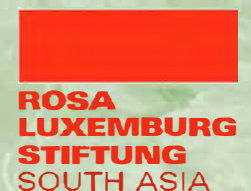




RAJI TRIBE OF UTTARAKHAND

**Report of the Action-Oriented Study on the
Current Social, Economic and Political Status
of the Raji Tribe in India**

[Revised edition: October 2023]



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Revised Edition: October 2024

Edited by: Renu Thakur, Priyanka Korde, Vinod Koshti

Principle Researcher: Mahika Phartiyal

Research & Project Coordinator: Renu Thakur

Report Writing: Mahika Phartiyal, Priyanka Korde, Avadh Bihari

Field Researchers: Mukesh Rajwar, Lalit Rajwar, Guman Rajwar, Kamlesh Rajwar, Neema, Khadyot Ojha, Dharmender Gwal, Govind Bonal, Jyoti Pathak, Jyoti Basera,



Study conducted by:

Association for the Rural Planning and Action (ARPAN)

Village Helpiya, PO Askot, Uttarakhand, India 262 543

Email: arpanaskot@gmail.com



Report Preparation by

Pluriversal Research and Action (PRA)

Email: partner@praIndia.co.in



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAV	Antyodaya Anna Yojana
APL	Above Poverty Line
ARPAN	Association for Rural Planning and Action
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
BPL	Below Poverty Line
FGD	Focussed Group Discussion
FRA	Forest Rights Act
PHC	Primary Health Care
PRA	Pluriversal Research and Action
PVTG	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
MASL	Meters Above Sea Level
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
RLS	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
SDLC	Sub-Divisional Level Committee

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In Solidarity,

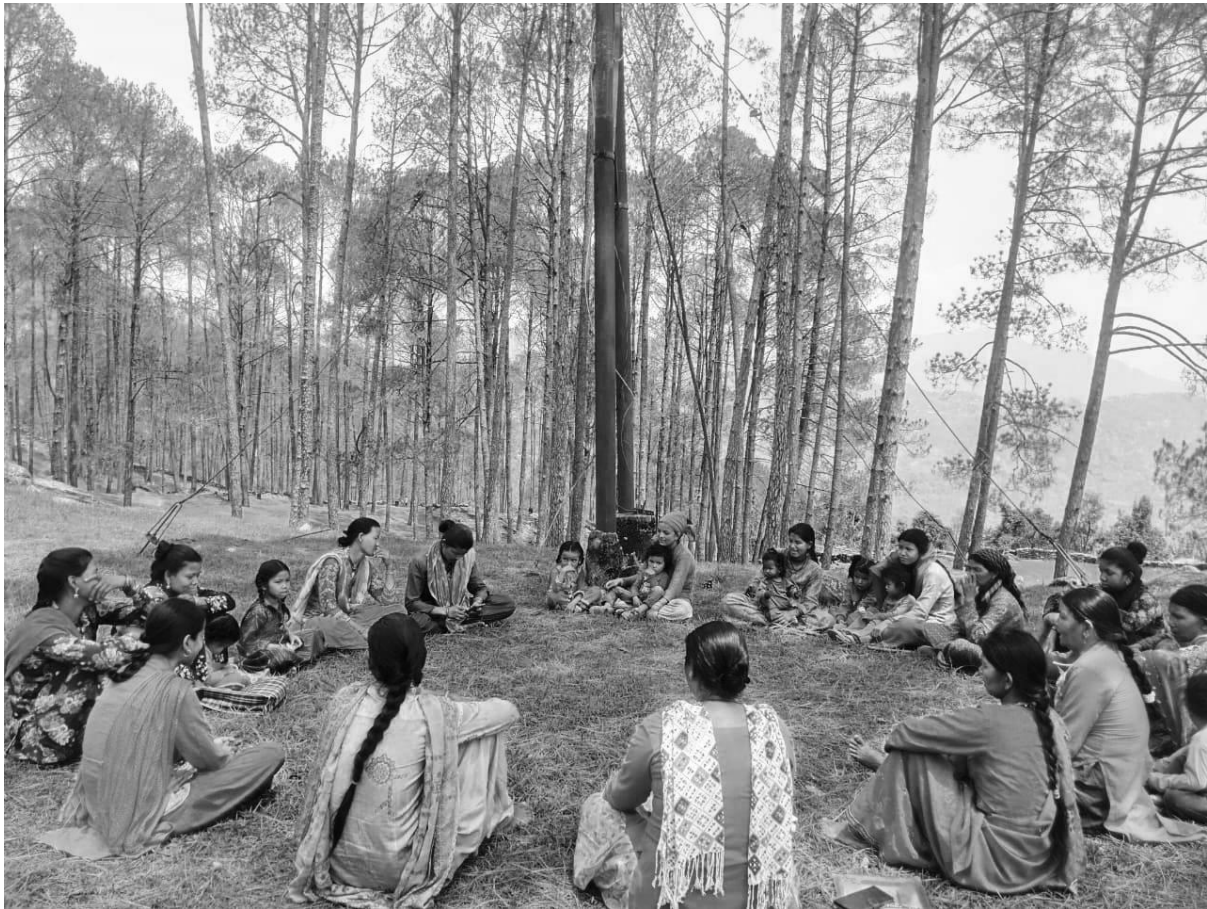
Renu Thakur

Chief Functionary & Research Coordinator

Association for Rural Planning & Action (ARPAN)

October 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



1. INTRODUCTION

The present study was conducted with the support of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung to generate information and understanding about the conditions of the *Raji* community which can be used as the primary source of information by the civil society, government, researchers, as well as policy makers to address the vulnerabilities of the *Raji* community. Moreover, the aim of this action-oriented study is not confined to merely reporting of the findings but to identify and implement the recommendations to strengthen the *Raji* tribe of India. The findings of such an in-depth census study of the *Raji* community would contribute significantly to address the gap in literature and in development policies and programmes undertaken in the region.

This study aims to understand the present condition of the *Raji* community in India, which is a particularly vulnerable, isolated, alienated indigenous community living mainly in remote, dispersed and inaccessible hilly areas of Uttarakhand. There is high inadequacy of data and information about the community even at the district and state level. Their population is considered as declining. The problems they face in social, economic and political spheres have remained largely unidentified and unaddressed.

Raji community like any other indigenous communities or tribal populations all over the world generally have a close affinity with nature and the environment. The *Raji* community was included in the list Scheduled Tribes in 1957 and in 1975, they were declared as a PVTG. The *Raji* community is a small tribe that has settled in small pockets in the Central Himalayan belt. They are geographically situated in the North western region of Uttarakhand, near Nepal boarder. The *Raji* tribe's growth rate of population was observed to have declined from 1991-1997 (Samal et. al., 2000). The need for a comprehensive study on the *Raji* as a PVTG was found in view of the unavailability of latest information and the rapid decline in the socio-economic status of the tribe.

2. METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research design is used to study every household of the *Raji* community living in India, which is mainly in the state of Uttarakhand. The main objectives of the study are:

- To document the social, demographic, economic and political profile of the *Raji* community
- To assess livelihood opportunities, ownership of land, decision-making in their community, as well as access to government schemes and entitlements
- To document the status of rights over resources like land and forest and their practical implementation
- To recommend on the basis of current challenges faced by the community for future action

The study covers all the existing households of *Raji* community in India. These household are located in the state of Uttarakhand. They are spread in 11 villages across three districts namely - Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar, and Champawat. In Pithoragarh there are nine villages namely – Kulekh, Kantoli, Aultari, Bhaktirwa, Chifaltara, Ganagaon, Kuta chorani, Madanpuri, and Kimkhola. Apart from these, one settlement is in Chakkarpur village in Udham Singh Nagar district and another in Khirdwari village in Champawat district of Uttarakhand.

The research design was mixed-methods with qualitative and quantitative data collected during the survey, involving *Raji* community members in a participatory approach. A structured interview schedule was designed for the household survey, it consisted of the social, demographic, economic, and political status of the community (Annexure I). A Focused Group Discussion (FGD) guide was designed to collect data at the village level (Annexure II). The data collection was conducted by a team of eight members, comprising four members from the *Raji* community. This participatory method was adopted to bring the insider view of the community, build their skills, capacities, leadership, and ownership towards their own issues and struggles. After the field study, the quantitative data was entered, cleaned and analysed using MS-Excel for descriptive analysis. A thematic analysis of the qualitative data was done and it has been integrated and presented with the quantitative data in the report. The data was collected in two phases from 2022 to 2023.

3. FINDINGS

A. Socio-Demographic Status

The *Raji* is also referred as ‘Van Rawat’, ‘Van *Raji*’ or ‘Van Manus’. The basic meaning of the name of the tribe, ‘Van *Raji*’ means the ‘someone who rules the forest.’ The community prefer being addressed as ‘*Raji*’ or ‘Rajwar’. There is no social hierarchy among the *Raji* tribe, which belongs to the Rajput clan. A strong sense of acculturation to Hindu customs and traditions can be observed in them, mainly due to their proximity to Hindu households in the specific villages they have inhabited. They do not practice idol worship, rather they have a sense of affinity with the nature, and they worship nature (natural water sources and land). There are 257 *Raji* households in India. The total population of the *Raji* community was 1,076 members. Out of this total *Raji* population, 50.4 per cent were female (542) and 49.6 per cent were male (534). There was no specific preference attached to a male child among the *Raji* community as observed during the focus group discussions and field observations during the study.

Table: *Raji* population and number of households

S.N.	Name of the Village	Number of Households	Population		
			Female	Male	Total
1	Aultari	11	19	20	39
2	Bhaktirwa	13	26	21	47
3	Chakkarpur	16	36	29	65
4	Chifaltara	16	18	29	47
5	Ganagaon	19	43	48	91
6	Kantoli	33	67	75	142
7	Kimkhola	49	99	96	195
8	Kulekh	11	25	21	46
9	Kuta chorani	32	83	75	158
10	Madanpuri	22	52	40	92
11	Khirdwari	35	74	80	154
Total		257	542	534	1076

A majority of the *Raji* population, among male and female, both, were in the child population of below 15 years (35.3%). There were only 13 *Raji* people above 75 years of age and nine of them were women. It shows that *Raji* people do not live long and women in *Raji* community have better life span. The comparatively shorter life span of the *Raji* community is due to the absence of health facilities in their areas and due to the inaccessibility to the health services and programmes offered by the state. Being a PVTG, the *Raji* community’s low longevity needs urgent attention.

The status of education was found to be exceptionally low among the *Raji* community, with high illiteracy levels (nearly 20%) and dropouts after the primary education. Less than half (44.4%) of the *Raji* population had studied up to the primary level. Only one person from the *Raji* community had studied beyond class 12th. A higher illiteracy among females was found as compared to males. The specific reasons found for poor educational status in the *Raji* villages

were inaccessibility, absence of schools after the primary level, and poor quality of education – this included lack of teachers and poor infrastructure of the existing schools.

Usually, *Raji* marriages are endogamous and monogamous, that is the custom is of marrying within the local community only and being married to one person at a time only, respectively. There was no concept of dowry found in the *Raji* community. Separation was a common practice and the family or marital disputes are settled among themselves, without resorting to any external or legal proceedings. A higher proportion of the *Raji* population were unmarried (54.1%). The data showed there were more unmarried male (54.6%) and relatively more married female (51.5%). The concept of nuclear family was found to be the predominant form of living in the *Raji* community.

As per the data, child marriages were a common practice in the community from earlier to the present times. A significant proportion of the *Raji* population was married (64.1%) under the legal age of marriage. More females (59.3%) as compared to males (40.7%) had under-age marriages. The lowest age of marriage for females was as low as nine years while for males the lowest was 15 years in the *Raji* villages. At present, both arranged marriages and marriages-by-choice are common among the *Raji*. Usually, the marriages in the *Raji* community are not very elaborate, as their economic status does not allow it. The *Raji* marriages are never registered and apart from social acceptance, there is often no evidence of marriages in terms of legally acceptable documents.

In the past, deliveries would take place at home through the traditional birth attendants, called '*Dai*'. In the present time, institutional delivery is performed by the ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) worker attached to the Primary Health Centers (PHCs). In cases, when the woman is unable to reach the PHC due to inaccessibility issues, the delivery takes place at home. Much like the marriage, the *Raji* have started following the Hindu customs at childbirth as well.

Until five decades ago, when someone died in the family of the *Raji* community, they would remove the roof of the house and abandon it. In the present day, if the deceased person is married, they are cremated near the closest river or stream, while an unmarried deceased person or a child are buried.

The *Raji* community's language, dressing, and food habits have undergone significant changes from their ancestral period to now. The *Raji* speak a language, which belongs to the Himalayan Group of the Tibeto-Burman family of language, known as '*Bhaunt*', '*Kunkiya*', or '*Raji bhasha*'. However, according to the *Raji* people, their language does not have a specific name. In today's context, the *Raji* are multilingual. They communicate with other communities in Kumaoni and Hindi languages. *Raji* women wear saree and kurta-salwar, the traditional north Indian attire, while the *Raji* men wear a pant and a shirt or t-shirt. Due to extreme poverty, most of the *Raji* families are not able to purchase new clothes for the family members regularly.

The *Raji* or '*Van Raji*', as they were known, were hunters and food gatherers. The staple food of the *Raji* tribe continues to be rice, wheat, corn, and fish. Usually, they eat twice a day, while in some families they have a three meals a day as well. During a feast, they prefer eating meat-based food, such as chicken and mutton. It has been observed that village settlements closer to

the market are exposed to local alcohol called “*arrack*” and fast food. Mostly, men have become addicted to liquor.

The traditional ecological knowledge of the *Raji* has been a rich resource in their way of living and caring for their environment and themselves. The study found that the new generation of *Raji* is not very keen to learn the use of locally available medicinal herbs and plants. They prefer visiting a doctor or a pharmacy in case of illness. The doctors are generally local unregistered medical practitioners. The *Raji* community is, today, dependent on forest mainly for fuel wood, *chiula* (bark of pine tree) to ignite fire, and fodder. Very few families extract medicinal herbs from the forests. The villages that are close to forest areas experience forest fires annually, both, intentional and unintentional in the Chir Pine forests.

B. Economic Status

Traditionally, the *Raji* people were known for their dexterity in making wooden items like utensils and agricultural tools, on which their livelihood survival was dependent. They started making and selling wooden poles and slabs. Some of them also started practicing agriculture and livestock rearing. Their dependency on money grew with their changing needs to buy clothes, medicines, groceries, commute, mobile phone, educational and other essential expenses. The traditional livelihood of the *Raji* community has been replaced with livelihood options that are mostly informal, unskilled, and irregular. The *Raji* people are mostly dependent on labour work, both, agricultural and non-agricultural. They often travel to work as a daily wage labour and some of them migrate to distant places. Very few of the *Raji* work in salaried employment.

Another source of livelihood for the *Raji* is fishing, which is usually for their consumption, while a very few number of them do fishing as an earning source. The *Raji* practice monoculture in farming that is, growing one crop at a time. They sow and harvest crops twice a year, mainly for their own consumption. Major crops grown by the *Raji* are wheat, rice, *madua* (ragi), corn, *jau* (barley), and local lentils like *masur*, *maas*, *urad*, *gahad*, *bhatt* and *soya bean*. Agriculture is mainly rain-fed and there are no sources of irrigation in most of the *Raji* villages. The yield depends on several external factors like climate change and depleting sources of water, and damage caused by wild animals like monkeys, boars and elephants.

The *Raji* community has some livestock holdings with most common being goats, poultry, and cows. Also, some of the families had buffalos and bulls. Most of the livestock is for agriculture use and subsistence only. Very few of the families had surplus produce like milk, which they sold. However, the data shows more expenditure than income on maintaining the livestock. The study found 74 households had a shed inside their house, while 69 of them had a shed outside the house, and 64 households had kept their livestock in the open. Generally, the *Raji* prefer treating their livestock at home or they consult a traditional healer instead of a veterinary doctor. So far only 24 individuals had migrated out of the *Raji* villages mainly for better employment opportunities. In general, the *Raji* people prefers to stay in their own villages.

As mentioned, the *Raji* do not have a regular income as all the livelihood options are irregular and informal. They earn the lowest during the monsoon and winter months, as it is difficult to find work during these periods. For most of people, medical care and education are the biggest

sources of expenditure after food items. The economic security is very low. They spend most of their daily earnings on the same day.

It is noteworthy that for many of the *Raji* households, the land holdings where they have their houses and practice agriculture are not under their ownership. Only 21 per cent of the households had land ownership, 45 per cent of the households had land deeds, without ownership under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, while the remaining 34 per cent neither had an ownership or land deeds.

The *Raji* community started the process of filing claims under the FRA in 2009 with the help of a grassroots organization called 'Association for Rural Planning and Action (ARPAN). ARPAN has been working with the *Raji* community for the empowerment in all the *Raji* villages for more than two decades now. These claims have been filed only for the *Raji* families residing in the Pithoragarh district. To secure individual forest rights of the *Raji* individuals, a total of 121 claims were filed by ARPAN. Out of these only 84 families have received their land deeds till now; their ownership rights are still pending. Five claims for community forest rights have been filed till now, which are still under process. Habitat rights allow all the *Raji* families to collect forest produce, fuel, and fodder and inhabit the villages where they have been residing until now.

According to the findings of the survey, the *Raji* population had none to very minimal land holding (less than one acre/ half a hectare). A majority of the families in the hilly region (41%) had only 0.05 to 0.25 acres of land holding. There is only one *Raji* village, Chakkarpur, in the plain region. This village has 16 *Raji* households, out of which nine (56%) were found to be landless.

Most of the members of the *Raji* community (181 families) fall in the poorest of poor category, that is, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and merely 39 per cent of them reported having one or more of the following assets: smartphone, basic phone, TV, two-wheeler, and heater. Apart from very limited utensils and basic clothing, it is difficult to find other assets.

C. Infrastructure and Basic Amenities

Until about 50 years ago, the *Raji* were cave- and forest-dwellers and used to practice shifting cultivation in the terraced hills surrounded by lush and dense forest. In the present day, the condition of the kaccha houses is very poor, as the community is unable to spend on building strong structures with good quality construction materials. In recent years, some 'pakka' or 'semi-pakka' houses can also be seen. The *pakka* houses include cemented walls made up of bricks or stones and a cemented roof. According to the survey, more than half of the *Raji* houses were pakka (includes semi-pakka), whereas around 45 per cent houses were *kaccha*. In almost all the houses, the floor is not cemented but made up of soil.

Most of the *Raji* houses have a connected with pipeline. The source of pipe connection is the nearby stream or spring. During summers, the springs and traditional sources of water dries up and people have to face a scarcity of water. Out of all the surveyed households, 59 per cent households do not have toilets. Even those who had received government aid to construct toilets, were not using them as toilets.

Health is a major issue for the *Raji* community especially for ailments related to stomach, malnutrition and accidents resulting in fractures or major injuries. Reproductive health issues affect the overall health of women. Early childbearing, frequent pregnancies, lack of proper nutrition and care, and drudgery are major causes of the deteriorating health of women. Alcoholism in the community is increasing resulting in a weakened immune system. The frequency of visits by medical staff to the village is a matter of serious concern. Usual practice of the *Raji* families is to directly purchase a medicine from a pharmacy, then contact a local unregistered and untrained medical practitioners for treatment. Only in emergency cases, they take their patients to a hospital.

Out of 11 *Raji* villages, electricity has reached in nine. Gas connection had still not reached all the *Raji* households and even where it had there was a high dependency on fuel wood. Almost 31 per cent of the *Raji* families were still without a gas connection. The *Raji* community lack some of the most basic documents like – ration card, Aadhar card, MGNREGA Job card, voter ID, birth and death certificates, caste/tribe certificates, and health card. that are needed to avail the benefits of any government welfare programme. Except two families, everyone else within the *Raji* community belongs to the poorest of the poor category. Almost 30 per cent families are still struggling to get their ration cards made.

Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 227 *Raji* individuals were enrolled and their job cards were issued. Out of these 227, only 222 individuals received work of a non-agricultural labour. In this study, nearly 85 per cent *Raji* families had a bank account. However, banks are located far away from the *Raji* villages. In case of emergencies, they borrow money from other communities without interest and repay through cash or kind. Mostly, they take loans for functions like marriage, for purchasing livestock, or for education. The study further revealed that the *Raji* community faced a lot of challenges in accessing the welfare schemes. The study showed 43 per cent of the households had not yet been able to avail any government schemes due to unavailability of necessary documents. Many eligible widows and elderly people do not have a widow or old age pension card and pension is irregular for those who receive it.

D. Social and Political Participation

Community development begins with people taking a proactive part in their own development processes through social and political participation in village-level committees, self-help groups, farmers' collectives, Gram Sabha and so on. The social participation of the *Raji* community was found to be low as most of them were not associated with any collectives or networks with each other. It was found that majority of them (65%) were not associated with any social organization or committee. Political awareness and participation in the local politics in the form of attending Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayat meetings regularly was found to be low. Of all the *Raji* population, merely six individuals had contested in the local governance elections so far, which were held at the Gram Sabha level.

4. PROFILE OF THE RAJI VILLAGES

The report presents the profile of each of the 11 surveyed *Raji* villages through factsheets. This includes the details such as administrative details and geographical location, accessibility of the village, distance from the village to the social institutions, and history. The socio-demographic details, infrastructure and basic amenities, gender roles, forest resource dependence, economic status, details of bank accounts and loan, and access to government schemes are also presented in the factsheets.

5. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the challenges found in this study, the recommendations are presented as action-points for the way forward.

1. ***Livelihood and Financial Security:*** The *Raji* community's traditional trade and occupation should be enhanced through value addition to their skills eg. Agriculture, animal husbandry, wood-work, fishing, etc. for self-sustenance and regular income. The *Raji* tribe should be given priority in the different government schemes. Skill development programs should be initiated for the *Raji* youth aligned with the government and private sector jobs.
2. ***Agriculture:*** A special support can be provided by the government to enhance their agriculture practice in a sustainable manner. Community land needs to be provided to them and joint farming should be encouraged. Methods using water conservation practices in farming along with generating irrigation sources need to be imparted to the *Raji* farmers. Farmers' and women's collectives can be formed for preparation and sale of agricultural and non-agricultural products. Animal husbandry and fish farming are areas that should be enhanced through welfare schemes. Government needs to provide food and disaster security.
3. ***Human-Animal Conflict:*** Methods for peacefully managing human-animal conflicts need to be borrowed from other similar regions and shared with the *Raji* people. Government should provide special assistance to ensure food and life security through insurance and other such schemes.
4. ***Housing and Sanitation:*** The status of the houses should be monitored by the district authorities and pucca houses should be allocated under prevalent schemes on special consideration to the PVTGs. Sensitization on safe sanitation practices like use of toilets by all and menstrual health and hygiene among adolescent girls and women are required.
5. ***Infrastructure:*** Provision of electricity, water, and fuel connections are bare minimum necessities that must be fulfilled by the government. Free and direct electricity, water and gas connections should be provided to each *Raji* family.
6. ***Accessibility:*** Constructing motorable roads should be given topmost priority as this would connect them to essential services for their livelihood, healthcare, education, etc. Khirdwari needs special attention – a bridge crossing the river needs to be immediately build to ensure connectivity to this village throughout the year. Proper communication channels and disaster preparedness should be done in the *Raji* villages for disaster management.

7. **Land and Forest Rights:** Land ownership to every *Raji* family should be ensured by the government on priority basis. Synergy and collaborative initiatives between government departments is required to ensure every *Raji* family gets land in their name.
8. **Entitlements and Welfare Schemes:** The official documents of the *Raji* community members should be made by organising camps in the tribal areas. Regularity in disbursement of pension is required. The community should also be provided with awareness and regular support to avail various central and state government schemes.
9. **Health:** Programmes of preventive health and community medicine should be undertaken by the health department in the *Raji* villages regularly. Mobile medical van facilities would be additionally beneficial for routine health checkup and free, safe medication. Maternal care and institutional deliveries need to be encouraged by developing motorable roads and improved healthcare facilities within or closer to the *Raji* villages. Health insurance schemes should be provided to the *Raji* community on a priority basis by the government. Deaddiction camps and regulated liquor stores are required to address the related issues of the *Raji* people.
10. **Education:** The Block resource centre should closely monitor the progress of *Raji* children. The block level departments should further ensure the basic infrastructural requirements of the Aangwadis and schools within the villages. Full scholarships, living costs and proper encouragements must be provided especially to the girl children to prevent the dropouts. Sports activities are needed in schools so that the children feel motivated in studies.
11. **Awareness and Capacity Building:** Special and focused awareness and sensitization programs should be organised to address any biases associated with the *Raji* tribe. Workshops for enhancing the leadership skills of the community members should be organised periodically to empower them.
12. **Participation in Decision-Making and Local Governance:** The *Raji* people should represent and share their lived experiences and issues in the local social and political forums. Adequate efforts need to be taken by the local elected representatives to ensure presence of the community members in Gram Sabha meetings. Continuous lobbying and advocacy with the government at all levels is necessary to bring the issues of the community at the forefront.

CHAPTER 4: PROFILE OF THE RAJI VILLAGES

This chapter presents the profile of each of the 11 surveyed *Raji* villages including the details such as administrative details and geographical location, accessibility of the village, distance from the village to the social institutions, and history. The socio-demographic details, infrastructure and basic amenities, gender roles, forest resource dependence, economic status, details of bank accounts and loan, and access to government schemes are also presented in the factsheets.

Table 5: Overview of Raji villages

S.N.	District	Block	Gram Sabha	Village	Raji Households	Raji Population
1	Pithoragarh	Dharchula	Toli	Chifaltara	16	47
2			Kimkhola	Kimkhola	49	195
3				Bhaktirwa	13	47
4			Dugtibagad	Ganagaon	19	91
5		Kanalichina	Jamtari	Kantoli	33	142
6			Dangti	Kulekh	11	46
7			Aultari	Aultari	11	39
8			Khetar kanyal	Kuta chorani	32	158
9			Khetar kanyal	Madanpuri	22	92
10	Champawat	Champawat	Poth	Khirdwari	35	154
11	Udham Singh Nagar	Chakkarpur	Khatima	Chakkarpur	16	65
Total					257	1076

Village Profile 1: KULEKH



History of the village

According to the *Raji*, the village ‘Kulekh’ derived its name because long time back there was abundance of water in the region. In olden day, they shared, there was a ‘Kua’ or well, and that is how Kulekh got its name. There was a water mill in the nearby stream long back.

Kulekh is relatively a new *Raji* settlement as compared to other *Raji* settlements. They have been staying in the Kulekh approximately for the past two decades. The land of Kulekh belongs to the people of the Dangti village. Few *Raji* families settled in Kulekh because there was no source of employment in Aultari, where they have their traditional land. Aultari village is seven km away from Kulekh, far from the market and other villages.

Kulekh had relatively better transportation, weather, and cultivated land as compared to Aultari. During that time, the other communities required them for labour work and there was demand for wooden poles, slabs and utensils as well. Therefore, the people of Dangti village asked them to settle in the land that belonged to them. The *Raji* have been staying in the land since, two-three decades and they have been practicing agriculture, but the land is still not on their names. The families do not hold legal land ownership documents.

Accessibility

Kulekh can be approached from Bhagichaura through a hilly track of 500 meters. Bhagichaura is approximately 18 kilometres from Ogla which is situated in the Pithoragarh-Dharchula motor road.

Village Profile 1 - KULEKH					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Dangti	Kanalichina	Pithoragarh	29°43'10.92N	80°21'21.39E	1260 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
25	21	46	11	Raji tribe – 11 SC - 02	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
PHC	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
Private Clinic	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
Anganwadi	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
Primary school	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
Bank	Bhagichaura	500 m	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Government Hospital	Didihat	20 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Didihat	20 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Kanalichinna	27 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Balwakot	43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Balwakot	43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Balwakot	43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Balwakot	43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	54 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	54 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
10	20	16	25		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	1	5	6		
Primary (upto class 5)	4	7	11		
Middle (class 6-8)	6	5	11		
Secondary (class 9-10)	3	1	4		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	0	0		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
06	05	07	Pipeline – 100% Direct – Stream	09	10
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
9	2	AAY – 10 APL – 01	6	MGNREGS (Toilets, goat shed, cow shed), Indira Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana (LPG), Widow Pension Scheme	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
01	07	01	02	00	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood		For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)
Agriculture		-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 13000 approx.
Fishing		-	✓		
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools		✓	-		
Grass production		✓	-		
Milk production		✓	-		
Labour work		✓	-		
Forest Resources		-	✓		
Widow Pension		-	✓		

Village Profile 2: KANTOLI



History of the village

Kantoli is believed to be one of the oldest settlements of the *Raji* community. According to the people they have been staying in the region since the reign of the King of Askot. It is said that the *Raji* migrated and settled in other villages from Kantoli. As they grew in number, they kept moving to different locations. Before migrating to Kantoli they used to stay in Dayakot village. The main reason of shifting to Kantoli was that the village it was situated besides the stream. They had better access to clean water and fish. The villages surrounding Kantoli are Suarkot and Jamtari.

Accessibility

Kantoli can be approached from Garjiya village, from where it is at a distance of 3 kilometres. Garjiya village is situated on the Baram- Madkot route. Gori River flows by the route, village is across the Gori River. A stream, locally known as the 'Rautis gaad' merges in the Gori River. Kantoli is based beside the stream.

Village Profile 2: KANTOLI					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Jamtari	Kanalichina	Pithoragarh	29°46'49.43"N	80°20'20.48E	677 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
65	77	142	33	Raji Tribe: 33 SC: 02	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kantoli	0 km	Walking		
Primary school	Kantoli	0 km	Walking		
PHC	Jamtari	500 m	Walking		
Private Clinic	Jamtari	500 m	Walking		
Bank	Jamtari and Jauljibi	500 m and 6 km	Walking and walking + Local conveyance		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Jauljibi	3 km + 2 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Jauljibi	3 km + 2 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Jauljibi	3 km + 2 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Jauljibi	3 km + 2 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Narayannagar, Balwakot	18 km	Walking and Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Askot	18 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Dharchula	3 km + 32 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Kanalichinna	3 km + 40 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	3 km + 66 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	3 km + 66 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	
9	20		16	28	
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	7	9	16		
Primary (upto class 5)	36	28	64		
Middle (class 6-8)	15	19	34		
Secondary (class 9-10)	3	10	13		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	3	1	4		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
18	15	7	Pipeline – 24 Direct – Stream	33	24
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/ NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Aailed by <i>Raji</i> families	
29	3	AAY – 31 None – 0	22	MGNREGS (Toilets, goatshed, cow shed), Indira Awas Yojana, Ujwala Yojana, Agriculture dept. (Fertilizers)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
11	13	3	3	3	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 12000 approx.	
Fishing	✓	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	-	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	-	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 3: AULTARI



History of the village

The *Raji* have been residing in Aultari since approximately 200 years. Before permanent house structures that they used to stay in *kaccha* houses or huts in and around the same village. Therefore, Aultari is also considered one of the older *Raji* settlements. From Aultari, some of the families in later years shifted to Kantoli village.

Accessibility

Aultari can be approached from Bhagichaura which is approximately 18 kilometres from Oglā which is situated in the Pithoragarh-Dharchula motor road. It is a 5km walking trail through dense forest from Bhagichaura.

Village Profile 3: AULTARI					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Aultari	Kanalichina	Pithoragarh	29°42'19.897371"N	80°21'27.614"E	1150 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
17	22	39	11	Raji Tribe: 11 GEN: 7; SC: 6	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Bhagichaura	5 Km	Walking		
PHC	Bhagichaura	5 Km	Walking		
Private Clinic	Bhagichaura	5 Km	Walking		
Bank	Bhagichaura	5 Km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Nearest town	Didihat	5 km + 20 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Didihat	5 km + 20 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Anganwadi	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Primary school	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Balwakot	5 km + 43 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	5 km + 67 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Kanalichina	5 km + 30 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	5 km + 67 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	
13	18		15	30	
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	2	4	6		
Primary (upto class 5)	9	3	12		
Middle (class 6-8)	7	8	15		
Secondary (class 9-10)	2	0	2		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	0	0		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
5	6	8	Pipeline – 100%	11	5
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
9	0	AAV – 9 None – 2	9	MGNREGS (Toilets, goat shed, cow shed), Indira Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission (Drinking water), Horticulture dept. (Field barricades)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
6	5	0	0	0	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 5000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	-	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 4: BHAKTIRWA



History of the village

Bhaktirwa village derived its names from the word “tirwa” which means a lone village. The *Raji* have been settled in Bhaktirwa since four generations.

Accessibility

There are three routes to reach Bhaktirwa, from the nearest road head it is at a distance of 3km. From Jauljivi road head is 5 kilometres there is another direct walking trail of 5 kilometers via Duthibagar to Bhaktirwa.

Village Profile 4: BHAKTIRWA					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Kimkhola	Dharchula	Pithoragarh	29°46'9.528"N	80°23'15.72"E	1200 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
28	19	47	13	Raji Tribe – 13	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kimkhola	3 km	Walking		
Primary school	Talla Kimkhola	3 km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Jauljibi	3 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
PHC	Jauljibi	3 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Private Clinic	Jauljibi	3 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Bank	Jauljibi	3 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Balwakot	3 km + 11 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Balwakot	3 km + 11 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Jauljibi	3 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Balwakot	3 km + 11 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Dharchula	3 km + 39 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	3 km + 74 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Dharchula	3 km + 39 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	3 km + 74 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Dharchula	3 km + 39 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
15	30	16	30		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	4	9	13		
Primary (upto class 5)	3	7	10		
Middle (class 6-8)	10	4	14		
Secondary (class 9-10)	2	4	6		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	0	0		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
7	6	3	Pipeline – 13	13	8
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/ NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
0	1	AAY – 10 None – 3	5	MGNREGS (cow shed), Indira Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana (LPG), Agriculture dept. (Vegetable seeds)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
1	4	6	2	0	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	✓	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 5: CHIFALTARA



History of the village

Long back the *Raji* of Chifaltara used to live in Lisa village in huts. Approximately 150 years back their ancestors settled in Chifaltara.

Accessibility

Chifaltara can be reached from Jauljivi. It is on the Baram and Madkot road. The road head from Chifaltara village is 5km away. From the road head Jauljivi is at a distance of 13 kilometres.

Village Profile 5: CHIFALTARA					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Toli	Dharchula	Pithoragarh	29°48'1.957"N	80°22'20.26E	1048 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
21	24	45	16	Raji Tribe – 16 GEN – 20; SC - 9	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	-	-	-		
Primary school	Chifaltara	2 km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Jauljibi	5 km + 13 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
PHC	Toli	7 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Private Clinic	Jauljibi	5 km + 13 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Bank	Jauljibi	5 km + 13 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Toli	7 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
High School	Toli	7 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Balwakot	5 km + 31 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Degree college	Balwakot	5 km + 31 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Dharchula	5 km + 51 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Jauljibi	5 km + 13 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Block office	Dharchula	5 km + 51 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	5 km + 71 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Dharchula	5 km + 51 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
11	21	18	30		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	7	8	15		
Primary (upto class 5)	9	5	14		
Middle (class 6-8)	5	2	7		
Secondary (class 9-10)	5	0	5		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	0	0		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
7	9	7	Pipeline – 16	13	7
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
11	0	AAY – 14 None – 2	7	MGNREGS (Toilets, cow shed, road), Indira Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana (LPG), Horticulture dept. (trees)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75 < acres)	
2	8	2	0	4	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	-	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 6: GANAGAON



History of the village

They *Raji* shifted and settled in Gangaon much later than the other communities who were already settled in the village. Earlier they used to dwell in forest and caves. The *Raji* settled in Ganagaon approximately 75 years ago. It is a heterogeneous culture village.

Accessibility

Ganagaon village can be accessed from Jauljivi and also via Kimkhola. From Jauljivi it is 6 kilometres walking and via Kimkhola it is 5 km from Kimkhola. Although via Kimkhola it is a longer route.

Village Profile 6: GANAGAON					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Dugtibagad	Dharchula	Pithoragarh	29°46'17.664"N	80°22'41.238"E	1438 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
44	47	91	19	Raji Tribe – 19 Muslims – 47 GEN, SC, OBC	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kimkhola	3 km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
PHC	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Private Clinic	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Bank	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Primary school	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Secondary school	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
High School	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Intermediate	Baluwakot	6 km + 5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Degree college	Baluwakot	6 km + 5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Dharchula	6 km + 39 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	6 km + 79 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Block office	Dharchula	6 km + 39 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	6 km + 79 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Jauljibi	6 km	Walking		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
12	22	16	25		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	2	11	13		
Primary (upto class 5)	15	16	31		
Middle (class 6-8)	15	7	22		
Secondary (class 9-10)	7	1	8		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	0	0		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
15	4	14	Pipeline – 1	19	11
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
18	3	AAY – 16 None – 3	13	MGNREGS (cow shed), Atal/ PM Awas Yojana (Houses, water tank), Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
3	9	3	3	1	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 12000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 7: KUTA CHORANI



History of the village

The *Raji* of Kuta Chorani used to dwell in the forest and caves near the village. They settled in Kuta Chorani almost a century ago.

Accessibility

The village is approximately 8 km to 10 km away from the road head. They walk till Devisuna. It takes about 2 hours to commute. From Devisuna the local conveyances is available. Kuta can be accessed from Madanpuri as well. It is 5 km far from Madanpuri village. There is a forest trail from Kantoli village as well. It is a 5 km walking trail. The nearest village from Kuta is Talli kuta which is at a distance of 6 km. it is habited by general caste.

Village Profile 7: KUTA CHORANI					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Khetar kanyal	Didihat	Pithoragarh	29°49'12.288"N	80°19'4.35"E	1661.9 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
84	75	159	32	Raji – 32	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kuta	4 km	Walking		
Primary school	Chorani	200 m	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Devisuna, Didihat	10 km, 10 km + 36 km	Walking, Walking + Local conveyance		
PHC	Devisuna	10 km	Walking		
Private Clinic and Ayurveda clinic	Devisuna	10 km	Walking		
Secondary school	Dunakot	10 km + 12 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Dunakot	10 km + 12 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Dunakot	10 km + 12 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Narayan nagar	10 km + 56 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Didihat	10 km + 36 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	10 km + 102 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Bank	Didihat	10 km + 36 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Didihat	10 km + 36 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	10 km + 102 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Didihat	10 km + 36 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
10	15	30	30		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	10	17	27		
Primary (upto class 5)	38	41	79		
Middle (class 6-8)	18	11	29		
Secondary (class 9-10)	2	2	4		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	1	0	1		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
10	22	7	Pipeline – 12	0 (only solar light)	29
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
28	1	AAY – 32	18	MGNREGS (cow shed), Atal/ PM Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
5	7	16	2	2	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 5000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 8: KIMKHOLA



History of the village

The word Kimkhola is made up of two words, Kim and Khola. Kimu is a tree which was found in the village and *khola* is a *gadhera* or stream. Apart from *Raji* families, other community also reside in Kimkhola.

Accessibility

Kimkhola village is 5km from Jauljivi towards heading to Dharchula. The distance from Jauljebi to Kimkhola road head bend is 5 km. The village is 2 km walking from the road head.

Village Profile 8: KIMKHOLA					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Kimkhola	Dharchula	Pithoragarh	29°46'26.108"N	80°23'22.28"E	859.32 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
98	96	194	49	<i>Raji</i> Tribe – 49	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kimkhola	0 km	Walking		
Primary school	Talla Kimkhola	1km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Jauljibi	2 km+ 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
PHC	Jauljibi	2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Private Clinic	Jauljibi	2 km + 5km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Bank	Jauljibi	2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Secondary school	Jauljibi & Baluwakot	2 km + 5km & 2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance & Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Jauljibi & Baluwakot	2 km + 5 km & 2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance & Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Baluwakot	2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Baluwakot	2 km + 5 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Dharchula & Pithoragarh	2 km + 39 km & 2 km + 79 km	Walking + Local conveyance & Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	2 km + 79 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Dharchula	2 km + 41 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	2 km + 79 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Dharchula	2 km + 41 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
12	30	16	30		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	10	16	26		
Primary (upto class 5)	42	36	78		
Middle (class 6-8)	23	19	42		
Secondary (class 9-10)	10	8	18		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	5	6	11		
Higher Education	1	3	4		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
39	10	18	Pipeline – 49	49	34
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
44	18	AAY – 47 BPL – 1 None – 1	25	MGNREGS (cow shed, fish pond, toilets, polyhouse), Atal Awas Yojana (Houses), Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
3	20	19	6	1	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 5000 and 12000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 9: MADANPURI



History of the village

The *Raji* of Madanpuri used to live in forest and caves until 100 years ago. They settled in Madanpuri a century back on the land of Kaniyals (people belonging to the general caste).

Accessibility

Madanpuri is approximately at a distance of 26 kilometres from Didihat. Madanpuri can be reached via the Jamtari route from Didihat. It is 1 km walking from the road head.

Village Profile 9: MADANPURI					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Khetar kanyal	Didihat	Pithoragarh	29°48'11.59106"N	80°18'3.929"E	1007.04 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
52	41	93	22	Raji Tribe – 22	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
PHC	Devisuna	5 km	Walking		
Private Clinic	Devisuna	5 km	Walking		
Primary school	Devisuna	5 km	Walking		
Secondary school	Devisuna	5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
High School	Devisuna	5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Devisuna, Didihat	1 km + 26 km	Walking, Walking+ Local conveyance		
Anganwadi	Kuta	10 km	Walking		
Bank	Didihat	1 km + 26 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Dunakot	10 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Degree college	-	-	-		
Government Hospital	Didihat	1 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Pithoragarh	1 km + 97 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Block office	Didihat	1 km + 26 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District office	Pithoragarh	1 km + 97 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Didihat	1 km + 26 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
10	26	17	26		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	4	19	23		
Primary (upto class 5)	19	23	42		
Middle (class 6-8)	9	5	14		
Secondary (class 9-10)	7	0	7		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	1	0	1		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
12	10	6	Pipeline – 22	21	16
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/ NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
17	1	AAY – 21 None – 1	13	MGNREGS (employment), PM Awas Yojana (house), Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
5	11	5	1	0	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 6000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 10: CHAKKARPUR



History of the village

Initially, a few families moved out to Khirdwari village from different villages in the Pithoragarh district. From Khirdwari, a few families then shifted to the plain region and settled in Chakkarpur. The ancestors of the current residents of Chakkarpur settled amidst the dense Sal Forest and cleared some forest area for practicing agriculture. The families migrated to Chakkarpur approximately 50 years ago from the hills, since 1970's. Initially, seven to eight families had come to Chakkarpur. The main reason for settling in Chakkarpur was that the area was plain and there was abundance of water. The area was suitable for agriculture. They made huts and started staying there permanently.

Accessibility

Chakkarpur can be accessed easily from the Khatima-Tanakpur highway. It is at a distance of 5 km from Khatima. While travelling from Khatima towards Tanakpur, just after 5 kilometres there is a RCC road at a distance of 1 kilometre after crossing the railway track one can reach Chakkarpur.

Village Profile 10: CHAKKARPUR					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Chakkarpur	Khatima	Udham Singh Nagar	28°58'11.01489"N	80°2'21.11665"E	166 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
34	31	65	16	Raji Tribe – 16 General, SC, ST (<i>Tharus</i>)	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Kimkhola	0 km	Walking		
Market	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
Private Clinic	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
Anganwadi	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
PHC	Chakkarpur	5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Chakkarpur	5 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Primary school	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
Secondary school	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
High School	Chakkarpur	2 km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Bank	Chakkarpur	6 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Kutri	12 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Degree college	Khatima	6 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Kutri	12 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Block office	Khatima	6 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
District office	Rudrapur	70 Km	Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Khatima	6 km	Walking+ Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	
12	25		18	28	
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	4	8	12		
Primary (upto class 5)	11	14	25		
Middle (class 6-8)	7	5	12		
Secondary (class 9-10)	5	5	10		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	2	0	2		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
1	15	2	Hand pumps – 16	16 (indirect)	11
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/ NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
11	0	AAV – 1 BPL – 10 APL – 4 None – 4	13	MGNREGS (toilets), Livestock (goats-rearing) Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
5	11	5	1	0	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 2000 and 8000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	✓	-			
Grass production	✓	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	✓	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

Village Profile 11: KHIRDWARI



History of the village

The elderly *Raji* people of the village narrated that somewhere in 1952-1955, three families of Dan Singh, Lal Singh, and Kalyan Singh moved to Khirdwari from village Kimkhola and Kuta Chorani (now in Pithoragr). They continued to reside here and their numbers grew over the years.

Accessibility

Reaching Khirdwari village poses a significant challenge. The nearest road is in village Chuka, which is at 6 km walking distance from Khirdwari. Local conveyances run along the Sharda river from Chuka to Tankapur when the water level is low. During monsoon the accessibility to Khirdwari becomes very difficult. The nearest rural market is at Chalthi, which is on the Champawat-Tanakpur highway, that is 12 km walking distance through rugged terrains and streams. Tanakpur is 37 km from Khirdwari. In case of emergency when the streams are overflowing, the *Raji* take the path through hills and forest (17 km) to reach the road head. Butiyasen and Palakot are the other villages which are near Khirdwari.

Village Profile 11: KHIRDWARI					
Administrative Location			Geographical Location		
Gram Sabha	Block	District	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
Poth	Champawat	Champawat	29° 11'03.93" N	80°12'28.26" E	1038 m
Demographic Details					
Number of Females	Number of Males	Total Population	Total Households	Caste Groups	
74	80	154	35	Raji Tribe – 35	
Accessibility to Institutions					
Institution	Place	Distance	Means of transport		
Within 5 km distance from the village					
Anganwadi	Khirdwari	0 km	Walking		
Primary school	Khirdwari	0 km	Walking		
More than 5 km distance from the village					
Market	Tanakpur	8 km + 37km	Walking + Local conveyance		
PHC	Champawat	11 km +38km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Private Clinic	Sookhi Dhang, Chalthi	11 km + 17km, 11 km	Walking + Local conveyance, Waliking		
Secondary school	Khatima	8 km + 50 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
High School	Khatima	8 km + 50 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Intermediate	Khatima	8 km + 50 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Degree college	Khatima	8 km + 50 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Government Hospital	Tanakpur	8 km + 37 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District Hospital	Shookidhang	11 km + 17 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Bank	Tanakpur	8 km + 37 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Block office	Champawat	11 km + 38 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
District office	Champawat	11 km + 38 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Nearest town	Tankapur	8 km + 37 km	Walking + Local conveyance		
Age of Marriage					
Female			Male		
Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage	Lowest Age of Marriage	Highest Age of Marriage		
12	22	18	25		
Educational Status					
Levels of Education	Male	Female	Total		
Illiterate	3	14	17		
Primary (upto class 5)	33	36	69		
Middle (class 6-8)	35	15	50		
Secondary (class 9-10)	5	1	6		
Senior Secondary (class 11-12)	0	1	1		
Higher Education	0	0	0		

Infrastructural Facilities					
Housing Structure		Toilets	Connections for basic amenities		
Pucca	Kuchha		Water	Electricity connection	LPG connection (Ujwala Yojana)
19	16	2	Pipeline, River	0 (solar light only)	12
Financial and Government Schemes					
Bank Accounts	Bank/ NRLM Loans	Ration Card	Government Schemes	Names of Government Schemes Availed by <i>Raji</i> families	
8	6	-	35	PM Awaz Yojana (houses), Solar lights, widow & old age pension schemes, Ujwala Yojana (LPG)	
Landholding in acres					
Landless	Marginal (0.05-0.25 acres)	Small (0.25-0.5 acres)	Medium (0.5-0.75 acres)	Large (0.75< acres)	
17	18			0	
Livelihood Patterns					
Sources of Livelihood	For commercial use	For personal use	Days of work per month (approx.)	Monthly Income (approx.)	
Agriculture	-	✓	Not fixed, on demand	Anything between Rs. 5000 and 9000 approx.	
Fishing	-	✓			
Wooden slabs, planks, agricultural tools	-	-			
Grass production	-	-			
Milk production	-	-			
Labour work	✓	-			
Forest Resources	-	✓			
Widow Pension	-	-			

CHAPTER 5: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The government of India has declared the *Raji* community as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Keeping in view their low population and extreme vulnerability, the *Raji* community should be given ‘Special Status’ under institutional support for their development. The findings of this action-oriented study have revealed a very poor social, economic, and political status of the *Raji* tribe. A continuity in these conditions would threaten the survival and existence of this already vulnerable population. The *Raji* were a self-sustaining community merely five decades back and the current market-led economies have pushed them in abject poverty. For this purpose, the following challenges and recommendations are presented as a summary of the findings and action-points for the way forward.

5.1. Livelihood and Financial Security

Challenges

Most of the *Raji* are engaged in daily wage labour which lacks certainty and continuity of work and economic security. They do not have a permanent and constant source of income, nor are their wages standardized. This drudgery combined with being underpaid creates an exploitative situation, leading to multiple social problems in the community, which did not exist few decades back. The prices of goods and commodities have increased. The *Raji* find it difficult to meet the expenses since the wages that they receive are not sufficient to help them save enough money for the time they do not get work.

During the months of monsoons, they are unemployed and their traditional livelihood sources are not in demand any longer. With the introduction of machines and improved market linkages, the local economy has been disrupted and demand for labour has decreased over time. Migration for work is in small numbers, the trend has begun though, which would only escalate in the absence of local livelihood opportunities.

Recommendations

The *Raji* community’s traditional trade and occupation should be enhanced through value addition to their skills eg. Agriculture, animal husbandry, wood-work, fishing, etc. for self-sustenance and regular income. Market linkages and financial support needs to be given under the various entrepreneurial programs and incubation schemes. Specific focus on women is required.

The *Raji* tribe should be given priority in the different government schemes like MGNREGS and NRLM as special beneficiaries. Unique job cards and work provision for the *Raji* people can be made for this purpose. Rural employment schemes need to be linked with the existing skills and special needs of *Raji* villages.

Skill development programs should be initiated for the *Raji* youth aligned with the government and private sector jobs. Youth need to be identified from every village at the Gram Sabha level to participate in employment-linked skill training programs.

5.2. Agriculture

Challenges

The *Raji* are mostly small-scale farmers and practice monoculture for their subsistence. They practice agriculture on the small, fragmented, rugged, and rain-fed land terrains. According to the respondents, the crop production has decreased in the past two decades in all the villages (except Chakkarpur village, which is in the plains). The soil fertility has reduced. The major challenges that they face in agriculture are crop damage caused by wild animals, climate change, and water scarcity.

Irrigation: There is no irrigation facilities in most of the *Raji* villages. Irrigation facility is only available in Chakkarpur village as it is situated in the plains.

Climate Change: According to the *Raji* people, in the last 20 years climate pattern has changed. The seasonal rainfall pattern has been disturbed due to climate change. Erratic and excessive rainfall and unprecedented hailstorms leads to severe crop damage that leads to food insecurity.

Natural disasters: In Chakkarpur, the fields and houses get flooded during heavy rainfall. In the villages situated in the mountains, there is always a risk of landslides and cloudburst.

Recommendations

Agriculture takes care of the household food security and nutrition for one to six months in a year. A special support can be provided by the government to enhance their agriculture practice in a sustainable manner. Community land needs to be provided to them and joint farming should be encouraged.

Methods using water conservation practices in farming along with generating irrigation sources need to be imparted to the *Raji* farmers.

Farmers' collectives can be formed, training programs through Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be given on organic and terraced farming, and irrigation resources need to be developed. Women's collectives can be formed to value-add and produce items like pickles, murabbas, chutney etc.

Animal husbandry and fish farming are areas that should be enhanced through welfare schemes for providing livelihood options to the interested *Raji* households.

Government should provide special assistance like insurance of crops, property as well as life to deal with the losses due to climatic factors like untimely or excessive rainfall etc. as well as in the events of natural disasters like floods, droughts, land-slides, etc.

5.3. Human-Animal Conflict

Challenges

There is frequent human-animal conflict seen in the *Raji* villages. The crops are damaged by monkeys, apes, wild boar, porcupine, and bear in the villages situated in the hills. In Chakkarpur, which is situated in the tarai belt, crops are raided by elephants. In some cases crops are also damaged by termites and rats.

Recommendations

Methods for peacefully managing human-animal conflicts need to be borrowed from other similar regions and shared with the *Raji* people.

Government should provide special assistance like insurance of crops, property as well as life to deal with the losses due to the damage done by the wild animals.

5.4. Housing and Sanitation

Challenges

Houses of almost half of the *Raji* families are kaccha. Although the roofs of many of the houses are cemented, but the construction is old leading to water leaks through the roofs. Most of the families do not have access to toilets and many of those with toilets do not use them.

Recommendations

The status of the houses should be monitored by the district authorities and pucca houses should be allocated under prevalent schemes on special consideration to the PVTGs.

Sensitization on safe sanitation practices like use of toilets by all and menstrual health and hygiene among adolescent girls and women are required.

5.5. Infrastructure

Challenges

Villages like Kuta chorani and Khirdwari do not have electric power supply. There is only solar light connection. In Chakkarpur, there is electricity, but it is not directly from the power line.

Recommendations

Provision of electricity, water, and fuel connections are bare minimum necessities that must be fulfilled by the government. Free and direct electricity, water and gas connections should be provided to each *Raji* family.

5.6. Accessibility

Challenges

The *Raji* villages are located in in very remote areas, up in the mountains and far away from motorable roads. Accessibility is a major issue since the market, hospital, and even schools are located at a distance. None of the *Raji* villages are accessible by a motor road. Villages like Khirdwari remain totally cut off during the monsoon season. The roads to their villages are not properly constructed. In Chakkarpur, the houses get flooded during heavy rainfall. The villages are always at a risk of landslides and cloudburst.

Recommendations

Constructing motorable roads should be given topmost priority as this would connect them to essential services for their livelihood, healthcare, education, etc. This would also encourage better market linkages. Government and civil society can provide better support to these families. Khirdwari needs special attention – a bridge crossing the river needs to be immediately build to ensure connectivity to this village throughout the year.

Proper communication channels and disaster preparedness should be done in the *Raji* villages for disaster management.

5.7. Land and Forest Rights

Challenges

Majority of *Raji* families have only received land deeds but they are still awaiting land titles. Community forest rights claim status is Nil. The forest land where deeds have been passed is not being transferred to Revenue land.

Moreover, despite being PVTG, all the *Raji* households have still not been granted their individual and community forest rights due to claims pending or not filed.

Recommendations

The implementation of FRA, 2006 is important to ensure their land rights, but the current process is very slow and tedious for the community. Land ownership to every *Raji* family should be ensured by the government on priority basis. This is a pre-requisite to the survival of a PVTG. Synergy and collaborative initiatives between government departments are required to ensure every *Raji* family gets land in their name. This will require coordinated efforts at the state and district levels.

5.8. Entitlements and Welfare Schemes

Challenges

Official documents form an essential requirement to avail any government scheme. Still about 40 per cent of the households do not have documents like land ownership, aadhar card, schedule tribe certificate, ration card, job card, health card etc. from the government.

Because of the lack of proper knowledge and information, the *Raji* finds it very difficult to get their documents made. They have to undertake multiple visits to different government departments for which they have to lose several days' of work and the daily wage. Each visit requires almost a full day and huge commuting costs.

Recommendations

The official documents of the *Raji* community members should be made by organising camps in the tribal areas. Long, cumbersome processes for availing entitlements should be simplified through a one-time or single window application procedure for all documents.

Additionally, pension schemes need to focus on single, widowed women, elderly and differently abled on a priority basis. These pensions should be transferred every month to the beneficiary account without any delay. The community should also be provided with awareness and regular support to avail various central and state government schemes related to livelihood, agriculture, education, health, insurance, subsidies, financial literacy etc.

5.9. Health

Challenges

In case of a medical emergency, the *Raji* carry the patient on their back, in a *doli* (wooden carrier) or on a stretcher, up to the motorable road, which sometimes take up to 3-4 hours. If Ambulances are not available, they have to hire a local vehicle, which is expensive.

In the distant villages, women have to resort to home deliveries as it is very difficult for the pregnant woman to walk till the main road.

Drug abuse and alcoholism has become common among youth and children. In

Recommendations

Developing essential government services for routine health needs and medical emergencies within the villages is crucial for their survival.

Programmes of preventive health and community medicine should be undertaken by the health department in the *Raji* villages regularly. Mobile medical van facilities would be additionally beneficial for routine health checkup and free, safe medication.

Maternal care and institutional deliveries need to be encouraged by developing

Khirdwari, the *Raji* prepare alcohol locally. In other *Raji* villages, they are dependent on the market for alcohol. In villages like Kantoli, where the *Raji* work as agricultural labours, some times they demand a bottle of alcohol instead of wages for daily work. The consumption of drugs is in the form of weed, marijuana and hashish.

motorable roads and improved healthcare facilities within or closer to the *Raji* villages.

Health insurance schemes should be provided to the *Raji* community on a priority basis by the government. If ambulances are not available, travel expenses for hiring the vehicle should be reimbursed from the hospital.

Deaddiction camps and engaging youth and men in regular work are necessary steps to deal with the issues of addiction.

Liquor stores should be well regulated by the concerned departments to avoid events related to alcohol poisoning.

5.10. Education

Challenges

The literacy rate of the *Raji* community is very low. The illiteracy and drop out rate among women after primary level is much higher than men.

The major reasons for dropout are the economic condition of the family, where school-going children are expected to work from an early age. Secondly, the families cannot meet the educational expenses And lastly, accessibility is an issue, as the villages are remotely located and the Aanganwadi and schools are very far from some of them.

Further, the primary schools in the *Raji* villages are in a very poor state. The primary school in Chifaltara has leakages during monsoon.

Recommendations

Aanganwadi centres, primary, secondary and higher education for *Raji* children need special attention. The Block resource centre should closely monitor the progress of *Raji* children.

The block level departments should further ensure the basic infrastructural requirements of the Aangwadis and schools within the villages.

Full scholarships, living costs and proper encouragements must be provided especially to the girl children to prevent the dropouts. Proper attention should be paid also on the sports activities so that the children feel motivated in studies.

5.11. Awareness and Capacity Building

Challenges

There is poor awareness and prejudices towards the *Raji* tribe among the government and other stakeholders who can influence better policy decisions and welfare services in their favour.

The *Raji* community face numerous challenges due to their own low social and political awareness about their rights, entitlements, welfare schemes, health and sanitation, reproductive and child health, etc.

Recommendations

Special and focused awareness and sensitization programs should be organised to address any biases and stereotypes associated with the *Raji* tribe among the government functionaries, media, and other stakeholders.

Workshops for enhancing the leadership skills of the community members should be organised periodically by different stakeholders to strengthen them with the power of information.

5.12. Participation in Decision-making and Local Governance

Challenges

The participation of the *Raji* community in the social and political forums is very low. The community is not organised into groups or associations etc. Hence, they do not have a collective voice.

The voices of the *Raji* people are not strong enough and their lived experiences are not reflected in the local decision-making bodies.

Recommendations

The *Raji* people should represent and share their lived experiences and issues in the local social and political forums. The various social-economic, and political challenges faced by the *Raji* community in Uttarakhand need a multi-pronged solution and should be rooted in strengthening their participation in the decision-making forums.

Adequate efforts needs to be taken by the local elected representatives to ensure presence of the community members in Gram Sabha meetings.

Continuous lobbying and advocacy with the government at all levels is necessary to bring the issues of the community at the forefront. Interface meetings between *Raji* community and government officials should be held at regular intervals to bridge the gaps between the planning and implementation of the activities undertaken in the *Raji* villages.

Developing interventions around these recommendations would require empathy and sensitivity towards their life and philosophy and a collaborative approach, which empowers them to become independent and take decisions on their own. Community participation would be most essential, followed by trust building exercises for conceptualising any programme for their holistic development. Merely, ensuring their inclusion in the government driven welfare programmes would not be enough for this vulnerable group. Government departments, judiciary, political parties, civil society, media agencies and private bodies should collaborate to prioritize the issues of the *Raji* community in the state.

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Annexure III:

Life and struggles of *Raji* community through picture gallery



A Raji house in Kulekh village



A Raji house in Kulekh village



A Raji house in Kulekh village



A Raji house in Aultari village



A Raji house in Kulekh village



Interior of a Raji House



Interior of a *Raji* House



Raji House in Kantoli village



Raji House in Kantoli village



Raji woman with her children in Kulekh



Aged Raji woman and Raji child



Raji children in Kulekh



Wooden tools produced by Raji



Four generations of *Raji* women in one frame



Raji people in Kuta Chorani



A Raji youth cutting wood



Raji family in Bhaktirwa



A Raji house in Bhaktirwa



Raji Houses in Chifaltara



Raji womam in her agricultural field



Pathways leading to Chifaltara



Raji women drying corn before preserving it as seeds



Pathway leading to Ganagaon



Condition of Raji houses in Kuta Chorani



Condition of Raji houses in Kuta Chorani



Inside a *Raji* house in Kuta Chorani



A *Raji* woman winnowing rice



Raji children in Kimkhola



A Raji woman preparing meal on fuelwood



A *Raji* woman returning from forest with a bundle of grass



A *Raji* house in Madanpuri



A Raji man tilling his field with the help of bull



A Raji house in Chakkarpur



Raji houses in Chakkarpur



Hand pump in Chakkarpur



Raji woman preparing meal on fuel wood



Only accessible path leading to Khirdwari village



Trek to Khirdwari village



Raji man working in agriculture field



Raji women working in agriculture field

