

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN KALPA BLOCK, DISTRICT KINNAUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Shyama Devi

Ex-Research Scholar, Dept. of Political Science, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla

ABSTRACT

Socio-economic growth includes momentous transformation in the financial activities over different regions together with the variation in the structure of the financial system. This process reveals a spatial aspect, the process of growth. When any development in a region takes place unequally, it becomes politically vital to opt for remedial measures. This is important from all perspectives; such as political, economic, social and physical. This paper highlights the socio-economic transformation that has taken place in Kalpa block of district Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Socio-economic transformation, Kalpa, economic development, developmental programmes

INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic transformation is the process of social and economic development in a society. Socioeconomic development is a process which results in the change of social institutions in a manner which develops the capacity of the society to accomplish its goals. It denotes a qualitative transformation in the way the society influences itself and undertakes its activities. While, economic development is the increase of economic wealth of a region for the well-being of its inhabitants. The term *economic development* is the process by which a region improves the economic, political, and social wellbeing of its people. Numerous sociologists have carried out studies on socio-economic transformation.

Kumar (1986) attempted to interpret the socio-cultural organization and economic structure of Malpaharias tribe living in the Santalparganas district of Bihar and examined the land use, expenditure pattern, the size of the families and its geographical ratification. His work, *Stratification among the Indian Tribes*, provides a distinctive preview on the customs of Malpaharias with regard to their costume, religious rituals, and customs, hunting, farming and musical instruments. The author opined that paying adequate attention to the facilities lacking in the settlements of Malpaharias can hasten their emergence into the mainstream of Indian life. Mohanthy (1989) reminded the crucial need of assessing how far tribes have amended their economic-conditions and how far they have been incorporated in the larger Indian society. He believes that giving tribal full autonomy to manifest their intellect will facilitate their integration. Sengupta(1990) maintains that the process of rapid mechanization since independence has added dimension to the problem of tribes, as the majority of the tribal concentration in the country is in the areas with rich natural resources. The establishment of resource-based industries in such areas has certainly led to the displacement of tribes. Tripathy's (1999) work *Tribals in Transitions* contains selected contributions of renowned authors linked with various issues and problems of tribal people along with policy options. The role of financial institutions and cooperatives in alleviating the tribal economic problems, the impact of development plans and poverty amelioration schemes, etc., have discussed at length. Based on the secondary as well as field data collected through the survey, this work depicts the assessment and analysis of tribal problems and policy models to tackle the problem of backwardness in the tribal areas. Verma, (1998) in her work, *Pangi: A Tribal Habitat in Mid-Himalaya*, has highlighted the land, historical perspective, early administration, religion and customs and the transformation taking place among *Pangwals*, the tribal community inhabiting *Pangi*, a tribal subdivision of Himachal Pradesh.



These studies are in the form of empirical explorations and verifications. Therefore, there is a need to comprehend the dilemma of the tribal population in the country in a more organized manner using more scientific and data based studies to have a well-versed understanding about them. The travails of tribal development need to be recognized properly. The programs should be related to the specific needs of the tribal community. Also, the tribal development programs should be integrated with the ongoing rural development programs meant for poverty alleviation. A pragmatic and holistic approach to tribal development alone can produce good results. In this paper, several issues pertaining to developmental programmes have been reviewed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to Multi-stage stratified random sampling technique was used in the present study. There were four phases in which the sampling process was carried out. The first phase was the selection of district, second stage included a selection of block, the third stage included a selection of Panchayats and the fourth stage was selection of respondents. The study was undertaken in Kalpa block of district Kinnaur, which is one of the tribal districts of the state and is the Universe of the study. Out of the total 23 Panchayats in Kalpa block, eight Panchayats were included in the study. These include- Kalpa, Pangi, Sapni, Roghi, Kothi, Purwani, Batseri and Sangla. Primary data were gathered by using interview method, which seek both qualitative and quantitative information. Both open ended and closed ended questionnaires were used for data collection. The information was sought on developmental activities and assessments of the programs run by state government were also carried out. The secondary data were acquired from published documents of Government departments including Census of India Reports, Tribal Sub-plans, Annual Reports of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development, project reports of Planning Commission, statistical reports, land and revenue records and information collected from the offices like block offices, revenue offices, etc.

RESULTS

Being remote, the district is less advanced. Though it is physically comparable to some other Western Himalayan region, yet it has its own distinctive physical and socioeconomic characteristics. However, in the recent years, drastic transformations took place in Kinnaur which improved the educational facilities, infrastructure, and health care systems besides, execution of other developmental projects. The literacy rate has improved, the road connectivity has improved, and there has been an increase in the number of educational institutions. The tourism industry has flourished and a number of hydropower projects have been initiated. These have improved the situation in the district. In the recent years, the Horticulture and Agriculture has undergone diversification in Kalpa block. Diversification has varying interpretations and indicates different connotations to different peoples. In context of Kinnaur district in general and Kalpa block in particular, the crop diversification towards fruits, started in the late nineties, which gathered pace in the new millennium. The crop diversification has made a significant impact on income and employment of the small and marginal farmers. The socio-economic transformation in Kalpa block is discussed under different headings. District Rural Development Agency Kinnaur established in the year 1979 is running and monitoring various poverty alleviation programmes of the central government through its schemes/programmes aimed at providing self-employment and shelter to BPL families. Some of these include:

SWARANJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGARYOJANA

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgaryojana has been started from the year 2000 onwards. The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 cost sharing basis between Central and State Government. It is a holistic package covering all aspects of self-employment such as organization of poor into Self Help Groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The beneficiaries under this scheme are called 'Swarozgaries'. A number of self-help groups are working in these Panchayats and undertaking various self-sustaining activities.

TOTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN

Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) was started in district Kinnaur in the year 2003-04. Total Sanitation Campaign is a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with broader goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation. It follows a principle of "low to no subsidy" where a nominal subsidy in the form of incentive is given to rural poor households for construction of toilets. TSC is giving strong emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), capacity building and hygiene education for effective behaviour change with involvement of PRIs, CBOs, and NGOs etc. in all these Panchayats. The main activities involve:

- Awareness creation among different sections of the society regarding the importance of sanitation.
- Motivation of families to construct household toilets and to abdicate the habit of open defecation.
- Provision of sanitation facilities in schools, anganwaris and Community places.
- Creation of mechanism at village level to ensure sustainability.

Many Panchayats have received awards under total sanitation campaigns. Purwani, Roghi and Batseri Panchayat received award for total sanitation in the year 2008.

Integrated Watershed Development Project: The Integrated Watershed Development Project was started in Kalpa & Nichar Sub Division of District Kinnaur H.P. from the year 1999-2000. Sixteen micro-watersheds were sanctioned under IWDP-KNR-I with the project cost Rs. 350.60 lakhs. The project was closed in September, 2007. 27 micro watershed projects sanctioned in the year 2001-02 and 2004-05 for IWDP-II & III with sanctioned project cost of Rs. 871.32 lakh and are being implemented in the district. Against the backdrop of DDP, IWDP, DPAP and Hariyali projects, the Government of India has brought all these projects under single umbrella known as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which is being implemented through new common guidelines for watershed development projects. Under this project watershed committees have been constituted at village level. The watershed committees operating in the project affected villages are undertaking various activities such as:

- Conversion of barren land into cultivable land
- Prevention of soil erosion
- Renovation and augmentation of water sources
- Afforestation including block plantation, agro-forestry and horticultural development
- Snow harvesting
- Afforestation including block plantation, agro-forestry and horticultural development.
- Glacier treatments

At present the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) is being undertaken in Roghi, Pangi, Sapni, Batseri and Sangla Panchayats. In Roghi Panchayat numerous activities have been undertaken under IWMP. These include, plantation, construction of irrigation channels, construction of check-dams for protection against glaciers, poultry farming, laying of pipeline and tank construction. Approximately 75 lakh rupees have been spent for the purpose. The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was launched in Batseri Khad watershed area comprising of three micro watersheds namely Batseri, Seingche, and Dharbujiling. The net geographical area of the watershed was about 500 ha, out of which 1302.45 ha was forest area. The watershed area was prone to soil erosion and landslides due to the movement of glaciers causing loss of life and property. In Pangi Panchayat, the activities undertaken under IWMP included plantation, create construction, construction of tanks and irrigation channels, while in Sangla, the main activities included construction of tanks and irrigation channels. This project covered the



rain-fed area identified in the respective watershed areas. The livelihood options and income of IRDP households were enhanced. The area under agriculture and horticulture and its productivity have increased as a result of the increase in irrigation facilities and other activities undertaken in the project. The problems caused due to the movement of glaciers have been addressed through the construction of concrete wire structures and soil erosion has been checked through bench terracing.

PROGRAMMES RUN BY STATE GOVERNMENT

Different programmes for building houses such as *Indira AwasYojana* and *AtalAwasYojana* were started and many houses have been constructed under different schemes. The details of the activities are presented in table 1.

PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED BY THE PANCHAYAT/ ZILAPARISHAD

Construction of *Khuls* (water irrigation channels) and laying of water pipelines has been undertaken by *ZilaParishad* besides this, the village Panchayats has undertaken the construction of *MahilaMandalBhawans* and *yuvakmandalbhawans*.

MGNREGA

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is designed to provide job guarantee for at least hundred days in rural areas of country. It is a job guarantee program, which provides a legal guarantee of occupation to people willing to do public work. Under this scheme, various activities were undertaken in the selected Panchayats of Kalpa block.

Table 1: Developmental Activities Undertaken in the Selected Panchayats

SN	Name of the Panchayat	Development Activities
1	Pangi Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1955 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 2008 First Primary Health Centre was opened in 2010 AtalAwasYojana- Constructed nine houses Indira AwasYojana- Constructed nineteen houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 1,32,50000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 30 irrigation channels Construction of 32 link paths Construction of seven concrete wire structure Land development of two families Plantation at two sites Construction of two tanks
2	Sangla Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1969 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 1982 First Primary Health Centre was opened in 1965 AtalAwasYojana- Constructed ten houses Indira AwasYojana- Constructed one house Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 6500000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 18 irrigation channels Construction of 18 connecting paths Construction of ten tanks
3	Kalpa Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1890 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 1986 First Primary Health Centre was opened in 1985 AtalAwasYojana- Constructed nine houses Indira AwasYojana- Constructed eight houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 1000000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 80 irrigation channels Construction of 11 tanks

4	Sapni Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1958 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 2005 First Primary Health Centre was opened in 1996 AtalAwaasYojana- Constructed four houses Indira AwaasYojana- Constructed eight houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 9700000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of six irrigation channels Land development of nine families Construction of nine link paths
5	Kothi Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1969 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 2012 First Regional Hospital was opened in 1989 AtalAwaasYojana- Constructed two houses Indira AwaasYojana- Constructed fifteen houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 5500000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 35 irrigation channels Land development of 20 families Construction of 9 tanks
6	Purwani Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1962 AHC was opened in 1962 Indira AwaasYojana- Constructed ten houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 700000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 4 tanks
7	Roghi Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1965 Starting of Middle School in the year 1999 First PHC was opened in 1985 AtalAwaasYojana- Constructed four houses Indira AwaasYojana- Constructed 10 houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 9000000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of 40 irrigation channels Construction of 10 link paths
8	Batseri Panchayat	First Primary School started in the year 1990 Starting of Senior Secondary School in the year 2008 First Primary Health Centre was opened in 2002 AtalAwaasYojana- Constructed three houses Indira AwaasYojana- Constructed seven houses Under MGNREGA, the Panchayat received grant of Rs. 2100000 in last three years and utilized the same for: Construction of five irrigation channels Land development of ten families Construction of four water tanks

Source: Primary Survey

DISCUSSION

Owing to the impact of government programmes and transformation, notable changes are taking place in the living conditions of tribal community. Tribes are passing through a phase of socioeconomic transformation along with the rest of the society. Modern technology and concepts are penetrating their culture, leading to both positive and negative impacts, that needs to be researched and analyzed. Recent changes in tribal culture of *Kinnaura* involve greater independence and stronger patriarchy. Besides this, there are also certain values which are generally valued in all tribal societies. Some of them are respect for elders, traditionalism with the sacraments and religious framework of society and its laws and resolutions, respect for lineages and local deities, reverence for nature and forces of nature. A sense of pleasant equilibrium with nature, local deities and ancestors is an integral part of the *Kinnaura* beliefs and customary socialization. A deep-seated affection for culture and its traditions is unified in this system. But, the recent processes have resulted in the weakening of the tribal lifestyles. *Kinnaura* tribes not only have rich cultural heritage but also have



unique traditional system. The traditional system of judgment dependent on village deities found in various Panchayats exercise massive societal, ethical, religious, economic and political control among *Kinnauratribes*. But now the *Panchayati Raj Act, 1996* gives governance powers to the tribal community. The new law has transformed the above situation. Enforced elections of the local level bodies, reservations for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and women, and other provisions were introduced to safeguard more decentralization and people's participation in the developmental processes. Dean Joros (1973) has established a link between political socialization of tribal people and the outcome of tribal welfare programs. He concluded that by studying the political socialization process of tribal people, a comprehensive evaluation of welfare programs would be confirmed. This finding is in harmony with the findings of study carried out in Kalpa.

Economy of *Kinnauratribes* is mainly an agricultural economy. The *Kinnauratribes* depend upon the natural resources for their sustenance. Their economy is subsistence economy. Present economy and the workforce are marked by mechanization and heterogeneity. Tribals after losing their ownership over the land for the construction of Hydropower projects as in case of Pangi Panchayat are finding it very difficult to cope with the changing conditions. They are exposed to a new world totally different from their own finding it difficult to adapt. Being unable to cope, many strangers are taking control over their economy by diminishing their culture. Tribal people in Sangla and Kalpa Panchayats got exposed to the consumerist ideology and thus moving away from traditional value system. Thus, *Kinnaura* society experienced changeover from their communal beliefs to a new culture and system without sufficient preparation. They are also facing more deprivation and unemployment. Setting-up of hydropower projects and spreading of tourism activities goes against them. The globalization can have serious repercussions on tribal culture. The alienation of the land and other resources is an attack on their very individuality. Besides this, globalization enforces a homogeneous consumerist culture and value system on society. Mathur (1977) has also pointed out that induction into political culture and integration into the mainstream of National life are the parts of one and the same process and without political socialization, tribal integration into the National social life is difficult. Political socialization must precede their integration into national life. Inspiration and purpose of tribal welfare programs and political socialization are common. Future studies on the tribals may focus on topics like examination of concept of tribes in Indian context as a constitutional category or as a social and ethnic category, the degree of change that is or will be taking place in various spheres of tribal life.

CONCLUSION

Transformation is vital for the survival of human life. Change is the *law of nature*. No society could stay static and undergoes change and tribal society is no exception to this. The law of dynamics is generally applied to every society and tribal society is no exception. Exposure to the impacts of change, consequently has serious implications on the lifestyle and culture of tribal people. Hence, they must return to the core value system of their cultures by selecting a new set of liberal values other than consumerism and the self-centeredness which the globalization creates.

REFERENCES

- Dean, J. (1973). Socialization of Politics, Madras, Higginbotham, pp. 12-24.
Kumar, P. B. (1981). Stratification among the Indian Tribes. Kurukshetra: 2.
Mathur, P.R.G. (1977). Acculturation and Integration in Tribal age. New Delhi: Inter India Publishers.
Mohanthy, L.C. (1989) An Analysis of the improved Economic Life of Tribals of Orissa and the way towards Integration. New Delhi, Deep and Deep Publishers.
Sengupta, N. (1990). The Social and Economic Basis of Current Tribal Movements. Social Action: 336.
Tripathy, S. N. (1999). Tribals in Transitions. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.
Verma, V. (1998). Pangi: A Tribal Habitat in Mid-Himalaya. New Delhi: Indus Publishing Company.