

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF JAYANTI-DEVI TEMPLE IN JAYANTI MAJRI VILLAGE

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## Abstract

The temple of Mata Jayanti Devi in Hathnaur, Punjab, is steeped in history and devotion, tracing back 550 years to the Mughal era. Its inception, rooted in the unwavering faith of a bride, symbolizes a divine intervention that led to its establishment. Over time, the temple has evolved into more than a spiritual center; it has become a beacon of socio-economic transformation in the region. Drawing thousands of devotees, especially during the annual fairs, the temple stands as a testament to communal harmony and religious fervor. However, despite its significance, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and limited facilities persist, hindering its full potential. A research study conducted in February 2024 sheds light on the perceptions of the local populace, revealing both the positive impacts of the temple, such as enhancing awareness and generating income, and the pressing need for improvements, particularly in transportation and infrastructure. To address these challenges, the study recommends a multifaceted approach, including infrastructure development, educational enhancement, and government support. By implementing these suggestions, the temple and its surrounding community can unlock new opportunities for growth and prosperity. In essence, the temple of Mata Jayanti Devi stands as a catalyst for socio-economic progress, bridging the gap between tradition and modernity. With concerted efforts and strategic interventions, the temple can continue to thrive, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come.

**Key Words:** Socio-Economic Impact, Mata Jayanti Devi Temple, Infrastructure, Awareness, Income Generation, Socio-Economic Progress.

## INTRODUCTION

The temple of Mata Jayanti Devi is the story of such a precious gift. The story goes back about 550 years, when the Mughal were ruling the country. At that time, a small estate called Hathnaur was situated at the north of present-day Chandigarh. The king of the estate had 22 brothers. One of the brother was married to the daughter of the king of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. The girl was a great devotee of Mata Jayanti Devi the mother goddess of the clan since her childhood. Every morning she first used to worship the goddess and only after that she would perform other activities.

When her marriage was fixed she was very anxious because it meant going far away from her deity and not being able to have darshan of the goddess. She prayed hard and conveyed her grief and remorse to the goddess. Mata Jayanti Devi was moved by the deep devotion of the girl. She appeared in her dreams and promised to accompany her wherever she went. When the marriage party started back from Hathnaur with the bride's doli, a miracle happened. Suddenly the doli turned very heavy. Neither the traditional kahars nor the king's men could move it. At this, the bride told her father about her dream. The king, then, bowing to the desire of the divine arranged for another doli, kept the idol in it and sent the goddess with his daughter. The pujari and his family followed the goddess.

The temple is at the highest point of the hillock supported by massive pillars. This point gives a wide view of the lush green surroundings, the serpentine Jayanti Rao and the settlements beyond. Inside the sanctum sanctorum lies the stone idol of the goddess. In the niches outside there are idols of Shiva, Ganesha, Laxmi and

local deities Lokda Dev and Bala Sundari in folk forms. The temple attracts visitors during a grand fair held here on full moon day in February and a small fair in August. At that time approximately 1.5 lakh people visit the temple from far and near places.

Devotees also visit it during Navratras, other auspicious days and on Sundays. Two committees run the management of the temple. One of them comprises the priest's family and villagers of Jayanti Majri. It looks after construction work and expansion projects of the temple. The other committee consists of residents of Mullanpur. Both the committees hold langar every Sunday and also during the fair. There is no government-aid to the temple and the only source of income is contribution by the devotees. At present, there is a provision of night stay at the premises for a limited number of devotees. The committee has started work on the construction of a dharamshala for pilgrims who visit the temple from far-off places. The 11th generation of the pujari, who came originally from Kangra with the idol, now performs the sacred duties of the temple. The residence of the pujari is also within the premises.

The king of Hathnaur, established a temple for the Devi on a hillock in his estate. First, the girl, and later succeeding generations of the family, worshipped the deity for 200 years. At that time, a robber called Garibu or Garibdas extended his influence on this part of the region, including Mullanpur (now in Ropar). Gradually, Garibu captured the Hathnaur estate and started his reign. However, Garibu was a friend of the poor and a great devotee of Mata. He renovated the temple and extended the premises to the present state.

Presently, the temple is located 15 km from Chandigarh in Ropar district of Punjab, on a hillock in the Shivalik ranges. At the foothill lies the village Jayanti Majri that owes its existence and name to the temple, on the left bank of a seasonal stream Jayanti Rao.

The metalled road leading to the temple is lined with wheat or rice fields, keekar, peepal and mango groves. As far as the vision goes, one can see numerous hues of green, the characteristic feature of the fertile lands of Punjab, small and large ponds with clear water reflecting the blue sky and tiny hamlets with agriculture-based life style. The undulating topography and hump-like hillocks give the place a mysterious character that is absent in the flat planes of Chandigarh. There is only a single bus service from Chandigarh to Jayanti Majri. That too is erratic. Though the Chandigarh Administration arranges for buses during the February fair, for the convenience of the village residents and for visitors, a regular bus service is needed, especially on Sundays and holidays.

When the new Chandigarh project was conceived, Jayanti Majri was among the villages to be included in it because it lies at the periphery of Chandigarh. The Punjab Soil and Water Conservation Department has constructed a small dam Jayanti Dam in this area that supports a reservoir for rain water collection. The water is then used for irrigation of fields. The place can be developed as a beautiful tourist-cum-religious spot and visitors to Chandigarh can be guided to visit the temple. As a sign of reverence to Mata Jayanti Devi, the villagers of Jayanti Majri restrict the construction of their houses to only a single storey. An ancient well at the base of the temple provides sweet water throughout the year.

Socioeconomic position is defined as the relative position of a family or individual in a social structure, based on their access to scarce and valued resources such as education, wealth and prestige. The term "socioeconomic status" can be defined broadly as one's access to financial, social, cultural, and human capital resources. Socio-economic changes are commonly defined as a process in which an increasing proportion of economic output and employment are generated by sectors other than agriculture. The concept of socio-economic modernization emphasizes improvements in various indicators, including improvement in living conditions and the quality of life and well-being of populations.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Das Abhiman, (1999)** examines the existing variability of inter-state development and thereby identifying the indicators responsible for the diversity in development. Instead of studying the variability of a particular variable across states, a composite index based on several indicators has been developed using principal

component analysis and states are arranged according to the indices derived using four broadly accepted components i.e. economic production and economic condition; common minimum needs; health and health-related services and communication. The findings of the analysis support the general perception about the states. The states in India are marked with wide disparity in socio-economic development. The factors, which are found out to be more important for the overall development process, relate to basic needs like education, availability of food, minimum purchasing power and facilities like safe drinking water, health care infrastructure, etc. It is also found that enrollment ratio cannot be raised unless minimum needs of the common people are satisfied. Therefore, true development requires government action to improve elementary education, safe drinking water facilities and health care, and to remove barriers against social minorities, especially women. **Singh, Rajmeet, (2002)** advocates that how Panjab government cautious about the development of religious site to a tourist place. But the charm of place spoils by some sinner by selling the Liquor near Jayanti Devi temple. This crime was committing under police nose. This story of liquor selling is same as common people face ignorance while approaching to the police. But that shows, where people are thought to establish the place as tourist spot, on the other side sinners try to establish illegal money.

## OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the impact of Jayanti Devi Temple on the socio economic transformation in the study area.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of this research was to access the opinion of respondents regarding the socio economic development. The study was based on Primary as well as secondary sources. Primary data has been collected from the respondents with the help of survey, interview/ schedule. Secondary data have been collected from newspaper, journals reports internet source and other published material.

## SAMPLING DESIGN

A sample of 30 Respondents was taken from Jayanti Majri village. Useful responses of respondents were taken for making study more effective. Simple random sampling technique was used to conduct this research work. Under this technique sample of the respondents were chosen according to the Convenience of the researcher.

## TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES USED

In order to assess the effectiveness of the socio-economic development of village data has been collected through interview schedule. The data has been classified on the basis of gender, age, education, occupation, marital status, family comprised by the respondents. The various statistical techniques have been used to analyze the collected data like, Mean and five point Likert Scale.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Gender

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Male	18	60.0
Female	12	40.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

From the table 1, it can be observed that 60% of the respondents are male and 40% of the respondents are female. Finally the study reveals that most of the respondents are male.

**Table 2: Age**

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Below 20	1	3.3
20-30	5	16.7
30-40	10	33.3
40 above	14	46.7
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

Table 2 shows that 1% of the respondents are in the age of below 20 years, 16.7% of the respondents are in the age of 20-30 years, 33.3% of the respondents are in the age of 30-40 and 46.7% of the respondents are in the age above 40 years. Finally the results shows that the highest percentage of respondents lying under the age group above 40 years.

**Table 3: Education**

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	11	36.7
Matric	9	30.0
Higher secondary	9	30.0
Graduate	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

Table 3 shows that 36.7% of the respondents are illiterate, 30.0% of the respondents have passed secondary school examination, same number (30.0%) of the respondents have passed senior secondary examination and 3.3% of the respondents are Graduate. Finally the result shows that the highest level of education is up to secondary and senior secondary.

**Table 4: Employed or Unemployed**

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Employed	21	70.0
Unemployed	9	30.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

Table 4 reveals that 70% of the respondents are employed and rest of the respondents are unemployed. Finally the table shows that most of the respondents are doing services or business.

**Table 5: Marital Status**

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Married	24	80.0
Unmarried	6	20.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

From the table 5 it can be observed that 80% of the respondents are married and 20% of the respondents are unmarried. Finally the study reveals that married respondents are more as compared to unmarried respondents.

**Table 6: Type of Family**

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear	8	26.7
Joint Family	22	73.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

Table 6 depicts that 26.7% of the respondents are nuclear family and 73.3 % of the respondents are living under joint family system. Finally the result shows that respondents prefer living under joint family as compare to nuclear family. The best observation that has been clearly depicted from the interior of the village is that every house was single storied, reason behind this was that Jayanti Devi has made.

**Table 7: Respondents perception towards Social Economic Development**

Statements	Responses towards Socio- Economic Transformation in Jayanti Majri					Total	Mean
	SA	A	N	D	SD		
Standard of living	0	23	7	0	0	30	3.77
Transportation	0	2	13	9	6	30	2.37
Availability of stock	0	3	4	17	6	30	2.13
Restaurants & hotels	1	0	0	11	18	30	1.50
Center of information	0	0	0	7	23	30	1.23
Accommodation for tourist	0	5	15	6	4	30	2.70
Changes in environment	12	18	0	0	0	30	4.40
Effects on agriculture	4	25	1	0	0	30	4.10
Toilets	2	7	19	0	2	30	3.23
Recreation Activities	2	10	11	7	0	30	3.23
Fair Sponsorships	0	9	19	2	0	30	3.23
Generation of job	2	18	8	2	0	30	3.67
Generation of income	2	27	1	0	0	30	4.03
Economic independence	1	21	8	0	0	30	3.77
Social recognition	0	4	11	10	5	30	2.47
Awareness	4	21	5	0	0	30	3.97

Source: Field Survey, February, 2024

It is noted that mean score is more than the average standard score (3), and rank is provided according to the highest mean value ranked first and lowest mean score ranked last as the mean value is noted i.e. Changes in environment (4.40), Effects on agriculture (4.10), Generation of income (4.03), Awareness (3.97), Standard of living (3.77), Economic independence (3.77), Generation of job (3.67), Recreations activities (3.23), which inclined that majority of respondents scattered toward higher side on five point rating scaled. It concludes that these facilities available in the Jayanti Majri, which is playing very important role for development of village.

However, it has been also revealed the mean score less than average standard score (3), and rank is provided according to the highest mean value is ranked first and lowest mean score ranked last as the mean value is noted i.e. Accommodation for tourist (2.70), Social recognition(2.47), Transportation (2.37), Availability of stock (2.13), Restaurants & hotels (1.50), Center of information (1.23), hence it has been inclined that the majority of respondents scattered toward lower side on five point rating scale. It is concluded from the study that these facilities are below average in the Jayanti Majri village.

## CONCLUSION

The respondent's perception about social, economic impact of Jayanti Devi Temple in Jayanti Majri village has been studied in this research. Results showed that respondents perceived social and economic development. They believed that Jayanti Devi Temple has not yet created enough economic benefits for local people, but they agreed that tourism has provided job opportunities and can help to activate the economy in the region. From the structured interview schedule, many similarities have been found from the area of study with regards to their perceptions toward socio and economic development. The overall research work shows that the majority of respondents scattered toward higher side on five point rating scaled. It concludes that some are facilities available in the Jayanti Majri, which is playing very important for development of village. Other side shows that these facilities are below average in the Jayanti Majri village. Further facilities are below average in study area i.e. accommodation, social recognition, transportation, availability of stock, restaurants & hotels, and center of information. Therefore the government have take up proper remedial measures and should put into practice all policies and financial incentives in an effective manner to minimize the lack of facilities available in the area.

## SUGGESTIONS

- To improve transportation and infrastructure facilities in the area.
- To provide all kind information regarding employment and economic changes.
- Organise awareness programmes and policies in the village.
- Provide recreation facilities in the area.
- Government need to provide financial help for the development of village.
- To Increase the educational facilities in the Jayanti Majri village.

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