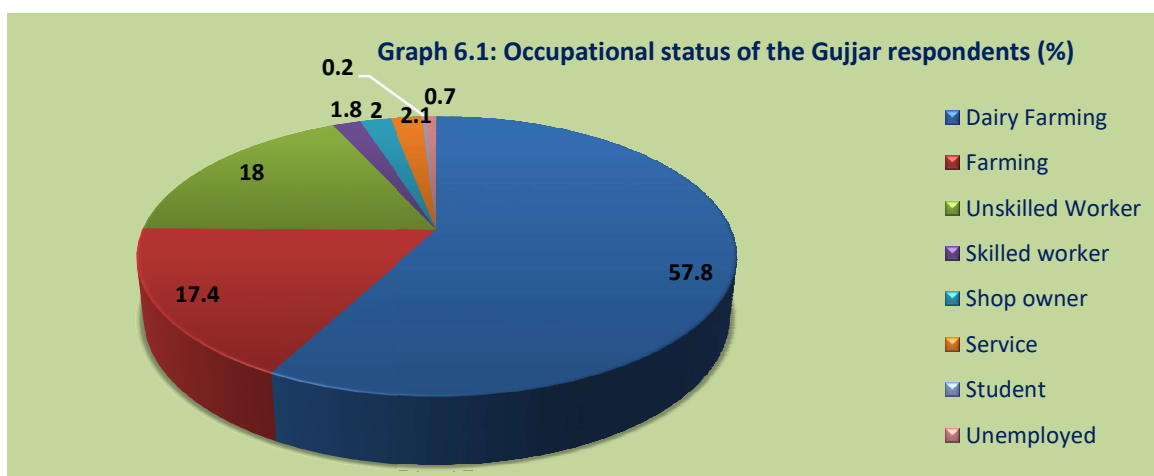
6.1 OCCUPATION

The occupational profile of the selected Gujjar respondents in the four selected districts of HP is presented in Table 6.1. The occupations are classified into 9 categories viz., dairy farming, farming, unskilled workers, skilled workers (persons with some skill, like mason, factory worker, craft worker, mechanics etc.), shop owners, service category, student and unemployed. More than half of the respondents (57.8 percent) are into dairy farming, 18 percent are unskilled agricultural labourers/construction workers/factory workers in nearby industrial units (especially in Sirmaur). Only 17.4 percent of them are engaged in farming. Another two percent are shop owners and 1.8 percent are skilled workers, mostly engaged in driving or as mechanic. This indicates that almost all respondents are gainfully employed and contribute to family income in some way or the other. Data across the selected districts shows, in Chamba district highest percentage of respondents (90.4%) are into dairy farming and rest 9.6 percent are unskilled workers. In rest of the three districts respondents engaged in dairy farming vary between 45-51 percent. As regards farming, percentage of respondents in Kangra, Solan and Sirmaur vary between 22.0-27.0 percent. In Chamba none of the respondents are into farming.

Table 6.1: Occupational Status of the Gujjar Respondents (%)

Occupation	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Dairy Farming	57.8	90.4	51.4	44.7	45.0
Farming	17.4	0.0	20.6	27.0	22.0
Unskilled Worker	18.0	9.6	20.2	15.8	27.2
Skilled worker	1.8	0.0	2.3	2.8	2.1
Shop owner	2.0	0.0	2.3	5.1	0.5
Service	2.1	0.0	2.3	3.7	1.1
Student	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.1
Unemployed	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

The gender-wise distribution of the respondents (Table 6.2) with regard to the extent of women participation in various activities is captured. Dairy farming is their major occupation. About 60.5 percent females 55.9 percent males) are engaged in this occupation in addition to their involvement in other routine domestic work.



About 18.7 percent of them are unskilled workers and 18.4 percent are into farming. This indicates that whereas male participation in dairy farming is slightly lower than the females, female participation is slightly higher in farming than the males. In service also, male participation is at 3.4 percent and the female participation is just 0.2 percent. Whereas 0.8 percent among the male respondents are unemployed, none from the females are reported as unemployed. As regards unemployment, none is reported from the women respondents but in case of males it is 0.8 percent. As they don't possess any educational qualification, most of them are engaged partially or fully in their household profession i.e. dairy farming.

Table 6.2: Occupational Status of the Gujjar Respondents by Gender (%)

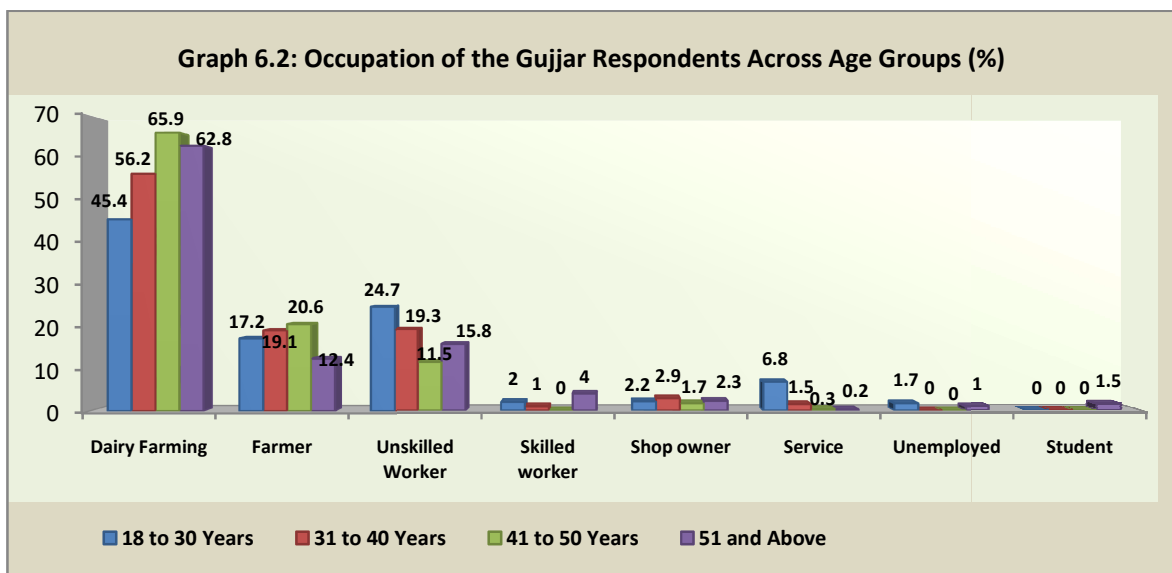
	Total	Male	Female
Dairy farming	57.8	55.9	60.5
Farming	17.4	17.6	18.4
Unskilled Worker	18	17.0	18.7
Skilled worker	1.8	3	0
Shop owner	2	2	2.2
Service	2.1	3.4	0.2
Unemployed	0.2	0.8	0
Student	0.7	0.3	0
Total	100	100	100

Table 6.3: Gujjars Respondents by Occupation and Age-Group (%)

Occupation type	Age-Group (years)			
	18-30	31-40	41-50	51 and Above
Dairy Farming	45.4	56.2	65.9	62.8
Farming	17.2	19.1	20.6	12.4
Unskilled Worker	24.7	19.3	11.5	15.8
Skilled worker	2.0	1.0	0.0	4.0
Shop owner	2.2	2.9	1.7	2.3
Service	6.8	1.5	0.3	0.2
Unemployed	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.0

Student	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Total	100	100	100	100

From the above table, it may be concluded that the majority of the Gujar respondents are into dairy farming as it is their prime occupation. Some of them are employed as unskilled workers.

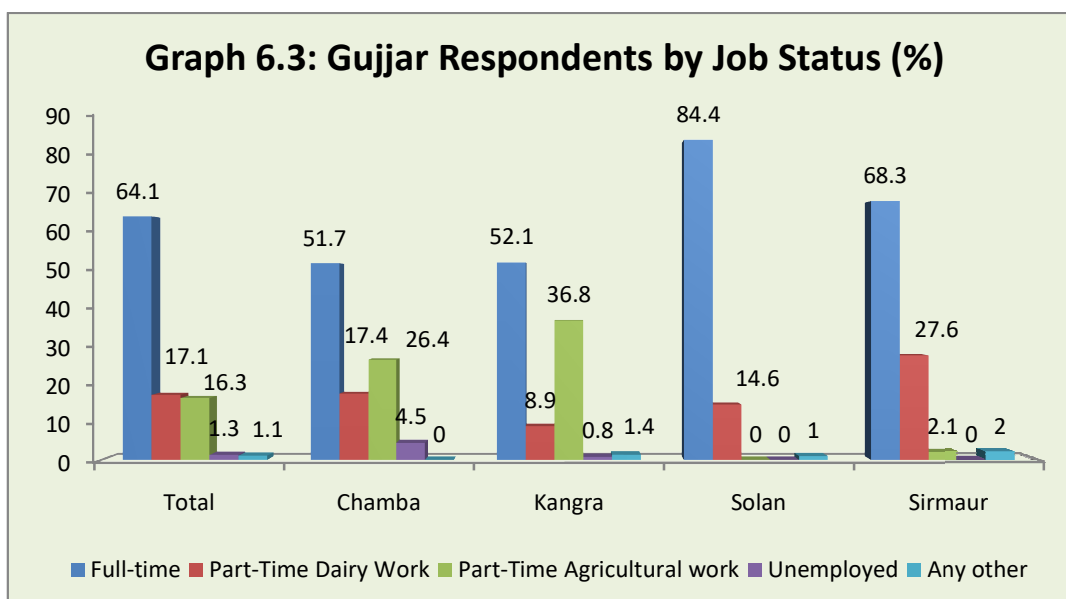


Job Status of the Gujjars

Table 6.4 depicts the employment status of Gujar respondents across four selected sample districts. Overall, two-third of them (64.1 %) are engaged full-time in their respective professions. District Solan has the highest percentage at 84.4, followed by Sirmaur at 68.3 percent, Kangra at 52.1 percent and Chamba at 51.7 percent. Overall, 17.1 percentage engaged on part-time basis in dairy farming with Sirmaur recording the highest at 27.6 percent, followed by Chamba at 17.4 percent, Solan at 14.6 percent and Kangra at 8.9 percent.

Table 6.4: Gujar Respondents by Job Status (%)

Status	All sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Full-time	64.1	51.7	52.1	84.4	68.3
Part-Time Dairy Work	17.1	17.4	8.9	14.6	27.6
Part-Time Agricultural work	16.3	26.4	36.8	0.0	2.1
Unemployed	1.3	4.5	0.8	0.0	0.0
Any other	1.1	0.0	1.4	1.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



From the above, it may be concluded that Solan is betteroff in terms of employment than the rest of the districts. Overall, 16.3 percent are engaged as part-time agricultural labourers. Across districts, the highest percentage is in Kangra at 36.8 percent, followed by Chamba at 26.4 percent, Sirmaur at 2.1 percent and none from Solan. It is quite interesting to note that unemployment among the Gujar respondents is only 1.3 percent, reported from two out of four districts. These two districts are: Chamba and Kangra reporting 4.5 percent and 0.8 percent respectively. None from Solan and Sirmaur reported unemployed.

6.2 HOUSEHOLD FAMILY INCOME (MONTHLY)

Income is indeed of the most important determinants of socio-economic status of the households. Economic condition of an individual or household determines the affordability to attain the desired level of education, better job opportunities and dignified social status. In the present study, the respondents have been classified into four monthly household income groups, viz. monthly household income upto Rs. 3,000; Rs. 3,001– Rs. 5,000; Rs. 5,001- Rs. 10,000/- and above Rs. 10,000/-.

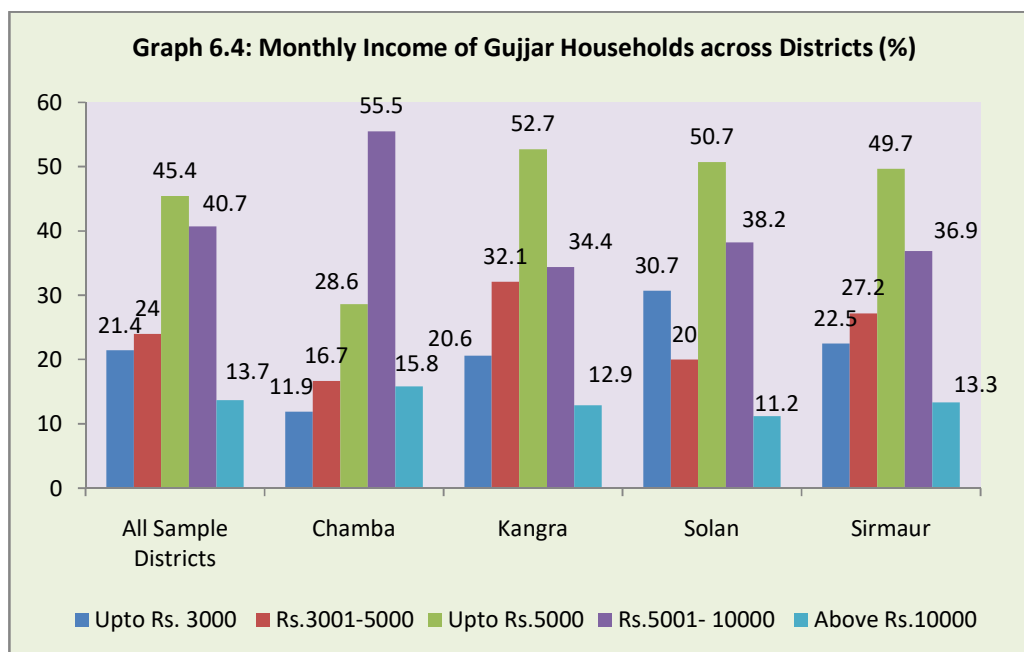
As per the survey data, majority of the Gujar households (45.4 %) are earning less than Rs. 5000/- a month. Across districts, the same is 52.7 percent in Kangra followed by 50.7 percent in Solan, 49.7 percent in Sirmaur and 28.6 percent in Chamba district. About 40 percent households are earning above Rs.5,000, but less than Rs. 10, 000/.

Table 6.5: Monthly Income of Gujar Households across Districts (%)

Income Group (Rs.)	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Upto Rs. 3000	21.4	11.9	20.6	30.7	22.5
Rs.3001-5000	24.0	16.7	32.1	20.0	27.2
Upto Rs.5000	45.4	28.6	52.7	50.7	49.7
Rs.5001- 10000	40.7	55.5	34.4	38.2	36.9

Above Rs.10000	13.7	15.8	12.9	11.2	13.3
Source : As per Survey					

Graph 6.4: Monthly Income of Gujjar Households across Districts (%)



The highest percentage of households having income between Rs.5000 - Rs.10,000 are reported from Chamba at 55.5 percent, followed by Solan at 38.2 percent, Sirmaur at 36.9 percent and Kangra at 34.4 percent.

Overall, only 13.7 percent of the households have income of Rs.10,000 and above. Across districts, the highest percentage was reported from Chamba at 15.8 percent, followed by Sirmaur at 13.3 percent, Kangra at 12.9 percent and Solan at 11.2 percent.

6.3 MONTHLY FAMILY EXPENDITURE

The selected Gujar households have been classified into four broad monthly expenditure classes, viz. expenditure upto Rs.3,000; Rs. 3,000-Rs.5,000; Rs. 5,001-10,000; and Rs.10,001 and above. The percentage of respondents who did not disclose their expenditure is included in the last category of 'None'.

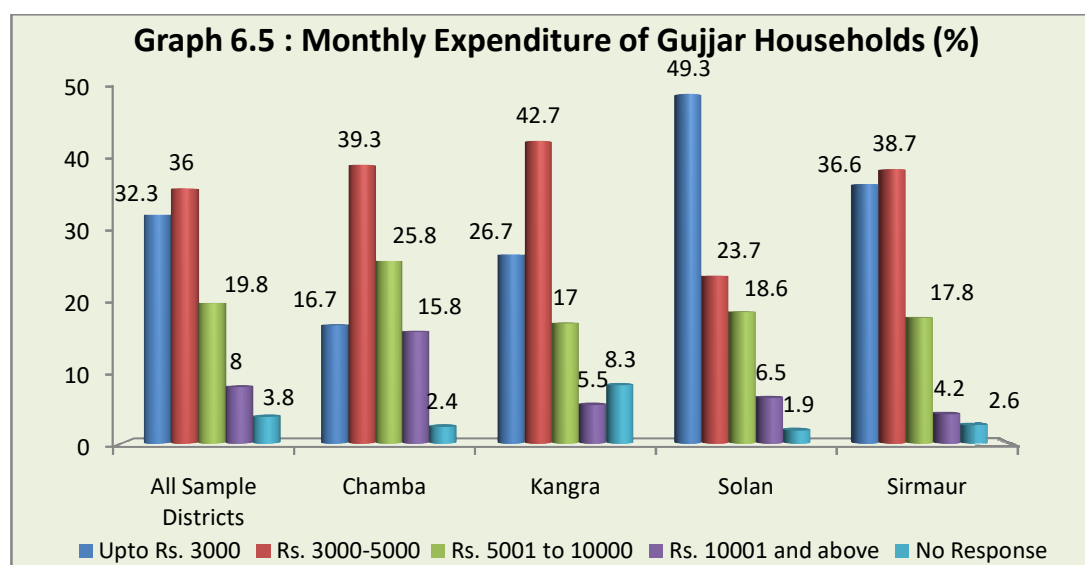
Accordingly, more than sixty five percent of the households are spending less than Rs. 5,000/- per month. Within this category, about 30 percent are spending upto Rs. 3,000/- per month. Across districts the highest percentage of households spending less than Rs. 3,000 are from Solan (49.3%) followed by Sirmaur (36.6%), Kangra (26.7%) and the lowest in Chamba at 16.7 percent. About 20 percent households are spending between Rs.5,001-Rs.10,000. Across districts, the highest percentage of households is from Chamba at 25.8 percent. In rest of the three districts of Kangra, Solan and Sirmaur the same vary between 17-18 percent. Data also shows, only 20 percent households are spending between Rs.1,001 and above.

This indicates that among the four selected districts, Chamba is relatively better off, followed by Solan, Kangra and the last being Sirmaur in terms of ranking of expenditure.

Table 6.6: Monthly Expenditure of Gujar Households (%)

Income Group (Rs.)	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Upto Rs. 3000	32.3	16.7	26.7	49.3	36.6
Rs. 3000-5000	36.0	39.3	42.7	23.7	38.7
Rs. 5001 to 10000	19.8	25.8	17.0	18.6	17.8
Rs. 10001 and above	8.0	15.8	5.5	6.5	4.2
No Response	3.8	2.4	8.3	1.9	2.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source : As per Survey



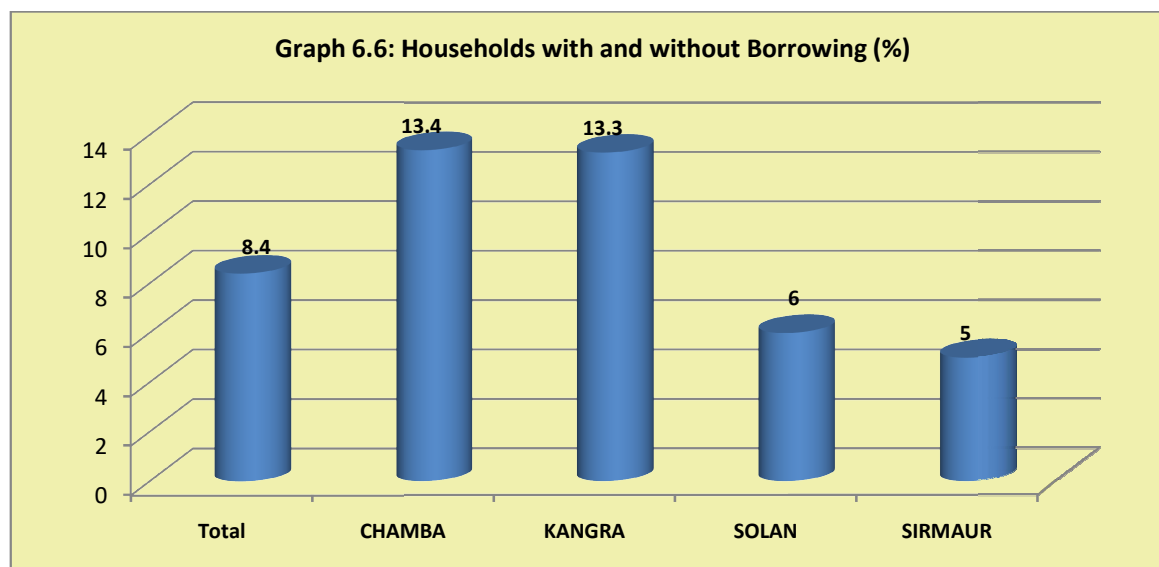
6.4 LOAN STATUS

So far as the extent of borrowing is concerned, only 8.4 percent of Gujjar households have borrowed money from some source or the other as per their needs.

Table 6.7: Households With and Without Borrowings (%)

Response	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur	Migratory	Settled
Yes	8.4	13.4	13.3	6.0	5.0	12.6	7.0
No	89.1	84.2	82.6	92.6	92.9	85.0	90.4
Refused/Don't know	2.5	2.4	4.1	1.4	2.1	2.4	2.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Source : As per Survey							

The use of information with regard to income and expenditure needs to be made with care as accuracy of the information can not be established with the available tools. As can be seen from the table 6.5 and 6.6 that the percentage of the respondents incurring monthly expenditure upto Rs. 5,000/- (68%) is much higher than the percentage of respondents with income upto Rs. 5,000/- (45%). It is difficult to establish reasons for spending much more than income especially when the proportion of respondents having resorted to borrowings is as low as 8 percent. One of the possibilities can be perpetual indebtedness of the Gujjars population in the State or this proportion of respondents meeting expenditure by selling their acquisitions, the aspect that have remained unreported during the survey.



It is also found that number of borrowing households is higher among the migratory Gujjars at 12.6 percent as against 7 percent in case of settled Gujjars.

Across the selected districts, the percentage of households that borrowed money is almost the same in Kangra at 13.3 percent and Chamba at 13.4 percent, followed by Solan at 6.0 percent and Sirmaur 5.0 percent (Table 6.7). However, overall, 2.5 percent of the respondents have refused to give information on borrowings by their families.

6.4.1 Source of Borrowings

Gujjars in the selected districts reported borrowing from four major sources comprising friends and relatives, local money lenders, banks and other sources (Table 6.8).

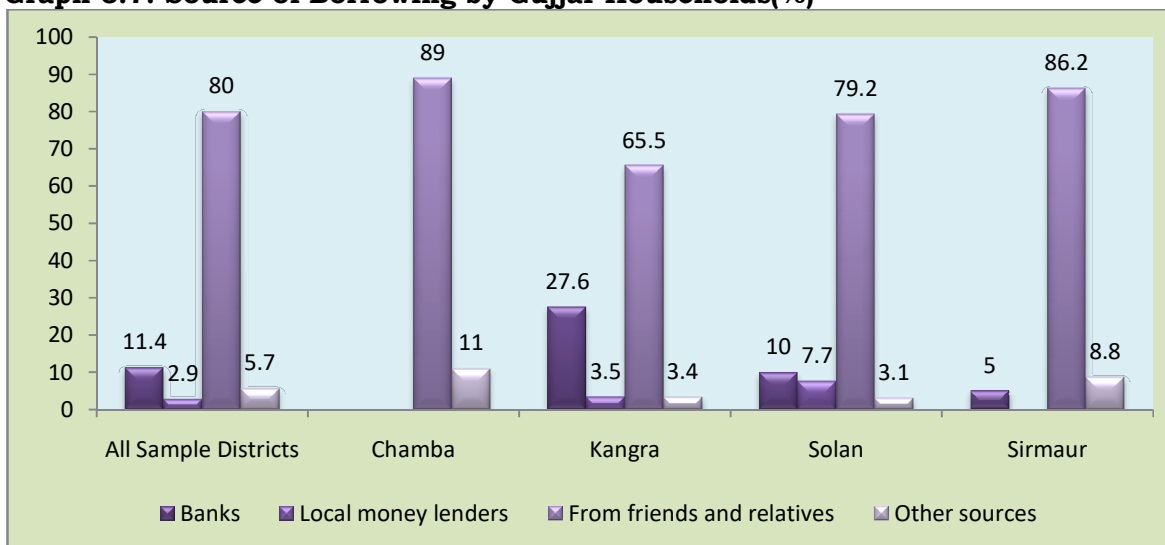
Regarding source of borrowing by Gujjars across districts, it is found that borrowing from friends & relatives varied between 89.0 percent in Chamba to 65.5 percent in Kangra. The borrowings are largely from the informal lenders.

Table 6.8: Source of Borrowing by Migratory and Settled Households (%)

Source	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur	Migratory	Settled
Banks	11.4	0.0	27.6	10.0	5.0	0.0	11.4
Local money lenders	2.9	0.0	3.5	7.7	0.0	0.0	4.5
From friends and relatives	80.0	89.0	65.5	79.2	86.2	79.9	65.9
Other sources	5.7	11.0	3.4	3.1	8.8	19.8	13.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source : As per Survey

Graph 6.7: Source of Borrowing by Gujjar Households(%)



Borrowings from local money lenders have been reported only by 7.7 percent of households in Solan and 3.5 percent in Kangra district. None from Chamba and Sirmaur have reported borrowing from money lenders.

In respect of institutional borrowing i.e. from banks, highest percentage of respondents are from Kangra (27.6%) followed by Solan (10.0%) and Sirmaur district (5.0%). The rest of the households have borrowed from other sources.

Among the migratory households, a higher percentage of 79.9 percent borrow from friends and relatives, however 65.9 percent of the settled households borrow from this source. Only 4.5 percent of the settled households borrow from local money lenders whereas none of the migratory households borrow from the Banks and local money lenders. Among the settled households, 11.4 percent borrow from banks.

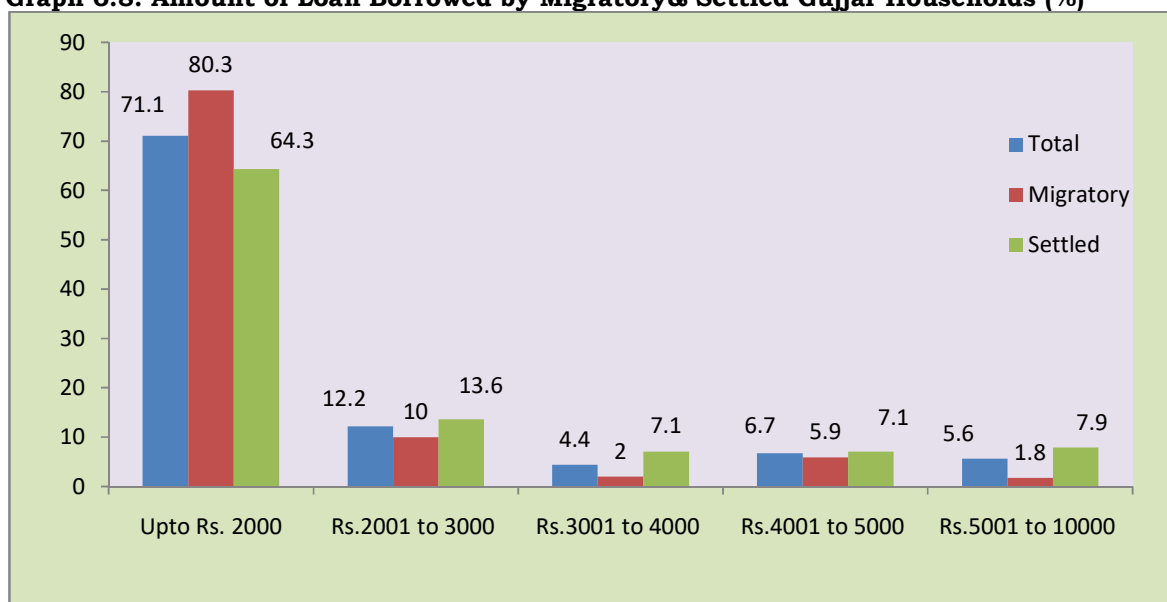
6.4.2 Amount of Loan Borrowed

Table 6.9: Amount of Loan borrowed by Migratory and Settled Gujar HH's (%)

Range (Rs.)	Total	Migratory	Settled
Upto Rs. 2000	71.1	80.3	64.3
Rs.2001 to 3000	12.2	10.0	13.6
Rs.3001 to 4000	4.4	2.0	7.1
Rs.4001 to 5000	6.7	5.9	7.1
Rs.5001 to 10000	5.6	1.8	7.9
Total	100	100	100

Source : As per Survey

Graph 6.8: Amount of Loan Borrowed by Migratory & Settled Gujar Households (%)



Amount of loan borrowed by Gujar households have been classified into five groups and is presented in Table 6.9. In case of both migratory and settled Gujar households, majority have taken loan up to Rs. 2,000. 80.3 percent of the migratory Gujar households and 64.3 percent of settled Gujar households borrowed up to Rs. 2,000/-. About 13.6 percent of settled Gujar households and 10.0 percent of migratory Gujar households borrowed between Rs. 2,001 to Rs. 3,000/-.

Borrowings between Rs. 3,001/- to Rs. 4,000/- were reported by only 2.0 percent of migratory Gujar households and 7.1 percent of settled Gujar households. Around 11.0 percent of migratory Gujar households and 15.0 percent of settled Gujar households borrowed between Rs. 4,001/- to Rs. 10,000/-. To sum up, it is found that majority of migratory Gujar households (about 90.0 %) are borrowing up to Rs. 3,000/-. As against this, settled Gujar households are borrowing more in the higher range.

6.4.3 Purpose of Borrowings:

While enquiring about the purpose of borrowing (Table 6.10), it was found that 41.4 percent households have borrowed money to meet their 'emergency needs'. Data across migratory and settled Gujjars shows that 52.3 percent of settled Gujjars and 23.1 percent of migratory Gujjars have borrowed money to meet their 'emergency needs'.

In case of migratory households, borrowings to meet 'day - to- day expenses' forms about 26.9 percent. This is quite less for the settled Gujjars (11.4%). However, borrowings for marriage of daughters/sisters/others are availed only by 2.9 percent Gujjars. Loan availed for the 'purpose of business' is found only in case of settled households at 3.2 percent.

Table 6.10: Purpose of Borrowing by Migratory and Settled Gujjar Households (%)

Purpose	Total	Migratory	Settled
Agricultural purpose	12.9	15.4	11.4
To meet emergency needs	41.4	23.1	52.3
Daughters/sister/others' marriage	2.9	0.0	4.5
Meeting day-to-day expenditure	17.1	26.9	11.4
Business	1.4	0.0	3.2
Other purpose	24.3	30.8	20.5
Total	100	100	100
Source : As per Survey			

6.5 POVERTY SCENARIO

Table 6.11 presents the distribution of Gujjars into four major economic groups based on monthly income of the household, e.g. very poor (monthly household income upto Rs. 3,000/-; poor (Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 5,000/-); lower middle (Rs. 5,001 to Rs. 10,000/- and middle (above Rs. 10,000/-).

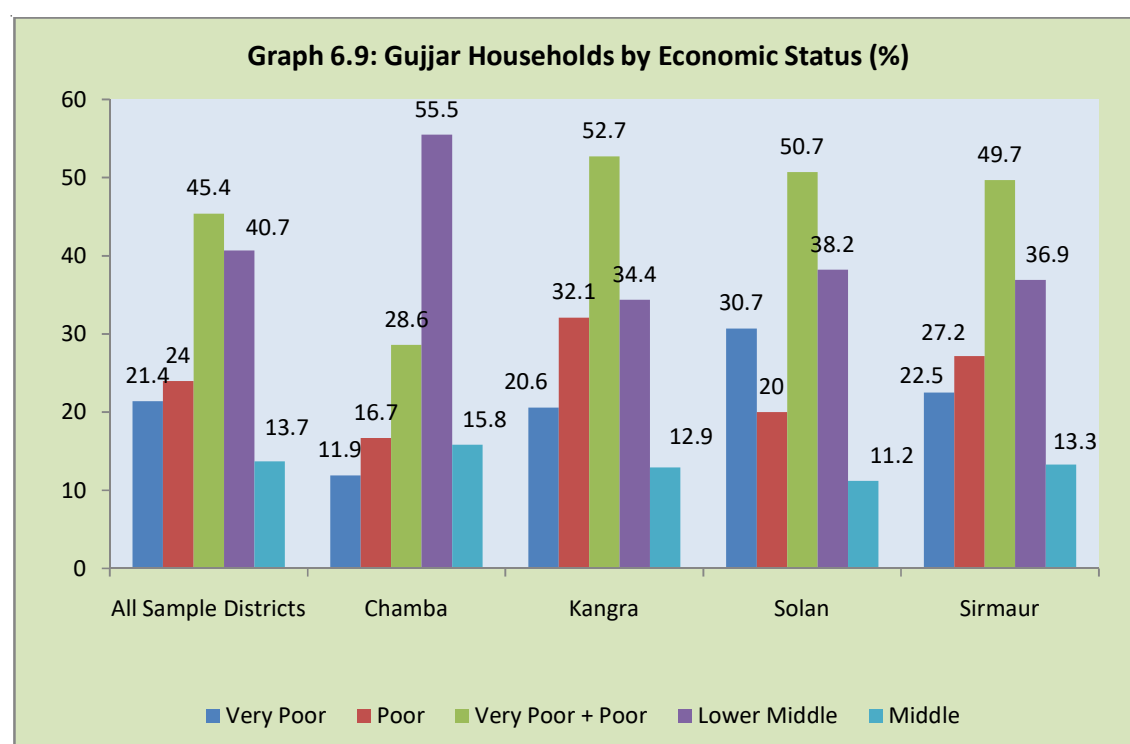
Overall, 45.4 percent of households fall into very poor and poor categories, 21.4 percent into very poor and 24.0 percent poor. Across the districts, the highest percentage of very poor Gujjars are from Solan (30.7%), followed by Sirmaur (22.5%), Kangra (20.6%) and Chamba (11.9%).

On the other hand, the highest percentage of poor Gujjars are found in Kangra (32.1%), followed by Sirmaur (27.2%), Solan (20.0%) and Chamba (16.7%). So far as the proportion of respondent Gujjars classified as poor and very poor is concerned, highest percentage is in Kangra (52.7%) followed by Solan (50.7%), Sirmaur (49.7%) and Chamba (28.6%). Chamba relatively has much less number of poor (28.6%) as compared to the rest of the selected districts.

Table 6.11: Gujjar Households by Economic Status across Districts(%)

Status	Income Group (Rs.)	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Very Poor	Upto Rs. 3,000	21.4	11.9	20.6	30.7	22.5
Poor	Rs. 3,001-5,000	24	16.7	32.1	20	27.2
Very Poor + Poor	Upto Rs. 5,000	45.4	28.6	52.7	50.7	49.7
Lower Middle	Rs. 5,001-10,000	40.7	55.5	34.4	38.2	36.9
Middle	Above Rs. 10,000	13.7	15.8	12.9	11.2	13.3

Source : As per Survey



6.6 HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Type of assets owned by a household is one of the major indicators of socio-economic condition of the household, which is presented in Table 6.12. Overall, 1.3 percent of total households own cars/jeeps/tractors, 1.6 percent own two-wheelers and 18.1 percent own bicycles.

Across districts, Solan has the highest number of Gujjars who own cars/ jeeps/ tractors at 3.7 followed by 0.5 percent each in the remaining districts of Kangra, Chamba and Sirmaur. Similarly, maximum number of households using two-wheelers is 4.1 percent in Solan, followed by 1.9 percent in Kangra, 1.3 percent in Sirmaur and 0.6 percent in Chamba.

The percentage of households using bicycle in Kangra and Chamba are 26.9 percent and 23.9 percent respectively. In the remaining two districts, the same is at 12.6 percent in Solan and 6.8 percent in Sirmaur.

With regard to consumer durables, overall 30.2 percent own a TV and 2.9 percent own a Transistor/Radio/Tape-recorder. Among the TV users, Solan has the highest proportion at 80.5 percent followed by Sirmaur at 40.5 percent, Kangra at 6.0 percent and Chamba only at 1.4 percent.

Similarly, Transistors/Radio/Tape-Recorders are mostly owned by the households of Sirmaur at 6.3 percent followed by Kangra at 4.1 percent, Solan at 0.9 percent and Chamba at 0.5 percent. It is found that none of the households own electric fans/ coolers as it is not required.

Though a proportion of Gujjars of Chamba can afford to purchase TV and other electrical appliances, but since they don't have any electricity connection, they fail to avail the facility.

In total, 61.5 percent have a wrist watch/ clock with the highest proportion in Solan at 79.5 percent followed by 74.3 percent in Kangra, 53.4 percent in Sirmaur and 47.0 percent in Chamba. It is observed that almost all (98%) the respondents have mobile phones.

So far as agricultural machinery and implements are concerned, only a few households (1.3%) own pump sets/ threshers indicating lack of modernization in agriculture. However, across districts, it is found that Solan has the highest percent of households (3.7%) owning pumping sets/threshers whereas the other three districts have just 0.5 percent in each. This indicates that Gujjars of Solan district are relatively more progressive in the field of agriculture.

Table 6.12: Assets owned by the Gujar Households (%)

Sl.	Asset	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
1	Car/Jeep/Tractor	1.3	0.5	0.5	3.7	0.5
2	Two wheeler	1.6	0.6	1.9	4.1	1.3
3	Bicycle	18.1	23.9	26.9	12.6	6.8
4	TV	30.2	1.4	6.0	80.5	40.5
6	Transistor/Radio/Tape	2.9	0.5	4.1	0.9	6.3
7	Electric fan/ Cooler	0	0	0	0	0
8	Wrist Watch/ Clock	61.5	47.0	74.3	79.5	53.4
9.	Mobile	98.0	99.5	97.2	99.5	100.0
10	Pumping Set/Thresher	1.3	0.5	0.5	3.7	0.5

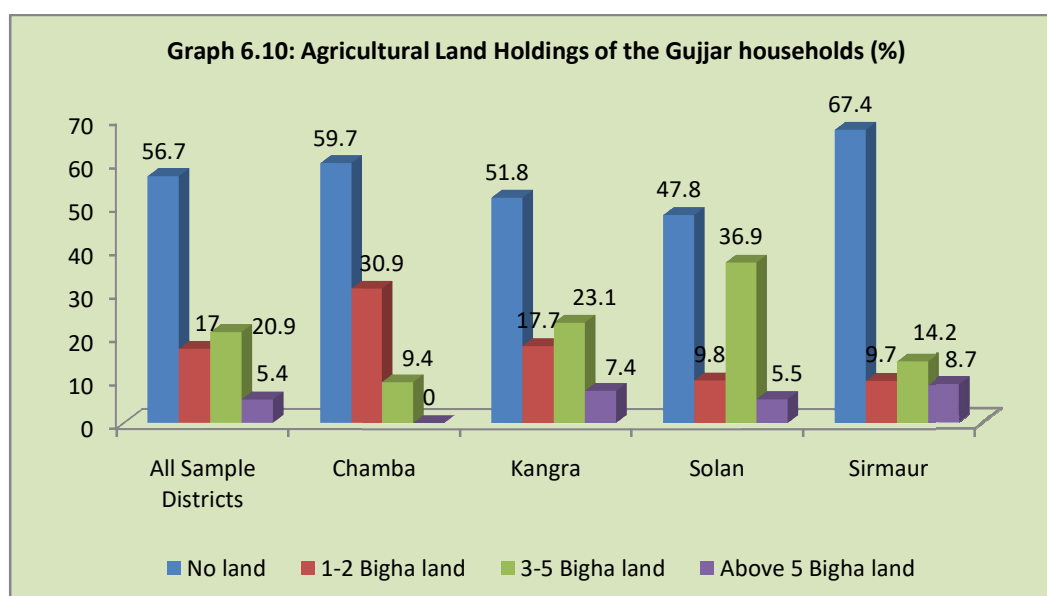
6.7 AGRICULTURAL LAND HOLDING

The ownership of land holdings determine the socio-economic status of a family engaged in farming activities. In the present study, land holdings have been classified into four categories viz. those without any land holdings, ownership of land holdings between 1 to 2 bighas, between 3 to 5 bighas and above 5 bighas (One Bigha = approx.. 809 Sq. Mtrs.) The distribution of the respondents by ownership of land holdings is given in table 6.13.

Majority of the Gujjar households (56.7%) do not possess any agricultural land. About 17 percent have 1-2 bighas of land; 20.9 percent have 3-5 bighas and 5.4 percent have more than 5 bighas of land for agriculture. Across the districts, Solan has highest percentage of Gujjar households (52.2%) having agricultural land, followed by Kangra at 48.2 percent, Chamba at 40.3 percent and Sirmaur being the lowest at 32.6 percent.

Table 6.13: Agricultural Land Holdings of the Gujjar households (%)

Land Holding	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
No land	56.7	59.7	51.8	47.8	67.4
1-2 Bigha land	17.0	30.9	17.7	9.8	9.7
3-5 Bigha land	20.9	9.4	23.1	36.9	14.2
Above 5 Bigha land	5.4	0.0	7.4	5.5	8.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



6.8 LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP

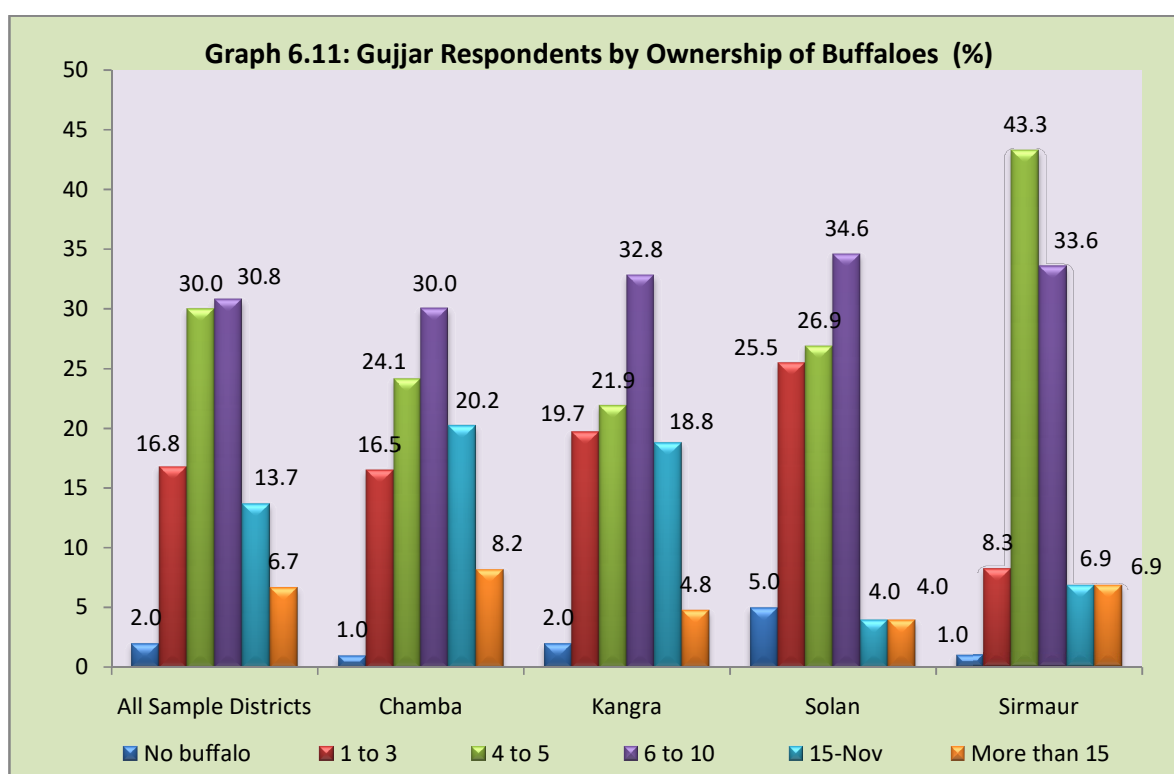
Buffaloes are the main milch animal reared by large number of Gujjars for their livelihood as buffaloes yield more milk with a higher fat content as compared to other milch animals. Table 6.14 presents the status of ownership of buffaloes by Gujjar respondents across the four selected districts. In Himachal Pradesh, about 30.8 percent Gujjar respondents have 6 to 10 buffaloes. District Solan has highest percentage of households (34.6%) with 6-10 buffaloes followed by Sirmaur (33.6%), Kangra (32.8%) and Chamba (30.0 %).

Overall, about 30 percent of the households have 4 to 5 buffaloes. Across districts the same can be said with 43.3 percent in Sirmaur, 26.9 percent in Solan, 24.1 percent in Chamba and 21.9 percent in Kangra. Gujjars with 11-15 buffaloes form 13.7 percent in the State. Across districts, it is 20.2 percent in Chamba, 18.8 percent in Kangra, 6.9 percent in Sirmaur and 4 percent in Solan.

More than 15 buffaloes are owned by only 6.7 percent of Gujar households. Most of them are from Chambadistrict.i.e 8.2 percent, followed by 6.9 percent from Sirmaur, 4.8 percent from Kangra and 4 percent from Solan.

Table 6.14: Gujar respondents by Ownership of Buffaloes (%)

Range	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
No buffalo/Cows	2.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	1.0
1 to 3 buffaloes	16.8	16.5	19.7	25.5	8.3
4 to 5 buffaloes	30.0	24.1	21.9	26.9	43.3
6 to 10 buffaloes	30.8	30.0	32.8	34.6	33.6
11- 15 buffaloes	13.7	20.2	18.8	4.0	6.9
More than 15 buffaloes	6.7	8.2	4.8	4.0	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



CHAPTER VII

MAGNITUDE AND PATTERN OF MIGRATION OF GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Nomadism is a kind of spatial movement of households, which is repeated generally over a defined territory and is linked to economic activities, primary as well as secondary. This chapter is an attempt to surface a brief presentation on the magnitude and pattern of migration of Gujjars and its effect on their socio-economic condition.

7.2 HISTORY OF MIGRATION

Looking at history, the Gujjars, who live a semi-nomadic life today, once ruled the entire northern India. With the Muslim invasions from 11th century AD onwards, the kingdom disintegrated and many Gujjars were converted to Islam, forcing others to flee to the foothills of Punjab and the hills of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc. and lead nomadic lives. They were buffalo-rearing population that traversed between high and low altitudes in the hill tracts of Himachal Pradesh with their livestock and household goods. Their economy was mainly dependent on the products of their flocks and the use of natural pastures round the year. The basic economic activities were confined to rearing buffaloes and selling milk and milk products.

They believe in naturally grown fodder for their livestock which is fully derived from grazing on land of hills in summer. But in winter the green fodder becomes scarce on the hills which compel them to come down to the plains where dry feed also contributes to their fodder requirements in addition to green fodder. At the approach of summer months, when grass, fodder and water become scarce in the lower regions, the Gujjars take their herds to the higher altitude pastures where grass gets regenerated after snow. The upward and downward journey takes about 10 to 15 days.

The migration of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh is believed to have taken place in the 19th century. Although there are different stories about the reasons for migration but the forest reports of Chamba confirms that the Gujjars migrated to Chamba due to the availability of grazing facilities in the area as Gujjars used to auction the grazing lands for pasture facilities. They occupied deep forest zones known as '*dhars*', a part of Dhauladhar range of the Himalayas. Throughout the colonial period, Gujjars used to migrate into these '*dhars*' in April and return to the plains of Chamba in October.

Gujjars in Kangra district occupied a large portion of the forests where pastures are in abundance and water is easily available. Gujjars migrated to Kangra either directly from Jammu or from Chamba region. In search of pastures generally they used to travel in winter towards the plains of the adjoining Punjab.

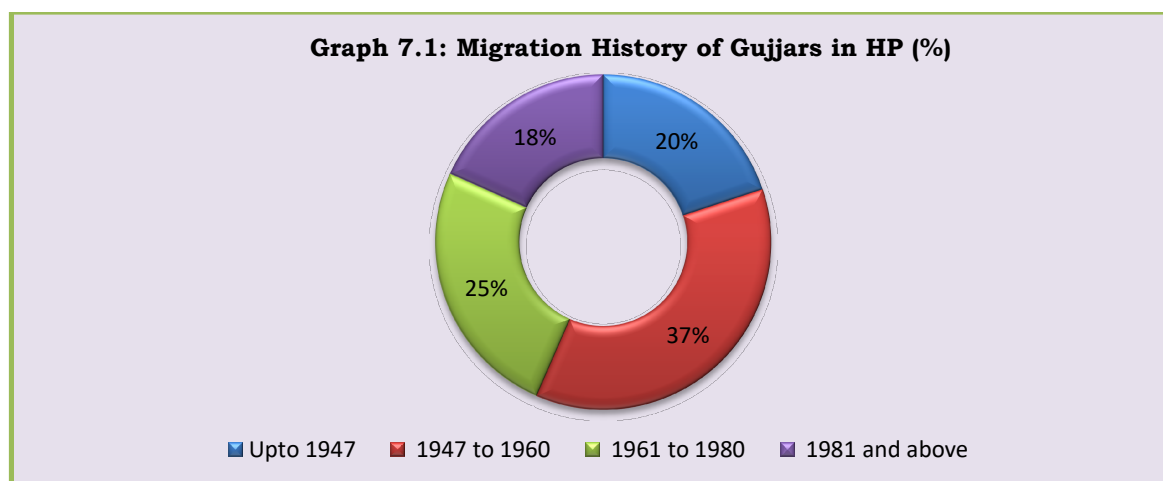
Gujjars in Una district, which earlier formed a part of the Hoshiarpur district in the undivided Punjab, migrated from other parts of Punjab in the late 19th century. At

present, there exist only a few Gujar concentration villages, as during partition, many of them migrated to Pakistan.

In Bilaspur district, Gujjars had migrated from Delhi and Rajasthan. The reason for the migration of Delhi Gujjars towards the hills of Bilaspur seems to be, the availability of pastures. Some of the Gujjars who migrated from Rajasthan have further migrated to district Solan. Thus, the grazing facilities and the forests were the main reasons of their migration. Pasture facilities were always the priority of the Gujjars and they used to migrate as per the availability of the grazing pastures.

The migration pattern of the settled Gujjars, can be seen in four phases. Phase-I is from “Pre-independence period till 1947”, Phase-II: Post-independence Period (1947-1960), Phase-III: 1961 to 1980 and Phase-IV: after 1980. The settled Gujjars who have migrated from different parts of northern India and during different periods are presented in Graph 7.1, which provides the migration history of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh.

From the early 20th century upto 1947, 18 percent of the Gujjars settled themselves mostly in different areas of Kangra and Solan. During the post-independence period (1947-60) Gujjars from either side of the border migrated from their original settlements and settled themselves in different areas of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Survey data reveals that 37 percent of the Gujjars had migrated and settled in the sampled districts during the period of 1947 to 1960.



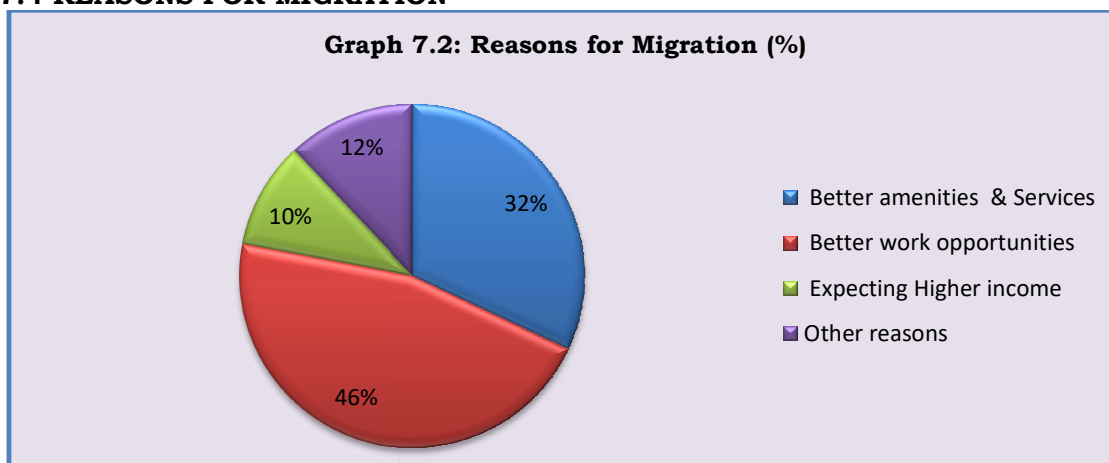
From 1961 to 1980, about 25 percent of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh migrated and settled in the sample districts. During this period, Himachal Pradesh got its full statehood and emerged as the eighteenth state of the Republic of India. 18 percent of the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh were found to have migrated after 1981 from the higher reaches of Chamba and settled in Solan and Sirmaur and some places in Kangra. The main reason behind their migration is the occurrence of flash floods due to cloudbursts in Soldan khadd in 1988 and 1991 in Satluj valley causing huge damage to their property and destroying their houses & agricultural land.

7.3 PROBLEMS DURING MIGRATION

With time, many of them have settled in different parts of Himachal Pradesh. But, 14.0 percent of them are still migrating. Most of them are from Chamba district. Nowadays, their migrating practice has become a burden on their living conditions. The main problems in the upper reaches is due to strict rules and regulations of the forest department, shortage of good quality fodder for their livestock, accommodation, lack of facility for education of children, medical facilities, marketing of milk/milk products and drinking water and electricity etc.

In lower reaches/plains, they face issues with the local people who raise objection whenever they try to settle in the Government land or near their villages. During the migration period, while ascending or descending, the nomadic Gujjars face problems from excessive rain, snowfall, heavy storm, hailstorms and landslides which cause not only a loss of their near and dear ones but also of their livestock. During their transition period, they travel on the national highways, sometimes meeting with accidents. During the time of interview it was found that though majority of migrating respondents are not satisfied with the quality of pasture lands in the plains, they cannot come out from their traditional meadows as they have no other option.

7.4 REASONS FOR MIGRATION



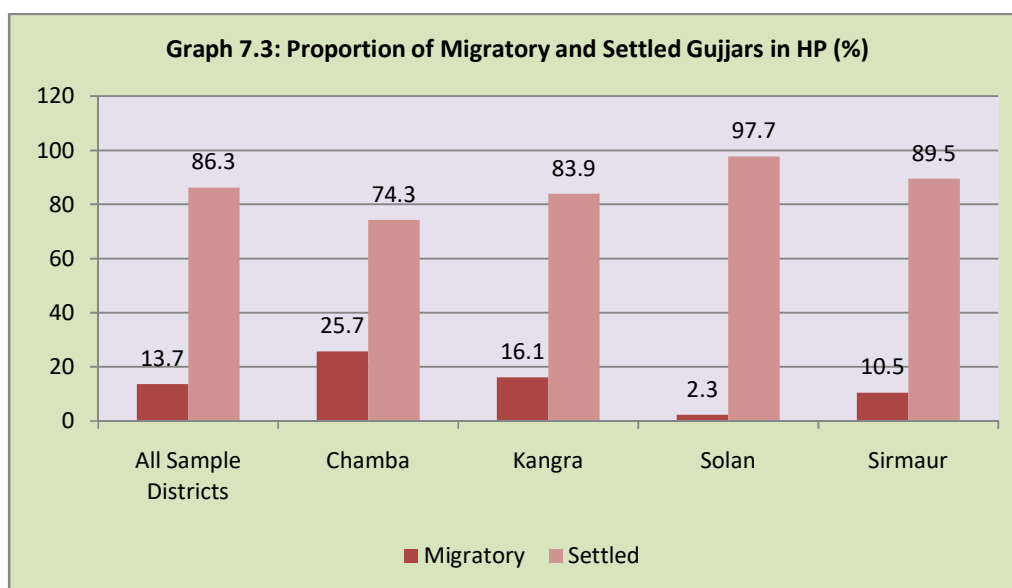
About 86 percent of the Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh have migrated and settled in various parts of the state. The graph 7.2 represents the reasons behind their migration and settlement.

Majority of them expressed that, expectation of better work opportunities and prospect of a better life have forced them to migrate and settle down in different parts of the state. Thirty-two percent of them expressed that they were looking for better amenities and services such as water, electricity, roads, health services and education. About 10 percent respondents opined that their expectation for higher income is the main reason for their gradual migration and settlement.

Still, 14 percent of the total Gujar respondents are sticking to nomadism and wandering between the higher and lower altitude pastures in search of better fodder for their livestock as the basis of their economic activities is rearing buffalo herds and selling milk and milk products.

7.5 PRESENT STATUS

To overcome the problem faced during migration, the Gujjars have tried to settle themselves permanently in some suitable areas at lower reaches either at a distance from the local inhabitants or by seeking the help of the local people. But they are still keen on rearing buffaloes as their main family occupation. As they used to stay in the remote areas from the mainland, they don't avail many of the facilities provided by the Government. As a result, they lag behind in all spheres of development. With the passage of time, their traditional occupation is suffering as many Gujar youth find a better future in their present occupation and are trying to adopt other professions along with dairy farming to ensure their socio-economic security as well as development.



The study also reveals that about 14 percent of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh are still continuing with their nomadic life. They are still migrating with their livestock between summer and winter pastures. With the approach of summer months, when grass and other fodder as well as water becomes scarce in the lower regions, they take their herds to higher altitude pastures where grass gets regenerated after snow. This practice becomes their profession for their livelihood. Some of them are migrating from Punjab to the lower pastures of Chamba along with their livestock and temporarily inhabiting in the interior forest areas of Chamba generally away from the local villages.

However, from the study area it is experienced that Gujjars in the state are the poorest among all the tribes, living in sordid conditions, with no access to education & proper health care facility and most importantly, are highly vulnerable to social insecurity.

Even though they have settled there for a long span of time but most of them are still struggling for land in their name. The only facility they get in the plains is the advantage of selling their milk and milk products.

A section of Gujjars who are trying to settle themselves have failed to do so. As they don't have land to stay, either they inhabit the unauthorized Government land or the land given by the nearby villagers or the land of local Zamindars in exchange of physical help. Although they got the Scheduled Tribes status in the State, they are

still far off from availing the benefits as they don't possess the authentic residential land. They even fail to avail minimum basic support from the Government like Ration Card, Job Card, Aadhaar Card, Voter Card, Electricity connection etc. Though many settled Gujjars of Kangra, Solan and Sirmaur have their own residential lands, but only a few of them have got agricultural land.

CHAPTER VIII

PERCEPTION OF THE GUJJARS TOWARDS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

Government policies are considered to be an important tool for improving the status of Scheduled Tribes. Gujjars, being a part of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh, deserve access to the developmental programmes run by both the State and Central Governments, including the special programmes for tribal development. Previous surveys conducted on Gujjars reveal that economically, socially and culturally they are in a poor state in spite of various programmes of Central and State Governments running in the State.

The study reveals that a number of development programmes, policies and projects have been implemented to improve the well-being of Gujjars, but several issues of their development need to be addressed. This is due to the nomadic culture and their habitation, which is located in remote villages. As a result they are deprived of various State and Central government schemes and programmes.

In this chapter, perception of Gujjars towards the developmental programmes undertaken by both State and Central Governments and respondents' opinions on their expectations are presented.

8.1 AVAILABILITY OF DIFFERENT SCHEMES FOR GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh, being nomadic by nature, were initially dropped from the list of Scheduled Tribes by the Advisory Committee (of 1965) and also by the Joint Select Committee, citing that Gujjars were 'nomadic and did not possess tribal characteristics'. The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India re-notified the Gujjars as Scheduled Tribes on January 2003. After that the State made special provisions for their protection and development under integrated tribal development programmes including promotion of basic health, education and economic interests and protection from injustice and all forms of exploitation.

1. Safe Drinking Water

Providing safe drinking water to all is one of the main priorities of the State Government. To ensure this, the Government is providing water supply from treated sources or through hand pumps installed in the regions facing water scarcity.

Also, a few water ATMs are being installed at some important destinations. But some of the Gujjars from Tissa block of Chamba district are still far from availing this facility. They collect water either from the "**Chasame**" (springs generally flowing from the hilltop) or from the nearby river for drinking purposes.

2. Public Distribution System

The State Government is implementing a number of ambitious schemes to make essential commodities available under the Public Distribution System. The consumers are provided essential items through a network of 4608 Fair Price Shops. Apart from this, Government run mobile shops are also operating to supply

essential commodities in the tribal areas like Bharmaur, Tissa in Chamba district and also in other districts before the winter season sets in.

3. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, which focuses on maternal and child health and nutrition was introduced initially in only one block in the tribal district of Kinnaur and later implemented in all 78 Child Development Blocks.

ICDS was launched to improve the nutritional and health status of children, in the age group of 0-6 years besides laying the foundation for their proper psychological, physical and social development. The scheme aims at reducing the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout to achieve effective coordinated policy and its implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development. One of its objectives is to enhance the capability of mothers in looking after the normal health and nutritional needs of children through proper education.

The programme envisages supplementary nutrition, non-formal and pre-school education, immunization, health check-ups, referral services, and nutrition & health education. The programme seeks effective convergence of inter-sectoral services through community based anganwari workers and helpers, supportive community structures and self-help groups through anganwari centers.

With a view to provide supplementary nutrition to the children below 6 years of age and also to expectant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls, there is a provision of cooked food under this programme against which only packet food (*Sattu*) is provided to the beneficiaries. Supplementary Nutrition Programme envisages provision of 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein for children and 600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein to the lactating mothers, pregnant women and adolescent girls. Also, a provision has been made to provide 800 calories and 20-25 grams protein to malnourished children. During the course of the survey it was found that these norms are violated openly in the study areas and also in the State as a whole. Some of the villages having Gujjar concentrations are at far off places on the hills, without proper approachable roads. These areas are covered by the concerned anganwari worker of the nearby villages, who delivers the service.

'Nutrition and Health Education Programme', awareness campaigns on small family norms and family planning methods are also operational in the study areas through home visits by anganwari workers, who cater to girls and women in the age group of 15 to 45 years.

Immunization services are provided to all children below six years of age and expectant women through this programme. The medical check-up of expectant mothers is done during pregnancy by ASHA workers and they are given iron and folic acid tablets. Serious cases of malnutrition and illness are referred to the nearby health centers or maternity centers for follow-up action under Referral Services.

Non-formal pre-school education services are provided to the children in the area where the anganwari centers exist. However, most of the children from the migratory households are not able to avail this facility.

4. Social Security Pension Scheme

Social Security Pension provided to the widows, old and disabled persons are being availed by most of the Gujar households in the study areas.

5. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)

‘Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)’ was launched in the State as a programme aimed at achieving the target of universalization of elementary education to supplement the efforts of ‘District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)’. It attempts to provide opportunity for improving human capabilities to all children, through provision of community-owned quality education in a mission mode. It is a convergent programme targeting primary and upper primary education with the main focus on providing basic quality education within a defined time frame.

‘Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya (KGBV)’ was introduced to encourage girl’s education and empower them through appropriate inputs in Science, Technology and innovation. But mostly the Gujjars are found to be unaware about this programme. They rather have restricted the education of their girl child only upto the age of 11 years and have confined them to domestic work only as additional helping hand.

Most of the nomadic Gujjars, mostly in Chamba district are willing to ensure formal education for their children but are not able to do so due to their frequent seasonal migration. Mobile schools under SSA, specially designed to provide primary education to the children of nomadic Gujjars by the State Government, were withdrawn due to lack of staff and non-motorable approach roads to the places of their settlement.

6. Ration card

Under ‘Public Distribution System’ (PDS), Ration cards are issued to the head of the household with their address and details of dependent members. Under PDS, the type of ration cards are issued to the consumers based on their entitlements i.e. Antodaya Card for those below the BPL category, BPL card for those living below poverty line and APL card for those who are above poverty line. In the Government guidelines of PDS, for the poor consumers mostly Antodaya & BPL card holders living in the most backward areas, ration at controlled price shops is provided at a relatively cheaper price.

From the study areas, it is found that more than 50 percent of the Gujar households from Antodaya and BPL category have ration cards.

7. Election Commission of India Identity Card

Election Commission of India Identity Card, commonly known as VID (Voter Identity Card) is issued to every citizen of India above 18 years to take part in the electoral process of the country.

From the sample districts it is found that almost all eligible Gujar respondents have EID/VID card. At the same time, some of the Gujar respondents are found having two EID/VID card representing two different constituencies, one in Himachal Pradesh and the other in Punjab. This is found normally with the

nomadic Gujjars who seasonally traverse within these two states and thus misuse their EID/VIDs.

8. Aadhaar Card

The ongoing initiative to issue an Aadhaar card to every resident in India above the age of one year is an ambitious objective to enable identification and access to information of all residents anytime, anywhere. The Aadhaar platform helps service providers to authenticate identity of residents electronically, in a safe and quick manner, making service delivery more effective and efficient. The 'Unique Identification Number' (UID) in the form of Aadhaar card is essential as it is linked to almost all the services provided to Indian citizens.

From the sample households it has been found that almost all of GujarrespondentshaveAadhaar cards.

9. Land for Construction of Houses

Under this scheme, the State Government has allotted two biswas of land in urban areas and three biswas of land in rural areas to houseless poor, with an annual income of less than Rs. 50,000.

Also, the State Government has made a special provision for the Gujjars by giving them residential land for settling them permanently and preventing them from adopting nomadism. Some of them are utilizing this opportunity for the betterment of their next generation while others are still continuing with their migration by disposing off the land allotted to them.

10. Indira Awaas Yojana

Indira Awaas Yojana (was under implementation till the time of survey) a social welfare flagship programme, introduced by the Government, to provide housing to the rural poor with the vision to replace all temporary (*kuccha*) houses in Indian villages by 2017. The scheme has now been restructured and renamed with the revision in norms.

It is an allocation-based, centrally-sponsored scheme funded on a cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the State Government in the 75:25 ratio. Under the scheme, financial assistance worth Rs. 70,000 in plains and Rs. 75,000 in difficult areas (high land areas), is provided for construction of houses. The eligible sections of the society for availing benefits of the scheme are Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, minorities and non-SC/ST rural households in the BPL category, widows and next-of-kin to defence personnel/paramilitary forces killed in action (irrespective of their income criteria), ex-servicemen and retired person.

Under this scheme, only one percent of the Gujar households have been found to have benefitted.

11. MGNREGA

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified by the Government of India in 2005 and was made effective in 2006. The

salient feature of the scheme is to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the State by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Under this scheme, the eligible member of the household has to be registered with the corresponding Gram Panchayat against which job card has been issued to them by the gram panchayat. Accordingly wage based work has been allocated to the job card holder through panchayat office and the respective payment for the man-days is directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary.

Although some of the Gujar households have job cards, they are vastly exploited by the Gram Pradhans. In some cases, by taking advantage of their illiteracy, the Gram Pradhans allocate the work in an eligible Gujar's name and withdraw the money by just paying a commission of 500 rupees.

12. Skill Development Scheme for Unemployed Youth

With a view to harnessing the energy of the youth towards building a strong nation and eradicating social evils, the State Government is laying special emphasis on involving them in constructive activities. They are instead lured by the anti-social elements to undertake socially undesirable and sometimes illegal activities

Efforts are on also to impart vocational training so as to develop their skills and make them adaptive to the needs and aspirations of the rapidly growing industrial units in the State. The provision of 'Skill Development' through granting an allowance to unemployed youth, with family income below Rs. 2 lakh per annum, is for upgrading their skill in any sector with prospect of employment. After completion of skill training, if the youth intends to take up self-employment he could apply for loan in a bank or to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Classes Corporations.

Due to the lack of proper education and awareness on skill development schemes & facilities, the Gujar youth, especially nomadic tend to lose their confidence to interact with the mainstream society.

13. Janani Express 102- a new feather on the cap of Health Services

The scheme launched by the State Government in 2014 as 'Janani Express-102' under 'Janani-Shishu-Surksha-Karyakram (JSSK)', for free drop back facility with the objective to promote free institutional deliveries, which would further help in reducing infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate. It is an initiative under the aegis of National Health Mission, to provide free quality transport services to the expectant mothers. Also, free institutional delivery with the provision of free drugs, diagnostics, and diet is also being ensured. The ambulance facility is provided to the women and her new born baby to drop them to their homes from the hospital and the service is available through toll free number 102. Some of the Gujar women are availing this facility and have started favoring institutional delivery. However, some of them are still not able to avail this facility as their settlements are far off from the nearest health centers and also lack in motorable/approachable roads which sometimes cost their life.

14. Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Mid-Day Meal Scheme is the world's largest school feeding programme started by the Government of India for students of primary schools with a vision for enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional level of the school children. Most of the children of nomadic Gujjars are not able to avail this facility as they are not enrolled in the schools. In Chamba many parents have enrolled their children in Anganwadi Centers.

15. Specialized Health Services to All

The state Government has accorded top priority to the health sector. Special emphasis is being given to develop health infrastructure besides expansion of quality health services. Many programmes and schemes have been implemented in this direction by the government to ensure modernized health facilities to all citizens regardless of their caste and social status.

In order to provide specialized health services to the people living in far flung remote areas, mobile diagnostic units are operating with specialized doctors. These mobile medical units have the facility of ultrasound, essential life saving drugs and also hold camps in the rural areas at fixed schedules.

From the study area, it is found that about two-third of the Gujjar households are able to avail this facility whereas one-third are not. Due to the lack of proper transportation facility and motorable roads in their area, they are forced to take the services of the unqualified quacks or are directly buying medicines from the chemists. This adversely affects the health and nutritional status of the migratory Gujjar communities especially women and child health. In some villages, traditional and semi-trained "*Daies*" take care of the delivery cases and also of the expectant mothers. Sometimes, lack of ambulance facility due to unapproachable roads cost their lives. For any critical case, villagers transport the patient to the nearest hospital on a "*Takhat*" (wooden plank) risking the patient's life.

16. Tribal Development Schemes

The State Government has initiated various schemes for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the state. The Tribal Sub-Plan covering the entire Scheduled Tribes population of the state and the implementation of the projects is made through 'Integrated Tribal Development Projects' for the interest of socio-economic development of tribal community.

In the study areas, it has been found that nobody is aware of this scheme. Table 8.1 shows the benefits availed by the Gujjar households from any government run schemes across the sample districts. About 91.6 percent of the Gujjar households have been issued ration cards, while 73.6 percent are getting food grains at subsidized price. Among the ration card holders, the majority are in Solan district at 98.3 percent, followed by Kangra at 94.8 percent, Sirmaur at 94.5 percent and Chamba, with the least at 72.2 percent. At the same time, 85.2 percent of the Gujjar households in Solan district get food grains at subsidized price while it is 72.8 percent in Sirmaur district, 59.7 percent in Kangra district and 57.4 percent in Chamba.

Table 8.1: Distribution of Gujar respondents/HH's who benefitted from Govt.-Run Schemes (%)

Scheme	All Sample Districts	Chamba	Kangra	Solan	Sirmaur
Ration Card	91.6	72.8	94.8	98.3	94.5
Foodgrain at subsidized rate	73.6	57.4	59.7	85.2	72.8
Indira Awas Yojana (Housing)	5.7	1.9	9.8	6.8	4.0
Old Age Pension	6.1	5.9	6.7	7.3	2.1
Fertilizers/Seeds	1.8	0.4	0.0	5.1	0.9
Lands for Housing	8.2	31.8	1.2	0.0	0.0
BPL Cards	53.4	66.3	50.8	44.4	49.1
Aadhaar Card	88.0	71.2	91.9	96.1	89.8
Election Card	92.4	81	100	100	94

Although a major portion of Gujar households are in a poor economic condition only 53.4 percent of the households have BPL cards. Chamba has the highest number of BPL card holders at 66.3 percent, Kangra at 50.8 percent, Sirmaur at 49.1 percent and Solan with the least at 44.4 percent. About 6.1 percent of Gujar households are benefitted by the 'Old Age Pension' programme varying from 7.3 percent in Solan to 2.1 percent in Sirmaur. Only 5.7 percent of the Gujjars got benefitted by Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). Almost the same percentage of Gujjars is found to have benefitted by the other government run programmes such as 'Land for agriculture' and 'Land for Housing'.

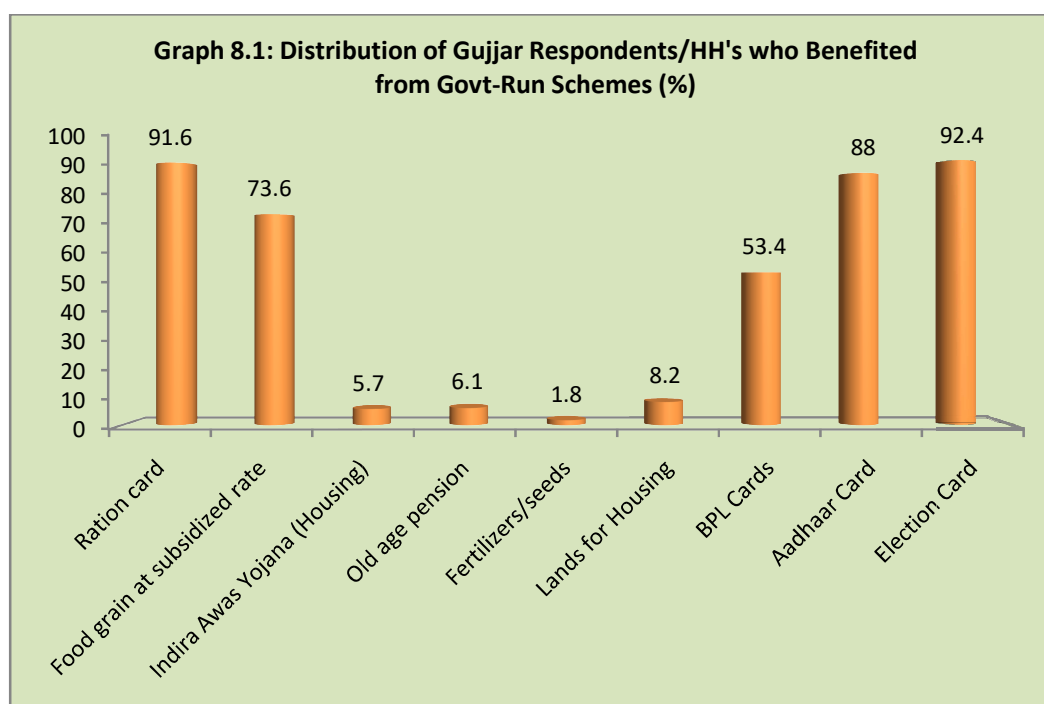


Table 8.2 presents the striking difference between the migratory and settled Gujjars in respect of availing benefits under various programmes. It is found that the migratory Gujar respondents are lagging behind in availing all Government run schemes due to their migratory nature even though they come under the ST

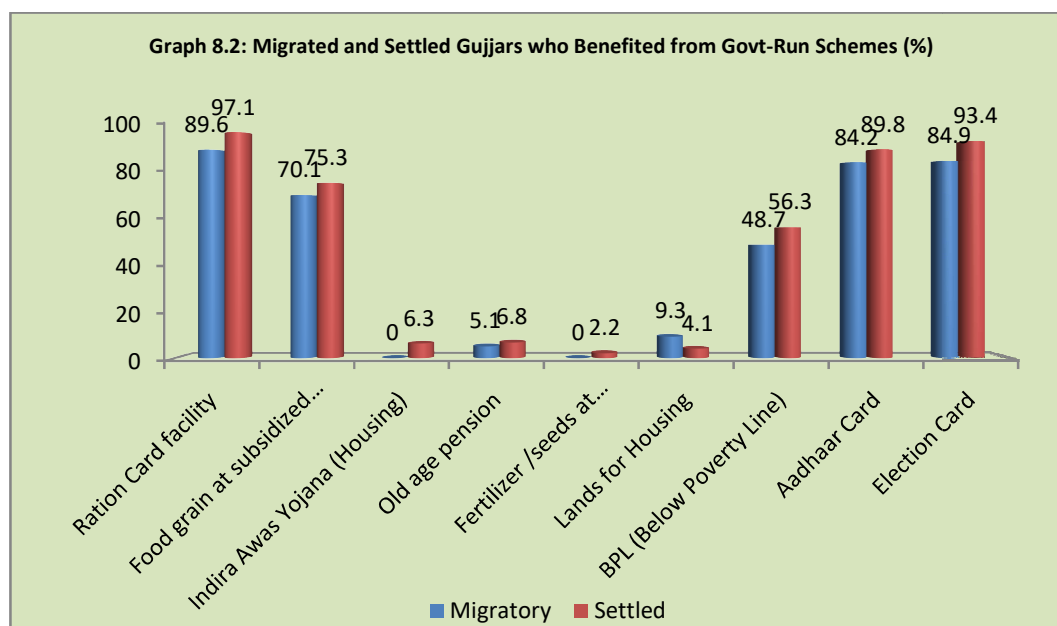
category. Lack of a residential address restricts them from availing the Government schemes and supports like Indira Awas Yojana, fertilizer/ seeds at subsidized rates etc.

Whereas in the case of settled Gujjars, ration card facility is availed by 97.1, the same form 89.6 percent in case of migratory respondents. About 75.3 percent of settled Gujjars and 70.1 percent of migratory Gujjars are getting food grains at subsidized rates. Whereas 93.4 percent of settled Gujjars are BPL card holders, 84.9 percent migratory Gujjars have BPL cards.

Indira Awas Yojana is availed by only 6.3 percent of settled Gujjars and none from the migratory. Only 2.0 percent of the settled Gujjars received fertilizer/ seeds subsidy and none from the migratory Gujjars. This is due to the fact that even though they are settled, still they are struggling for their authentic residential address as they are living in an unauthorized way on Government land or the land provided by the nearby villagers in the exchange of physical labour. But as per Government norms, the Government support can be availed by those who have either their owned land or authorization to use the land.

Table 8.2: Migratory and Settled Gujjars who benefited from Govt.-Run Schemes (%)

Govt.-run Schemes	Total	Migratory	Settled
Ration Card facility	91.6	89.6	97.1
Foodgrain at subsidized Price	73.6	70.1	75.3
Indira Awas Yojana (Housing)	5.7	0.0	6.3
Old age pension	6.1	5.1	6.8
Fertilizer /Seeds at subsidized	1.8	0.0	2.2
Lands for Housing	8.2	9.3	4.1
BPL (Below Poverty Line)	53.4	48.7	56.3
Aadhaar Card	88.0	84.2	89.8
Election Card	92.4	84.9	93.4

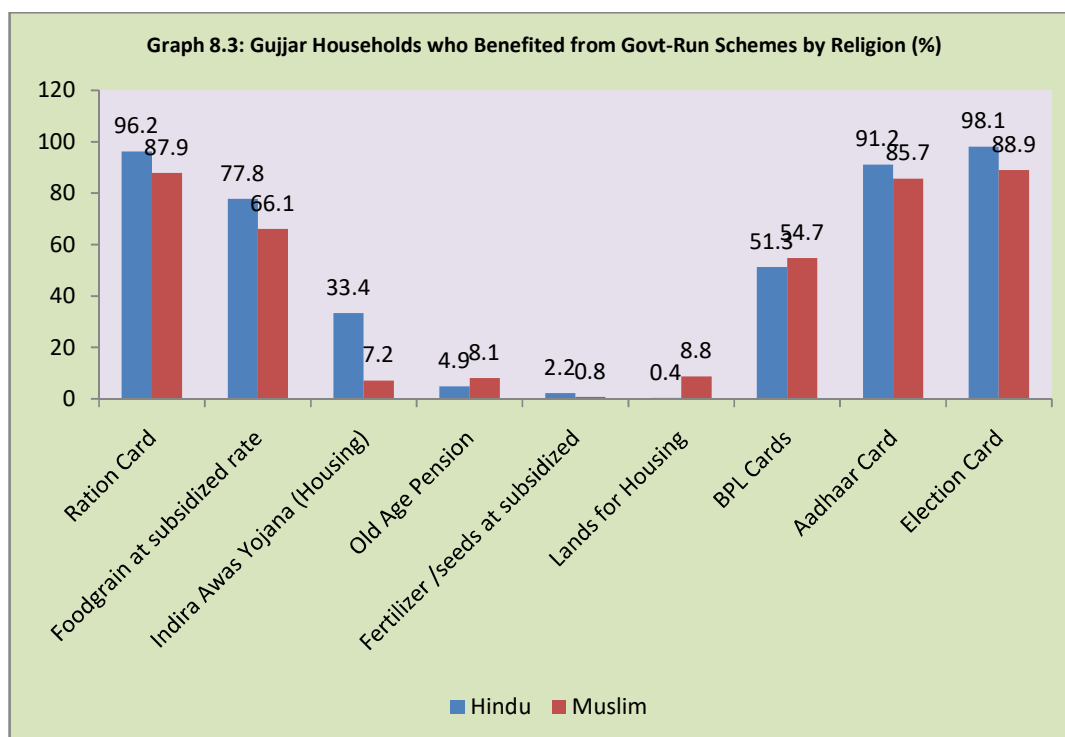


In case of Hindu Gujar households, 91.6 percent are having ration cards and 73.6 percent are getting food grains at subsidized price (Table 8.3). About 53.4 percent of them are BPL households while 6.1 percent are getting Old Age Pension. Only 2.2 percent of the Hindu Gujar households are able to get fertilizer/seeds at subsidized price.

At the same time, 87.9 percent of the Muslim Gujar households are having ration cards and 66.1 percent of them are getting food grain at subsidized rate. About 7.2 percent of Muslim Gujar households got houses through Indira Awas Yojana while old age pension is availed by 8.1 percent of them. Land for housing has been allotted to 8.8 percent of Muslim Gujar households while 0.8 percent availed the benefit of fertilizer/seeds at subsidized rate.

Table 8.3: Gujar Householdwho benefited from Government Run Schemes by Religion (%)

Govt.-run Schemes	Total	Hindu	Muslim
Ration Card	91.6	96.2	87.9
Foodgrain at subsidized rate	73.6	77.8	66.1
Indira Awas Yojana (Housing)	5.7	33.4	7.2
Old Age Pension	6.1	4.9	8.1
Fertilizer /Seeds at subsidized	1.8	2.2	0.8
Lands for Housing	8.2	0.4	8.8
BPL Cards	53.4	51.3	54.7
Aadhaar Card	88.0	91.2	85.7
Election Card	92.4	98.1	88.9



Livestock is the major livelihood option for them. Their economy depends on selling of milk and milk products in the nearby urban or semi-urban areas. For this, they

have to travel a long distance through the hills to avail public transport due to the lack of approachable road near their settlements. Again the nutritive value of feed and fodder directly influence production and productivity of livestock. However, pastures in the study area are either depleted or are depleting fast due to over grazing. Besides, there is a lack of initiative to plant the good quality grass either by the forest department or by the grazers nor any attention is paid to make good the losses due to over grazing. As a result, the milk productivity of livestock is very low as the livestock is not properly fed and looked after. The respondents are not able to avail the benefits of the schemes run by the Government to improve the availability of feed and fodder resources in terms of quality and quantity, providing high-breed of livestock, better veterinary facilities and hygienic conditions.

Besides these, marketing of their milk products is a major concern. Lack of proper marketing facilities and living far away from the nearest urban market, they are often trapped by agents/ middle man or dairy-shop owners who regularly exploit them by paying a very low price for their products. This in turn adversely affect their economic and social status. Though, each of the household has a good number of buffaloes, due to lack of skill and appropriate training they are not able to fetch the maximum quantity of milk.

8.2 SATISFACTION LEVEL OF GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH TOWARDS VARIOUS GOVT. RUN SCHEMES

Table 8.4 presents the level of satisfaction of Gujjar households regarding various schemes implemented by both State and Central Governments. About 41.7 percent of the Gujjar households are satisfied with the current ration card facility, whereas 1.2 percent Gujjars are dissatisfied.

Table 8.4: Level of Satisfaction of Gujjar Households with Various Government-Run Schemes (%)

	Very much dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very much satisfied	Total
Ration Card	0.1	1.2	2.2	41.7	54.8	100
Foodgrain at Subsidized Price	0.0	0.4	5.4	89.7	4.5	100
Indira Awas Yojana (Housing)	0.0	9.5	19.0	59.6	11.9	100
Old Age Pension	3.2	6.4	28.4	37.9	24.0	100
Fertilizer /Seeds at Subsidized Rates	0.0	48.2	51.8	0.0	0.0	100
Lands for Housing	0.0	0.0	2.0	34.1	63.9	100
BPL (Below Poverty Line)	0.0	9.1	3.9	33.6	53.4	100
Aadhaar Card	0.0	11.0	7.2	79.9	1.9	100
Election Card	0.0	1.0	7.4	89.9	1.7	100

Percentage of Gujjar households satisfied with the subsidized food grain scheme is at 89.7 percent while 0.4 percent is dissatisfied. Views about Indira Awas Yojana scheme were positive for 59.6 percent of Gujjar households while 9.5 percent showed their dissatisfaction, and 19.0 percent are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. About 37.9 percent Gujjars are satisfied with the Old age pension while 6.4 percent are dissatisfied.

Perception of the Gujjar households about the “Land for Housing” scheme as satisfied is 34.1 percent while 63.9 percent of them are very much satisfied. At the same time, ‘Fertilizer/seeds at subsidized rate” scheme does not satisfy any of the Gujjar households. However, the benefits under BPL scheme is able to satisfy 87 percent of Gujjar households while 9.1 percent of them expressed their dissatisfaction about this scheme. Thus, from the above analysis it is observed that a large proportion of the Gujjar households are dissatisfied with the currently run developmental programmes.

CHAPTER-IX

LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT OF GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Understanding the livelihood system of the Gujjars is crucial for effective poverty alleviation strategies. The livelihood system is made up of very diverse elements which taken together constitute the physical, economic, social and cultural wherein families live (Hogger, 2006). Thus, the livelihood system is more than just a set of physical and economic condition for continued existence.

The main objective of this livelihood assessment is to understand the present livelihood patterns of Gujjars through five selected indicators of capital viz. Human Capital, Physical Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital and Natural Capital.

9.2 HUMAN CAPITAL

Education Status:

More than half of the sampled Gujjars are illiterates whereas only 1.7 percent attained qualification higher than SSC/HSC level. About 23.8 percent have studied up to class IV, 11.9 percent studied up to class IX and 4.6 percent have passes SSC/HSC. Chamba has the highest rate of illiteracy and Solan has the least. It shows the lack of educational facilities, interest and awareness which has restricted enhancing the level of education of the nomadic Gujjars of Chamba district.

Illiteracy rate among the females is much higher than that of the males. It may be observed that the percentage of females with various level of qualification is quite low as compared to males. This suggests that the female Gujjars are largely confined to domestic work. However, the present generation of girls (especially settled) have started taking interest in education.

Gujjars in all the surveyed villages acknowledge the importance of education and health in their livelihoods. But there are several impediments that prevent them from availing the facilities provided by the state. In a few areas, they attend school only to receive benefits provided by the Government. High dropout rates and poor attainment of educational levels characterize the educational scenario of the Gujjars. There are serious delivery problems apart from inadequate infrastructure.

Low level of educational attainment is one important reason for the inability of the Gujjars to take advantage of the booming non-farm sector expansion. In addition, lack of necessary skills denies them new opportunities. The poverty reduction programmes should lay equal emphasis on education and health issues at the community level. This will lay the foundation for future economic benefits like better paid regular employment in other sectors, successful micro-enterprises run by skilled professionals etc. As a first step, the Government should take steps to enroll all eligible children in schools, persuade beneficiaries to withdraw their children from work, take additional and supplementary efforts to deliver the required services to the students and provide specific financial help towards better skill and educational acquisition.

- LITERACY AMONG GUJJARS (Survey): 36%.
- LITERACY AMONG GUJJARS –Male: 44%.
- LITERACY AMONG GUJJARS – Female: 12%.
- Illiteracy AMONG GUJJARS (Survey): 64%.
- Illiteracy AMONG GUJJARS –Male: 54%.
- Illiteracy AMONG GUJJARS – Female: 88%.

School Attendance

- 64 % of school-going age children attend school.
- It is low among girl children.
- It is lowest in Tissa block, district Chamba.

Policy Implications

- Adult literacy programmes.
- Total literacy – 36% of the children are not at all enrolled – Identify and mainstream.
- Address the drop-out problem.
- Insufficiencies in Delivery System are to be identified and addressed.

Health Status:

- In the survey area also, there are serious delivery problems related to access to health institutions. The health services availed by the Gujjars are classified into four different categories, viz. home remedy, modern health care provided by qualified doctors of various govt. and private institutions, Jhola-Chhap doctors/unqualified quacks without any formal/authorized medical degree, and medicines taken as suggested by pharmacists in medical shops. Almost all Gujar households are using more than one source at the time of illness. Multiple health care sources are availed by them as per need. For general sickness like fever, cold; they generally take traditional home based medicines. About 96.6 percent of Gujar households are applying home remedies as first aid whereas most of them visit qualified doctors in govt. and private institutions for their treatment. Apart from the formal treatment from authentic sources, 2.9 percent visit non-qualified doctors and 10.2 percent just buy medicines from Chemist shops suggested by the pharmacist.
 - Poor access to PHCs and absence of access to larger facilities like general hospitals.
 - Cost of availing treatment is high for them as they don't get medicines free of cost.
 - They sometimes get harassed and discriminated by the hospital staff.
 - Sometimes visit local medical practitioners/quacks as they are considerate and cheaper.
 - Ante-natal, pre-natal care is less effective. Immunization has benefitted.
 - Assisted deliveries are effective in a few areas not everywhere.
 - Institutional deliveries are few in number so infant mortality and maternity deaths are high.
 - Girls get married at a very young age of 13-14.

- Wide and intensive prevalence of anemic conditions among women and children.
- Prevalence of low weight at birth.
- IMR rate is increasing.
- Rapid decline in juvenile sex ratio.
- Underweight children below 5 years.

Policy Implications

- Functioning of PHCs to be toned up with adequate staff.
- Access to PHCs has to be improved with sufficient orientation for the staff to treat the poor with solace and sympathy.
- Mobile medical facilities to be introduced – particularly in inaccessible areas –reduce the cost of medication and prevention.
- In order to reduce infant mortality and maternity proper steps need to be taken.

9.3 NATURAL CAPITAL

Land Holding

- Landlessness is rampant among the Gujjars.
- Most of them don't have land for agriculture.
- The nomadic Gujjars don't have residential land. They stay on unauthorized Government lands.

Livestock

- Almost all the households own livestock.
- Most of the households who own livestock range from two to twenty; sometimes even more.

Common Property Resources

- Gujjars do not get much benefit out of CPRs, except to collect firewood and graze their cattle.
- Villages in close proximity to forests get benefit out of the forest produce depending upon the extent of access provided by the forest department that changes their policy from time to time.

Policy Implications

- Existing Governing principle of CPR helps the Gujjars to a great extent but the Gujjars want more due to their poor socio-economic condition.
- Institutional overhaul could benefit them immensely by providing numerous resources.
- Free distribution of land for residential purpose is urgently required for the nomadic Gujjars.

9.4 PHYSICAL CAPITAL

- As most of the Gujjars don't have agricultural land they don't have ownership of implements necessary for cultivation like Bullock pairs, ploughs, tillers, carts etc. A very negligible number of Gujjars have such assets.

- So far as consumer durables / private physical assets are concerned, incidence of these possessions is very low among the surveyed Gujjar population.
- Most of them have mobile phones.
- Roads, transport and market networks are the community owned physical capital. Most of the villages of Solan, Kangra are properly connected by motor able roads. However, many villages of Chamba and Sirmaur have poor transportation services.
- Poor Market network for selling their milk and milk products.

Policy Implications

- Providing instruments and implements of labour-enhances scope for employment-higher wages.
- Better transport service, better connectivity to market and urban centres, new employment, reducing the role of middlemen.
- Introduction of new market channels.

9.5 FINANCIAL CAPITAL

Savings

- Only 18% of the surveyed HHs reported some saving. (During the survey respondents didn't give true information regarding their savings)
- Saving is very low among the nomadic Gujjars.
- Most of them don't have accounts either in banks or in Post offices.
- SHGs are also not functioning over there.

Debt

- About 8.4 % of the HHs are indebted.
- Nomadic Gujjars reported fewer cases of debt.
- Indebtedness is highest among the settled Gujjars.
- Borrowing from Friends and relatives- 80%.
- Moneylender – 3%.
- Banks/Coop – 11%.
- Institutional credit to STs – very low.

Policy Implications

- Promotion of SHG's among Gujjars.
- Direct institutional credit is needed.

9.6 SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Gujjars participation in SHGs is almost nil.
- Overall participation in Gram Sabha/ gram panchayat is also very low.

Policy Implications

- Importance of participation and collective decisions are to be propagated.
- Social structure is vertical and hierarchical but the PRIs are democratically elected bodies. Without participation, the entire spirit of decentralized governance is lost.
- Further spread of SHGs among the Gujjars is an urgent task. The existing norms may be relaxed and also the size could be scaled down so as to involve the poor and the poorest of the poor in SHGs.

- SHGs among Gujjars are a priority.

9.7 CONCLUSION

The findings of livelihood assessment can be used in a variety of ways. They can serve as a basis for making future planning. The above findings may serve as the baseline information for devising intervention strategies. However, on the basis of this assessment, the final chapter of this report contains some specific recommendations.

CHAPTER-X

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Gujjars are one of the most backward communities in Himachal Pradesh. Some of the reasons for their backwardness are nomadic culture, illiteracy, absence of lack of strong leadership and, at the most, unfavorable attitude of some people towards them. Gujjars who generally lead an isolated life are not treated well and do not receive cooperation at the time of need from others, which keeps them at a backfoot and are deprived of all benefits of the Government-run schemes and programmes. Gujar community is in the grip of age-old culture, which affects them in many ways. Many of the orthodox and traditional beliefs and practices are still prevalent among them. Many Gujar youth and enlightened wish to come out of this and some of them have already initiated the process by joining the mainstream.

10.2 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS:

Gujjar Population in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, the Gujar community is a part of Scheduled Tribes generally habited in rural/tribal areas. Himachal Pradesh counted a total population of 68,56,509 (Census 2011). Out of this, all categories of scheduled tribes together constitute 3,92,126. As a part of scheduled tribes, Gujjars in the State constitute 92,547 persons. Out of the total Scheduled Tribe population in the State, Gujjars constitute 23.6 percent, where 97.5 percent of the Gujjars inhabit rural areas of the State.

Basic Profile of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Traditionally, the Gujjars were pastoralists, but as of now some of them have started practicing settled agriculture and other things. They sell milk and milk products in the market mostly through middlemen for cash and occasionally through barter. The principal crops grown by the Gujjars include wheat, gram, maize and green fodder for cattle.

Demographic Profile of the Gujjars in HP

Literacy – About 64 percent Gujar respondents are illiterates in the sample districts. Chamba has the highest illiterate Gujar population (86%) among the four sample districts. With regard to females in the study areas, higher proportion of females are illiterates because of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness and gender bias.

Marital Status - Majority (89%) of the respondents mentioned that they are married and the remaining 11 percent are unmarried. By the age of 29 almost all males have ever been married whereas 100 percent marriages of females take place by the age of 25.

Household Size & Type – About two third of the respondents have up to 4 member family. However, district Sirmaur has more households (11 percent) with 8+ family members as compared to other districts. Majority of the respondents (80.9%) have single/nuclear family while only 19.1 percent live in joint families.

Social Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Caste and Religion

The caste system is prevalent among both Hindu and Muslim Gujjars. The distribution of Gujjars by religion is 14.0 percent Hindus and 86.0 percent Muslims.

It is found that 100 percent Gujjars of Chamba, Sirmaur & Kangra are Muslims, whereas, Solan has only 1.4 percent Muslims and 98.6 percent Hindus.

Living Conditions

Housing - Majority of the dwelling places of these tribal groups are still unhygienic, in many cases, the cattle and human beings share the same shelter, without proper ventilation thus are prone to diseases. Majority of the Gujjars have kucha houses (temporary sheds) with 1-3 rooms. Some of the Gujjars have made cattle sheds for their cattle. Survey data indicates that, 38.3 percent of the Gujjar respondents are living in Kucha houses, 11.8 percent live in huts, whereas 31.7 percent have Kucha-Pucca houses and only 18.2 percent have pucca houses. Huts are owned by nomadic or migrant Gujjars of Muslim Community living in interior areas inside jungles, indicating that they are the most backward community among the Gujjars. Only a few households have separate kitchen and cattle shed. Toilets have not been constructed and only 3.5 percent of the households have a toilet whereas the rest of the households do not have it. Most of them engage in open defecation.

Report received from field observation reveals that Hindu Gujjars are mostly settled whereas the Muslim Gujjars are semi-nomadic. This also indicates poor socio-economic condition of Muslims mostly nomadic Gujjars inhabited in interior areas than Hindus.

Water & Electricity -Maximum respondents from the study area don't have access to facility of proper water. Data on access to drinking water facility reveals that 48.6 percent Gujjar respondents have proper water facility in their area and 51.4 percent don't have proper water facility. Gujjars of Solan have better water facilities than other districts. In other districts, they collect water from bowlies, springs or one or two public taps available in their areas. They have to cover a long distance to fetch water for their daily use and drinking facing great hardship.

The nomadic Gujjars are habitants of forest area where the drinking water facilities are not available, and most often they prefer to have drinking water from sources like rivulets, springs, stagnant ditches, etc. mostly open and unprotected.

Most of the settled Gujjar households have access to electricity. Majority of the migrated households remain without electricity as they do not have permanent house in their name, or rent receipt which deters them from getting an electricity connection.

Source of Energy for Cooking - Majority of the Gujjar households use firewood or dung cakes as their prime source of energy for cooking. Only a small percentage of settled Gujjars are using clean fuel like LPG connection.

Road Connectivity - Solan and Kangra have stable road conditions mostly pucca motorable roads with connectivity to almost all villages with Gujjar concentration. Chamba has poor road conditions with most of the roads being kucha-pucca with poor inter-village road connectivity as the Gujjars mostly live in the interior or forest areas. Sirmaur is found to have moderate road conditions with pucca and kucha-pucca roads.

Condition of Gujjar Women in Himachal Pradesh - The tribal Gujjar women of Himachal Pradesh live in utter deprivation due to poverty, illiteracy, early marriage, nomadic way of life, superstitions, traditional neglect and lack of awareness on welfare schemes. The Gujjar women are not aware of their rights and schemes launched by the Government for their education, health and social upliftment as they live in far-flung and difficult areas and are nomadic moving from one place to another. The facilities offered to the women in this community are inadequate.

Women are the worst affected section in the society. Gender discrimination is still there and girl's education is at the lowest level. The health condition of women is not good and superstition and inaccessibility to health services further worsen the conditions. Women generate 80% of the family income, but own hardly a single pie. They do not have right in ancestral property, which makes them secondary in the society.

Health Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh - In the survey area, the health services availed by the Gujjars are classified into four different categories, viz. home remedy, modern health care provided by qualified doctors of various govt. and private institutions, Jhola-Chhap doctors/un-qualified quacks without any formal/authorized medical degree, and medicines taken as suggested by Pharmacists in medical shops. Almost all Gujjar households are not availing a single source for treatment. Multiple health care modes are availed by them as per their need. For general sickness like fevers, cold etc. they generally take traditional home based medicines. About 96.6 percent of Gujjar households are applying home remedies as first aid, whereas most avail the services of qualified doctors in government and private clinics, dispensaries and hospitals for their treatment. Apart from the formal treatment from authentic sources, 2.9 percent visit unqualified doctors and 10.2 percent just buy medicines from Chemist shops as per pharmacist's advice.

Educational Profile - More than half of the sampled Gujjars are illiterate whereas only 1.7 percent are able to attain qualification higher than SSC/HSC level. About 23.8 percent have studied up to class IV, 11.9 percent studied up to class IX and 4.6 percent have been able to pass X/XII. Chamba has the highest illiteracy and Solan has the least. It shows that the lack of educational facilities, interest and awareness has restricted enhancing the level of education of the nomadic Gujjars of Chamba district.

Illiteracy rate among the females is much higher than the males. It may be observed that the percentage of females with various level of qualification is quite low as compared to their male counterpart.

Economic Status of the Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

Occupation - From the present study it is observed that the major occupation of the Gujjars is dairy farming. More than half of the respondents are in to dairy farming (52.7 percent) followed by unskilled worker at 18 percent (engaged as agricultural labour, construction labour or factory worker in nearby industrial sheds) and farmer at 17.4 percent.

Monthly Income: Income is considered to be an important factor in determining socio-economic status of the households. As per the survey, majority of the Gujjar households (45.4 %) are earning less than Rs. 5,000/- a month. Across districts, the proportion of such households is 52.7 percent in Kangra followed by 50.7 percent in Solan, 49.7 percent in Sirmaur and 28.6 percent in Chamba district. There are about 40 per cent households earning above Rs.5,000, but less than Rs.10,000/.

The highest percentage of households earning between Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 are reported from Chamba at 55.5 percent, followed by Solan, Sirmaur and Kangra districts with percentage of households being at 36.9 percent, 38.2 percent and 34.4 percent respectively. There are only 13.7 percent households who have income Rs.10,000 or above. Across the districts the same is being 15.8 percent in Chamba followed by 13.3 percent in Sirmaur, 12.9 percent in Kangra and 11.2 percent in Solan.

Monthly Expenditure: About 32.3 percent of the Gujjar households incur expenditure less than Rs.3,000/-. The highest percentage of Gujjars spending less than Rs. 3,000/- are found in Solan (49.3 %), followed by Sirmur (36.6%), Kangra (26.7%) and Chamba (16.7%).

This indicates that Solan has the highest percentage of Gujjars in the lowest expenditure bracket followed by Sirmaur, Kangra and Chamba. In the next expenditure group i.e. Rs. 3,000/- to Rs.5,000/- highest percentage is reported from Kangra (42.7%) followed by Chamba (39.3 %), Sirmaur 38.7% and Solan (23.7%). In other words, it is found that in the bottom two expenditure groups together, the highest percentage of households are in Sirmaur (75.3%) and Solan (73.0%) as against relatively lower percentages in this category are in Kangra (67.4%) and Chamba (56.0%). This depicts the relative status of the districts in terms of monthly expenditure.

Borrowings:With regard to borrowings, only 8.4 percent of Gujjar households have borrowed money from some source or the other according to their needs. Across the selected districts, the percentage of households reported having borrowed is almost the same in Kangra at 13.3 percent and Chamba at 13.4 percent, followed by Solan at 6.0 percent and 5.0 percent in Sirmaur. However 2.5 percent of the respondents have refused to give information on borrowing by their families.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF GUJJARS LIVING IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

KANGRA

The maximum population of Gujjars is found in Dehra, Nurpur and areas adjoining the plains (Kandi areas) of Kangra district. The entire area of the district is traversed by the varying altitude of the Shivaliks, Dhauladhar and the Himalayas

from north-west to south-east. The altitude varies from 500 metres above mean sea level (amsl) to around 5,000 metres amsl. It is encapsulated in the north by the districts of Chamba and Lahaul & Spiti, in the south by Hamirpur and Una, in the east by Mandi and in the west by Gurdaspur district of Punjab. The most of the Gujjars have migrated either from Chamba district or from Jammu & Kashmir. Most of them are now settled. In some cases, they are not fully settled as they don't have their own land. They are staying either on government lands or on the unused lands of local Jamindars. A few of them are nomads who climb up the hills during summers and return to the plains in winters. The Gujjars are deeply attached to their tribal customs, rites and rituals. The economy of these Gujjars is mainly dependent on animal husbandry and forests. Most of them are landless and their economic status depends upon the number of buffaloes one possesses. Illiteracy has been found to be the major cause of their backwardness. The literacy rate among them is only 25 percent.

CHAMBA

The condition of Gujjars residing in Chamba district is very pathetic. The entire area of the district is hilly with poor communication facilities. Due to this, the Gujjars of the district are not in a position to market their dairy products. The literacy rate among them is very poor. Gujjars of this area migrate to lower areas of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab (Pathankot) during summer season.

The Gujjars of Chamba mostly rear buffaloes and their main source (of income) is milk selling. There are mainly three scheduled tribes named Pangwala, Gaddi and Gujjar in district Chamba. The Gaddi and Pangwala are Hindus and are engaged in agricultural as well as animal (sheep and goat) rearing activities whereas Gujjars (Muslims) rear buffaloes and move up and down between mountains and plains according to seasons. The first two are economically and socially well-off than the Gujjars. Most of them are settled and availing facilities like education, health, water, etc. But the Gujjars live a nomadic life and remain mostly uncovered by the welfare/development schemes of the Government.

SOLAN

District Solan is the only district in Himachal Pradesh, where settled Gujjars live in maximum numbers. Maximum Gujjar population lives in Nalagarh Block, Arki Block and Baddi Tehsil of the Solan district. Nomadic Gujjars also constitute a good number of Gujjars of the district. The main profession of Gujjars includes dairy farming, agriculture, sheep flocking and business of dairy products.

Population of the community in the district is about 23,728 and 90% of them are settled. Maximum Gujjars of this district are Hindus and they have strong interest in formal education and modernization. The literacy rate is better than the Gujjars of other districts. The district has a good network of school education and school facilities are easily availed by them.

Government health care facilities are routinely utilized by the Gujjar community of the district due to their better location (physical accessibility), sensitive attitude of health care providers towards them and good out-reach programme of health system. The standard of living of Gujjars of this district is better as compared to other districts.

SIRMAUR

Population of the community in Sirmaur District is about 10,500 and 90% of them are nomadic. Maximum Gujjar people of Sirmaur are followers of Islam and they have no interest in formal education and modernization. The literacy rate among these Gujjars is very low. Though the district has a good network of school education but Gujjars of the area are backward because they are staying far from the main land where school facilities are easily available. Besides that due to their inherent tendency towards their traditional profession adopted by their forefathers the parents as well as their children are not taking interest in education.

During summer season (4 to 5 months) they live in cool jungle/forests of Trans-Giri /Giripar area (Sangrah, Shilai and Rajgarh Development Block of district Sirmaur (7,000 to 11,000 feet height). Semi-nomadic Gujjars are summer visitors for Trans-Giri area/ Sangrah, Shilai and Rajgarh Development Block and they live in Churdhar Hills, Piulani, Thyanbag, Chandpurdhar, Pajhota Valley and Theerdhar forests during summer. After first snowfall in the area they move to plain areas of the district like forests of Paonta –Doon, Dholakuan, Nahan, Chassi, Ginni-Ghar and Kala-Amb etc.

The Condition of nomadic Gujjars is very pathetic as compared to the settled Gujjars of Sirmaur district. Efforts are on for the social and economic upliftment of the Gujjars residing in district Sirmaur. However efforts have not yielded much result so far due to lack of water resources and fertile land in the areas where Gujjars are living; shortage of teaching staff in the schools; due to nomadic pattern of life, children can not continue their education, and have very less awareness about different Government schemes and programmes.

10.3 PROBLEMS FACED BY GUJJARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **LACK OF BASIC FACILITIES:** The Gujjar concentrated areas of Himachal Pradesh lack the following basic facilities;
 - Pathetic housing conditions- Mostly kucha or kucha-pucca or huts
 - Unhygienic living conditions
 - Shortage of schools and hospitals
 - Inadequate water and electricity
 - Road and transport problem
- **EDUCATION:** There is a number of reasons for low level of education and literacy among Gujjars. The people of this community do not prefer to send their children, especially daughters, to schools out of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, outmoded thinking and backwardness. Mobile schools are not functional and therefore, not many opportunities are there for the nomads to be educated. Generally, schools are not within close reach of the settlement of nomadic Gujjars and hence, women remain deprived educationally. There are not many incentives for these women to be educated or to send their female children to schools. In some areas, schools are closer to their residential areas. But in some areas they have to walk on an average 3 to 4 kms. to reach school. (Especially in Tissa Block of district Chamba) The areas where the schools are situated do not have adequate staff of regular teachers. The teachers from other areas do not prefer to serve at these remote places

where Gujjars stay and those who are posted in these remote hilly areas either get themselves transferred to the schools in the urban areas or resort to absenteeism thereby causing heavy academic loss to the poor nomadic students particularly female for no fault of theirs.

- **HEALTH:** Tribal Gujjar women don't have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. They face high risk of malnutrition and diseases. They are little informed regarding their reproductive rights, delaying early marriages and various health problems like malaria, TB, hypertension and cardio-vascular disease. Modern medical facilities like hospital deliveries, prenatal check up and care is not available to them so there is problem of infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate.
- Day by day the dairy farming is becoming less remunerative for them.
- Non-availability of fodder for their cattle for the whole year.
- Lack of marketing facilities of their milk and milk products etc.
- Non availability of veterinary hospitals for their cattle.
- Improper implementation of Government schemes in the Gujjar rehabilitated areas.
- Non-availability of regular work to daily wagers.
- Non-availability of the opportunities in Government/private jobs.
- Lack of knowledge of Government schemes/TSP and other programmes.

10.4 SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF GUJJARS

It is concluded by saying that socio-economic and educational status of Gujjars in the State of Himachal Pradesh is not satisfactory. No doubt, a few families have made good achievement in education yet, majority of tribal Gujjars still suffer due to their illiteracy and poverty. There is wide spread poverty, illiteracy and backwardness among the Gujjar people which is evident from the survey data.

What is required is immediate action and sincere effort by the development agencies. It's the Government and its agencies that should take responsibility and initiative to further plan for the betterment of Gujjar community and, thereby, for the development of the State. On field observations further contributed to enrich the insight of the same on the basis of which some recommendations have been made.

REHABILITATION OF NOMADIC GUJJARS

- In the past, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has allotted land to the homeless poor people like Gujjars for settling them permanently. Some of them are utilizing this opportunity for their betterment; while others disposed off their allotted land in exchange for money for getting money and are still continuing with their migratory life style. Necessary provisions should be made so that they are prevented from selling the land allotted by the Government.
- The housing condition of the Gujjars is very pathetic. Most of them are staying in kucha or kucha-pucca houses or in temporary shelters. Therefore housing assistance is required for them. Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) pucca houses needs to be provided. As most of them are landless and are staying in unauthorized Government lands; they are not getting benefits

under the IAY. Therefore, land for housing along with housing should be provided to them so that they will be able to settle themselves permanently. While providing all these, strict provisions should be made so that they prohibited from selling their allotted Government land/ houses to anybody.

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS

- Access to education is essential for takingGujjar communities forward. Therefore, availability of schools in nearby Gujjar concentrated areas is highly required. Generally, schools are not within close reach of the settlement of nomadic Gujjars and hence, children especially girls remain deprived educationally. Either permanent settlement of migratory Gujjars or restarting of mobile schools in an effective manner is urgently required.
- There are, no doubt, a multitude of factors, not just the absence of a School, that limit enrollment in school education. The people of Gujjar community are not in favour of sending their children especially daughters to the schools out of sheer ignorance, age old social taboos, and outmoded thinking and backwardness. Therefore, awareness among Gujjar parents needs to be created and they need to be motivated so that they will send their children to schools. Maybe financial incentives, in addition to already being administered, can help changing their mindset.
- Enrollment, retention and reducing dropouts of Gujjar children in schools is equally important. Thus adequate care needs to be taken.
- Adult literacy programmes should be initiated for the parents making their thinking more progressive.
- In the survey areas, professional training in skills is almost zero. So, in the longer term, skills training will be needed for off-farm activities. Skills training/vocational education with special focus on Gujjars Community is also needed for both male and female.

IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH FACILITIES

- Tribal Gujjars must have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. Establishment of PHC's in Gujjar concentrated areas is required.
- Field report suggests that in some cases Gujjars are discriminated by the hospital staff. Therefore, access to health services for them has to be improved with sufficient orientation of the staff to treat the Gujjars with humaneness.
- In view of the high risk related prevalence of malnutrition and disease that these tribal Gujjar women are exposed to, should be taken by Government to enable women to be informed regarding their reproductive rights, delaying early marriages and various health problems like malaria, TB, hypertension and cardio-vascular disease.
- Outreach to mobile clinics and community based system can be helpful. Mobile medical facilities to be introduced, particularly in inaccessible areas to reduce the cost of medication and prevention.

- Modern medical facilities like hospital deliveries, prenatal check up and care should be made available to them in order to keep a check on the incidence of infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate. For that, Anganwaris need to be made available/functional in Gujar's inhabited areas.
- A holistic approach to women's health to be developed which includes both nutrition and health services with special attention to the need of women and girls at all stages of the life.

LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

- Poverty is a major reason among tribal Gujjars for their low economic condition and they do not have any employment opportunity available. Employment opportunities in handicraft etc. should be made available for them.
- Need based training and counseling to increase their awareness and empowerment and to give them skills for off-farm income generation. Better access to advanced education would empower them as well.
- Scientific training on dairy farming for Gujjars would also be useful in improving their income.
- Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) (through NGO's) will help to increase their savings and credit opportunities.
- Promotion of small and micro enterprises would give them an alternative livelihood option and economically empower them.

IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS

- Efforts should be made to improve their living condition as it is evident from the above findings that tribal Gujar women are living in miserable conditions with no electricity and water available to them. It is also seen that they are suffering from malnutrition due to their eating habits. Proper initiatives need to be taken providing them with electricity and water connection. In order to overcome their malnutrition, anganwaris need to be opened so that proper food, medical facilities can be made available to them.
- Construction of roads to the areas where Gujjars live will be highly required.

POLICY AWARENESS

- Various schemes are launched by State and Central Government to uplift them socially, economically, educationally, and culturally. The need of the hour is to make tribal Gujar women aware of various initiatives taken for them and made them able to take full advantage of it. Policies like Integrated Child Development Programme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya can go a long way in improving their socio - economic conditions.
- Make Government schemes properly accessible to them and empower them for the same.

FOCUS ON GUJJAR WOMEN

- The problem faced by tribal Gujar women are multifarious, the most crucial problems faced by them are overburdening them with work outside and within domestic sphere, gender discrimination, loopholes in educational and

economic policy etc. Steps for improving their condition can go a long way in improving the socio-economic conditions of nomadic Gujar women.

- Check on the social evils like child marriage, domestic violence, gender discrimination, etc.
- Women need training and counseling to increase their awareness and empowerment and to give them skills for off-farm income generation. Better access to advanced education would empower them as well. Perhaps that would afford women greater involvement in community decision-making and in household financial management.
- Scientific training on improved dairy farming for women would also be useful in improving the dairy sector.
- Nutritional education for women (and men) is necessary to improve child nutritional status.
- Increased savings and credit opportunities through SHGs and micro credit for women would make them more independent and better able to cope with shocks.

IMPROVEMENT OF DAIRY SECTOR THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVES

The dairy sector of Gujjars is characterized by scattered, and unorganized milk-animal holders; low productivity; inadequate and inappropriate animal feeding and health care; lack of an assured year-round remunerative producer price for milk; an inadequate basic infrastructure for provision of production inputs and services; an inadequate basic infrastructure for procurement, transportation; processing and marketing of milk; and lack of professional management. In order to address these problems, in the Gujar rehabilitated areas (especially in Chamba district) establishment of Primary Cooperatives at the village level for collection of milk and Secondary Cooperatives district /Tehsil level for processing and marketing of milk and milk products are urgently required.

IMPROVED DAIRY FARMING

- Gujjars who live in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh contribute significantly to the rural and urban economy by providing milk and milk products. Being committed to their cultural tradition it is imperative that special attention be given to this tribe of Himachal Pradesh so that they improve their socio-economic conditions through improved dairy farming. Various developmental agencies should concentrate their efforts on dairy development for Gujjars.
- The introduction of high-yielding breeds of buffalo and cross-bred cattle could improve the economy of the Gujjars. It was observed that special programmes are essential to train the tribal Gujar men and women in scientific dairy farming. Conservative Gujjars need to be ascetically educated to scientifically improve their breed of buffaloes.
- Providing free insurance cover to nomadic people for their cattle will be a positive step towards their livelihood security and economic empowerment.
- Promotion of Veterinary Health Services to look after the health of cattle is highly essential. Veterinary hospitals need to be established near to the Gujar concentrated areas.
- Scientific management of pasture lands with the help of Forest Department and cooperative societies.

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Annexure-A

TEAM FROM RG FOUNDATION

Project Management and Research Team

Dr. Partha Sarathi Das	Project Director
Mr. S K Mondal	Associate Project Director
Dr. Harish Ch. Behera	Project Manager
Kuntal Roy	Research Associate

FieldTeam

Salil Dash	Field Manager
Sohan Lal Sharma	Field Manager
Ankit Singh	Field Executive
Manoj Kumar	Field Supervisor
Nikhil Kumar	Field Supervisor
Kamlesh Mishra	Field Supervisor
Harish Kumar	Field Supervisor

Note :-Field supervisors were assisted by a group of Field Investigators, recruited from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Delhi University.

Data Processing and Analysis Team

Kuldeep Gussain	Data Analysis Manager
Rajat	Data Scrutinizer
Rajeev Kumar	Data Entry Operator

Annexure-B

RESEARCH TOOLS- (I) QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION

Good Morning/Afternoon, My name is _____ and I am from R.G. Foundation, New Delhi. At present, on behalf of HPHRDCS, Government of Himachal Pradesh, we are conducting a survey on different schemes of the ministry. I would like to have your valuable opinion on it.

Your views will be used only for research purposes and your personal information will not be disclosed to anybody. May I ask you a few questions? (If YES then continue)

QUESTIONNAIRE NUMBER				Project No.			Distt. Code	Block Code	Vill. Code	Res	
				1	4	1					5
Distt.	Chamba-1	Kangra-2	Solan-3	Sirmaur-4	District Name & Code						
Block Name & Code				Village Name & code							
Migratory Group				1			Settled Group			2	

RESPONDENT DETAILS

Name Mr./Ms _____

Contact No: _____ ID #: _____ Date of interview: ____/ ____/ ____

AC: 1 _____ BC : 2 _____ Scrutinized: 3 _____

SECTION A: MIGRATION

A1. Can you please tell me your original native place?		Post Code
1	Village/Area Name	
2	District Name	
3	City Name	

A2. From where did you and your family migrate to this place?		Post Code
1	Village/Area Name	
2	District Name	
3	City Name	

ASK ALL. OPEN

A3. When did you and your family migrate to this place? (approx.)		Post Code
1	Month	
2	Year	

ASK ALL. OPEN			
A4. For how long you have been staying here?			Post Code
1	In Month		
2	In Year		

ASK ALL. MULTIPLE CODE POSSIBLE			
A5. Whydid you and your family choose to migrate?			
	Lack of enough non-agricultural jobs where you were earlier		1
	Couldn't grow enough in the place where you were a farmer		2
	Lack of adequate income		3
	Large size of household (Too large that you couldn't support with income there)		4
	Small size of agricultural holding		5
	Poor public services (such as water or roads)		6
	Better work opportunities		7
	It is our profession to migrate		8
	Higher expected income		9
	Other reasons please specify _____		10

ASK ALL. MULTIPLE CODE POSSIBLE			
A6. Whydid you and your family choose to migrate to this particular area/ place?			
	Better amenities & Services (such as water or roads)		1
	Better work opportunities		2
	It is our profession to migrate		3
	Expecting Higher income		4
	Other reasons please specify _____		5

A7. Do you have a joint or single/nuclear family?	
Joint	1
Single/nuclear	2

A8. Do you (all your family members) stay together in this place?	
YES	1
NO	2

A9. If no, then where do they (the remaining family members) stay?			Post Code
1	Village/Area Name		
2	District Name		
3	City Name		

A10. What's about your friends and relatives? Do they stay in this area?	
Yes	1
No	2

A11. How do you find this place?			
Very good	1	Bad	4
Good	2	Very bad	5
Neither good nor bad	3		

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE			
-----------------------------	--	--	--

A12. Are you planning to stay here permanently/long period of time?	
YES --PERMANENTLY	1
YES --FOR LONG TIME NOT PERMANENTLY	2
NO – WON'T STAY FOR LONG	3
CAN'T SAY/ NOT DECIDED	4

ASK ALL. MULTI CODE POSSIBLE

A13. If YES -PERMANATELY, then can you please tell me the reasons for that....

Better income earning opportunities	1
Higher land acreage for cultivation	2
Better public services: water, electricity, health/ education facilities	3
Better road connectivity	4
Get better learning skills through training	5
Get More government support	6
Have got Aadhaar card/election card facility at this address	7
Get PDS/MGNREGA scheme support	8
Others (please specify)_____	9

ASK ALL MULTI CODE POSSIBLE

A14. If NO-WON'T STAY LONG, then can you please tell me the reasons for that....

Less income earning opportunities	1
Less land acreage for cultivation	2
Less public services: water, electricity, health/ education facilities	3
Less road connectivity	4
Get less learning skills through training	5
Get less government support	6
Haven't got Aadhaar card/election card facility at this address	7
Don't get PDS/MGNREGA scheme support	8
Others (please specify)_____	9

A15. If you don't want to stay here permanently then, would you and your family like to go back to your earlier place if found conditions better over there?

YES	1
NO	2

ASK ALL. MULTI CODE POSSIBLE

A16. If yes, what are the conditions necessary for you and your family to go back to your native place?

Better income earning opportunities	1
Higher land acreage for cultivation	2
Better public services: water, electricity, health/ education facilities	3
Better road connectivity	4
Get better learning skills through training	5
Get More government support	6
Have got Aadhaar card/election card facility at this address	7
Get PDS/MGNREGA scheme support	8
Others (please specify)_____	9

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE

A17. Do you and your family face any problem to settle down in here?	
YES	1
NO	2

ASK ALL. OPEN END

A18. If YES, then what is the nature of problem faced?

SECTION B: DEMOGRAPHY

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE

D1. Write the Gender of the Respondent		D2.Age of the Respondent _____	
Male	1	Between 18-35	1
Female	2	Above 35	2

Please provide detailed information about you and your family members						
D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9
Name	Gender M/F	Age	Education	Job status	Occupation	Income per month
	Male-1	Actual	Illiterate-1	Full time-1	Farmer -1	Approx.
	Female -2		Up to class IV-2	Part Time-2	Landless labourer - 2	
			Class V to IX-3	Tuition-3	Unskilled Worker-3	
			X/XII-4	Part time Agricultural work-4	Skilled worker (driver)-4	
			Higher than X/XII-5	Unemployed -5	Shop owner-5	
			Not Applicable-6	Any other (specify)-6	Business with employees-6	
				Not Applicable-7	Govt. Job (teacher)- 7	
					Private job-8	
					Unemployed-9	
					Disguised unemployed-10	
					Student-11 Any other(specify)- 12	
					Not Applicable-13	

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE

D10. Religion of the Respondent?

Hindu	1
Muslim	2
Christian	3
Buddhist	4
Other Specify	5

D11. Caste of the Respondent

SC	1
ST	2
OBC	3
GENERAL Caste	4
Any Other	5

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE

D12. Type of house

Pucca	1
Pucca-Kucha	2
Kucha	3
HUT	4

D13. Number of Rooms

Single Room	1
Double Room	2
Three Rooms	3
More than three Rooms	4

ASK ALL. MULTI CODE POSSIBLE

D14. What are the major sources of income?

a	Service	1
b	Daily wages	2
c	Agriculture	3
d	Animals Farming	4
e	Any other (Pl.Specify)_____	5

D15.How much money do you get from... (approx.)?

TOTAL MONEY EARNED

ASK ALL. OPEN END

D16. How many buffalos you have?

D5. How much quantity of milk you get per day? (Including Morning-Day-Evening)

0	1	21-30 litres	4
1-10 litres	2	31-40 litres	5
11-20 litres	3	Above 40 litres	6

D17. What are the government programmes being run for buffalos breed improvement?

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE

D18. How much Agricultural land your family has?

No land	1
---------	---

1-2 Bigha land	2	
3-5 Bigha land	3	
Above 5 Bigha land	4	

OPEN END

D19. **How much of them have irrigated?** _____

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE.

20A On the whole are you satisfied with your Occupation?

20B. On the whole are you satisfied with your financial condition?

20.A. Satisfied with your Occupation?		20.B.Satisfied with your financial condition?	
Very much satisfied	1	Very much satisfied	1
Satisfied	2	Satisfied	2
Somewhat satisfied	3	Somewhat satisfied	3
Not satisfied	4	Not satisfied	4
Not at all satisfied	5	Not at all satisfied	5

ASK ALL. SINGLE CODE.

21.A .What is your monthly income (Approx.)?

21.B. What is your family's monthly income?

20.A. Your Monthly Income		20.B.Your Family's Monthly Income	
No Income	1	No Income	1
Less than Rs. 1,000	2	Less than Rs. 1,000	2
Rs. 1,001-Rs. 2,000	3	Rs. 1,001-Rs. 2,000	3
Rs. 2,001-Rs. 3,000	4	Rs. 2,001-Rs. 3,000	4
Rs. 3,001-Rs. 4,000	5	Rs. 3,001-Rs. 4,000	5
Rs. 4,001-Rs. 5,000	6	Rs. 4,001-Rs. 5,000	6
Above Rs. 5,001	7	Above Rs. 5,001	7
Don't know / Refused	D	Don't know / Refused	D

ASK ALL. OPEN END

22.(If not satisfied/somewhat satisfied) Looking to your needs and the needs of your family, how much income per month do you think you must have to meet your needs? Rs.

23. Have you ever received any loan/subsidy from any government or any non-government sources?

Yes	1	
No	2	

ASK ALL. MULTI CODE POSSIBLE

24. If yes, then from where?

From friends and relatives	1	
Local money lenders	2	
Banks	3	
Other sources	4	

ASK IF TAKEN LOAN. OPEN END

25. What is the quantity of money taken as loan?	Rs.
--	-----

26. May I know the purpose of that loan?			
Agriculture purpose	1	To meet emergency needs	4
For daughters/sister/others marriage	2	For Business	5
For meeting day today expenditure	3	Other purpose	6
OPEN END			
27.What is your total monthly household expenditure?(approximate)		Rs.	

ASK ALL. MULTIPLE CODE POSSIBLE

28.Primary source of energy for cooking:

Firewood	1	Kerosene	2
Dung Cake	3	Coal/Coke	4
LPG	5	Electricity	6
Others (specify)____	7		

ASK ALL.

29.Do you or your family own the following :-

		YES	NO
A	Car/Jeep/Tractor	1	2
B	Pumping Set/Thresher	1	2
C	Colour TV	1	2
D	Two Wheeler	1	2
E	B/W TV	1	2
F	Electric Fan/ Cooler	1	2
G	Bicycle	1	2
H	Transistor/Radio/Tape	1	2
I	Wrist watch/ Clock	1	2
J	Mobile	1	2

ASK ALL.

30. Primary source of energy for lighting:

Electricity	1	Others (specify)____	2
-------------	---	----------------------	---

ASK ALL.

31A. Have you and your family benefited from any Govt. run schemes? YES=1
No=2

31B.How far you are satisfied with various Govt. run schemes at present?

		31A	31B				
		Yes=1 No=2	Very much satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very much dissatisfied
A.	Ration Card facility		5	4	3	2	1
B.	Food grain at subsidized Price		5	4	3	2	1
C.	Indira Awas Yojana (Housing)		5	4	3	2	1
D.	Self-Employment Schemes		5	4	3	2	1

E. Old age pension		5	4	3	2	1
F. Fertilizer /seeds at subsidized		5	4	3	2	1
G. Lands for agriculture		5	4	3	2	1
H. BPL (Below Poverty Line)		5	4	3	2	1

C. Health & Education

H1 Can you please tell me the source of treatment for the Ill members?				
	No action	1	Pvt.Hospital/N.H	6
	Home remedy	2	Pvt.Doctor/Disp.	7
	PHC/CHC/Sub-Centre	3	Non-qualified Doctors	8
	Govt.Disp./Clinic	4	Pharm./Medi. Shop	9
	Govt. Hospital	5	Others	10

H2. Do you send your children to AWC?	YES	1	NO	2
--	------------	---	-----------	---

H3 Can you please tell me the nature of support you receive from the Anganwari Centres/people?				
	No Support	1	Discuss Health issues	5
	Supply of food	2	Give medicines	6
	Supply of other Materials	3	Any other Support	7
	Guidance about family planning	4	Guidance about birth spacing	8

H4 Do you send your children to school? (for children above 5 years)						
	YES	1	NO	2	No Children for studies	3

H5 If yes, then in which type of school your children are studying?				
	Government	1	Private	2
	Govt. aided school	3	Mobile school	4
	NGO/other school	5		

H6 If no, then what are the reasons for not sending your children to school?				
	Financial problem	1	No school nearby	2
	Children are not interested to study	3	they are engaged in other activities	4
	Quality of teaching is poor in schools	5	Any other reason	6

H7 Are you aware of the mobile schools scheme?				
	YES	1	NO	2

H8 Are mobile schools are running in your area?				
	YES	1	NO	2

H10 If yes, then are you satisfied with their functioning and performance?				
	Very much Satisfied	1	Not satisfied	4
	Satisfied	2	Not at all satisfied	5
	Somewhat satisfied	3		

H11 How many old people are in your family? (above 60)	
---	--

H12 How do you take care of them?	
--	--

H13. Govt. of H.P. along with Govt. of India wants to improve your socio economic status. What expectations do you have from the government? And What will be your suggestions for them?

--

Investigator's Observation:

Thank you

RESEARCH TOOLS- (II)

DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

Instructions for the Moderator

- Self-Introduction
- Qualitative Research
- Confidentiality
- Group participation
- Audio & Video recording

Questions:

- Q 1. What is your opinion about the socio economic condition of Gujjars in India in general and Himachal Pradesh in particular?
- Q2. How do you think poverty and unemployment impacts their social and economic life?
- Q3. In your opinion, which are the districts /areas, where more Gujjars are staying?
- Q4. In your opinion, what are the reasons for selecting these districts /areas?
- Q5. What are reasons responsible for their migration?
- Q6. Does migration help them in improving their socio economic status?
- Q7. What have been the main government policies and programmes addressing their problems during the last 5-10 years?
- Q8. What is the current situation from a government policy and programme standpoint?
- Q9. Do you think socio-economic status of Gujjars of your state have improved during the last decade?
- Q10. If yes, then in which areas you find the progress and to what extent it has been achieved?
- Q11. Can you please tell us, in which areas progress needs to be achieved?
- Q12. Overall, what opportunities and challenges do you see for them in future?
- Q13. What recommendations do you have for their rehabilitation and development in Himachal Pradesh?

Thank you

RESEARCH TOOLS- (III)

Discussion Guide for FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A. What are the kinds of issues that normally concern people in your locality?

(Moderator to probe; Ask anything else)

B. Can you please tell us about your community's occupation?

What is your traditional occupation? And present occupation?

- Do you think your economic status has improved during the last 5-10 years?
- If yes, then in which way do you think it has improved?
- If No; then; what makes you say so?
-Who should be blamed for that?
- Do you keep cattle's at home? How do you arrange food and fodder for them?
- Do you observe any kind of change in the climate of over the years?
- If yes, then, what has been the impact of climate change on your livelihood?

C. Views on Service Delivery

- Whether the educational /health/ road & communication facilities for your children have improved during the last 5-10 years?
If Yes then how....?
- What is your culture? What sort of festivals you observe? When & how do you people observe those festivals?
- How do you see the safety of women and children?
- Whether all the women members go for work or not?
- How do you take care of the older people in your families?
- What is the main occupation of the young people (18-25 years)
- Whether they take interest in higher studies or in government jobs, private jobs, and business? What is their proportion?
- Whether they get any support from the government?

D. Views on Developmental Programmes-MGNREGA; IAY; Breed Improvement Programme, Mobile School Programme etc.

....To get views on different developmental programmes being run for the development/empowerment of the Gujjars

E. What are the expectations you have from the government?

- What will be your suggestions for improving your socio economic status in your future?

Thank You

PHOTOGRAPHS



Pict.-1 AGujjar House in Indora Block of Kangra district



**Pict.-2 AGujjar residential Area in Nurpur Block, Kangra
(Houses as well as Cattle shed)**



Pict.-3 Picture of an Anganwari Centre in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh



Pict.-4 List of Services provided by an Anganwari Centre in Chamba district of H.P.



Pict.-5 Gujar Household in Indora Block of Kangra district



Pict.-6 Gujar Household of Nahan block; Sirmaur District



Pict.-7 Gujar Household of Solan District



Pict.-8 Gujar Household of Sirmaur District



Pict.-9 Gujar Household of Sirmaur District



Pict.-10 Picture of a Semi - Pucca house in Solan district of HP



Pict.-11 Housing condition of Gujjars in Sirmaur District, HP



Pict.-12 Gujjar Household of Chamba Block, Chamba District



Pict.-13 Housing condition of a Gujjar in Kangra District, HP



Pict.-14 Housing condition of a Gujjar in Sirmaur District, HP



Pict.-15 Housing condition of Gujjars in Chamba District, HP



Pict.-16 Housing condition of a Gujjar in Solan District, HP



Pict.-17 The Project Area; Solan District



Pict.-18 The Project Area; Tissa Block; Chamba District

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY-1 on Migration

Bano Bibi a respondent of Tissa revealed that since childhood she is leading pastoral livestock-rearing life style which is becoming increasingly difficult due to the thinning of forest over the years. She, with her husband moves on to the allotted pasture land by the forest department of Chamba district with 12 buffaloes during the month of April-September while the children stay at home with other family members.

Majority of the Gujjar women who migrate to allotted pasturelands start three days after the men start the journey with buffaloes and join them by bus at the first halt. These transhumant prefer to move at night to avoid traffic hazards during daytime. For retaining the land and movement of the flock of buffaloes around Rs.1,500 were spent and in turn they have earned Rs.15,000 by saving money on feeding to the animals as they get lot of green fodder from these pastures. The milk produced during the transit and sold at different locations of Chamba district is an additional income to these tribal Gujjars.

Case study-2 on capacity building of Gujjars on dairy farming

The Gujjar women play a significant role in dairy farming remained unnoticed by the policy makers and planners in providing them training on scientific dairy farming that could have led to improved socio-economic condition of these tribal Gujjars. Under the Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWDP) operated in Kangra and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh the Gujjar women were sent for the first time to the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) located at Karnal, Haryana as a part of an exposure visit.

These selected beneficiaries were shown the elite herd of cross-breed cattle and 'Murrah' breed of buffaloes at the cattle yard of the NDRI and at few local dairy farms in a nearby village. Although they were engaged in dairying for many decades, it was strikingly observed that they were not aware of the elite breed of "Murrah" buffalo and were keeping low producing buffaloes.

They were taught that the high-yielding breeds of buffaloes and combination of cross-bred cattle could improve their economy through scientific dairy farming. Therefore, it was observed that special programmes are essential to train the tribal Gujjar women in scientific dairy farming.

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Annexure-I

REQUEST LETTER FROM GUJJARS

कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत काठगाढ़
विकास खण्ड इन्दौरा, जिला कांगड़ा (हि०प्र०)



प्रस्ताव संख्या :..... दिनांक 31/1/2016.....

विषय:- लेवांगे श्री मान जी

हमारे ग्राम पंचायत काठगाढ़ नगी सबसे बड़ी समस्या कुर्खर बस्ती में शोषितों वक्काद जीवन शायर फैलने से जो सब सुविधा मिलने का समय-समय पर पुस्तक विमोचन आठ पंचायत काठगाढ़ नगी लाबाला नगी सरफ से अभील, गोंध के विजली, पानी, सड़क, स्वास्थ्य केंद्र और गोंध में मरघी सड़क धनी ठंडी से मरघी बालिका, पल्लविकादी नगी समस्या का समाधान किया सबसे बाद समाधान कुर्खर लेवांगे के दो लहों पर विजली, पानी, सड़क, मकान तक नही लेगो के पास इत लेगो, के सड़क, विजली, पानी इन्दौरा बालिका नगी सुविधा - हमारे गोंध में बालिका के लिए शिक्षा के केंद्र कोलेज होना चाहिए दिलाने का प्रयास किया जाय


मेम्बर कर्डी -

1. माँवा वीवी

2. बुझमा वीवी

हस्ताक्षर -

ग्राम पंचायत काठगाढ़



दिनांक 31/1/2016

9418514758



कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत मोरठू

विकास खण्ड भटियात, जिला चम्बा (हि.प्र.)

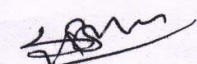
क्रमांक.....

दिनांक 30-1-2016

श्री मानु जी, हम ग्राम पंचायत मोरठू के जन-प्रतिनिधी आप से प्रार्थना करते हैं कि हमारी पंचायत का NH-20 को आने के लिये एक मात्र रास्ता खड़ड़ के बीचों बीच जो कि बरसात के मौसम में नंगे पांव चलना पड़ता है हमारी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि आप केन्द्र में हमारी पिछ पंचायत को राष्ट्रीय उच्च मार्ग से जोड़ने के लिये प्रयास करें। हम तथा हमारी पंचायत की आवाज़ आपके प्यार में रहेंगे

धन्यवाद सहित

(1)

प्रधान ग्राम पंचायत 
मोरठू विकास खण्ड मंडि
चम्बा (हि.प्र.)

(11)

उप-प्रधान ग्राम पंचायत

मोरठू
विकास खण्ड भटियात
जिला चम्बा

Mukender Singh (Mikky)

कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत कुड़साँ

विकास खण्ड इन्दौरा जिला कांगड़ा (हि0प्र0)



प्रस्ताव संख्या.....

दिनांक.....

सेवा में,

श्रीमान जी, हमारे यहां पर सभी लोग जो
डालगा - डालगा कार्ड के यहां रह रहे हैं। हमारी काम पंचायत
कुड़साँ डा० चमौर त० इन्दौरा वॉर्ड न० 7 के सभी निवासीयों
को यहां रहकर वोट डालते हैं। पर शरम कार्ड भी
बने हुए हैं और चुल्हा ठेका भी लगी हुई है फिर
भी हमारे यहां के सभी काम रुक चुके हैं न तो
गलियां बनी हैं न रोडें हैं और सभी अपने मेहनत
मजदूरी करके समय व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। और पंचायत
की किसी भी योजना या गारंटेड का कोई फायदा नहीं
मिल रहा और हम 1988 के वोट के डालने से बेघर
लाग रहे हैं हमारी सरकार तो बनती है कि हमें जमीन
और योजनाओं का मालिकाना हक दें। धन्यवाद

यहां के वॉर्ड मैबर-7

सत्य न गीवी



हस्ताक्षर
दिनांक 31-01-2016

Hassan Deen

President Distt. Gujjar Kalyan Sabha, Chamba
Member H.P. Gujjar Kalyan Board
Member Distt. Level Public Grievances Committee, Chamba

Village & Postoffice Paliyur, Teh. & Distt.
Chamba (H.P.) 176 314
[M] 88941-04200, 98163-19285

Ref. No.

Date _____

1. गुज्जर समुदाय के लोगों के ज़रूत भाव किया जाड

2. पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों की सैलरी

4000 वार्ड मे० = 5000/-
1800 उप-उद्यान = 13000/-
21000 उद्यान = 16000/-

पंचायत समीति = 18000/-
जिला परिषद = 20000/-
होनी चाहिए।

3. जो सरकार की योजनाएं व अधिकियाएं हैं और जिस
वर्गी समुदाय के लिए हैं उसी समुदाय के लोगों को देखा जाड
जैसे SC/ST इन्क, F.R.A, मनरेगा, R.T.I, R.T.C
S.T वन वेन्धु योजना इन में समुदाय के लोग स्थित हों
चाहिए जो लोगों को अपनी आवा में बता सकें



कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत बक्से गढ़
विकास खण्ड तीसा जिला चम्बा (हि.प्र.)

उप-प्रधान ग्राम पंचायत बक्से गढ़

mob. 98578-84063

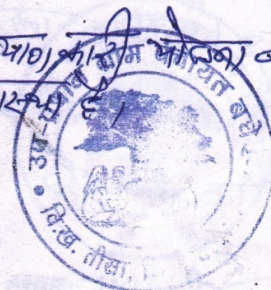
क्रमांक.....

1. प्रतिलिपि प्रस्ताव संख्या :
2. बैठक
3. अध्यक्षता
4. उपस्थिति
5. दिनांक

ग्राम पंचायत/ग्राम सभा

विषय:- ग्राम पंचायत बक्से गढ़ की मुख्य समस्याएं -

- ① ग्राम पंचायत बक्से गढ़ में सबसे बड़ी शिक्षा की समस्या है यहाँ उच्च विद्यालय है परन्तु बच्चों की संख्या के हिसाब से 10+2 का स्कूल होना बहुत ही जरूरी है।
- ② पंचायत स्तर पर कोई स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र नहीं है अतः साय लगेने वाली अन्य पंचायतों में भी कोई स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र नहीं अतः यहाँ पर P.H.C. Primary Health Center होना जरूरी आवश्यक है।
- ③ डी. एच. ब्लॉक कलेक्टर में I.T. नहीं है अतः केन्द्र में स्थित बक्से गढ़ में I.T. का होना जरूरी आवश्यक है।
- ④ ग्राम पंचायत बक्से गढ़ में सबसे बड़ी सुविधा नहीं है जो कि बैंक शाखा की है। अतः बैंक शाखा खुलना जरूरी आवश्यक है।
- ⑤ पक्की सड़क रुक सबसे और विशेष मुद्दा है। अतः पक्की सड़क बनाना भी मुख्य समस्या है।
- ⑥ इल्लित विवास के लिए कोई विशेष कल्याणकारी योजना नहीं है अतः इल्लित विवास को सवसे बड़ी समस्या है।



हस्ताक्षर Ram Ram
दिनांक

Annexure-J**District and Block Wise Villages Covered**

CHAMBA		KANGRA	
TISSA	SALOONI	INDORA	NURPUR
CHEEL BANGLA	KAFLA	BAGANI	CHAMOTU
KAKELA	MALUDA	DHADI	GUJRERA
KOHLADI	PUKHRI	KANDI	KHARTI
KUNNA	SUKHANA BAI	RAKKAD	PATHIYAR
	UGHRAL	UPRALI BADOL	PUNNAR

SIRMAUR		SOLAN	
NAHAN	PAONTA SAHIB	BADDI	NALAGARH
OGLI	BADRIPUR (PURWALA)	BANVEERPUR	KASHMIR GUJRA
RAMPUR JATAN	GIRI NAGAR (MANDI KHALA)	KONDA	BAIRCHHA
TRILOKPUR (KYORWALA)	GARHI WALA	LODHI MAJRA	JAMAL GOLA
KHERI WALA	AMAR GARH	MANAKPUR	MASTANPUR
	MAJRA TOLI		RERU UPRELA
	AURANGABAD (DHAULA KUAN)		

It is thus an accident and mockery of history that Minas, a comparatively prosperous and landlord agriculturists community of Rajasthan (who share most of the social, physical and geographical characters with Gujjars) are a scheduled tribe for more than 50 years and Gujjars are not. Minas did the right crimes in the 19th century to earn their place in the fortunate category of tribes; Gujjars somehow fell through the cracks of history. This is no justice; it is sheer chance.