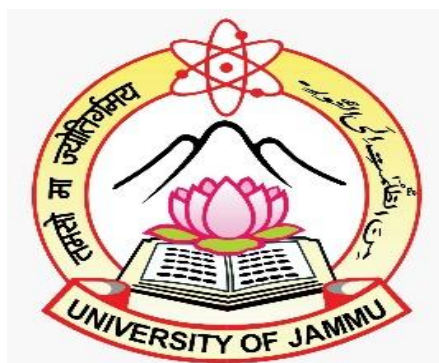


Understanding Jammu plains: A case study of RS Pura



MAJOR PROJECT

Semester 1

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ABSTRACT

Jammu plains is one of the geographical areas ranging from Kathua to Khour of district Jammu is known for its alluvial land and sandwiched between IB and Jammu-Pathankot highway. RS Pura, located in the fertile Jammu plains, is a region rich in cultural heritage and economic significance. Known as the "Rice Bowl of Jammu," its agricultural landscape, particularly the production of high-quality basmati rice, forms the backbone of the local economy. This report delves into the historical, cultural, and economic dimensions of RS Pura, with a specific focus on refugee settlement post-1971 and the impact of land ownership laws on the socio-economic fabric of the region.

Through case studies and interviews with residents, we explore the evolution of RS Pura's cultural identity, shaped by a blend of native traditions and the integration of refugee communities. The research also highlights the economic contributions of agriculture, shifts in land ownership patterns, and the challenges faced by the region in preserving its heritage amid modernization.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of RS Pura's unique position as a cultural and economic hub in the Jammu plains while addressing the ongoing issues of heritage preservation and sustainable development.

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CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

Ranbir Singh Pura, commonly known as R.S. Pura, is a town and tehsil in the Jammu district of the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Situated approximately 24.5 kilometres south of the district headquarters in Jammu and about 320 kilometres from the state capital, Srinagar, R.S. Pura holds the distinction of being the first planned city in the region.

R.S Pura named after the great Dogra ruler Maharaja Ranbir Singh, successor of Maharaja Gulab Singh, is located on the Indo-Pak border Suchetgarh which is 33 Km away from the district headquarters of Jammu. Before independence, this area was regularly visited by the Gaddi people of Dalowali who used to carry sugarcane to Nawanshahr (R. S. Pura) Sugar Mills. Prior to 1947 the state was linked with rest of the Country through rail via R.S. Pura only. There existed an old station in the city, which had train services to Sialkot junction, now in Pakistan. The Station was also linked with Wazirabad and Narowal (both in Pakistan). This Station was built in around 1867. The train halted for the last time at this station in 1947 which was loaded with refugees from Pakistan and they settled over there hence another name for this area is Nawanshahr. The main road linking R.S Pura was once the bus route from Jammu to Sialkot (Pakistan) and this route was so popular that there were several inns built on the route by the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

Suchetgarh (Indo-Pak border) is nearly 35 Kms from Jammu City and 10.3 Kms from R.S Pura. This post was set up after first war over Kashmir in 1947-48. Prior to independence there used to be an Octroi post for collection of taxes at Suchatgarh. Now it is used as a Border Security Post. Near the vicinity of this post there lie a Prehistoric and Raghunath temple which have their own importance. Within the temple complex there is an old Sarai which was used as a halting place for travellers.

1.2 GEOGRAPHY

Geographically, R.S. Pura is located at an elevation of 270 meters (886 feet) above sea level, with coordinates approximately 32.63°N latitude and 74.73°E longitude. The town experiences a daily mean temperature of around 6°C in winter and approximately 44°C in summer. Its proximity to the Indo-Pak border is marked by the Suchetgarh Border Security Post, located about 33 kilometres from Jammu and 10.3 kilometres from R.S. Pura. Before independence, Suchetgarh served as an octroi post for tax collection and now functions as a Border Security Post. Nearby, there is a prehistoric site and the Raghunath temple, which includes an old Sarai (inn) that historically served as a resting place for travellers.

1.4 ECONOMY

The sub-region economy is predominantly based on agriculture and dairy farming. R.S. Pura is renowned for producing high-quality Basmati rice, celebrated for its unique aroma and flavour. This distinctive quality is attributed to the irrigation of agricultural lands using water from the Chenab River, facilitated by the Ranbir Canal System. The fertile agricultural land in the region supports the cultivation of major crops such as rice (Basmati) and wheat, along with berseem and various vegetables. The Rakh area of Badyal Brahmana and Arnia are particularly noted for vegetable farming. To support the processing of Basmati rice, numerous rice mills operate within the town.

1.5 EDUCATION

In terms of education, R.S. Pura hosts several significant institutions. The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) has established its Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry in the town, contributing to advancements in agricultural and veterinary education. Additionally, the Government Degree College and Government Higher Secondary School provide higher education opportunities to the local population. The town also boasts reputable private schools, including New Model Public School, Holy Cross Convent High School, and DAV School, among others, which play a crucial role in shaping the future of local children.

1.6 TRANSPORTATION

Historically, R.S. Pura held strategic importance due to its transportation links. Prior to 1947, the state was connected to the rest of the country through a railway line via R.S. Pura. An old station in the town, built around 1867, offered train services to Sialkot Junction, now in Pakistan, and was also linked with Wazirabad and Narowal, both currently in Pakistan. The train halted for the last time at this station in 1947, carrying refugees from Pakistan who subsequently settled in the area, leading to the nickname "Nawanshahr" for R.S. Pura. The main road linking R.S. Pura was once a popular bus route from Jammu to Sialkot, so much so that several inns were built along the route by the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir to accommodate travellers.

1.7 YOUTH

The town is also known for its contributions to the Indian Armed Forces. The atmosphere of R.S. Pura is imbued with courage and patriotism, with many local youths aspiring to serve the nation by joining the military. Notably, Naib Subedar Bana Singh, a resident of the area, was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest wartime gallantry medal, for his heroic actions in recapturing the Qaid-e-Azam post from Pakistani intruders, a post now named Bana Post in

his honour. During the Kargil War in 1999, soldiers from R.S. Pura, such as Lance Naik Devinder Singh and Sepoy Janvir Singh, exhibited remarkable bravery.

1.9 DEMOGRAPHY

Demographically, as per the 2011 India census, R.S. Pura had a population of 163,567, with males constituting 54% and females 46%. The average literacy rate stood at 70%, higher than the national average of 59.5%, with male literacy at 77% and female literacy at 63%. Approximately 11% of the population was under 6 years of age at that time. The linguistic landscape is diverse, with Dogri being the predominant language, spoken by 79.11% of the population, followed by Punjabi at 16.78%, and Landa at 2.07.

CHAPTER-2

OBJECTIVE

- ❖ **To understand the plains of Jammu through some of the distinct places/ destination of this area.**
- ❖ **To know the educational, social, health, infrastructure, and livelihood pattern of the people of the area through a village case study.**

CHAPTER-3

METHODOLOGY

❖ Sampling Strategy

1. **Target Population**: Residents of RS Pura, including households, schools, healthcare facilities, and community centres.
2. **Sample Size**: Determined based on the population size, desired level of precision, and confidence interval.
3. **Sampling Technique**: Multi-stage random sampling or stratified random sampling to ensure representation of different demographics and geographic areas.

❖ Data Collection Methods

1. **Household Surveys**: Structured questionnaires administered to household members to gather information on demographics, socioeconomic status, education, health, and infrastructure.
2. **Observational Studies**: Observations of infrastructure, services, and community activities to validate survey findings.

❖ Data Collection Tools

1. **Questionnaires**: Structured questionnaires designed for household, school, health facility, and community centre surveys.
2. **Observation Checklists**: Checklists used for observational studies to record infrastructure, services, and community activities.
3. **GPS Devices**: Used to record geographic coordinates of surveyed locations.

❖ Data Analysis

1. **Descriptive Statistics**: Calculation of means, medians, frequencies, and percentages to summarize survey data.
2. **Inferential Statistics**: Use of statistical tests to identify relationships between variables and determine significance.

❖ Thematic Analysis:

Analysis of qualitative data from open-ended questions and observational studies to identify themes and patterns.

CHAPTER-4

CASE STUDIES ON JAMMU PLAINS (R.S. PURA)

Case Study 1: Cultivation, Market Significance, and Global Recognition of Basmati Rice from R.S. Pura

Introduction Basmati rice, renowned for its distinct aroma, long grains, and delicate texture, holds a special place in global culinary culture. Among its diverse cultivation regions, R.S. Pura in Jammu, India, stands out for producing some of the finest Basmati rice. This case study delves into the unique characteristics, historical significance, cultivation practices, market relevance, and the contribution of R.S. Pura Basmati rice to the local economy, highlighting its integral role in the regional identity and global rice markets.

Historical Background The cultivation of Basmati rice in R.S. Pura traces back several centuries, deeply rooted in the region's agrarian traditions. Situated in the fertile plains of Jammu, the region benefits from the alluvial soil deposited by the Chenab River. Historical records suggest that the Mughal era significantly influenced the spread and refinement of Basmati rice in northern India, including R.S. Pura. Oral histories and local folklore highlight how the region's farmers perfected the art of growing this aromatic variety, establishing its reputation for unparalleled quality.



➤ Unique Characteristics of R.S. Pura Basmati Rice

1. **Aromatic Profile:** R.S. Pura Basmati rice is celebrated for its strong, naturally occurring fragrance, attributed to the presence of the compound 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline. The aroma intensifies during cooking, making it a preferred choice for festive and ceremonial dishes.
2. **Long and Slender Grains:** The grains exhibit remarkable elongation upon cooking, often doubling in length, which sets it apart from non-Basmati varieties.
3. **Profile:** The rice offers a subtly nutty and earthy flavour, enhancing its appeal in global cuisines and gourmet recipes.
4. **Geographical Indication (GI) Status:** In recognition of its unique attributes and traditional cultivation methods, R.S. Pura Basmati rice has received GI status, further solidified its international reputation, and protected it from imitations.
5. **Climate-Sensitive Growth:** The rice thrives in the unique microclimate of R.S. Pura, characterized by cool evenings during the growing season, which contribute to its characteristic aroma and texture.

➤ Cultivation Practices The cultivation of Basmati rice in R.S. Pura adheres to traditional and eco-friendly practices:

1. **Seed Selection:** Farmers use certified Basmati seeds, ensuring consistency in grain quality. The preservation of heirloom seed varieties also remains a priority.
2. **Planting Techniques:** The transplantation method, where seedlings are first grown in nurseries and then transplanted, is widely practiced to optimize yield and minimize water use.
3. **Water Management:** Irrigation is carefully managed through traditional canals and modern techniques like drip irrigation to balance water efficiency with crop health.
4. **Pest and Disease Control:** Integrated pest management (IPM) practices are employed, minimizing the use of chemical pesticides while incorporating natural deterrents like neem-based solutions.
5. **Harvesting and Post-Harvest Care:** Harvesting is done manually to prevent grain breakage, followed by meticulous drying, polishing, and grading processes to ensure premium quality.

➤ Market Significance R.S. Pura Basmati rice commands a premium price in both domestic and international markets. Key factors contributing to its market significance include:

1. **Export Demand**: Major importing countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK, and the USA highly value the rice for its culinary versatility, particularly in biryanis and pilaffs.
 2. **Brand Value**: The GI tag and reputation for superior quality have elevated R.S. Pura Basmati to a sought-after brand in the rice segment. Packaging often highlights its origin and authenticity.
 3. **Economic Impact**: The high demand for this rice variety has led to increased income for farmers and allied industries, including milling, storage, and packaging sectors.
 4. **Evolving Preferences**: With a rising global preference for healthier and organic grains, R.S. Pura Basmati's low glycaemic index and organic variants have become highly desirable.
- Global Recognition R.S. Pura Basmati rice has earned accolades in various international forums, thanks to:
1. **Trade Exhibitions**: Regular participation in global trade fairs has bolstered its visibility and demand. It is often featured in culinary expos and international food festivals.
 2. **Quality Certifications**: Compliance with global food safety and quality standards, including ISO and HACCP certifications, has further enhanced its reputation.
 3. **Cultural Integration**: Its incorporation into diverse cuisines across continents showcases its universal appeal. It is a staple in royal kitchens, fine-dining establishments, and households alike.
 4. **Sustainability Recognition**: Efforts to transition toward sustainable cultivation practices have attracted international recognition and support from global NGOs and eco-conscious consumers.
- **Contribution to the Local Economy**
1. **Employment Generation**: The Basmati rice industry in R.S. Pura provides direct and indirect employment to thousands, from farmers to labourers in processing units, logistics, and export businesses.
 2. **Infrastructure Development**: The economic gains from rice exports have spurred investments in infrastructure such as warehouses, cold storage facilities, and transportation networks.

3. **Community Development**: Farmers' cooperatives and government initiatives have facilitated better access to credit, advanced technologies, and training programs. Women's participation in packaging and allied sectors has also risen.
4. **Tourism and Argo**: Tourism: R.S. Pura has seen a rise in agro-tourism, with visitors exploring rice paddies, learning about traditional farming techniques, and sampling authentic local cuisine.

Challenges and Opportunities While R.S. Pura Basmati rice enjoys widespread acclaim, the industry faces challenges such as fluctuating market prices, climate change impacts, and competition from other rice-producing regions. However, opportunities for growth lie in:

1. **Organic Farming**: Transitioning to organic cultivation methods to meet the growing demand for sustainable products. Certification programs are underway to assist farmers in this transition.
2. **Value-Added Products**: Developing ready-to-cook and packaged rice products, including pre-flavoured Basmati blends and microwavable options, to cater to evolving consumer preferences.
3. **Technology Integration**: Leveraging digital platforms for better market access, precision farming techniques, and real-time agricultural support to enhance productivity and profitability.
4. **Strengthening Branding**: Launching robust marketing campaigns to promote the heritage and uniqueness of R.S. Pura Basmati, emphasizing its GI tag and ecological farming methods.

Conclusion: Basmati rice from R.S. Pura epitomizes the blend of tradition, quality, and innovation. Its unique characteristics, historical significance, and economic contributions underscore its importance on the global stage. By addressing existing challenges and harnessing emerging opportunities, the R.S. Pura Basmati industry can continue to thrive, sustaining its legacy and enriching the lives of those involved in its production and trade. The future holds immense potential for this cherished grain, cementing its status as a symbol of Excellence in Indian agriculture.

Case Study 2: Gharana Wetland: An Ecological Marvel of Jammu

The Gharana Wetland, located in the R.S. Pura sector of Jammu near the India-Pakistan border, is an important ecological site recognized under the Ramsar Convention. It serves as a critical habitat for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, with notable species like the Bar-headed Goose, Northern Shoveler, and Indian Sarus Crane.

This wetland plays a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and groundwater recharge. However, threats such as encroachments, pollution, and climate change pose significant challenges to its survival.

Efforts to conserve the wetland include its designation as a protected area under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and initiatives promoting eco-tourism and community participation. Preserving the Gharana Wetland is essential for maintaining its ecological and socio-economic value.

The **Gharana Wetland** in Jammu is a significant ecological site, renowned for its biodiversity and importance as a migratory bird habitat.



Gharana Wetland: An Ecological Marvel of Jammu

➤ Location and Overview

The Gharana Wetland is situated in the R.S. Pura sector of Jammu, close to the India-Pakistan international border. This wetland is part of the Indus-Ganges riverine ecosystem and is one of the 75 wetlands in India designated under the Ramsar Convention, signifying its international importance.

➤ Ecological Importance

1. **Biodiversity Hotspot:**

Gharana Wetland is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. It supports several species of plants and aquatic organisms that form the base of the wetland's food chain.

2. **Avian Habitat:**

- a. It serves as a critical stopover for migratory birds traveling along the Central Asian Flyway.
- b. Notable species include the **Bar-headed Goose, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Common Teal, Pintail**, and the **Black-headed Ibis**.
- c. The wetland is particularly famous for its **Indian Sarus Crane** sightings.

3. **Climate Regulation:**

Wetlands like Gharana act as carbon sinks and help in groundwater recharge, playing a vital role in regulating the local climate.

➤ Cultural and Economic Significance

- The wetland is a key attraction for eco-tourism and birdwatching enthusiasts.
- Local communities rely on the wetland for agriculture, grazing, and fishing activities.

➤ Threats to Gharana Wetland

1. **Encroachments:** Agricultural expansion and human settlements pose significant threats.
2. **Pollution:** Unregulated waste disposal and agricultural runoff have degraded water quality.
3. **Shrinking Area:** The wetland's area has shrunk considerably over the years due to anthropogenic activities.

4. **Climate Change**: Changes in rainfall patterns and temperature fluctuations are affecting the wetland's hydrology.

➤ **Conservation Efforts**

1. **Legal Protection:**

Gharana Wetland was declared a protected area under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, by the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

2. **Community Participation:**

Initiatives to involve local communities in conservation efforts are being encouraged. This includes promoting sustainable agricultural practices and eco-tourism.

3. **Government Schemes:**

- a. Projects under the **National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP)** have been initiated to restore and protect the wetland.
- b. Awareness programs aim to educate locals and visitors about the wetland's importance.

➤ **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Gharana Wetland is a natural treasure of Jammu, vital for biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, immediate action is needed to address the threats it faces.

➤ **Recommendations:**

- Strengthen enforcement of anti-encroachment laws.
- Promote eco-tourism as a sustainable economic alternative for locals.
- Implement regular water quality monitoring and habitat restoration measures.
- Raise awareness about the wetland's ecological value among stakeholders.

Preserving the Gharana Wetland is essential for maintaining ecological balance and supporting migratory bird populations. It is a shared responsibility of the government, local communities, and conservationists.

Case Study 3: Suchetgarh Border, R.S. Pura: A Unique Tourist Destination

The **Suchetgarh Border**, located in the R.S. Pura sector of Jammu, is a historic and picturesque site along the India-Pakistan border. Often referred to as the "Wagah of Jammu," it offers visitors a glimpse into the region's cultural and historical significance. Once a prominent trade route before the partition, it has now emerged as a unique border tourism destination. Its proximity to Jammu city and rich cultural heritage makes it a popular attraction. The Suchetgarh Border post is 28 kms from main Jammu. The road to Nai Basti-Gulabgarh from Jammu follows the train route as it existed prior to 1947 and a number of old buildings can be seen on the way.



➤ Key Features

1. Historical Importance:

Suchetgarh was once a prominent trading post between India and Pakistan in the partition era. Its significance is rooted in the cultural exchanges and vibrant trade that existed along this route.

2. Tourist Attractions:

- a. The **Zero Line** at Suchetgarh provides a unique experience, allowing visitors to view the fenced border area and interact with Border Security Force (BSF) personnel.
- b. The renovated **Octroi Post** has been developed as a tourism hub, showcasing the rich history of the region.
- c. The site is part of the proposed **Bharat Darshan tourist circuit**, aimed at promoting border tourism.
- d. **Suchetgarh Border Ceremony:** With retreat ceremonies being held by the Border Security Force (BSF) close to the zero line on the weekends, the Octroi Border Out Post on the International Border in Suchetgarh of RS Pura in Jammu district has become a well-known tourist site. “Beating retreat ceremony” held every weekend at the international border’s Suchetgarh Border Outpost (IB) On weekends, a 30-minute ceremony is held along the international border at Suchetgarh Octroi Bop starting at 5:15 pm.

3. Cultural Significance:

The area reflects the heritage of Jammu, with the local community playing a key role in preserving its traditions. Visitors can experience the charm of Dogra culture, local cuisines, and traditional crafts.

4. Accessibility: -

Suchetgarh is approximately 28 kilometres from Jammu city and is easily accessible by road, making it a popular weekend destination for both locals and tourists.

➤ Current Developments

Efforts are underway to develop Suchetgarh into a major border tourism destination. The area has been beautified with pathways, seating areas, and viewing points. Additionally, cultural events and light-and-sound shows are being planned to enhance the visitor experience.

Suchetgarh Border offers a blend of history, patriotism, and natural beauty, making it a must-visit for those exploring the Jammu region.

Baba Chamliyal

The Shrine of Baba Chamliyal is in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, 40 Kms from Jammu. Every year a three-day trans-border fair is held amidst the traditional religious chanting and beats of drums at Chamliyal, which is less than 200 meters away from the international border.

The Samadhi of Baba Chamliyal is housed in a beautiful shrine under the shade of a mighty pipal tree. The main Shrine is flanked at the entrance by two samadhis of two devotees of Baba. Water drawn from a well in the premises considered as 'sharbat' by the followers. Soil from an adjacent Talab (pond) which has since dried up is dug up is considered as 'shakkar' by the devotees. The sharbat and shakkar are mixed together and applied by those affected with skin diseases for their cure.

Every year on the fourth Thursday of June a mela is held at this place to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Chamliyal. This mela is organized in Pakistan also. On this day Pakistani devotees of Baba present a Chadar for the monument of Baba which is received by BSF at the Border and in return BSF hands over Shakar and Sharbat to the Pakistan Rangers for devotees on the either side.

Lakhs of devotees from Jammu and Kashmir as well as neighbouring states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh pay obeisance at the shrine of Baba situated in the surrounding fields around the Shrine. Local fairs, ethnic food stalls are main attraction of the mela. BSF provides free langar and accommodation for devotees who visit Baba Chamliyal Shrine for the treatment.

Case Study 4: Jammu-Sialkot Railway line

➤ Introduction

Sialkot Railway Station is one of the historic landmarks of Sialkot city in Punjab, Pakistan. Established during British colonial rule in the late 19th century, it played a pivotal role in connecting the city with major trade and transportation networks in the region. The trains originated from Wazirabad and Sialkot (both now in Pakistan) to commute daily workers from these cities who were generally employed in the rice mills of **Ranbir Singh Pura**. One of the important commercial routes of the erstwhile North Western Railways of the East India Railway company. The intermediate stations listed in from west to east - **Sialkot Cantonment, Suchetgarh, Ranbir Singh Pora, Miran Saheb, and Jammu Cantonment**. The station has a rich history tied to the socio-economic development of Sialkot, known for its industries, especially in sports goods, surgical instruments, and leather products.



➤ Historical Background

- **Establishment**: The Sialkot Railway Station was built in **1880** as part of the North-Western State Railway. Its construction was aimed at improving trade routes and facilitating administrative control in the region.

- **Role Pre-Partition:** Before 1947, the station served as a key link between cities in British India, including Amritsar, Lahore, Jammu, and beyond. It was a critical junction for trade and passenger movement.
- **Post-Partition Impact:** After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, the station's connectivity was affected due to the disruption of cross-border rail routes, particularly the Jammu-Sialkot line.
- The first ever train that chugged into Jammu and Kashmir before Partition ran on the railway line connecting Sialkot, now in Pakistan, and Jammu. Discontinued for obvious reasons after the birth of Pakistan, the remnants of this historic rail link are vanishing away. Over the years, the rail line has been dismantled by people and houses have come up in the small railway stations on the route.

➤ **Key Features**

1. Architecture:

The station's architecture reflects a colonial design with large platforms, high ceilings, and robust brick structures. It is a representation of British engineering during the late 19th century.

2. Connectivity:

- a. **Pre-Partition:** Sialkot Railway Station was part of the Jammu-Sialkot line, which facilitated trade and cultural exchanges between the two regions.
- b. **Post-Partition:** The station remains connected to key cities like Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi, though cross-border routes ceased operations.

3. Facilities:

Over the years, the station has been modernized with waiting areas, ticketing systems, and freight-handling facilities to support industrial exports from Sialkot.

➤ **Economic and Social Importance**

1. Economic Role:

- a. The station has been a lifeline for Sialkot's industries, enabling the export of goods to other parts of Pakistan and beyond.
- b. It supports the city's reputation as a global manufacturing hub for sports goods and surgical instruments.

2. Social Impact:

- a. It has been a major mode of transportation for locals, connecting Sialkot with major urban centres.
- b. The station symbolizes Sialkot's historical ties to other regions, fostering cultural exchanges before partition.

➤ Challenges

1. **Disruption of Jammu-Sialkot Route:**

The closure of this route post-1947 significantly impacted trade and cultural ties between Sialkot and Jammu. Efforts to reopen this route have faced geopolitical challenges.

2. **Infrastructure Maintenance:**

While modernized to some extent, parts of the station require further upgrades to meet contemporary transportation needs.

3. **Declining Rail Usage:**

The rise of road transport and air connectivity has reduced the reliance on railways, impacting the station's importance.

➤ Future Potential

1. **Re-establishment of Cross-Border Routes:**

Reopening the Jammu-Sialkot railway line could revitalize trade, tourism, and cultural ties between India and Pakistan, subject to improved diplomatic relations.

2. **Tourism Promotion:**

The historical significance of the station can be leveraged to attract tourists interested in colonial-era landmarks and the history of partition.

3. **Modernization Plans:**

Incorporating digital ticketing, enhanced freight services, and improved infrastructure could help the station remain relevant in Pakistan's transportation network.

➤ Conclusion

Sialkot Railway Station stands as a testament to the city's historical and economic importance. Despite challenges, it continues to be a critical infrastructure hub for the region. With strategic planning and improved cross-border relations, the station has the potential to regain its historical prominence and contribute to regional connectivity and development.

Case Study 5: Insight on socio-economic and educational trends of Seer and Baspur Bangla in RS Pura

➤ Introduction

This case study analyses data collected from a survey on socio-economic and educational indicators across various demographics. The data offers insights into the impact of literacy, income, and access to resources on societal attitudes and outcomes. The findings aim to inform policymakers and stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities in improving education and economic well-being in the surveyed population.



➤ Demographic Overview

The survey included responses from individuals spanning multiple age groups, marital statuses, and occupations. Key demographic highlights include:

- **Gender Distribution:** Equal representation of males and females.
- **Age Groups:** Participants ranged from 18 to 70 years, categorized into three primary groups: 18–30, 30–50, and 50–70.
- **Occupations:** The primary occupations include government employees, farmers, and private sector employees.
- **Family Dynamics:** Household sizes varied between 3 to 8 members, with some families having multiple government-employed members.

➤ Economic Indicators

- **Income Levels:** Household incomes ranged from below ₹20,000 to above ₹1,00,000 per month, with a significant proportion falling in the ₹20,000–₹70,000 range.
- **Savings:** Monthly savings ranged from ₹1,000 to ₹40,000, reflecting varying financial security.
- **Land:** Many families owned agricultural land.
- **Housing:** The majority lived in "pakka" houses, indicating stable housing conditions.
- **Vehicles:** Most families owned at least one vehicle, typically a two-wheeler, while higher-income households had four-wheelers.

➤ Access to Basic Utilities

Access to electricity, clean water, sanitation, and internet was reported as universal across respondents, reflecting significant progress in infrastructure development in the area.

➤ Educational Trends

- **Highest Education Level:** Education levels varied from 8th grade to graduation, with many participants having completed 12th grade.
- **Gender Bias in Education:** A majority acknowledged the role of gender bias in limiting girls' education.
- **School Availability:** Most respondents reported the presence of schools within 5 km of their locality and affirmed the presence of qualified teachers.
- **Dropout Rates:** Education dropout was observed to occur most frequently after 10th or 12th grade due to financial constraints or societal norms.

- **Government Policies:** A mixed response was observed regarding the utilization of government education policies, with some participants reporting no access or awareness.

➤ **Health and Literacy**

- **Health Insurance:** While some families had health insurance, it was not universal.
- **Illiteracy Impact:** Most respondents believed that illiteracy impacts health and nutrition and hinders economic growth and job opportunities.
- **Marriage and Literacy:** Literacy levels were often considered during marriage arrangements, reflecting its importance in societal norms.

➤ **Economic and Social Impacts of Literacy**

The survey highlighted the significant role literacy plays in economic development:

- **Economic Contribution:** A literate population is perceived as essential for economic growth, while illiteracy is seen as a barrier to progress.
- **Job Opportunities:** Literacy was directly linked to better job prospects, especially in formal sectors.
- **Generational Benefits:** Educated parents were more likely to prioritize their children's education over personal advancement, fostering intergenerational benefits.

➤ **Key Challenges Identified**

1. **Gender Disparity:** Persistent gender biases in education, especially for girls, need to be addressed.
2. **Affordability:** Despite schools being nearby, education costs remain a significant challenge.
3. **Policy Awareness:** Limited awareness and utilization of government education policies hinder access to benefits.
4. **Dropout Rates:** High dropout rates after 10th and 12th grades highlight the need for targeted interventions.

➤ **Recommendations**

1. **Promote Gender Equality:** Community-based programs should aim to eliminate gender biases in education.

2. **Subsidize Education:** Expand financial aid and scholarships to make education more affordable.
3. **Increase Policy Awareness:** Conduct awareness campaigns to inform the public about government schemes.
4. **Skill-Based Training:** Introduce vocational training programs for students who drop out early.
5. **Health and Education Integration:** Combine health awareness with literacy programs to improve overall well-being.

➤ **Conclusion**

This case study underscores the interplay between socio-economic factors and education in shaping societal outcomes. By addressing challenges such as gender bias, affordability, and policy awareness, communities can ensure equitable access to education and foster economic growth. Policymakers must take a holistic approach to empower individuals and families, leveraging education as a cornerstone for societal progress.

CHAPTER-5

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1. Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other_____

Q2. What is your age?

- a. 18-30
- b. 30-50
- c. 50-70
- d. Above 70

Q3. What is your marital status?

- a. Married
- b. Single
- c. Divorced

Q4. How many members are in your family? _____

Q5. How many people in your family have a government job?

Q6. What is your primary occupation?

- a. Farmer
- b. Business person
- c. Government employee
- d. Private sector employee
- e. Daily wage worker
- f. Unemployed
- g. Others _____

Q7. What is the average monthly income of your household?

- a. Below 20,000
- b. 20,000-40,000
- c. 40,000-70,000
- d. 70,000- 1 lakh
- e. Above 1 lakh

Q8. Do you own any agriculture land if yes, how much (in Acre)?

Q9. Do you own a house?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q10. What type of house do you live in?

- a. Kacha (mud)
- b. Pakka (concrete)
- c. Semi pakka

Q11. Do you have access to basic utilizes like electricity, clean drinking water, sanitization, internet etc.?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q12. Do you own any vehicle if yes than how many?

- a. Yes _____
- b. No

Q13. What is your mode of transport?

- a. Two-wheeler
- b. Four-wheeler
- c. Public transport
- d. On foot

Q14. How much do you save from your income?

Q15. Do you have any banking facilities near you?

Q16. How do you like to save your income?

- a. Home
- b. Bank
- c. Invest
- d. Others _____

Q17. Do you and your family members have health insurance?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q18. What is your highest level of education?

Q19. Do you think gender biases are the reason for girls not receiving education?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q20. Is there a school within the 5 km of your locality, if yes then which?

- a. Yes _____
- b. No

Q21. Are there enough qualified teachers in schools in your area?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q22. Do you avail any government education policy?

- a. Yes _____
- b. No

Q23. Are education costs affordable in your area?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q24. After which class do children drop out of school in your locality?

Q25. Do you think illiteracy impacts children's health and nutrition?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q26. Do you think married couples prioritize education for their children over personal learning?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q27. Do you think literacy levels considered during marriage arrangements in your community?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q28. Do you think having a literate population significantly impact the economy?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q29. Do you think an illiterate population impact the economy?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q30. Do you think illiteracy affects job opportunities?

- c. Yes
- d. No

Q31. If you had more awareness about education and literacy, back in your time, would that have helped you more in your work field?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Chapter-6

Analyses

Analyses of the results collected from survey conducted in village of Seer and Baspur Bangla in RS Pura.

❖ Demographic Overview

- **Gender Distribution:**

The dataset includes both males and females, with a noticeable representation of married individuals across different age groups.

- **Age Groups:**

The respondents are categorized into three age groups: 18-30, 30-50, and 50-70. This diversity allows for insights into generational differences in perspectives.

- **Marital Status:**

Most respondents are married, which could influence their views on education and family dynamics.

❖ Socioeconomic Factors

- **Family Size:**

The number of family members ranges from 3 to 8, indicating varying household sizes that may affect economic conditions and resource allocation.

- **Government Employment:**

A significant number of respondents have government jobs, which may correlate with higher stability in income compared to private sector jobs or farming.

- **Monthly Income:**

- Income levels vary widely:

- Below ₹20,000
 - ₹20,000-40,000
 - ₹40,000-70,000
 - Above ₹1 lakh

- This variation indicates differing economic conditions among families.

❖ Housing and Land Ownership

- **Agricultural Land Ownership:**

Many respondents own agricultural land ranging from 1.5 to 16 acres. This ownership is crucial for understanding their economic activities and dependence on agriculture.

- **Type of Housing:**

Most live in pakka houses (constructed with solid materials), which suggests a level of economic stability. Some reside in semi-pakka houses, indicating varying living conditions.

❖ Access to Utilities and Banking Facilities

- **Basic Utilities:**

Access to electricity, clean drinking water, and sanitation is generally positive among respondents. However, the availability of internet access varies.

- **Banking Facilities:**

Most respondents have access to banking facilities, which is essential for financial management and savings.

❖ Education Insights

- **Educational Attainment:**

The highest level of education reported ranges from primary education (10th grade) to graduation. This diversity can influence perspectives on literacy and its importance.

- **Perceptions on Education:**

Many respondents believe that gender biases impact girls' education negatively. Additionally, there is a consensus that illiteracy affects children's health and nutrition.

- **Government Education Policies:**

Responses indicate mixed feelings about the affordability of education costs and the presence of qualified teachers in local schools.

❖ **Transportation and Savings Behaviour**

- **Mode of Transport:**

The majority use two-wheelers for transportation, while some have four-wheelers. This may reflect socioeconomic status as well as accessibility issues.

- **Savings Patterns:**

Savings range from ₹1,000 to ₹40,000 monthly. The methods of saving vary among respondents, with some preferring banks while others opt for informal savings methods.

Conclusion

The data presents a comprehensive view of the socioeconomic landscape affecting education and literacy in the surveyed community. Key insights include:

- Economic stability is linked to government employment.
- There are significant concerns regarding gender biases in education.
- Access to basic utilities is generally good but varies by locality.

This analysis can serve as a foundation for further research or policy recommendations aimed at improving educational access and addressing socioeconomic disparities within the community.

Chapter-7

CONCLUSION

The RS Pura Survey Project provided valuable insights into the infrastructure, socioeconomic development, and community needs of RS Pura, a rural area in Jammu and Kashmir. The survey highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and community engagement. Based on the findings, recommendations were made to prioritize infrastructure development, promote livelihood opportunities, and foster community participation. The project's outcomes can inform policymakers and development practitioners in their efforts to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life for the people of RS Pura.

1. **Infrastructure**: The survey highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, including roads, healthcare facilities, and education institutions.
2. **Socioeconomic Development**: The findings indicated a moderate level of socioeconomic development, with opportunities for improvement in areas like livelihoods, sanitation, and social services.
3. **Community Engagement**: The survey emphasized the importance of community engagement and participation in development initiatives.

❖ Recommendations

1. Infrastructure Development: Prioritize the development of critical infrastructure, including roads, healthcare facilities, and education institutions.
2. Livelihood Opportunities: Promote livelihood opportunities, such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, and vocational training, to enhance socioeconomic development.
3. Community Participation: Foster community participation and engagement in development initiatives through awareness campaigns, capacity building, and inclusive decision-making processes.

❖ Future Directions

1. Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and assess the impact of development initiatives.
2. Stakeholder Engagement: Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations, to leverage resources and expertise.
3. Scaling Up Initiatives: Scale up successful initiatives and programs to maximize impact and promote sustainable development in RS Pura.

The RS Pura Survey Project contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex development challenges and opportunities in RS Pura. The findings and recommendations of this study can inform policymakers, development practitioners, and stakeholders in their efforts to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life for the people of R.S Pura.

Chapter-8

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