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## Socio-Economic Situation Of Citrus Fruit Farmers In Himachal Pradesh

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### Abstract

The standard of living is very closely related to the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the said products and services, which are required by the people at different levels and also time plays an important role in the assessment of the same. This can also be related to the social and economic wellbeing of the people, where the comparative view of the people, at different levels use to change for the existing and future resources. India is a developing economy and poverty on one hand and less utilization of available resources on other hand are the visible issues in the same. This present study evaluates the causes of social and economic differences among of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the sample population is for farmer engaged in core agricultural and horticulture activities. This is a primary data based study and data is analyzed using ANOVA on SPSS Ver. 23.0.

**Keywords:** Social and economic avenues, differences, Himachal Pradesh.

### Introduction

Every developing economy of the world is working for the welfare of its people and the same can be seen and experienced in the growth of expected living standards of the people. As a matter of fact if there is an increase in the living standard of the people then it can be said that the efforts of the said economy is working in the right direction. Now the benefits that a said group of people is taking from such efforts can be direct or even indirect. On the other hand the improvement in the living condition of the people can be directly related to the increase in their respective consumption patterns and an upward raise in this pattern shows that the economy of the country is shifting to a more positive and fulfilling the objective of public welfare. It can also be stated that if a given society is in its development stage then the people will be making their expenditure on the basic necessities and the pattern will be showing a gradual increase and if the economy is in developed stage then most of the resources may get exhausted and the requirement of basic needs will be minimum.

The study of the standard of living in a given economy is a tedious and time taking task and needs a lot of quantitative measurements for the assessment of the same. It includes the evaluation of needs for each member in the family and also the collective wants of groups and communities. The levels of living also depend upon economic and social development

brought about by the state action which helps the individual to lead a better life. Levels of living are an important indicator of prosperity. There are differences in the levels of living between regions, villagers and even within villages and classes of people.

From a different point of view, it can also be stated that the standard of living is very closely related to the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the said products and services, which are required by the people at different levels and also time plays an important role in the assessment of the same. This can also be related to the social and economic wellbeing of the people, where the comparative view of the people, at different levels use to change for the existing and future resources. At a given point of time if the larger mass of the economy is suffering from poverty, loss of education and even unemployment then it can be said there the planning system of the economy is faulty and needs to be changed.

Presence of social and economic difference in a developing society is pretty obvious and there difference because of the slow rate of economic growth and development and this is the result of the impact of different factors of economic and non-economic nature. The slow rate of economic growth can result in the respective difference in distribution of income and consumption level of people and this causes difference in the basic standard of living in the given economy.

India is a developing economy and poverty on one hand and less utilization of available resources on other hand are the visible issues in the same. As a matter of fact these are the two components that generally define the difference in living standards of people and even the cause of difference in the social and economic avenues of the same.

### **Demographic Distribution of Himachal Pradesh**

Since the advent of British rule Himachal Pradesh was called as “Land of Snowy Mountain”, geographically it is situated at ° 3022” to 7547” to °

°

3312” North Latitude 7904” East  
and °

longitude. It is sharing its border with Tibet in the east, Haryana on south, Punjab on west and J & K in the north, U.P. in south-east.

The total geographical area of the state is around 55, 673 sq. km. and the overall state is divided in 12 districts for proper administration. **SGI (2011)**. As a matter of fact Hamirpur is the smallest district with the area of 1118 sq km and Lahaul-Spiti is the biggest district with 13,835 sq km of area.

As compare to all other states of the country the population of the state is increasing at a comparative rate, but for the last 3 decades it is showing a declining pattern and the respective growth of population shown a negative growth. As per the latest information i.e. census of 2011 the population of the state was 68, 56,509 and the number of males and females was 34, 73,892 (i.e. 51 per cent) 33, 82,617 (i.e. 49 per cent) respectively. For the last census in 2001 the total population was 6,077,900 in where the number of males and

females was 3,087,940 and 2,989,960 respectively. On the behalf of the same it can be stated that the current rate of population growth is around 13% percent as compared to the previous rate of 17%. For the last decade the population of state was .59% of the country's population and in the present time it is 0.57%.

### Feature of Population in Himachal Pradesh Since 1901

S.N.	Year	Population	Decennial growth rate	Density per sq km	Females per '000 males	Percentage of rural / urban population to total population	
						Rural	Urban
1	1901	1920294	-	34	885	95.98	4.02
2	1911	1896944	-1.22	34	904	96.88	3.12
3	1921	1928206	1.65	35	902	96.55	3.45
4	1931	2029113	5.23	36	906	96.37	3.63
5	1941	2263245	11.54	41	897	96.2	3.80
6	1951	2385981	5.42	43	915	93.55	6.45
7	1961	2812463	17.87	51	923	93.66	6.34
8	1971	3460434	23.04	62	958	93.01	6.99
9	1981	4280818	23.71	77	973	92.39	7.61
10	1991	5170877	20.79	93	976	91.31	8.69

	1						
11	200 1	6077900	17.54	109	968	90.2	9.80
12	201 1	6856509	12.81	123	974	89.97	10.03

Source: Government of Himachal Pradesh, State Stastical Abstract, Economics and Statistics Department of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, 2013, pp.1-3.

The above given table shows that the total population of Himachal Pradesh in 1901 was 19, 20,294 which has increased further to 60,77,900 and 68,56,509 in 2001 and 2011 respectively. The density of population has increased from 62 people per sq. km in 1971 to 123 people per sq. in 2011. According to 2011 census, the density of Population of Himachal Pradesh is 123 per sq km which is lower than national average i.e. 382 per sq km. In 2001, density of population of Himachal Pradesh was 109 per sq km, while nation average was 324 per sq km. The number of women per 1000 men (sex ratio) which was 958 in 1971 increased to 974 in 2011.

#### **District Wise Literacy Percentage of Himachal Pradesh (2011 Census)**

S.N.	District	Literacy Percentage		
		1991	2001	2011
1	Bilaspur	66.1	76.7	85.9
2	Chamba	43.8	63.0	73.0
3	Hamirpur	75.0	83	88.9
4	Kangra	71	79.9	87.0
5	Kinnaur	59.1	74.9	81.0
6	Kullu	53.9	73.0	80.0
7	Lahaul-Spiti	57.0	73.0	76.9

8	Mandi	63.1	74.9	83.0
9	Shimla	63.9	79.0	85.0
10	Sirmaur	52.1	71.0	80.0
11	Solan	64.1	75.9	84.9
12	Una	71.0	79.9	86.9

Source: Government of Himachal Pradesh, ESIS, HP. 2012,

As per the records of census 2011, the said rate of literacy in the state was around 84%, where the same for males was 90.8% and for females it was 76.6%. as a matter of fact the highest rate of literacy was in the district of Hamirpur i.e. 95% for males and 83% for females.

#### **Livestock and Poultry in Himachal Pradesh (In thousands)**

S.N.	Category	2011	2015	2017	2019
1	Livestock				
	(I) Cattle	2002	2196	2269	1828
	(II) Buffaloes	638	769	735	646
	(III) Sheep	898	893	911	791
	(IV) Goats	951	1141	1238	1108
	(V) Horses and Ponies	31	18	14	8
	(VI) Mules and Donkeys	29	36	28	24
	(VII) Pigs	7	4	3	2

	(VIII) Other livestock	4	3	3	N.A
2	Poultry	391	781	812	1341

Source: Government of Himachal Pradesh, ESIS, 2012,2015,2017,2019.

### **District Wise Rural Families Living Below Poverty Line as per 2098- Survey in Himachal Pradesh**

S.N.	Districts	Total No. of	No. of households	Percentage of households
		Rural Households	below Poverty line	below poverty line to the total rural households
1	Bilaspur	75051	17337	23.1
2	Chamba	85676	46393	54.15
3	Hamirpur	95795	19514	20.37
4	Kangra	289185	63250	21.87
5	Kinnaur	13255	2824	21.31
6	Kullu	69388	11267	16.24
7	Lahaul Spiti	5517	2400	43.5
8	Mandi	206096	41339	20.06
9	Shimla	108999	31682	29.07
10	Sirmaur	70439	13695	19.44
11	Solan	73733	17478	23.7
12	Una	89792	15191	16.92

Source: Government of Himachal Pradesh, Selected Socio- Economic Statistics, Economics and Statistics Department of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, 2013, p. 89.

According to 70<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey Organization (July 2014-June 2015) the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure on food and non-food items for the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh was Rs. 659.87 and Rs. 705.47 respectively. Whereas, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure on both the food and non-food items for the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh was Rs. 1365.34. While, according to 66<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey Organization, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure on food and non food items for the urban areas of Himachal Pradesh was Rs. 866.37 and Rs. 1455.15 respectively. Whereas, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure on both the food and non-food items for the urban areas of Himachal Pradesh was Rs. 2321.52.

### **Objective**

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the citrus fruit farmers from the selected households in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Hypothesis**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** The socio-Economic condition of farmers is affected by certain components other than income.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** The socio-Economic condition of farmers is affected mainly by income.

### **Research Methodology**

#### **Sample**

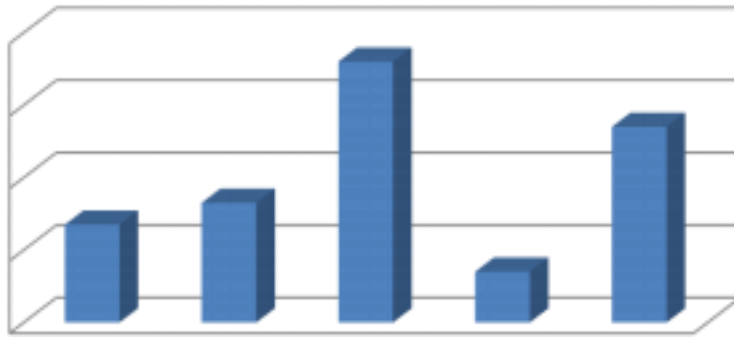
The researcher has considered two districts of Himachal Pradesh as the region of study and in order to normalize the said results In these districts 100 households were selected from each block. The total sample size of the study was 200

#### **Data Collection**

Present study is based on primary data and as a matter of fact the primary data is the first hand information collected from the respondents. In this present study the respondents are the farmers living in the said districts of Himachal Pradesh. In order to collect data a detailed questionnaire consisting of various types of questions was exercised with the respondents.

#### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

#### **Graphical Presentation of Data**



**Distributrion of Respondents According to age**

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80 60 40  
20 0 14  
54  
2733  
72

20-30  
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Years  
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Years  
50-60  
Years  
More than  
60 Years



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**Age of Respondents**

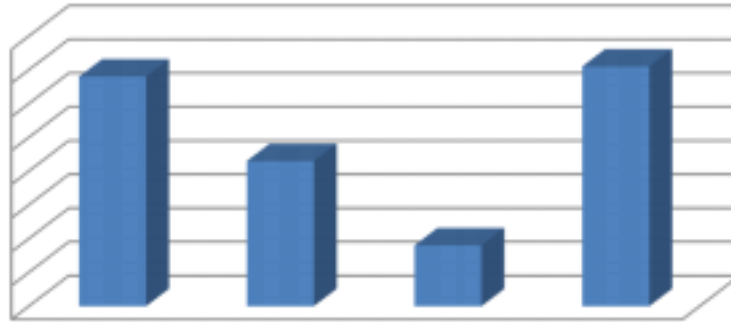
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**Occupation of respondents**

98



**Distribution According Land Holding**

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p s .  
s e o  
e R N  
d 80 70 60 50 18  
n f 40 30 20 10 71

0-5 Beegha 10-15 Beegha 15-20 Beegha More than 15  
Beegha

**Land Holding****Hypothesis testing****Summary of ANOVA Results H 1**

Income of the Respondents	F	Sign.
Appropriate Income from farming	2.631	.973
There is fixed income	.982	.562
Sources of income are identified	.621	.782

Distribution of income if equal	1.548	1.675
Bigger farmers are getting more income	2.671	.582
<b>Social Status</b>		
Status of a farmer is high in society	1.276	.599
People are switching from farming	.025	.875
People are looking for other sources except farming	.059	.808
Society recognizes only bigger farmers	1.012	.911
Government programs are focussed on minimum requirements	.632	.427
<b>Household Assets</b>		
Ownership of car/tractor	1.137	1.702
Ownership of Whashing machine	1.521	.972
Ownership of A.C.	3.737	2.054
Ownership of related goods	1.034	.853
Separate motor vehicle for every adult member	.875	1.950
<b>Demographic Development</b>		
Engaged in sources other than farming	1.847	1.859
All the family members are earning	1.163	.687
Special recognition to female family member	.130	.718
Children will continue with farming	.051	.822

### Interpretation

From the above data it can be interpreted that people at different income and social status are much different in their responses, as can be seen from the above given table of ANOVA in most of the cases related to income and social status people have different opinion for farming as an

occupation. In case of income the respondents are negative about the sources of income and distribution of income, this can be said because the value of 'F' ration is more than the 'Sign'

value. For the rest of the cases the respondents are favorable in their responses. The in case of social status the respondents are negative about the status of farmer in society, recognition of only bigger farmers and fulfillment of minimum requirements from government programs. this can be said because the value of 'F' ration is more than the 'Sign' value in such cases. For the rest of the cases the respondents are favorable in their responses. This shows that the income and social status are not the exact outcome of farming at a glance, rather there are some other components which are responsible for the same.

As far as the household assets and motor vehicles are concerned, it can be seen for the above table of ANOVA analysis that the respondents are positive about the household assets, like in case of ownership of car/tractor, washing machine and other related goods the value of 'F' ration is more than the 'Sign' value. Then on the other hand the responses are negative for separate motor vehicle for every adult member in the family, this is because of the reason that it is not easy for a farmer to arrange a vehicle for every family member from the income generated from farming itself.

In case of demographic development the respondents are positive for engagement in sources other than farming, special recognition of female family members this shows that the respondents are looking for avenues other than farming as merely farming is not sufficient to cater the needs of the family. Then the respondents are negative about their continuing with farming, this is because of the reason that the respondents do not agree that in future farming will be able to cover all the financial requirements of the family and in such a case other avenues will be required as well. Rather they do not emphasize on quitting farming as a family business.

## **Result**

On the basis of above analysis and interpretation, the null hypothesis 'The socio-Economic condition of farmers is affected by certain components other than income' can be accepted and the alternate hypothesis can be rejected.

## **Conclusion**

The pattern of household total income (i.e., both from agricultural and non-agricultural income) shows that the percentage share of income earned from field crops to the total household income has been worked out 14.41, 34.27, 32.31 and 28.12 per cent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 28.90. The percentage share of horticulture income to the total household income has been worked out 2.71, 11.51, 25.71 and 41.56 per cent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 24.52. The percentage share of household income earned from livestock activities to the total household income has been worked out 1.69, 0.80, 0.62 and 0.45 per cent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively.

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