

An Analysis of Himachal Pradesh Its People and Their Economic Activities

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Abstract: Himalayas are the home of many states and wild animals in the north. Among these states of northern India Himachal is a beautiful and vibrant state in the western Himalayas lies between 30^o 22' north to 33^o 12' north latitude and 75^o-77^o 6' east longitude. Himachal Pradesh covering an area of 55673 sq. km. is the 18th state of India. State is famous for its beautiful nature spread all around. This paper is an analysis of people and their economic activities. Why people of the state are shifting from agricultural activities to industries and services.

Keywords: Himachal Pradesh, People activity, Agriculture economy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Himalayas are the young fold mountain of the world and have highest peaks like mount Everest, Nanda Devi , Kamet etc. Himalayas is believed that there was a Tethys sea in the place of Himalayas and due to continuous sedimentation and compression force of Angara land and Gondwana land result into the formation of Himalayas. It took place in 40 million years ago. At present many states are located in the Himalayan region. Himachal Pradesh is one of among them. It is sparsely populated state as its density is 120 per sq. km. Now days Himachal Pradesh is making progress in the field of apple, tea plantation and organic agriculture.

2. PEOPLE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

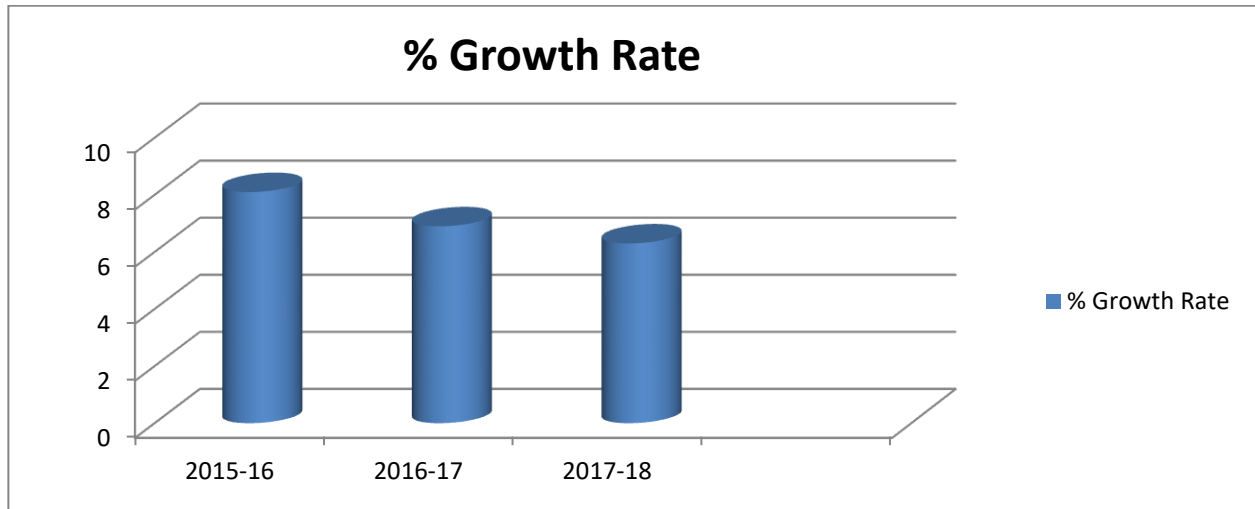
Himachal Pradesh is a land of different people, religion and languages. The state has beautiful culture followed by the simplicity of people and their faith in religion. The people speaks different languages in the different region especially dialects are very common among these people. Mostly spoken languages are Hindi, Punjabi, Pahari, Dogri and Kinnauri. Mostly people follow Hindu religion. Hindu community in the state are divided into Brahmins, Rajputs, Kannets, rathis and kolis. Himachal Pradesh state is also inhabited by the some tribes such as Gaddis, Kinners, Gujjars , Pangwals and Lahaulis. Agriculture is subsistence in nature in these areas. People practice rearing of goat, sheep and other cattle to meet the daily need. The fair and festival are very common in the state. Himachal Pradesh is rich for its cultural heritage like-Kullu Deshahra , Mandi Shivratri , Shoolni mela in solan , Minjar fair in Chamba , Mani Mahesh Chhatri yatra, renuka fair in sirmour , Brijeshwari fair in Kangra and Navratri festival and also known as Dev Bhumi.

3. AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people and livelihood in Himachal Pradesh. 93% of the populations in Himachal Pradesh directly depend on agriculture which provides direct employment to 71% of its people. Main crops are wheat, maze, rice and barley. District of Kangra, Mandi and Ponta Valley are major producer of wheat, maze and rice. State is deficit in food grains but it has gained in others affairs of production such as seed potato, ginger, vegetables, seeds , mushrooms , hopes , olives and fruit etc. Cultivation of fruit is another field which enhance the economy of the farmers and life. It also solves the problems of soil erosion and have high employments potential than conventional farming. The yield in terms of money is also very high. Apples gain the maximum income and the state is also known as apples state. Upper district of Himachal Pradesh like Shimla, kullu and Kinnaur are main producers of apple. The main sources of irrigation are kuhls and rain water. Some areas have good facility of irrigation but some areas purely depend upon rain water for irrigation. Lift irrigation is also helpful for water deficit areas in state.

Economy depend upon agriculture

The activities which assist and support economy of Himachal Pradesh are agriculture and horticulture. Because of vibrant and hardworking people of the state economy is growing day by day. It is expected to achieve a growth rate of 6.3 % in the year 2017- 2018. Gross state domestic product was 8.1 in 2015- 16.



4. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HIMACHAL

Source economic survey of Himachal Pradesh economic and statistics department.

Agriculture and its allied activities support the economic growth of the state but now a days present scenario has changed as economy of the state deflect from agriculture activities to industries and services. The percentage contribution of agriculture sector in total state domestic product has slip down from 57.9% in 1950-51 to 55.5% in 1967-68 to 26.5% in 1990-91 and to 9.7% in 2016- 17. Industries and services sectors attracting the peoples consequently share of these sectors has increased respectively from 1.1 & 5.9% in 1950-51 to 5.6% and 12.4% in 1967-68, 9.4% & 19.8% in 1990-91 and to 25.2% and 44.1% in 2016-17. But even than agricultural sector set on the growth of state economy and has over all smash on other sectors.

Reasons of distraction from agricultural activities-

Modernization and huge pomp and show in materialistic world lead people to adopt other means of income. Industries and services provided with good facility of income attract people to adopt these activities to gain income. No doubt agriculture meets the needs of people and provided with livelihood facilities but this sector is passing through some challenges which shifts people from agricultural activities to industries and services given below-

- 1) Services and Industries – People who are busy in services and industrial activities showing less interest in agriculture. They don't have time to practice agriculture as they are busy in education of their children and service.
- 2) Low income- people who are poor also leaving the occupation of agriculture because as they are not having the good seed, fertilizer, techniques, capital to produce good amount of grains.
- 3) Availability of agricultural products- Like other states Himachal Pradesh also provide ration to the every section of the society in low prices. Different section of our society receive ration through the public ration distribution system categorized in BPL, Antodeya and IRDP and general hence people leaving the practice of sowing agricultural field.
- 4) Danger of wild animals- Middle class family those are practicing the agricultural activities passing through the danger of wild animals causing harm to their crops like monkeys and wild pigs etc.
- 5) Spray animals- some time when cows stop giving milk, calf, old and new oxen and other animals some people leave them in open and these animals cause harm to crop of people. The farmers are hassle from the Awara animals because they graze and cause harm to the crops.

- 6) Scarcity of manure- decreasing role of animals like oxen in agriculture activities decreasing the number of oxen and calf consequently increasing the scarcity of animal dung and manure. Less animal less cow dung.
- 7) Change in life style- 21st century has brought many changes in the life of people. Trend of Public schools, more emphasizes on the education of the children, clothing and increasing distance from field work reducing the number of farmers.
- 8) Decreasing prices of agricultural items- farmers are not encouraged to produce as they are not provided with good prices for their products and fails to lead the profession of agriculture.
- 9) Scarcity of labor- As it is difficult to work in agricultural field in sunny and hot weather hence labor try to work in comfort as they are getting same or more wages in MANREGA and industries.
- 10) Lack of irrigation facility- Himachal Pradesh is a hill state and all the areas don't have good irrigation facilities to produce good yield.

5. WAY TO MOTIVATE FARMERS

While more than 70% of the population depend on the agriculture sector, yet the sector also carries the exploitation of farmers consequently farmers are shifting from the agricultural occupation. Following steps must be taken to motivate the farmers to cultivate agricultural land-

- 1) Good prices for agricultural products
- 2) Increase the income of the farmers to make them financial secure.
- 3) Instead of public distribution of ration, people should provided with capital and facilities to sow their agricultural land.
- 4) Proper management to save crops from wild and awara animals.
- 5) Farmers should be provided with good irrigation facility to increase the agricultural produce.
- 6) Government policies and plans may helps the farmers to promote agriculture as an occupation in coming time hence government should plan the better policies to the betterment of farmers.

6. CONCLUSION

18th state of India known as Himachal Pradesh came in to being on 15th April 1948 is the state of its hardworking, vibrant, spiritualistic, religious and innocent people who pave the way for continuous development day by day. There is variation in their culture and agriculture practice as one move south to north in the state with increasing altitude. The state of Himachal has great potential in the field of agriculture, horticulture, hydroelectricity and tourism and agricultural tourism to enhance the economy of the state and its people. As most of people in Himachal are farmers so measure should be taken to solve the problems and encourage them to cultivate land to make not only their livelihood but also capital for their betterment and betterment of the state and biodiversity.

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