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**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSE HOLD INDUSTRIES IN LAHAUL & SPITI DISTRICT: AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED VILLAGES BASED ON PRIMARY SURVEY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Lahaul-Spiti, one of the frontier district of India in Himachal Pradesh, has a challenging terrain with ice fields, snow covered peaks and most inhospitable climate. The region is cut –off for the most part of the year from rest of the world. The language, tradition, culture, and populations of Lahaul and Spiti are closely related. The Lahaulis are of Tibetan and Indo-Aryan descent, while the Spiti Bhotia is more similar to the Tibetans, owing to their proximity to Tibet. Large scale industry in the region is utterly unimaginable and one cannot think about it due to presence of number of physical-socio-economic-cultural-political factors in the region as it bounds the region in terms of difficult terrain, climate, traditional beliefs, lack of investment, lack of proper policy implementation and political preferences of political leaders and so on leads to or contributes to the development of the region. Businesses are still prominent in this region. Business related activities are majorly performed by those who are educated up to secondary level. Census data also present the same picture. Government efforts to encourage the household industry fell in the deep gorge as peoples inclination is more towards the agricultural related activities because natural environment conditions are favourable for it.*

**Keywords:** Lahaul-Spiti, Natural Environment, Terrain, Government Role, Development, Household Industries,

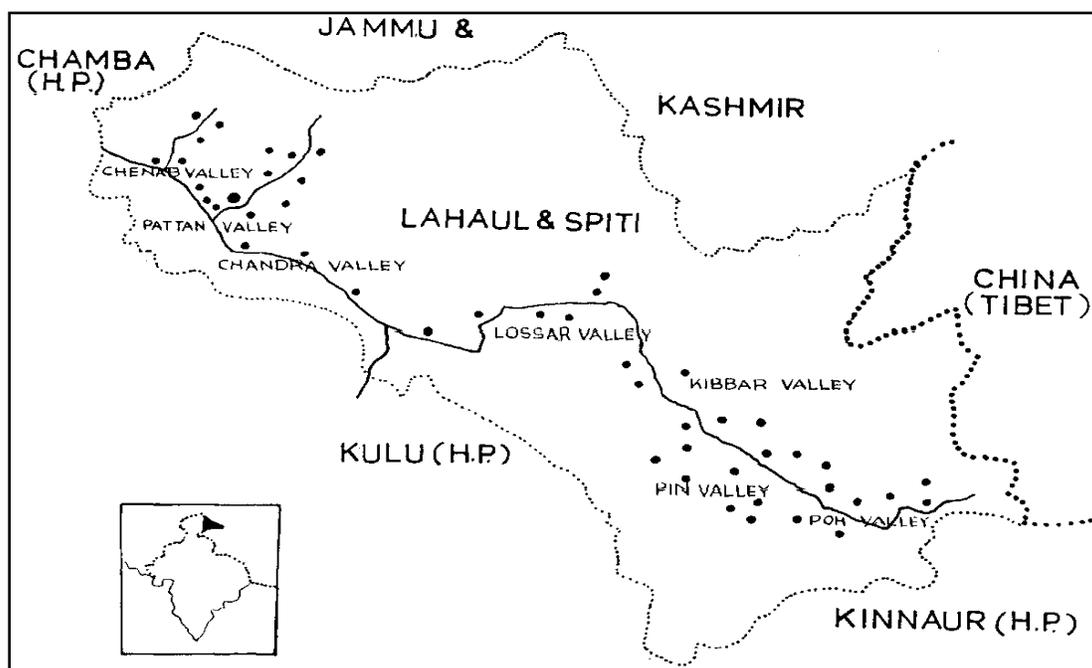
### **Introduction**

In an area, which is covered with snow for more than six months of the year, where per square kilometre population is only two, and the terrain is extremely rocky and arduous the kind of economy one can expect or visualise is extremely unimaginable. Economic resources of such a region can only be few, depending upon the mercy of nature. The ecology has played a most dominant part in the evolution of professions of people. In the absence of adequate resources, the region remained deficient in food grains, devoid of forest resources and deprived of mineral wealth. But this diverse agro-climatic conditions and geographical features, floriculture, sericulture, hydro power generation, handicrafts, wool-based industries, handlooms, herbs based and aromatic industries are comparatively better developed. These industries have now identified as thrust industries.

### **Location and extension**

Lahaul-Spiti, one of the frontier district of India in Himachal Pradesh, has a very difficult terrain with ice fields, snow covered peaks and most inhospitable climate. The region is cut –off for the most part of the year from rest of the world. Lahaul-Spiti is situated between 31 degrees 44' 57" and 32 degree 59' 57" north latitude and between 76 degrees 46' 34" and 78 degrees 41' 34" east longitude. The district of Lahaul-Spiti is separated in the north from Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir by the Baralacha range which has an average height of 5500 metres, and in the east the Tibet region.

**Map 1 Location Lahaul Spiti District**



Source: district gazetteer, 2001

In the south east, the district is separated from Kinnaur district by a lofty mountain with an average height of 5000 meters. In the south-west and west, the district is separated from Kullu and Chamba districts by the lofty range with an average elevation of 4500 meters. The sole access to Lahaul-Spiti lies over the 3915 meters high Rohtang pass. According to the 2001 census, the total area of the district is 13835 sq kilometres and the population of the 31294. The average density of population per sq. kilometre is two only.

### **Objectives**

Objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify and analyses the impact of natural environment on the distribution of household industry and local businesses operating in the region.
2. To identify the types of household industries operating in the region.
3. To determine the types of businesses operating in the region and to find out the educational qualification of them and the reason behind choosing it as a profession.
4. To identify the role of government in encouraging household industry.

## **Database**

The study is mainly based on the collection of primary and secondary data related to the Household industry and businesses of the district. The sampling method was used for collection of village-based data followed by observation after rapid field visit. Secondary data were collected from the Lahaul-Spiti District census handbook, village and town directories, Directorate of census operation.

## **Methodology**

As the study is based on the primary and secondary data, we have used various statistical methods like pie diagrams, bar graphs, etc.

## **Review of the Literature**

A large number of studies have been conducted by scholars on rural on farm sector and industry. The studies have also concentrated on the range of issues starting from hill area development to employment opportunities in hill region, participation in other services and so on. Rinki Sarkar, "Understanding Sustainability: study of A hill settlement" tries to explain Sustainable development entail the protection of forests, soil, water systems as well as the atmosphere making the notion of resource limits an integral part of the production and economic systems of the inhabitants of a settlement. Therefore, the concept of 'sustainability' assumes importance for settlements which survive amidst ecologically fragile upland conditions. A case study of tribal belt of Himachal Pradesh is carried out to explain the nature of sustainability in the region and for assessing it the production and livelihood systems adopted by inhabitants of these settlements. The main finding is that traditional practices regarding livelihood systems (mainly agriculture and livestock-raising) were entirely subservient to ecological conditions. In the past, equitable land distribution policy and the resultant phenomenon of universal landownership may have fostered these sustainable practices. Whereas, these practices are noticeable even today. Therefore enhancing accessibility to natural-resource conserving substitutes is essential.

Vishambhar Pratap Sati in his paper "Natural Resource Conditions and Economic Development in the Uttaranchal Himalaya", India states that Uttaranchal is a fragile region. The diverse socio-economic activities, harsh traditional beliefs and hard working potentials further change the

entire scenario of the state. Poverty is a growing phenomenon in most areas of the Uttaranchal State, especially in the mainland (hills parts), which constitute about 85% of the total geographical area. Negative impacts on Agricultural productivity and loss in the quality and quantity of forests have, therefore, direct Implications for the well-being of the rural households who depend on these two primary resources for their sustenance. Throughout the state, severe environmental problems have already emerged. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people and about 75% population is engaged in the agriculture and its allied practices (including horticulture, herb production, rearing of animals). Forest is the second most valuable resource, which provides large quantities of firewood and fodder resources to households are now depleting or becoming invisible. So what had appeared during the past, about the economic development, needs radical changes in policies, planning and beliefs? Therefore this paper aims to evaluate the present conditions of resources as a form of natural vegetation, crops, horticultural farming, herbs, tea garden practices, livestock rearing, hydropower projects and economic development of the Uttaranchal Himalaya.

Further Vyas and Mathai in their article “Farm and Non-Farm Employment in Rural Areas: A Perspective for Planning” mentions that Since the beginning of the century the proportion of agricultural work force to the total work force has hardly changed. In the rural area's dependence on agriculture has further increased. The picture has remained unaltered even after the initiation of planning in the country. The overall growth of the economy had no perceptible impact either regarding diversification of rural occupational structure or a dent on rural poverty. In this paper, the situation is examined through defining the status of data provided by the NSS rounds for employment, and it was also argued that in the rural sector the dominance of agricultural sector in the employment structure prompts ones' thoughts on the possibilities of absorption of the additional labour force in this sector<sup>3</sup>. At the last one can say that this paper examines the prospects for expansion of employment in agriculture and rural industry and also examines the certain deliberate policy decisions - creation of physical and social infrastructures, changes in the present rural credit and pricing policies, etc. that need to be taken to make a dent in rural unemployment.

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<sup>3</sup>C. VELAVANANDP BALAJI, Crop Diversification in Tamil Nadu-A Temporal Analysis, [http://docplayer.net/47472635-Crop-diversification-in-tamil-nadu-a-temporal-analysis.html#show\\_full\\_text](http://docplayer.net/47472635-Crop-diversification-in-tamil-nadu-a-temporal-analysis.html#show_full_text)

Basant and Kumar in their study on “Data Base for Study of Household Manufacturing Sector Problems of Comparability” argue that in developing nations enterprises organised on a household basis has traditionally constituted an important segment of the rural non-agricultural sector in India. Unfortunately, the data base relating to the household sector is surprisingly weak. The data available from different fragmented sources differ between sources and sometimes from the same source over time, partly because of the differences in the definition of the household enterprise. The number of workers, and the location, intensity and the number of activities undertook a year, often according to the season. Under Decennial census operations, establishment tables (ET) and general economic tables (GET) were examined so that the condition of those who are employed in the known farm sector and also by industrial category group can be monitored on a larger scale. The National Sample Surveys and Economics Census (CSO) estimates on the household industry, and employment was examined. And lastly, a conclusion was drawn by comparing all these sources to find the variations in the type of information received or collected.

Kothari and Kothari in their paper “structural adjustment vs environment” tries to states that Under the New Economic Policies, drastic 'stabilization' and 'structural adjustment' programmes are being put into effect in an effort to meet crisis that the country is facing, and to propel its economy into quicker growth and global integration but there has been almost no serious analysis of their implications on the living environment of the citizens. Therefore in this study interplay of various factors about environment is put forward and the situation was examined to get a clear picture of what was happening in the name of sustainability was answered.

Jeemol Unni in his paper on “Employment Strategies Adopted in Wage Dependent Households” There is considerable differentiation among rural households in India with a substantial growth of landless households and cultivator households with small holdings. Any study of the rural economy regarding land, labour, credit or output markets has to take account of this differentiation. It is possible to divide the households into class categories depending upon their access to land and other assets and the amount of surplus they produce. During capitalist development, changes in the labour process resulting from technological progress have a direct

impact on employment. The major focus of this paper is in households dependent on wage labour either as a major or a subsidiary source of income. Casual wage work in agriculture or non-agriculture involved hard labour and was traditionally undertaken only by certain low caste. This paper is divided into three sections. The first section analyses the broad trends in labour participation and the status distribution of the work force in rural areas between 1961 and 1983 at the state level. Changes in the employment and incomes of wage-labour households over the period 1964-65 to 1977-78 for the fourteen major states of the country are analysed in section two. The employment strategies adopted at the household level by wage dependent households in a developed and a backward region of Gujarat in 1984-85 are analysed in section three.

Bajpai in its book "Lahaul and Spiti: a formidable land" provides information on the wider range of topics. This fascinating study deals with Lahaul Spiti's physical set up, its people and its economic spectrum. It highlights the causes and effects of natural and human relations and enables us to understand the interplay between nature and human. A correct picture of the regions resource base, economic and other parameters was interpreted in a very secure manner so that one can easily get what exactly author is trying to say that. Right from physical setting to climate to minerals and forest resources to agriculture to the economy all was covered. Chapters on themes like water resources, fairs and festivals, tourism will contribute greatly to comprehend the whole geography on modern lines. The problems and prospects have been critically examined, and remedial measures have been suggested for ushering in an era of sustainable development, ever growing progress and abiding prosperity.

### **Natural environment conditions**

The natural environment, commonly referred to simply as the environment, is a term that encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth or some region thereof.

### **Physical setup**

Lahaul and Spiti valleys differ from each other in their physical features. Spiti valley is broad, enchanting and completely rugged without any verdure worth the name; the Lahaul valley is narrow and at once steep but studded with green patches of poplar, willow and other coniferous forests. The Spiti valley has a minimum altitude of about 10000 feet. The Lahaul Valley has a

low elevation broadly ranging from 6500feet to 14000 ft near the source of Chandra and Bhaga. Both these valleys have snow clad peaks and glacier.

### **Water resources**

Both the valleys are studded with enormous rivers and rivulets. The main river which originated from Chandra Tal is Chandra Bhaga River. And it extends downward up to Tandi, the other river is the Bhaga which originates from Suraj tal opposite Bara la cha and meets Chandra at Tandi and beyond Tandi the two rivers amalgamate into Chandra Bhaga or Chenab river adding splashing rivulets on the way until they leave the district at the Nallah to Pangri and onwards to Pakistan and ultimately immortalizes itself into Arabian sea.

### **Geology**

In the late Pre-Cambrian times that is more than 600 million years ago when the area of Lahaul and Spiti was a vast sea, sedimentation started and different lithological units were deposited under different depositional environments, e.g. in shallow basin or shallow subsiding basin, under quiet water conditions area comprised of sand, stones, shales, slates, phyllites, quartettes and limestone, intrusive granite forming root zone of central Himalayas is also encountered in the area. The rock units occurring in the area have been affected by the mountain building activity, during its different phases. the only metallic mineral of commercial significance, known from this district is stitinite

Limestone formations are very common in the district.

### **Flora and fauna**

The harsh conditions of Lahaul permit only scattered tufts of hardy grasses and shrubs to grow, even below 4,000 metres. Glacier lines are usually found at 5,000 metres.

Animals such as yaks and dzos roam across the wild Lingti plains. However, over-hunting and a decrease in food supplies have led to a large decrease in the population of the Tibetan antelope, argali, kiangs, musk deer, and snow leopards in these regions, reducing them to the status of endangered species. However, in the Lahaul valley, one can see ibex, brown bears, foxes and snow leopards during winter

## **Minerals**

Copper, gypsum, sulphur, limestone and antimony may be available in the district. However, no detailed work has so far been made in this respect. Most of the deposits being on the altitude of 12000 ft. And above the season for experiment and investigation is very limited and no headway has been made. Therefore, at the moment the mining activity, at best, is at its lowest.

## **People**

The language, culture, and populations of Lahaul and Spiti are closely related. The Lahaulis are of Tibetan and Indo-Aryan descent, while the Spiti Bhotia is more similar to the Tibetans, owing to their proximity to Tibet. Fairer skin and hazel-colored eyes are commonly seen among the Lahaulis. The languages of both the Lahaul and Spiti Bhotia belong to the Tibeto-Burman family. They are very similar to the Ladakhi and Tibetans culturally, as they had been placed under the rule of the Guge and Ladakh kingdoms at occasional intervals.

Among the Lahaulis, the family acts as the basic unit of kinship. The extended family system is common, evolved from the polyandry system of the past. The family is headed by a senior male member, known as the Yunda, while his wife, known as the Yundamo, attains authority by being the oldest member of the generation. The clan system, also known as Rhus, plays another major role in the Lahauli society. The Spiti Bhotia community has an inheritance system that is otherwise unique to the Tibetans. Upon the death of both parents, only the eldest son will inherit the family property, while the eldest daughter inherits the mother's jewellery, and the younger siblings inherit nothing. Men usually fall back on the social security system of the Trans-Himalayan Gompas

Lahaulas are overwhelmingly Buddhist. It is said that the Buddhism spread widely in Lahaul during the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD other religions were Hindus and few Muslims.

Men wear their traditional dress that is Chubu with coat known as the basket in winters and women wear Chubu with tight pyjamas, and they are of maroon and dark brown colour.

## **Agriculture**

Agriculture in Lahaul and Spiti district is the predominant occupation of the overwhelming number of households. The traditional crops holdings used to be barley and buckwheat and pulse like peas, oilseeds, etc. these are the cash crops even today. But with the opening of the vehicular road etc. people have shifted from cereal crops to commercial crops like seed potatoes.

## **Animal husbandry**

While Lahaul primarily leads an agro commercial life, the Spitians are predominantly agro pastoral with livestock population outnumbering the human population. In Spiti sub division there was 16309 livestock with the human population of over 7000 persons in 1971 census and 10000 persons in 1981 census. There were many veterinary hospitals and veterinary dispensaries in the district up to 1979-80.

## **Electricity and power**

In Lahul there are two modest sized hydro electric projects, one at issue and the other at Keylong. The hydroelectric station at Keylong was set up in 1964 with two generating sets of 50 KW each and the third at sangsha with 100KW is in operation since 1966 onwards. The hydro power station at sissus is also in operation since 1966. Until 1979-80, 92 villages of the district had been electrified.

## **Forestry**

Nestled in the inner Himalayas and its deep valleys the Lahaul Spiti district, as already stated, is dry, rugged and barren. There is not much scope for a forestation of economically useful forests.

## **Household industry and business**

Lahaul and Spiti district never had any industry worth the name. This is because, of setting up of industry there is no raw material available locally, secondly, no local expertise, and thirdly, no local market for the produce. Logically, there had been no industry in the district nor will be in the foreseeable future too. One may visualise only household industries like carpet making, carding of wool and weaving of woollen/pashmina shawls and other clothes. There is not much potential for the industries in the entire district.

Industrialization is a comparatively recent phenomenon in Lahaul Spiti. It gained momentum during the last decades. Industries in Lahaul Spiti, are now producing from traditional to a full spectrum of high tech products like magnetic components, telecommunication equipment, electronics, processed food, textiles and spinning products. The contribution of the industrial or manufacturing sector has grown significantly from Rs. 774 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 1920 crore in 2001-02. In 1990-00 regarding percentage, the share of the manufacturing sector in the Gross State Domestic Product has varied from 12.18 in 1995-96 to 14.38.

A household industry is an industry conducted by the head of the household himself/herself and by the head members of the household or within the village, and only within the precincts of the house where the household live in urban area. The larger proportion of workers in a household industry should consist of members of the household including the head. The industry should not run on a certified factory.

The household industry is one that is engaged in production, processing, servicing, repairing or making and selling of goods. It does not incorporate professions such as those practised by a pleader or doctor or barber, musician, dancer, dhobi, shopkeeper, etc. or merely trade or business, even if such professions trade or services are run at home by the members of the household.

**Table 1 Industrial estate in Himachal Pradesh**

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<b>District</b>	<b>Industrial estate</b>	<b>Area (in)</b>
Bilaspur		115445 hect
Chamba	Hatli	6522 hect
Hamirpur		19,278 hect
Kangra	Kangra	577 hect 562
	Jawali	
	Dehra gopipur	
Lahaul Spiti	Keylong	911165 hect
Mandi	Kotli	3,951 km <sup>2</sup>
Shimla	Theog	5131 sq. Km
	Pandranoo	

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Source: District Gazetteer 2001, Lahaul Spiti

But in a region like Lahaul Spiti where natural environment governs the living condition and profession of the people one can hardly imagine the development of a large scale industry, barring some hydro power projects this district lacks the presence of industrial estates except one that is Keylong and it is industrially backward as there is no availability of raw material, minerals, high transportation cost lack of demand, lack of industrial infrastructure and so on of. But as we know man always finds a way through his difficulties; one finds the presence of few household industries in the region. There is carpet weaving training centre at Keylong, government wool spinning and weaving centre at Keylong with sub centre at Junda. But all these are not making the impact so far.

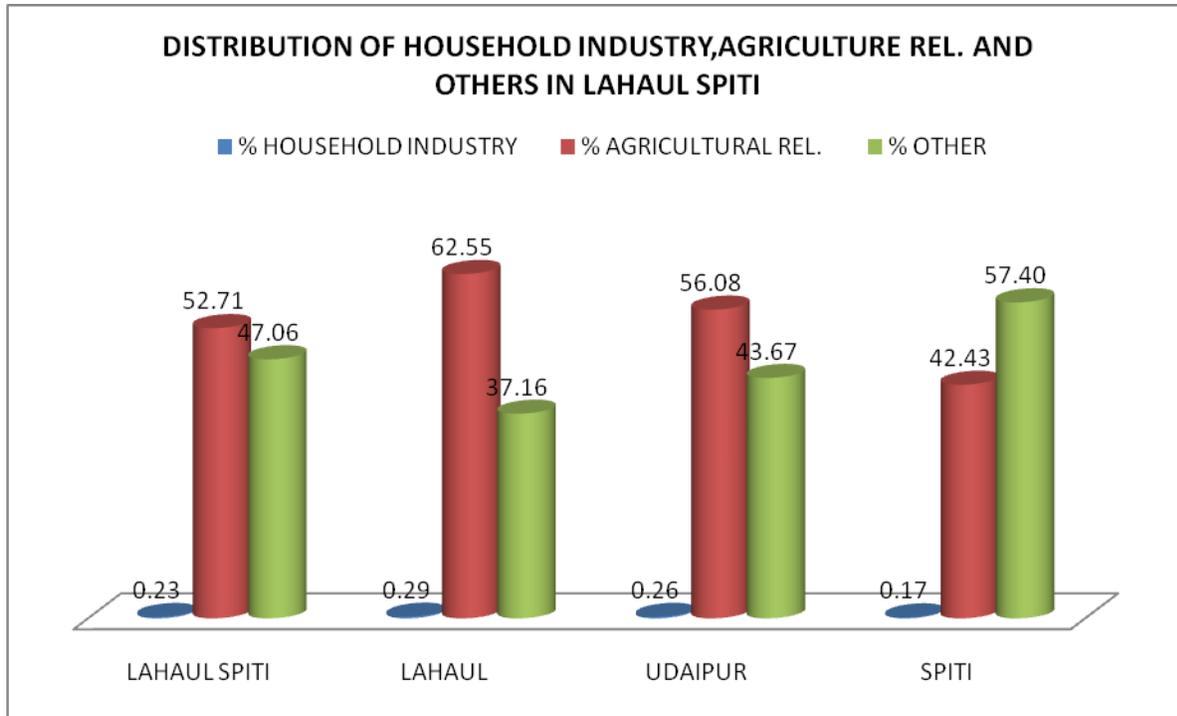
### **Distribution of household industry**

Large scale industry in the region is totally unimaginable and one cannot think about it due to presence of number of physical-socio-economic-cultural-political factors in the region as it

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bounds the region in terms of difficult terrain, climate, traditional beliefs, lack of investment, lack of proper policy implementation and political preferences of political leaders and so on leads to or contributes to the development of the region.

**Figure 1**



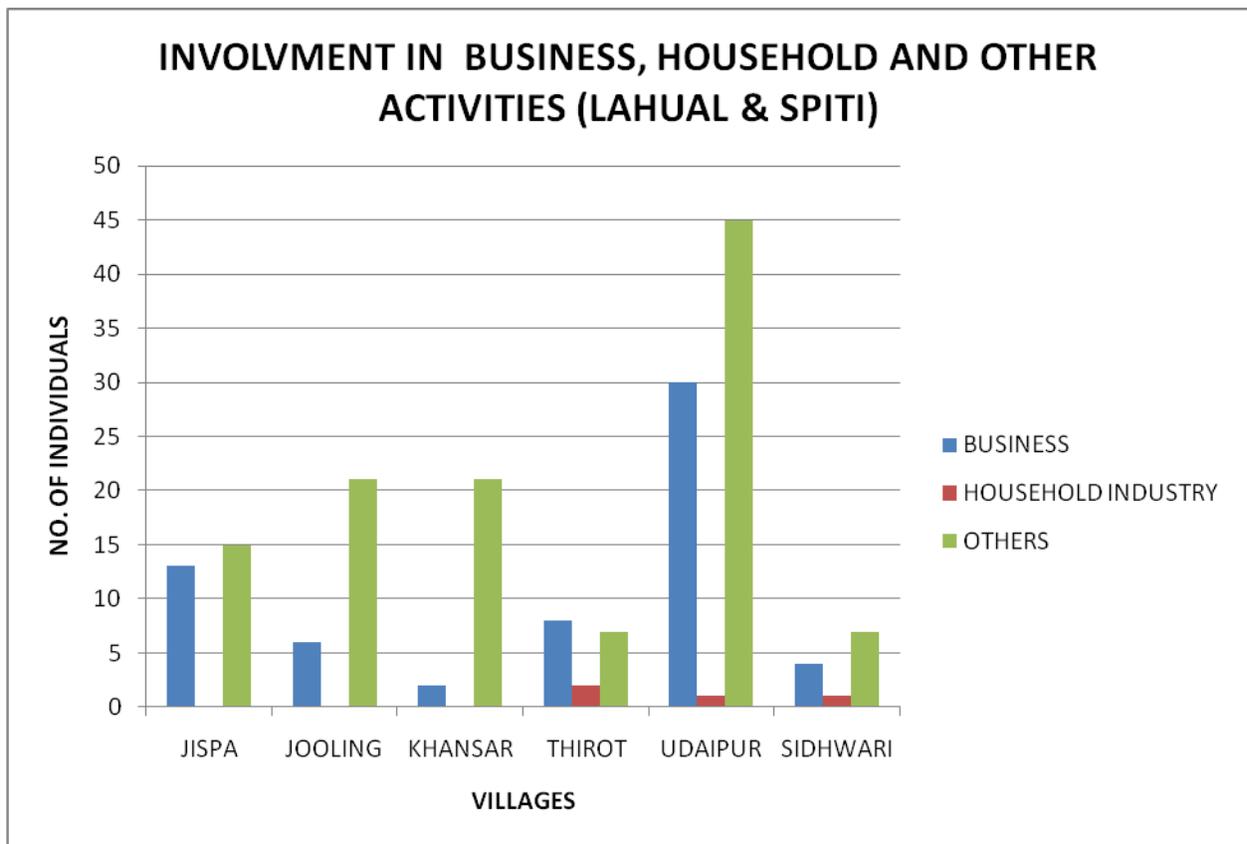
Source: District census handbook, Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh

The graph above is showing the distribution of household industry, agriculture related activities (cultivators and agricultural labourers') and others including those who are under construction, trade and commerce and so on according to Census classification based on secondary level data for the year 2001. This graph indicates the presence of household industries in the region, as the data taken from the total workers employed one finds that people's involvement in the household industry in the region is minimal. As the region is not communicable in the six months of the year, therefore one cannot even buy or supply the produce to the outside market even the exposures to inner market within the region also got disrupted, the region fell into isolation for these six months. The proportion of household industries in Lahaul tehsil is 0.29% while the agricultural labourers and cultivators include 62.15% and others will include 37.16% while in the Udaipur Tehsil this proportion is 0.26%, 56.07% and 43.67% respectively. Whereas

the distribution of others comprises 36.6% of the total workforce of the district, in the areas, we surveyed the composition of those who are involved in these kinds of activities are comparatively much lesser than that what was reported in the district census handbooks published by the census of India.

If we look at villages that we surveyed in the district, one can find that the involvement of people in the region is also showing the similar picture as the whole region is showing

**Figure 2**



In these six villages, the involvement in business, household and other activities are varying i.e. the village Udaipur is having a maximum number of business peoples i.e. 29 persons because of its location that makes more favourable to business activities. And others are showing less in this category, and an average of 5 persons is engaged in business. The household industry is less in these villages i.e. less than two persons in an average. The dominant involvement of the people of these villages are in other works i.e. mainly agricultural; the Udaipur is having more

involvement 45 persons, the Jooling and Khansar are having next dominant village involvement of others i.e. agricultural is 20 person each, and other villages are having involvement of an average of 9 persons only.

### **Types of household industries**

There are no forests, and therefore no forest based economy exists here. Therefore there is no industry indigenous craft here. In the absence of such resources, the economy of the district remains dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry. In fact, people here produce all the necessities of life without which the existence is not possible.

### **Handicrafts and Handloom industry**

Handicrafts and handlooms are one of the important industries which account for 60% of the total employment offered in this household and industry sector. The importance of the handlooms industry lies in the artistic designs, low-cost investments and family based skills that are passed from one generation to another with no formal training. Woolens are the common craft which keeps people engaged during the long winters. Many people have their handlooms, and some use their handful techniques. People twist yarn with a twisting rod worked with hand or by twisting wheels.

They make very fine clothes for their use and commercial purposes. They used to weave clothes from goats hair for use as mats and outer bed clothes. The main products are shawls, Patti, caps, jackets, sweaters and mufflers. People work together in a family as a cluster, and this clusters head will further sell the surplus in the city markets or at the other places. There is a vast potential of development of handlooms industry in the region. Keeping in view the changing scenario, there is a need to diversify the existing products by introducing new designs according to modern times.

### **Distribution of local business**

Business (also called a company, enterprise, work or firm) is a legally recognised organisation designed to provide goods and services to consumers. The etymology of "business" relates to the state of being busy either as an individual or society as a whole, doing commercially viable and

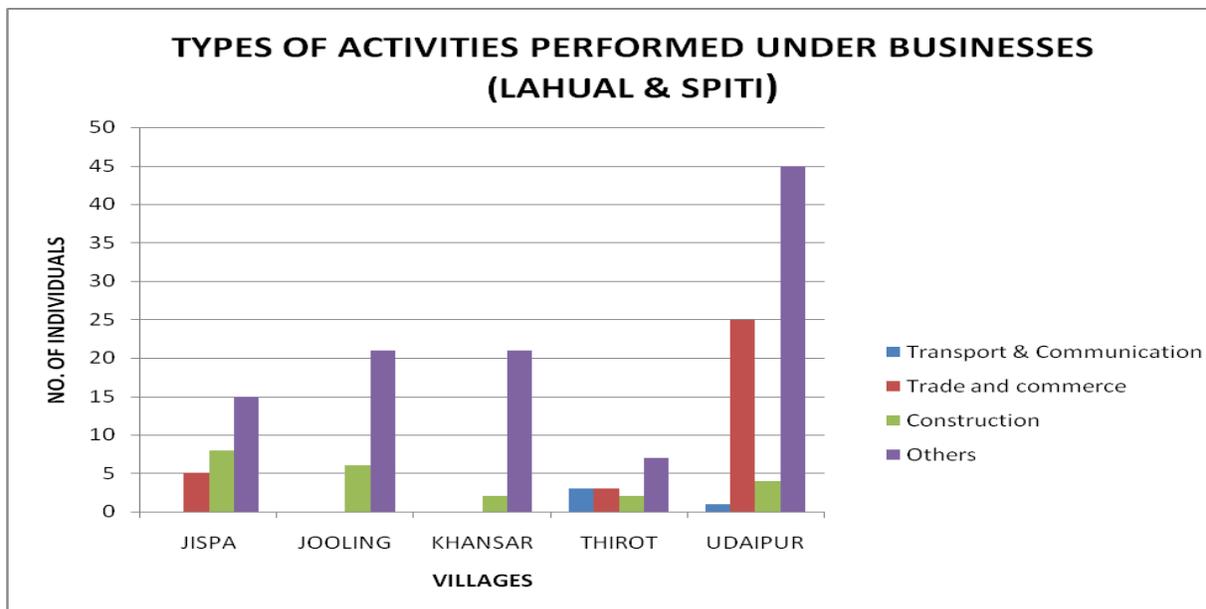
profitable work. And local business involves those activities which are providing goods and services at a much lower scale<sup>4</sup>.

After the opening of the motorable road to, trade centre which earlier used to be at Kullu has now been shifted to Keylong which is emerging as a major industrial town in the region. Those who are in business activities in the region are mainly those who are the local shopkeepers, barbers, tailors and those who are involved in activities providing transportation services to the masses and those who are providing building materials like cement, sand and those who are the local traders, etc to the locals in the region. HERE, business is categorised as :

1. Transport and communication: those who are involved in providing services like that of drivers having a local public calling booth or std.
2. Trade and commerce: those who are local shopkeepers, local traders, sellers, etc.
3. Construction: those who are providing building material etc.

Whereas, if we look at their distribution in the region one find that involvement in the businesses activities is much smaller in comparison, one finds that even their involvement ratio is also lower than those who are involved in other activities that are agricultural related.

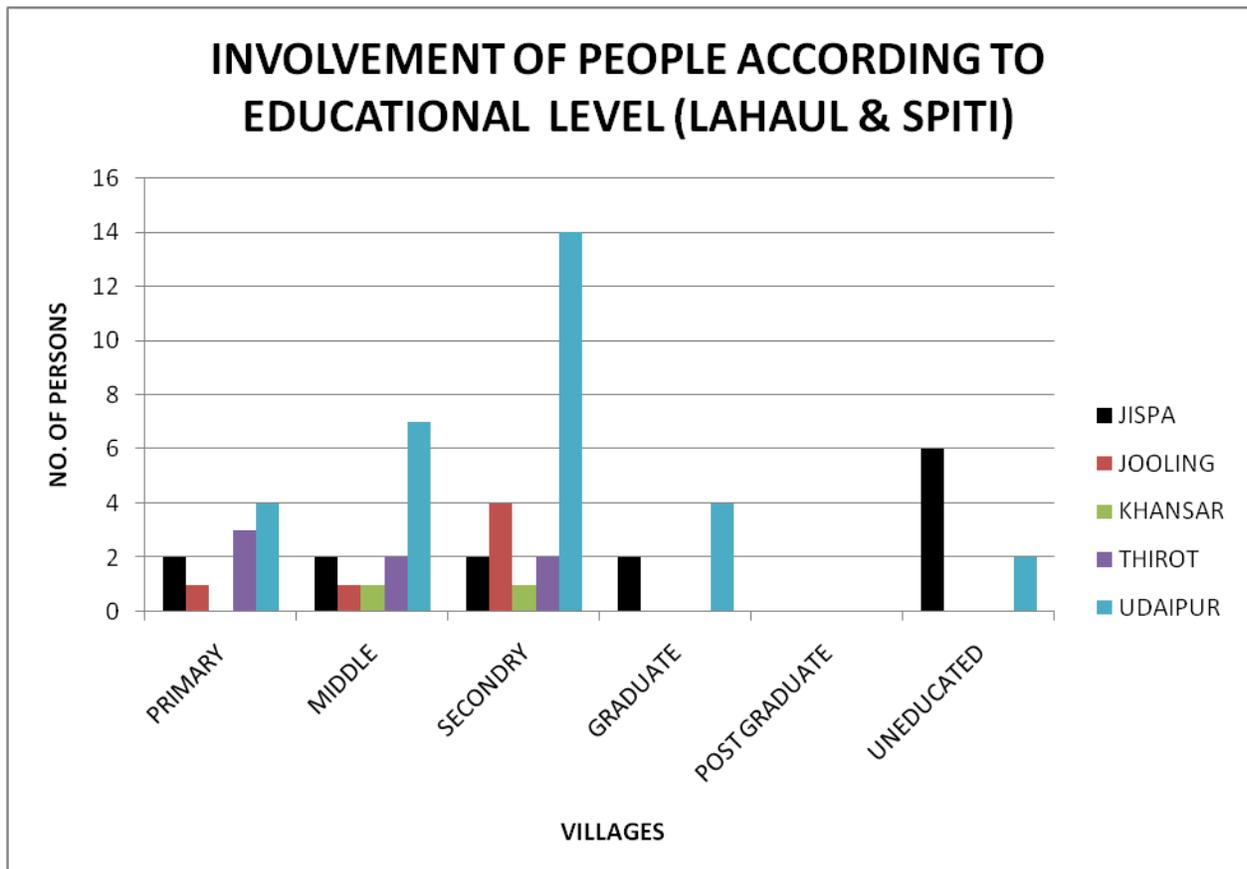
**Figure 3**



<sup>4</sup><https://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-business-majors> accessed on 15 august 2016

The five villages which are taken from the Lahaul & Spiti district (Himachal Pradesh) i.e. Jispa, Jooling, Khansar, Thiro & Udaipur; their main activities which are performed under businesses, are transport and communication, trade and commerce, construction and others. In the category of the trade & commerce in all villages are showing low level (less than 2 persons), in trade and commerce the village Udaipur is the dominant in this category i.e. 23 persons because it is the main block area and the next is Jispa which is having only 4 persons and others are having less than 3 persons in this category. In the constructional work, the only jispa and jooling having more than 5 person rest of the villages are having less than 4 persons in this category. The dominant category in the business activities are from the primary one i.e. agriculture, in this Udaipur, having highest i.e. more than 40 persons, and the village khansar has only 7 persons in this category; others are on the average of 17 persons.

**Figure 4**



The involvement of people in the business by the educational level of Jispa is as follows; only 2 persons each are done primary, middle, secondary schools and graduation, and 6 persons are uneducated. In the jooling 1 person each in primary and middle schools and 4 persons done the secondary schools and no one done the graduation from this village who is in the field of business. From the village Khansar no one had done primary school, only 1 person each from middle and secondary school and nil in the field of graduates and uneducated. Thiroth has 3 persons in primary, 2 persons each are done middle and secondary, and no one did graduation. In Udaipur the 4 persons done primary, 7 persons are done middle, 14 persons are done secondary, 4 persons are done graduation, and 2 persons are done post graduation also, who are engaged in the business.

### **Role of Government and NGO's**

The government of Himachal Pradesh has established some institutions, centres and organisations, corporation and boards to provide technological, HRD development and training, financial and other promotional support to the industry at the household level.

#### *Himachal Pradesh State Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation limited, Shimla*

The primary objectives and targets are:

1. To promote and develops handloom and handicrafts industry in the state.
2. To impart training to weavers and artisans to improve their skills in weaving and also provide financial and raw materials assistance.
3. To assist entrepreneurs in setting up units in their areas.
4. To provide marketing assistance by selling handloom and handicrafts products of local entrepreneurs through showrooms.

#### *Himachal Pradesh financial corporation, Shimla*

It was established in 1967, as a result of a reorganization of the former Punjab financial corporation with the following objectives.

1. To provide loans and working capital loan to small and medium scale units under its various schemes
2. To provide loans for expansion, modernization and rehabilitation of the existing units.

### *Himachal Pradesh centre for entrepreneurship development (HPCED)*

It was set up at Parwanoo in Solan district to provide training to prospective entrepreneurs of the states, to enable them to set up their objectives centres. The main objectives are:

1. To promote entrepreneurship by organizing programmes and workshops, to motivate and infuse the spirit of entrepreneurship with the focus on youth.
2. To carry out the message of industrialisation to the unemployed youth, who are unaware of the self-employment outlets provided by the industrial sector.

Other important organisations of state government working under this programme are:

1. Himachal Pradesh State Small Industries and Export Corporation, Shimla.
2. Himachal Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board, Shimla
3. Small Industries Development Bank Of India, Shimla, etc

### **Conclusion**

As per the observations made at the time of the survey, one finds that due to natural environmental conditions agricultural related activities are the prominent occupation in the region. Businesses are still prominent in this region. Business related activities majorly performed by those who are educated up to secondary level. Census data also present the same picture. Government efforts to encourage the household industry fell into the deep gorge as peoples inclination is more towards the agricultural related activities because natural environment conditions are favourable for it.

Industrialization is a comparatively recent phenomenon in Lahul Spiti. It gained momentum during the last decades. There is a vast potential of development of handlooms industry in the region. The changing scenario, there is a need to diversify the existing products by introducing new designs according to modern times.

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