

## **Ecology, Population Dynamics Among Transhumants of Himalayas: A Case Study of Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh**

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**ABSTRACT** This study presents population dynamic in a transhumant population – Gaddis, who travel from one ecological zone to another. Due to heavy snowfall for about three to four months during winter, in Bharmour Tehsil, the Gaddis generally migrate to the lower hills and plains along with their flocks of sheep and goats. This transhumant way of life nurtured by ecological factors has affected the population structure. The high mortality statistics are in agreement with the hypothesis that the Gaddis are pre-transitional in their demographic status, whereas the fertility indicators strike a discordant note. The low fertility rate can be explained by their habitat and transhumant way of life, which acts as an involuntary and prolonged abstinence. There are no social guidelines for the fertility goals as such, but the ecological factors and human settlement patterns have paved the way for the outbreak of the diseases, socio-cultural and economic factors have heightened their incubation and implication and reinforced their virulence. Both curative and preventive measures are not satisfactory. Unfortunately medical facilities are scarce and not available in many areas and people are accused of not accepting these meager medical facilities.