

INHABITANCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUJJAR TRIBE IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF PUNJAB

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Abstract: Punjab is well known for its agricultural enriching soil and land of Five Rivers, which has been a Centre of attraction to foreigners for centuries. This land helped several tribes and communities to get settled with permanent inhabitation on it. The Gujjar tribe which is known for its nomadic life practice has been getting shelter in Punjab. The mainstream of Gujjar's occupation is cattle rearing and Punjab is the most suitable place for the practice of their traditional job. The change in time and modernity give impacted each part of society. The Gujjar tribe still follows the primitive school of livelihood. However, it comes to light that some aspects of their lifestyle are getting changed by the influence of the modern era of society. The nature of settlement under the influence of modernization is debated in research work and the influence of modernity by investigating the pros and cons of Gujjar suppression. How their nomadic life and traditional occupations affect her restrained life. This study focuses on 100 Gujjar families living in the most populated villages of the Gujjar community in selected villages from various districts of Punjab state which are Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Tarn Taran. Study have examined the transformation and settlement characteristics of the Gujjar tribe. It also discusses obstacles faced by communities in the area of settlement.

Keywords: Gujjar, inhabitation, nomadic, influence, modernity, Punjab.

Introduction:

India is a multicultural, multiracial and multiethnic society. A land of diverse communities. There are big differences in the culture, lifestyle, customs and traditions of the Indian people in different parts of India. The tribesmen are scattered throughout the country. Indian tribes are diverse in terms of socio-economic and political development. Some tribes still live a traditional way of life, while others have largely clung to their ancient way of life. From an early age, rivers and other bodies of water have been the primary choice for humans to access water for survival and basic needs. As a result, most early civilizations lived near freshwater bodies. Nomads always prefer to be near running water. The Gujjars are also a nomadic natural community who have spent most of their lives moving from one place to another. The Gujjars are primarily a pastoralist community, but today many live in sedentary communities. According to one account, the Gujjar settled in Central Asia, entered India via Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, and established a territory in Gujarat. It was in the 7th century that they were first called warriors. They went to the mountains to find pastures for their animals. Their language is Gojari, which is similar to Pahari. The 1941 Indian Census states: "Historians

believe that the 'Gujar' tribe settled in the Mount Abu region of Rajasthan. These and other tribal groups are believed to have descended from what is now known as the Gujar". In Punjab, Gujar had migrated from Jammu and Kashmir for decades. They are known for their genetic cattle breeding. Jammu and Kashmir is located in a hilly region and heavy snowfall in the winter makes it difficult to supply enough green fodder for livestock. Most of the Gujar tended to migrate to the plains of Punjab. Punjab, along with Jammu and Kashmir, is the first plains state to offer favorable weather conditions for them. In Punjab, green grass for grazing cattle is readily available, allowing the Gujar to make a living by feeding their livestock and selling the milk from their buffaloes. After years of struggle, many Gujjar families settled in several districts of Punjab.

Objectives of the study:

1. To find the inhabitation nature of the Gujjar tribe in the four Districts of Punjab i.e., Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Tarn Taran
2. The main objective of the research is to explore the inhabitation transformation of the Gujjar community under the impact of modernity

Research Methodology:

The research approach of this research is a case study to analyze the employment characteristics of the Gujar communities. The above mentioned four Districts of Punjab has been designated as the study area for primary data collection. There are 1281 Gujar families living in the four districts of Punjab. Insights are gleaned through interactions with 100 Gujar families living in the most populated villages of the Gujar community. For the data collection various tools were used like questionnaire and interview. Secondary data were collected from published books, research articles, papers, reports, etc. Therefore, a comprehensive qualitative research methodology is used to obtain fruitful results from the research work.

Discussion:

Gujjars have been living in Punjab for centuries, and the majority of their tribe is still living a nomadic life. They move from one place to another to fulfil their daily needs. They face several

Problems while roaming the different areas, as common civilians they also have the desire to get a permanent settlement to live a stable life. Hence the young generation of the Gujjar tribe getting the impact of modern society and is struggling to have a steady lifestyle.

The Housing conditions in Gujar are classified into three categories based on conducted interviews of respondents. In the first segment, their homes are inhabited by Gujar families who have purchased land and built their own homes. They are landlords and build their own houses on the land. In Punjab, 34 of their 100 houses are family-occupied, indicating that more than 34% of his Gujar own their own homes. They needed 3 to 10 marlas (a unit of land measurement) of land to build a house according to their needs. Land of 5.17 Marla is the average of land acquired by Gujar for housing in Punjab, calculated based on data collected from respondents.

The second type of housing is rental housing. These are the Gujar who rent or lease land for a while and build a house on a small piece of the land. They use the remaining land for cattle. They pay the landlord not just for the house, but for the entire property. Rent for undeveloped land in Punjab ranges from Rs 15,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre, depending on location and type of land. Rs 21,633 per acre for one year is the average rent paid by Gujjars to landlords. In some cases, Fertilizer is sometimes given to the landowner as land rent instead of money, and

the landowner uses this fertilizer as a natural fertilizer for the crops in their fields. This barter system depends on the landlord's needs, but most Gujar pay their landlords their rent in cash. In Punjab, 60 Gujar live on rented land. They show that 60% of him Gujar have no land of their own.

The third type of housing is free housing or housing on government land. In such cases, Gujar families live on government property such as river banks, canal banks, mandi (grain market), village Shaamlat (vacant common land of village), or other government property. Such families are very often immigrant families. They spend a period in the same place and then rarely move to another. Sometimes we have to become victims of natural disasters such as floods. In Punjab, these respondents are living on state land without paying rent to government or any other institution. In any case, such accommodations are becoming scarce, but it is also important to look back on their harsh and unstable lives.

Nature of Housing	Total number of respondents	In numbers	In percentage
Own house	100	43	43%
Rented house	100	53	53%
Free/Govt. land	100	4	4%

As explained above, Gujar live in their own homes, rented or government-owned land. There are two types of these houses: Concreted houses and crude houses. houses can only be built on their land. Crude house houses, on the other hand, are built using mud, bamboo, and rice straw on rented or rented land.

Type of House	In numbers	In percentage
Concreted house	66	66%
Crude house house	64	64%

The biggest problem is that the Gujar have to spend Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 to rebuild their houses after half a year because rice straw and other materials cannot be stored stably for more than half a year in Crude house houses. facing. During the rainy season, water starts dripping from the muddy ceilings of the houses, turning the entire living area into a wasteland.

On the other hand, the Gujar Concreted houses in the oriented districts of Punjab are nominal in number. The main reasons they choose to build crude house houses are:

1. The Gujjars' occupation is animal husbandry and dairy farming, which requires them to move from one place to another. For this reason, they do not build Concreted houses.
2. A crude house or mud house costs much less than a concreted house, so you can spend less to build a house.
3. Most Gujar spend their lives as nomads, living in rental land where they cannot build concreted houses on someone else's land.
4. They are experts in building traditional houses and do it themselves so they don't have to pay extra for the construction.
5. There is no requirement of electric fan or cooler. Their mud house provides them with a suitable environment to live in during the summer months.

It can be seen that many Gujar live in crude house houses for the above reasons. This is not their wish, but a compulsion due to their circumstances. Their nomadic life is the main obstacle to changing their residence from a Crude house to a Concreted house.

The above data show that the majority of Gujar still live in crude house houses made of bamboo, mud, rice straw and other dry grasses. This type of house only protects the house

from heat and cold, but not as much as a concrete house. Bamboo houses have very low strength. Therefore, in most cases, bamboo houses cannot protect themselves from major natural disasters such as earthquakes, storms and heavy rains.

Disadvantages of crude houses:

1. Bamboo houses have a very short lifespan. According to the answers of the respondents, it seems that the bamboo house cannot be protected for more than 2 years.
2. This type of home needs frequent repairs. It costs 5,000 to 10,000 rupees twice a year.
3. During the rainy season, rainwater starts flowing over the roofs of these houses. Therefore, family members and other household goods are also affected.
4. Mud houses have very low strength and cannot withstand severe natural disasters. It will hurt quickly.
5. Bamboo and wooden houses are flammable and endanger the lives of Gujar.
6. Since these houses are made of mud, wood, rice straw, etc., creatures like snakes can easily invade the house and harm the family.
7. Their homes are very unsanitary due to their construction and the raw materials used, causing several diseases.
8. Gujar lives with livestock, and some livestock diseases can have a negative impact. That led her to her unhealthy life.

Impact of modernization

1. In the search of stable life Gujar tribal people are Pursaching land in Punjab. They are not economically strong, so they do the sale of their cattle to fulfil the amount to purchase the land to build their own house.
2. Nowadays, Gujjars prefer to build a concreted house instead of the crude house. In this era the crude house seems very less, concreted houses are far stronger than crude houses. Hence, they are understanding the security of their family and belongings over time.
3. Traditionally Gujjars are living a nomadic life but by passage of time it is changing they are moving towards the modernity at some extent.
4. Due to their non-settled life style they keep on changing their address and sometimes it is difficult to find them even by their own relatives. It is the reason mostly Gujjars are now preferring the settled-life.
5. By earning permanent settlement Gujjars are also started utilizing the various facilities provided by the Government.
6. The children of Gujjars are now getting proper education due to the impact of settled life. Even in some cases the children are also getting Government Jobs as well.
7. Due to the impact of development they have also started using the modern equipment like Fridge, Television and so many other.

Conclusion:

The present study aimed at understanding of Gujjars Transformation from Nomadic to Modern and stable Life. To conclude we can say that the Gujjars have started to adopt the settled and modern life, but it is in the beginning phase and moving very slowly. They are adopting mainstream life which is helping them to be part of the society. Getting various facilities from Government schemes and children are also getting proper formal education. Although major part of Gujjars still struggling to raise the bar and they living in Rental houses as data shown in discussion above. As they slow and steady wins the race there will a

day when all the Gujjars will be modernized and developed properly, but for that Government and various NGO`s should hold their hand to show the right path. The present study shows that Gujjars are being transferred from Nomadic life to Crude Houses and some to concrete houses under the influence of Modernity.

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