



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHY OF RAJIS: A LESSER KNOWN TRIBE OF NORTH INDIA

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Tribal demography, hitherto has been a neglected area of study by demographers in India. No doubt, a few studies have been carried out on fertility behaviour of a few selected tribal communities. However, many of these studies are based on a very limited sample, which give less scope for wider generalization. Demography is the statistical study of human populations. It can be a very general science that can be applied to any kind of dynamic living population, i.e., one that changes over time or space. It encompasses the study of the size, structure, and distribution of these populations, and spatial and/or temporal changes in them in response to birth, migration, aging and death.

The Area

Pithoragarh and Champawat districts are situated in the north west of Uttarakhand and forms the north eastern part of the Kumaun division. It lies between lat 29.4° N 30.3° N and longitude 80° E to 81°E . On its north and east lies international border of Tibet and Nepal respectively, while on its south west touches the district Almora. It is bounded in the south by district Nainital and district Chamoli, is on its west. The total geographical area of the district is 8,856 square kms.

The Rajis inhabit nine villages of the districts Pithoragarh and Champawat namely Jamtadi, Altadi, Kuta & Chaurani, Madanpuri in tehsil Didihaat, Kimkhola, Bhaktirwa, Gangaon and Chipalthara in tehsil Dharchula, and Khirdwari in Champawat. The physical location and approaches to the field centres are either by kuchha road or pucca road. Rajis have been reported from other places also like Udham Singh Nagar and Central Himalayas but the present study was confined to Pithoragarh and Champawat districts.

Selection of the Field Centres

The selection of the field centres were made on the basis of a twofold consideration. Firstly, the village to be selected must have a representative character with regard to the culture of the region for study and secondly, the village must have a suitable size and setting. I have divided the field centres into two areas interior area and the outer area. It is the

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interior are which possesses more of the typical culture of the area. Whereas the condition of the outer area, which is comparatively open to the outsiders may not give a good insight into the people understanding of the way of life of the people. My primary attention, therefore, was focussed on the interior area to know the traditional pattern of the culture and secondly attention was on the outer area to know the changes occurred in the lifestyle of the tribals. The interior area includes Gangaon, Bhaktirwa of Dharchula Tehsil, Kuta & Chaurani, Madanpuri and Altadi of Didihaat tehsil whereas outer area includes Kimkhola and Chipalthara of Dharchula tehsil and Jamtadi of Didihaat tehsil respectively. In the interior areas, local differences are so great and they vary so much from tehsil to tehsil in context of some of the cultural traits that it was not advisable to depend on single centre for my study. However, frequent visits to the areas were made which includes Kimkhola, Chipalthara of the outer areas and Altadi, Kuta and Chaurani, Madanpuri and Ganagaon of the interior area. Other remaining villages were visited and they served the purpose equally but the easy rapport we could establish in these villages and rich data made us finally select them. (Pandey, Keya 2007).

Situation of the villages:

There are total nine villages of Raji setting falls under three tehsils viz. Dharchula, Didihaat and Champawat (New District). The Physical locations and approaches to the villages are discussed as following:

Jamtadi (Kantoli). Village Jamtadi (Kantoli) falls within the block Kanalichhina. This village can be approached either via Askot or Jauljibi. Askot is 50 Kms. from Pithoragarh and Jauljibi is further 25 Kms. from Askot on Dharchula motor route. From Askot Jamtadi is 8 Kms. on a steep descent route. If approached from Jauljibi it is 8 Km. via. Gania which is situated on the bank of the Gon Ganga river on Jauljibi - Baram road. After crossing Gon Ganga by a bridge one has to cross a rivulet known as "Rautish gad" to reach Jamtadi. The name 'rautish gad', 'rautish' from Raut or Rawat and 'gad' means rivulet, literally meaning 'the rivulet of Ban Rawat or Rajis'. Jamtadi is inhabited by Khasiyas, Brahminis, Shilpkars, the main ethnic groups of Kumaun hills and the Rajis. From Askot a rugged and stony path leads to the village settlement of Jamtadi through a steep descent of 7 Kms. The nearest forest outpost is that of Askot which is on the way to Askot. A few hilly paths connect one village to other. All the way to Jamtadi are dense forests.

Altadi. This village can be reached from Askot and has to get down at Bajrihat 11 Kms. on Askot- Dharchula motor road. From Bajrihat one has to walk 3 Km. to reach Hanserwar, a beautiful village in a green valley. The distance of Altadi from Hanserwar is 8 Km. Another way to the Altadi village is to reach Bhagichaura, 8 Km. from Didihaat Tehsil office and from there one has to start with the puccha road and has to pass through a narrow and zig-zag way and at times to cross dense forests and precipitous rocks, where there is no recognizable track. The ways from Bhagichaura include a sharp ascent of five miles and in the last stage a sharp descent of three miles. The kuccha road in the first stage is maintained by the forest department, this road serves as the main artery of travel and commerce for the whole area.

Kuta Kanyal & Chaurani. This village falls under the jurisdiction of Didihaat tehsil. The bus or jeep service is available to reach Khetar from Didihaat market. From there is a mountaineous route upto six kms. which includes a back breaking ascent and sharp descent in the mid stage. This route also covers a small bridge which connects two mountainous areas.

Madanpuri. This village is near to the Kuta Kanyal and Chaurani. It is a small village of Raji setting. The route till Kuta is same then one has to come down for about three kms. to reach Madanpuri.

Kimkhola. This village can be approached from Jauljibi on Jauljibi. Dharchula motor

road at a distance of 5 Kms and from motor road one has to walk a distance of half km. This is the biggest village of Raji setting. There is a kuchha road which leads to the village At Jauljibi there is a rest house of P.W.D. In which one can stay during his visit to the village. There is a market area on Jauljibi Dharchula road which completes the necessities of the tribals. At Balwakot on the motor route of Jauljigi Dharchula an ashram type school for the education of tribals as well as for the non tribals too and this is the nearest school for Kimkhola, Ganagaon and Bhaktirwa tribals. The density of population in the area is greater than that of all the other Raji villages.

Bhaktirwa. After reaching Kinikhola there is a mountainous route to Bhaktirwa. This village is one km. from Kimkhola towards western ridge. This is the smallest village of Raji setting. The important thing is that this village has not been included in the census report of the Government. It is surrounded by the dense forest.

Ganagaon. It is situated at distance of 3 Km. from Kimkhola towards north ascent. It can also be approached from Bhaktirwa at a distance of 2 km. The path between Bhaktirwa and Ganagaon is extremely hazardous. This village is of considerable size and very difficult of communication.

Chipalthara. It is approached from Jauljibi towards Jauljibi Baram motor road. From Baram one has to walk on foot towards east about 5 km steep ascent. It also falls under the Dharchula tehsil. Chipalthara is important from the point of view of culture contact and culture changes. It has provided material for the study of a diversity of culture pattern and the changes that are taking place.

Khirdwari. This village falls under the jurisdiction of Champawat tehsil which is now a separate district. It is a village in a valley and quite further away from other Rajis dwellings mentioned above. For reaching Khirdwari one has to reach Chaithi, which is on Tanakpur-Pithoragarh motor road about 47 kms. from Tanakpur. From Chalthi one has to walk for a distance of 13 kms. This village is situated on the bank of Chaithi river. The path towards this village is so rough and risky that even the villagers would like to avoid it.

The village site

Village settlements are to be found in comparatively open parts of a slope half way up the hill, with greater or lesser number of terraced plots for cultivation on one or more side, above and below, though most of the fields are often situated near away from human habitation. The topography of the Raji region is such that all the huts in a village are never situated at the same level. The difference in elevation between the clusters of houses may vary greatly. The village Ganagaon & Kuta Chaurani is on the peak of the hills may represent an extreme case of ruggedness. The huts in the villages are not aligned. They are scattered in a small area of uneven terraced lands. The densest village is kimkhola and due to the limited space to one hut they have generally untidy and clumsy appearance. Rajis prefer to live aloof from the outsiders and reside in dense forest with the help of which one cannot negotiate their villages. Small cultivable lands are all around their huts.

Tribe under study

There were five scheduled tribes in the state of U.P. namely- Bhoksa, Bhotia, Jaunsari, Raji and Tharu. Raji is one of the five scheduled tribes who were declared for the first time in June 1967 vide scheduled caste and scheduled tribe list modification 1967 along with Tharu, Bhoksa, Jaunsari, Bhotia in U.P. in which Raji was declared the primitive tribal group (PTG) by Govt. of India in 1975. Before 1967 there was no recognised scheduled tribe in this state. Presently the tribe under study falls under the state jurisdiction of Uttrakhand.

Historical background of Rajis

The Raji tribals dispersed over the Pithoragarh and Nepal are not of equal status. The

Rajis of Nepal and the Rajis of India intermarry but the Rajis of India consider themselves to be of higher racial group. Raji is a little known tribal community which was brought into light for the first time in 1823 by the then Commissioner of Kumaun C.W. Traill. It is said that Rajis or Banrawats are descendents of the prehistoric kiratas, who were comparatively early settlers of the region then the Nagas and the Khasas.

Atkinson stated that these early tribes entered India by the same route as the Aryans and the Kiratas who were the first to arrive than the others. In course of time Kiratas were gradually uprooted from the region by the dominating impact of other ethnic groups but their few descendents remained in Kurnaun and Nepal. In Kumaun they were called Rajis but they are not aware of their prehistoric Kirat origin.

The legend current among them is that they were descendents of the royal family of Askot. Until recently they lived a life typical of neolithic age, as cave dwellers and food gatherers subsisting on hunting, fishing and jungle produce. Still they cannot be considered as aboriginals as they had not inhabited the region from the beginning. Regarding the origin of Raji tribe there are many reasons which are told by Raji informants. However, according to W. Crooke- *"The Rajis have been identified with Raja Kiratas, who in early Sanskrit literature are joined with Sakas and Savaras as Dasyu and are placed by the Varaha Sarnhita between Amarwana and China or between Jageswar and Tibet and a title will mean either" the princely Kiratas or the "Kiratas of Ragya"*. Crooke further stated that the Rajis represent themselves as descendents of one of the aboriginal princes of Kumaun who with his family fled to the jungles to escape the destruction threatened by an usurper under the pretention of royal origin, the Rawats or Rajis abstain from offering to any individual whatever his rank, the usual eastern salutation. Further on the basis of fresh inquiry based on the notes of Bhawani Singh, teacher of Devaliakote School in the Almora district, Crooke mentioned that they are known by the two names Raji and Rawat. These names are used by the people themselves as well as by outsiders. They say that they are descended from the Raja of Kutpur by whom they were expelled for some fault. Since then they have been wandering about in the hills and forests, living on jungle produce. At the time of their expulsion, the Raja of Kutpur was NilKamal, but they cannot say how many years ago he lived. This Kutpur family, they say, reigned for 38 generations from Vikramaditya to Biramdeo. All the members of the tribe considered themselves equal and intermarry.

Rajis are locally known as Banawats and Rajwar and this name is used by the members of the community themselves as well as by outsiders. During the field inquiry few elderly Raji informants told about their origin that they were descendents of the king of Askot and give the following account of their origin. It is said that the king of Askot had two sons. The elder son was fond of hunting and fled into the forest. He never returned from there and practically he ruled in the forest. He being in the forest used to live on forest fruits, roots and jungle games. The younger brother therefore, the ruler of Askot kingdom, it is alleged that the Rajis are the descendents of elder brother who called themselves *Banrawats* or *Rajis* or *Rajwars*, where as the descendents of younger brother are called *Pals*. In support of their origin from elder brother, they maintain a status of supremacy and do not offer salutation to anybody. Thus from the tradition of their origin the Rajis claimed to have a royal descent.

Racial stock of Rajis

Mr. Traill stated that there is a total dissimilitude of language between the Rajis and Kumaunis, and that the Doms may have been descended from the Rajis - *"the former being, for the most part, extremely black, with crisp, curly hair, inclining to wool."* This until the present inquires is the only account that has been given on any authority regarding the Rajis, yet Prof. Ritter found in it confirmation of the opinion that a Negro race may have been among the aboriginal inhabitants of the Himalayan and Kuen- Jima. There is no foundation for the statement that the Doms have curly hair inclining to wool. Out of hundreds they have come

under notice, not a single one can be said to have any Negroid characteristic, though many are of an extremely dark complexion, like the other similar servile castes in the plains. (Trail, 1954) Dr. Pritchard conjectured that the Rajis would be found to resemble the other numerous aboriginal tribes found along the Himalayan border. All possessing the physical character of the Bhotiyas in general and very unlike the Doms. (Trail, 1954).

Dr. Latham too expresses his conviction that the Rajis are the equivalents to the "Chepang of Nepal" (Atkinson, 1981). Captain Strachey noticed "*nothing very remarkable about them, except an expression of alarm and stupidity in their faces, and they are perhaps darker and otherwise more like lowland Hindustanis than the average kumaun paharis*". Atkinson stated the "*in countenance race and appearance, presently they exhibit mixed physical traits of Aryans, Dravidians and Mongoloids. It appears that the intermingling of different ethnic elements for ages has caused the disappearance of their original racial features*". (Anonymous, 1981).

Distribution of Rajis

Rajis are reported from different parts of Uttarakhand but in Pithoragarh district they have been reported from the nine villages *i.e.* Kimkhola, Ganagaon, Bhaktirwa, Chipalthara, Altadi, Jarntadi, Kuta Chaurani, Madanpuri which falls under Dharchula and Didihaat tehsil. These villages are scattered and dotted in a vast area of about 200 kms. Their habitations are generally at the altitude ranging from 2000' to 5000' above sea level. Their settlements are in accordance with hilly nature and are away from the main habitation because they prefer to live aloof from other communities.

Social Demography of Rajis

The study of the demographic structure of village has been made on the basis of the village census and family wise genealogies and information. The census is recorded in prescribed forms for families in this area. Besides, certain narrative accounts have been collected through structural interviews with various families and individuals and general information have been made with regard to the conditions of the village settlement. Reference data have also been gathered from various official sources and checked with my field findings.

According to the census of 1991 the population of Rajis was 494 but the present situation of their population is different from the former. The present data has been collected in October 2012.

A classified enumeration of population is not only intrinsically valuable in providing data for statistical estimations of density of population, sex rates, fertility rates and other indices, it is also essential to an understanding of social structure since the organization and functions of kingroups, associations and other social groups will be found to be related to their numerical strength and to be modified with change in that strength.

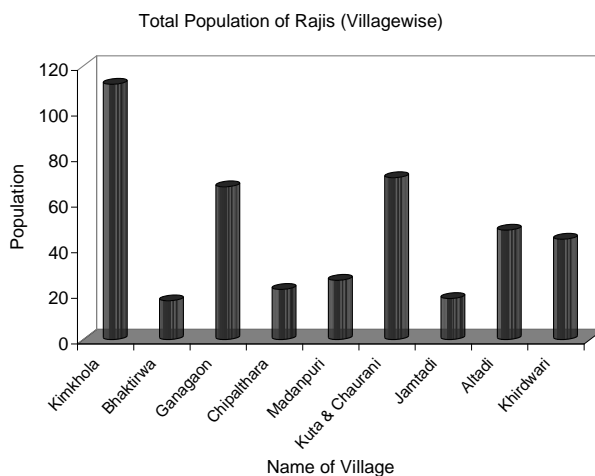
Population Structure

According to the census of 1991 the population of Raji was 494 but the present situation of their population is different from the former. The present data has been collected from door to door survey in July 1997. A classified enumeration of population is not only intrinsically valuable in providing data for statistical estimations of density of population, sex rates, fertility rates and other indices, it is also essential to an understanding of social structure since the organization and functions of kingroups, associations and other social groups will be found to be related to their numerical strength and to be modified with change in that strength.

Table 1 Showing population according to Tehsilwise, blockwise and villagewise

SN	Name of Tehsil	Name of Block	Name of village	No. of households	Total Pop.
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1.	Dharchula	Dharcchula	Kimkhola	25	112
			Bhaktirwa	03	17
			Ganagaon	17	67
			Chipalthara	09	22
2.	Didihaat	Didihaat	Madanpuri	06	26
			Kuta & Chaurani	17	71
			Kanalichhina	05	18
			Jamtadi	10	48
3.	Champwat (District)	Chapawat	Khirdwari	10	44
			Total	102	425

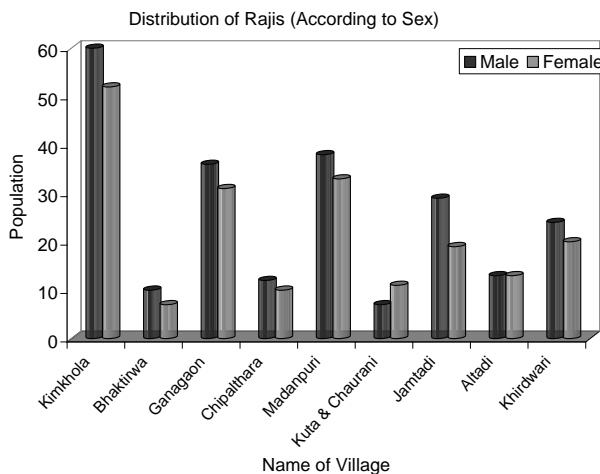


From the above table it is evident that three villages viz. Kimkhola, Ganagaon and Kuta Chaurani have a sizeable Raji population whereas Altadi village has average size of population and the remaining four villages viz. Bhaktirwa Chipalthara, Madanpuri and Jamtadi have a very small population. The population trend shows the sizeable increase in their population during past years. The main reason of their population variation is on account of their cross country relationship as Rajis are also reported to be in good number in Nepal. The villagewise distribution of Rajis according to age and sex is furnished in following table 2-

Table -2 showing distribution of Rajis according to their age and sex.

SN	Village	Age Group														Total	Total	
		1-10		10-20		20-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60 & above				
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1.	Kimkhola	27	21	12	09	07	08	07	06	04	03	03	03	00	02	60	52	112
2.	Bhaktirwa	04	02	02	02	01	01	01	00	02	01	00	01	00	00	10	07	17
3.	Ganagaon	10	06	07	10	07	04	03	03	04	04	02	01	03	03	36	31	67
4.	Chipalthara	02	02	03	01	03	03	01	02	03	01	00	00	00	01	12	10	22
5.	Chaurani	12	13	16	00	07	06	02	04	01	00	00	00	00	00	38	33	71
6.	Jamtadi	01	04	01	02	02	02	00	02	02	01	00	00	01	00	07	11	18
7.	Altadi	09	05	06	00	01	03	06	05	01	01	03	02	04	03	29	19	48

8 Madanpuri	07	05	03	05	01	00	00	00	02	03	00	00	00	00	13	13	26
9 Khirdwari	08	05	05	06	06	06	03	02	01	01	01	00	00	00	24	20	44
Total	80	63	55	45	35	33	13	14	20	15	08	07	08	09	229	196	425
%age	18.8	14.8	12.9	10.5	8.23	7.76	5.41	5.64	4.7	3.52	1.88	1.64	1.8	2.11	53.8	46.1	100



From the table 2 it is evident that the village kimkhola has the maximum Raji population i.e. 112 whereas village like Bhaktirwa, Ganagaon, Chipalthara, Chaurani, Jamtadi, Altadi, Madanpuri and Khirdwari have 17, 67, 22, 26, 71, 18, 48 and 44 population respectively. Accordingly the percentage of males and females comes to 53.8% and 46.1% Amongst the

0-10 years age group there are 143 children out of which 80 (18.8%) are females. Amongst the age group of 10-20 years there are 100 children out of which 55(12.9%) are males and 45 (10.5%) are females. Amongst the age group of 20-30 years there are 68 persons out of which 35(8.23%) are males and 33(7.76%) are females. Amongst 30-40 yeas of age group there are 47 persons out of which 23(5.41%) are males and 24(5.64%) are females. In the same way amongst 40-50 years of age group there are 35 persons out of which 20(4.71%) are males and 15(3.52%) are females. In the age group of 50-60 years there are 15 persons out of which 8 (1.88%) are males and 7(1.64%) are females. Amongst 60 and above age group there are only 17 persons out of which 8(1.88%) are males and 9(2.11%) are females. The largest number of the persons are in the age group of 0-10 years and the least number of the persons are in the age group of 50-60 years and 60 and above category of age groups. Very few people remain alive after fifty years of age. As compared to females, males have a large population among Rajis i.e. 196 females and 229 males thus we can say that the population of Rajis is decreasing as they are suffering from malnutrition.

Literacy

From the given table 1.3 it is invent that out of total population of Rajis only 104 (24.4%) are literate and 311 (75.5%) are illiterates. It shows that above 75% of the population are illiterate. Out of 104 literate no Raji was found educated above primary level except three from kimkhola . In fact Rajis do not want to send their children outside the village. If we calculate the literacy level in the above written nine villages we find that 63 males i.e. 14.8% of the total population are literate and 41 females i.e. 9.64% of the total population are literate. As compared to females the literacy level of the males is greater. In the same way 161 males are illiterate i.e. 37.8% of the total population and 160 females are illiterate i.e. 37.6% of

the total population.

Table-1.3 showing distribution of Rajis according to their literacy and sex.

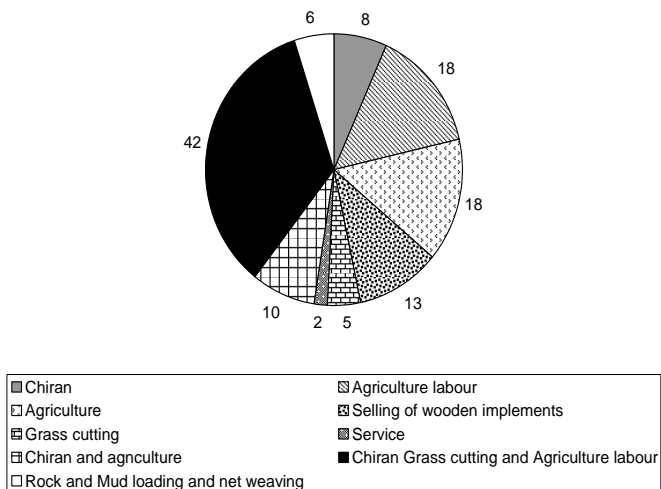
SN	Village	Literates			Illiterates			Total
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
1.	Kimbhola	24	15	39	36	37	73	112
2	Bhaktirwa	02	01	03	08	06	04	17
3	Ganagaon	12	09	21	24	22	46	67
4	Chipalthara	06	02	08	06	08	14	22
5	Chaurani	03	00	03	35	33	67	71
6	Jamtadi	01	04	05	06	07	13	18
7	Altadi	06	04	10	22	16	38	48
8	Madanpuri	00	00	00	13	13	26	26
9	Khidwari	09	06	15	11	18	29	44
	Total	63	41	104	161	160	321	425
	%age	14.8	9.64	24.4	37.8	37.6	75.5	100

Occupation and Income

The table '1.4' presents the distribution of Raji folks according to their occupation . Out of 102 households of Rajis 08 households practice Chiran' which is also known as wood cutting in English language. Again there are 08 households which are under the leading agriculture labourers. They have no lands of their own. They work as labour on the lands of other people. Those households which practice only agriculture are 08 in number. They are fully dependent on it. They get sufficient food to eat and sufficient food to sell for their livelihood. As I have written earlier that they are well versed in their wooden craft which is day by day deteriorating but today also there were 13 households which are still making wooden implements and selling them to fulfil their necessity 05 households were reported which were involved in grass cutting and 02 households were reported in which one member of the family is a Govt. servant respectively.

Table-1.4. showing occupation of Rajis

S.N.	Occupation	No. of Household
1.	Chiran	08
2.	Agriculture labour	18
3.	Agriculture	18
4.	Selling of wooden implements	13
5.	Grass cutting	05
6.	Service	02
7.	Chiran and agriculture	10
8.	Chiran Grass cutting and Agriculture labour	42
9.	Rock and Mud loading and net weaving	06
	Total	102

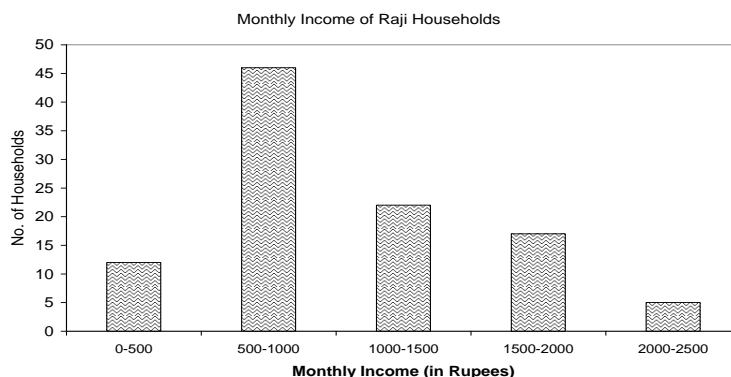


There are some household which supplement their occupation with some other work. They are 58 in number in which 10 households practice chiran and agriculture 42 households practice Chiran along with grass cutting and agriculture labour and 06 are involved in rock and mud loading and net weaving. Last category was seen in the village Bhaktirwa which falls under the tehsil Dharchula. Raji folks are hunters, food gatherers and agriculturalists.

The traditional occupation of Rajis was hunting and food gathering. They were leading a wild life depending upon the forest produce and partly to secure food grains from local villages by bartering their hand made wooden articles of domestic use. Now they are almost leading settled life and depending upon labour and partly upon agriculture with the contact of local people.

Table 1.5. showing monthly income of the Raji households

S.No.	Income/Mth.	No. of households	Percentage
1.	0-500	12	11.7%
2.	500-1000	46	45.0%
3.	1000-1500	22	21.5%
4.	1500-2000	17	16.6%
5.	2000-2500	05	4.90%
Total		102	100%



The above table shows that the income of 102 households was calculated. 12 were reported in the income group of 0-500. In the income group of 500-1000, 46 (45.0%) households were found. In the monthly income group of Rs. 1000-1500, 22 (21.5%) households were reported. Similarly in the income group of Rs. 1500-2000, only 17 (16.6%) households were reported, 5 households (4.90%) were reported in the income group of Rs. 2000-2500. Maximum number of households i.e. 46 (45%) were reported in the income group of Rs. 500-1000 and the least number of households were reported in the income group of Rs. 2000-2500 and the number of households are 5 (4.90%) respectively. Table 1.6 showing land holding & monthly income of Rajis.

Land Holding and Monthly Income

Table 1.6. showing land holding & monthly income of Rajis

SN	Land in Nalis	Monthly income in Rupees					Total	Percentage
		0-500	500-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	2001-2500		
1.	Landless	4	5	1	-	-	10	9.80%
2.	<5	3	5	1	-	-	09	8.82%
3.	5-10	2	11	3	5	0	21	20.5%
4.	10-15	3	12	5	4	2	26	25.4%
5.	15-20	-	12	9	5	3	29	28.4%
6.	20-25	-	-	1	3	-	04	3.92%
7.	25-30	-	1	2	-	-	03	2.94%
8.	50& above	-	-	-	-	-	00	0.00%
Total		12	46	22	17	05	102	100%

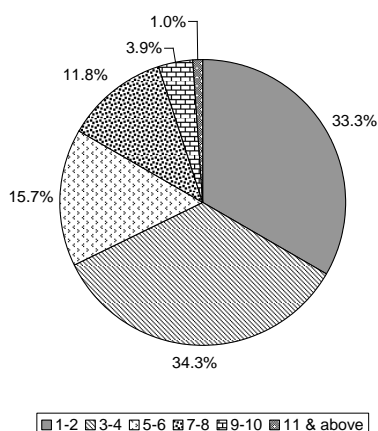
The above table shows that out of 102 households 10(9.80%) were found landless in which 4 households were falling in the income group of Rs. 0-500, 5 households in the income group of Rs. 501- 1000 and 01 households in the income group of Rs. 100-1500. The land holding of 9 (8.82%) households were below 5 nalis out of which 3 were falling in the income group of Rs. 0-500, 5 were falling in the income group of Rs. 501-1000 and 01 falls under the category of Rs. 1001-1500 respectively. The land holding of 21 (20.5%) households were in between 5-10 nalis out of which 2 falls under the income group of Rs. 0-500, 11 falls under the income group of Rs. 500-1000, and 3 falls under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500 and 5 falls under the income group of Rs. 1501-2000. The land holding of 26 (25.4%) households were in between 10-15 nalis out of which 3 falls under the income group of Rs. below 500, 12 falls in the category of Rs. 501-1000, 5 under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500, 4 falls under the income group of Rs. 1501-2000 and 2 falls under the income group of Rs. 2001-2500. The land holding of 04(3.92%) households were in between 20-25 nalis, out of which 01 falls under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500 and 3 falls under the income group of Rs. 1501-2000. In the same way 3 (2.94%) households were in the category of land holding carrying in between 25-30 nalis, out of which 01 household falls under income group of Rs. 501-1000 and 2 falls under the income group of Rs. 1001-15 respectively. In all the nine village the highest range of households are 29(28.4%) which falls under the category of land holding ranging between 15-20 nalis and there are only five households which falls under the income group of Rs. 2001-2500. No household was reported which falls under the income group of Rs. 2001-2500. No household was reported which falls under the income group of Rs. 2501- and above. Secondly the least range of land holding was reported in between the range of 25-30 nalis and only 3 households were reported who possess such land holding. Above the range of 30 nalis no household was reported.

Monthly Income and Size of Raji Families

The following table shows the monthly income in respect to size of the family.

Size of the family (in nos.)	Monthly Income					Total	%age
	0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	2001-2500		
1-2	05	15	08	05	01	34	33.3
3-4	03	16	07	05	04	35	34.3
5-6	02	10	02	02	-	16	15.6
7-8	02	05	02	03	-	12	11.7
9-10	-	-	03	01	-	04	3.92
11 & above	-	-	-	01	-	01	0.98
Total	12	46	22	17	05	102	100

Size of Family & Monthly Income (In Percentage)



The above table shows that out of 102 households 34 (33.3%) households were found having 1-2 member out of which 5 households were falling in the income group of Rs. 0-500, 15 households were falling in the income group of Rs. 501-1000, 8 households falls under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500, 5 under the income group of Rs. 1501-2000 and 1 household was found under the income group of Rs. 2001-2500 respectively. 35 (34.3%) households were found having 3-4 member out of which 3 households were falling in the income group of Rs. 0-500, 16 were reported under the income group of Rs. 501-1000, 7 households were reported under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500, 5 households were falling under the income group of Rs. 2001-2500 respectively. In the family size of 5-6 members 16 (15.6%) households were reported out of which 02 households were falling under the income group of Rs. 0-500, 10 households were falling under the income group of Rs. 501-1000, 2 households were reported under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500, 2 households were again reported under the income group of 1501-2000. Similarly in the family size of 7-8 member 12 (11.7%) households were reported out of which 2 households were falling under the income group of Rs. 0-500, 5 were falling under the income group of Rs. 501-100, 2 households were reported under the category of Rs. 1001-1500 and 3 households were reported under the category of Rs. 1501-2000 respectively. In the family size of 9-10 members 4(3.92%) were reported out of which 3 households were falling under the income group of Rs. 1001-1500 and 1 household was found to be reported under the income group of

Rs. 1501-2000. In the family size of 11 and above members only 01 (0.98%) household was reported and its monthly income group ranges in between Rs. 1501-2000. From the table we infer most of the households falls under the category of family size having one or two or three or four member in their family, the least number of households. Were reported in the category of family size ranging in between 7-10 or 11 and above. The average no. of households in which 5-6 or 7-8 members were living were reported. They don't have any concept of family planning because due to the in adequate medical facilities their children does not survive and this is the main cause that their population is day by day decreasing. The following table shows the family type of Raji households:-

In the table 1.8 I have classified family types into five classes viz. nuclear, extended, joint family, broken family and the sub nuclear family. The nuclear family is that type of family in which husband wife and their unmarried children lives.

Table 1.8. showing family type of Raji households.

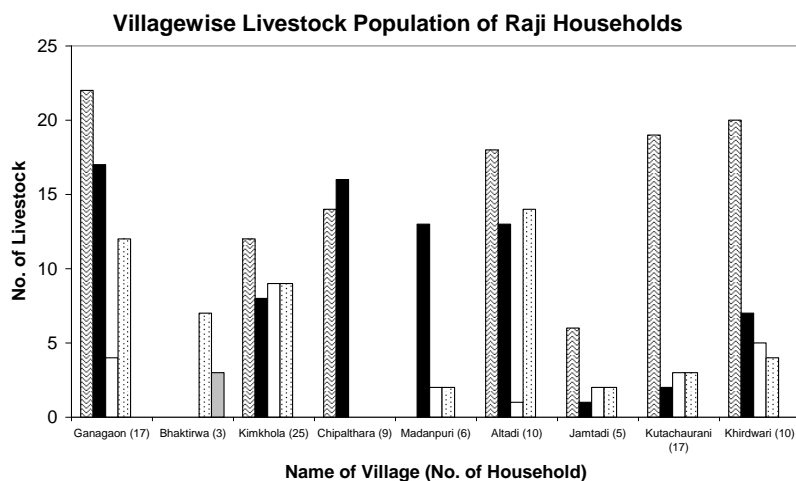
Type of the family	No. of households	%age
1. Nuclear family	47	46.0
2. Extended family	13	12.7
3. Joint family	08	7.84
4. Broken family	04	3.92
5. Sub nuclear family	30	29.4
Total	102	100

Sub nuclear family consists only of a married couple a husband and his wife. It is likely to be completed in a course of time, when the couple has children, that is why, a sub nuclear family is often called as an in complete nuclear family. A broken family, particularly a broken nuclear family consists of only one of the parents while the other is dead and the unmarried children of whom atleast one may be an adult in order to help in the maintenance of the family. On the other hand any groping broader than the nuclear family which is related by descent or marriage is an extended family. Further two or more nuclear families affiliated through the extension of parent child relationship also constitutes an extended family and a joint family comprise of two or more distinct nuclear families. Form this table it is evident that 47 (46.0%) households falls under the category of nuclear families. The households which are 30(29.4%) in number falls under the heading of sub nuclear families. Extended families were reported in 13(12.7%) households. In the same wary joint family was reported in 8 (7.84%) households. 4 (3.92%) households were reported in the category of broken families.

From the data we conclude that the maximum number of households were reported in the category of broken families. The nuclear and the sub nuclear families are prevalent among Rajis. The joint families re rarely found among them. Soon after the marriage the couple separate themselves from the family and work separately for their livelihood. Very rare I found couple residing along with the parents in one house. It was seen that if the family is having more than three sons, they make their separate house near to the house of the parents and if there is only one son, it was reported that they prefer to reside with the parents if one of the two is dead, and if there is no internal feud among them. But as compared to joint and extended families, nuclear were much in number.

Livestock Position of Raji Households**Table 1.9. showing villagewise livestock position of the Raji households.**

SN	Name of the village	No. of households	Number of animal					Total
			Bullocks	Goats	Buffaloes	Cows	Hegoat	
1.	Ganagaon	17	22	17	04	12	-	55
2.	Bhaktirwa	03	-	-	-	07	03	10
3.	Kimkhola	25	12	08	09	09	-	38
4.	Chipalthara	09	14	16	-	-	-	30
5.	Madanpuri	06	-	13	02	02	-	17
6.	Altadi	10	18	13	01	14	-	46
7.	Jamtadi	05	06	01	02	02	-	11
8.	Kutachaurani	17	19	02	03	03	-	27
9.	Khirdwari	10	20	07	05	04	-	36
	Total	102	11	77	26	53	03	270



The above table indicates that Rajis have in all 270 cattle out of which 111 bullocks 77 goats, 26 buffaloes, 53 cows and 03 he goats. They use bullocks for ploughing purposes. Whereas cows and buffaloes are maintained for milk purposes and he goats and goats for meat. They don't use the milk of goat whereas the milk and ghee of cows and buffaloes are used and sold by them.

Conclusion

Demographic problems of Rajis are very peculiar and in this respect the census of Rajis had been reported from time to time by the U.P. government. The census which was available to me as conducted by the dept. of tribal welfare is as following:-

1969	-	254	Total population
1971	-	228	Total population
1978	-	341	Total population
1981	-	371	Total population
1991	-	494	Total population
1993	-	504	Total population
1997	-	425	Total population
2001	-	620	Total population

2011 -

From the above data we decipher that in 1971 population of Rajis decreased from 254 to 228 but in 1978 to 1993 it is seen increasing in number and it was reported 504 in 1993 by the tribal development office but door to door survey was conducted by me in the year 1997. The population of Rajis according to survey was 425 which include 102 households. According to my report it is decreasing in number. There are many causes behind that and they are -

- a) Due to the inadequate medical facility they are unable to take their children to the hospitals.
- b) Due to the malnutrition the child dies in foetus only.
- c) Due to the ignorance, illiteracy and shyness they never open themselves properly in front of any outsider or stranger.
- d) Due to the unhygienic conditions in the villages the diseases spread steadfastly.
- e) They are migrating from tribal area to other rural area or they are migrating from India to Nepal.
- f) Due to the habit of drinking local beer and smoking they die because of lungs and liver problems.
- g) Due to the unemployment and poverty they are unable to meet their local necessities. Hence, in the due course of time they die with hunger.

The number of males are much as compared to females but above 50 years the number is almost equal but above 60 years the females were reported nine in number and males were reported eight in number. Females are much more laborious than males. Due to habits of drinking and smoking they have turned themselves lazy and inactive. Above 25 years we can easily have an eye that the male number is becoming somewhat equal to females. The causes are as following :

- a) Females are much more hard working and laborious than males because they are lazy and inactive.
- b) Males are used to drink local beer and smoke and they drink much more than an average person, which is some time poisonous and draw them towards death.

The level of literacy is very low. Only 24.4% people are literate and 75.5% people are illiterate. In the category of literate males and in the literate females there is a lot of difference. But in the category of illiterate males and illiterate females there is not much difference. The higher literacy level was reported from the village kimkhola followed by khirdwari village respectively. The following are the causes which led them towards illiteracy.

- a) There is no facility of schools or any other educational institutions in the village itself.
- b) The schools which are outside the village are quite far from their places that they avoid their wards going there especially the girls because of the forest route.
- c) The marriages of boys and girls takes place at a very early age so they enter into household activities which makes them devoid of education as they have to start with some work for their livelihood.
- d) If some person starts teaching them in their village, then also they will not take advantage of the facility because they are shy and are not open to the outsiders.
- e) They lack trained teachers as it was reported that some institutions were opened which are now closed due to the lack of trained teachers. It was evident from the fact that some persons who claim themselves to be literate don't know even how to write their names properly.

In the field of occupation, varieties were reported as one occupation cannot make them

satisfied in meeting their desired needs. The maximum number of households was reported from the group which performs *chiran*, grass cutting and agriculture labour because they live in forest area where they get sufficient wood and grass to cut. They don't have to go at distant places to work the whole day. The sites are quite near to their houses. And when they are free from all these things they prefer to work on the lands of Kumauni people. Two households were reported which were engaged in service at Govt. institutions. One was Indra Singh who is a peon at C.D.O. office, Pithoragarh. The other was Kaman Singh who is a fourth class employee at the leprosy centre, Balwakot. Some households are based only on one field of source of income and the causes are -

- a) They are living quite close to the main motor road so that they can sell their products.
- b) The working hands are not enough to do other work and may be that person is living alone or along with his/her spouse so he has to depend on one occupation.
- c) Being nomads, they never remain in one occupation. It depends on the filed area in which they start to live again.

Raji people are very poor and they are considered to be below poverty line. The monthly income is so less that they can't even save the money for an emergency. Maximum no. of households were reported which were carrying Rs. 500-1000 per month which is not sufficient to meet their necessary needs. According to the Dhan Singh of Ganagaon "*Hum Jitna Kamate hai who usi din khatam Ho Jata Hai*" (Whatever they earn in one day it is wholly spent on that day only, nothing remains to be used on the next day). Very few households were reported which were earning between Rs. 2001-2500. They are many causes of being so poor and they are as following :-

- a) Food production is less because they don't have sufficient land to cultivate and on the other hand their production is of low standard due to the ignorance of using pesticides, fertilizes etc.
- b) Due to the illiteracy they are exploited by the money lenders and other outsiders.
- c) They spent their money on drinking local beers and in smoking.
- d) Their traditional art of making wooden implements is day by day deteriorating so they are unable to gain much from them.
- e) The males of this region are so lazy and inactive that they are dependent on females of their houses. The females are much more active than the males and the drawback with the females is that they can't go outside to work in that region. So they earn less.
- f) Due to the shyness and illiteracy they are not open to the outsiders so it plays like a hurdle in the development.

The land holdings of Raji households are not much in Nalis. They have been allotted a small piece of land but due to the distribution of the families into nuclear ones., the lands are becoming small and they are not fulfilling there daily needs. The other cause is this that due to the habit of nomadism they change their place to the other and they become deprived of lands. Sometime they sell their lands to the moneylenders.

Most of Raji families are small in size. They have either one or two members in their house or three to four members but above that very few families come. They have nuclear sub nuclear families and very few joint or extended families because just after the marriage they separate themselves from the family to avoid feud and they also disintegrate when their local deity asks them to move from the village. There is one more cause which was reported from Altadi village that to lessen the burden from one household they separate themselves along with their families.

Livestock position is also not well in the villages. They are not in good conditions. The number of cattle in nine villages is less. This is due to many causes and they are-

- a) Due to the unhygienic conditions in the village they suffer from the diseases which are not curable and they are not aware of it so they die in such conditions.

- b) In the search of fodder when the cattle are made free they fall from the hilly slopes and die.
- c) Often it was found that due to the unavailability of fodder, cattle become weak and insufficient for the fieldwork and sometimes die.

In short, Rajis are in pitiable conditions. Government is also working on their problems regarding the overall development of Rajis and succeeded in few spheres but the major problems like illiteracy, and lack of hospitals made their conditions deteriorating and population decreasing. If such conditions continued in future it is not surprising that one day they will get extinct.