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Utilization of Forest Based Resources by the Village Communities for their Economic Development: Understanding the Psychological Aspects

Dr. Meera Manjul

Assistant Professor(Guest Faculty)

Department of LifeLong Learning

Himachal Pradesh University, SummerHill Shimla-171005

Abstract

Himachal Pradesh, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, boasts a rich tapestry of biodiversity, with its forests serving as the lifeblood of its ecosystem and economy. Forests, as the lungs of our planet, play a pivotal role in climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and sustaining countless livelihoods. Himachal Pradesh, with its diverse flora and fauna, has been a crucible of this delicate balance. However, the intricate dance between human development and environmental preservation has led to nuanced changes in the state's forested areas. By strengthening conservation efforts, embracing sustainable practices, diversifying forest products, and empowering local communities, Himachal Pradesh can safeguard its forests for future generations. As we unravel the intricacies of Himachal Pradesh's forested realms, we embark on a journey that transcends geographical boundaries. It is a collective endeavor, transcending disciplines and communities, to preserve the natural heritage that is not just a testament to the past but a promise for the future. The study aimed to evaluate the utilization of forest based resources by the village Community and their relation to job-related factors, health, and other issues.

Introduction

Throughout, historical developments of humans, economic goals, are primary goals, for achieving all round human development both at personal and governmental level. Marxist interpretation of society tells that these days economic conditions are domination forces, shaping human interpersonal relationships. This interpretation viewed from the ecological perspective denotes that economic forces determine the human-ecology relationships to a large extent and alternatively the natural resources too shapes the human economic conditions.

The planning Commission of India, in its India: Vision 2020, has targeted for quadrupling the national income. The second generation of economic reforms suggests that strategic management of the economy with full focus on knowledge is based on human resource development activities. The concerns for economic development are of vital importance as well as broader than mere economic activity and economic growth. Wadhwa (2003) observes:

The foundation of credible national security is based on the level of economic prosperity and well being of the population of any country. There is especially so for the developing countries like India. The attainment of sustained high economic growth is necessary (but not sufficient) condition for improving the national security and the quality of the life of people throughout the country Wadhwa, 2003:17).

In line with this reasoning it can be said that economic prosperity is closely linked with the quality of the life of the population and the role of individual is important in sustaining the economic level and achieving comprehensive development.

It has been observed that poverty in India is due to lack of production. This observation, by and large, is suitable to the India living in 21st century. Production, according to Marder and Alderson (1975), includes all activities that help to make goods and sources available for people to consume. Taking both observations in combination, inferentially, it may be said that the major concern is rate of productiveness at individual level.

It is time and again said that India is a country of rich natural resources but poor people. This paradoxical existence, speaks of something lacking on the part of people's initiatives. The other aspect of this paradox is that major part of this, i.e. village communities are poor and for many reasons have failed in optimum utilization of their natural resources for their economic benefit. As a result, there is a trend of continued migration from rural to urban areas and village de-population has been noticed in many rural regions.

This situation has given way to the question whether this is just a form of mobilization of people from the areas of low level of opportunities to the areas where opportunities are expected to be higher or it is a form of marginalization or this is a question of motivational distortion. Raj (2003), is of the view that marginalization occur when individual of group lose economic power that spiral on the downward mobility. Given to understandable low level of opportunities for economic development in the rural areas, it may be said that Indian villages are undergoing a silent marginalization and lacking sufficient level of encouragement for maintaining their level in streamline.

Village communities are the major portion of the population of India and forests, shares the topmost natural resources within its geographic area. The economic goals for humans are to be considered important as the natural resources are not equally distributed everywhere and income patterns too are not equal. As in this realm the connection between poverty and forests can be seen. Two major concerns in this situation for the present policy makers, among others, are (i) economic development and (ii) safety of green cover on the land and major part of which is Forests. The concerns are serious when the forest is one of the most unscientifically exploited, natural resource for economic development by humans. This indicates the connection between human economic activities and their motives behind such actions.

Murlidharan and Topa (1970), has aptly said that a great deal of economic standing of any country depends upon the need, felt by the people to better understand themselves to attain certain standards of excellence. This need is termed as achievement motive. As a strategy for economic growth/development, motivation has been an important factor for the consideration of the policy makers but has been fairly emphasized. Motivational theories and empirical works based on these theories have observed that motivation is a dominating factor affecting the socio-economic action of an individual. Psychologists have been continuously proving this fact that human behavior and many times motivation acts as a major force behind human actions.

Beyond the question of economic development, there is a need for exploring this issue psychologically. McLaine (1949) in his analysis of economic condition of Britain, USA and France after First World War, has observed that it is true to say that the role of psychological factors is influential in intensifying economic growth. Sinha (1969), in his motivational analysis of some villages, poor and developed, has found that psychological aspects are of major concern for finding out and filling up the gaps between the development's desired goals and achieved goals. He too has stressed for decisive role of psychologist in developmental planning and execution of development policies.

Motives are innate characteristics of human organism and economic development in the certain goal of development programmes. It is estimated that the presence of motives, guide human behavior in particular directions. However, given to biological, social and psychological variations, humans tend to feel varied degree of the intensity to achieve any goal. Ruch (1970) is of the view that motivation is concerned with the forced that direct future behavior and it has biological, cognitive and social aspects. On the basis of survey on the various theories explaining motivation, he has maintained that motivation is of two types. One is intrinsic motivation, which are lying within the organism and the individual is innately derived to take initiative. And the other is, extrinsic motivation, which exist outside the organism and it drives humans to do something for tangible reward. Sen (1984) has observed that the profit motive is a very powerful force and it can certainly do wonders in economic growth.

It is worthwhile to see that intrinsic and extrinsic motivation influence each other. Changes in one area bring change in the other. Collectively, it can be said that motivation is a mental process influencing human action towards seeking a particular goal and it plays an important role in economic development (Sinha, 1969). Most part of motivation is learned as humans are under process of achieving their goals with all their potential. The lack in motivation is detrimental to the achievement of the goals. It differs with education level and socio-economic status (De and Priya, 1972).

Man is by nature collective and economic being and the need for achievement is socio-genetic in nature. In case of economic development, need based motivation can be taken as a strategic tool. This is thought to be effective in the village population which is relatively less educated and bonded with the orthodox thinking. Proper understanding of their living pattern and ushering in scientific attitude by way of proper motivation mode, is essential for their economic growth so as to get the optimum result of policies and efforts at various levels made in this direction.

In this scenario, the goal to be achieved is economic goals and the question is whether people's motivation level can be raised to achieve these goals or not. The question is of serious concerns in the societies like ours, which is multidimensional and diversified and the individual bears multi-levels pressures for not achieving or achieving a particular goal. Self personality traits of an individual or biological composition too exert certain unavoidable pressures. Thus, the motivation for achieving a particular goal is a complex procedure, touching the aspects of emotions, aspirations, knowledge and emotions. Achievement of economic goals is taken independent variable, and all these psychological aspects are dependent variables. The co-variance existing within themselves and with economic activities needs to be put under boundaries to develop a model so that the areas for improving the motivation level to achieve such goals could be framed. This gives ways to further question as to whether motives can be acquired or not. The answer could not be certain but it can be said with sufficient degree of certainty that people do acquire motive in different stages of their lives and they suo moto pursue their goals under the influence of these motives (Sinha and Dash, 1959).

David and McClelland (1960) in their study in India have found that motivation, which is an exclusive area of psychologist functioning, has profound implications in continuing, improving and substantiating the individual efforts towards economic development. Motivation techniques to achieve certain goals have definitive proven effects. McClelland (1969) in his other study too have found that achievement motive can be raised through training.

Sinha and Sharma (1972) have found that knowledge is pre-requisite for adoption of an innovation and its success depends upon the motivation to improve. Mehta and Kanade (1969) in their study have found that motivation training has its effects upon the goal achievement of an individual and many times lack in proper motivation result in total or partial failure of enterprises. Murlidharan and Topa (1970) have found in their study that high rewarded group has high level of achievement. Mohan and Gupta (1972) have found that individual differs in motivational level and reward is an important motivating factor. The low level motivational groups need to be raised to be at par with the high level motivational group, besides, the high level motivational groups is needed to be motivated not to go beyond the limit to be hyper-high. Therefore, motivational training has two parts; one raised the motivational level and other cover up the desired level of motivation. As such, a motivational model must design some steps to be followed for achieving certain goals. It must not aim at only human action but to human design. It may be said that a motivational model would be a human design to achieve the economic goals.

Given to rural life settings, villagers can be considered to be in high need of motivational training. Keeping with the earlier noted findings of the studies, it may be said that village communities have low level of achievement motivation owing to their living situation. It may also be said that they, by and large, do not have the situation's that produce motivation for their economic development. The option lying with them are either to migrate from village, for long or short terms, or to contend with the means they do for living life. Noted psychologist, Eysenck has given the Hullian Formula which describes that performance of any activity by humans is equal to the multiple of habit and drive. Since, these have innate origin and to affect these areas the need is learning and in order to move these in particular direction they must learn to move in that direction and for that the need is existence of proper motivation. Within the limits of generalization, it may be said that village communities are low in awareness, education, knowledge and have weak motives for explorations or in other words are contented with their lives or they tend to respect their religious and traditional beliefs attitudes.

Further, village communities tend to maintain their existing traditional patterns and change is a slow process in villages. This slowness in change process has resultantly enlarged the difference between the urban and the rural area. With proper motivation the pace is understood to be bit fast and the urban-rural change differences could be lessen to certain extent. This would also be helpful in enhancing the motivation to poor villagers to understand their necessities, abilities and to make them pursuing the economic goals of their life and to introduce scientific aptitude towards the natural resources available to them in their surroundings. People participation plays vital role in development process as they participates in decision making, planning formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and sharing the fruits of development.

It has been serious concerns of the Community Development Programme to ensure the participation of local folks for ensuring their development by way of involving them to take their own initiatives. The lack of initiatives on the part of people who can be considered having low level of achievement motivation, in turn, gives way to be get exploited by those who have high level of achievement motivation. These uneven levels of motivation, many times gives way to exploitation of human personality.

Motivation for economic development with respect to natural resources like forests has its merit in the State like Himachal Pradesh where major portion of geographical land is forests and continuous efforts are being made for its enhancement. Besides, almost 92% of the total population lives in villages which are considered to be dependent on forests for fulfilling their various needs. Precisely, forests directly and indirectly are contributing in the economic considerations of village communities. But one fact can still be observed that the village population has been far away from extracting the economic benefits from their forests scientifically and strategically.

Participation of common folk in forestry has been accepted a major theme especially with regard to village communities. The mutual dependence of forests and village communities in the development of each other has been values since long in the vedic and pre-vedic times. Today world is facing two main problems: (i) degeneration of forests, and (ii) economic deprivations of village communities. In this situation, role of individual is crucial due to the fact that the participatory approach values the contribution. It is individual, who is responsible to great extent for getting benefits from the forests or to harm the forests. To unlock the potential of the individual in forestry conservation and development, it is imperative to look into the motivational aspects.

The necessity of motivational approach is more in the States like Himachal Pradesh, where people's actions, to the large extent, are unscientific, orthodox and approaches towards forestry and as well as to themselves.

This paradoxical existence, speaks of something lacking on the part of people's initiatives. The other aspect of this paradox is that major part village communities are poor and for many reasons have failed to utilize their natural resources for their economic benefit. As a result, there is a trend of continued migration from rural regions. This situation has given way to the question whether this is just a form of mobilization of people from the areas of low level of opportunities to the areas where opportunities are expected to be higher or it is a form of marginalization or a motivational distortion. According to Raj (2003) the marginalization occurs when individual of group loose economic power and spiral on the downward mobility. Ecological paradigms in social science in general and psychology in particular understand and comprehend human behavior in terms of peoples adaptation to their ecological and cultural contexts in which it develops (Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Sinha, 1982). The Eco-cultural model of Berry (1987) relates the cultural and behavioral characteristics of groups and individual to both ecological and socio-political contexts. In tune with it the social cognitive theory of Bandura (1967, 2001, and 2004) states that human functioning is rooted in social system that operates within broad networks of socio-structural influences. It highlights triadic reciprocal relationship between imposed, selected and constructed environment. The behavioral model is contemporary in nature that views man's behavior in terms of stimulus-response contingencies in a given social context (Bandura, 1969).

Bandura talks about the social conduct that plays very important role in the human being development. The social theory highlights role of how social or society enters into the individuals and constructs the individual's economical and political ideology (Asthana, 2002). According to Kakkar (1995) if self-identity is threatened by the socio-cultural factors, the group aspects of self-identity are aroused that might release potential violence. One such is social Psychological paradigm given by Crook (1995) that emphasizes the role of psychological processes in cultural and genetic co-evolution. It starts with the evolution of mind and self. Recently model articulated by Pirta (2003b) named as native cognitive paradigm/model highlights deeper socio-psychological ramifications. It is a community based holistic approach that involves study of group dynamics. Here co-operative interdependence is the basic characteristics of group that is measured by group cohesiveness among its members. According to Pirta (2002), this paradigm follows Gandhian

movement of native people of Himalaya and its perceived development from holistic point of view (Bahuguna, 1997).

The Indian model of human development varies from non-dualistic to dualistic, deistic to non-deistic and theistic to atheistic (Paranjpe, 1984). They do not produce any kinds of conflict and states that Indian mind is full of dichotomy that appears to resolve and integrate on the basis of philosophical system at higher level of instruction. The capitalistic model on the other hand is based on the myth of growth while the socialistic model dealt with the myths of revolution. Berger (1974) provided excellent critique of capitalistic and socialistic model of social change and development that need to be debunked. He proposes non-dogmatic approach to the problem of development and suggested that facts are faced and cost is counted. Ashley's model blames society for the blocks it places in the development of individual and Freud's model considered man as responsible for the major source of social problems and society as protecting him from his own destructive instincts. It can also be theorized on the basis of biological, psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, and existential and community cultural perspectives.

Gadgil and Guha (1995) divided India society into various categories e.g. ecosystem people, natural resource survival, omnivorous (privileged access to resources), and ecological refugees destitute). A neurobiological model of polygagal theory of stress provides a new way of thinking that physiological state limits the range of behavior and psychological experiences with regard to behavioral strategies to deal with different environment (Porges, 2001). Psychologists have been testing an integrative model of association and social resources, life stressors, coping strategies and psychological adjustment.

A Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in Himachal Pradesh Report, 2004 has indicated on the basis of relevant sources that percentage of population below poverty line in Himachal Pradesh is 30.34 in the rural areas. Himachal Pradesh Development Reports, 2005 that there has been a rapid social development in the State but specific measures needed to be taken for its economic development. Keeping in view the geographic conditions of the State, 66.52% of geographical area as the forest area indicates the need for exploring the forest resources which can be utilized for the economic development for the village communities in an optimal way. In this situation, motivation factor is important as it deals with the value system and interest of individual and community as well. There is a visible and potential need to assess the areas in which the village population needs motivation to achieve their economic goals through the forest resources.

Method And Observation

The work aimed at to develop a motivational model for the optimal utilization of forest resources as a strategy for the economic development of village communities and so as to protect the natural resources. The focus of study is to trace out the areas in which the rural people need motivation for their economic development from forest resources besides keeping them intact.

Area of Study

The area of study is Gram Panchayat Kuthera, a panchayat in Joginder Nagar Tehsil in Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. It is a distance of around 20-22kms from the nearest town, urban area Jogindernagar.

The reasons for taking a panchayat for study is that panchayat is a well defined unit in Indian administration system which has been considered as one of the major and basic areas for carrying out development works. The role of panchayat in sustaining forests, local livelihood and economic growth is considered important.

Universe of Study

Population above 18 years of age available in this panchayat households, constitutes the universe of the study. It was aim of the study to contact as many family as the investigator can contact to get more data. The definition of the family is in accordance with, as defined by in the traditions of village i.e. a group of persons having one kitchen living with their children is considered as family.

Sample

Total population of the panchayat was 2812. One forth of the total populations has been considered as sample with giving a proper representation to the caste and gender. The number of households was 479 and all the households were visited. A convenient type of sampling was used. A total of 700 persons constitute the sample out of which 350 were males and 350 were females, 53 males and 53 females in the sample were scheduled castes. Since no other religion except Hindu was found, no consideration was given to religion while selecting sample.

Objective of the study was to assess (i) the non-timber forest produces that can be grown in the uncultivated private land for the enhancement of the village economy, (ii) assessment of the attitudes of the village families towards forests and the motivational constraints for forest based enterprises, and (iii), making a motivational model for the panchayat on the basis of data for utilization of forest resources for economic development.

Tools

Primary data has been collected by way of interview. The interview, however, was unstructured; but the investigator has to be focused at the time of interview on the scheduled that was prepared. Mostly, interviews were conducted in the houses of the respondents. Since, it was not possible to contact the respondent at home during the visit, they have also been approached on the way to home or work, especially, in the tea shops where they rests for few minutes while going home in the evening. They were also offered a cup of tea and biscuits by the investigators.

One of the major tools for data collection was observation and participatory observation. The investigators got mixed with the persons who were visiting forest and noticed their behaviours. Besides, their visiting forest and noticed their behaviors. Besides, their routines to forests were also observed minutely. To avoid investigator's bias that is supposed to be present in the present kind of studies, the questions were made open ended and the views were collected in a systematic ways. A good rapport was established with the people before getting the interview, so as to get full co-operation form the respondents. The respondents freely responded to the satisfaction of the investigators and to theirself.

Analysis

The data collected in the form of interview, was analysed through content analysis. Since, the aim was to develop motivational model, it was emphasized to have qualitative contents which have been analysed into segments developed in view of the objectives of the study.

Himachal Pradesh consists of 12 districts. Eight out of 12 districts have below 40% of the geographical area under forests and rest of 4 others viz. Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Mandi have more than 40% (Chaudhry, 2006).

Himachal Pradesh Development Report, 2005 puts Shimla, Sirmour and Solan districts among the industrialized or being under the process of industrialization districts. As such, one panchayat in Mandi districts has been selected for study which is relatively away from the industrialization process and people in the area are dependent for their livelihood mostly on agriculture and forests and that are contributing major role in their livelihood. Distinct features, the relationship between people with forests, and the current interaction have been explored by way participatory observation.

Geography

This panchayat has been extended on the SikandarDhar, a hill range, from bottom to top. The bottom touches the banks of small river RnaKhad and to part as high as the top of the Dhar and a village hamlet in the back side of the Dhar. Like many area, the habitable land is occupied by the house hamlets. They, as such, necessarily, do not meet the village system of revenue record due the changes and new constructions of houses in the past years. Yet, there is definable clarity to distinguish these hamlets and the household under particular village name.

A careful glance on the household pattern is giving way to dispersion. The distance between the houses is reported to have increased in the past few years. This is partly due to increase in population and nuclear family system.

The upper part and lower part are not connected by road directly but a long curved road nearly 20 kilometers connects the upper and lower village hamlets of the panchayat. The hamlets shares three forests in and around them for fulfilling their many survival needs.

Flora and Fauna

The panchayat villages are surrounded by three grown forests with no timber value trees or less timber value trees like Ban and Chir, Tuni, Paja etc. Besides, Wild Pomegranate (Daroo), Rose tree (Burash), Wild Pear (Kainth), and Berberis (Kashmal) alongwith economically important herbs like Bankshawere found. The people used to have burash flowers for many purposes and kafal too are source of income for some people in season time. There is no specific kind of trees which can be used for furniture purpose but forest do serve the need of fuel and fodder. In the rainy seasons, people used to have wild mushrooms from the forests as ban grooves.

Socio-Cultural Scenario

The people of different castes and the social structure are patriarchal and the dominant religion is Hindu. On broader side, there are two parts of caste system. One is Kumhar (Pot makers), Majhara (makers of bamboo articles). On nomenclatures level the Thakur's manifest a social solidarity, which is not found among the lower group, primarily, may be due to difference in nomenclature.

On income level, the lower group is marginalized relative to the upper group. The lower starata are mostly artisans or manual workers but none has excellence or specialty. However, the caste relationships are amicable. No one reported a caste based feud or tension in the villages. Untouchability is prevalent but it has been reported that due to recent changes and education of the members of the lower caste, this is a weakening trend.

The primary occupation of the area is agriculture but that too is not sufficient to meet the needs of the people. It has also been observed that the higher groups have more strong relationship with the forests and

the lowers, tends to be dependent, upon the higher ones, to some extent, for their needs related to forests which is learned dependency.

The people are religious in nature. There are places of religious relevance. The names deserves mention are Chatarbhuja Devi, BatalDevta, Surgani Devi, Dani Devta. Out of these the temple Chatrbhuja Devi in the panchayat is mostly developed. A temple committee too exist which cares for the developmental works around the temple. The people held this Devi in high reverence. They are used to sought intervention and support of the Devi for their various works.

While seeking reports about the social problems of the panchayat, the people tend to mention unemployment as the major problem of their life. All and above, they tend to seek regular employment. There is not self help group but one Co-operative society exists and the role of which is not intensive and extensive for the enhancement of the economic condition of the people except some routine agenda to provide food grains, on the price fixed by the Government.

The people are hard working. But women bear the burden of hard work both in household working and field works. Men relatively do less hours of working than women. Since, the economic value of the work done by the women is not visible in coins; women's economic status is still dependent on the males. The main expenditure is on food, clothes, customs and rituals.

Community activity was missing as an evidence, during the investigating period. It has been reported by the villagers that few years back this was prevalent in some groups. But they lament that the people have lost interest in collective activities and the society is becoming more individualized. Families are working for themselves. But still, if one insist on some community work, which is not denied but supported.

In the villages, TV or radio sets are almost available in every family and these are the only source of entertainment. The people have no specific recreational or relaxation activity. Political activities do not get favour with the people unless during election time.

Gender Connections

It has been observed that primarily women have direct connection with the forests as they are used to get fodder and fuel wood from the forests. Men folk are not regular visitors to the forests. They come to the forests when certain specific need is to be met. Children too were less frequent to forests.

With regard to women education, it was observed that women are less educated then males and for girls, education have not been favoured till the recent past. It was also observed that younger ones have less patience, understanding and respect for the forests and its relationship to mankind. While the older women tend to have non-damaging attitudes towards trees, however, the younger ones who are relatively careless in their approach. This may be attributed to their physical abilities but motivational distortion cannot be ruled out.

Changes in Recent Past

This area has undergone a major change during last few years. People have started using LPG as fuel and many agriculture implements made of iron/plastics. The cattle rearing too do not find favour with all the people. Some have given up this practice and many are on the verge of giving it up. The majority of youth of this panchayat's is leaving the villages for working in un-organised sector in the nearby urban areas. There are instances where youth left urban area and started working as labourer in the village or adopted

some other occupation. Another feature of the panchayat is that many families are not cultivating their lands and land is becoming barren. Inequality in land distribution is also manifested.

Irrigations is still absent in the areas. The farmers are fully dependent upon the seasonal rains for crops. There is no cash crop of the area. The mains crops are maize and wheat; however, in some parts rice too is cultivated. The villages are getting potable water and they felt a need and stressed the need of irrigation schemes. Due to lack of irrigation facilities the area is even lacking more advancement in the field of agriculture. There is also one Animal Husbandry Hospital in the panchayat.

Education is one of the favoured areas of development in the panchayat which has one 10+2 school, one Matric, one middle and two primary schools. The strength of teachers is too sufficient. People, generally, seem to be satisfied with the functioning of the educational institutes.

There is one Primary health Centre is in the Panchayat. An open eyed view of the panchayats household system shows that there are inadequate provisions for sanitation, ventilation, illumination and courtyards, however, the cleanliness is an aspect of these houses. There is also one Animal Husbandry hospital but the cattle types and rearing practices are traditional and generally no improved breeds of cattle have been found around.

There is no sacred grove in the area, however, some trees are dedicated to some local deity. Besides, the people are mostly ignorant about how to make their economic conditions good. The condition of the marginal strata of the village is not good, who are under debt regularly for many years. The striking fact is that their land is barren too and they also used to no traditional benefits from the forests.

Discussion

On the basis of observation and preliminary exploration, data was collected. It was an endeavor to get maximum people interviewed within the short time limit. The data has been collected, analyzed and discussed keeping in view the salient features of various motivational theories like arousal, incentive and cognitive theories.

Population Distribution

The population of the panchayat is 2812 which is divided into 479 families. The village has been grouped into Wards and the Panchayat has 5 Wards. The distribution of families in the wards is given in the table below.

Table-1
Distribution of Households

Sr.No.	Ward	No.of Villages	No. of households
1	1	2	13+64=77
2	2	1	46
3	3	2	64+62=102
4	4	3	46+64+32=142
5	5	1	112
Total		9	479

The average size of family comes to be 5.08 persons per family. All respondents were found to be committed to their family development. Taken spouses in one family, the number of children distribution comes out to be three in every family. Numerically, all the respondents were of view that the size of family is one of the major constrain that does not allow growth of their economic development and their initiatives.

Household Patterns

There are negligible houses in the panchayat which can be called as big houses. The standard size of house comprises two rooms and one kitchen. Most of the houses are kacha or semi-pucca. Following are the details:

Table-2

Type of Households

Sr.No.	Ward Nos.	No. of households Pucca	Kacha	Total
1.	1	7	70	77
2	2	10	36	46
3	3	20	82	102
4	4	40	102	142
5	5	50	62	112
Total		127	352	479

This details show that 70.30% are kacha or semi-pucca and rest are cemented houses. The size of houses and the percentage of kachahouses show that there is high need of economic development in the panchayat. When talked about their houses, all the respondents aspire for a good and pucca house onsisting more than 4 rooms. Amongst all only 32% were hopeful that they will make improvement to their houses in due course of time, however, the rest were not hopeful but were doubtful whether their children could retain/repair the present houses or not.

Table-3

Expenditure

Sr. No.	Type	Areas of expenditure
1.	Maximum	Food, clothes, customary rituals
2.	Maximum	House, Education, Health

The approach of the people to life is traditional. As they spend more on the customary rituals often more than their capacity. It has been reported by 62% of the respondents that they or their family have loaned some money from some non-bank resources for meeting the expenditure of such rituals more than one time. Birth of a male child is celebrated while that of female is not celebrated in the same fashion. This shows the clear importance of male child. Marriage is the other costly custom which the villagers necessarily undergo the marriage rituals which are costly by nature. Death of anyone in family is the unwanted ceremony which put economic pressure on the family in the unexpected time. Health, education and housing are the less favoured areas in terms of spending money.

All of them feel embarrassed on the thinking, if they could not meet some customary rituals, on birth, deaths, marriage and many others alike. They feel it below their dignity and prestige and a sense of failure comes to them. However, they are self-satisfied with their apnipahunchkemutabik (to perform according to one's resource). They arrange festivities while their local deity fulfills their secret desire like birth of a male child, getting job, free from diseases etc.

Need Analysis

The respondents were asked to specify their utmost instant needs of their life in precise way in the descending order of the given choices for their economic growth. The needs given to them were of two categories. One which involves extrinsic stimuli and the other one need internal motivation. The details are as under:-

Table-4
Need Specified

Sr. No.	Nature of need	%age of respondents	Gender
1	Employment for themselves or their family members	100%(700)	Both
2	Financial help to start some work	10%(70)	Only males
3	Education for family	8%(56)	42M+14F
4	Technological knowledge	3%(21)	9M+12F
5	Land for family	1%(7)	4M+3F

In the employment category of need, the respondents were of the opinion that they or their family members need some regular job in government sector. They do not consider getting job in private sector as tough but they thing government job is pakki (regular and people are generally not retrenched) job and their pay too is high from the private sector i.e. government sector job is valued high as compared to private sector job.

10% of the respondents, all male, desirous to be seeking some financial help for setting up some small scale industry but they are not certain to payback the loan. This may be due the fact that two or three instances were there when the people could not return their loan amount. Education for family is favoured among those who are well off already.

Among the lower group this is not favoured to high extent. Females seem to be showing their interest to be an earning member of their family and desires that they should be given some kind to training and work to improve their family economic condition. Those who aspire for land were having less land but when asked about what they could get from land in adverse climatic conditions they switched over to government job preference.

The implication of this need specification is that the people tend to show dependence on government for providing jobs to them. They lack initiative on their level mainly as a defense mechanism for avoiding failure in their endeavor.

Besides, above specific needs, the respondents have equivocally upheld the social needs like good social relations, need for community development in terms of communication, transportation and opportunities for employment. As a whole, the individual need and social needs comes into the frame of social-psychological needs.

Self-Evaluation

The respondents tend to view their life as a life dominated by collectivity. There is individualism in their income patterns but their expenditure show the social reference. They feel the others, within themselves while stepping up for any action. Moreover, there are traces of shame culture and to perform less than their perceived status put them under embarrassing conditions.

The shame culture has its limits and people tend to give liberal views towards any limited violations of the normative standards. No incident has been reported to have been occurred in the villages in the past years like out casting any member or reproving any person or family socially. For this purpose, some person above 60 years were interviewed to have insight into history of such incidents.

Life is to live for them. They are committed to their family. Family is so deep seated that they do think on securing the lives of their grandchildren. They were asked to rate their life in terms of their achievement, especially in the economic area, keeping only in view their capacity to meet their basic needs. The details are as under:-

Table -5
Evaluation-Rating

Sr. No.	Rating	%age respondents	Gender
1	A great success	_____	_____
2	Successful	_____	_____
3	Merely successful	3%	All Males
4	Not successful	97%	322M+350F

The word success was related to their contentment and expectation in the economic sphere. In this, the contentment lags behind the expectation levels. No respondent considers their life as great success in general and in economic field in Particulars, however, the data shows that the female population do not see themselves as successful in economic sphere. Only two married women interviewed in the sample who were in the government sector do not consider themselves as successful and the reason they find is due to employment the expectation from family increases from them.

Priorities in Life

It was observed that the villagers are traditional in their social behavior. As such, the respondents were asked to indicate their priorities of life and family in terms of marriage, children and income. The order of their ranking on the above is as shown in table:

Table-6
Priority in Life

Sr. No.	Ranking	Choices
1	1	Marriage below 25 years Irrespective of employment
2	2	Two children (one must boy)
3	3	Sufficient income for family

In the table marriage gets the first ranking in terms of priority of life among all respondents. About female, this is a sort of compulsion to marry well below 25 years of age. Only 3 males were reported to have been unmarried beyond 25 year of age and no unmarried girl beyond 25 could not found. After marriage, children are their aspiration and one boy they think is compulsory. Due to traditional nature and patriarchal set up,

income comes after marriage and children. It has been reported that some times the groom side highlight the fake income of the groom in order to marry a girl. No female in the sample is found to be supportive of female careerism. They feel that careerist single women do not enjoy good social status as compared to the housewife and working married women.

In order to evolve a pattern of priority and their ranking, the respondents were given two pattern choices-(i) marriage- children-income, and (ii) income-marriage -children for having insight into their developmental attitudes.

Table-7
Priority pattern

Sr.No.	Ranking	Pattern	Percentage
1	1	Marriage-children-income	83%
2	2	Income-marriage-children	17%

Overall the favour is for marriage, children and income pattern as 83% of population favoured this order, 17% (see table-7) favoured income-marriage-children pattern but they do feel marriage is a compulsory obligation towards family and they also feel that any income for the food, clothes and shelter of family is no problem. Those who favoured the first patterns mostly live in the kacha or semi pacca houses. Inferentially, low income level do favours the first kind of pattern. Income is no consideration for a girl. She is to be married off for so called marrying a girl means ganganahaliye (to become free from responsibility is equivalent to taking a dip in the Ganges).

Personal Aspirations

The respondents were also asked to rank their personal aspirations out of the given three options based on the social-psychological aspects. They opted as under:

Table-8
Aspirations

Sr. No.	Ranking	Options
1	1	Happy family life
2	2	Economic Security
3	3	Social Prestige

All the respondents aspire for happy family relations and the order of ranking remains same, although, some respondents tend to give economic security as first ranking but on further probing they concluded happy family life as first personal aspiration. The implication of this ranking is that people tend to give more value to economic security than social prestige, therefore, it may be said that they may do some work which might slightly influence their social status. It is observed that some families are involved in local of the fact that alcohol drinking is not seen as good manner in the area.

Forest Relations

Preliminary exploration and observation shown that people gets fodder, fuel wood and some wood for various agriculture implements. Forest relations were explored on three grounds viz. forest utilization techniques, visiting frequency, and how do they perceive forest as a contributing factors in their economic development.

The techniques for harnessing the benefits of forest were traditional. 89% of the women visiting forest admitted that they do not only bring the leaves but branches too but they are careful for not cutting trees in such a way to stop the growth of the tree. 11%, the remaining women were not able to do so due to their physical abilities. Male population, generally, do not go to forest. They go with a specific purpose.

On an average, one female from one household visits the forest daily and sometime twice. Overall sample do not feel they could get any other financial benefit from the forests. They never approached any resource person for materializing any benefit from forest. No forest programme is on the way in the panchayat at the time of the study. They perceive forests as traditional source and have shown no serious concern for forests, however, they stressed need for broad leave trees.

Awareness level about forests

The respondents were asked general information about the forest they have ever received from any source like radio and television. They have been put under the following categories:

Table-9
Awareness level

Sr. No.	Level	%age of population
1	Low	83%
2	Midium	16%
3	High	1%

The low level includes those people who could not tell that forests are useful in water generation, rains, soil erosion and fulfilling our major economic needs. The medium level comprises of the groups that could tell these information but could not explain the reasons and consequences. The high level group answered all these queries.

Foregoing analysis shows the following visible trends in the panchayat:

- The panchayat is running in its traditional trends. Modern techniques and implements are still away from the reach of the villagers in the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Economic concerns are the major concerns but familial concerns are more important for an individual.
- Despite educational and health institutions, education and health are not much favoured area of development and the expenditure is more in the customary rituals.
- People lack initiative for various kinds of realistic and un-realistic fears. The major reason is a trend to avoid failure and consequent social disgrace. Quite contrarily, for economic reasons some family do some work that do have not social approval. But that is not a big question as long as they are earning. This implies that those who want to do something substantial need proper motivation.
- There exists overall lack of awareness in general and with respect to the forest in particular.

It may be said in view of the preceding exposition that the people of the panchayat are hoping for a good future but they do have fears about when it could fall upon them. They seem to have developed a dependent frame of mind that only government has to do something for them. They themselves may not do anything substantial but may fail while taking the feat.

Concluding Remarks

Indian society, in collectivity, by and large, may not be termed as a success oriented society but given to individual aspirations and conscious reasoning the people may be motivated by a desire to avoid failure. The analysis of the data, in line with the objectives of the study, shows the following constraints and trends that hamper the economic achievement of people through the utilization of forest resources:

- Fear of failure for taking initiatives.
- Lack of awareness about utilization of their land cultivate or uncultivated for enhancement of economic condition.
- Dependence on government for their welfare.
- Low level of need achievement drive.
- Slow but steady semi-urbanisation processing of villages.
- Low level of expectations from forests.
- Low level of production from the land and temporary migration of working age group from the villages.

Broadly, these may be grouped under cognitive factors and social factors. It is necessary for achieving the goal of economic growth in this area and proper motivation towards the optimal utilization of forest and non-forest resources can play a major role. The trends shows apathy towards forests and decrease in the cultivated areas due to migration of the working population, non-timber produce can be major motivating factors for strengthening the village economies.

Taking first step, the cognitive factors needs to be taken into account to streamline these factors, on the basis of motivational analysis of these people to develop a proper counseling programme to direct their motive towards the economic growth.

In the second, on the basis of data, it can be said that outside arousal is an important factor in the economic condition of the villagers. Since, there is nothing that can stimulate their activity in the villages; efforts from the government level would be required so that their success rate may be in competence with their desire and at least at par with their minimum need achievement expected from that particular activity. In the panchayat the basic system that can arouse high level of drive is an irrigation scheme which can turn the future of villages.

Finally, incentives would be serving as a magic in this sphere. The people living in the villages are in such needs that it may be minimum nit regular incentives would discourage their loan taking practices and exploitation at various levels which in turn would result in sustaining the economic growth.

Now, the question is whether these three steps must be taken in one row or one step after another. Taking collective view and theoretical aspects of these steps, it may be said that one would lead to the success of the other but simultaneous working on all these aspect would be capable of doing wonders as this includes not only the psychological aspects but also the social and ecological factors. Two possible models can be drawn. One may be termed as Step Model (Fig. 1) and other may be termed as collective Model (Fig.2).

Step Model puts the three factors, viz., cognitive, arousal and incentives in order in which one succeed the other. Their interconnection is necessary for economic development and utilization of forest resources. The cognitive step takes the first position. It means that cognitive factors like aspirations, desires, and attitudes needs to be directed in particular direction so as to get optimum result of a particular effort. It is established fact that need proper attention that distortion in cognitive factors derails the development of a person in sectors like economic development.

Arousal theory of motivation argues that humans also act under the influence of outer stimuli. In the Step Model, the need for outer stimuli gets the second place as the area of study tends value to traditional ways. The arousal factors in this area, specifically in respect of forest resources could be linking of forest resources to the direct economic benefits of people. There is a need for doing substantial in this field within short period of time, if such an link or mechanism could not be framed and made working with in time, it is visible that sooner or later the respect for forests and value of forest would be devalued and respect for forests and value of forest would be devalued and respect would be a thing of gone days with the passing of those people who held forests in high esteem.

Incentive has been given the third stage in the model. People are incentive oriented but in this area they get all this the cities like Chandigarh and Shimla, Delhi which are at the distance of 9-12 hours travel from the area. Due to adequate transportation mediums, without incentives the migration of working population is observable phenomena in the area and the participation of this population is negligible in the Panchayati Raj Institution. In this section, the incentives can be generated by way of bringing people into streamline for using their private land for growing forest minor produces so as to generate immediate incentives.

In this model, it may be said that the time frame would be crucial aspect. This must be a continuous process; one step needs to be followed by the other. As, time gap would distort the effects and efforts of the earlier step. And the groups needs attention in these steps are, women and scheduled caste groups.

The Collective Model seeks to develop a combine strategy including cognitive, arousal and incentives factors as base line to achieve economic development. The results of this model would be fast coming but it needs efforts from all sectors in one go.

On measuring cost of each model, it may be said that Step Model is less on cost as compared to the Collective Model. But the other side of the coin is that first model is more time consuming than the other. In view of this cost-time relationship, the traditional way of living in the area under study is of significant value. Since, traditions do not give way of any change easily, so to use the collective model in such area may not be giving all result in one time and the efforts may go waste. Therefore, the Step Model is one the model that can be recommended to such areas which is low at cost and do to tend to destabilize the social system but tends to bring change ins steps.

In the macro development programmes, it seems that individual has lost and a big collectivity sometime incomprehensible is all the focus of attention. The big collectivity, in the countries like India, and the States like Himachal Pradesh which are socially and geographically are more diversified that uniform, the results of development and achievement are still far from being uniform. In such a scanerio, an agreement can be made with the generalization that this form of development has in some or other way has contributed towards marginalization.

The importance of taking micro level in consideration is also enhanced by the need that the village and panchayat system is still the root level of joining people to the main streamline of the country's aspirations. And in this area, the individual can be focused more clearly and potential efforts can be made for achieving the goal. Argument posed here is not generating macro and micro conflict but to maintain the link between these two that appears to be lost in the scenario and the focus is to focus on individual, his traditional skills and his relationship with nature.

In the end, it may be said with certainty that development programmes would not be giving the desires unless proper attentions given to psychological aspects. It is, therefore, imperative that the persons trained in the discipline of psychology be deputed at least at Block Level to achieve the desired ends of development. This would save other costs that the planners are investing for sustaining the development process.

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