

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

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# Introduction

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

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

# Summary and Conclusion

In the present study taken different aspects of socio-economic development of Gaddi tribe in Himachal Pradesh. Socio-economic development of Gaddi's have little difference in place of origin and place of destination e.g. districts Chamba and Kangra. **Traditional occupation of Gaddi's was rearing the sheep and goats and leading a nomadic way of life.** But a present study revealed that approximately 10.0% of the respondents at place of origin were state and center government employees and 42.5% of the respondents have shown agriculture as their main occupation. Study found only 22.5% respondents at place of origin who were pursuing their traditional occupation of the Gaddi's as sheep and goat breeders. On the other hand at the place of destination the majority of the respondents (32.5%) were state and center government employees and a significant majority group 27.5% was engaged in agriculture followed by sheep rearing and other occupations like private jobs and shopkeeper's group 20% each.

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In short, we notice that the Gaddi's have almost abandoned their traditional occupation; they want to join government as well as private jobs. Majority of the respondents (42.5%) at the place of origin and 27.5% in place of destination gave agriculture as their subsidiary occupation is new, confined to those who gave agriculture as their main occupation and subsidiary occupation; we would notice that their percentage comes to approximately double then others. This fact supported our contention that the Gaddi's of the both places are adopting settlement as their way of life instead of transhumance. Settlement is a gradual process and it would take generations together to give up their traditional occupation and way of life.

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

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Another reason behind higher rate of education among Kangra district residents is better civic infrastructure, availability of better schools and easy transportation facility in addition to permanent residence. As far ownership of land is concerned it is almost the same in the two districts. Majority of respondents have less than 10 bighas land in both the places. But fertility of land is undoubtedly much higher at district Kangra as compared with that of Chamba District. This is all about the irrigation facilities available at Kangra district. If we take into consideration the type of the houses the Gaddi have in these two districts, study find that in place of origin majority respondents have kachha house (58.8%) and mixed house (32.5%), only 3.8%

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On the other hand, at the place of destination, the majority of respondents 67.5% have a Pakka house and only 15% and 5% respondents have their Kachha and Mixed house respectively. So we notice that respondents or Gaddi's of Kangra district are comparatively better placed. Taking into account the average income from the main as well as from the subsidiary occupation it was found that the Gaddi's of Kangra districts were better off.





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After understanding socio-economic conditions of Gaddi's at the place of origin, at the place of destination and in transition it clearly indicates that better living conditions and escape from hardship of life in upper Himalayas are showing them the way to become settlers from transhumance.

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

# Gaddi Man During Migration To Lower Hills

Place Of Orogen (Bharmour) Land of Gaddis

# Gaddi Village in Upper Himalayas (Place of Origin)

Thank You So Much

