



HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCHEDULED TRIBES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

The study shows the literacy rate of tribes in Himachal Pradesh since 1971. Scheduled area to the total geographical area was studied besides their brief profile. The study shows the role and advantage of higher education in the social and economic lives of the tribes in Himachal Pradesh.

A sample of 75 male and 75 females were selected from four major tribes in himachal Pradesh that is Kinnaura, Lahaula /Spitian, Gaddi and Pangwal. A questionnaire was administered to them to know the perception of the tribal respondents towards higher education in connection with their socio-economic life.

KEYWORDS: Higher Education, Scheduled tribe.

1. INTRODUCTION

Higher education as per The National Policy on Education-1986 is the one which provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical, social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. It contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skill.

Malyadri (2012) published a paper on "Education for Tribal Children: An Engine for Human Development in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh in India". It was seen that one's living in secluded areas were superstitious and addicted to blind beliefs and therefore did not understand the value of education. It was found that in order to bridge this gap between socio-cultural environment and school curriculum exploration of rich tribal folklore can be helpful for the promotion of tribal education. Ghodase (2013) in his published work "Women Development in Geographical Perspective: A Case Study of Tribal Women in Dhule tehsil, Maharashtra, made an attempt to look out the relationship between education and work culture of tribal women. Women education and work were considered significant socio-economic variable have strong implication on human development. The study examined household tribal women's education and studied the disparity in comparison to non-tribal women. The primary data for the study was collected through intensive fieldwork in September 2011. It was observed that besides their household work the tribal women had to go out to work as a domestic labour in order to earn their living. Illiteracy came out to be one of the issue that hindered the improvement of their skills as a result of which the overall human development was adversely affected. Singh(2014) conducted a study on "Impact of Education on the Development of Tribes in Himachal Pradesh". The main objectives of the study were; i. to study the impact of education on personal development of tribes; ii. To study the impact of education on social development of tribes; iii. To study the impact of education on economic development of tribes. The data for the study was collected from 300 tribal households through questionnaire. The main findings were; i. majority of tribes having higher level of education have more personal development than the school education level tribes and illiterate tribes. ii. Highly educated tribes were more aware regarding sources of education due to their more knowledge and sources whereas, for illiterate due to their limited knowledge and exposure neighborhood

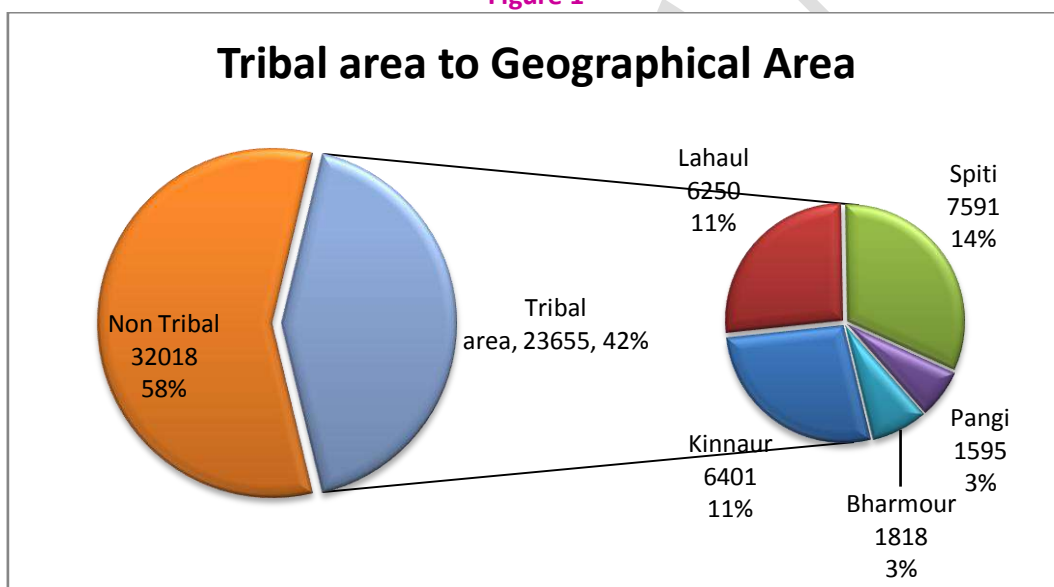
was the easy source of awareness. iii. Higher the level of education of tribes more were they aware about the plans of the government for human welfare schemes. iv. Tribes with higher level education got more government job in comparison to school educated and illiterate tribes.

2. HIMACHAL PRADESH

Geographically Himachal Pradesh lies in the lap of western Himalayas between 30° 22 " to 33° 12" north latitude and 75°47 " to 79°04 " east longitude extending from the plain of Punjab and Haryana to the snowy mountains separated the state from Tibet. Spread over an area of 55,673 sq. km. The geographical area of Himachal Pradesh accounts for 1.7 % of the total area of India (32,87,263 sq.km). In terms of area Himachal Pradesh stands 17th. At the time of its formation Himachal Pradesh ranked lowest in comity of states/union territories in terms of literacy with just 7.98 percent against the national average of 16.6 percent (as per census 1951).

2.1. Scheduled Area

Tribal areas and tribes in Himachal Pradesh
Figure 1



District of Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, the two subdivisions of District Chamba Viz. Pangi and Bharmour has been declared as Scheduled Areas because majority population comprise of communities declared as Scheduled Tribe under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. These areas have been declared as Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution by the President of India as per the Scheduled Areas (Himachal Pradesh) Order,1975(CO 102) dated the 21st November, 1975.

These tribal areas are geographically isolated, remote and inaccessible having tough mountainous terrain and inhospitable climatic conditions thus involving high cost of infrastructural development and harsh living conditions .Out of total 55,673 square hectare geographical Area of H.P. 23656 square kilometre area falls in Schedule Area of this state which constitutes 42.49% area.

2.2. Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh

According to census 2011 there are ten scheduled tribes communities in Himachal Pradesh, i.e. Bhot/Bodh/Lahaula, Swangla, Pangwala, Gaddis & Gujjar, Kannaure/ Kinnaure, Jad, Lamba, Khampa, Beta, Beda Dumba, Gara, Zoba.. Forty-two (42 percent) of the total geographical area state lies under tribal district

of Lahaul Spitti, Kinnaur and in Pangi and Bharmour sub divisions of District Chamba. Literacy rate of Lahaul (74.97) Spitti (79.76) Kinnaur (80) Pangi (71.02) and Bharmour (73.85) stands lower than State's average literacy rate of 82.80. The scheduled tribe population of Himachal Pradesh is 5.71 percent of the state's total population i.e. 3, 92,126.

3. Population and Literacy Rate of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh

Population and literacy rate of a community gives an impression about the growth of community. District-wise population as per census 2011 of the schedule tribes in Himachal Pradesh is tabulated below:

Table no. 1
District-wise population and literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh

S.No	District	Total Population of District	%age of District to State Population (census, 2011)	ST Population of District	%age of ST to State Population (census, 2011)	Literacy rate district wise (2011)
1	Chamba	5,19,080	7.56	1,35,500	26.10	78.19
2	Kangra	15,10,075	22.01	84,564	5.60	86.49
3	Hamirpur	4,54,768	6.62	3,044	0.67	89.01
4	Una	5,21,173	7.59	8,601	1.65	87.23
5	Bilaspur	3,81,956	5.56	10,693	2.80	85.67
6	Shimla	8,14,010	11.86	8,755	1.08	84.55
7	Mandi	9,99,777	14.56	12,787	1.28	82.81
8	Sirmour	5,29,855	7.72	11,262	2.13	79.98
9	Solan	5,80,320	8.45	25,645	4.42	85.02
10	Kinnaur	84,121	1.23	48,746	57.95	80.00
11	Kullu	4,37,903	6.38	16,822	3.84	80.14
12	Lahaul &Spiti	31,564	0.46	25,707	81.44	76.81
Total	Himachal Pradesh	68,64,602	100.00	392,126	5.71	76.60

Source – Tribal statistical outlet and census 2011

Table 1 shows that the percentage of -ST population stands 5.71 percent against total population of 68,64,602. The tribal communities are scattered in all the districts of Himachal Pradesh with a wide variation in S.T. population concentration in the districts. The larger concentration of tribes is found in districts of Kinnaur (57.95 percent) , Lahaul & Spiti (81.44 percent) and in two blocks of Chamba (26.10). Lahaul & Spiti (81.44%) has highest percentage of S.T. population to State population. Scheduled tribe population living in district Chamba of Himachal Pradesh comes out to be 1, 35,500 (26.10 percent) while taking note of district Kinnaur and Lahaul Scheduled Tribes living in these areas are 48,746 and 25,707 respectively.

Hamirpur being the smallest district area wise has highest literacy rate of 89.09 followed by Una (87.23) and Kangra (86.49 percent). Kinnaur (80.00) tops the list among tribes in terms of literacy with followed by Lahaul Spiti (76.81). Pangi and Bharmour sub divisions of Chamba have literacy rate of 71.2 and 69.14 respectively.

4. Profile and Literacy Rate of Tribes since 1971

4.1 Gaddi Tribes

Figure 2



Bharmaur is a Gaddi village lies at a height of about 7,000 m in the lap of the Bharmani forest growing on the ridge, famous for the shrine of Bharmani Devi. Inhabited by Gaddis, the village has a semi-pastoral and semi-agricultural tribe. The Gaddi's are one of the most important and numerically the most significant tribe in the district. Gaddi is also a generic name and has territorial overtones, in a way of inverse order. Gaddi to be precise the second name 'Gadaran'-the first being Bharmaur or Brahampura, to the territory lying on either side of Dhauladhar, in particular, on both banks of the river Ravi and its tributary Budhil, from South-East of the Tundah spur down to Chirchand nala near Chitrari. (Gupta, 1998, p. 58). They own large flocks of

sheep and goats which are their main source of wealth. With them they go for a field, the summer being spent in the higher mountains of Pangi and Lahaul and the winter in the low hills bordering on the plains. Some members stay back at home to tend the cattle and cultivate the land. On the whole they are better shepherds than farmers. The Gaddi have usually a well-developed physique with fine chest and massive shoulders. They are sturdy people. The women are good looking. The Gaddis are identifiable from a distance due to their typical dress comprising topa, chola and dora.

Table no. 2
Literacy rate of Bharmour

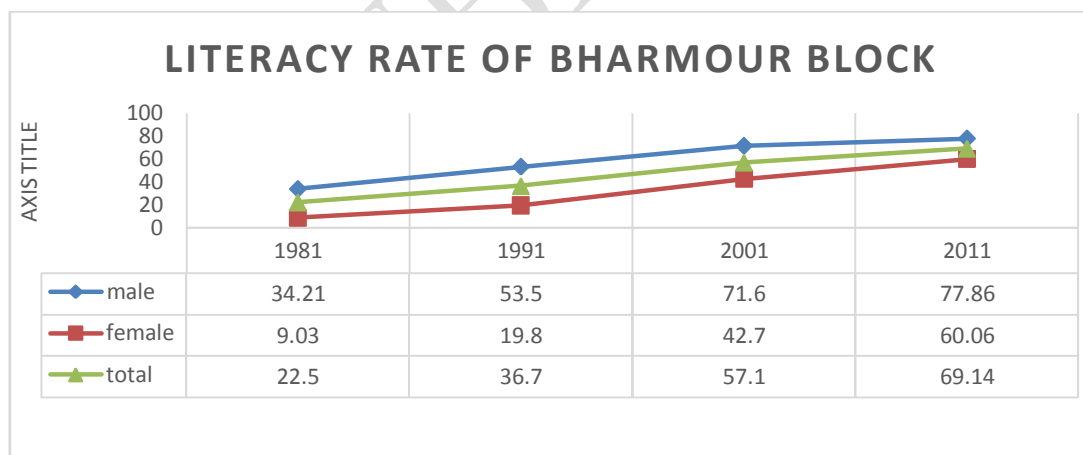


Table above shows that as per the census for the years 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 the literacy rate of male in Bharmour stood 34.21, 53.5, 71.6 and 77.86 respectively. In case of females literacy was 9.03, 19.8, 42.7 and 60.06 for the years 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. It can be seen that there has been a gradual rise in the literacy rate of Bharmour since 1981.

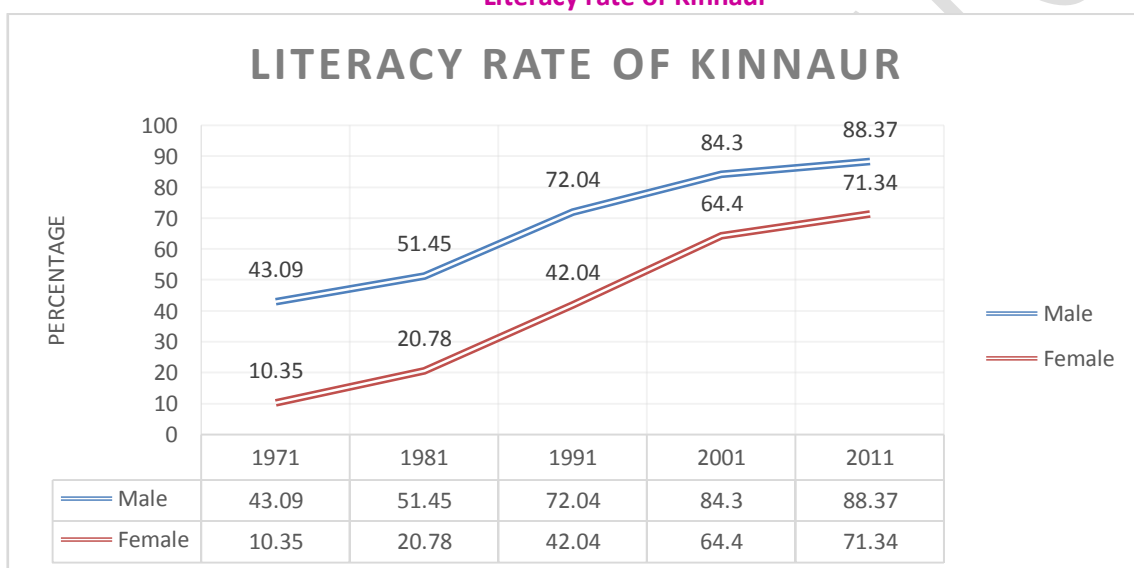
4.2. Kinnaura Tribe

Figure 3



In Himachal Pradesh the Kinnaura is the single largest scheduled tribe which inhabited the district of Kinnaur. The population of Tribal-inhabited Kinnaur falls into two broad categories namely Khashia (non-Scheduled Castes) and Beru (Scheduled Caste). There are numerous sects of Kanaits or Rajputs, so staggered in the district that a broad geographical distribution is not possible. These are akin to the sub-Castes among Brahmins or Rajputs or Hindus as a whole in the hills. There may be a number of sects in one and the same village (Himachal Pradesh District Gazetteer, Kinnaur 1971).

Table 3
Literacy rate of Kinnaur



It is evident from the table above that literacy rate of district Kinnaur for males in the year 1971 stood 43.09 while for females it was 10.35. 51.45, 72.04, 84.3 and 88.37 was the literacy rate of the males for the years 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. 20.78, 42.04, 64.4 and 71.34 was the literacy rate of the females for the year 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. The average of both male and female stood 80.77 for the year 2011.

4.3. Lahaul Tribes

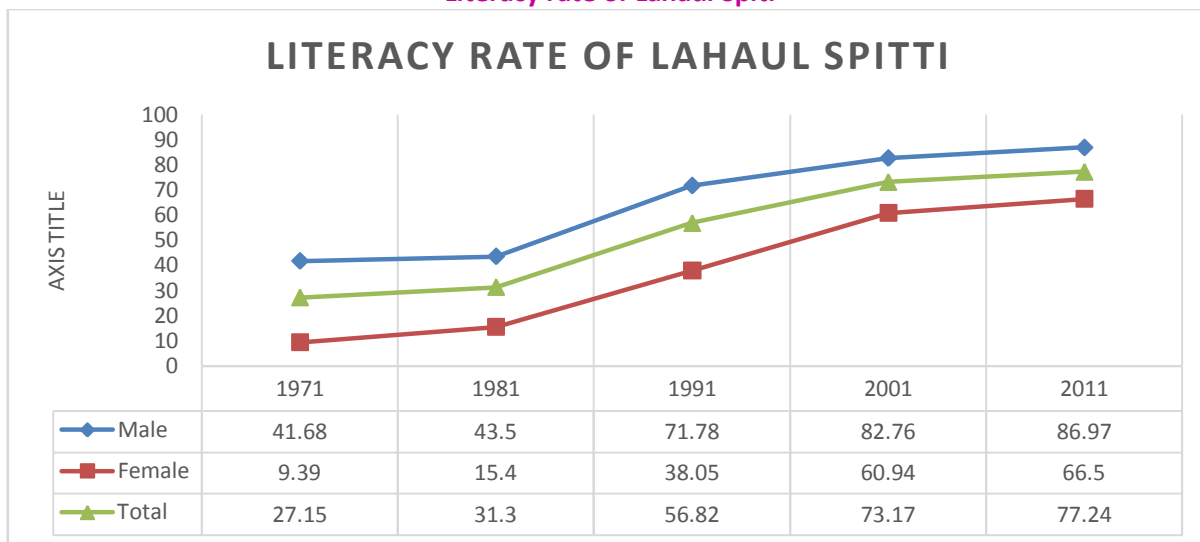
Figure 4



The inhabitants of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh are known as Lahaula tribe. The people of Lahaul are a mixed race. They are mainly Buddhist and their dialect resembles Tibetan. At some point of history, Tibetan settlers came into the head of Bhaga valley and Spiti and poured into head of Chandra valley. Aryans and semi-Aryans of different stock also came from west and south to the valley and started living there. But unlike the Lahaul valley, the Spitians are purely of Tibetan stock and no race of Hindu or Aryan blood is found there. The Lahaulis who inhabit both Lahaul and Spiti regions include some of the following castes, divided into two major categories. In other words Bodh, Swangla, Shipis and Lohars are the principal communities in Lahaul.

The tribes and castes in Lahaul are distributed by race, religion, and occupation, and differ from each other in all these respects. Bodh are generally of Mongoloid stock and profess Buddhism. Swanglas, Shipis and Lohars are Aryan and their religion is Hinduism. Bodh and Swangla are scheduled tribes and both are principally agriculturists. Others are not in large numbers (Census 2011).

Table no. 4
Literacy rate of Lahaul Spiti



Growth in literacy rate in district Lahaul Spiti can be seen in table 1. In 1971 the total literacy of Lahaul-Spiti was 27.15 percent. Males had 41.68 percent literacy and females had only 9.39 percent literacy rate. In 2011, the overall literacy rate rose to 77.24 percent showing an increase of little less than three times (2.84 times) more than where it stood in 1971. The male literacy in 2011 also rose to 86.97 percent, registering two times increase from the literacy rate of 1971. In case of female, the literacy rate of 66.50 percent marks incredible seven times increase from where it stood in 1971.

4.4. Pangwal Tribes

Figure 5



The Pangwals are the residents of Pangli valley of Chamba district. It is a generic name used for all the residents of Pangli valley, which include Brahmin, Rajput, Lohar, Hali, Badi and Chanal, but the Rajput population outnumbers all the rest. The language spoken by them is Pangwali, but with others they speak in Himachali. They do not have their own script, but Devnagari script is commonly used with outsiders. The diet of the Pangwalas consists of barley, wheat, buckwheat, Suil, Cheena, Potato and Sattu. As Pangwalas are mostly non-vegetarians, meat and meat products are commonly used. Milk and milk products are also a part of their diet. They are simple, honest and hardworking. The dress of the Pangwalas is simple and colorful.

Table no. 5
Literacy Rate of Pangti

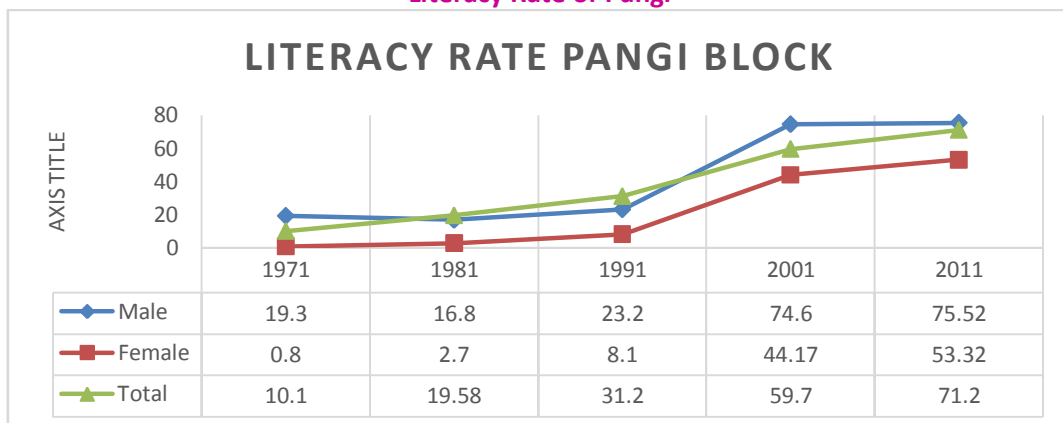


Figure 1. Shows the literacy rate at Pangti block

It is clear from the table that 19.3, 16.8, 23.2, 74.6 and 75.52 were the literacy rate of males for the 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 year respectively. 0.8, 2.7, 8.1, 44.17 and 53.32 was the literacy rate of the females for the year 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. It is to be noted that for the year 1971 the literacy rate of females in Pangti sub-division was negligible that is 0.8. There has been a steep rise in the literacy rate of females from 1991 to 2001.

5. Higher Education and Socio-Economic Development

Following table shows the data regarding type of the family of tribes. The sample studied below are graduate and above in their educational status.

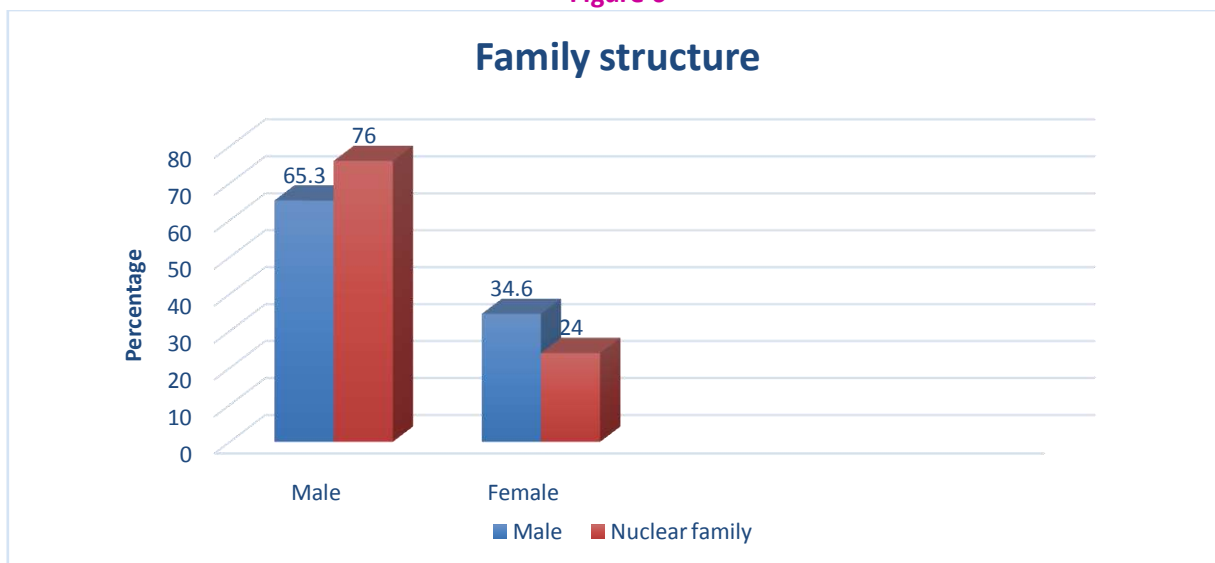
i. Family structure

Table 6
Family structure

S.No.	Type of the family	Male		Female	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Joint family	49	65.3	57	76.0
2	Nuclear family	26	34.6	18	24.0
3	Total	75	100	75	100

Source – Field Work

Figure 6



The table 6 gives a glimpse of the type of family structure of the graduate respondents. It is evident from the responses gathered from the table above that in case of males 65.3 percent respondents live in joint families where as remaining 34.6 percent live in nuclear family.

Table shows that 76 percent female respondents live in joint families while 24 percent live in nuclear family. The responses from the respondents make it clear that majority of the tribal population still lives in a joint family structure.

Greater number of females live in joint families than males. It can thus be said that joint family structure is still prevalent in these tribal areas. The reason of joint family can be owed to the involvement of family in agriculture business, and requiring labor.

ii. Source of income

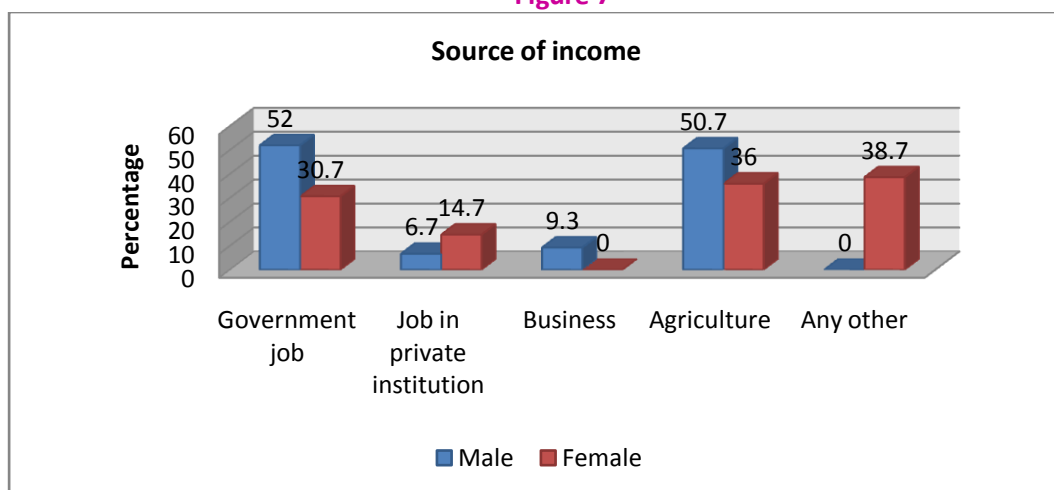
Frequencies and percentages of the responses of tribes regarding availability of source of income are given in table 7

Table 7
Source of income

S.No.	Source of income	Male		Female	
		Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)	
1	Government Job	39	52	23	30.7
2	Job in Private institution	5	6.7	11	14.7
3	Business	7	9.3	-	
4	Agriculture	38	50.7	27	36
5	Any other	-		29	38.7

Source: Field Work

Figure 7



Figure

It can be seen from table no 4.36 that almost half of the male population that is 52 percent among tribes are in Government jobs while other half of them still practice agriculture 50.7 percent as source of their livelihood. None of the female respondents have shown their involvement in business.

It is clear from the picture in the table that 14.7 percent of female are pursuing jobs in private institution while male respondents in comparison to female have shown lesser interest in private jobs that comes out to be 6.7 percent. Data shows that 30.7 percent female respondents are in government jobs while 36 percent of them are practicing agriculture. It is to be noted that besides agriculture women here are involved in some other economic activity (38.7 percent). Other economic activities involve knitting, weaving and carpet making etc. which is generally practiced by the females among Scheduled Tribes of Himachal Pradesh.

It can be inferred from the table above that the involvement of females in private jobs is induced due to their negative rights in property in tribal areas. Tribes have been practicing agriculture as a source of their income but besides that equal proportion of them in case of males have preferred government jobs to earn their livelihoods. Females too have shown their interest in jobs Government as well as private besides agriculture. It is to be noted that besides agriculture, Government and private jobs females have other source of income. It can be said that majority of the female respondents are involved in weaving, knitting and carpet making etc.

iii. Monthly income

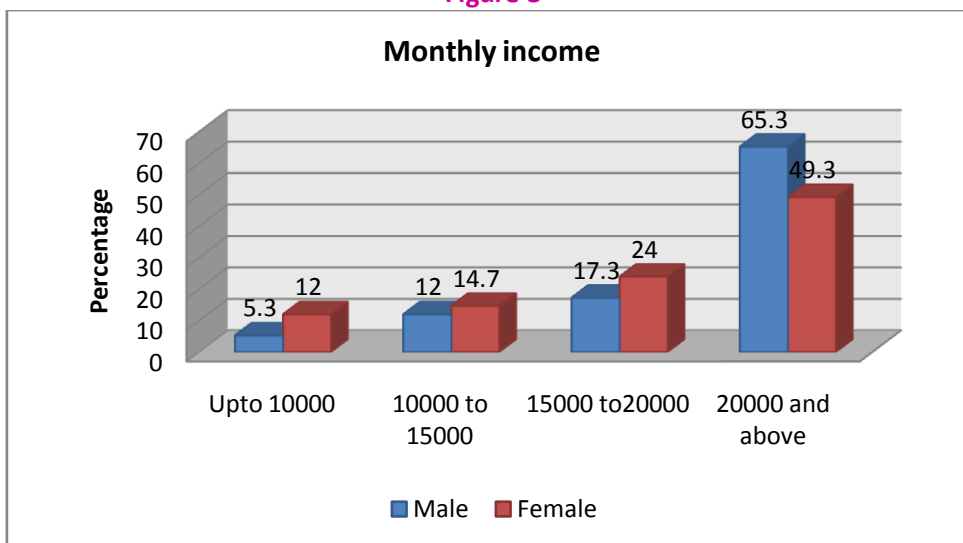
Frequencies and percentages of the responses of tribes regarding their monthly income is tabulated in the table below

Table no. 8
Monthly Income

Sr.No.	Income (Rp)	Male		Female	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Less than 10000	4	5.3	9	12
2.	>10000 <15000	9	12	11	14.7
3.	>15000 <20000	13	17.3	18	24
4.	20000 and above	49	65.3	37	49.3

Source : Field Work

Figure 8



It can be seen from the Table-8 that where 5.3 per cent male respondents earn up to 10,000/- per month 12 percent females fall in the same income group. It is clear from the table that 12 per cent male and 14.7 percent females earn between Rs. 10,000-15,000 per month. It is evident in the table that 17.3 percent male respondents have their income ranging from 15,000-20,000 while a quarter of females (24 percent) do fall in the same monthly income slab. Majority of male respondents that is 65.3 percent and almost half of the females (49.3 percent) earn above 20,000 per month.

It can thus be inferred from the data in the table above that majority of the respondents both in case of males and female earn more than 2, 40,000 annually.

iv. Structure of the house

Frequencies and percentages of the responses of tribes regarding type of house in which tribes are live is shown in following table no.9

Table no 9
Structure of the house

Sr.No.	Structure of house	Male		Female	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Kachha house	-		-	-
2.	Wooden house	13	17.3	14	18.7
3.	Semi pakka house	21	28	11	14.7
4.	Pakka house	41	54.7	50	66.6

Source- Field work

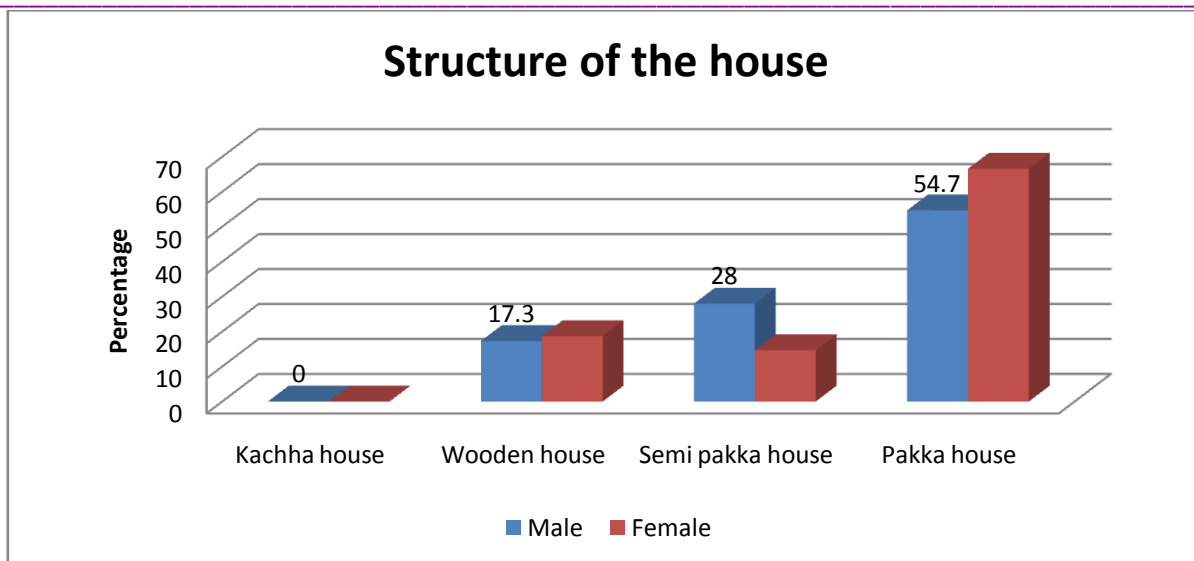


Figure 9

Table shows the structure of house in which the respondents are living. Type of house have been divided into Kachha, wooden, semi pakka and pakka type of houses. Table reveals that none of the respondents live in a kachha house. It is to be noted that 17.3 percent male and 18.7 percent females live in wooden houses while 28 percent male and 14.7 percent females reside in semi pakka houses. Table shows that more than half (54.7 percent) of the male respondents and live in Pakka houses. Majority of females respondents 66.6 percent of them live in pakka houses.

Number of females living in pakka houses are more than males. Almost equal number of males and females live in wooden type of houses.

v. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Higher education plays a momentous role in the economic development of the society. Frequencies and percentages of the responses of tribes regarding perception of tribes about role of higher education in Economic Development has been tabulated below in the table no. 4.39

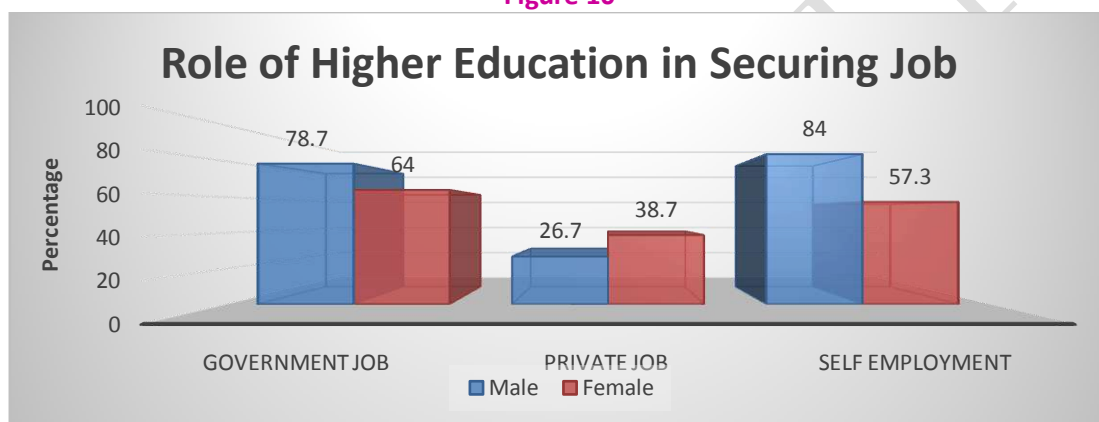
Table no. 10
Higher Education and Economic Development

S.No.	Advantage of higher education in	Male		Female		Total	
		Yes (%)	NO (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	NO (%)
1	Occupation						
i	Government job	59 (78.7)	16 (21.3)	48 (64)	27 (36)	107 (71.3)	43 (28.7)
ii	Private job	20 (26.7)	55 (73.3)	29 (38.7)	46 (61.3)	49 (32.7)	101 (67.3)
iii	Self employment	63 (84)	12 (16)	43 (57.3)	32 (42.7)	106 (70.7)	44 (29.3)
2	Agriculture						
i	Regulate use of chemical fertilizers	48 (64)	27 (36)	34 (45.3)	41 (54.7)	82 (54.7)	68 (45.3)
ii	Use of Modern tools & equipments	69 (92)	06 (8)	54 (72)	21 (28)	123 (82)	27 (18)
iii	Selection of better quality seeds	65	10	48	27	113	37

		(86.7)	(13.3)	(64)	(36)	(75.3)	(24.7)
3	Horticulture						
i	Cash crop cultivation	64 (85.3)	11 (14.7)	58 (77.3)	17 (22.7)	122 (81.3)	28 (18.7)
4	Tourism (in development of tourism potential)						
i	Business advertisement	67 (89.3)	08 (10.7)	57 (76)	43 (24)	124 (82.7)	26 (17.3)
ii	Online booking/ reservation of hotels/ resorts	71 (94.7)	04 (5.3)	69 (92)	06 (08)	140 (93.3)	10 (6.7)
iii	Management	64 (85.3)	11 (14.7)	51 (68)	49 (32)	115 (76.7)	35 (23.3)
iv	Awareness in protection of environment	69 (92)	06 (8)	56 (74.7)	44 (25.3)	125 (83.3)	25 (16.7)

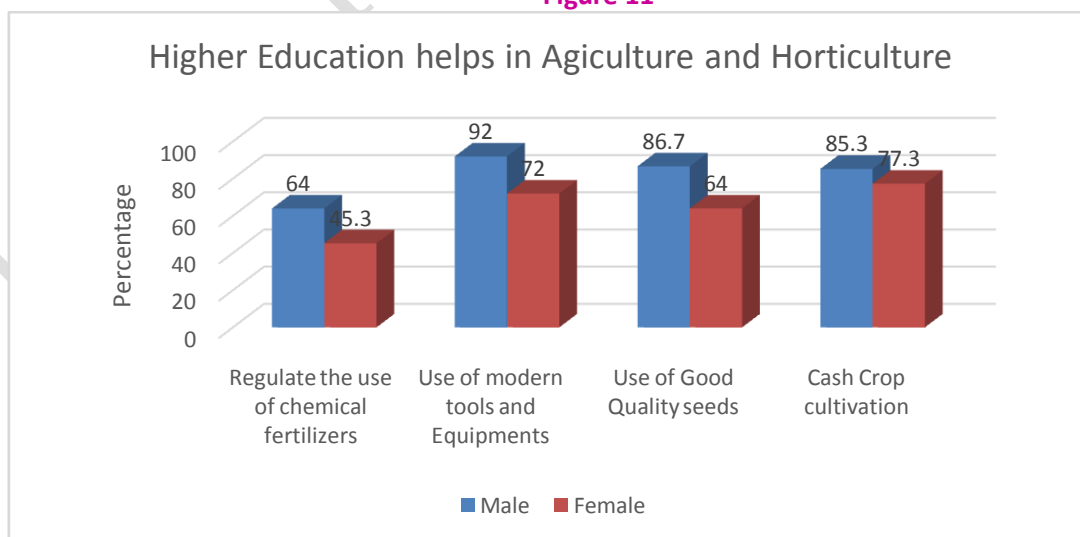
Source: Field Work

Figure 10



78.7 percent male and while 64 percent females are of the view that higher education is advantageous in securing government jobs. 26.7 and 38.7 percent male and females denied the advantage of higher education in securing a private job. 84 percent male and 57.3 percent females believe that higher education is advantageous in getting self-employed.

Figure 11



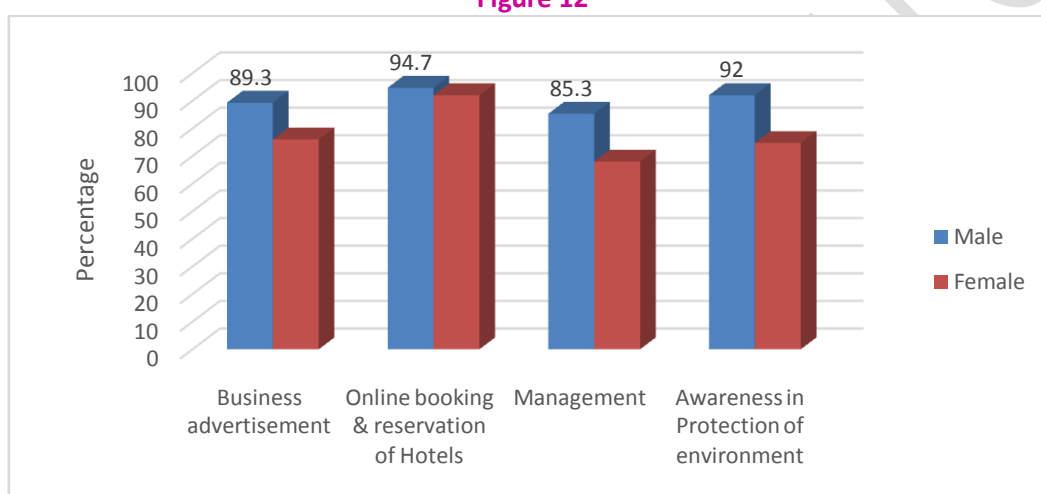
On presenting the respondents with the role of higher education in agriculture and horticulture the response came out positive. It is clear from the table that 64 percent male and 45.3 percent female respondents perceive that higher education helps in using of chemical and fertilizers.

Regarding the use of modern tools and equipment's in agriculture and horticulture by the respondents it is seen that higher education has played a constructive role. This fact is supported by 92 percent and 72 percent male and female respondents.

Higher education has created awareness among the tribes regarding the selection of better quality of seeds in agriculture. This fact is supported by the responses of 86.7 and 64 percent male and female tribal respondents.

It is seen that 81.3 percent of the respondents are of the opinion that higher education proves beneficial in the Cash crop cultivation fetching better returns. 85.3 percent males and 77.3 females go with the fact that higher education has lead in the development of cash crop cultivation.

Figure 12



It is seen that higher education has a positive role in development tourism potential in the area. Education has led to the growth of tourism and same has been achieved through the advertisement. 89.3 percent male and 76 percent females are of the view that higher education has led to the promotion of tourism industry through advertisement.

Higher education has role in generating awareness of the people regarding the online booking systems, which is proving it to be a boon for the tourism industry. 93.3 percent of the respondents support the fact that tourism development of the area has grown through online booking / reservation system of hotels and resorts.

Higher education has assisted in the managing the tourism industry at micro level within the area. It is seen that higher education has lead in the tourism management within the area. 85.3 percent males and 68 percent females support the fact that higher education helps in the management of tourism industry. 92 percent male and 74.7 percent female respondents support the fact that higher education has led to the awareness regarding the protection of environment. 83.3 percent jointly on an average support the same fact.

6. CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be inferred that the literacy rate of the tribes in Himachal Pradesh has grown since 1971. District Lahaul spiti, Kinnaur followed by sub divisions Pangti and Bharmour of district Chamba are home to the major number of tribes in Himachal Pradesh. Higher Education is advantageous to the tribes in Himachal Pradesh in terms of employment, agriculture, and horticulture and tourism development. Majority of the tribes still have joint families and now large number of them live in pakka type of houses. Majority of male

and females have a monthly income of more than 20,000 which shows their stable economic status. Education has played a significantly progressive role in the socio--economic lives of tribes

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