Assessment of Socio-Economic Status of Parsha and Barod Villages of Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh: A Geographic Analysis

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author VV designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and first draft of the manuscript. Author SK managed the literature searches and the analyses of the study. Both author read and approved the final manuscript.

Original Research Article	

ABSTRACT

The study of socio-economic status is very important in developing world to know the socio-economic condition of the people living in the rural areas. Such types of study analyze the socio-economic condition of the rural areas and put forward the suggestions to solve the problems prevailing in the rural areas. The present study which is based on field survey which holds from 29th September to 06th October, 2017 enables us in studying the various aspects of the village life. The first-hand experience is how they sustain their livelihood, which kind of difficulties they face for livelihood and other expenses of the household. The total population of both villages is 268 persons in which 66%, 24%, 10% belongs to Upper Cast, Schedule Cast, and Backward Caste. The sex ratio of villages is 985. In this study area 60%, 03%, 7%, 03, 0.86% and 20% persons are involved in farming activities, labors, private sectors, govt. employee, self employed and unemployed. 44 % household has below 2 lakh income, 38% have 2-4 Lakh, 14% have 4-6 lakh and 4% have over 6 lakh. Other parameters like marital status, source of drinking water, education, age and sex composition, social group, family type, land holding, house type, ventilation, fuel type used, livestock are used for study. The analysis of study shows that the socio-economic and overall

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quality of life of inhabitants is far from satisfactory as the villager of both village are very poor having poor educational status, housing facilities and low income. Therefore, there is an urgent need to launch income generation and educational program and government authority should give emphasis on improving and enhancing the quality of villager's lives.

1. INTRODUCTION

Socio economic status is the most important issue in developing countries. Socio-economic study is an important part of the development of the people of the various societies. The sole aim is the status of the transform the socio-economic condition of the people living in the rural areas. Since independence of country, more than 75 percent of population is living in rural areas, where the problem of poverty, unemployment and improper living condition prevail "while have persisted for long". For economic development, the transformation of socio-economic conditions is necessary. Hence, it is the need of the hour to analyze the socio-economic condition of the rural areas and to put forward the suggestions to solve the problems prevailing in the rural areas. Socio-economic status is very important to measure the human development which measures an individual's or family's or group of peoples economic and social position based on occupation, education, health and income[1]. Socio-economic statuses are an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's or family's economic and social position [2]. Dutton and Levine (1989) describe socio-economic status is "composite measure that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income: social status, measured by education: and work status, measured by occupation"[3]. According to Krieger et al. (1997)-Socio-economic status as "an aggregate concept that includes both resource-based and prestige-based measures, as linked to both childhood and adult social class position"[4].

The basic objectives of the study are:

1. To know about the demographic characteristics, social system and land holding of study area.
2. To know the educational disparities of the village and reasons of their educational backwardness if any.
3. To know the economic background of the village and the families.
4. To know the living standards of the villagers.
5. To know about source of drinking water, fuel types use and live stock of the villages.

2. STUDY AREA

The present study has been undertaken at micro level in two villages of gram panchayat Shallen of Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh. These villages are Parsha and Barod. The study area is located at $32^0 23'96N—77^0 18'87E$, about 34 KM North of Kullu Town. The altitude of the study area is about 1900 meters above mean sea level. The topography of the study area is uneven. It is a hilly region. The rock of this area is mainly sedimentary. Total geographical area is sloppy, where agriculture is not economically viable and the climate in study area is predominantly cold during winter and moderately cool during summer. The temperature ranges from 4°C to 26°C over the year. The average temperature during summer is between 10°C and 26°C and between -15°C and 12°C in the winter. An average rainfall in the peak 'Rainy season' is recorded as much as 1363.8 inches around the year. During winter, the study area experiences snowfall. The variety of forests like sale, rhododendron, oak, fir, deodar, birch and pines are pride of Manali. These forests shelter for a large number of wild animal and birds. The study area is situated in the mountainous environment with ridge and valley topography. Some of the common types of soil found in the region are sedimentary, brown, as well as brownish grey soil.

Villagers of the study area face many problems because of rugged relief and extreme climate in the winter season. The people of study area mainly depend upon apple orchards. There are lack of food and fodder. They don't have much awareness about government policies. There are lack of hospital and school. For medical and education facility, they go to Manali. They used waste apples as fodder for their livestock. They cut the apples in small pieces and after dry them; they store these pieces as fodder for their livestock in the winter season.
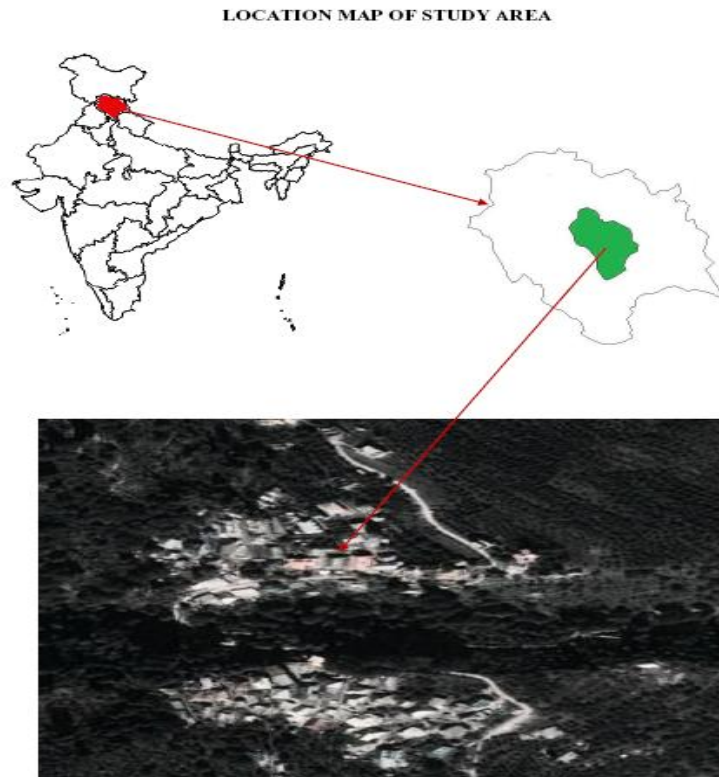
Fig. 2.1. Location map [5]

3. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on the primary source of data. The data was collected through a household survey from 29th September to 06th October, 2017. All the households of the study area were surveyed from 50 questionnaires through structured schedules. The data collected are on demography, social structure, infrastructure facilities, agro-climatic resources, village economy, village organizations and people's institutions and the issues of development. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected. The quantitative data were on population, land holding, literacy rate. The qualitative data were quality of drinking water, quality of the road, housing pattern, sanitation, food habit which were obtained from the village. The response from households were classified, tabulated and analyzed to draw socio-economic status.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Information

There were total 268 persons living in the study area. In the study area about 56 percent persons

are married and 42 percent of persons are unmarried and only 1 percent of persons are widowed and there was only a primary school in the study area. Villagers have to cover long distance to get the higher education. The sex ratio in Himachal Pradesh in 2011 was 972 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of the present study area was 985 females per thousand Males as per the survey. It reveals that the condition of females in the study area is much better than many other parts of the country. All information of villages related to demography shows by Table 4.1 and Fig. 4.1, Fig. 4.2 and Fig.4.3.

This table shows that there are total 268 persons in which 50.37% are male and remaining 49.62 % are female. In which 55.97% are married and 42.16 are unmarried and rest of 1.86% are widows. The education level of the villagers are not good as about 39% persons are educated up to primary level,24% up to secondary level and 14% are graduate and postgraduate. 8.20percent population belongs to the children below 7 years age. About 80 percent of the village belongs to the economically active population.

Table 4.1. Demographic information

Population		Male	Female	Total
		135 (50.37%)	133 (49.62%)	268
Marital	Married (Age:- Male-21 and above, Female-18 and above)	75	75	150 (55.97%)
Status	Unmarried	62	51	113 (42.16)
	Widow	--	05	05 (1.86%)
	Below age of -7 (Literate age)	12	10	22 (8.21%)
	Primary	46	61	107 (39.93%)
	Secondary	40	25	65 (24.25%)
	Sr. secondary	23	13	36 (13.44%)
Education	Graduate	18	16	34 (12.68%)
Status	Post graduate	3	1	4 (1.49%)
Age Group	Below 7	12	10	22 (8.21%)
	8-14	10	14	24 (8.95%)
	15-30	53	45	98 (36.57%)
	31-45	25	36	61 (22.76%)
	46-60	31	24	55 (20.52%)
	Above 61	4	4	8 (2.99%)

Source: Field survey

4.2 Social Group

A social group has been defined as to or more people who interact with one another, same similar characteristic and collectively have a sense of unity. According to Indian government cast system, study area categorized in upper caste, backward class, schedule caste. Table no.4.2.1 of social group and Fig. 4.4, Fig. 4.5, Fig. 4.6, and Fig. 4.7 represents information about their household's number, house type, family types and size of land holding by cast-wise. The total agriculture land is 9880 bigha. The size of the field is very small due to uneven topography.

This table tells us about social structure of the study area. 66% belong to upper caste, 24 % to schedule cast and 10 % to the backward caste. 26 % families in the present study area are joint and 70 percent of families are nucleated families. Only 4 percent families are extended families. 38% households have less than 3 bigha , 36% have 3-6 bigha, 14 % have 6-9 bigha and 12 % have more than 9 bighas.

4.3 Annual Income

Annual income refers to total earn income over a year, before taxes. Annual income includes salary, tips, commissions, overtime and bonuses accrued over the year. Table 4.3.1 and Fig. 4.8 reveals the annual income pattern of households according to social groups. Large variation in the annual income of households has been noted among caste groups.
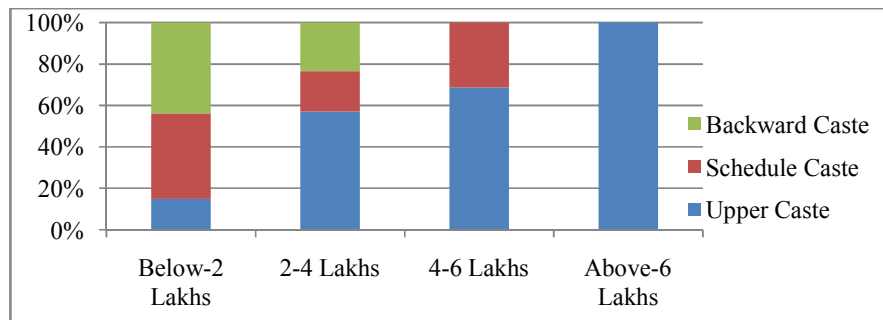

Fig. 4.8. cast wise annual income
Source: Field survey

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Table 4.2.1. Social Structure information

		Households & (%)	House type & %			Size of Land Holding (Bigha's)			
			Wooden	Cemented	Mixed	below-3	3-6	6-9	Above-9
Social groups (According to Indian Govt. Cast system)	Upper Caste	33 (66)	07(21.2)	15(45.45)	11(33.33)	07	13	07	06
	Schedule Caste	12 (24)	08(66.67)	00(0)	04(33.33)	09	03	--	--
	Backward Caste	05 (10)	02(40.0)	00(0)	03(60.0)	03	02	--	---
	Joint	13 (26)							
Family type	Nucleated	35 (70)							
	Extended	2 (4)							

Source: Field survey

Table 4.3.1. Caste Wise Annual Income

Category	Below-200000	200000-400000	400000-600000	Above-600000	Total
Upper Caste	09(27.3)	16(48.5)	06(18.2)	02(6.1)	33
Schedule Caste	09(75.0)	02(16.67)	01(8.33)	00(0)	12
Backward Caste	04(80.0)	01(20.0)	00(0)	00(0)	05
Total Households	22(44.0)	19(38.0)	07(14.0)	02(4.0)	50

Figures within parenthesis are percentage of total.   *Source: Field survey*

Table 4.4.1. Employment Status

Employments status	Total population	Percentage of total population
Farmers	138	59.74
Unemployed	46	19.92
Labors	8	3.47
Self-employed	12	5.19
Private services	18	7.79
Govt. employed	9	3.89
Total population	231	100

Source: Field survey

According to above table 44 % households have below 2 Lakh annual income, 38 % have2-4 lakh, 14 % 4-6 lakh and 4 % have above 6 Lakh. It has been noted from the table that the annual income of majority of households of backward and scheduled caste is low (below 2 lakh), which is showing their poor economic conditions. About one fourth households of the upper castes have annual income more than 4 lakhs and about 49 percent households belong to 2-4 lakh categories.

4.4 Employment Status

A number of different working arrangements have developed over the years, allowing more flexibility at work there are three main types of employment status. An individual's employment rights will depend upon whether they are an employee or worker. Table 4.4.1 and Fig.4.9 show employment status of the study area.

In our study area about 60 per cent persons are involved in farming activities, 3 per cent persons are working as labors, 7 percent persons are doing private services, 3 percent are govt. employed, 5.19 percent persons are self-employed and 4 percent persons are in other jobs. About 20 per cent persons in the study area are unemployed.

4.5 Others Information

others information comprises of ventilation conditions, fuel used source of drinking water and livestock. Ventilation is the intentional introduction of ambient air in to a space and is mainly used to control indoor air quality by diluting and displacing indoor pollutants; it can also be used for purposes of thermal comfort or dehumidification. Type of fuel used in the kitchen explains the quality of living of the people. A fuel is any material that can be made to react with other substances so that it releases chemical or nuclear energy as a heat or to be used for work. They used fire wood, dunk cake, coal etc. But as the science and technology advanced, these energy resources are replaced by modern modes of energy. Dunk cake, fire wood and kerosene oil is replaced by LPG. Government has also encouraged the people for use of eco-friendly energy resources. Availability of drinking water is vital for the human being and directly related to the health of the people. Live stock are domesticated animal raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather and wool. All information's such as fuel used, source of drinking water and their live stock are in Table 4.5.1 and Fig. 4.10, Fig. 4.11 and Fig. 4.12 .

About 72% households are using LPG for cooking and 28 % household use wood for cooking. About 62 % houses have tap water facility and 28% houses get through tank supply. Cow is the most important domestic animal in the study area which is 59% and 27% are cow-calves. Goats are other important animals which is domesticated in the study area. They share about 13 per cent of the total animals.

Table 4.5.1. Other Information's

		No. of houses	Percentage to the total
Fuel used	Bad	1	2
	LPG	36	72
	Fuel wood	14	28
Sources of drinking water	Tap	31	62
	Tank supply	14	28
	Others	5	10
Live stock			
Name of animals	**Number of animals**		**Percentage of animals**
Cow	89		59.33
Cow-Calves	41		27.33
Goat	20		13.33
Total	150		100

Source: Field survey

Total Population

Fig. 4.1

Marital Status
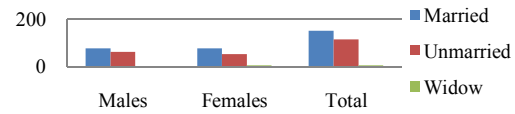
Fig. 4.2

Educational Status
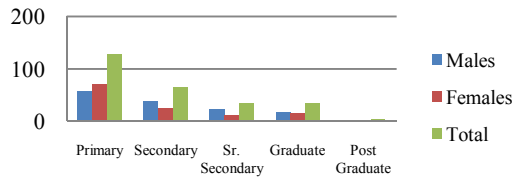
Fig. 4.3

Social Groups Pattern
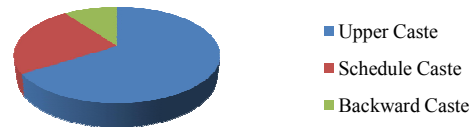
Fig. 4.4

Family Types

Fig. 5.5

Land Holding

Fig. 4.6
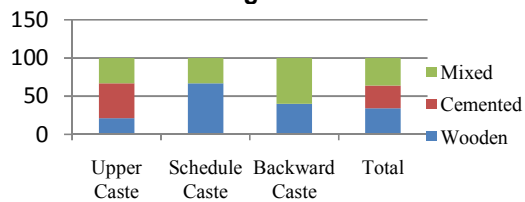
Fig. 4.7

Employment Status
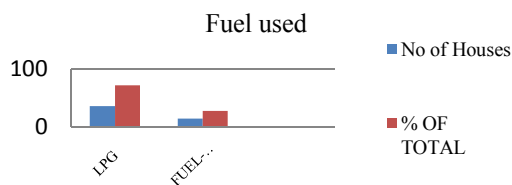

Fuel used
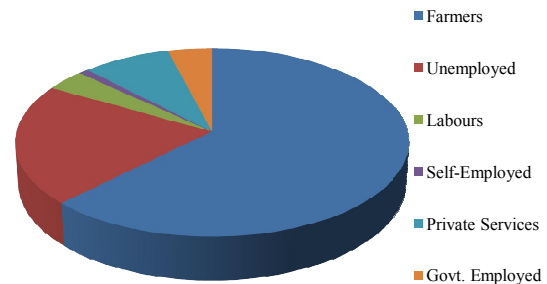
Fig. 4.10

Fig. 4.9

Sources of Drinking Water
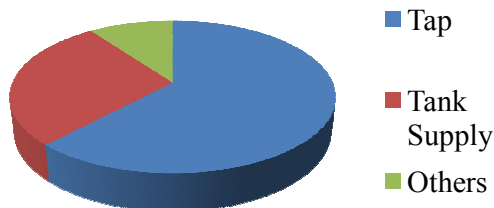
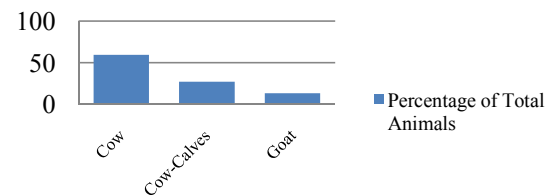**Fig. 4.11**

Percentage of Total Animals

Fig. 4.12

5. CONCLUSION

The village study enables us in studying the various aspects of the village life. We came to know various things knowing which perhaps were not possible without staying in the village. Among the rural population, my stay helped me to understand the lives of the villagers, their need and various dynamics relation to it. The first-hand experience is how they sustain their livelihood, which kind of difficulties they face for livelihood and other expenses of household. The analysis of study shows that the socio-economic and overall quality of life of inhabitants, is far from satisfactory as villager of both villages are very poor having poor educational status, hosing facilities and low income. Therefore, there is an urgent need to launch income generation and educational program and government authority should give emphasis on improving and enhancing the quality of villager's lives.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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