CHAPTER – 5

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE STUDY AREA
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The word Himachal is derived from two Sanskrit word, 'HIMA' (Snow) and 'ACHALA' (Mountain), meaning snowy mountain or snow range. Himachal Pradesh, came into being as a part 'C' State of the Indian Union on 15th April, 1948 as a result of the merger of 30 Punjab and Shimla Hill States into the Indian Union. At that time the state had four districts viz., Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi and Sirmour. After about 6 years, the State of Bilaspur was also integrated and that formed the 5th district of the State. For administrative reasons, Kinnaur was carved out of the Mahasu district as a separate district in 1960. The reorganization of Punjab in 1966 doubled the area of Himachal Pradesh by the transfer of the districts of Kangra, Kullu, Lahaul Spiti and Shimla along with a few more areas. Full Statehood was granted to Himachal Pradesh on 25th January 1971. Thereafter, in 1972, Hamirpur and Una were formed separate districts; Solan was also named as a separate district while the name of Mahasu district was dropped. Presently, the State comprises of 12 districts.

5.1 LOCATION

Himachal Pradesh is situated in the lap of Himalayan ranges in extreme North-West of India. It is bordered by Jammu and Kashmir in the North, Tibet on North/North-East, Uttar Pradesh in the East/South-East, Haryana in South and Punjab in South-West (Govt. of H.P., 1990-91). The state is situated between 30° -22' -40" to 30° -12' 20" North latitudes and 75° - 45' - 55" to 79° - 11' - 22" East longitudes. The altitudes in the pradesh, a wholly mountainous region, ranges from 350 metres to 6975 metres above mean sea level (Govt. of H.P., 2004-05).
5.2 Zonation of State

Physiographically the state can be divided into four zones viz. (1) Wet Sub-Temperate Zone comprising of Palampur and Dharamshala of Kangra district, Jogindernagar area of Mandi district and Dalhousie area of Chamba district, (ii) Humid Sub-Temperate Zone comprising of Kullu and Shimla districts and parts of Mandi, Solan, Chamba, Kangra and Sirmour districts, (iii) Dry-Temperate Alpine highlands which include major parts of Lahaul-Spiti, Pangi and Bharmour of Chamba district and Kinnaur, (iv) Humid Sub-Tropical Zone comprising of Bilaspur, major parts of Mandi district, Nahan area of Sirmour district, Bhattiyat valley of Chamba district, Nalagarh area of Solan district and Dehra and Nurpur areas of Kangra district, Paonta Sahib area of Sirmour district and Indora area of Kangra district (Govt. of H.P., 2003-04).

5.3 Geography

Geographically there is general increase in elevation from West to East and from South to North and presents an intricate pattern of mountain ranges hills and valleys (Balokhra, 2003). According to Surveyor General of India, the total area of Himachal Pradesh is 55,673 square kilometers. Out of this total area, 32,271 square kilometer is the cadastrally surveyed according to revenue records of the Pradesh. The maximum length of the state, from North Western corner of Chamba to the southern and of Kinnaur is 355 kilometers its maximum breadth from South-Western corner of Kangra to the North-Eastern of Kinnaur is 270 kilometers (Govt. of H.P., 2002-03).

5.4 Soils

The soils of Himachal Pradesh vary according to aspect, slope and climatic conditions. They may be classified as brown hill soils and sub-mountain soils. The brown hill soils are found in the
Shiwalik and lesser Himalayan regions and cover 42.16 per cent of
the state's area. The middle and greater Himalayan zones are
characterized by sub-mountain type of soils which cover nearly 46.07
per cent area of Himachal Pradesh. The glacial and internal snow
types of soil cover an area of 11.77 per cent. These soils are not fully
developed as these are found in the snow covered areas (Govt. of H.P.,
2000).

5.5 RIVERS

There are five rivers which flow through Himachal Pradesh viz.,
Beas in Kullu, Mandi and Kangra, Satluj in Kinnaur, Shimla and
Bilaspur, Ravi in Chamba, Yamuna has its tributaries in Shimla and
Sirmour and flows along with borders of Sirmour and finally Chenab
flows through Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba districts (Govt. of H.P.,
1980-81).

5.6 TEMPERATURE

Temperature in the Pradesh varies, according to elevation. By
the end of February temperature increases gradually till June which
is the hottest month of the year. The summer is mild, with the onset
of monsoon, there is a gradual fall in the temperature. After the
withdrawal of the monsoon by middle of September temperature
decreases gradually at first and fairly rapidly after November. The
period from 15th December to 15th February is the coldest period all
over the Pradesh. The minimum temperature in winter even goes
down to freezing point and even below (Chauhan, 1998).

5.7 RAINFALL

In Himachal Pradesh the rainfall ranges between about 300
cm. at Dharamshala and 35 cms at Pooh. This is further reduced to
about 18 cms in the interiors of the Spiti valley. For the whole of
Himachal Pradesh the average annual rainfall is 150 cms and a large
proportion of it is in the monsoon season in the outer zone (Govt. of H.P., 2000). The whole Pradesh can be divided into three zones on the basis of rainfall, Outer Himalayas, Inner Himalayas and Alpine zone. Rainfall in Outer Himalayas varies from 150 mm to 175 mm and in Inner Himalayas from 75 mm to 100 mm. The alpine zone remains under snow for about five to six months in the year (Govt. of H.P., 1990-91).

5.8 CROP SEASONS

There are two crop seasons in the Pradesh, viz., Kharif and Rabi. The duration of Rabi crop from sowing to harvesting is from October to May and that of Kharif crop is between the months of June and September. The important Kharif crops are maize and paddy which are grown throughout the Pradesh except Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts. Apart from wheat and barley, rabi pulses and gram, peas, masur, beans, and kharif pulses are urd, and kulth etc. (Govt. of H.P., 1980-81). The apple and potato are an important Kharif cash crops.

5.9 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFILE

For administrative purposes, the state is divided into 12 districts viz., Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una. The districts are further sub-divided into 48 sub-divisions, 74 tehsils and 34 sub-tehsils (Govt. of H.P., 2002-03).

5.10 POPULATION

The total population of Himachal Pradesh according to 2001 Census was 60,77,248 and density of population was 109 persons per-square kilometer. There are wide variations in area and population among districts in Himachal Pradesh. The district wise density varies from 2 persons per square kilometers in Lahaul-Spiti
to 369 persons in Hamirpur district. Out of the total population the number of males and females was 30,85,256 and 29,91,992 respectively which results in sex ratio of 970. The overall literacy rate of Himachal Pradesh according to 2001 census was 77.13 per cent, this figures was 86.02 per cent for male and for females 68.08 per cent (Govt. of H.P., 2001).

5.11 SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE

Tribals have been an under privileged and amongst the poorest classes of population inhabiting the most difficult and in accessible tribal belt. The tribal areas are generally characterized by their aloofness, low level of economic activities, difficult communication, low population density, dense forest and lack of irrigation facility. The most distinguishing mark of these areas in the state is that they are very vast but have extremely small population.

The total scheduled castes population in Himachal Pradesh was 1,50,2170 according to 2001 Census accounting for 24.72 per cent of the total population. The scheduled tribe population of the Pradesh which has its concentration in districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti, Pangi and Bharmour tehsil of Chamba was 2,44,587 (excluding Gaddi and Gujjars of merged area numbering 76125 declared as scheduled tribe in 2001) which is 4.02 per cent of the total. The tribal areas constitute 42.49 per cent of the State's geographical area and represent 2.74 per cent of the total population of the State. Of the total population in the tribal belt, 68 per cent are scheduled tribes; 9.61 per cent scheduled castes and the rest are others. The entire population in the tribal belt continues to be rural. The proportion of workers is as high as 59.31 per cent as against the State's average of 49.23 per cent. Agriculture workers formed 56.97 per cent of the main workers against that of 55.45 per cent for state as a whole. Literacy per cent is on the increase and as per the 2001
Census, the level had reached 70.38 per cent as compared to 77.13 per cent for the state as a whole (Govt. of H.P., 2004-05).

5.12 ECONOMY

The economy of Himachal Pradesh is dependent upon agriculture and its allied activities and any fluctuation in agricultural production affects the growth rate considerably. This can be explained as follows (Govt. of H.P., 2004-05):

5.12.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Himachal Pradesh. Farming is typically of traditional and mixed nature despite the fact that agriculture and allied sectors contribute about 20.1 per cent of the total Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

5.12.2 Horticulture

The rich diversity of agro-climatic conditions, topographical variations and altitudinal differences coupled with fertile deep and well drained soils favour the cultivation of temperate to sub-tropical fruits in the Pradesh. The area under fruit crops which was 792 hectares in 1950-51 with total production of 1200 tonnes increased to 182,441 hectares during 2003-04. The total fruit production in 2003-04 was 5.60 lakh tonnes which has increased to 6.85 during 2004-05.

5.12.3 Animal Husbandry

In Himachal Pradesh animal husbandry plays an important integral role in ensuring the sustainability of the economy. The contribution of major livestock products during the year 2002-03 was 7.76 lakh tonnes of milk, 1610 tonnes of wool, 87.00 million eggs and 3487 tonnes of meat which will be likely in the order of 7.96 lakh tonnes of milk, 1680 tonnes of wool, 9100 million eggs and 3600 tonnes of meat during 2003-04.
5.12.4 Fisheries

Himachal Pradesh is blessed with vast and variegated fishery resources in the shape of networks of rivers, streams, tributaries, sprawling reservoirs, natural laks and ponds etc. About 12500 families derived major part of their livelihood from fisheries during 2003-2004.

5.13 General Features of the Selected District Chamba

Chamba is a name derived from Champavati, daughter of Raja Sahil Varman, on whose instance the town of Chamba was founded in 930 A.D. Another conjecture is that the town of Chamba might have its name from the Champa trees which are found in the town (Govt. of H.P., 1961).

5.13.1 History

The origin of Chamba is not known definitely but it came into existence around 6th century A.D. out of turmoil caused by the invasions of Huns and consequent disintegration of Gupta empire (Sharma, 1997). Chamba state was merged to form a part of Himachal Pradesh on 15th April, 1948. This became a separate district, constituted by three tehsils, Churah, Chamba and Bhattiyat and two sub-tehsils, Pangi and Bharmaur. Presently, the district comprises of seven tehsils viz., Chamba, Pangi, Churah, Saluni, Bhattiyat, Dalhousie and Bharmaur and three sub-tehsils viz., Bhalai, Sihunta and Holi. The district has five sub-divisions and seven community development blocks (Govt. of H.P., 1999).

5.13.2 Location

The district is situated in the bosom of Himalayas between 32° 10' 40" and 33° 13' 40" North latitude and 75° 47' 50" and 77° 0' 50" East longitude. It is bound on the North-West by Jammu and Kashmir, on the North-East and East by Ladakh, Lahaul and Bara...
Bangahal and on the South East and South by the district of Kangra and Gurdaspur (Govt. of H.P., 1961). The main and central region of Chamba lies between the watershed of Dhauladhar and that of Pir Panjal and constitutes the drainage area of the Ravi river and its tributaries.

5.13.3 Geography

The entire district is mountainous with altitude ranging from 696 metres to 730 metres above the mean sea level. The inhabited area reaching to 3480 metres and the abruptness of the slopes and the narrowness of the ravines are characteristic features (AERC, HPU, 1988). The total area of the district is 6528 square kilometers (Govt. of H.P., 2004). The high altitude regions of the district remain snow bound for a fairly long period during the year. Mountain systems and ranges in association with river basin determine the natural division of the district.

5.13.4 Soil

The soil in the district is generally clay or clay loam with or without gravel. The soil depth varies inversely with the slope. On ridges, spur, precipitous slopes and southern aspects, the soil tends to be shallow and dry with barren rocks or boulders. With some exceptions it may be said that the most of the tract bear fairly fertile deep and well drained soils.

5.13.5 Valleys

There are three big valleys the Beas Valley, the Ravi Valley or the Chamba valley and the Chenab or the Pangí and Chamba Lahaul-valley. The valleys on the South and West of the district are fertile. The Chamba valley as a whole is fairly open, presenting many delightful contrasts. In the lower valley the vegetation is semi-tropical, and as one goes up, the vegetation changes to pinus
longifolia, oak and chestnut etc at still higher elevation, birch and jumpier are found (Govt. of H.P. 1961).

5.13.6 Mountains

There are three well defined snowy/ranges of Himalays in Chamba. The one nearest to the plains is called the outer Himalaya or Dhauladhar. It separates the basin of the Beas from the Ravi. The second is the mid-Himalaya or the Pangi range and the Pir Panjal, between the basins of the Ravi and that of the Chandra Bhaga or Chenab, which forms the watershed between the Ravi and the Chenab. The third is the inner Himalaya or Zaskar range, between the Chenab and Indus (Negi, 1963).

5.13.7 River Systems

Two main rivers the Ravi and the Chenab flow through the district Ravi or Iravati, as was called in the ancient times, is the main river of the district. This river drains the whole of Chamba valley proper between the Dhauladhar and Pangi range. This river flows through Bara-Banso, Tretha and chanaota to Ulansa. Here it is joined by two large tributaries, the Budhil and the Tundah. Then flows on with augmented force and volume through a narrow gorge near to chitrari. Below this, the valley is a little more open. After passing Piur, Rakh and Mehla, the river courses to the North-West and approaches Chamba town (Govt. of H.P., 1981)

5.13.8 Climate and Temperature

With altitude of 696 metres to 7308 metres, every variety of climate is experienced. The lower tracts of the district resemble the plains, except that the heat in summer is great but winter is mild and snowfall light. On the higher ranges, at altitude of 1740 metres to 6960 metres the summer is mild and winter severe with heavy snowfall. The autumn months are generally unhealthy, except on the upper ranges, the lower valley being malarious (Charak, 1978).
5.13.9 Population

The population of Chamba district is predominantly (92.31 per cent) Hindu, next come the Muslims followed by Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians. The total population of the district according to 2001 census was 4,60,887 and density of population was 71 persons per square kilometers. Out of total population 2,35,218 were males and 2,52,669 were females population which meant the sex ratio of 959 (Govt. of H.P., 2001). The scheduled caste population was 92,359 and that of scheduled tribe population of the district which has its concentration in Pangi and Bharmour and also scattered in other parts of the district was 1,17,569 according to 2001 census (Govt. of H.P., 2002-03).

5.13.10 Language/Dialects

The dialects commonly spoken in the district can be grouped under western Pahari. Chambiali is spoken in Chamba town and tehsil. Gaddi or Bharmauri is dialect of upper Ravi valley comprising of Bharmaur tehsil and Holi sub-tehsil. Bhattachari is the dialect of Bhattyat tehsil and Sihunta sub-tehsil. Churaghi is spoken in Churah tehsil, Saluni tehsil and Bhalai sub-tehsil and some villages of Chamba tehsil. Pangwali is commonly spoken in the Pangi tehsil except a few villages where the inhabitants are Bhots who speak a language which is overwhelmingly akin to Tibetans (Govt. of H.P., 1999).

5.13.11 Occupational Pattern

Majority of the population in the district depends on agriculture. Of the total workers, 66.79 and 1.07 per cent fall in the category of cultivator and agricultural labourers respectively. Agricultural holdings do not provide year round work to agriculturists. In majority of cases the production is not sufficient even to provide reasonable standard of living to the agricultural
families. The district also has two crop season viz. Rabi comprising of wheat, barley, sarson and kharif comprising of maize, paddy and potato. The main crops grown in the district are maize, wheat, paddy, mash, peas and vegetables.

5.13.12 Animal Husbandry

After agriculture livestock plays an important role in the economic condition of the rural population of Chamba district. Every household usually keeps a few cows or buffaloes, sheep, goats and ponies. Animals are kept for milk as well as other purposes like ploughing of fields and manures. Sheep and goats are reared for meat and wool in addition to providing manure for the fields (Govt. of H.P., 1991).

5.13.13 Horticulture

The climate and soil conditions in the district are the best for fruit production, which plays an important role in the socio-economic upliftment and prosperity of the inhabitants of the district. Apple, plums, peach, pear and walnut are the main fruit crops of the district.

5.13.14 Industry

There is no large scale or medium scale industry functioning in the district. However, the industrial sector consists of units in the small/cottage industries like Chamba Rumal, Chamba Chappal and Handloom industries etc.

5.13.15 Selected Villages of Non-Tribal Areas

1. Mehla

The village Mehla is situated on the left bank of river Ravi which is 12 Km from Chamba district headquarter. The village is also block headquarter of Mehla block. The total geographical area of the
village according to the village papers is 140 hectares out of which 67 hectares are available for cultivation. About 43 hectare area is under irrigation facility through kuhls and rest 24 hectares are not available under irrigation facility. There are 170 farmers falling in marginal category and 11 farmers are classified under the small category. The total population of village is about 1386 persons out of which 659 are males and 727 are females. The main occupation of majority of the people is agriculture although they are also engaged in some other non-agricultural activities like business, non-farm labour and services.

2. Mangla

It is another important selected village of non-tribal areas, which is about 8 K.M from Chamba district. This village is comparatively more developed than Mehla village due to the nearby district headquater. The total geographical area according to village papers is 273. 2770 hectares out of which about 104.7296 hectares are available for cultivation. There are 190 marginal and 27 small farmers. The total population of the village is 2563 persons out of which 1262 are males and 1301 are females. The majority of the people are engaged in agricultural and allied activities, although from every family at least one person is also engaged in other non-farm activities like business, services and non-agriculture labour.

5.14 GENERAL FEATURES OF THE SELECTED TEHSIL BHARMAUR

Bharmaur tehsil of Chamba district are predominantly inhabited by scheduled tribes and has been declared as tribal area. The economy of tribal area is mainly agro-pastoral with only single cropping season and almost the entire population depends upon agriculture for livelihood. The use of agricultural technology is quite limited and every year considerable amount of food grains and other
provision are brought into these tribal areas to meet the food shortages. Tribal agriculture is still traditional and primitive in many ways due to number of constraints (Oberoi, 1988). Therefore, farming system in tribal areas is quite different as compared to other areas due to the peculiar agro-climatic conditions. Along with agriculture animal husbandry is the main source of livelihood of the tribal people of Chamba district.

Bharmaur derived its name from Brahmpura which is believed to be founded by Raja Maru in 550 A.D. It is also known as Chaurasi, the land of 84 temples. It is believed that the place was named after Brahmmani Devi, patron Goddess of the Budil valley, whose shrine is situated a little above the present tehsil headquarters of Bharmaur (Govt. of H.P., 1984). This region has great historical importance also. It was here that the erstwhile Chamba took its birth and it is this tract which is still regarded as the homeland of the scheduled tribe Gaddis. The place used to be called Brahampur and was the original capital of the Chamba State (AREC, 1988).

5.14.1 Location

Bharmaur tehsil of Chamba district is situated in the North and North-East of Himachal Pradesh and is predominantly inhabited by tribal people. The area of Bharmaur is situated between the Dhauladhar and Zaskar ranges which run from South-East to North-West of Chamba district. It is approximately situated between the North latitude 32° 11' and 32° 41' and between the East longitude 76° 22' and 76° 53'. The Eastern boundary touches Kangra and Lahaul-Spiti districts. On the West most of the boundary line runs along with Chamba tehsil, in North it is bound by Pangi and the Churah tehsils and in South by Kangra district. The region is separated from Pangi tehsil by mid Himalayan Range called Pir-Panjal or Pangi Range (Govt. of H.P., 1984).
5.14.2 Geography

The whole of the area of Bharmaur tehsil is mountainous, the altitude ranges from 1531 metres to about 6716 metres above mean sea level. The cultivation is carried on slopes ranging from 1566 metres to 4176 metres elevation. The fields on the mountain slopes are small sized and are arranged in terraces upon terraces. The river Ravi, in its infancy, passes through Bharmour tehsil. The Ravi rises from a remote corner of Kangra district known as Bara Bhanghal, the adjoining area lying in Bharmaur is known as Bara-Barsu. Total area of Bharmaur tehsil is 1818 square kilometers which makes up 7.69 per cent of the total tribal area of Himachal Pradesh while Pangi cover 6.77 per cent area (Dept. of Economics, HPU, 1985).

5.14.3 Valleys

The Bharmaur tehsil has been divided into four important valleys namely (i) Khani valley which comprises the villages on left bank of the river Ravi, Tundah Nallah and along the road from Chamba to Bharmaur. This valley has larger population and it is comparatively developed than other valley of the tehsil (ii) Kugti valley includes villages beyond the tehsil headquarter in the interior of Bharmaur along the Budha Nallah and area extending up to this side of Pangi valley. In this valley means of communications are difficult and small villages are separated by large forest area. This area is economically less developed as compared to Khani valley. This area experiences heavy snowfall in winter so people have to migrate with their flocks of sheep and goats. (iii) Holi valley comprises the villages in the interior along with river Ravi in the area extending to Kangra district. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people while rearing of sheep and goats is also practised to a limited extent, (iv) Tundah valley includes the villages on right bank of river Ravi and Tundah Nallah, along and near the road from Chamba to Bharmaur and area extending up to this side of Churah tehsil of Chamba
district. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of the income of the people but due to poor soil and lack of irrigation facility, productivity of crops is very low. Economically this area is more backward as compared to other parts of Bharmaur tehsil (AERC, HPU, 1988).

5.14.4 Climate

The climate of the Bharmaur tehsil varies from the temperate to the semi-arctic, though, in the main, the region has a cold climate. During summer, the weather is moderate and pleasant. Snowfall commences in October, though it is not quite regular till the month of December. However, from December to the end of March, the area generally remains covered under snow.

5.14.5 Rainfall

The annual rainfall recorded at Bharmaur rain gauge station is 1,136 mms. The major portion of it falls during monsoon. Almost every month, there is rainfall and the monthly average varied between 17.6 mms, for the month of October and 141 mms in July (Govt. of H.P., 1984).

5.14.6 Population

The total population of the Bharmaur tehsil according to the 2001 census was 37,246 which was 22.38 per cent of the population of all the tribal areas in the state. The density of population was 20 persons per square kilometer which was much higher than the other tribal areas of the State, as density of population in Kinnaur district, Lahaul Spiti district and Pangi tehsil was 12, four and 11 per square kilometer respectively (Govt. of H.P., 2004-05).

5.14.7 Agriculture

The economy of Bharmaur is predominantly agro-pastoral. Nearly 80 per cent of the total working population is directly
dependent on agricultural activities. Fields are small and scattered and crops take longer time to mature due to low temperature. People find it difficult to make necessary investment on fertilizer, improved seeds and other inputs due to economic backwardness. The hill slopes are steep and the shallow soil is very often washed away by rain and snow. Due to all these factors, the production of crops is very low. Agriculture is a way of life rather than a commercial proposition of the people (AERC, HPU, 1988).

5.14.8 Horticulture

The Bharmaur tehsil has great potential to grow horticultural crops. The agro-climatic conditions prevailing in this area are very conducive to development of dry fruits, apple, plums, peach, almond, pear and walnut etc. Among these, apple cultivation has started picking up in the area.

5.14.9 Animal Husbandry

Sheep and goats rearing is one of the main occupation of the people of Bharmaur tehsil. Yak is the most important animal for the people living on higher altitude. In agro-pastoral economy like Bharmaur, where the mechanization of agricultural operation is not possible, cattle are kept not only for providing pro-active food such as milk, meat etc. but also for the valuable draught power and manure. Sheep and goats are reared for their wool and mutton.

5.14.10 Migration

Due to heavy snowfall in most parts of tehsil during winters, majority of people migrate with their flocks of sheep and goats to the lower hills of Kangra, Chamba, Mandi, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh and Gurdaspur in Punjab in search of pastures. During migration the people undertakes various jobs like wood cutting, pounding rice, working as agricultural and manual labourers etc.
5.14.11 Food Habits

The staple food of the people consists of maize chapattis with dal or bhujri (vegetable). Wheat is also consumed.

5.14.12 Dress

Keeping in view the peculiar climatic conditions of Bharmaur tehsil, the people wear warm clothing throughout the year. The woollen cloth is usually home spun and woven from the locally available wool. However, mill made clothes are also in use. The head-dress of men is a remarkably high peaked cap with flaps to pull down over the ears. Along with this, Gaddi wear Kurta (Shirt), Chola (a long woollen coat) and woollen trousers (Pajama). The dress of the women is a long chola (frock type wear) up to ankles, Kurti (shirt) woollen trousers (Pajama) and dupatta as head wear (Gupta, 2002). Both men and women tie a black woollen cord called dora round their waists. This dora keeps loose chola comfortable and provides support to their back during work and long walks. Balu and Laung (Nose pins) which are worn in the nose are main ornaments of Gaddi women. These are made of gold. Besides these the women also put on silver ornaments like mala (chain) around the neck. Silver bangles are also worn (Verma, 1996).

5.14.13 Fairs and Festivals

The Gaddis have a great faith in the gods and goddesses and they do have their local devatas (gods). They celebrate the fairs and festivals with enthusiasm and grandeur. Important fair of the Gadsis are Minjar fair, Suhi fair, Mani-Mahesh fair, Triloki Nath fair and Shiv Shakti fair. Apart from these fairs, these people also celebrate festivals like Nuala, Vishu and Patrodu during the month of February, April and July respectively. Nuala is a unique festival, in a sense that Lord Shiva is worshipped only at night (Sharma, 1998).
5.14.14 Selected Villages of Tribal Area

1. Balmui

Village Balmui is located in Bharmour tehsil of Chamba district. It is 13 K.m. from Bharmour tehsil headquarter by pucca road and about 6 K.m. on foot through very zigzag way. This village is very backward and farming is still totally traditional although very little extent of diversification judged towards apple plants which are mostly non-bearing stage. Total area of the village according to villager papers is 766 hectares. In majority of cases, the houses are two storeyed, the upper storey is used for living purpose and ground floor is meant for livestock. Total population of the village is 283 out of which 144 are males and 139 are females. Sheep and goat rearing are popular occupation of the village people alongwith agriculture which is still primitive.

2. Kuleth

This village is comparatively developed as compared to tribal village Balmui. This is a part of Holi Sub- tehsil of Chamba district, which is 74 K.m. from Chamba district headquarter and 2 K.m. on foot from sub- tehsil headquarter. The total area of the village according to village papers is about 104.83 hectares out of 24.03 hectares under forest and 66.55 hectares are available for cultivation. The total cultivated area in both tribal villages are found unirrigated. Maize, Barley, Wheat are main cereal crop and rajmah is the main pulse of the villages. The total population of the village is 451 out of which 241 are males and 210 are females. Apple is the main cash crop of the village.
**SUMMING UP**

The main stay of the people in Himachal Pradesh is agriculture. The tribal agriculture is still traditional and primitive. The topography being hilly, the cultivation is generally on terraced fields. The crop cultivation alone does not provide whole time work to agriculturists. The cultivated area is hardly one per cent of the total geographical area and situated behind the high mountain passes. Every household invariably keeps animals for milk as well as other purposes. Bharmaur's economy is mainly agro-postural with only single cropping season and almost entire population depending upon agriculture for livelihood. The sheep and goats husbandry are the main occupation of the people along with agriculture. Low level of economic activities, backwardness, high poverty, closed social structure, difficult communication, low population density, illiteracy, only mono-cropping and one crop season, lack of modern technology, dense forest and lack of irrigation facilities are the main characteristics of the tribal areas.