LAND AND PEOPLE

The present study has been carried out in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab (India). India is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by geographical area, the second-most populous country, and the most populous democracy in the world. It is probably the only country with the largest and most diverse mixture of races. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; Bhutan, the People's Republic of China and Nepal to the northeast; and Bangladesh and Burma to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; in addition, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia. India has 30 states and 9 Union Territories. Punjab is one of the most prosperous states of India.

Punjab

Punjab is completely a land locked state without any seacoast. The geographical area of Punjab is 50,362 sq. km (1.5% of India's total). It lies in North-west of India. Its average elevation is 300 m from the sea level. Punjab extends from the latitudes 29.30° north to 32.32° north and longitudes 73.55° east to 76.50° east. It is bounded on the west by Pakistan, on the north by Jammu and Kashmir, on the northeast by Himachal Pradesh and on the south by Haryana and Rajasthan. Due to the presence of a large number of
rivers, most of the Punjab is a fertile plain. The southeast region of the state is semi-arid and gradually presents a desert landscape. A belt of undulating hills extends along the northeastern part of the state at the foot of the Himalayas. The state capital of Punjab is Chandigarh. There are 20 districts in Punjab. The State of Punjab in western India is one of the most fertile regions of the earth. The cities have rich culture of self dependence, self reliance and hard work.

**Population**

The total population of Punjab is 27,704,236 persons which comprises of 14,634,819 males and 13,069,417 females (Census of India, 2011). Being an agricultural state, a large part of the population lives in the rural area approximately 66% of people live in rural areas while the rest 34% are urban residents. The literacy has risen from 69.95% in 2001 to 76.68% in 2011. Literacy rate is more in males 81.48% and less in females 71.34% (Census of India, 2011).

In recent times, there is growing concern in the state about the immigration of labourers from other Indian states such as Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Around 15-20% of Punjab's population is now made up of migrants from other states.

**Climate**

The Punjab Climate is determined by the extreme hot and extreme cold conditions. The region lying near the foot hills of Himalayas receive heavy rainfall whereas in the region lying at a distance from the hills, the rainfall is scanty and the temperature is high. The summer months span from mid April to the end of June. The rainy season in Punjab
is from early July to the end of September. The winter season in Punjab is experienced
during the months of early December to the end of February. The temperature range in
Punjab is from –2 to 40 °C (min/max), but can reach 47 °C (117 °F) in summer and –4 °C
in winter.

**Hoshiarpur**

Hoshiarpur district is located in the north-east part of the State. It falls in the
Jalandhar Revenue Division and is situated in the Doaba region of the State. The district
is sub mountainous with stretches of river Beas in the north-west. It shares common
boundaries with Kangra and Una districts of Himachal Pardesh in the north east,
Jalandhar and Kapurthala districts (interspersed) in south-west and Gurdaspur district in
the north-west. At present, it has an area of 3,365 Sq. Kms. and a population, as per 2011
Census, is 15, 82,793 persons. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%.
Hoshiarpur has an average literacy rate of 85.4%, higher than the national average of
74.04%: male literacy is 89.9%, and female literacy is 80.8%.

The district has mild climate compared to other districts of the State. This is due to
the abundance of hilly terrain on the one hand and sizeable forest covers thereon, on the
other. The pattern of seasons in the district is similar to other districts of the state.

Hoshiarpur city is also known as "City of Mangoes". It is called the land of choes
(Seasonal rivulets). They bring floods in the heavy raining season of Monsoon. It has
always been very famous for Wooden and Ivory handicrafts. Of course, the ivory is
replaced by synthetic alternatives. Its location comes in 'Kandi area' i.e. it is situated in the foothills of Himalayan Mountains (Shivalik ranges). Hoshiarpur is also known as a City of Saints. The district Govt College was once the campus for Punjab University. One of its well-known students and alumni is Dr Manmohan Singh, the present Prime Minister of India.

**Health Care Services**

Healthcare in India features a universal health care system run by the constituent states and territories of India. However, the government sector is understaffed and underfinanced. The poor services at state-run hospitals force many people to visit private medical practitioners. In recent times India has eradicated mass famines; however the country still suffers from high levels of malnutrition and disease especially in rural areas of India. However, at the same time, India's health care system also includes entities that meet or exceed international quality standards. The medical tourism business in India has been growing in recent years and as such India is a popular destination for medical tourists who receive effective medical treatment at lower costs than in developed countries.

Rising per capita income in Punjab has led to improvements in living standards and health status of people. It has a favourable impact on life expectancy at birth for males and females. Life expectancy of males during 2001-06 was 69.8 years, whereas it was 68.4 years during 1996-2001. Similarly, life expectancy for females was 72.0 years.
during 2001-06 compared to 71.4 years during 1996-2001 (National Statistical Survey Organization, 2006).

But the data on incidence of morbidity in rural Punjab showed that, on the whole, 127 persons per 1000 population were suffering from one or other type of illness during the first half of 2004. Incidence of morbidity has been reported to be much higher in rural areas compared to that of in urban areas. Further, morbidity incidence was significantly higher among females both in urban and rural areas. In fact Punjab has become second highest morbidity state after Kerala in the country. The data on morbidity by type of diseases /ailments state that the respiratory / ENT diseases, fevers of unknown origin, cardiovascular diseases, gastrointestinal disease, disorders of joints and bones, and bronchial asthmas emerged as the top six ranking diseases /ailments in descending order of prevalence in rural Punjab. Intriguingly, nearly three-fourth of sick persons in rural Punjab suffered from these diseases and required hospitalisation during 2004 (National Statistical Survey Organization, 2006).