

AN ANALYSIS OF THE HIMALAYAS GUJJAR TRIBES THROUGH THEIR SOCIO ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

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Abstract

This study investigates the socioeconomic trends and problems that the Gujjar tribe in Himachal Pradesh, India, faces. The Gujjars, who've historically been pastoralists in the region, are gradually transferring towards a more settled lifestyle. They have a look at their ancient context and note the perseverance of controversy over their ancestry. It additionally describes the extraordinary government projects meant to enhance their financial circumstances. The technique made use of secondary information from previously published studies, similar to authentic information accumulated through a survey of 40 people. The survey's essential topics were career, social involvement, family size, healthcare accessibility, and academic success. The Gujjar network's worryingly high price of illiteracy (43.5%) is shown by the effects. The majority of respondents (50%) are part of households with four to six individuals, and a full-size percent (20%) live in houses with limited access to primary healthcare offerings. Even though 82 percent of all sales come from agriculture, 47 percent of humans are jobless.

Keywords: *Socioeconomic, Gujjar Tribe, Himachal Pradesh, Pastoralists, Settled Lifestyle and Illiteracy*

Introduction

The formerly pastoral and nomadic Gujjar populace has currently shifted towards permanent existence. The word "gaucharana," which refers to their history of cow grazing, is where the name Gujjar" originates. They are famous for having medium- to tall-length hair and a strong physique. There continues to be a war of words about the Gujjar network's exact origins. Some hint at their origins to the White Huns, who got here in India as nomadic tribes in 465 AD. Historian V.A. Smith made this connection in the Early History of India (1924). Cunningham, among others, classifies them with the Indo-Scythian tribes who swept into northwest India in the first century AD, together with the Kushan and the Yueh-Chi. The Gujjars are most likely the offspring of blended-race marriages between the local people and these early foreign invaders. The Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation was founded on November 14, 1979, and it's under the authority of the state government of Himachal Pradesh. The unique name of this organisation was Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes Development Corporation," and its most important aim was to improve the economic balance of families belonging to the Scheduled Caste. However, the enterprise's features were extended in 1984 because of a cooperative agreement made by the governments of Himachal Pradesh and

India. This decision allowed the organisation to assist households belonging to Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh financially. As a result, the organisation's name was modified to Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. " The following is a list of the several programmes that the state of Himachal Pradesh has released to improve the lives of individuals who are members of scheduled castes and tribes: Swarojgar Yojna (Self-Employment Scheme): Provides financial guidance of as much as Rs. 50,000 for the established order and increase of profit-producing corporations. ❖ Himswablamban Yojna (NSFDC & NSTFDC): In partnership with NSFDC and NSTFDC, to provide loans for projects costing more than Rs. 50,000. ❖ Study Loan: To offer financing for a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000 for a duration of 5 years. ❖ Research Loan Programme in Partnership With NSFDC: To offer loans as much as Rs. 7.50 lakh for a five-year term ❖ Dalit Varg Vayavsaik Prashikshan Yojna: To educate youngsters from SC and ST groups in conventional and non-conventional trades through private institutions, ITIs, and master craftsmen. ❖ Shop/Scheme Construction (Laghu Vikray Kendra Yojna): Corporation Loans to Municipal Corporations, Municipal Committees, and Nagar Panchayats for Shop/Shed Construction for SC/STs. ❖ Hast Shilp Vikas Yojna: The organisation gives person and organisation/society/affiliation of craftsmen running capital help up to Rs. 5,000. ❖ Small Business Yojna (NSFDC): The Corporation works in partnership with NSFDC to offer time-period mortgage help up to Rs 50,000/- to impoverished Scheduled Caste households if you want to deal with their small-scale financial needs and launch small companies. ❖ minor Business Yojna (NSTFDC): The Corporation works without delay with NSTFDC to offer term mortgage assistance as much as Rs 50,000/- to fulfil the minor financial wishes of low-income Scheduled Tribes families to establish small and petty companies, in my view. ❖ National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development (NSKFDC): Provides funding at a concessional interest rate to establish any income-generating venture with a greater initial cost (above Rs. 50,000), such as a small business unit, taxi, Mahindra Jeep, Tata Sumo, shuttering, pig farm, etc. ❖ Micro Credit Finance (MCF): Offers loans under the Small Loan Scheme up to Rs. 50,000 (in partnership with National Corporation).

Review of Literatures

The literature that already exists on a variety of topics pertaining to Gujjars and other indigenous tribes has not gotten the proper attention. N. K. Ambasht noted a social divide between educators and learners in tribal areas in 1970. The necessity for political awakening was highlighted by S. M. Dubey's 1972 research on schooling, social reform, and political knowledge amongst tribes in Northeast India, which exposed their lack of literacy and disadvantage. R. P. Khatana examined family and marriage between Gujjars and Bakerwals in Jammu and Kashmir in 1976, observing stringent polygamous customs. Elements of transhumance in hilly areas were also investigated in

this research. Alongside economic concerns, later scholars like B. Zutshi (1981), Kango & Dhar (1981), and Nau Nihal Singh (2003) contributed to our knowledge of the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes.

The need for reform in education amongst scheduled tribes was emphasised in K. S. Chalam's 1993 paper on educational strategy for HRD. A "Tribal Study Compilation Report," authored by J. Daswani in 1993, summarised the main conclusions [8]. In order to encourage the educational growth of SC and ST, the Department of Education examined their situation in 1993 and established new programmes. In their 1999 research, "Modernism Communities, Tribal Communities," D. K. Behera et al. examined a number of social ideas pertaining to tribes and came to the conclusion that they are socially and educationally backward. In a book with a comparable title published in 2006, Sahu Chaturbhuji explored several facets of tribal studies.

Objectives of the study

To examine the Gujjar Tribe's Socioeconomic Features

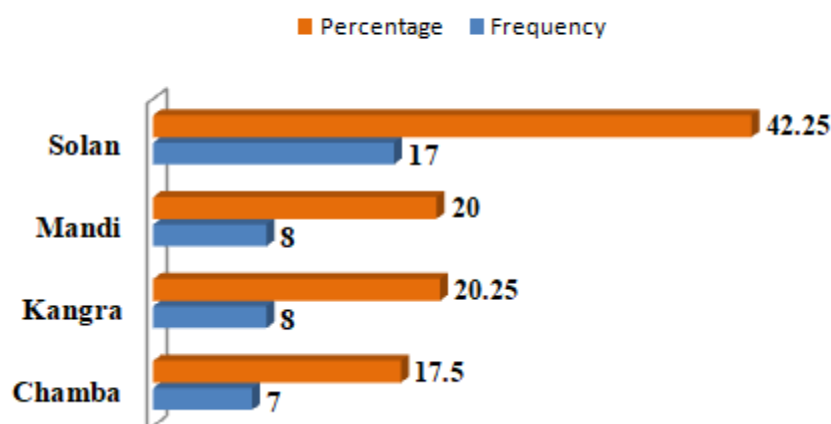
To examine the views on the Difficulties the Gujjar Tribe Faces

Methodology

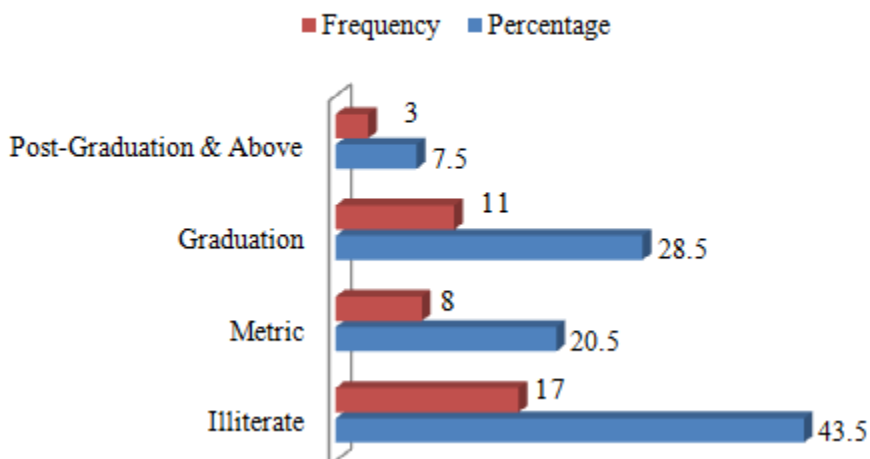
The study's methodology functions as the theoretical framework that underpins the method of scientific investigation, providing a methodical way of addressing the study's topic. It includes a thorough analysis of the several procedures that are usually used by a scholar to investigate their study's question, providing an understanding of the fundamental presumptions that underlie those processes. Secondary as well as primary data sources are included in this research. Following the determination of important variables in the research phase, an organised questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale was created for the survey. Furthermore, the study used secondary sources, which included a range of papers and articles that were discovered in educational publications, journals, and magazines. The gathered information from several sources was painstakingly arranged and tallied in order to satisfy the particular statistical needs. Descriptive and inferential methods, including Chi-square, were used to assess the collected data in the evaluation of the findings. Utilising a representative group of 40 people, the current evaluation and interpretation of the initial information were obtained via a questionnaire. In order to achieve the research goals, interpretation is predicated on a descriptive and analytical analysis of the data that has been gathered.

Results & Discussion

Respondents in this survey were carefully split into four groups, each of which corresponded to a particular geographical area indicated by the districts they were assigned to. The following is the distribution of respondents in each of these regions.

Fig 1: Representation of responders by district

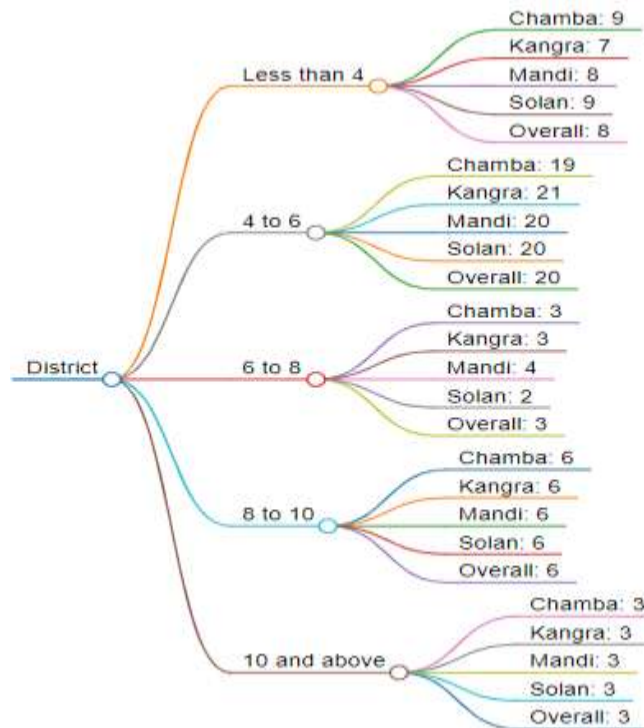
It is noteworthy that 42.25% of the sample as a whole, or a significant proportion of those surveyed, were from Solan District. Alternatively, the region with the smallest percentage of respondents—17.5%—was Chamba. A proportional visualisation technique served as the basis for this distribution of those surveyed, resulting in every district's Gujjar populace share being calculated in relation to the selected districts' total Gujjar populations.

Fig 2: The educational background of the participants

Educational Level: The Gujjar network's respondents' diverse educational attainment levels are indexed in this section. The proportion of respondents that fit into every class of instructional attainment is proven in this segment. For instance, 28.50% of the respondents have completed a beginning-level education, but 43.50% of the respondents are illiterate. Frequency: Using a sample size of 40 and the supplied percentages, this segment suggests the approximate number

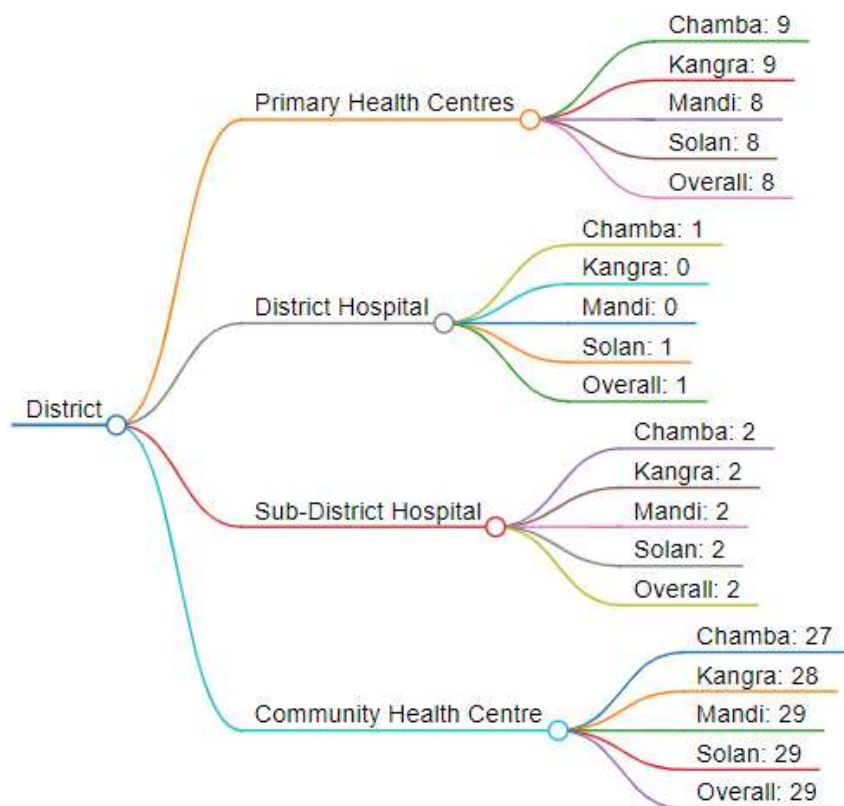
of respondents in every category. The frequency figures might not exactly suit the odds because of rounding, but they offer an affordable estimate.

Fig 3: The participant's size of family

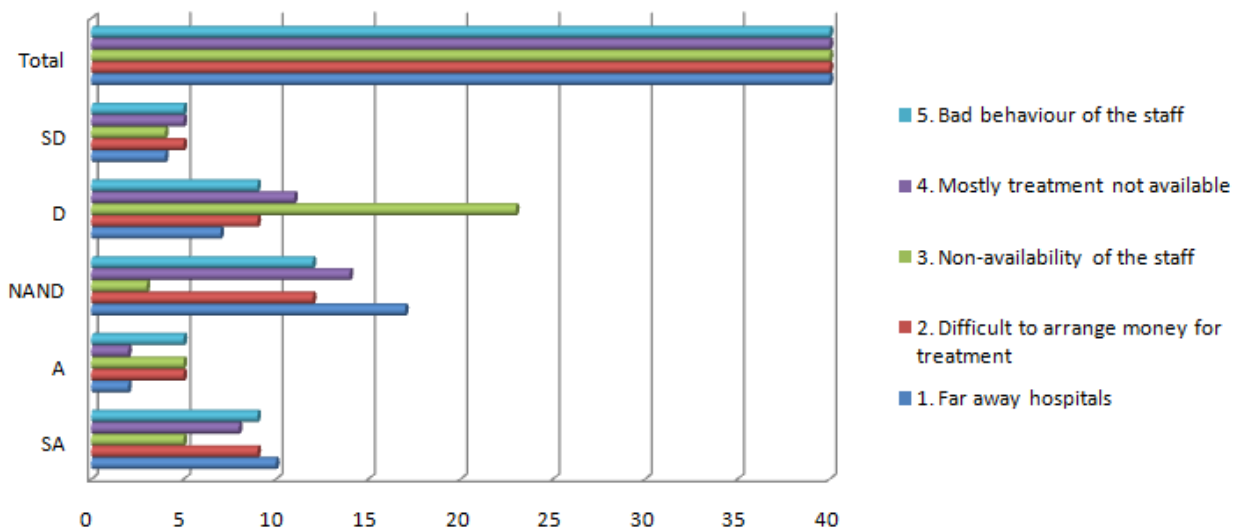


District: This figure identifies the geographical region of the respondents. Less than 4, 4 to 6, 6 to 8, 8 to 10, 10 and above: These segments represent the number of family participants in each household length category. Note: The 'less than 4', '4 to 6', '6 to 8', '8 to 10', and '10 and above' values have been rounded to complete numbers. In real-world eventualities, there might be moderate variations because of rounding. As you can see, the table shows that a widespread portion of the respondents (around 50%) belong to households with 4 to 6 participants. This is accompanied by families with less than 4 members (around 20%) and households with 8 to 10 members (around 15%). It's crucial to observe that this record is based totally on a sample of 40 respondents and won't be completely representative of the entire Gujjar community.

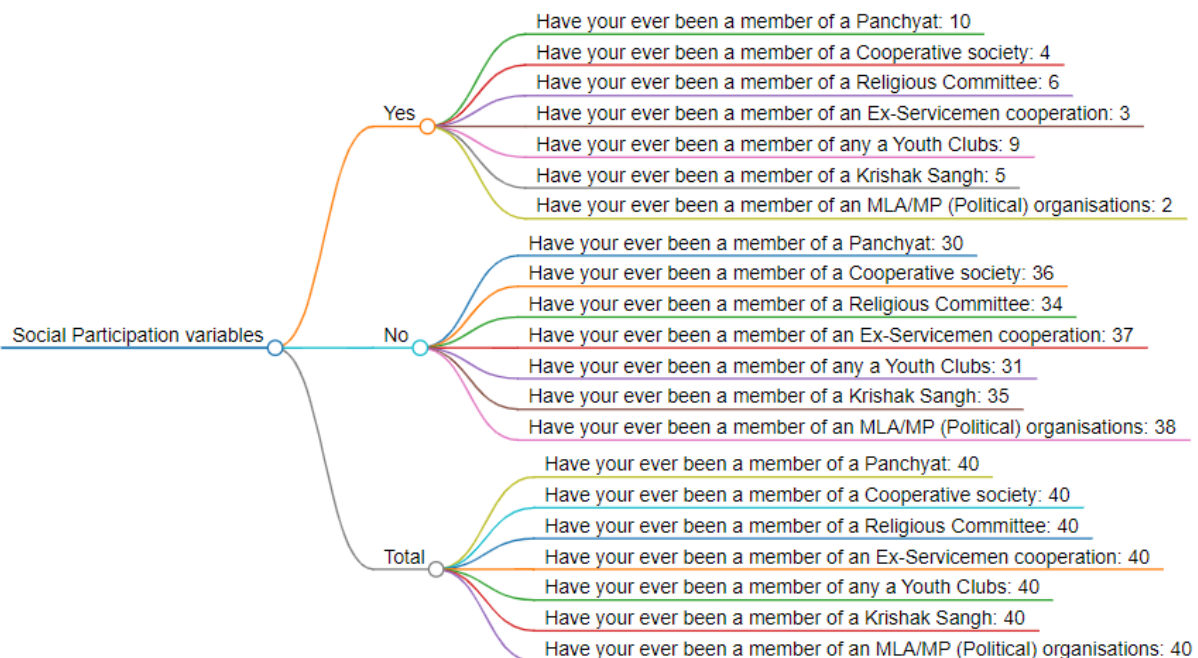
Fig 4: Accessibility to Healthcare in the Participants' Neighbourhood



District: The respondents' geographic area is shown in this figure. Primary Health Centres: The projected wide variety of respondents who live near a number one health facility is proven in this study. District Hospital: The projected range of respondents who live near a district hospital is shown in this figure. Sub-District Hospital: The projected quantity of respondents who stay close to a sub-district clinic is proven in this study. Community Health Facility: The projected percentage of respondents who stay near a community health centre is shown in this study.

Fig 5: Issues encountered by hospital patients receiving allopathic therapy (40 Respondents)**Table 1: Representation of respondents by occupation**

Employment	Chamba	Kangra	Mandi	Solan	Overall
Employed in Govt/Private Sector	5	5	5	7	22
Businessmen	2	2	2	6	12
Farmer	17	17	18	30	82
Unemployed	10	10	10	17	47
Skilled Worker	2	3	4	8	17
Unskilled worker	1	1	1	4	7
Total	40	40	40	62	180

Fig 6: Social Participation**Table 2: Trends of Migration and Their Causes Among Gujjars**

District	Migrate (Yes/No)	Total	Reason for Migration (if migrated)	Yes	No	Total
Chamba	Yes (20) / No (20)	40	1. Employment	2	38	40
			2. Marriage	0	40	40
			3. Education	1	39	40
			4. Family Member Migration	2	38	40
			5. Land Fragmentation	0	40	40
			6. Breakdown of Family	0	40	40
			7. New Pastoral Land	12	28	40
Kangra	Yes (21) / No (19)	40	1. Employment	2	38	40
			2. Marriage	0	40	40
			3. Education	1	39	40
			4. Family Member Migration	2	38	40
			5. Land Fragmentation	0	40	40
			6. Breakdown of Family	0	40	40
			7. New Pastoral Land	13	27	40
Total	Yes (41) / No (39)	80				

The Gujjar network's migratory trends and causes are protected on this table. Results indicate that some of the 40 respondents within the structure, around half, relocate on a sporadic basis. The essential motivation for migration (57.8%) is the search for clean pastoral pasture. Contributing variables encompass employment, family motion, and the pursuit of educational possibilities; marriage, land fragmentation, and family disintegration appear to be much less common reasons. It's critical to keep in mind that the statistics won't fully constitute the movement styles of the overall Gujjar community in view of the fact that they are based on a small sample.

Conclusion

The study draws attention to the Gujjar tribe's socioeconomic vulnerabilities in Himachal Pradesh. Making the shift from a nomadic to a permanent way of life calls for getting to vital problems together with getting right of entry to healthcare, education, and employment possibilities. In order to empower future generations, educational programmes have to take top precedence because of the high prevalence of illiteracy (43.5%). Moreover, constrained access to medical offerings (mainly in some districts) highlights the need to enhance the scientific infrastructure in these regions. Although there are authorities programmes (which include the Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation) geared towards assisting the Gujjar organisation, the data indicate that extra targeted interventions are important. Improving access to credit schemes, imparting skill development programmes, and increasing educational opportunities might enable Gujjars to seek sustainable livelihoods and enhance their preferred well-being.

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