

Tribes of Himachal Pradesh: Developmental Issues and Migration

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Abstract

Tribal communities comprise an important segment of the hill state of Himachal Pradesh. The Gaddi, Kinnaura, Lahaula, Bhot, Beta, Pangwala, Swangla, and Gujjar tribal groupings inhabit the state. However, entire districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti and Pangi & Bharmour sub-divisions of Chamba district have been declared as Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India which together comprise 42.5 percent of total geographical area of the state. Majority of tribal population in the state inhabit these two and a half districts. It has been endeavored to know the demographic profile of tribes inhabiting the state and to compare developmental activities undertaken in tribal areas during British & post-independence periods and also to understand patterns of migration and reciprocal impact of in-migration and outmigration on socio-economic life of the tribes. It has been observed that consequent upon incurring huge expenses under tribal sub-plan, development of roads network, hydroelectric projects and apple orchards together heralded a new era of development catapulting economy of the tribal areas to new heights raising their per capita income higher than non-tribal districts.

Keywords: Tribes, migration, development, demographic, Himachal, Kinnaura, Gaddi

Introduction

State of Himachal Pradesh, the home of Gaddi, Kinnaura, Lahaula, Bhot, Beta, Pangwala, Swangla, and Gujjar tribal groupings is nestled in the Western Himalayas. These groups were included in the schedule of the tribes at different points of time and under different Presidential notifications. While the Gaddi tribe was notified in 1950, the Kannauras, Gujjars and Jad were notified in 1951, 1952 and 1956 respectively. The other groups, namely Lamba, Pangwala, Lahaula etc. were notified in 1966. According to the census of 2011, the population of the state is 6864602 of which 5.71% (392126) people belong to the Scheduled Tribes. Tribes in the state occupy centre stage owing to their diversified socio-cultural and economic formation. They inhabit all the twelve districts of state. However they are numerically dominant in Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts. Development of these tribes which owing to their habitat in hilly terrains of mountainous regions have been living in inhospitable climatic conditions since time immemorial, attracted attention of academia, social scientists, tourists, policy makers and others during British and post-independence periods. But an endeavor of development to transform their lives is rather a delicate issue. Because such an attempt seeks to change the way of their lives as it deals with the well being of generations of human beings. Before embarking on development of tribes it is imperative to have a clear comprehension of their normative & value systems, belief system, ethos & eidos, socio-economic, religious, cultural and demographic dynamics. However comprehension of all these dimensions about tribes inhabiting the hill state is a herculean task. Problem to study them is compounded by their habitations in locations not connected by paths, not to talk of roads and migrations.

Methodology

Conducting an empirical study on tribes of Himachal Pradesh who largely inhabit hilly terrains and mountain locked regions is a daunting task. However, having traversed all the twelve districts of state in general and districts Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba and Kangra where the overwhelming majority of tribal population inhabits, I had the opportunity to develop deeper insight about the tribes of state. Primary information was collected through observation-participant & non-participant, interviews, group discussions, brainstorming sessions and interview schedules. The information was elicited from crossing sections of tribes including functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, Self Help Groups, elderly persons, males & females and students pursuing higher studies. Secondary

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information was collected scanning gazetteers, government publications, census reports, books, journals, magazines and websites.

Geographic position of Tribal belt

Out of the total 55673 square kilometer geographical area of Himachal Pradesh 23655 square kilometer area falls in Scheduled Area which constitutes 42.49% of the total area. Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur in their entirety and Bharmour & Pangi tehsils and Holi sub-tehsil of Chamba district comprise scheduled tribal areas of state. These mountain-locked areas situated in the North and North-East of the state forming a contiguous belt are located at an average altitude of 3281 meter above mean sea level. Kinnaur is situated between 310-05'-55" and 320-05'-20" North latitude and between 770-45'-00" and 790-00'-50" East longitude. Whereas Lahaul-Spiti is located between north latitude 310-41'-39" and 320-59'-57" and East longitude 760-40'-29" and 780-41'39. However, Pangi is located between north latitude 320-33' and 330-19' and between east longitude 760-15' and 770-21' and Bharmour and Holi falls between the north latitude 320-11' and 320-41' and between the east longitude 760-22' and 760-53'. It is evident

Table: 1 Tribal Area in Himachal Pradesh

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ITDP*	Kinnaur	Lahaul	Spiti	Pangi	Bharmour	Total Area
Area Square	6401	6244	7591	1601	1818	23655
Kilometers (%)	(27.08%)	(26.40%)	(32.09%)	(6.77%)	(7.59%)	(100%)

*Integrated Tribal Development Project

from the information given in Table 1 that two of the five ITDPs located in Lahaul-Spiti constitute the majority (58.5%) of tribal area. Entire tribal area has rugged terrain criss-crossed by fast flowing Satluj, Ravi and Chenab rivers Basapa, Spiti and other rivulets. This region was declared as Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian constitution vide Scheduled Areas (Himachal Pradesh) Order, 1975 (CO 02) dated 21 November 1975.

Demographic Profiles of Tribes of Himachal Pradesh

Information compressed in table 2 gives a bird's eye view of the tribal population inhabiting Himachal Pradesh. Total population inhabiting the Scheduled Area is 173661 of which 71.16% (123585) constitute tribal as per census report 2011. Tribal areas are very sparsely populated and the density of population in these areas is 7 persons per square kilometer. All the twelve districts of state have a tribal population. However, district Chamba contributes more than one third (34.5%) of total tribal population of the state. Its main reason is that Bharmour Tehsil, Pangi tehsil and Holi sub-Tehsil which are scheduled tribal areas fall in this district. As per census 2011

Table: 2 The District-wise tribal population in Himachal Pradesh

Name of District	No. of Census Villages (Inhabited)	Total Population	Scheduled Tribe Population
1	2	3	4
1. Bilaspur	953	381956	10693
2. Chamba	1110	519080	135500
3. Hamirpur	1671	454768	3044
4. Kangra	3617	1510075	84564
5. KINNAUR	241	84121	48746
6. Kullu	314	437903	16822
7. Lahaul-Spiti	280	31564	25707
8. Mandi	2850	999777	12787
9. Shimla	2705	814010	8755
10. Sirmour	968	529855	11262
11. Solan	2383	580320	25645
12. Una	790	521173	8601
Total:	17882	6864602	392126

In terms of proportion of tribes to the total population, it is 81.4% in Lahaul-Spiti and 58% in Kinnaur. It mentions here that Spitan inhabiting about one third (32%) of the total scheduled tribal area of the state has a population of about 10,000 and density rate of 1. Sex ratio, an important demographic attribute, has been reported to be unfavorable in the tribal areas. It is 819 in Kinnaur and 903 in Lahaul-Spiti. Thus Kinnaur continues to have dubious distinction of having lowest sex ratio

among all the twelve districts in the state whereas Lahaul-Spiti with 10th rank is also among districts having lowest sex ratio.

It is discernible from the figures compressed in table 3 that the population of Gaddi tribe is highest in the state. After it the population of Gujjar, Kinnaura, Bhot and others is lower in descending order.

Table 3: Major Scheduled Tribe Communities in Himachal Pradesh, Census 2011

Himachal Pradesh	ST Population (in lacs)	Of State ST population
1. Gaddi	1.78	
2. Gujjar	0.93	
3. Kinnaura, Kinnara	0.51	
4. Bhot	0.27	
5. Others (Jad/Lamba/Khampa, Lahaula, Pangwala, Swangla, Beta/Beda, Domba/Gar/Zoba)	0.44	
Total	3.93	100%

Source: Annual Report, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2017-2018

Developmental activities in tribal areas during Post-independence Period

Majority of the present tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh became part of the state after trifurcation of Punjab on 1st November 1966. Himachal Pradesh attained full statehood on 25th January 1971. Prior to it, the tribal area being located in the mountainous region could not attract much attention in developmental endeavors. However special emphasis was given to developmental activities during the post statehood period. In fact, the scheduled area was declared in November 1975 and the Tribal Development Department was started in June 1976. Work relating to the welfare of was given to this department in 1981. Therefore, the name of the department was changed to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development. However, whole work relating to the Scheduled Caste was transferred to the Social Justice & Empowerment Department in May 2002. Thus now this department is known as the Scheduled Tribes Development Department. High priority is being given to ameliorate conditions of tribes inhabiting the state. Allocation of Rs. 52300.00 lakh to provide economic, social and general services in the tribal areas during 2019-20 is testimony of this fact.

Tribal Development Department (TDD)

Establishment of Tribal Development Department during mid seventies coincided with Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79). From the Fifth Plan Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India started providing Special Central Assistance to the tribal areas of the state for accelerating the pace of economic development and also to bridge the gap between tribal and non-tribal areas. The funds under Special Central Assistance are released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs normally for ITDP and for Dispersed Tribes Pockets to cover the employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto not only family based but also run by self help groups/communities

Budget

As regards budgetary provision for catering to the needs of Tribal Development, 9% of the total HP state plan allocation is placed at the disposal of TDD in a single consolidated demand. Complete control is exercised by Tribal Development Commissioner on this demand. Funds are earmarked to all the ITDPs in accordance with a well defined formula. The funds so allocated can neither be transferred from one ITDP to another ITDP nor from scheduled area to non-scheduled area.

Outlays under TASP

Budgetary provisions for Tribal Areas under Sub Plan have increased manifold over a period of time. Details of outlay under tribal sub plan for the financial year 2019-20 are given in table 4. It is discernible that Kinnaur has been allocated the highest amount under ITDP divisible outlay and Spiti ITDP was earmarked the lowest amount.

Table 4: Annual Tribal Sub-Plan 2019-20
Indivisible/ Divisible Outlays under State Plan

Grand Total	Indivisible	Divisible	ITDP-wise Divisible Outlays 2019-20				
			Kinnaur	Lahaul	Spiti	Pangi	Bharmour
			52300.00	28400.00	23900.00	6316.00	4752.00

As regards service wise priority, 'Economic Services' has been accorded the highest priority followed by 'Social Services' and 'General Services'. Keeping in view the limited working season in tribal areas, the norms of expenditure for the four quarters have been fixed vide which percentage of expenditure to be incurred quarter wise is 20%, 40%, 25% and 15% for the first, second, third and fourth quarters respectively.

Decentralized Planning

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) headed by local representative MLA or Minister, as the case may be, formulates plans at ITDP level. The organizational structure of the PAC is as under;

1. Members of Tribal Advisory Council
2. Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions at all the following three levels;
3. Panch, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Village Panchayat
4. Members, Vice Chairperson and Chairperson of Block Development Committee
5. Members, Vice Chairperson and Chairperson of Zila Parishad (District Council
6. ITDP/District) level officers
7. The plans prepared by the PACs are consolidated by Tribal Development Commissioner and are reflected as a separate sub-plan which finally becomes part of the state plan.

Identification of beneficiaries

The Families to be assisted during the year shall be allotted by the BDOs to the different extension Officers giving full particulars thereof, as appearing in the survey list of the below-the-poverty-line persons and the reporting shall be done only if the family allotted to the particular Extension Officer is assisted by him. If other Extension Officers do so then no such reporting shall be done by these Extension Officers. All in all, the Extension Officers to whom the families are allotted shall individually be responsible for achievement of the target. Such a system shall not only lead to correct reporting but also obviate multiple counting. The quarterly norms for achievement of targets under the 20-Point Programme are 12%, 21%, 36% and 31% respectively for the four quarters.

Development of Road network

Decade of 1960 heralded a new era of development of infrastructure in the tribal areas. The Districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti, both being scheduled tribal districts, are also strategically important districts because both of these share borders with China. Consequent upon completion of Hindustan-Tibet National highway Kinnaur was connected by National Highway during the 1960s. During the same decade Lahaul-Spiti was also connected to Kullu constructing Rohtang Pass(3,967 m, 13,050 feet). Besides, the district is also connected by Kunzum (4,600 m, 14,913 ft) and Baralarcha (4,300 m, 14,000 ft) passes.

Transportation of goods

Today, high quality apples, peas, potatoes, cereals and dry fruits are produced in abundance in the tribal belt of the state. In order to export these items to non-tribal regions of state, other states and even to the foreign countries a reliable road network is essential. Roads have been constructed along the banks of river Sutlej and river Spiti and hence are prone to damages due to avalanches, landslides and flash floods during rainy season or when rate of snow/glacier melting is very high during peak summer/rainy season. Besides, most of the locations having a population of more than 500 have been connected through PGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana).

Land Utilization

Land area sown indicates land utilization in the tribal areas. Information from Census 2011 reveals that merely 0.38% of the total land is utilized for agricultural activities in Lahaul-Spiti whereas the percentage on this account with respect to Kinnour is 1.14%. Thus these two districts rank lowest (12 and 11 respectively) on account of proportion of land utilization in the state. Main reason for such a low percentage of land utilization could be that these two districts are located in the mountainous region of the state. Consumption of fertilizers has also been recorded to be lowest in these two districts.

Apple production

The British period and post independence period witnessed rapid growth of development of apple orchards in the tribal areas. Himachal Pradesh has achieved a unique distinction as 'Apple state of India'. The state grows more than one third (about 36%) of the nation's apple crop. Kinnaur alone has 10487 hectare land under apple orchards where about sixty thousand metric tons of apple are produced. It has catapulted the size of economy of the district making it as a district with highest per capita income in the state.

Apple Rejuvenation

State government has embarked on 'Apple Rejuvenation Project' in 2015-16 with the objectives of sensitization and capacity building of farmers, uprooting of senile plantation and re-plantation with improved Apple varieties/rootstocks in districts of Kinnaur and Chamba and other apple growing districts. The State Horticulture Department has been entrusted to implement the project. The district-wise and year-wise perspective plan of rejuvenation programme has been worked out as follows:

Sl.	Name of District	Existing Area under Apple (Ha.) (2013-14)	Area under Old /senile Plantation (Ha.) (1966-67)	Area to be covered under the project (Ha.)	Area brought under the project (Ha.) upto 2014-15	Area proposed under the project during 2015-16 (Ha.)	Total Area under the project by end of 2015-16 (Ha.) (6+7)	Balance area to be brought under project coming years (Ha.) (5-8)
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Chamba	12997	235	100	42.88	35	77.88	22.12
3.	Kinnaur	10487	368	150	65.45	25	90.45	59.55
4.	Lahaul Spiti	1579	0	-	-	-	0	0

The project would bear 100% assistance for Sensitization components and 50% funds for providing assistance on Uprooting and re-plantation components as Government shares under 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana' (RKVY). Cost of Uprooting per tree of Apple standard variety in Tribal Area would be Rs. 395/-.

Electrification and drinking water

In spite of the fact that most of the scheduled areas in the state are inaccessible, all the villages have been electrified attaining unique status of 100% electrification. Further, all the villages are being provided piped drinking water. Villages located in the border areas have cable and mobile networks connecting the residents with the rest of the world through television and internet.

Village Grain Bank Scheme	It has been implemented since November 2004 by the Department of Food & Public Distribution. The scheme aims to help marginalized food insecure households who do not have sufficient resources to purchase rations during lean season or natural calamities. Such households in need of food grains can borrow them from the village grain banks set up within their villages to be subsequently returned to the bank. Such banks can be set up in food scarce areas like drought prone areas, hot and cold desert areas, tribal areas and the inaccessible hilly areas which remain cut off because of natural calamities like flood etc. About 30—40 below Poverty Line/Antyodaya Anna Yojna families may form a grain bank.
Women Empowerment	State government has reserved 50% of the seats for women at all the three levels of Panchayati Raj Institution. Resultantly more than half of the total seats in PRIs are occupied by women because apart from half of the seats being reserved for them, some women contest elections from unreserved seats. It offers an opportunity to the tribal women in policy formulation at grass root level, execute such plans and also take part in the decision making process to decide socio-legal matters. Kamroo Panchayat in Kinnaur created a history during the period 2005-2010 by becoming an all women Panchayat that was elected unanimously . The state government gave a cash award to the Panchayat for such an unprecedented milestone.
Urbanization	Urbanization is considered to be an indicator of modernization. Districts of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnour which are fully scheduled areas have nil urban population. In other words 100% of the population in these districts inhabit rural areas as there is not even a single town/city in these two districts.
Education	Educational accomplishment is an indicator of human development. Attainments of Himachal Pradesh in the field of education are quite high while compared with the overall position of India. Kinnaur has 268 and Lahaul-Spiti has 273 educational institutions. On being calculated as the number of such institutions per lakh population, this is way ahead and higher than any other district of the state. It is indicative of the fact that efforts to achieve better educational accomplishments have started realizing results. As per census 2011 literacy rate in the state was registered as 82.8%. It increased from 75.2% to 80% in Kinnaur and from 73.1% to 76.8% in Lahaul-Spiti and 62.9% to 72.2% in Chamba district. Decadal growth rate in literacy rate sounds impressive. However, when it is viewed in terms of ranking among 12 districts of the state, Lahaul-Spiti (12) and Chamba (11) are at the bottom whereas district Kinnaur with rank 8 has done fairly well.
Environmental Threat	Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Bharmour, one of Himachal Pradesh's most ecologically fragile regions, is under threat from widespread construction activity for hydroelectric power projects. Landslides have become a common occurrence putting the lives of villagers to severe environmental risk. It is high time to ponder and formulate a plan to save scheduled tribal areas from environmental threat.
Conservation of Culture	Through various schemes and programmes it has been endeavored to restore community assets like temples, monasteries and other monuments of historical importance and promote such various locations having such buildings of cultural heritage as tourist attractions. In this process utmost care is taken to maintain cultural cohesion and social solidarity.
Migration of Tribes	Human beings tend to migrate from inhospitable geo-climatic regions to the areas offering better living conditions. Scheduled tribal areas have witnessed In-migration and Outmigration during British and post-independence periods. The constitution of India, the sovereign law of the country, guarantees fundamental right to every citizen of India to move freely or to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India and to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
In-migration to Tribal Areas	In Himachal Pradesh tribes have inhabited the mountainous regions since time immemorial. During the British period very few Britishers or Indians in service of the British Government traversed tribal areas. Owing to inhospitable geo-climatic

conditions and negligible amenities in the tribal region hardly such people migrated to these areas. However, during the post independence period, tribal belt witnessed in-migration particularly of the government employees who were posted in these areas to take care of a vast range of welfare services including education, health and family welfare, law and order, administration and to run local governmental affairs. In some cases such employees migrated along with their families. Besides, a large number of staff from non-tribal areas was also deployed to develop and to work in several major, mini, micro and mezzo hydro power projects located in scheduled tribal areas. Thus in-migration occurred majorly by the personnel engaged in carrying on a vast range of services in the tribal areas.

Out Migration from tribal areas

A few empirical studies have been conducted which provide a bird's eye view about outmigration from the tribal areas. Gaddis and their flocks are tough trekkers. Gaddi, a shepherding tribe, primarily inhabits either sides of the Dhauladhar mountain range in the state of Himachal Pradesh. A semi-nomadic pastoral group, it is among the most enigmatic anthropological groupings inhabiting the Indian subcontinent (Gazetteer of the Chamba State, 1904). Interestingly, migration of Gaddis and Lord Shiva coincides and matches with the rhythm of nature and changing seasons. They have adopted a migratory grazing system but are often accused of undertaking migration for grabbing land. In several cases, by selling the land so acquired in the foothill, they have minted handsome money. In fact shepherding, nature and the migratory grazing system are so intertwined that these cannot be divorced from each other. The three constitute a union of trinity. Gaddi and their families have land and assets on either side of the Dhauladhar. Significant number of them and their families follow the ritualistic practice of migrating from Bharmour during winters (Sujit 2014).

In a study entitled 'Geo-economic and social Correlates of Out-migration: a Case Study of Himachal Pradesh' by Surroch, Sujit eliciting information from out-migrated tribe men from Scheduled tribal area of Lahaul-Spiti to Kullu valley ,a non-tribal area on the other side of Pir Panjal mountain range. A large number of Lahaul and Spiti tribal personnel to acquire higher education or after acquiring education or and also in search of job and other modern amenities migrated to Kullu-Manali, world renowned hill stations and tourist destinations. Census 2001 and 2011 also registered burgeoning de-population of Lahaul and Spitan which resulted in negative population growth rate in Lahaul-Spiti during 1991-2011. Consequently, the state government had to take unprecedented legislative measures and created a new constituency of legislative assembly in Kullu district.

A study was conducted in a tribal district of Kinnaur on 'Migration and Socio-economic Conditions of Tribal Women' by Surroch, Anita collecting information from 225 tribal women inhabiting Sangla Valley of the district whose at least one of the family members had out migrated. It was unearthed that the overwhelming majority of families are polyandrous, women pursue agricultural and household activities whereas men perform outdoor activities. . Though having crossed forty, a significant number of subjects are unmarried but command love and respect in the family, kinship, villagers and local community. It was observed that there was a huge gap in the level of awareness of informants and being benefited from welfare oriented programs. It calls for necessary steps by the government to evolve mechanisms to make sure that governmental programs and schemes are implemented in the tribal areas and the target population is benefitted.

Impact of migration

In-migration and outmigration have together a deep impact on the tribes of Himachal Pradesh. In-migration has brought elements of modernization facilitating tribes to transform their lifestyles and making their lives less troublesome particularly during inhospitable climatic conditions. They were acquainted with a new set of normative and value systems through their interaction with non-tribals. However, outmigration of youth to pursue higher education and in search of modern jobs has resulted in leaving their family members back home in old age making their lives more challenging. The out-migrated tribals were tempted by modern lifestyles. They changed their attire, food habits, and lifestyles. Consequently traditional culture of the tribes has to struggle to sustain.

In a study entitled 'Economic Self-sufficiency and Financial Hardships among Elderly Tribal Women in Himachal Pradesh: An Empirical Study,' (Sujit 2015) Kangra and Chamba districts of the state of, nestled in the Western Himalayas were chosen for the study as both the districts have substantial tribal population. All the tribal women inhabiting these districts constituted the universe of the study. It emerges that three fourth of the elderly women enjoy good quality food and have adequate clothes. Two thirds have sufficient accommodation and a half have good quality of bedding. It was learnt while knowing about the reaction of the informants on non-fulfillment of their basic needs that above one third of the elderly women are assertive and seek better satisfaction of their basic needs. Substantial proportion of the women are meek and docile who humbly accept maltreatment in the evening of their life. Almost one fifth of the subjects each resort to criticism of the family members on poor quality and less number of clothes, sub-standard bedding and under-nourishment

Findings

Following are main findings of the study;

1. The Gaddi, Kinaura, Lahaula, Bhot, Beta, Pangwala, Swangla, and Gujjar tribal groupings inhabit Scheduled which comprise 42.5 percent of total geographical area of the state.
2. The scheduled tribal areas situated in the North and North-East of the state forming a contiguous belt are located at an average altitude of 3281 meter above mean sea level.
3. Gaddi, Kannaurs, Gujjars and Jad, the main tribes of the state were notified as scheduled during the nineteen fifties.
4. Total population inhabiting the Scheduled Area is 173661 of which 71.16% (123585) constitute tribal as per census report 2011.
5. Chamba district contributes more than one third (34.5%) of the total tribal population of the state.
6. Population of Gaddi tribe is higher than any other tribe inhabiting the state.
7. Apple production has transformed the economy of tribal areas and catapulted Kannaur to the district with one of the highest per capita income among tribal and non-tribal districts of the state.
8. Today, high quality apples, peas, potatoes, cereals and dry fruits are produced in abundance in the tribal belt of the state.
9. the 1960s witnessed a new era of development of infrastructure in the tribal areas as the District of Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti, both being scheduled tribal districts and sharing borders with China were connected by national highways.
10. Tribal area, an ecologically fragile region, is under threat from widespread construction activity for hydroelectric power projects.
11. During the post-independence period, tribal belt witnessed in-migration particularly of the government employees who were deployed in these areas to provide a vast range of services.
12. Tribes have been acquainted with a new set of normative and value systems through their interaction with non-tribals.
13. Census 2001 and 2011 also registered burgeoning de-population of Lahaul and Spitan which resulted in negative population growth rate in Lahaul-Spiti during 1991-2011. Consequently, the state government had to take unprecedented legislative measures and created a new constituency of legislative assembly in Kullu district.

14. Out Migration of tribal men to pursue higher education and in search of modern jobs resulted in leaving their family members back home in old age making their lives more challenging.

Conclusion

All the border blocks are located in remote areas of high altitude which remain under thick blankets of snow for significant periods of the year where people reel in temperature which drops up to minus thirty degrees Celsius during winter. Working season is limited in the scheduled areas. Due to less availability of modern amenities and high cost of living and inhospitable climatic conditions, many employees avoid postings in tribal areas although the government takes necessary steps to make sure that positions in the tribal areas do not remain vacant. Today, tribal communities in the state confront twin problems. It's to undergo the process of modernization and also to preserve rich tribal cultural heritage. Nearing completion about 9 kilometers Atal Tunnel (Rohtang Tunnel) is likely to herald a new era of development and connectivity to Lahaul-Spiti with non-tribal areas round the year which otherwise remains cut off from rest of the world for about half of the year due to thick blanket of snow on the Pir Panjal mountain range.

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