

# Use of Traditional Techniques for Sustainably Developing Jaunsar- Bawar Tribal Region of Uttarakhand



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### Abstract

Every region is endowed with many resources, and every region has some unique traditional method to use these resources. These traditional methods are environment friendly too; if these resources can be harnessed using traditional methods then it can be very beneficial for the man and environment. The traditional way of using resources must be encouraged in the backward areas so that the local people can sustainably develop themselves while preserving the ethnic resources. Thus in this paper an effort has been made to list down the traditional methods of using local resources in Jaunsar-Bawar region of Uttarakhand. These traditional methods for using resources must be promoted so that the local people can develop the region of their own without compromising the environment.

**Keywords:** Traditional Methods, Local Resources, Sustainably Developing, Ethnic resources, Jaunsar- Bawar

### Introduction

India is a heterogenous country, it has got heterogeneity in every aspects be it caste, culture, ethnicity. As diversity is the uniqueness of this country thus every ancient culture must be preserved. The present study is on Jaunsar Bawar, which is the home of ethnic culture of Uttarakhand, but at the present time due to lack of awareness and motivation the local culture, tradition even resources are getting extinct. The base of this region is its rich natural resources without which the region has no existence. Even its rich culture is related with its resources, as the region is unique, so managing its resources must also be done in a unique manner. It can be done by following the traditional methods, thus while planning for the development of such region we must keep in mind each and every aspect of the region. Every region has got its own traditional methods, the knowledge of these traditional methods are based on the experience of our forefathers. The present world is facing the problem of population explosion, population is growing in a very fast pace so as the use of natural resources which is giving rise to various problems. These problems can only be sorted out by promoting the local people to come forward and work in participation and adopt traditional methods for using the natural resources. Thus the aim of the present study is to collect suggestions for resources management from the local people and make plans on its basis, to fulfill these objectives many villages were visited, many people were being interacted. A random sampling technique was adopted through which eight villages were taken on the basis of altitudinal location of the villages; the work is wholly based on primary data. From this study various local level problems were also found out, the ethnic culture and resources which are on the verge of extinction were also enlisted. The data obtained from village level survey were analyzed and certain recommendations were made for sustainable development so that it will help the village to grow of its own as it is only through sustainable development we can help a region to develop because sustainable development aims at maintaining the equilibrium between the human needs and economic developments within the parameters of environmental conservation through efficient use of natural resources to ensure tradeoff between desired productions - consumption levels.

There have been few studies done on Jaunsar Bawar region. Its rich culture has always fascinated many researchers to work for this region like Bhagu Ram (1985) has done an integrated area development where he highlighted every minor details of the area. Yadav Prasad Hardiyal(1990) has worked on an integrated area development of Chakrata

tehsil of the Garhwal Himalaya. Rana J.P(2004) wrote a book on “Jaunsar Bawar region” where he described in details about the culture, society and environment of the region . Kunwar Kamlesh(2012) worked exhaustively on the cultural geography of Yamuna basin of Garhwal Himalaya. He highlighted the famous fairs and festivals of the region.

**Objectives of the study**

The work was started keeping in mind the importance of traditional methods in using the natural resources in remote and backward regions like Jaunsar Bawar. Thus the objectives taken for this study are:

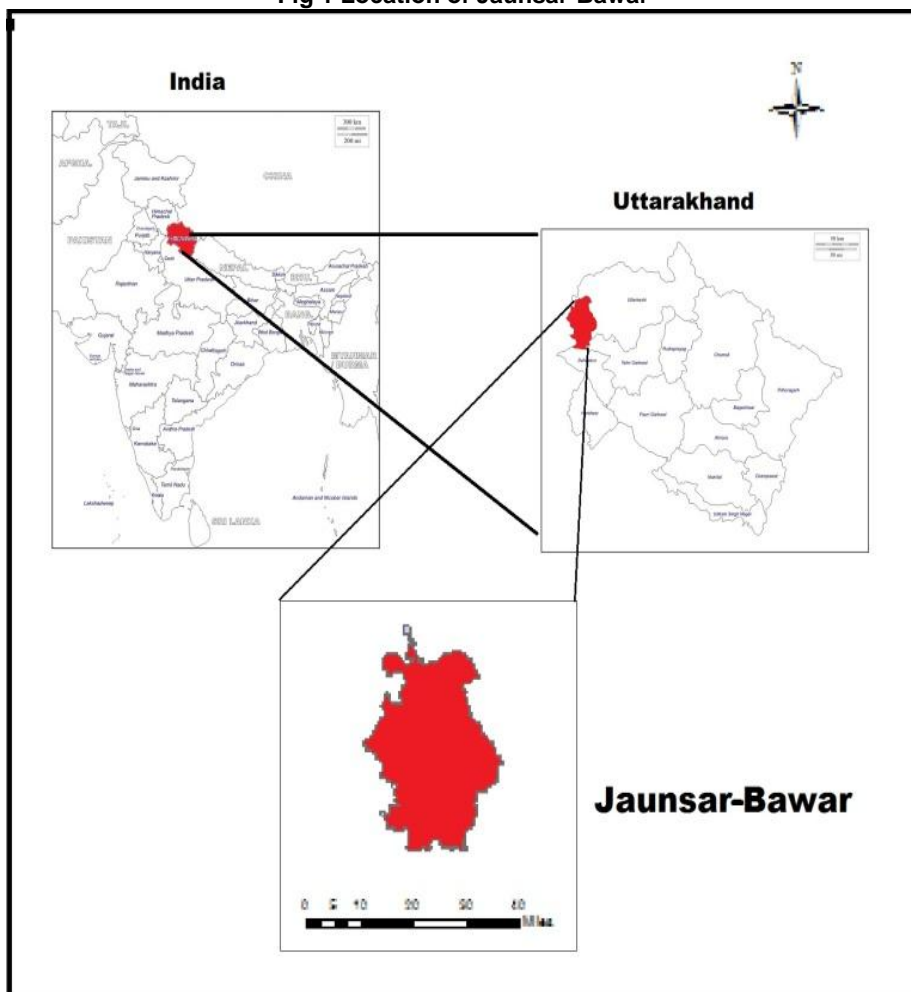
1. To list down some of the traditional techniques for using the local resources.

2. To validate the importance of these traditional techniques for sustainably developing the area.

**Study Area**

Jaunsar Bawar lies in the northwestern part of dehradun district. The locational extent of Jaunsar Bawar region is 30°N to 30°2” N and 77°38” E to 78°4”E. It occupies the Chakrata and Kalsi developmental blocks of Dehradun district. It has an area of 1000.07 sq. Km. Yamuna and Tons river flows by its side. In its northern part lies Rawai valley of Uttarkashi. In its eastern part lies Jaunpur region of Tehri Garhwal. The western part touches Bushan and Sirmour of Himachal Pradesh and southern part is surrounded by Doon valley

**Fig 1 Location of Jaunsar-Bawar**



**Methodology**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data, primary data were collected from the village survey and secondary data were abstracted from newspapers, research journal, books, magazine etc.

For the collection of data a random sampling technique was used and 10 household from the eight sampled village were selected. Each household was surveyed with the help of questionnaire and through observation. The 8 sample villages taken on the basis

of sampling techniques are Datnu, Barnu, Panwa, Maletha Taithyu, Ichala, and Phateyu.

**Result and Discussion**

**Forest Management Techniques**

In Jaunsar- Bawar the local people worship the forest resource. At the present time every part of the forest has a forest stooled office. There are two techniques to conserve the forest and grasslands in selected sample villages. In first technique the grass fields are divided into different parts in which village Datnu, Tathyu, Ichala and village Phateyu comes in. The village panchayats organize a common meeting,

in the meeting they divide the whole grassland area into number of families residing in the villages. Every family can use grasses from that part and use the dry leaves from that part for other uses

**Table 1**  
**Number of People Using the First Technique**

S.No	Responses	No. of people adopting the technique	Percentage of people
1	Yes	81	67.5
2	No	19	15.83
3	Neutral	20	16.666
	Other	120	100

In the second technique all the eight villages define their own territory of grasslands and the villagers use the grassland of their respective territories. The villagers cut the grasses till the end of the monsoon season; they dry them up and store them in tree tops. These dry grasses are used pastures for the cattles in the winter.

**Table 2**  
**No. of People Adopting the Second Technique**

S. No	Response	No. of people adopting the technique	Percentage of people
1	Yes	76	63.333
2	No	34	28.333
3	Neutral	10	8.333
	Total	120	100

Almost 60% people follow both the first and second technique, these environmental friendly techniques helps in developing the area sustainably and these kinds of techniques can be used by other places too. The traditional tribal livelihood can help us to have a healthy environment.

#### Grain Storage Techniques

The agricultural products after getting ripened and dried and the seeds are taken out from them. The seeds are cleaned and stored in Kothar or Kothari. Kothar is an underground wooden room built with the construction of the house. The mouth of the Kothar is mopped with cow urine and cow dung, it acts as a natural pesticide and the cereals can be stored there for long. Bhaura is the underground storage system where grains are being stored. Lauki ka khol are the dried shell of bottle guard and is a good storage system

**Table 3**  
**Grain Storage Techniques Used By the Villagers**

S. No	Techniques	People Adopting the technique	Percentage of respondents
1	Kothar/ Kothari	73	60.8
2	Bhaura	27	22.5
3	Lauki Ka khol	14	12.5
4	Neutral	06	5
	Total	120	100

From the table it can be said that about 60.8% people still adopt the traditional technique of Kothar/Kothari, 22.5% adopt Bhaura and 12.5% prefer to store their grains in Lauki ka khol. Besides storing the grains the grains are also processed before storage, the pre processing techniques are oiling the

seeds, keeping the seeds with cow dung or rubbing the grains with ashes. The table below shows the details about the people using these techniques in the present context.

**Table 4**  
**Grain Processing Techniques Used By the Villagers**

S. No	Techniques	People Adopting the technique	Percentage of respondents
1	Oiling the seeds	48	40
2	Use of cow dung	42	35
3	Use of ashes	26	21.666
	Neutral	04	3.33
	Total	120	100

From the table it is clear that still maximum people oil the seeds before storing them, some people also prefer putting the seeds with cow dung and few prefer the techniques of using ashes too.

#### Traditional Rope Making Techniques

Bimal and Karpat crops are being used for rope making in this part since ancient time. For making rope out of Bimal, the Bimal stem are kept in water for approx 30-45 days for softening, it is then thrashed on a stone/ rock. By doing this the skin of the Bimal stem gets separated. This fiborous skin is then used to make ropes.

The same technique is used for making rope from Karpat leaves but the difference is that the karpat leaves have to be kept in water for 15-20 days. The rope made out of karpat is stronger than Bimal. This traditional rope making technique is environment friendly; the local people are still using this technique.

**Table 5**  
**Rope Making Techniques Used by the Villagers**

S.No	Types of Rope	Users	Percentage of Users
1	Bimal	61	50.83
2	Karpat	39	32.5
3	Neutral	20	16.666
	Total	120	100

Thus it can be seen that 50.83% people use Bimal made rope and 32.5 % make rope out of karpat. These ropes making technique can yield the villages a good sum of money if promoted in a large scale.

#### Traditional Broom Making Techniques

In this part people still use homemade brooms by Landora crops and grasses. Landora crop is grown alongwith manduwa. Landora crop looks like maize crop, once this crop gets the required height the upper part of the crop is cut down and used as broom. Similarly the soft and fine grasses are bundled together to make brooms. Local people call these brooms as 'Suin'.

**Table 6**  
**Broom Making Techniques Used By Villagers**

S.No	Types of Broom	Users	Percentage of Users
1	Landora	69	57.5
2	Grass	31	25.83
3	Both	08	6.6666
4	Neutral	12	10
	Total	120	100

From the table it is found that 57.5% people are using Landora crop for making broom, 25.83% people prefer making broom out of grass. If these local techniques be promoted then it can be a great source of economy for the local people.

**Limrani Gara Technique For Plastering Floor/Wall**

It is prepared by cow/buffalo dung, cow urine and red soil. The local villagers still use this for plastering the stone walls of their houses, animal shed and household utensils.

**Table 7- Limrani Techniques Used By Villagers**

S. No	Types of Uses	Users	Percentage of Users
1	In animal shed	73	60.8
2	In houses	14	12.5
3	Household utensils	27	22.5
4	Neutral	06	05
	Total	120	100

Almost 60.8% people use this technique for plastering animal sheds, 12.5% use this or plastering their house walls, 22.55 use this to coat their utensils mainly made up of bamboo and cane.

**Honey Production Techniques**

Honey production is very common among the local people. To produce honey a small netted structure (Teera) is built along with the construction of a house. The bees naturally come and stay at the teera they bred, grow and produce honey in the teera, once the bees are done with their work the honey are taken out.

**Table 8**

**Users of Traditional Honey Production Technique**

S.No	Technique	Users	Percentage of Users
1	Teere	69	57.5
2	Natural bee rearing in tree	26	21.666
3	Neutral	25	20.8
	Total	120	100

Though the technique of Teera is very favourable and environment friendly but still 40% people use the natural technique for bee rearing. All these traditional techniques must be promoted in a large scale so that the villagers can make this a source of income.



**Suggestions**

Based on the primary data collected and the observed ground realities, the following suggestions are made for the development of the local people:

1. The available local resources must be harnessed in an environment friendly manner for economic wellbeing; the local resources must be used in a

sustainable manner for their economic development.

2. The educated local youth must be encouraged to earn income through developing trade and tourism, small industries, selling cash crops and using the local resources with traditional techniques for generating income.

3. The local culture and tradition must be preserved because everything is associated with it. Thus all the ethnic, cultural events must be followed by every section of Jaunsari community.

#### Conclusion

Every region has some unique traditional method to manage its natural resources. These local and traditional techniques are quite environment friendly as these are framed by our forefathers. But at present time with the coming of science and technology, these traditional methods are getting extinct. The new methods and techniques are not helping in conserving the ethnic resources for areas like Jaunsar- Bawar. The use of traditional methods for using the natural resources is decreasing day by day; its outcome is a matter of sorrow for the ethnic communities. People are migrating to cities and towns, some are even permanently settling down there. In that way they are forgetting all the local culture and tradition. Even the people who are settled in the villages are rejuvenating their houses. They are breaking the old traditional houses and in its place they are constructing new houses having modern facilities. But those types of houses have destroyed the traditional techniques of grain storage, teera or bee keeping technique etc.

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