

Ecology, Culture and Development Gaddis and Pangwalas of Himachal Pradesh

Veena Bhasin, M.K. Bhasin and Indera P. Singh

Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007, India

KEYWORDS Human Ecology. Himachal Pradesh. Transhumant. Gaddis. Pangwalas. Culture. Development

ABSTRACT The present paper covers two tribes - Gaddis a transhumant group of Bhamour Tehsil and Pangwalas, a settled group of Pangi Tehsil, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Both of these areas are isolated, therefore they lagged behind in social and economic progress. Planned economic development was adopted as our national policy soon after independence. But task of implementing the development programmes in tribal areas was much more difficult as these areas were with meager communications and little institutional infrastructure. Therefore in 1954, Multi-purpose Tribal Development Blocks were started in the country. In Bharmour and Pangi Tehsils the programmes are provided for tribal welfare work by National Extension Service (NES) and by two Integrated Tribal Development Projects. These community development programmes at economic development of rural villages, with emphasis on agriculture, and at the same time their aim at fundamental changes in the social life of villages. The impact of these development programmes in the two tribal groups has been discussed in the paper.