

Impact of Developmental Activities on Tribal Area of Himachal Pradesh: A Case Study of Pangri Block

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INTRODUCTION

Pangri lies in the northwestern extremity of Himachal Pradesh. This has an area of approximately 1,600 square kilometers and it's sandwiched between two sub-systems of the Himalayas the Zaskar and the Pir Panjal. The river Chanderbhaga (also called the Chenab downstream), flows in from Lahaul and passing through the length, it divides Pangri into two unequal parts while the cliffs sometimes rise vertically to a height of a couple of thousand feet. The mountains are surroundings the valley range between 5,400 and 6,700 meters. The tiny villages of this verdant pocket lie between 2,100 and 3,000 meters. On the right bank of the river Chanderbhaga, the growing settlement of Kilar (2,590 mtrs), is the administrative headquarter. The other side valleys of Pangri are Sural, Saichu, Kumar-Parmar and Hudan. Almost all are connected by vehicular roads apart from these, the old trade routes still exist and connect these pockets to Ladakh' Zaskar alley, in the adjoining state of Jammu and Kashmir. Pangri is thickly forested amongst others, has trees of pine, oak and deodar. Places like Sural have thick woods of peeling-birch (bhoj-patra) too. These woodlands support a variety of wild life including ibex, snow leopard, Himalayan thar, musk deer, black bear, brown bear and bharal. The bird includes the monal and koklas pheasants, Himalayan tragopan, snow peacock, snow pigeon and the chukor. The Saichu Twan Nallah (named after the two main villages), is a notified wildlife sanctuary.

Table-1
Area, Population and Literacy, 2001

| Total Population (Nos.) | | Total Literacy (%age) | | STs (%age) | SCs (%age) | Geographical Area |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 17598 | | 9,162 (60.32) | | 15337 (87.15) | 836 (4.75) | 1601 Square Kilometer |
| Males | Females | Males | Females | | | |
| 9259 | 8339 | 6,013 (74.60) | 3,149 (44.17) | | | |
| Sex Ratio=901/1000 | | | | | | |

Source: Census 2001

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According to 2001 Census, the entire tehsil is rural having a populations of 17,598 out of which 15,337 (87.15 percent) are scheduled tribe (STs) and 4922 (13.21 percent) are scheduled castes (SCs) population. The literacy position according to 2001, Census there are 9,162 (60.32 percent) literates, out of which the male literates are 6,013 (74.60 percent) and there are 3,149 (44.17 percent) female literates. Populations under the age group of 0-6 year are 2408 (1,199 males and 1209 females) persons.

Climate: The tract lies in the semi arid zone of the inner Himalayas. Where monsoon rains penetrate with difficulty, but severe winters, heavy snowfall, strong winds and frequent avalanches are a prominent feature. The winter lasts from November to April, but snow usually begins to fall on the second half of October or early November, reaching lower altitudes by the middle of December. Any field works from middle of December to March are thus normally impossible. The change over from winter to summer is gradual, March and April are cool and bright, but the snowfalls may occur even during these months. The temperature begins to rise rapidly after the beginning of May and continues to register this trend till August. The period from middle of May to end of June and from 15th September to 15th October is generally dry and most of the mortality in young or new growth takes place during this period. The snow begins to disappear in March although as already said small falls may occur even in April. The passes reopen in May, but the snow lasts on them till July and some of the higher peaks remain perpetually covered with snow. The shade temperature at Kilar, however, seldom exceeds 27^o C or falls below -10^o.

Administrative set-up and PRIs: Pangri block of Chamba district is governed under the single line administration (SLA) headed by the Resident Commissioner (Officer of IAS rank). Who enjoys the full powers of Deputy Commissioner at the district headquarter and the powers of Principal Secretary Tribal Development at the state level with in the block. It is worthy to note here that the SLA was started in April 1986 in Pangri block on experiment level but after the wonderful results of this system, government of Himachal Pradesh has implemented it in whole tribal areas of the state. Out of seven blocks in Chamba district there are two tribal blocks and Pangri one of it. There are one tehsil and sub-division of same name under this block. For the assembly constituency it is attached with Bharmour area and for parliament it is the part of Mandi constituency. The whole Pangri block comprises 16 Gram Panchayats, 8 Panchayat Samities and one Zila Parishad.

Workers Distribution in the Block (1971-2001): The pace of economic development depends upon the availability or various factors of production. The mere availability of the factors of production will not lead to economic development. Special budgetary provisions have been made by the respective state and central government for the development of tribal areas. This flow of money to tribal areas results in to various kind of developmental activities in the sectors of agriculture, horticulture, forestry etc. All these developmental activities have serious repercussions to the land use pattern. Moreover, the ever growing

population and influx of migratory labourers also put tremendous pressure on the available resources. Therefore, study of these variables is of immense importance so as to understand the changing land use pattern.

Table-2

Workers Distribution, Percentage of workers to total population and non-agriculture worker to total numbers of workers

| Sr. No. | | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 |
|---------|--|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Total Population | 9794 | 12256 | 14960 | 17598 |
| 2. | Main | | 6433 | 5260 | 5330 |
| 3. | Marginal | | 750 | 2057 | 4086 |
| 4. | Non-workers | | 5073 | 7643 | 8182 |
| 5. | Among main workers | | | | |
| 6. | Cultivator | 4691 | 5431 | 3423 | 2676 |
| 7. | Agril. Labourers | 4 | 8 | 12 | 28 |
| 8. | H.H.Ind. Mfg. Processing services & repairs | | 9 | 30 | 27 |
| 9. | Other workers | 678 | 985 | 1795 | 2599 |
| 10. | Workers of the Block | 5460 | 6433 | 5260 | 5330 |
| 11. | Percentage of workers to total population | 55.7 | 52.5 | 35.2 | 30.29 |
| 12. | Non-Agriculture workers of the block | 765 | 994 | 1604 | 1604 |
| 13. | Percentage of non-agriculture workers to total workers | 14.0 | 15.5 | 30.5 | 9.12 |

Source: ARO, Pangri & Statistical Profile, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla & District Census Hand Book

In the last four decades, the population of Pangri has been almost doubled. Here it is important to mention that the above figures do not include the migratory labourers and floating population. This increased population has serious repercussions to the available land and other natural resources. The growing economic activities have resulted in to changed occupational structure. Occupation structure in Pangri valley has noticed drastic changes in last four decades. In the 70s and early 80s large number of Pangriwals or the people of Pangri used to migrate to the neighbouring districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu etc., but of late this trend has been reversed to a reasonable extent, because of increased economic activities in Pangri valley, e.g. construction of road works buildings etc. It is evident from the above said table that there has been a significant decrease in the population of cultivators. This is mainly because of agriculture is becoming non-viable and alternate employment opportunities are being generated through various on-going construction work. The construction boom of Pangri valley has created more opportunity for marginal and casual workers. In spite of increased construction activity the modern sector of the economy has yet to be developed in Pangri valley, which includes industrial and manufacturing sector. This is evident

from the fact that percentage of workers to total population has substantially declined over a period of time. This further reveals that skill of the local population has yet to be developed to match the new economic activities. Moreover, this declining trend can result in huge unemployment among the local population.

Table-3
Net Area Sown Per Agriculture Workers and Cropping Intensity

| Year | Gross Area sown (Hectare) | Net Area (Hectare) | Numbers of Agriculture workers | Net area sown Per agriculture workers | Cropping intensity |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1971 | 1,831 | 1,650 | 4,695 | 0.35 | 1.10 |
| 1981 | 2,163 | 1,607 | 5,439 | 0.29 | 1.34 |
| 1991 | 2,167 | 1,670 | 2,835 | 0.59 | 1.30 |
| 2001 | 2,497 | 1,970 | 1,976 | 0.54 | 1.26 |

Source: DSO office, Chamba

In any tribal or primitive economy, the most important sector is primary sector, which comprises of agriculture and allied activities. By seeing the topography of Pangri valley, it can be concluded that even the agriculture cannot be extended beyond certain limits because valley is surrounded by high mountain peaks and deep river bed. However, there has been a marginal increase in the gross and net area under agriculture. Further, the agriculture sector has yet to experience the fruits of green revolution because of lack of inspiration and facilities of high yielding variety seed, modern agricultural equipments and lack of awareness. The cropping intensity in the Pangri valley has slightly shown improvement in the decade of 70s but after that it is still stagnating. This shows that agriculture in the Pangri valley has a little potential and obviously for socio-economic transformation, alternate sector of the economy needs to be developed.

Development of roads network (1971-2007): Roads are harbingers of change and progress. The Pangri valley is beset with a peculiar problem having a vast area with a thinly spread population. Roads are the lifeline of the tribal people because there is no other mode of transportation. Economic and social development of Pangri depends mostly on efficient system of roads and transportation. Roads are the lifelines of the people further; roads and transportation play a vital role in the process of modernization. The opening of the tribal areas by a carefully planned system of communication is the basis of all development (Singh, 1984). In the last four decades, there has been a tremendous expansion of roads in Pangri valley.

Table-4
Road length in Pangti Block

| Sr. No. | | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2007 |
|---------|--|------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| 1. | Double lane | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2. | Single lane | — | — | 35 | 66.80 | 137.49 |
| 3. | Jeep able | — | 25.90 | 79 | 56.93 | 56.96 |
| 4. | Tracks | -- | 186.69 | 174 | -- | 21.045 |
| 5. | Road Density per '000' sq. km of area | -- | 0.45 | 2.18 | -- | 8.58 |
| 6. | Per '000' population | -- | 0.76 | 2.33 | | 7.81 |

Source: ARO, Pangti & Statistical Profile, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

Symbol used:

-- Not available _ Nil

Above table depicts that, up to 1971 there was no motor able road facility in the valley. It is only by the 70's; road connectivity was given a top priority in the overall planning. By 1981 the road length in the valley increased to 25.90 kilometers jeep able and 186.69kms tracks in 1981. Here it is important to mention that these roads were constructed within the valley and have no linkages with the outside world. Even in the decade of 1980's, some jeeps and other vehicles were airdropped for the local use. The road length increased in 1991 up to 35kms motor able road and 79kms jeep able roads and it reached up to 66.80kms and 56.93 in 2001. In 2007 it reached up to 137.49kms motor able and 56.96kms jeep able. Road density per 1000 square km of area in 0.45 in 1981, 2.18 in 1991 and it reached 8.58 in 2007. The road density per 1000 of population was 0.76 in 1981, 2.33 in 1991 and 7.81 in 2007.

Further, it is important to mention that since 2005 onwards, there has been a rapid expansion in the growth of road network because of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme because under MNREGS, maximum employment opportunities have been created through the development of local roads and tracks in the valley. Another important point which needs to be highlighted is that the construction of roads leads to landslides etc. which further put pressure on the land use pattern. However it is not possible to estimate this land loss caused by the construction of roads tracks etc.

Growth in Literacy and Educational Institution (1971-2007): The educational activities also have implication to land use pattern directly or indirectly. For imparting education, lot of infrastructure is required in terms of buildings, offices, labs, playgrounds, tracks etc. Promotion of educational interests of scheduled tribes is also one of the tasks assigned to the State under Article 46. Over the successive Five Year Plans, literacy percentage in the tribal block Pangti has been improved regularly as mentioned below.

Table-5
Literacy Growth in Pangri

| Census | Total Population | Growth | Literacy | Growth | Male | Female |
|--------|------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| 1971 | 9794 | | 992 (10.1) | | 913 (9.3) | 79 (0.8) |
| 1981 | 12256 | 25.13 | 2400 (19.6) | 94.05 | 2060 (16.8) | 340 (2.8) |
| 1991 | 14960 | 22.06 | 4673 (31.2) | 58.77 | 3477 (23.2) | 1196 (8.0) |
| 2001 | 17598 | 17.63 | 9162 (59.7) | 91.83 | 6013 (39.2) | 3149 (20.5) |

Source: Compiled from District Statistical Office Chamba and Annual Tribal Sub-Plans, Tribal Development Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

There has been a tremendous expansion in the field of literacy, which is evident from the above table that in 1971 the literacy rate which was just 10.1 per cent has reached around 60 per cent in 2001. This means the tribal area of Pangri has performed more than satisfactory because it has come close to the overall state's literacy rate. Here it is important to mention that huge network of education has been created in the tribal areas of Pangri. Nevertheless, it is pertinent to note that still lot needs to be done in this field. The female literacy rate is still very low. Obviously, the programmes Sarav Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), etc. needs to be implemented in a more vigorous manner. With the existing spread of education, it will not be possible for the state to achieve the level of 100 per cent literacy by 2012.

Table-6
Growth of Educational Institutions

| Institutions | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2007 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Primary Schools | 28 | 43 | 48 | 62 | 64 |
| Middle Schools | 4 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 18 |
| High Schools | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Sr. Sec. Schools | -- | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| College | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| ITI | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Total | 34 | 53 | 58 | 82 | 95 |

Source: ARO, Pangri & Statistical Profile, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

Above table present the picture of available educational institutions during the course of four decades in Pangri block. It shows that there were 34 educational institutions in Pangri block in 1971, out of which there were 28 primary, 4 middle and only 2 high schools. In 1981 the number of education institutions reached 53 including 43 primary schools, 4 middle, 5 high and 1 senior secondary school. In 1991 the number of these educational institutions reached 58 including the 48 primary, 3 middle, 5 high and 2 senior secondary schools, in 2001 it reached up to the figure of 82 institutions comprising 62 primary, 13 middle,

5 high and 3 secondary schools. The recent data shows further progress in the opening of the new institutions and it reached up to 95 institutions with 64 primary schools, 18 middle, 6 high and 5 secondary schools. Besides these institutions government has opened a degree college and one Industrial Training Institute in 2007.

The land used for various educational institutions can be estimated with the help of following formula. It has been assumed that each educational institution needs at least 0.5 to 1 sq. km area. This means that approximate area covered by these institutes around 60 to 70 sq. kms. It is expected that so as to achieve 100 per cent literacy and upgrading the technical skills of the people, more such institutions are required in the near future. Since, the valley has limited land; therefore, development of such institutions needs a serious planning so that environment and ecology of the valley may be protected.

Growth of medical and veterinary institutions (1971-2007): Similarly, the growth of social infrastructure in terms of medical and veterinary institutions also has implications on land use. Health is the basic unit of the social infrastructure and it is basic need of an individual. It makes the nation progress in socio-economic, scientific, literary and cultural spheres. Health is both an input and output directly linked with the development. Rapid and equitable health care system stimulates the development by improving human productivity. Investment in health is investment in human capital. Therefore, akin to education, provision of medical and health facilities in the tribal area of Himachal Pradesh is a difficult and costly proposition.

**Table-7
Growth of Medical Institutions**

| Sr. No. | Institutions | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2007 |
|---------|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Allopathic | | | | | |
| 2. | Civil Hospital | -- | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. | PHCs | 1 | -- | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 4. | CHCs/Rural Hospitals | -- | -- | -- | | -- |
| 5. | Civil Dispensaries | 1 | 1 | -- | | -- |
| 6. | Sub-centre | -- | -- | -- | 15 | 16 |
| 7. | Winter health posts | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 8. | Ayurvedic | | | | | |
| 9. | Hospital | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| 10. | Dispensaries | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| 11. | Total | 5 | 5 | 8 | 27 | 29 |
| 12. | Medical Institutions per lakh population | | | | | 160 |

Source: ARO, Pangi & Statistical Profile, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

Above table reveals that there were only five health institutions in 1971 with the whole Pangi block, the numbers of these institutions increased up to 8 institutions in 1991, out of which there were one civil hospital, three PHCs and four Ayurvedic dispensaries. Table further shows that increase up to 27 medical institutions, out of which there were one civil hospital, four PHCs, fifteen sub-center and seven Ayurvedic dispensaries. Such a big increase was due to the opening of 14 health sub-center almost covering all villages of the valley. Table shows that according to the recent data the number of medical institute there are total 28 medical institutions in the Pangi Block comprising one civil hospital four PHCs, sixteen sub-center and eight Ayurvedic institutions including one hospital and seven dispensaries. Similar to the medical institution, following table demonstrates the picture of veterinary institution during the course of last four decades.

Table-8
Growth of Veterinary Institutions

| | | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2007 |
|----|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Veterinary Hospital | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 2. | Veterinary Dispensaries | 4 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 15 |
| | Total | 5 | 8 | 13 | 19 | 20 |

Source: DSO office, Chamba

Above table shows that there were only veterinary institutions in Pangi block comprising one veterinary hospital and 4 dispensaries, this number increased up to 8 institutions in 1981, 13 in 1991, 19 in 2001 and according to the data of 2007 this numbers increased up to 20 including 5 veterinary hospital and 15 dispensaries.

CONCLUSION

The data shows that after the initiation of tribal sub-plan from 1974 and the implementation of single line administration (SLA) in 1986 a vast network of basic infrastructure facilities in such as roads, educational institutions, health centre have been established. This was not only important but necessary since this area is inaccessible, marginalized with people living in adverse climatic conditions. Since, basic infrastructure facilities have been provided under different government schemes the need of the hour is consolidation of these facilities and enhancing their quality. In the next phase it is suggested that location specific employment / income generating activities should be promoted in this area. This will help in

lessening out migration of tribal people to different areas of the state and ultimately help in maintaining their socio-cultural balance.

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