PREFACE

Energy sector plays an important role in the economic development of any country like India. In the current technological era, its role has become more crucial. Power especially, electric power is the backbone of the industrial world today. The emergence of the electricity as the source of energy became possible on account of Michael Faraday’s discovery in 1831. This discovery opened the doors of conversion of mechanical energy into electric energy. There are three main sources of power generation i.e. Hydro generation, Thermal generation, and nuclear generation. The word “Hydro” comes from the Greek word “Hydra” which means water. Hydro power means electricity produced when running water is used to power generation, which than transforms that energy into electricity. Gravity causes water to flow downward and this downward motion of water contain kinetic energy, that can be converted into mechanical energy and then from mechanical energy into electric energy. It is clean and non-pollution resource of energy. The 540 MW Chamera power station-I and 300 MW Chamera power station- II is a model power station of National Hydro Power Corporation. These power stations are built on Ravi river. There are numbers of the benefits due to the hydroelectric power projects. But there is another aspect in which people of the adjoining area paid social cost due to hydro electric power projects. The present study is dedicated to the Social cost benefit analysis of selected hydro electric power projects in Himachal Pradesh. The entire theme has been divided into eight chapters, Chapter one, Introduction and concept of social cost benefit analysis deals with basic concept of social cost benefit analysis.
power development in Himachal Pradesh. Chapter Two presents “Review of Literature” deals with the review of related literature and the main gaps in the existing literature have also been identified. Chapter Third “Research Design” discusses the need scope, objective, hypothesis and limitation observed during the study. Chapter Four, “Social Cost Analysis of Chamera Hydro Electric Power Projects in Himachal Pradesh” provide a detailed analysis of Chamera I & II with social cost point of view. Chapter five, “Socio-Economic Benefit of Chamera Hydro Electric Power Projects-An Evaluation”. Chapter Six “Impact Analysis of Chamera Hydro Electric Power Projects in Himachal Pradesh” deals with the opinions of the respondents regarding social benefits incurred due to hydro electric power projects. The Chapter seventh deals with Hydro Power Policy 2006 Of Himachal Pradesh-A Critical Evaluation. Chapter-Eight is devoted to the summary of findings, suggestions and identification of areas for future research.

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