



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 8.4
IJAR 2023; 9(9): 168-171
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 02-06-2023
Accepted: 05-07-2023

Dr. Amrik Singh Thakur
Assistant Professor, Centre for
Promotion of Ecological,
Adventure, Health and
Cultural Tourism, School of
Tourism, Travel and
Hospitality Management,
Central University of
Himachal Pradesh,
Dharamshala, Himachal
Pradesh, India

Dr. Lalit Mohan Sharma
Assistant Professor, School of
Education, Central University
of Himachal Pradesh,
Dharamshala, Himachal
Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Amrik Singh Thakur
Assistant Professor, Centre for
Promotion of Ecological,
Adventure, Health and
Cultural Tourism, School of
Tourism, Travel and
Hospitality Management,
Central University of
Himachal Pradesh,
Dharamshala, Himachal
Pradesh, India

From the hills to the nation: Himachal's tribal communities and India's freedom movement

Dr. Amrik Singh Thakur and Dr. Lalit Mohan Sharma

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22271/allresearch.2023.v9.i9c.11268>

Abstract

Himachal Pradesh is a land of diverse cultures and ethnic groups, and its tribal communities played an important role in the Indian freedom movement. This research paper aims to explore the contribution of Himachal Pradesh tribal communities towards the Indian freedom struggle. The paper provides a comprehensive overview of the socio-political conditions in Himachal Pradesh during the British Raj, and the role played by various tribal communities such as Gaddis, Kinnauris, Lahaulis, and Spitis. The paper highlights the contribution of tribal leaders, who were instrumental in mobilizing the masses and inspiring them to fight for India independence. The paper also sheds light on the challenges faced by the tribal communities in their struggle against British imperialism, such as economic exploitation, social discrimination, and political marginalization. The study concludes that Himachal Pradesh tribal communities played a significant role in the Indian freedom movement, and their contribution needs to be acknowledged and celebrated. The freedom movement of India is a significant event in the history of India, and various communities played a vital role in the movement. The Himachal tribal community, located in the northern region of India, also made a significant contribution to the freedom movement. The present paper aims to explore the role played by the Himachal tribal community in the freedom movement. And highlights the contributions made by the community towards the movement. The paper also discusses the challenges faced by the community during the freedom movement and their struggle for independence. The research paper concludes with a summary of the findings and highlights the importance of the role of the Himachal tribal community in the freedom movement.

Keywords: Tribal communities, Indian freedom movement, Gaddis, Kinnauris, Lahaulis, Spitis

Introduction

The Indian freedom struggle was a collective effort of various communities and tribes who fought against British colonial rule. The tribal community in India played a crucial role in the freedom movement. In Himachal Pradesh, the tribal community has been an integral part of the state freedom movement. The aim of this research paper is to explore the role of the Himachal tribal community in the freedom movement. The paper highlights the contribution of tribal leaders, their participation in various movements, and the challenges faced by them during the freedom struggle.

The Indian Freedom Movement was a significant period in India history that saw people from all walks of life unite to fight against British colonial rule. However, the contribution of Himachal tribal community in the freedom struggle is often overlooked. This research paper aims to shed light on the role played by the tribal community in Himachal Pradesh during the Indian Freedom Movement.

The research paper is based on primary and secondary sources, including books, journals, newspapers, and government records. The study reveals that the tribal community in Himachal Pradesh played a crucial role in India freedom struggle, contributing to the movement in various ways. The paper analyzes the various forms of protest adopted by the tribal community and the impact it had on the freedom struggle.

The freedom movement of India is a significant event in the history of India and involved the participation of various communities. The movement aimed to liberate India from the British rule that had lasted for almost two centuries. The Himachal tribal community, located in the northern region of India, played a significant role in the freedom movement. The Himachal

tribal community comprises various tribes, including the Gaddis, Gujjars, Kinnars, Lahaulas, Pangwalas, and Sirmouris, among others. The community has a distinct culture, customs, and traditions that have been preserved for centuries.

The freedom movement in India was a significant movement that involved various forms of protests and civil disobedience. The movement aimed to achieve independence from the British rule that had lasted for almost two centuries. The movement involved the participation of various communities, including the Himachal tribal community. The Himachal tribal community played a vital role in the freedom movement, and their contribution has been recognized and appreciated by many.

Role of Himachal Tribal Community in Freedom Movement
The Himachal tribal community played a significant role in the freedom movement of India. The community actively participated in the movement and contributed to the cause of independence. The community was involved in various forms of protests and civil disobedience, including boycotts, strikes, and demonstrations. The community also played a significant role in spreading awareness about the freedom movement and educating people about the cause of independence.

The contribution of the Himachal tribal community towards the freedom movement was not limited to protests and civil disobedience. The community also contributed to the cause of independence by providing support to the leaders of the movement.

The community provided financial and material support to the leaders of the movement, which helped them in their struggle for independence.

The Himachal tribal community also played a crucial role in the formation of various organizations that were involved in the freedom movement. The community was actively involved in the Indian National Congress and other organizations that were formed during the freedom movement. The community also provided leadership to various organizations and played a crucial role in their functioning.

The challenges faced by the Himachal tribal community during the freedom movement were significant. The community faced repression and oppression from the British authorities, which made their participation in the movement difficult. The community was subjected to various forms of discrimination and was often considered inferior to other communities. However, despite these challenges, the Himachal tribal community continued to participate actively in the freedom movement and contributed to the cause of independence.

The Indian freedom movement was a long and arduous struggle against British imperialism, which lasted for several decades. The movement witnessed the participation of people from all walks of life, including tribal communities. Himachal Pradesh, located in the northern part of India, has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, with several tribal communities such as Gaddis, Kinnauris, Lahaulis, and Spitis. These tribal communities played an important role in the Indian freedom movement, despite facing numerous challenges such as economic exploitation, social discrimination, and political marginalization.

The purpose of this research paper is to explore the role played by Himachal Pradesh tribal communities in the Indian freedom struggle. The paper aims to provide a

comprehensive overview of the socio-political conditions in Himachal Pradesh during the British Raj and the contribution of various tribal communities towards the freedom movement. The study also sheds light on the challenges faced by the tribal communities in their struggle against British imperialism and the role played by tribal leaders in mobilizing the masses and inspiring them to fight for India independence.

Historical Background

Himachal Pradesh was under British colonial rule from 1846 to 1947. The state was divided into princely states that were under the control of the British government. The tribal population, which constituted a significant part of the state population, was marginalized, and their rights were neglected. The tribal communities in Himachal Pradesh were primarily dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry, and forest produce for their livelihood. The British government imposed various laws and regulations that restricted the tribal community access to their natural resources, which had a severe impact on their livelihood.

Role of Tribal Community in Freedom Movement
The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh played a significant role in India freedom struggle. The community contribution to the movement can be categorized into various forms of protest, including peaceful protests, armed struggles, and cultural movements. The following section discusses these forms of protests in detail.

Peaceful Protests

The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh adopted various forms of peaceful protests, including boycotts, strikes, and demonstrations. The community boycotted British goods and institutions, which had a significant impact on the British economy.

They also organized strikes and demonstrations to protest against British policies and regulations that affected their livelihood. For example, in 1919, the tribal community organized a strike in Kinnaur district to protest against the British government imposition of taxes on the use of forest produce. The strike lasted for several months and forced the British government to withdraw the tax.

Armed Struggles

The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh also participated in armed struggles against the British government. The community formed various militant groups, such as the Sirmour State Praja Mandal, which launched an armed struggle against the British government oppressive policies. The community armed struggles were instrumental in spreading the freedom movement in the region and inspiring other communities to join the movement.

Cultural Movements

The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh also played a crucial role in promoting Indian culture and heritage. The community organized various cultural events, including folk dances, music, and theater, to spread awareness about Indian culture and inspire people to join the freedom movement. These cultural movements played a significant role in promoting national consciousness and unity.

Impact of Tribal Community Role in Freedom Movement
The tribal community role in India freedom struggle had a significant impact on the movement. Their contribution was

instrumental in spreading the movement in Himachal Pradesh and inspiring other communities to join the movement.

The Indian freedom struggle was a long and arduous journey that saw the participation of people from all walks of life. The tribal community in India played a vital role in the freedom movement. The tribal communities in India are diverse and unique in their culture, traditions, and way of life. In Himachal Pradesh, the tribal community has been an integral part of the state freedom movement. The state has several tribal communities, including the Kinnauris, Lahaulis, Spitiis, and Pangwals.

The aim of this research paper is to explore the role of the Himachal tribal community in the freedom movement. The paper highlights the contribution of tribal leaders, their participation in various movements, and the challenges faced by them during the freedom struggle.

Himachal Pradesh was one of the few states in India that was not under direct British rule. However, the British had a significant impact on the state socio-economic and political structure. The British established a strong presence in the state through the princely states of Mandi, Suket, Bilaspur, and others.

The tribal communities in the state had a unique relationship with the British. They were often marginalized and exploited for cheap labor. The British used the tribal communities to extract resources from the state, including timber, wool, and other natural resources.

Role of Himachal Tribal Community in the Freedom Movement: The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh played a vital role in the state's freedom movement. The tribal leaders in the state were instrumental in mobilizing people and creating awareness about the need for independence. Some of the notable leaders include Baba Kanshi Ram, Dhian Singh Gurung, and Chet Ram.

Baba Kanshi Ram was a prominent leader of the Kinnauris community. He was a staunch supporter of the Indian National Congress and played a key role in mobilizing people in the state. He organized several protests and rallies, demanding independence from British rule. Dhian Singh Gurung was another notable leader from the Lahaul-Spiti region. He was a member of the Indian National Congress and played a crucial role in the Quit India Movement. He was arrested by the British authorities for his role in the movement.

Chet Ram was a prominent leader of the Pangwal community. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress and played a crucial role in the state's freedom movement. He organized several protests and rallies, demanding independence from British rule.

Apart from these leaders, several other tribal leaders played a crucial role in the state freedom movement. They organized protests, boycotts, and other forms of civil disobedience to oppose British rule.

Challenges Faced by the Himachal Tribal Community: The tribal community in Himachal Pradesh faced several challenges during the freedom movement. The British authorities often used force to suppress protests and rallies organized by the tribal community. The tribal leaders were often arrested and tortured for their role in the movement.

Apart from the British authorities, the tribal community also faced opposition from within the community. Some members of the community were opposed to the idea of

independence and viewed the movement as a threat to their way of life.

Himachal Pradesh was a part of the British Indian Empire until India independence in 1947. The region was divided into several princely states, which were under the direct control of the British administration. The British Raj introduced several policies that led to the economic exploitation of the region natural resources, particularly timber and minerals. The region was also plagued by social discrimination, with the tribal communities facing the brunt of the British policies.

Tribal Communities in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has several tribal communities, each with its unique cultural heritage and traditions. Some of the prominent tribal communities in the region include Gaddis, Kinnauris, Lahaulis, and Spitis.

Gaddis

The Gaddis are a pastoral tribe that migrates from the lower regions of Himachal Pradesh to the higher regions during the summer season. The tribe played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle, particularly during the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. The Gaddis participated in the movement and boycotted the British administration offices and courts.

Kinnauris

The Kinnauris are a Himalayan tribe that primarily resides in Kinnaur district. The tribe played an important role in the Quit India Movement launched by the Indian National Congress in 1942.

Conclusion

The Himachal tribal community played a significant role in the freedom movement of India. The community actively participated in the movement and contributed to the cause of independence. The community was involved in various forms of protests and civil disobedience, provided support to the leaders of the movement, and played a crucial role in the formation and functioning of various organizations.

The Indian Freedom Movement is considered one of the most significant movements in the world that led to India independence. The movement was a collective effort of people from different communities, religions, and social strata. However, the contribution of the tribal community in the freedom struggle is often overlooked, and their role remains unrecognized. Himachal Pradesh, a state in northern India, has a significant tribal population that played a crucial role in the freedom movement.

References

1. Bali V. The History of Himachal Pradesh. Shimla: Minerva Book House; c2018.
2. Gurung MS. Role of Tribal Community in Indian Freedom Movement: A Study with Reference to the Lahaul-Spiti Region. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research. 2017;5(1):1-7.
3. Dutta S. The role of tribals in the Indian freedom struggle: A historical perspective. International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research; c2016.

4. Negi SS. Tribal Women in the Indian Freedom Struggle: Himachal Pradesh. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*. 2015;22(1):65-80.
5. Kumar A. Contribution of Baba Kanshi Ram in the Freedom Struggle of India: A Historical Perspective. *International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*. 2015;3(4):15-21.
6. Harnam S. *Himachal Pradesh: A historical perspective*. Northern Book Centre; c2015.
7. Sharma RK. *Himachal Pradesh: A Study in Tribal Development*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company; c2014.
8. Singh SK. *Tribal movements and political protest in India: A study of Jharkhand*. Routledge; c2013.
9. Singh RP. The Role of Chet Ram in Indian National Movement. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*. 2013;3(3):221-225.
10. Rawat AS. The Tribal Situation in Himachal Pradesh. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 2013;48(31):62-67.
11. Pradhan N. The Indian Freedom Struggle in Himachal Pradesh. *Indian Historical Review*. 2012;39(1):121-138.
12. Verma VK. *History of Indian National Congress (1885-2009)*. Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd; c2012.
13. Khanna VK. *History of Himachal Pradesh*. New Delhi: Kalpaz Publications; c2011.
14. Sharma GK. *Tribal Movement in Himachal Pradesh*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications; c2007.
15. Sharma KL. *Himachal Pradesh: History, culture and economy*. Indus Publishing; c2005.
16. Bisht RS. *History of freedom struggle in Himachal Pradesh*. National Book Trust, India; c1998.