

The Skills in Demand: A Case of Chamba District in Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

A need for skill development and skill up gradation among the labour force as a result of challenges that globalization and changing job patterns posed came in the form of increased emphasis on understandings to be developed with respect to

1. Which skills are to be developed?
2. What are the strategies adopted of skill development of rural populace?
3. Has the supply driven strategies been able to cater to market demands?
4. What is the quantum and quality difference in the two?

Chamba the case district is haven to many artistry such as Chamba Rumal (handkerchief), Chamba Embroidery and Chamba Chappals (slippers) known world over, it is worth case for rightful skill development strategies. Additionally, the district has thousands of aromatic and medicinal plants, till now being largely unexploited and not keenly worked at economical scales. The district has many scenic attractions and worth developing tourist spots too. Besides, there are places and spots having importance from pilgrimage and historical points of view, which need to be properly marketed.

Keywords: Skill development, Backward districts, Backward Regions Grant Fund, Resource Base, Participation Rates, Demand –Supply gaps, SWOT analysis, Physical Infrastructure, Social Capital, Aromatic Plants, Chamba rumal.

1.0 Introduction

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India making a beginning in the context of Skill development abridging demand supply gaps initiated a project on ‘Skill Development of Rural Poor for Gainful Employment’ aiming at up-gradation of skills of unemployed educated youth in the rural areas realizing the skill development to be based on demand of skills. The process began by carrying out preliminary exercises in backward districts of the country. Chamba in Himachal Pradesh is a typical backward district, engulfed by affluence all around and so made a worthwhile case for study. It also was one of the 250 BRGF (Backward Regions Grant Fund) districts – the most backward districts and so amongst first priority districts of development schemes (NIRD, 2006)¹.

Location of the District: Chamba is bounded on north-west by Jammu and Kashmir, on the north-east and east by Ladakh area of Jammu and Kashmir state and Lahaul and Bara-Bangal area of Himachal Pradesh, on the south-east and south by the District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh and Gurdaspur District of the Punjab.

The paper beginning with examining the typical shortfalls the district has on economic, social and infrastructure fronts in next section, section 1, investigates into the typical resource base of the district in the next section. Section three and four provides the important sectors having potentials, the strengths and weaknesses the district has with respect to the identified sectors. Section 5 reiterates the missing links between supply and demand, a review of various government efforts and possible solutions.

1.1 Case District

Chamba District is divided into six sub-divisions, seven Tehsils and three sub-Tehsils. From the view point of rural development, the district is divided into six development blocks. The district has 270 Gram Panchayats. Three development blocks namely Mehla, Salooni and Tissa have been declared backward, while 11 Gram Panchayats and 17 Gram Panchayats of Chamba and Bhattiyat block respectively have been declared as dispersed backward panchayats. Bharmaur and Pangi are tribal blocks.

District covers an estimated area of 6528 sq km and is surrounded on all sides by lofty hill ranges. The territory is wholly mountainous with altitude ranging from 2,000 to 21,000 feet. Total population of the District is 460,499 according to Census 2001. The climate ranges from semi-tropical to semi-arctic.

The district has a population density of 80 inhabitants per square kilometre (210 /sq mi). Its population

¹ The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) signifies a new approach to addressing persistent regional imbalances in rural development and strengthening local self-governance across India in 250 districts including 27 States. Truly this is a significant scheme in the history of Panchayati Raj. The BRGF Programme aims to catalyze development in backward areas by providing infrastructure, promoting good governance and agrarian reforms, converging, through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing development inflows into these districts.

growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 12.58 %. Chamba has a sex ratio of 989 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.19 %.



1.2 District has Distinct Features reflecting Backwardness

- District exhibits widespread backwardness despite being a part of Himachal Pradesh, one of the advanced states of the country.
 - More than 62 per cent of households as per 2002-03 BPL survey in the district were poor. Widespread poverty in the district caused Mehla, Salooni and Tissa blocks declared as completely backward, while 11 GPs of Chamba and 17GPs of Bhattiayti block are dispersed backward.
 - District is predominantly rural with 1118 inhabitant villages. Of the total 4.61 lakh people in 2001, 92.5 per cent lived in rural areas.
 - More than 45 per cent of the district is inhabited by socially backward SC and ST population. Bharmour and Pangi are tribal blocks with 80.46 and 87.15 per cent ST population.
 - Overall rate of literacy for the district (2001 census) was just 63.8 percent, compared to the state with large gendered deprivation tendencies (49.7 per cent amongst females compared to 77.22 percent in case of males).
 - Agriculture is the mainstay of 74 per cent of the total population but its contribution to GDP amounts to 22 per cent. Despite 74 per cent of workforce pursuing agriculture less than 9.7 percent is under cultivation and irrigated land is further about 9 per cent of the cropped area.
 - Industrial development in the district is abysmally low. Total number of registered industrial units in the district in 2004-05 was 27. District had just about 1.19 per cent employed in household industrial unit.
 - Participation percent in the economic activities indicate that only about 27.87 per cent of total workers were main workers. Marginal workers constituting 22.15 per cent reflects, on the one hand, less than required employment opportunities for a large chunk of workforce, magnitude of plan-efforts necessary for remunerative and productive engagement of these people on the other.
 - The district is wholly mountainous with deviation ranging from 2000 feet to about 21000 feet above mean sea level. Most of the parts of higher terrains remain un-approachable and non-connected.
 - Average household size in the district in 2001 was 5.604.
- The block-wise picture is presented in Table 1..

2.0 Resource Base of the District

Chamba is home to a number of lakes and springs. The district is marked for its achievement of 100 per cent electrification.

2.1 Economic Resources and Potentials

2.1.1. Agriculture:

Agriculture is the mainstay of 74 per cent of the total population and contributes about 22 per cent of the GDP. The average size of operational land holding in 2001-02 was 1.49 ha. Out of the total area of 692419 ha, only about 67099 is the gross cropped area, of which just about 6162 ha - (9.18 per cent) is irrigated.

There is large scope of vegetables growth in the district. At present the important vegetables grown include Tomato, Beans, Capsicum and Chilies, Cucumber, Bhindi, Brinjal, Potato, Peas Green, Onion & Garlic, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Raddish, Turnip and Carrot, Spinach & other leafy vegetables, etc.

Horticulture crops such as apple, nuts & dry Fruits, and Citrus have tremendous potential in the area to supplement the income in the countryside to a large extent.

Livestock: Livestock of constitute one of the major assets of the rural population. The Block-wise Livestock, Poultry, Milk Production and Production of Wool in thousand kg (in 2003-04) is presented below in Table 2.

Further break up indicates 2029 cross bred cows (5.62 per cent of total cows), 34084 indigenous cows, 12600 buffaloes, and 35244 goats. Sheep population in the district was to the tune of 244146.

Forests: Out of the total area of 692419 ha, about 470640 ha (Approx 68 per cent) in 2002-03 is the under forests.

2.1.2. Industrial

District faces numerous challenges on account of being a completely hill and remote area but has made a satisfactory progress with regards to tiny, village and cottage industries based on local raw material and need based industries. There are in all about 1762 units existing employing 4612 persons with total investment to the tune of 9.78 crores, i.e., about Rs 5,55,000 per unit.

As the economy is predominantly agriculture and horticulture based, many units pertaining to fruit processing, oil expellers, canning and bakery coexist with units manufacturing steel furniture, wooden furniture, dhoopbattis, washing soap, shoes, candles, hosiery, polythene bags, woolen shawls, stone carving, bamboo crafts work, band saw etc. other units include Photostat, colour labs, auto repairs and service stations, watch repair, radio & T.V. repair, power looms, carpentry and black smithy, gold smithy and jute mate, beauty parlour, PVC foot wear, readymade garments, automobiles, fabrication works etc.

2.1.3. Handicrafts

The district is rich in handicrafts. These mainly include Utilitarian, Decorative and Magico religious objects. Crafts of Chamba District reflect the rich culture and tradition of the district. Several art and crafts are popular in this district of Himachal Pradesh. Like for instance, metal craft, wood carving, painting, basket making, Chamba rumal embroidery, pottery or earthenware, weaving and leather works are some of the main crafts of Chamba District. These are practiced by a huge number of local people. Moreover, art and crafts of Chamba District also draw the attention of the travelers.

One of the most interesting crafts of Chamba District is the art of metal craft. The method of casting of images in Chamba is Cire Perdu. The image is first made in wax and then a thin coating of clay is given to the wax model, keeping a hole for pouring the metal in. After burning the clay-covered mould, the melted metal is poured in the hollow of the mould and hence images are assumed.

Some crafts persons still, are practicing the art of metal craft in Chamba. Chamba rumal embroidery conjures up an image of a finely embroidered miniature painting. The stitch employed in the embroidery is called 'Do-rukha' means double satin stitch which comes out exactly identical on the both sides.

The tradition of woodcarving goes back to 7th and 8th centuries AD. Deodar wood is chiefly employed for wooden architecture of the temples as well as local houses. Sculptures are decorated with figurative kind of work, displaying the strong influences of the Chamba School of painting.

The activity of painting in Chamba is done on the either sides of a door during wedding ceremony in Chamba. Several figures of Hindu Gods and Goddess together with Lord Ganesha at top are still painted in this ritual painting.

Basket manufacturing is intimately connected with daily life of people. It is one of the most widely practiced craft in Chamba. Various functional objects like sturdy bowls, trays and baskets of different shapes and sizes with graceful handles are being manufactured here. The large conical basket known as kilta or kultu in common parlance, is required by all farmers for carrying heavy loads. Baskets are also used for storing food grains and other household articles. Besides these, fans, pinjras (cage) and chhatroru (umbrella) are also made. Basket-making craft is mainly done by the traditional professionals. They work on bamboo grass or seed willow

branches. The grass used in Chamba for the purpose is known as 'niru' which is short, fine dull, green and growing abundantly in Bharmaur and Chamba. Attractive cushions are also prepared with this grass.

Pottery is another very popular craft of Chamba District. Pots of different kinds and sizes are made out of clay. The clay is abundantly available in Chamba as elsewhere in the state. Toys of different types for entertainment and earthen lamps for lighting purpose are also being made. Some of these pots bear different kinds of paintings, motifs, decorations and floral designs.

Weaving in Chamba like in other hilly districts is one of the most important craft which evolved into an extremely fascinating craft.

Chamba is famous for hand made chappals. The striking feature of Chamba chappal is the embroidery done on them. The embroidery is done with silk and golden threads. Leather embroidered belts are also commonly worn by the local people. These are some of the prominent crafts of Chamba District.

2.1.4. Tourism in the District

District has several religious sites as well as historical spots. Scenic beauty of the surrounding hills adds charm to the tourism experience. Some of the main attractions of Chamba District are as follows -

Pilgrimage Tourism : Kunjar Mahadev is a great pilgrimage centre situated in Tundi pargana of Sihunta sub-tehsil. Laxmi Narayan Temple, Champavati Temple in the Shikhara style with elaborate stone carving and the wheel roof. Vajreshwari Temple 1000 years old again built in the Shikhara style elaborately carved, Chamunda Devi Temple located on the spur of the Shah Madar Hill has artistic carvings on its lintel, pillars and the ceiling. Hari Rai Temple built in Shikhara style stands on a stone platform, Dayanand Math

Leisure Tourism: Ardha Gaya a bowli (water reservoir) situated within the Chaurashi area, Akhand Chandi Palace having beautiful structures with painted walls and glass work, ceiling, intricate woodwork are fast deteriorating. The palace has a commanding view of the Chaugan, Laxmi Narayana Temple, Sui Mata , Rang Mahal with a number of decorative and colorful wall paintings, and Bhuri Singh Museum .

Nature Tourism : Art Garden, and Rock Garden

2.1.5. Physical Infrastructure:

Electricity: The district has no shortage of electricity; rather there is a surplus. National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has a major hydro-electric power project in the district. As such all the inhabited villages (as per 2001 census) were electrified.

Transport, Roads and Communication Links: The district is wholly mountainous with deviation ranging from 2000 feet to about 21000 feet above mean sea level. Most of the parts of higher terrains in Mehla and Bharmour blocks and due to heavy snowfall in Tissa, the areas remain un-approachable and non-connected. There are only 1877 kms motorable roads in district (2002-03). There are number of ropeways that have been proposed under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) to overcome the shortfalls in road transport network. Block-wise no of ropeways proposed are as under:

- Chamba – 6 ropeways,
- Mehla – 13 ropeways,
- Salooni – 4 ropeways,
- Tissa -7 ropeways,
- Bharmour -6 ropeways and
- Pangi -2 ropeways.

Banks and Credit Societies: There were total 72 bank branches (as on 31.03.2004) including Cooperative Bank (17 branches), and Land Development Bank (2 branches) operative in the district

Communication Channels: The district has 222 post offices up to 31.03.2004 with average population per post-office being 2011 in the rural areas and 2076 for the district as a whole (including urban areas).

2.2 Social Resource Base

Vocational Education: The district has vocational imparted in two senior secondary schools imparting skills in four disciplines (two in each of the schools). The number of boys and girls undergoing vocational training in 2006 trades-wise was as In Table 3.

Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs): The two ITIs district has - one in Chamba and the other in Bharmour cater to limited training facilities looking into widespread need.

ITI in Chamba offers courses in 15 trades with an intake capacity of 20 each. The duration of courses ranges from six months (for motor driving trade) to 2 years. The trades of welder, carpenter, stenography (English & Hindi), cutting & sewing and embroidery & needle work are of one year duration. The trades of surveyor, draughtsman (civil), electronics mechanic, wireman, electrician, motor vehicle mechanic, fitter and turner are of two year duration.

The ITI in Bharmour offers courses in only two trades, viz. dress making and computer operator & programming assistant (both 1 year duration) with an intake capacity of 18 each (Refer Table 4).

Vocational Training and Skill Development Efforts: Recently started vocational training institute (affiliated to SCVT i.e. state council for vocational training) offers two courses viz. (i) Art & Craft Teacher (Drawing teacher) and (ii) Physical Training Instructor. Besides, the District Institute of Education Training (DIET) imparts training in J.B.T. There also exists Institute of Pharmacist Training at Sarol. There are 119 students undergoing two-year veterinary pharmacist course.

3.0 Survey Findings of Potential Sectors of Employment and Development:

3.1 Potentials in Agriculture

There is a great variability in soil texture and climate which provide opportunity to grow a wide range of crops in the district and offer a good scope for diversification too. Potential lies with respect to high yielding cash crops, fodder and legume crops, and in pulses, and oilseeds. The cold and the dry climate of Pangi and Bharmour are suitable for dry fruits and hope, besides apple; whereas in the lower valley areas like Bhatiyat citrus, litchi, and mangoes are cultivated. In mid-hill areas of Chamba, Mehla, Salooni and Tissa block, apple, stone fruits and other temperate fruits dominate the Horticulture scenario. Tissa block has scopes for floriculture as also for apples, lemon and citrus, maize and good quality potato. Other Related Scopes include bee –keeping as bees not only provide honey, bee-wax, royal jelly, but help in enhancing many crops including fruits. Then there is scope of Squash preparation from the flowers of rhododendron tree, which is also quite salubrious, could be perpetuated to those areas of the district where they grew wild.

3.2 Potentials In Forest Sector

Under Vanaspati Van Yojna, 23 hectares of land is earmarked for growing of medicinal plants. The scheme is in vogue from 1999 onwards. Under Sanjhi Van Yojna, 90 sites in Himachal Pradesh would be covered which also include Chamba. The scheme has social and joint forestry as an important component. The district has enriched varieties of more than 65 aromatic and medicinal plants (State Science, Technology and Environment Corporation and Ministry of Environment and Forest, 2003).¹

3.3 Potentials in Secondary and Tertiary Sectors

The district has tremendous potential in several industries. These include Micro Hydel Projects, Ayurvedic Medicines, Raw Wool Processing Mill, Fruits Processing, Wooden Furniture, Dairy Products, Refractory Bricks, Auto Repair Workshop, Steel Furniture etc.

3.3.1 Potentials in Processing of Agro-Products

District has tremendous scope in the processing of agriculture produces such as maize, apple, capsicum, mango, potato, peas, cabbage, etc. It has edge over other competitors in the field not only because of the superior quality of these produces but also due to round the year availability of most of the produces due to favourable climatic conditions. Similarly, Starch-free agro-processed products packaging and marketing; mushroom cultivation, packaging and sales; collection and grading of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants offer wide range of employment opportunities particularly at higher

3.3.2 Mineral Wealth and its Potential

Lime stone and slate mine reserves in Banikhet, Barnota and Ganota areas provide distinct scopes for commercial exploitation which at present is at a very low key due to unapproachable terrains.

Potential in Mineral Water Packaging: There are number of fresh water springs, waterfalls and lakes in the district. Lamtel village alone has as many as eleven springs. There are ample scopes for this water to be exported in bottles to several mineral water plants. Simultaneously, it would be essential to have skills in bottling, packaging etc. before selling it in the market to potential wholesalers or retail shopkeepers.

3.3.3 Potential Handicraft Sectors

The district is rich in Utilitarian, Decorative and Magico religious objects. Of the Utilitarian objects mention may be made of textile items, baskets, vessels for keeping domestic articles, oil containers, water pots, musical instruments, measuring bowls, stools for sitting, fishing traps, smoking pipes, tobacco cases, foot wears, hunting arrows, war weapons, clay lamps etc. The decorative objects include jewelry and ornaments made of brass, silver, wood, glass, bamboo, lace, bell metal, and alloy of tin, zinc, etc. Among other decorative items special mention may be made of wall decorations and paintings. Magico religious objects are usually made of clay, wood, stone, brass or bell metal.

¹ Some important ones are Aconitum Hetro Phyllum (it is one of the most costly plants and is used for making level tonics. It is sold at Rs. 7000/- per kg but its germination is very difficult), Morchalla Escurlenta (rich in protein, grown at altitude more than 1500 feet), Aola, Dhoop, Picrorhiza Kurroa (Contraceptive, sex promoting hormones, sold at Rs. 10,000/- per kg), Ballerina (used as deodorant, perfumes, also in cases of hyper-tension and Epilepsy), Pedophile (for cancer cure, export quality), Texas Wallichi (for cancer cure), Viola (cough and cold), Rumax Nettle Llemis (Antiseptic), Sass area Lapp, Rhode Den ran, Juni Persus etc.

3.4 Potential in Adventure Sports and Tourism

The mountainous district offers potential for development of mountaineering and other sports/recreation related activities e.g. hotels & restaurants, transportation, tourist guides, herbal guides, para-gliding, etc. Infrastructure related to tourism promotion being undertaken in a planned manner under the Project **Green Gold** combined with promotion of fisheries has the potential to generate jobs in the areas of water sports and adventure tourism (e.g. boating, diving, trekking, mountaineering, Para-gliding, etc.). Similarly, there lie scopes for the skills in Tourist Guides for herbal tours with knowledge of the location of the herbs, its identification, ayurvedic properties and botanical names.

4.0 SWOT Analysis in Emerging Areas of Skill Developments

Segments	Strengths	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
Tourism Sector	Religious places Herbs and Ecological Chamba Arts and Handicrafts	Lack of Initiatives: such as development of Tourist Resorts, Hotels etc. Unorganized Efforts	Natural Topography, Climate, and Scenic Spots	Poor road and other links
Off Season Vegetables	Presence of all four agro- climatic conditions : the varied agro-climatic conditions provide a very good potential for variety of fruits	Difficult terrains Small agricultural land holdings Low literacy rate of socio- economically backward SC, ST and rural population Uneven rainfall Non-availability of quality and new planting material Marketing Infrastructure	DRDA new proposals under RSVY More opportunities than nearby Kangra and Una districts	Non-adoption of the same by villagers at large scale Better infrastructure and communication, transport network of Kangra and Una districts
Adventure Sports	Water sports, Boating Trekking Mountaineering Para-gliding Fisheries	No Initiatives Few trainers Lack of Infrastructure	DRDA with the help of the appropriate agencies as also developing suitable SHGs can identify spots and submit an action and training plan	
Aromatic & Medicinal Plants	Large Varieties Presence of rare and very costly herbs in great demand by Indian and Foreign Pharmaceutical companies Suitable Climate	Villagers neither have bargaining capacities, nor can wait for the products sold at competitive prices as no supportive mechanism exists for them to hold back the MFPs and get competitive prices Poor Communication, transportation network Poor accessibility to Market	Marketing Professionals may be developed Opportunities exist in fields of Preservation, processing, and other related disciplines Support price mechanism Profit sharing mechanism	Big companies may eat up local peoples rights on the MFPs
Industrialization	Power surplus Presence of agricultural, horticultural, MFPs of better quality and in large quantities Pharmaceutical companies	No support mechanism exists Poor Communication, and transportation network Poor accessibility to Market	Scope for agro- processing units in Maize, Beans, potato chips etc.Scope for Ayurvedic Pharmaceuticals	Entrepreneurial abilities Non-accessibility of local producers to ultimate outside consumers

5.0 Demand –Supply Dichotomy and Sensitivity Analysis:

5.1 Missing Links

The district is having huge unutilized Human potentials, besides proper proving, development, and economic utilization of immense natural resources. There is needed

- (i) Adequate training of local youths in relevant disciplines,
- (ii) Efforts to establish the quality and quantity of natural resources,
- (iii) Up-gradation of resources so as they are suitably exploited, marketed as the Chamba brand

5.1.1. Human Resources

Some of the prominent features with respect to economic participation of the people are pointers to gaps between supply and demand of manpower. To points of view are:

- Almost half of main workers are marginal workers. Such a high proportion of marginal workers can be attributed to (i) despite agriculture being mainstay of economy, average land holding sizes are too small and mostly uncultivable, (ii) non-availability of any other full time employment to a large section of population, (iii) lower level of industrial activity etc.
- Almost 74 per cent of persons earning livelihoods from meagre land holdings (average being 1.74) that too mostly non-irrigated (net result being a very high level of poverty in the district).With

negligible industrial base, the district has huge unutilized or under-utilised human resource base.

- While no information is available on the level of unemployment in the district there were over 41000 (till 2002) registered with employment exchange. The total registered with employment exchange has gone up from 34485 in 1997 to 41680 in 2002. (Refer Table 5)

5.1.2. Follow Up Services and Post Training Linkages

Skill development programmes in this area, while would be required in the coming times (next 2-3 years), may not offer immediate opportunities (i.e. in the course of next 6-8 months) for employment. Redundancy of skills acquired/imparted is reflected from above table.

The traditional skills in handicrafts too (being practiced by some local crafts-persons many of whom have won national awards and recognition) have the potential to offer only limited direct potential for self-employment of rural youth. It would be promising for a wholesome development of the district to determine and provide skills matching the local conditions as well as local resources, specialisations and physical topography. Potential of the different traditional handicrafts can be fully realized paving economic dividends to craftsman by promotion of the crucially missing marketing services. It would be important to have

Tourism and its related activities (under Project *Green Gold*) have a direct bearing on the development of suitable infrastructure.

Promotion of horticultural sector ventures and establishment of processing ventures (for agro-based products) particularly for the more dynamic youths of the region in which 4 to 5 trained persons can set-up joint ventures have direct as well as indirect employment prospects.

5.1.3 Government and Other Supportive Mechanisms

A number of schemes are operative in the district.

- Schemes run by HP Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation Ltd despite having good local artisans suffer due to no back-up supports in terms of second rug artisans not being prepared as also non-marketing and credit supports.
- Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna has plans for horticulture propagation and development in the difficult mountainous terrains involving women and socio-economically backward population through self-help groups. The scheme also envisages creation of cheap transporting system and post harvest management for horticulture produce and development of subsidiaries like bee-keeping and fruit canning.
- Golden Green project taken up by DRDA relates to infrastructural developments in the development which will go a long way providing support to tourism sector (religious, and herb tourism), adventure sports, herbs and medicinal plants growth in the region.
- Van Vanaspati Yojna and Sanjhi Van Yojna provides scopes for development, collection and sales of Aromatic and medicinal plants on individual and collective basis. Taken up at a small demonstration level, such ventures have large scopes.
- Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana operated through DIC also has potential for providing loans to the trained manpower and to the likely entrepreneurs.
- Many of the self help groups are now actively involved in activities like mushroom cultivation, aromatic and ayurvedic medicinal plants growth, horticulture and floriculture activities. There are some others involved in sheep and wool. But most of these are limited to small pockets in one or two blocks. The works need to be further strengthened and expanded in other blocks after careful examination of its feasibility.

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Table 1: Block-wise Socio-Economic Scenario: 2001

Block	Population	SC (%)	ST (%)	No. of BPL Families	No. of Villages	Literacy (%)
Chamba	64,656	18,046 (27.91)	13,605 (21.04)	7,034 (60.97)	111	64.9
Mehla	74,416	13,420 (18.03)	17,785 (23.90)	8,380 (63.11)	129	57.3
Batiyat	1,02,127	15,444 (15.12)	29,954(29.33)	8,355(45.85)	323	67.8
Tissa	59,481	15,547 (26.14)	4,876 (8.20)	8,937 (84.21)	170	48.9
Salooni	70,821	17,935 (25.32)	4,175 (5.90)	8,514 (67.38)	225	58.6
Pangi	17,598	836 (4.75)	15,337 (87.15)	2,200(70.06)	59	60.3
Barmor	37,246	4,922 (13.21)	29,969 (80.46)	3,745 (56.35)	101	62.2
Total Rural	4,26,345	86,150 (20.2)	1,15,701(27.1)	47,165(62.0)	1118	60.6
Total (including urban)	4,60,887	92,359 (20.0)	1,17,569(25.5)			62.9

Table 2: Block-wise Livestock, Poultry, Milk Production and Production of Wool in thousand kg (in 2003-04)

Block	No. of Livestock (all Categories)	Number of Poultry (all Categories)	Production of Milk ('000 tons)	Production of Wool ('000 kg)
Chamba	138584	9082	13240	89
Mehla	110568	10480	11458	58
Bhatiyat	119071	10418	11240	44
Salooni	57246	9001	7025	67
Tissa	135552	23127	8750	122
Bharmour	129639	2331	5950	110
Pangi	32364	3810	3208	38
Total	723024	68249	60871	528

Source: Livestock Census, 2003-04, District Statistical Handbook, 2004

Table 3: boys and girls undergoing vocational training in 2006 trades-wise

Name of School	Name of Trade	No of Students Enrolled		
		Males	Females	Total
GSSS(B), Chamba	Electrical	30	-	30
	Electronics	35	-	35
GSSS, Banikhet	Accounts	14	6	20
	Computer	6	13	19

Source: Survey 2007, Institute of Applied Manpower Research

Table 4: Skill Development by Industrial Training Institutes In Chamba District

Sl.No.	Name of Trade	Duration of the Course	Training Capacity
ITI Chamba			
1.	Welder	1 yr	14
2.	Carpenter	1 yr	18
3.	Stenographer, Hindi	1 yr	10
4.	Stenographer, English	1 yr	10
5.	Cutting and Sewing	1 yr	18
6.	Embroidery and Needle Work	1 yr	18
7.	Surveyor	2 yr	18
8.	Draughtsman(civil)	2 yr	15
9.	Electronics Mechanic	2 yr	15
10.	Wireman	2 yr	18
11.	Electrician	2 yr	18
12.	Mechanic Motor Vehicle	2 yr	18
13.	Fitter	2 yr	18
14.	Turner	2 yr	14
15.	Motor Driving	6 month	16
ITI Bharmour			
1.	Dress Making	1 yr	18
2.	Computer Operator and Programme Assistant	1 yr	18

Source: Survey 2007, Institute of Applied Manpower Research

Table 5: Number of Person registered under District Employment Exchange

	1997	2002
Education wise		
Illiterates and up to Matriculate	13281	12170
Matriculate and above	18735	25828
Graduate	1831	2587
Post-graduate	638	1095
Skills wise		
Business and Technical	2137	2801
Administration and Management	20	0
Writing and Related	1534	1684
Transport and Communication	739	806
Art	1476	1311
Other Skilled	428	600
Other Skilled and unskilled	2011	734
Total	8345	7936

Source: District Statistical Handbooks, 1998, 2002

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