

# A Study on Modernization and Its Impact on the Traditional Lifestyle of Gujjars with Special Reference to the Rajouri District of J & K

Mohd Zameer<sup>1</sup>, Geetali Padiyar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, <sup>2</sup>Professor,

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Sociology, H. N. B. Garhwal (A Central University)  
S. R. T Campus Badshithaul, Chamba, Uttarakhand, India

## ABSTRACT

The present study is prepared for the purpose of modernization and its Impact on the Gujjars tribe. Modernization is a process of transformation from a traditional, rural, agrarian society to a secular, urban industrial society. Gujjar community in the Rajouri district of the Jammu division faces a variety of difficulties and is not aware of modernization. The traditional lifestyle dominates them. They are traditionally different from the other community of the society. **Lifestyle.** They are living in the primitive lifestyle of culture. Gujjars are totally dependent upon the herders on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transport. They move here and there in search of pasture and water for their livestock.

## Objectives of the study

To find out the socio-economic profile of the Gujjar tribe of Jammu and Kashmir and examine the extent to which modernization affects the traditional lifestyle of the Gujjars tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Research Methodology

The present study was conducted purposively in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. The district needs the study because till now, and not much study has been conducted there. The total size of the sample that constitutes was 100 respondents through a random sampling method.

## Results

The Gujjar tribes have undergone remarkable changes in their education, health, religion and lifestyle of the tribal society.

**KEYWORDS:** *Tribe, Gujjars, Modernization, Lifestyle, Impact*

## INTRODUCTION

The term modernization is very prominent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially in developing countries like India is one of them. India is a multicultural state and a home of various tribes after South Africa. According to the 2011 census, India is the second-largest tribal population country in the world, which constitutes 8.6% of the country's total population. Over centuries ago, they have preserved the different styles of culture. In the past, the tribal peoples of India living in very harsh conditions of life. The tribal is also known as forest people or Vanvasi because they are living in hilly areas. Tribal is the parts of Indian

society and modernization resulting in more affected the tribal culture of Indian society.

Jammu and Kashmir is a hilly region having mountainous areas of high altitude. Gujjars are such a tribe that lives in the mountainous areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The tribal regions of Jammu and Kashmir consist of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Kathua, Anantnag and Pulwama. There are many aspects that are directly related to their traditional culture, despite many invasions from foreign forces, the glimpse of the traditional culture of the tribe in our country, especially in these areas. The majority of the tribal

**How to cite this paper:** Mohd Zameer | Geetali Padiyar "A Study on Modernization and Its Impact on the Traditional Lifestyle of Gujjars with Special Reference to the Rajouri District of J & K" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-5 | Issue-5, August 2021, pp.2262-2267, URL: [www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd46328.pdf](http://www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd46328.pdf)



Copyright © 2021 by author (s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



populations are inhabitants in these places like Gujjar, Bakerwal, Gaddi, Dodhi Gujjars, etc. J & K is the paradise on the earth. People of these areas live in the lap of nature because they are isolated from the mainstream of modernization. One peculiarity of the Gujjars tribe of Jammu and Kashmir is that almost all Muslims. Some Gujjars are settled in permanent habitats and have taken to agriculture and other professions, whereas the Gujjar's majority is still stuck to pastoral life. Gujjars community is one of the notable tribes among the other tribes of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Table 1:- District wise Schedule tribe population in Jammu region.**

Region/ Districts	ST Population (Census 2011)	Percentage of STs
Jammu Division	810800	15.07
Doda	39,216	9.56
Jammu	69,193	4.52
Kathua	53,307	8.64
Kishtwar	38,149	16.53
Poonch	176,101	36.93
Rajouri	232,815	36.24
Ramban	39,772	14.01
Reasi	88,365	28.08
Samba	17,573	5.51
Udhampur	56,309	10.14

*Source: - census 2011*

Tribes are the parts of Indian society and the problem of rapid changes due to modernization. During the colonial period, the tribal faced many problems. In the post-independence era, tribal get assimilated into the mainstream of developments. As tribes were living in remote and secluded places, very little was known about their problems. After independence, it became by the constitutions, various provisions and safeguard were made for tribals in the constitution of India. A national policy of the state to improve many tribal communities to bring them up to mainstreams. The five-year plans, concern for tribal development have always been the highlight on the government agenda. The special schemes, programs and constitutional provisions were launched for the tribal development of the country.

Now the situation has been changed. The history of tribal development passed through two-phase. In the first phase, the tribals were treated as inferior, Adivasi and forest peoples. They remained buried in the isolations, illiteracy and backwardness. In the second phase, the tribals get the status of the scheduled tribe. During this phase, the process of giving the tribal people was empowerment. The development history of tribals begins due to modernization.

## Modernization

Modernization is a process involving complementary changes in the demographic, economic, political, communication and cultural sectors of the society. (Basu,1985). Modernization is a process of transformation from a traditional, rural, agrarian society to a secular, urban industrial society.

## Traditional society

A traditional society is based on agrarian, while a modern society is based on the industrial function. Traditional society has a single system power remained in the hand while the modern society is based upon heterogeneity and plurality.

## Life style

They are living in the primitive lifestyle of culture. Gujjars are totally dependent upon the herders on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transport. They move here and there in search of pasture and water for their livestock. Each nomadic community occupies a well-defined territory as a matter of tradition. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Gujjar tribe has a specific traditional lifestyle. Gujjars follow the joint family system. In the family, the oldest man is considered the head of the family. Both men and women do hard working in Gujjars tribes.

## Review of literature

**Javaid Rahi** (2011), in his study "**the Gujjar tribe of Jammu and Kashmir**," the author discusses the socio-economic conditions of the Gujjar tribe in Jammu and Kashmir. The Gujjar tribe is popularly known as all over the country. They have been a nomadic tribe for centuries ago. Gujjar's lifestyle is different in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The main occupation of the Gujjar tribe is rearing animals and they live a semi-nomadic lifestyle in Jammu and Kashmir. Socially and economically, they are destitute.

**Nadeem Hasnain** (1994), in his book "**Tribal India**," discusses a lot of problems about the tribal of India. He gives an overview of the past to the present. He began his study to elaborate on the term "tribe" and cover all the tribal issues. He also classified different tribes of India to analyze the social, cultural and developmental program. In fact, the author of this book analyzed many aspects of their life, society culture of the hoary past to the perplexing presents.

**Manzoor, Meenaza, et al.** (2013), in their article "**effect of Modernization on the lifestyle of Gujjars of Pahalgam**," evacuates the effects of modernization of the Gujjars tribe in Pahalgam area the Jammu and Kashmir. They observe that the Gujjars of these areas not aware of the modernizations and their impacts. The Gujjars

community is not aware of the developmental schemes and programs which can improve their living standard. The Gujjars community wants to break the traditional taboos set up by the society of tribes. They prefer modification through education changes. The author found that traditional culture and bonds dominate the Gujjars community of Pehlgam, but they want to changes in all sectors such as lifestyles, education, health, communication and transports. As a result, it was generalized by the author that modernization has affected all sectors of the tribal people in a positive direction.

### Objectives of the study

In this study, an attempt made to highlights the Impact of modernization on the traditional culture of Gujjars tribes.

### Results and discussion

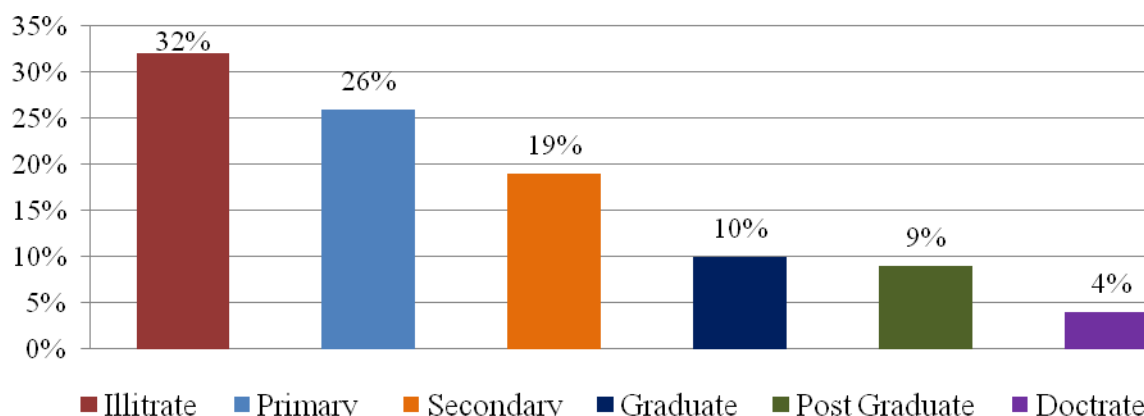
Modernization is the requirement of the tribe, and almost all of us agree to this. Modernization is the rich cultural heritage that has been passing from the tribal ancestor. To a certain extent, modernizing their thoughts and accepting the changes would be helpful for the tribal society. The Gujjar tribes have undergone remarkable changes in their education, health, religion and lifestyle of the tribal society.

**Table 2:- Education and literacy rate among Gujjar tribe**

S. No	Educational Status	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	32	32%
2	Primary	26	26%
3	Secondary	19	19%
4	Graduate	10	10%
5	Post Graduate	9	9%
6	Doctorate	4	4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Primary Field survey -2020*

**Figure1:- Education and literacy rate among Gujjar tribe**



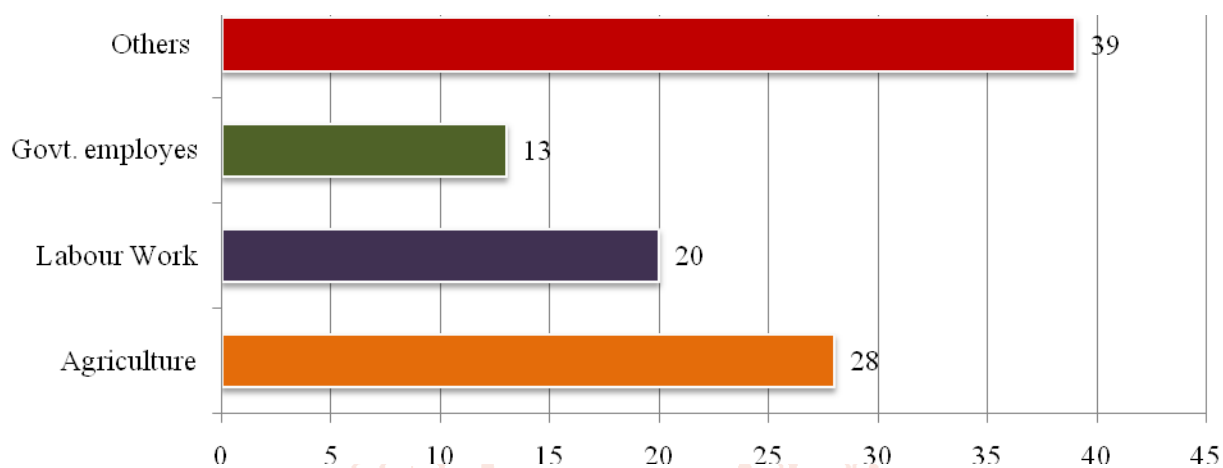
Data from the table 2 reveals that the education status of the Gujjar tribes. Education is one of the most important indexes to understand and transformation of any society. In a tribal society, education is the fundamental sign of change to improve the life and betterment of tribal people, in the case of the educational status of the Gujjar tribe in Jammu and Kashmir. The majority of the respondents is illiterate or studied up to the primary level. The minimum numbers of respondents, 19%, have studied up to secondary level and very few among them moved to the higher level of education.

**Table 3:- Source of family income**

S. No	Occupation	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	28	28%
2	Labour Work	20	20%
3	Govt. employees	13	13%
4	Others	39	39%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Primary Field survey -2020*

**Figure 2:- Source of family income**



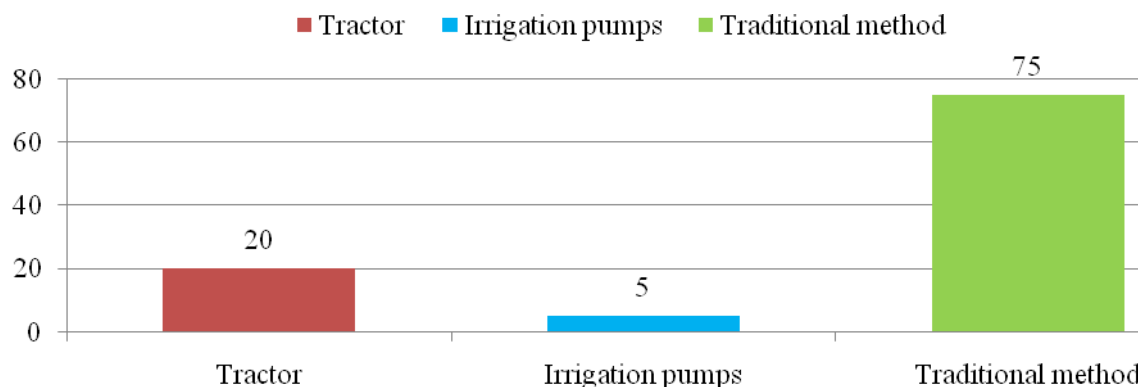
As per the data from the above table source of the respondents' family income, the majority of the family income depends upon agriculture and labor work, 39% of the respondents receive their family income from other sources of income. Only 13% of the respondents receive their family income from government Jobs.

**Table 4:- Percentage distribution use of modern technologies in agriculture.**

S. No	Technology	Respondents	Percentage
1	Tractor	20	20%
2	Irrigation pumps	5	5%
3	Traditional method	75	75%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Primary Field survey -2020*

**Figure 3:- Percentage distribution use of modern technologies in agriculture.**



As per the data from the above table technologies used by the respondents in the agriculture sector, it is found that 75% of respondents are used an old and traditional method of agriculture among the total respondents. Only 25% of the respondents are used modern type of technologies in the agriculture sector.

**Table 5:- Percentage distribution use of modern dress**

S. No	Dresses	Respondents	Percentage
1	Modern Dress	37	37%
2	Traditional Dress	63	63%
.	Total	100	100

*Primary Field survey -2020*

Table 5 indicates that 63% of respondents follow the old traditional type of dress because they are bound with their culture and culture plays a very important role in their day-to-day life—only 37% of the respondents wearing modern dresses.

**Table 6:- Family type of the respondents**

S. No	Family type of the respondents	Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint Family	29	29%
2	Nuclear family	71	71%
3	Others	0	0%
	Total	100	100%

*Primary Field survey -2020*

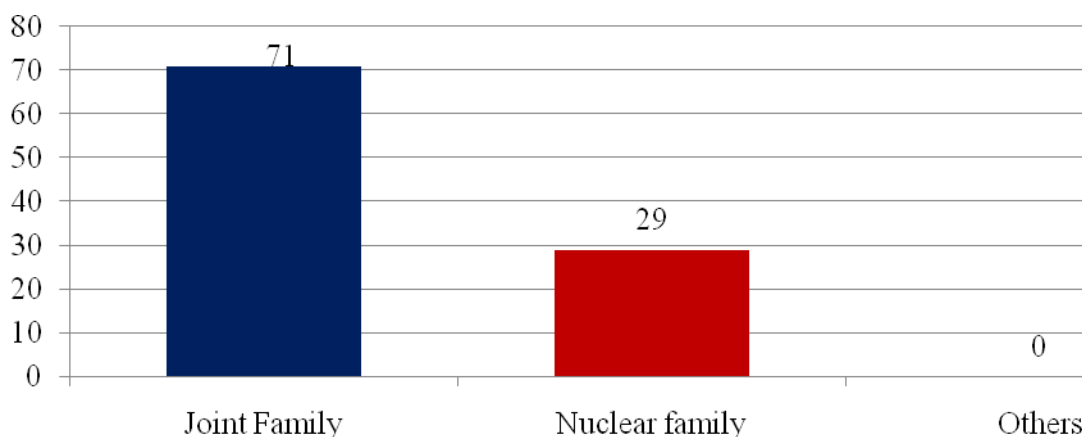
**Figure 4:- The family type of the respondents**

Table 6 indicates that 71% of the respondents live in nuclear family type only 29 % of the family members live as joint families. It indicates that the Gujjar tribe follows the old and traditional lifestyle of culture. They live together for their work pressure and cultural taboos. But due to the advancement of science and technology, they are shifted toward modern cultural values.

### Conclusion

Conclusively, the Gujjar tribe of Jammu and Kashmir is in a transitional phase. They are undoubtedly moving toward modern values, but they did not put down their traditional values. They are not totally cut off from their traditional lifestyle system and not accepted all the modern ways of lifestyle. The Gujjar community spreads all over the country and Jammu and Kashmir. Gujjar community spread all over Jammu and Kashmir. The majority of the Gujjar tribe lives in the two districts Rajouri and Poonch. Historically they are backward and having poor economic conditions, mostly living pastoral life. Some Gujjars lead a settled life and the majority of the Gujjar tribe mostly nomadic and pastoral life, but the force of change and modernity has also affected the lifestyle of these Gujjars tribes. It may be said that although several changes take place in the lifestyle of

the Gujjars tribe, yet the pace of development is very slow. Various programs and plans initiated by the government of India and the government of Jammu and Kashmir for the welfare of the Gujjars tribe have not been able to derive benefits at ground levels.

### Suggestion

We want to give only two suggestions that the central and state government should have to pay the proper attention toward the utilization and allocation of funds for the welfare of the Gujjar tribe and has to take more initiatives toward improving their lifestyle.

The policymakers should focus on the improvement of quantity and as well as the quality aspect of tribal education. The promotion of tribal education brings fresh thinking and revised effort to modernization.

## References

- [1] Bhat, Showket Anwar. (2013), "Socio-economic conditions of schedule tribes of Kashmir." *World Rural Observation*, Volume 5. 4. (2013)
- [2] Din, Azhar Ud. (2015), "Socio-Economic Conditions of Gujjar and Bakerwal Tribes of Kashmir". *International Journal of Recent Research in Social Science and Humanities*, Volume 2. 2.
- [3] Hasnain, Nadeem. (1994). *Tribal India*, Delhi: Palaka Prakashan
- [4] Jan, Sofi Umer. (2014) "Educational Status of Tribes of Jammu & Kashmir: A Case of Gujjars and Bakarwals". *International Journal of social sciences*, Volume 3. 3.
- [5] Khatana, R. P. (1976) "*Marriage and Kinship among the Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir*". New Delhi: Ramesh Chandra Publications.
- [6] Rahi, Javaid. (2011) "*The Gujjar Tribe of Jammu and Kashmir*". New Delhi: Gulshan Books.
- [7] Tufail, Mohd. (2014) "An Overview Of the Economic Characteristics of the Gujjars and Bakarwals: A Case Study of the Jammu and Kashmir" *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, Volume 3. 6.

