

Socio-Economic Classification of Rural Households: A Case study of Rakh Village, Tehsil Palampur, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Socio-Economic pattern is primarily concerned with the interplay between social processes and economic activity within the society. Basically, socio-economic attributes unfold the demographic details, educational status, category-wise household details, land holding, their size, cropping pattern, lives stock and others basic amenities. Subsequently, “Socio-economic” is used as an umbrella term for various areas of inquiry. The term “socio- economic” refer to the “use of economics in the study of society.” More narrowly, contemporary practice considers behavioral interactions of individuals and groups through social capital and social “markets” (not excluding, for example, sorting by marriage) and the formation of social norms. A district supplemental usage describes social economics as “a discipline studying the reciprocal relationship between economic science on the one hand and social philosophy, ethics, and human dignity on the other” toward social reconstruction and improvement or as also emphasizing multidisciplinary methods from fields such as sociology, history, and political science.

Introduction

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Rural area of Himachal Himalayas represents unique characteristics of tough terrain, rugged topography and exposed to frequent natural disasters such as earthquake, landslides, and others with varying intensities. Due to the climatic conditions, terrain of hilly area affected by cloudburst, hailstorms, heavy rainfall, snow avalanches which are also affect the daily life of the population of the

rural areas. In the recent years, growing population, and expansion of human activities on the fragile land have increased the impact of such phenomenon in the Himalayan region. People residing in these areas are very humble, hard working and living happy life with limited sources. The same condition found during the visit of village Rakh, located in tehsil Palampur, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

The Census definition of household represents the entire person who occupies a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, apartment, and a mobile home, a group of rooms or single room that is occupied as separate living quarters. The occupant may be single family, one person living alone, or two or more families or any other group of related or unrelated person who share living arrangements. Although, many social aspects influenced the location of the house such as influence of castes was traditionally so great that the intermingling of residential houses of upper and lower castes were never allowed. The slope of the roofing any rural house expressed the climate. The material used in the construction of the house depends on the type of climate and the topography, soil of a particular region as well as the availability of material near surroundings such as slate, wood, crusher etc. The historical back ground of area is basically the history of interaction between nature and society, or society and nature. Human perception of the environment has always played a major part not only in human history generally, but also in the daily struggle between individuals and their surrounding environment.

Review of Literature

FAO (2013) reported a global perspective, mountain farming is family farming. Mountain areas, with their dispersed patches of useable land at different altitudes with different climates and with their often highly fragmented landscapes and narrow limits for mechanization, are most efficiently and effectively managed by family farms. For example, mountain family farms are usually not the centers of national production in terms of quantity, except for tropical mountain regions. Most of their production is for family consumption, playing a key role in ensuring household food security. In addition, family farms in mountains help shape mountain landscapes, providing ecosystem services that are vital for development far beyond mountain areas. Accessibility is a key issue in mountain farming, especially in developing countries. But this goes far beyond access to farm inputs – it includes access to basic infrastructures such as health services, schools, roads, transport, markets, and communication with the outside world. This lack can be attributed to difficult topography and low population densities relative to lowland areas, factors that increase investment and maintenance costs. Moreover, mountain farmers – like mountain people in general are often a minority in their countries in terms of numbers. They live far away from the centers of economic and political power and decision-making, and are often marginalized in political, social, and economic terms. Singh & Singh (2015) concluded that strategies adopted under various rural development programme seem to be inappropriate in the Bihar context. The most of the programme aimed at improving the economic status of poor households, only a few attempted at improving their human capital (i.e., education, health, housing, social participation, etc.). This might be the reason for ineffectiveness of these programme on alleviating poverty during the last three decades. The present study is an attempt to understand the village level realities in the overall development scenario of the state, which has been unfortunately termed as poverty hot-spot by many. Broer, Bai & Frank (2019) focused on socio-economic status (SES) related constructs, the association between SES and educational systems, together with changes over time. Although the literature always presents a positives association between family SES and student achievement, the magnitude of this relationship is contingent on varying social contexts education systems. Bhadwal, Sharma, Gorti & Sudeshna (2019)

concluded that use of qualitative research methods to understand the gender roles, responsibilities in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The study tries to bridge a crucial gap in research of providing empirical evidence on gender mediated vulnerability in an under-researched climatic hotspot – the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The study reiterates the role of place-based vulnerability in influencing lives and livelihoods and emphasizes on the lack of access to human, financial and natural capitals as predominantly driving gendered vulnerabilities. The Hindukush Himalayan region encompasses a large area covering many countries in the North, South and Central parts of Asia. People living in these mountains face huge complexities arising from several factors including terrain characteristics, micro-climates, environmental degradation, access to basic services etc. These complexities vary as one moves geographically from one region to the other. The State of Sikkim in the North Eastern part of India also observes similar challenges. Exposure to extreme events is location specific and communities settled in high, mid, and low altitudinal regions are differentially affected.

Rana (2020) analyzed the case study of Gujjar tribe of Tissa region of district Chamba in Himachal Pradesh. A tribal community is the most vulnerable community in any part of the world. An attempt was made to study the lifestyle their culture and mountain livelihood. Gujjar tribe temporarily migrates towards the higher altitudes in summer seasons to graze their herds and settle in the temporary houses (Adhwaris) made of mud and stones. The information was gathered by random interviews with the people to know the lifestyle of the tribal community pertaining to domestic life, food habits, folk culture, architecture, occupations, and others ways of sustenance was recorded through structured questionnaires. The seasonal migration to the high altitude pasture land of the Gujjar tribe along with the herds of buffalo are a seasonal activity from off May- June. The source of income of the Gujjars is selling of milk and milk products in the local market. The social status, traditional culture and many social evils are also prevalent among them child marriage satta-gatta (exchanging girls). The Gujjar women play a very significant role in the economy of family.

Rahman (2021) examined that how mountainous life is affected by climate change and poor intervention of policy. He explained that these people heavily depended upon natural resources for basic amenities like water, food, agriculture, fuel wood, dry fruits etc. Because of poor policy intervention lacking of holistic government, lack of training programs, limited understanding of mountain environment these tribal people are not living sustainable life. He also analyzed that the impact of climate in their daily routine. During his field visit to Gwaldom lolti he noticed that cultivation of apple compare to the past is not the same. The belt shifted greatly to higher elevations. This also the case with citrus nut stone fruits and other agricultural crops. Increasing temperature in lower altitude cause these problems. Similar situation occurs with oak and pine trees. Pine forest has shifted towards higher elevation and they have already involved the areas where oak forest was grown. He visualized that impact of climate change is also present in cropping pattern. Agricultural land is fragmented and land abandonment also seen in many locations. Punam (2021) reported the occupation and social and economic life and health issues of Gaddis woman in Chamba district of HP and various schemes & programme for upliftment of tribal women in Himachal Pradesh. The result of the research is that the Gaddis have been notified as a scheduled tribe in HP Gaddis tribe is known for its totally unique of their culture, customs, dress, food habits rituals and festivals etc. The results indicate that there are some improvements in the socio-economic status of women of Mountainous Communities due to certain changes in their traditional occupations and increase in the literacy rate as well as awareness level of

people about different government policies and programmes to aware women about their health cleanness and about their rites.

Objectives

1. To understand the historical background of village Rakh.
2. To investigate the accessibility and availability of education and health institutions.
3. To understand the demographic and occupational pattern.
4. To examine their agricultural activities.

Research questions

The present research paper attempts to answer the following research questions;

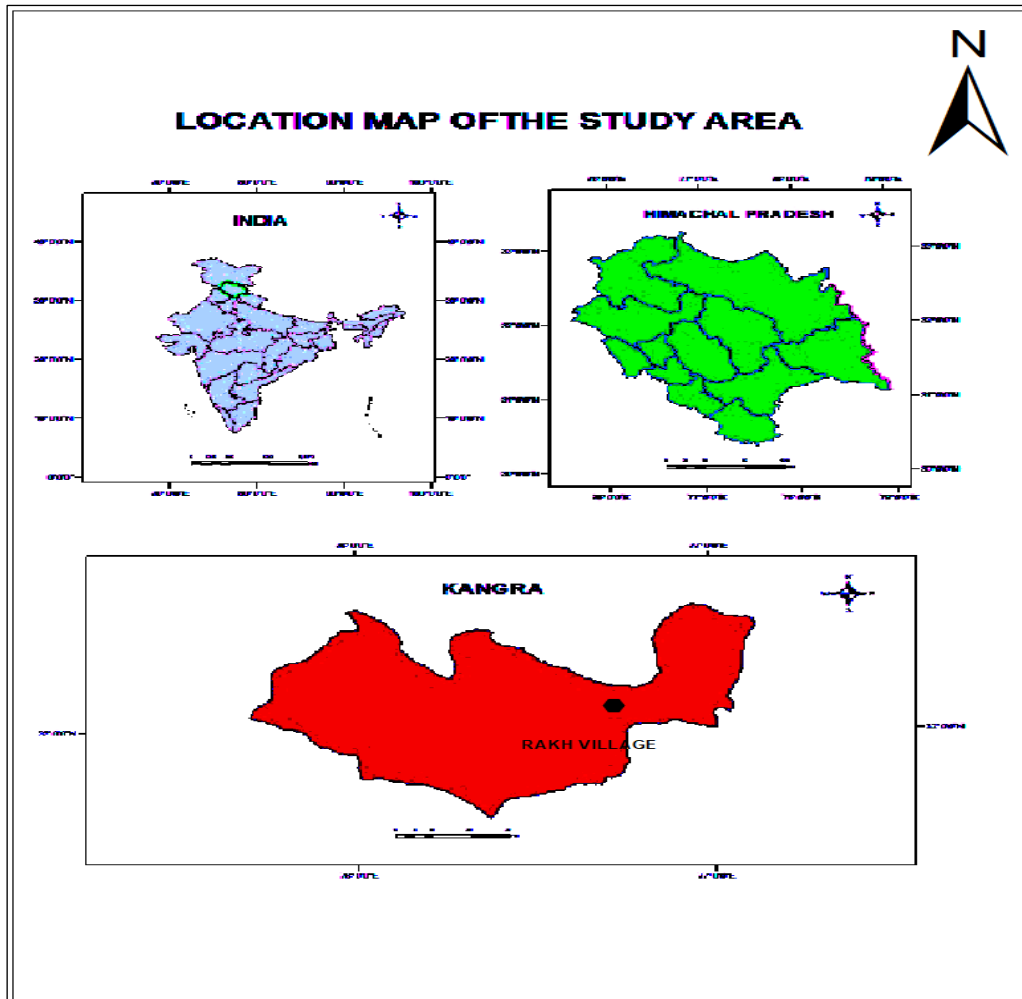
- Q1. What is the Livelihood source of the village? Whether they depend on natural resources or any other earning useful for livelihood?
- Q2. What is the accessibility and availability of educational institutions in the village?
- Q3. What is the occupational and demographic structure of the village?
- Q4. What is the role of livestock in the rural people livelihood?

Study Area

Rakh village is located on the alluvial fan of the foothills of the Dhauladhar range. It is a small village located very near to the Nagari, (Urban Hemlet), Palampur Tehsil. Rakh village is 25 kilometres away from Dharamshala which is the district headquarter of Kangra and 256 kms from Shimla the capital of the state. It is situated in between two streams, the right side and left side of the Baleni khad and Sat khad, respectively. Both are seasonal khads. The village Rakh is situated 1254 metres above the mean sea level. The village located in 32.14'75" latitude to 76.47'75" longitude.

The village Rakh is not associated with any historical event; however, it is unique in many ways. During the field visit, interaction with the villagers regarding the history of village Smt. Kamlesh Kumari share that they migrate from *Gadheran* village tehsil Bharmour of district Chamba, some other elderly people of the village also share that 90 years back they shifted to the present place due to harsh climatic conditions, rugged terrain, and limited survival resources in *Gadheran*. They settled down in the village with their herds of domestic animals in search of green meadows and good pasture land available in this area. At that time there was only seven or eight households shifted in this area and there were lot of forests area all-around in this village.

Another elder woman named Sabu, Bhima, Mado, Nirta told us that the ancestral of this village also brought their deities Manimahesh (shiva temple) and Chamunda Devi temple that is in the eastern side of the village, and snow used to reach this area. The Palampur Town is the Tea Garden of north India. The village Rakh has tea garden and plucked fresh leaves supplied to Tea factory Palampur. Therefore, village is also known for its Tea gardens which produces world famous Kangra Tea. This area is also famous for tourist spot since colonial times. Village has an Adventure hill resort. The terraced fields and a green valley of the village are set in the backdrop of mountains bathed in mist and cloud. That is what one observes on reaching the picturesque village of Rakh, located in the Dhauladhar range in tehsil Palampur.



Sources and Methodology

This research paper based on the data collected from both primary and secondary sources. On household level door to door data collected through questionnaire, personal interview and field observation, and cartographic techniques also used for the research paper. The required information pertaining to demographic and occupational pattern, cropping pattern, livestock population and their economic status gathered from primary survey. Secondary data collected from local level revenue office, statistical book, published articles in the research papers and books.

Climate and Vegetation

Palampur and its surrounding areas including village Rakh which is just 13 km far away from Palampur. The rainfall in this area is around 1578 mm or 62.1 inch per year. It has a monsoonal type and influenced by humid subtropical climate (CWA) with not so hot summers and cool winters. Late summers and early spring season massive amount of monsoonal rain. Summer begins in June and ends at the end of September. The months of summer are June, July, August, and September. The driest month is November. June is the warmest month of the year. Palampur and its surrounding areas including village Rakh is rich in Flora and Fauna. There are various types of trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses, and medicinal plants found in this village.

Tehsil Palampur is a Municipal Corporation town in the upper reaches of the Kangra valley and it is surrounded by dense coniferous trees, pine trees, rhododendron trees, an oak tree, *kachnar* trees, *Biuul* trees, bamboo trees, and fruit bearing plants such as apple, Pears, Peach, and Guava are also grown by the people. The village Rakh has a Tea Garden which is the part of Palampur Tea Garden. Villagers of the area also cultivate vegetables, potato, onion, cauliflower, broccoli, reddish, sweet corn, and mint, coriander, turmeric, ginger, and garlic etc. It is noted that, in Rakh village there are total 39 families are present. Out of which 29 families are living as a joint family and 10 as a nucleated family (Table1.1).

S. No	Table 1.1 Rakh: Types of Households, 2022	
1	Joint Family	29
2	Nucleated Family	10
Total Households		39
Source: Field Survey, 2022		

According to the data, it is found that present study area reflects the bonding between the family member as majority of the family living in joint family culture. Nearly, three-fourth households found under the joint family and the remaining one-fourth families are nucleated families. On the other side, interaction with the individuals of the villagers it was found that the trend changing towards the nucleated families, slowly. It represents a potential influence on the development and accomplishments of family members. At the macro level, family size is an indicator of societal that may vary over time, with implications for individual development and social relation in different cohorts. During interaction, another observation captured that indicates the male dominated society in the village and the land and other property (livestock, agricultural land) were in the control of males. In fact, all decisions related to family, livestock, land were taken by the males only. The family size of village Rakh into three components that is small 1-2, medium 3-4 and large i.e., 5 and above.

Rakh: Education and Health institutions

Education and health play a significant role in the progress of human life. Both are important for the development of any nation. Educated people are responsible for better future of society and country. Education builds a strong nation and improves the personality of humans. It helps in the development and innovation of technology.

S. No.	Table 1.2 Rakh: Accessibility to Education Institution, 2022	
	Educational institute	Distance (in kms/m)
1	Anganwadi	0-1
2	Primary school	0.5-1
3	Secondary school	2-5
4	College	14-25
5	Professional/Technical	14-25
Source: Field Survey, 2022		

The present research paper analyzed the education and health institute in terms of accessibility and availability in village Rakh. There are two primary school one is along with an Anganwadi (one km

from the village) and another is within the boundary of the village. There is Government Senior Secondary School in the village within the distance of up to one km. For higher education, technical/professional courses students daily travel to Palampur and Dharamshala which are the nearest places.

Number of Children	Male	Female	Total
	04	04	08

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Anganwadi is the first level of education. It is also known as child care centre. They are started by the Indian government in 1975 as a part of integrated child development service programme to control with child hunger and malnutrition. Anganwadi is located within the village. Anganwadi is approx. 500 meters to one km away from the houses. There are six-seven Anganwadi’s in the village and in the each Anganwadi 7-8 children (of age group 1-5) enrolled in Anganwadi center in 2022, data provided by the Anganwadi head named Radha Devi. The other workers prepare meal for the children. Anganwadi workers provide Rice, Oats, Pulses, Oil, Biscuits, Powder milk etc. to the children for nutritious diet and overall growth. Head of Anganwadi also share that the nutritious diet are also provided to the pregnant and lactating mothers of the village. She also maintained the register which shows how many quantities per item given to same group.



The next level of education is primary education. It covers the classes 1-5. Primary education is a first stage of formal education, coming after pre-school and before secondary school. The total strength of student are 22 class-wise details given below.

Class	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	5
2	3	2	5
3	1	2	3
4	2	3	5
5	2	2	4
Total	10	12	22
Source: Field Survey, 2022			

Secondary education is the stage before higher education. In present research study there is one secondary school in the village. Students do not much travel for the secondary studies because school is in the boundary of the village. There are several private schools also for secondary education but at a far distance from the village. There are 121 students are enrolled in the school.

Class	Male	Female	Total
6	7	8	15
7	9	10	19
8	8	9	17
9	7	7	14
10	10	10	20
11	8	11	19
12	7	10	17
Total	56	65	121
Source: Field Survey 2022			

There are 143 students enrolled in the government school of Rakh. There are total 66 boys and 77 girls enrolled in school level. Students travel early morning for the schools and return back home in the evening. Due to shortage of buses, students face difficulties in rainy season and sometimes in winter season too. According to field survey it is found that the education status of the household seems that mostly members of households are literate and the elder are illiterate because lack of educational facilities available in previous time in the village. Now the scenario has been changed everyone aware about the importance of education, the people prefer to educate the male as well as female child.

Health is also very important for society; “Health is wealth” is famous saying which means health is everything. Being healthy means we are socially, mentally, and physically fit. “A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not nearly the absence of disease of infirmity.” World Health

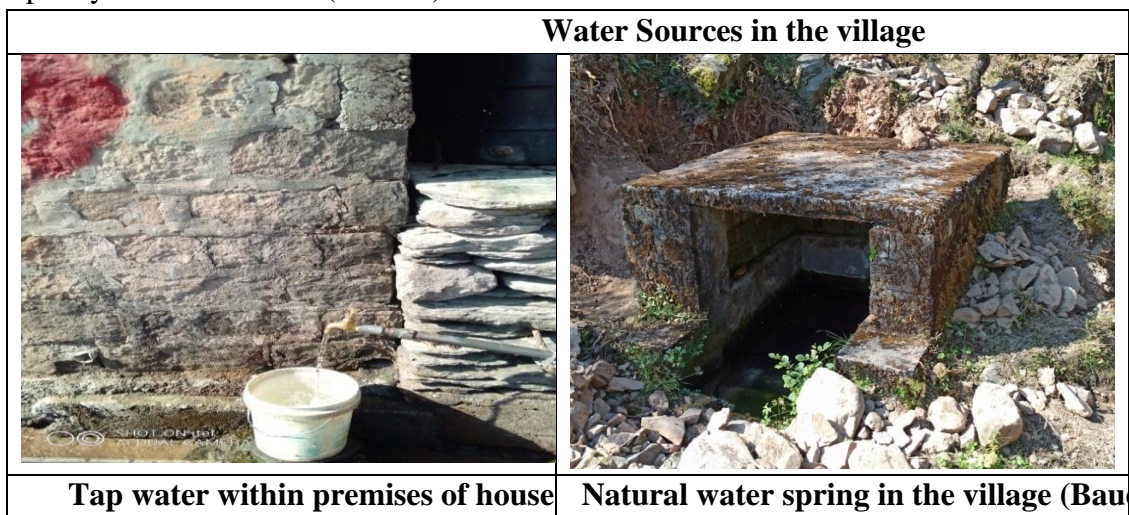
Organization (WHO)1948 reported that better health and education are signs of development of any nation. It indicates the higher standard of living and their lifestyle. Village Rakh have primary health centre. Asha workers which are under NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) fully aware of responsibilities regarding supply of essential medicines creating awareness of health nutrition and sanitation issues and immunization to children. The village Rakh has a veterinary Hospital where domestic animals provided proper health checkup.

On the name of public transport there is only one bus route from Nagari to Rakh that ply twice a day. In case of emergency, they hire taxi services to reach the hospital on time and fare of taxi is also to much high which is not affordable for many people. Potable water is safe to drink and used for food preparation. The source of water can differ in different areas according to availability of water sources.

Sr. No.	Source	Total
1	Tap water indoor	29
2	Tap water outdoor	10
3	Well (<i>Baudi</i>)	3

Source: Field Survey, 2022

In village Rakh most of the houses have outdoor water sources. Total 29 families have indoor water and 10 families have outdoor water. In addition to that, there are three (baudi) natural water sources in the village. Although some Baudi’s of the village have no water in summers but other seasons they have plenty of natural water (Table 1).



Age and Sex Composition

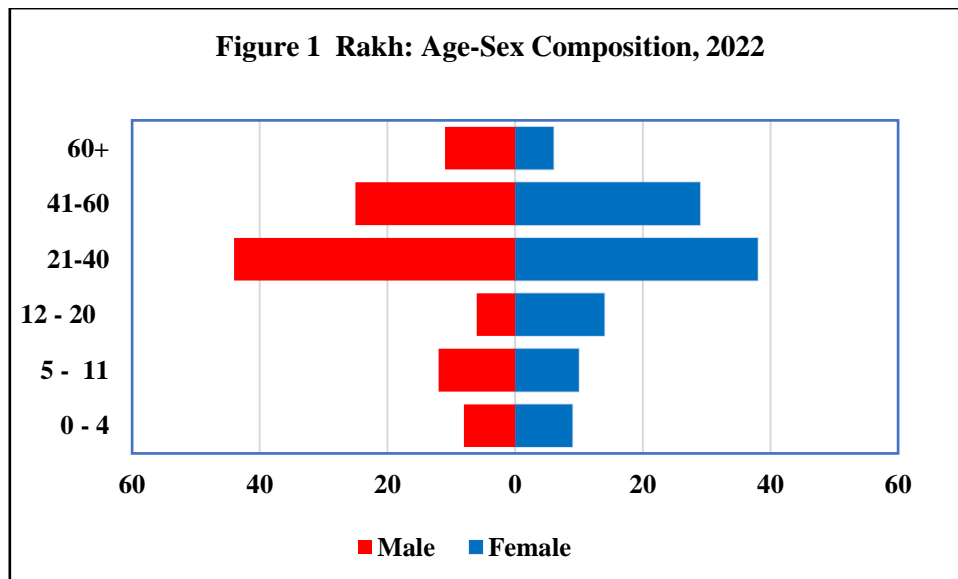
Demography is the study of a population based on factors such as age, sex, birth, and death rates, marriage, education, employment, and income. The present research study focused on age and sex composition, as well as occupational structure of village Rakh. It is further explaining the same composition of the above given three attributes based on sex also. Age sex composition is the study of number of males and females in a particular age group and categorized by young, adult, and old. The age is normally defined a person at his/her last birthday at the time of survey. The age-sex composition

conveys the relative number of children, young and old as well as balance between men and women at different ages. Almost all the characteristics vary significantly by different ages.

S. No.	Age-group	Male	Female	Total
1	0-4	8	9	17
2	5-11	12	10	22
3	12-20	6	14	20
4	21-40	44	38	82
5	41-60	25	29	54
6	60+	11	6	17
Total		106	106	212

Source: Field Survey, 2022

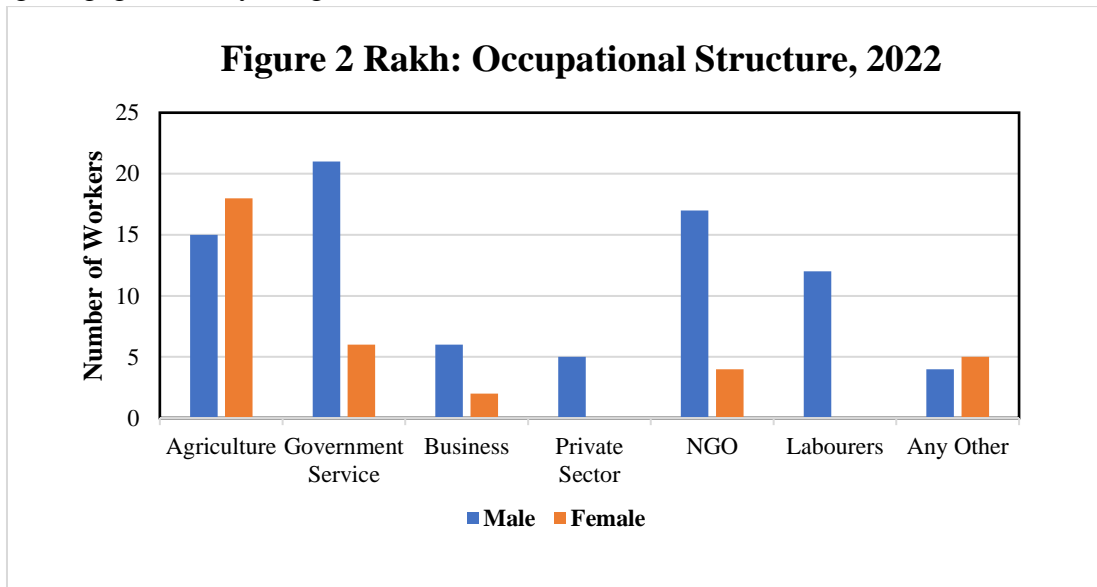
The total population of Rakh village is 212. The total male population is 106 and total female is 106. The number of people in 0-4 group are 17. Most of the children enrolled in primary school which is situated in the village only. This age-group constitutes about eight percent of the total population of the village.



The number of people in 5-11 age group is 22 i.e., 10.37 percent. The population of the age group 12-20 is 20 i.e., 9.43 percent and these age-group consist of students. There is government primary as well as senior secondary school Rakh in the village. The total population of the age group 21-40 and 41-60 is 136 that is 64.15 percent to the total population and it is represents that there is high presence of working population that engaged in various economic activities. The dependent population is 60 and above are 17 people i.e., 8.01 percent to the total population. Sex ratio is defined as the number or females per thousand males. It is an important and useful indicator to access of deficit of men and women in each population at that point of time. Male and female population in the village is same. Sex ratio of Rakh village: $106 \div 106 \times 1000 = 1000$. Sex ratio of village is less than its districts sex ratio i.e., 1012 and is greater than the state sex ratio is 972. In this hilly village which reflects the households give

preference to both female and male. There is variation in sex ratio in different age groups like there are nine females per 8 males in 0-4 age group. In 5-11 age group total no. of males are 12 whereas female is 10. There are 6 males and 14 females in age group 12-20. There are 44 males and 38 females are in age group 21-40. There are 25 males and 29 females in age group 41-60 and that in old age group total no. of males are 11 whereas females are 6.

The occupational structure of any country is defined by the segment of a country population that is engaged in economic venture and various activities. Most of the population of the Rakh are engaged in secondary activities. People are engaged in different types of occupational activities for earning money. Agriculture activities are very average in the village as a low number of households cultivate their land. Most of the people of Rakh are engaged in secondary activities followed by primary activity and then tertiary activity. Majority of the males involved in earning side and data also reflect that the female of the village engaged mostly in agriculture activities and few were involved in service sector.



Some people have opened shops in the village for daily-use items groceries, vegetables tea-shops also have Maggie, cold drinks, coffee, and other eatables. As on this village many tourists come cross the road to reach their destinations. In the months of peak season these shopkeeper's earned a lot from them.

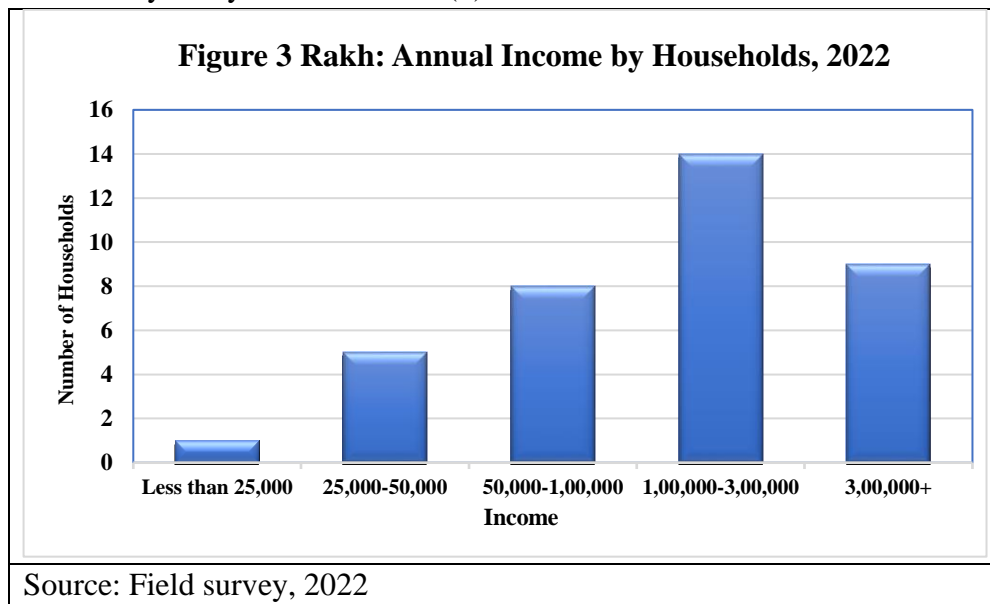
Plate 3



Grocery Shop in the village

Home stay in the village

It is concluded that there are more male involved in primary, secondary and tertiary occupation than female as they were engaged in the household chores in the agriculture fields and taking care of children, elder persons and rearing of livestock. Household income is a measure of the combined incomes of all people sharing a particular household or place of residence. It includes every form of income, e.g., salaries and wages retirement income etc. Rakh village there are total thirty-nine houses. Most of the people were engaged in secondary activities and majority of persons earned approximately up to three lakhs annually. Very less household (9) found under above three lakhs income annually.



There is lot of changes found under the investigation area as earlier economic activities of the village is based on primary activities like forest-based works, grazing domestic animals, farming activities, agriculture activities by traditional method. Due to changing time and connectivity and accessibility available in the village, there is lot of changes in their economic activities as mentioned.

- 1) **Road construction-** After the development of the road people came and settles down in the village from different places. Home stay is constructed here to attract tourists from in and outside the state.
- 2) **Change in Agriculture activities-** Majority of the villagers are no more involved in agricultural activities due to the fear of monkey's, wild boars and other animals because they damaged their crops frequently, otherwise land is very fertile for various type of crops seasonally.
- 3) **Social change:** Social change such as the introduction of MANREGA schemes, providing 120 days labor work to both male and females of the villages that has given works as well as financial support in the panchayat premises. This also diverts the villagers to move to other activities other than agriculture activities.

On the account of agriculture, both Kharif as well as Rabi crops were sown in the village. The crops which are sown during rainy season are called Kharif crops. Lasts from June/July to September/October. kharif crops are also called summer crops. Kharif crops are sown at the beginning of monsoon season (September/October) maize are most important kharif crops. Secondly, Crops are grown in the winter season from November to April are called Rabi crop. Rabi crops are those crops sown in the winter's season and harvested in summer's seasons. Rakh village household's majority grown wheat crop in the village. It is also found that agriculture activities are slowly less with the duration of time as all the people dependent upon government ration and self-purchasing. Only self-sufficient agriculture is done.

Agriculture/Horticulture activities in the village, 2022



Source: Field Survey, 2022

Agricultural practices mean a collection of principles to apply for farm production processes to get better agricultural products. They are simply practices used in agriculture to facilitate farming. Traditional method was used in agriculture in the Rakh village and the villagers used traditional tools in the fields. They do not use high yielding variety seeds. Due to hilly terrain, irrigation facilities were almost absent and the agriculture fields were mainly depending on rainfall. In the present time, some modern tools are also used by farmer like tractor. But villagers are not connected modern technology. Some of the household and farm equipment used tractor for ploughing the fields. Traditional agriculture (such as hul, Kudali and drati) tool used for farming and for ploughing. Due to its undulating terrain, it is not possible to provide the irrigation facilities. There is no irrigation facilities in the village and people depends upon rain. Farm equipment means a tractor or other machine used in the business of farming. Although, mostly traditional agriculture tools used for farming in the village.



Traditional Ploughing Tools & Manure



Ploughing activities in the terraced fields



(Drati, Drat and Khudali) Traditional tools for agriculture activity

	
<p>Cow Dung used as manure</p>	<p>Wood Ash used as manure</p>
<p>Source: Field Survey, 2022</p>	

But some household in village Rakh used farm equipment like tractor, wooden plough, crop cutter etc. Farmers are using traditional tools such as wooden plough and hand tools as mentioned below. Manure is organic matter used as fertilizer in agriculture. Manures improve the fertility of the soil by adding organic matter and lots of nutrients, such as nitrogen that is trapped by bacteria in the soil. The cow dung, wood ash is used by the villagers as a fertilizer for farming. It can improve the soil structure so that the soil holds more nutrients and water, and therefore becomes more fertile.

In village Rakh to meet their day to day needs villagers are involved in labour work and agricultural activities. Livestock is prime occupation for their livelihood. The sheep's and goats are reared for the milk and wool. The village folks are involved in making traditional woolen clothes, and raw materials obtained within the village premises, but the wool raw form must go through several processes to bring it in final shape / product. In village Rakh livestock population local cow 17, Jersey cow 13, Goat 13, sheep 10, young calf 09, buffalo 01, and bullock 01. The largest number of animals in village is Goat, Sheep, Desi cow, and Jersey cow in this village animals are tied in the courtyard. The livestock is a backbone of the village economy as well as to fulfill the daily needs. Villagers are also using cow dung and waste from the animals as manure in their fields, are useful for organic manuring and the growth of the agriculture activities. Milk, butter, eggs, meat, khoya, ghee, are the main products, which are obtained from the livestock by the villagers. Secondly, they sold their products in the nearby market hence, it is a good source of earning and increase the family income.

Livestock: Local Breed in the village



Local breed of goat**Local Desi Cow****Conclusion**

Rakh is in near to Nagari Urban Hemlet which is in the Tehsil Palampur, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. It is situated at 32° 08' 54" North latitude and 76° 28' 41" East longitude. The village Rakh is at 1254 metres above the mean sea level. It is situated in between two streams, the right side of the Baleni khad and the left side Sat khad. The villagers migrated from *Gadheran* (villages) of tehsil Bharmour of district Chamba of about 90 years back due to tough terrain, climate as well as limited survival resources. They settled down with herds of domestic animals in search of green meadows and good pasture land available in this village. It is near to Palampur town and rainfall in this area is around 1578 mm per year. It has a monsoonal type of climate and influenced by humid sub-tropical climate. The driest month is November and June is the warmest month of the year. The total population of Rakh village is 212. The total male population is 106 and total female is 106. The sex ratio of village is 1000, which is less than its districts sex ratio i.e., 1012, and is greater than the state sex ratio is 972. The Rakh village has high birth rate as it has more than 66 percent of population from 0-40 and have only 8% of old age population. The independent population is high as compare to dependent population. There is total 145 students and are enrolled in Govt. Sr Sec School Rakh. There is total 70 boys and 75 girls enrolled in school level. There are 20 students who were engaged in higher studies at Govt. Degree college Dharamshala and Govt. Degree college Palampur. Most of the members of households are literate and very few are illiterate, because education facilities are available within the village.

Livestock are prime occupations for their livelihood. The major livestock populations of this village are cow and goats. In this village people are rearing animals for their milk, butter, Ghee, and meat for their self-consumption and sell it to the local market for earning money. There is less agriculture activity due to hilly terrain, improper irrigation facilities and small land holding. The livelihood of the village Rakh mainly depends on services in private and government sector and few are depending on agricultural as well as domestic animal rearing. Cropping pattern in village Rakh refers to proportional area under different crops at different season wheat and maize. Wheat is the major crop in this village, followed by maize. People are involved to produce these crops for self-consumption. Vegetables such as potatoes, chilly, garlic, ginger, coriander, spinach are also grown for their self-consumption.

There is small land of village covered under Tea plantation and it supplies raw material to Tea Factory Palampur. A famous Shiva Temple is in the village, it attracts tourists to visit the place due to its location. Rakh have three types of dwelling that kaccha, semi- pucca and pucca houses. In this village the trend of pucca houses is more than kaccha with increasing development in the pattern of dwelling gradually changing from kaccha to pucca houses. The village represents male dominated families but all the important decisions taken by both male and female together of the family. The availability of water is good at this village there are many natural resources of water. The sanitation in the village is proper, the streets are in good condition. The household requirements regarding fodder and fuel wood of the village is fulfilled by the nearby forest cover. There are dense coniferous trees, pine trees, rhododendron trees, an oak trees kachnar trees, Biual trees, bamboo trees, and fruit bearing plants apple, Pears, Peach, and Guava plants in the village. There is a primary health center and veterinary hospital in the village. There are large number of domestic animals in village Rakh i.e., Goat, Sheep, Desi cow, and Jersey cow which is the backbone of the village economy as well as to fulfill the daily needs of the people. They are

also using cow dung and waste from the animals as manure in their fields. It is useful for organic manuring and for the growth of the agriculture activities. Milk, butter, eggs, meat, khoya, ghee, are the main products. It is further concluded that animal rearing, labour work the main source of earning a livelihood for the people of Thatri village. Most of village people are also doing a work as daily wages/Manrega for livelihood. Government needs to take effective steps for the development of infrastructure and livelihood of the people. Some of the houses in the village are in poor condition, so it is suggested that the government scheme such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana should be introduced to the villagers.

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