

Research Publications (2024-25)

Sr.No	Name	Department	No. Of Research Publications
1.	Dr.Anurita Saxena (Principal, RKMV)	History	01
2.	Mr . Rajesh Kumar Azad	Zoology	02
3.	Dr.Pradeep Malhotra	Physics	02
4.	Ms. Preeti Sood	Home Science	01
5.	Dr.Parveen Bhatia	Music Instrumental	02
6.	Dr.Nisha Chauhan	Hindi	04
7.	Ms. Nisha Kumari	History	03
8.	Dr. Umpa Sharma	English	01
9.	Dr. Luxmi	Music Vocal	01
10.	Dr.Arvind Paul	Geography	01
11.	Dr.Reenu Devi	Geography	01
12.	Dr. Ritu Sharma	English	02
13.	Dr. Munish Sharma	Commerce	04
14.	Mr. Pradeep Kumar	Commerce	01
15.	Ms. Reeta Devi	Commerce	01
Total Research Publications			30


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**Dr. Anurita Saxena(Principal, RKMV)Research
Publication**



Anurita
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TRADITIONS IN TRANSFORMATION: EXPLORING ART, CRAFT AND CULTURE OF DODRA AND KAWAR

Dr. Anurita Saxena

Principal, Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya (RKMV) Shimla, HP



ABSTRACT

Preservation of traditional arts, crafts, cultural activities, and indigenous knowledge systems is essential to preserve the cultural history and distinctive character of remote communities, who, represent a complex balance between human existence and nature and serve as outstanding guardians of varied socio-cultural traditions in the face of challenges from migration, urbanization, and socioeconomic changes. In this context, this paper explores the cultural landscapes of Dodra and Kawar, probably the remotest and one of the most backward areas of Himachal Pradesh. The ecological knowledge, folklore, and traditional crafts that have been passed down through the years in Dodra and Kawar (villages) are treasure troves that demonstrate the community's profound regard for its natural surroundings and cultural legacy. However, opening of the area and modernization pose a danger to traditional customs, questioning their ability to endure. The findings of this paper suggest that merging cultural revitalization efforts with sustainable tourism could strengthen social cohesion and promote economic empowerment, offering pathways for community-driven sustainable development. Highlighting the necessity of policy interventions and adaptable frameworks to support heritage conservation, this paper contributes to broader discussions on heritage preservation, sustainable cultural tourism, and the role of indigenous knowledge in building resilient, culturally vibrant communities, showcasing Dodra and Kawar's cultural and economic potential within the Himalayan region.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage; Ecological Wisdom; Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Sustainable Cultural Tourism; Traditions.

Introduction

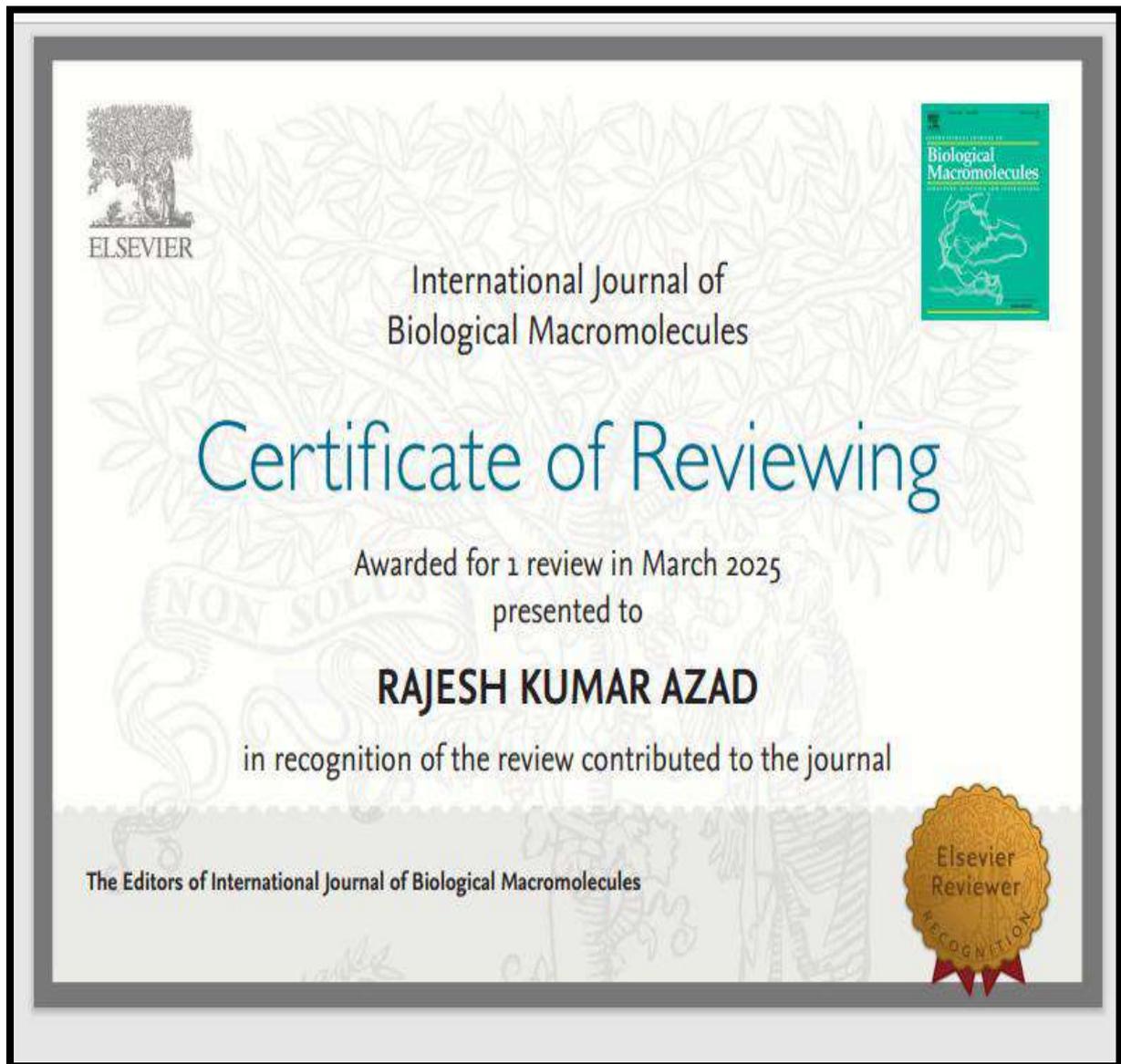
Dodra and Kawar regions of Himachal Pradesh are in the rugged Ruppin valley of Shimla district and were isolated from the main land till 2009. They are home to unique cultural practices and traditional art forms shaped by centuries of isolation and environmental adaptation. Known for their distinct heritage, these areas embody an intricate interplay of folklore, rituals, and artisanal crafts, marking them as culturally rich landscapes within the Western Himalayas (Negi, 2020). The indigenous crafts of Dodra and Kawar, such as metalworking, weaving, and woodcarving, are more than just means of subsistence; they have deep symbolic significance that are connected to the community's social and spiritual identity (Thakur, 2018). However, local communities are gradually seeing a change from traditional to contemporary lifestyles due to the rise of tourism, contemporary media and some adjustments made to meet the expectations of young generation and visitors (Sharma, 2021).

This paper explores these shifts, looking at how outside cultural influences and financial incentives are changing the customs and festivals of the area while igniting discussions about commercialization and authenticity. It also contributes to the broader discourse on preserving intangible cultural heritage in the face of modernization, aligning with UNESCO's efforts to safeguard traditional arts and cultures worldwide (UNESCO, 2003).

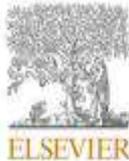
Review of Literature

The transformation of traditional cultural practices in remote areas like Dodra and Kawar is part of a broader phenomenon observed in indigenous communities around the world. Recent research explores the pressures and adaptations experienced by these regions as they interact with modern economic, social, and environmental changes. Appadurai (1996) introduced the concept of "cultural flows," highlighting how global interactions can lead to the reshaping of local identities. Studies by Roy and Sharma (2017) and Thakur (2018) emphasize that their crafts are not only a means of livelihood but also embody local values and narratives. In the face of modernization, however, there is an observable decline in the number of artisans as younger generations pursue different careers, leading to a risk of these skills becoming obsolete (Singh and Sood, 2020; Mehta, 2018). Similarly, Sharma (2021) highlights that tourism-driven adaptations can dilute the authenticity of local festivals and crafts, transforming them into performances rather than genuine cultural expressions. Youth migration is another significant factor influencing the preservation of traditional culture. Research by Chopra (2016) and Verma (2020) reveals that

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Purification and characterization of α -amylase from *Acanthoscelides obtectus* (Say) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Acanthoscelides obtectus
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ABSTRACT

Acanthoscelides obtectus is one of the most notorious pests of stored kidney beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) worldwide. Kidney beans are an important source of food for these insects. α -Amylase is the main carbohydrate-digesting enzyme in animals including insects. In the current study, the biochemical analysis revealed higher α -amylase activity (U/ml) in 3rd and 4th larval instars but decreased gradually in subsequent developmental stages. However, the specific activity (U/mg) interestingly was highest in 1st instar and decreased in further developmental stages. During qualitative analysis of α -amylase using starch-agar and native PAGE, the maximum zone of starch lysis and a prominent band on the gel was observed in 3rd and 4th larval stages. The molecular mass of the native enzyme was also estimated and found to be 30.34 kDa. The crude α -amylase was further purified by ammonium sulfate precipitation, gel filtration on a Sephadex G-75, and ion exchange chromatography on the DEAE cellulose column. The purified amylase was found to be a monomer with a molecular mass of 15 kDa. The specific activity of the purified enzyme increased from 1.74 U/mg in the crude sample to 166.35 U/mg in the final purification step resulting in 95-fold purification with a yield of 11.14%. Further characterization of purified α -amylase revealed a pH optimum of 7.0 and a temperature optimum of 35 °C. Lineweaver-Burk plot analysis revealed K_m and V_{max} to be 0.09% and 3.3 U/mL, respectively. Oxalic acid, tannic acid, and $HgCl_2$ significantly inhibited the enzyme, while the Na^+ , Ca^{++} and Mg^{++} ions acted as activators. In conclusion, the study revealed, the highest α -amylase activity in 3rd and 4th larval stages of *Acanthoscelides obtectus* followed by native and SDS PAGE resulting in molecular mass of 30.34 and 15 kDa respectively.

1. Introduction

Insect pests are most successful and diverse creatures on Mother Earth, most of them attack agricultural commodities and stored food grains thus causing huge losses. The two major orders of insects, Coleoptera and Lepidoptera represent economically most important post-harvest pests causing extensive damage to stored grains and grain products [1]. The major part of food requiring digestion by insects includes cellulose and starch, the polymers of glucose units having α and β linkage [2]. Kidney Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) constitutes a major food source of coleopteran insects owing to their high amount of carbohydrate and protein contents. Insects, particularly different larval stages of bean weevils feed on starch-laden seeds, depending heavily on the α -amylases for their survival [3]. The bean weevil, *Acanthoscelides obtectus* is one of the most detrimental pests of stored kidney beans worldwide. The egg-laying pattern of this pest is unique as most of the eggs are laid freely between the seeds and a very small number of eggs

adhere to the seeds. After hatching, the first instar larvae find their way onto the seeds and dig holes to burrow into the seeds. With voracious feeding, further larval stages develop in the host seed ([4]; [5]). The larvae of *A. obtectus* degrade proteins and carbohydrates of *P. vulgaris* with the help of its gut enzymes such as amylases and proteinases causing severe loss to the stored legumes kept for planting and human consumption [6,7]. α -Amylases (α -1,4-glucan-4-glucanohydrolases, E. C. 3.2.1.1) comprise a group of endo-amylases that catalyze the hydrolysis of α -D-(14)-glucan linkages in polysaccharides like starch and glycogen. Being the first to encounter carbohydrates in the midgut, they are the most crucial enzymes for carbohydrate digestion. The presence of amylases has been demonstrated in larval midguts of many insects including members of Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Coleoptera [8,9].

One of the promising pest control methods could be the development of insect-resistant varieties by using inhibitors of digestive enzymes such as α -amylase that could be a potential target for inhibition thereby

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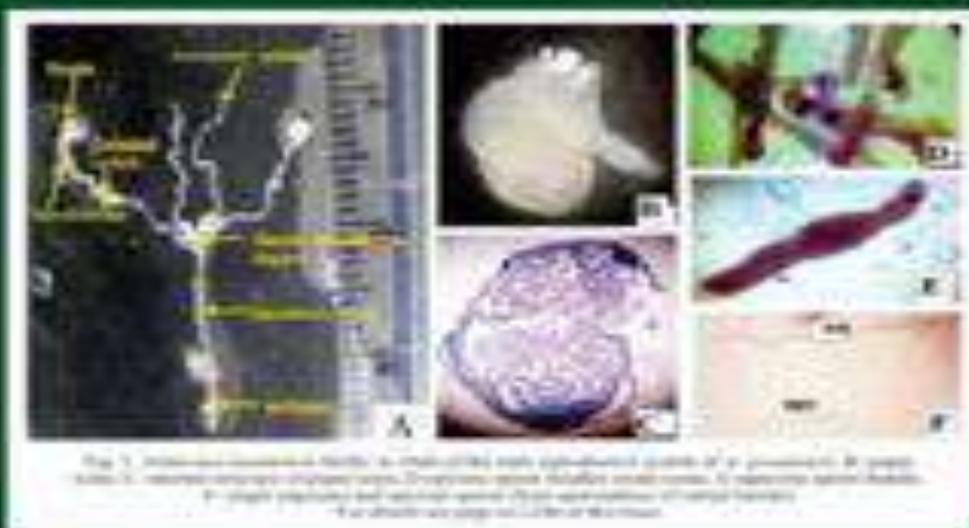
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TRYPSIN AND CHYMOTRYPSIN ACTIVITY IN DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF *ACANTHOSCELIDES OBTECTUS* (SAY) AND SCREENING *PHASEOLUS VULGARIS* CULTIVARS FOR INHIBITORY EFFECT ON BOVINE PANCREATIC PROTEASES

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to examine trypsin and chymotrypsin levels in *Acanthoscelides obtectus* (Say), a devastating pest of kidney beans and evaluate the efficacy of protease inhibitors from *Phaseolus vulgaris* cultivars against these enzymes of bovine origin. Trypsin and chymotrypsin were extracted from different developmental stages of *A. obtectus* and their activities were measured spectrophotometrically. The enzyme activity for both enzymes increased from 2nd instar to 3rd instar and showed decreasing trend from 4th instar to adults. The highest enzyme activity was observed in the third instar grub, with trypsin activity of 2.74±0.08 U/mg and chymotrypsin activity of 15.41± 2.18 U/mg. Additionally, ten cultivars of *P. vulgaris* were screened for their inhibitory potential against pure bovine pancreatic trypsin and chymotrypsin. The results indicated that the BASPA and PLB14-I cultivars were most effective, showing maximum inhibition of 84% against trypsin and 93% against chymotrypsin respectively. Moreover, successful inhibition of bovine protease offers insight into how inhibitors derived from plant sources might inhibit insect proteases in vivo using a similar approach.

Key words: Larval instars, kidney beans, insect pests, enzyme activity, inhibitory activity, pest management, enzyme extract, legume crops, enzyme inhibition, protein digestion

Proteases are the main group of digestive enzymes found in all organisms and are involved in digestion, proenzyme activation, peptide release, complement activation and inflammatory processes (Neurath, 1984). According to their mechanism of catalysis, the proteases are divided into different subclasses viz., serine proteases, cysteine proteases, aspartic proteases and metalloproteases (Terra and Ferreira, 1994; Naveed et al., 2021). Over one-third of all known proteolytic enzymes are serine proteases which are a large and diverse group of enzymes that play crucial roles in various biological processes such as digestion, blood coagulation, fibrinolysis, development, fertilization, apoptosis, and immunity. (Hedstrom, 2002; Di Cera, 2009). These enzymes are characterized by the presence of a serine residue in their active site, which is essential for their catalytic activity (Terra and Ferreira, 2012). Trypsin (E.C. 3.4.21.4) and chymotrypsin (E.C. 3.4.21.1) are two well-known examples of serine proteases that have been extensively studied in both vertebrates and invertebrates, including insects (Kraut, 1977; Terra and Ferreira, 1994; Di Cera, 2009). Both enzymes are widespread in the digestive tract of most insect orders such as Diptera, Lepidoptera and Coleoptera (Yang and Davies, 1971; Borovsky and Schlein, 1988; Lazarevic and Tomanic, 2015). These

proteases break the protein chain on the carboxyl side of basic L-amino acids such as lysine or arginine and the carboxyl side of aromatic amino acids (Terra and Ferreira, 2012).

Acanthoscelides obtectus (Say) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), a destructive pest of *Phaseolus vulgaris* degrades proteins with the help of gut enzymes like trypsin and chymotrypsin and causes severe loss to the stored legume seeds kept for planting and human consumption (Southgate, 1979). Over the years, synthetic pesticides and fumigants have been used against this pest which are harmful to the environment. Moreover, the continuous use of these chemicals has led to the development of insecticidal resistance (Brown, 1969; Mallet, 1989; Naqqash, 2016). Therefore, nowadays, focus has been shifted to more environment-friendly pest management methods such as the use of biopesticides and parasitoids. The use of protease inhibitors which have now been identified as major controlling agents that impair protein digestion in various microorganisms including bacteria, fungi and invertebrates like insects and nematodes (Jamal et al., 2013; Singh et al., 2020). Legumes have greater concentration of these protease inhibitors (PIs) which has given thrust to explore the impact of the PIs for


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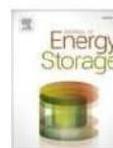
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Research papers

Morphotropic phase boundary evolution with synergistic effect of sintering temperature to improve electrocaloric and energy storage performances of lead-free $\text{Ba}_{0.95}\text{Ca}_{0.05}\text{Sn}_{0.09}\text{Ti}_{0.91}\text{O}_3$ (BCST) ceramic

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ARTICLE INFO

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Ferroelectric
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Energy storage density
Relaxor
Electrocaloric (EC) effect

ABSTRACT

The designing of lead-free ferroelectric ceramics for application in environment-friendly efficient electrocaloric cooling and energy storage devices is still challenging and need to be considered. A major challenge, however, is how to simultaneously achieve higher polarization and low hysteresis loss at low applied electric field. In this perspective, we comprehensively investigated sol-gel derived $\text{Ba}_{0.95}\text{Ca}_{0.05}\text{Sn}_{0.09}\text{Ti}_{0.91}\text{O}_3$ (BCST) ceramics by varying the sintering temperature to explore its electrocaloric and energy storage capabilities. The excellent $\Delta T \sim 1.03$ K, $\Delta S \sim 1.32$ J/kg.K and high electrocaloric responsivity $\Delta T/\Delta E \sim 0.34$ K.mm/kV at very low applied electric field of 30 kV/cm are obtained for pristine BCST sample sintered at 1400 °C. Additionally, we observed $W_{\text{rec}} \sim 136.18$ mJ/cm³ and giant energy conversion efficiency $\eta \sim 94.29$ % under very low applied electric field of 30 kV/cm for the same BCST sample. Our results reveal that control of sintering temperature contributes to a favorable and stable microstructure, including R-O-T phase coexistence and substitutional heterogeneity-induced nano-polar regions (PNRs) which strengthens the Polarization and supports the thin hysteresis loop. Thus all these factors simultaneously contributing to make BCST ceramic as a potential material for applications in advanced electrocaloric cooling and energy storage capacitors.

1. Introduction

The surge in power consumption for air conditioning and cooling systems is one of the biggest issues the energy sector is facing today. Moreover, the power demand for functioning of cooling and air conditioning systems is growing day by day because of continuous changes in global climate. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), approximately 4.3 Giga tons of CO₂ was released in year 2019 worldwide from heating building spaces, which is approximately 12 % of the total global carbon emissions [1]. Moreover, IEA has projected that the energy consumption will be doubled by year 2060 for cooling applications. Further, the unavoidable overheating of the microelectronic chips is the major concern as the modern multifunctional electronic devices approach toward high performance through continuous miniaturization. Thus, future multifunctional electronic devices also require advanced cooling systems with efficient cooling performance [2].

However, the majority of cooling systems presently available in the market use vapor compression (VC) technology, which have low energy conversion efficiency, noisy working, large size and also responsible for the emission of greenhouse gasses such as freons. Therefore, increasing research attention has been focused on the development of environmental friendly and energy efficient cooling or refrigeration technology. Interestingly, the electrocaloric effect (ECE) is an effective alternate with the potential to replace VC technology based refrigeration systems. The electrocaloric effect is defined as the change in entropy or temperature of dielectric materials when the applied electric field changes either adiabatically or isothermally. Generally, three parameters namely (i) adiabatic temperature change (ΔT), (ii) working temperature span (T_{span} is the temperature range ≥ 80 % ΔT_{max}) and (iii) electrocaloric efficiency ($\Delta T/\Delta E$) are used to evaluate the electrocaloric performance of the dielectric materials. Therefore, any dielectric materials with significantly high ΔT , large T_{span} and ($\Delta T/\Delta E$) would turn out as the best

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Low field assisted electrocaloric effect and energy storage responses through optimization of morphotropic phase boundary by sintering temperature for lead-free $\text{Ba}_{0.95}\text{Ca}_{0.05}\text{Sn}_{0.09}\text{Ti}_{0.91}\text{O}_3$ ceramics

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Ferroelectric
Lead-free
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Energy storage
MPB
Electrocaloric effect

ABSTRACT

The development of lead-free ferroelectric materials is highly desired for next-generation energy storage and superior electrocaloric effect (ECE) applications. However, one of the significant challenges in lead-free dielectric materials is to obtain enhanced ECE and energy storage density at lower applied electric fields, needed for realization of sustainable and efficient energy solutions. Herein, the sol-gel elaborated lead-free $\text{Ba}_{0.95}\text{Ca}_{0.05}\text{Sn}_{0.09}\text{Ti}_{0.91}\text{O}_3$ ceramics have been synthesized and sintered at temperatures 1100 and 1200 °C. The sample sintered at 1200 °C exhibits low field assisted improved $\Delta T = 0.42$ K and $\Delta S = 0.52$ J/kg/K values and are closely associated with presence of MPB and relaxor characteristics. The enhanced recoverable energy density (W_{re}) and total energy density (W_{tot}) are also obtained as 79 mJ/cm³ and 87 mJ/cm³ for the same sample sintered at 1200 °C with excellent conversion efficiency of 91 % under a very low applied electric field of 30 kV/cm. The results demonstrate that the optimization of sintering temperature significantly affects the MPB evolution, microstructure and emergence of relaxor characteristics owing to vibrant polar-nano regions that result in enhanced ECE and energy storage characteristics. The present work would be beneficial for advancement of lead-free ferroelectric materials as an efficient electrocaloric cooling and sustainable green energy solutions.

1. Introduction

In recent years, lead-free ferroelectric materials have shown a lot of research interest owing to their electrocaloric properties and energy storage characteristics. The electrocaloric cooling devices based on electrocaloric effect (ECE) are more environmentally friendly than conventional refrigeration systems. Additionally, their compact size and high efficiency make them promising for cooling microelectronic components [1]. Indeed, the observation of a huge $\Delta T = 12$ K under applying electric field of 480 kV/cm around 499 K by Mischenko et al. [2] in $\text{PbZr}_{0.95}\text{Ti}_{0.05}\text{O}_3$ thin films has intensified research interest towards ECE investigation. However, due to environmental concerns regarding lead-based materials, there has been a shift towards lead-free systems. In fact, there are various lead-free perovskites such as titanium based perovskites [3–5] which can be used for diverse applications such as electrocaloric effect and energy storage devices. Also, another lead-free perovskites such as manganites [6,7] that may be useful for energy storage applications. Interestingly, research now emphasizes the

development of lead-free materials with a high and stable electrocaloric effect near room temperature. In lead-free BaTiO_3 -based ceramics, a significant electrocaloric response is typically observed at the Curie temperature (T_c), and is reduced above or below T_c [8]. It means that a wide temperature range of the ferroelectric to paraelectric transition state with low T_c may provide a very effective way to achieve high ECE performance in these ceramics. Another important aspect in exploring electrocaloric materials is to obtain high ECE performance by applying low electric field. It is well established that $\text{Ba}_{0.95}\text{Ca}_{0.05}\text{Sn}_{0.09}\text{Ti}_{0.91}\text{O}_3$ (BCST) ceramics also exhibits multiphase coexistence (Cubic-Tetragonal-Orthorhombic-Rhombohedral) i.e. morphotropic phase boundary (MPB) around room temperature. The MPB close to room temperature can provide a huge adiabatic temperature change (ΔT) and enhances electrocaloric response of the ceramic. In addition, an enhance ECE can be easily induced using a low electric field in BaTiO_3 -based ceramics having MPB due to lower energy barrier for switching between the polarization states [9]. Additionally, the ECE is influenced by temperature-dependent polarization changes, which are notably

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CERTIFICATE

I have the pleasure to certify that the article titled, "**Knitting Repository of Lahauli Socks and Gloves of Lahaula Tribe of Lahaul Valley, Himachal Pradesh**" of **Ms. Preeti Sood, Asst. Professor, Department of Home Science, Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)** and **Dr. Anu H. Gupta, Asst. Professor, UIFT & VD Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh**, will be published in the "**Tribal Studies: A Journal of COATS**", Vol- XIII, Issue No-1 in the month of June, 2025.

It may be noted that the journal bears the ISSN No.2321- 3396 and finds a place in the UGC Care list.

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Certificate of Publication

Is here by awarding this certificate to **Dr./Prof./Mr./Mrs./Ms.**

Dr. Praveen Bhatia

Associate Professor (Music Instrumental) Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya,

Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) INDIA

In recognition of the publication of the paper entitled

Indian Instrumental Music: A Comprehensive Study of its Evolution

Published in July to September 2024 E-Journal, Volume I, Issue XL XLVII



Ashish Narayan Sharma

ASHISH NARAYAN SHARMA

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Indian Instrumental Music: A Comprehensive Study of its Evolution

Dr. Praveen Bhatia*

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Abstract : Music as a genre is widely classified into two types- Vocal and instrumental. The Instrumental Music is known as "Vadhyā Sangeet". Indian instrumental music is a crucial aspect of Indian culture that reflects the country's vast cultural heritage and has significantly influenced the global music scene. As every art needs a strong medium to express its apparatus and uniqueness, similarly, a musical instrument is a medium to express the musical "Nada", which has significance all over the world. The present paper explores the rich and diverse history of Indian instrumental music, tracing its origins and examining its evolution through various historical periods. Furthermore, it highlights the role of key instruments and musicians in shaping Indian instrumental music and discusses its contemporary significance. By examining archaeological evidence, historical texts, and scholarly analyses, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the development and impact of Indian instrumental music.

Keywords: Music, Instrument, evolution, musicians, contemporary significance.

Introduction - Indian music is one of the oldest and most diverse musical traditions in the world. The roots of Indian instrumental music can be traced back to ancient times, characterized by a complex interplay of cultural, religious, and social influences. From the resonant sounds of the Vedic chants to the sophisticated compositions of classical music, Indian instrumental music has evolved into a multifaceted art form. This study aims to explore the origins and development of Indian instrumental music, analyzing its historical context, key instruments, and prominent figures. By understanding the past, we can better appreciate the contributions of Indian instrumental music to both Indian culture and the global music landscape.

Objectives:

1. To investigate the origins of Indian instrumental music and its historical context.
2. To analyze the development of key instruments and styles over time.
3. To explore the influence of external cultures on Indian instrumental music.
4. To examine the role of prominent musicians and their contributions.
5. To assess the contemporary relevance of Indian instrumental music.

Methodology: This research is based on a comprehensive review of historical texts, archaeological findings, and academic literature. It utilizes qualitative analysis to explore the cultural, historical, and social factors that have shaped Indian instrumental music. Additionally, the study

incorporates insights from interviews with musicians and musicologists to provide a nuanced understanding of the subject.

Indian Classical Music: Vocal music involves meaningful words in any language combined with musical notes known as Swaras. In contrast, instrumental music uses the same swaras, but instead of words, it employs Boles. These boles replace lyrics and are used to create music through musical instruments. For example, in compositions for plucked instruments, boles like "Da," "Dir," and "Dara" are played. Indian classical music is mainly individualistic in nature. Consequently, our instruments are designed to be played solo. Indian musicians view music as a path to reach divinity, which is why they engage in 'swara-sadhana' (tone-culture) while singing or practicing their instruments. They become so immersed in this practice that they lose awareness of their surroundings, merging their identity with 'Nadabrahma'. This solo nature of Indian musical instruments aligns with the individualistic approach to music. In Indian classical music, there are no fixed or pre-written compositions. Each instrumentalist acts as a composer and has complete freedom to interpret the medium of their choice, within the framework of a raga.

History and Development of Indian Instrumental Music: Musical instruments have played a significant role in the evolution and development of Indian classical music. The history of Indian instrumental music is vast and detailed. To better understand this extensive history, it can be divided into three main periods: ancient times, the medieval era,

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हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत में प्रयुक्त होने वाले राग विस्तार के तत्वों का अनुशीलन : एक अध्ययन

Dr Praveen Bhatia

Associate Professor RKMV Shimla

सार

हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत की परंपरा राग की अवधारणा में गहराई से निहित है, जो एक मधुर ढांचा है जो सुधार और रचना की आत्मा बनाता है। यह शोध हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत के संदर्भ में राग के विस्तार (विस्तार) में शामिल प्रमुख तत्वों की खोज करता है। अध्ययन अलाप, जोर, झाला, बंदिश और तान जैसे विभिन्न संरचनात्मक और अभिव्यंजक घटकों पर केंद्रित है, साथ ही मीड, गमक, कण और आंदोलन जैसी तकनीकों पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित करता है, जो राग की गहराई और भावनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति में योगदान करते हैं। गायन और वादय दोनों परंपराओं में इन तत्वों की भूमिका का विश्लेषण करके, शोध इस बात पर प्रकाश डालता है कि कलाकार राग के ढांचे के भीतर रहते हुए कैसे सुधार और रचनात्मकता का उपयोग करते हैं। अध्ययन राग विस्तार के शैक्षणिक पहलुओं की भी जांच करता है, विभिन्न घरानों (स्कूलों) की तुलना करता है और राग विकास के लिए उनके दृष्टिकोण की जांच करता है। प्रदर्शन रिकॉर्डिंग के गुणात्मक विश्लेषण, चिकित्सकों के साथ साक्षात्कार और शास्त्रीय ग्रंथों की समीक्षा के माध्यम से, इस पेपर का उद्देश्य हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत में राग विस्तार कैसे एक कलात्मक और अनुशासित प्रक्रिया है, इसकी व्यापक समझ प्रदान करना है। निष्कर्ष नवाचार और परंपरा के बीच संतुलन पर प्रकाश डालते हैं, तथा यह बताते हैं कि किस प्रकार यह नाजुक अंतर्संबंध भारतीय शास्त्रीय प्रदर्शन के गतिशील विकास को आकार देता है।

मुख्य शब्द: हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत, राग, विस्तार

परिचय

हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत, कर्नाटक संगीत के साथ भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत की दो प्रमुख परंपराओं में से एक है, जो सदियों पुरानी मौखिक और प्रदर्शन-आधारित परंपराओं में गहराई से निहित है। इस संगीत प्रणाली के केंद्र में राग की अवधारणा निहित है, एक अद्वितीय मधुर ढांचा जो रचना, सुधार और भावनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति के लिए आधार के रूप में कार्य करता है। पश्चिमी पैमानों के विपरीत, राग केवल नोटों या स्केल का एक सेट नहीं है, बल्कि एक समृद्ध, जीवंत रूप है जो विशिष्ट स्वर अनुक्रमों को विशिष्ट मधुर आंदोलनों, मनोदशा (रस) और प्रगति के नियमों के साथ जोड़ता है। राग



नव निकष

हिन्दी साहित्य के नव उत्कर्ष, नव संचितना
और नव भावबोध की प्रतिनिधि माहिरकी

आई.एस.एस.एन-०६७५-०८२७



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पत्रिका में प्रकाशित विचार लेखकों के हैं। सम्पादक की सहमति आवश्यक नहीं है।



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नारी विमर्श: एक बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण

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पस्तावना:-

नारी विमर्श आधुनिक समाज के बौद्धिक, सांस्कृतिक और नैतिक पुनरावलोकन की एक सशक्त प्रक्रिया है। यह स्त्री को परंपरागत सीमाओं से मुक्त कर उसकी अस्मिता, स्वतंत्रता और आत्मसम्मान के अधिकार की मांग करता है। पितृसत्ता द्वारा रचित सामाजिक ढाँचे में स्त्री को हमेशा एक 'दूसरे' रूप में देखा गया, जहाँ उसकी भूमिका सेवा, समर्पण और त्याग तक सीमित रही। यह विमर्श केवल स्त्रियों की पीड़ा और असमानता पर चर्चा नहीं करता, बल्कि एक समतामूलक समाज की रचना की ओर भी संकेत करता है।

इस शोध आलेख में हिंदी साहित्य में नारी विमर्श की परंपरा, विकास और विविध रूपों का सम्यक विश्लेषण किया गया है। आलेख में यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि नारी विमर्श केवल स्त्रियों की पीड़ा या शोषण की कहानी नहीं है, बल्कि यह उनकी चेतना, संघर्ष, आत्मबोध और सामाजिक हस्तक्षेप की प्रक्रिया का सशक्त स्वरूप है। आलेख में वैदिक युग से लेकर आधुनिक काल तक स्त्री की स्थिति का ऐतिहासिक अनुशीलन किया गया है, साथ ही महादेवी वर्मा, मन्नू भंडारी, महाश्वेता देवी, वंदना टेटे जैसे रचनाकारों के साहित्य में स्त्री के बदलते स्वरूप को भी उकेरा गया है।

विशेष रूप से आदिवासी स्त्री विमर्श के अंतर्गत सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक और जातिगत शोषण के प्रतिरोध को रेखांकित किया गया है। नारी विमर्श एक व्यापक सामाजिक आंदोलन का हिस्सा है, जो साहित्य के माध्यम से समाज को अधिक न्यायपूर्ण, समावेशी और मानवीय बनाने की दिशा में प्रयासरत है।

शोध का उद्देश्य

इस शोध आलेख का उद्देश्य नारी विमर्श की ऐतिहासिक और बौद्धिक पृष्ठभूमि की पड़ताल, हिंदी साहित्य में स्त्री की उपस्थिति और स्वर, समकालीन संदर्भों में नारी विमर्श की



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अमृतलाल नागर के उपन्यास 'नाच्यो बहुत गोपाल' में
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सारांश:-

भारतीय साहित्य में अमृतलाल नागर का विशिष्ट स्थान है, जिन्होंने अपने गहन अध्ययन, संवेदनशील दृष्टि और यथार्थवादी लेखन के माध्यम से सामाजिक जीवन के विविध पक्षों को अत्यंत प्रभावशाली ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया। उनके प्रसिद्ध उपन्यास "नाचो बहुत गोपाल" में मध्यकालीन भारतीय समाज, विशेषतः भक्तिकालीन वातावरण का सजीव चित्रण हुआ है। यह वह युग था जब समाज जातिगत विभेद, धार्मिक पाखंड और सामाजिक विषमता से ग्रस्त था। तत्कालीन निम्नवर्ग, विशेषकर दलित समुदाय, घोर शोषण और अपमान का शिकार था।

यद्यपि अमृतलाल नागर स्वयं उस युग के प्रत्यक्ष साक्षी नहीं थे, फिर भी ऐतिहासिक तथ्यों, लोककथाओं, जनश्रुतियों तथा भक्तिकालीन संत साहित्य के गहन अध्ययन के आधार पर उन्होंने उस समय के सामाजिक यथार्थ को अत्यंत प्रामाणिकता एवं संवेदनशीलता के साथ अंकित किया है। उपन्यास में दलित वर्ग की पीड़ा, उनकी सामाजिक स्थिति, भक्ति आंदोलन के माध्यम से उनकी आत्मगौरव की चेतना तथा संघर्षशीलता का मार्मिक चित्रण मिलता है। अमृतलाल नागर हिंदी साहित्य में यथार्थवादी रचनाकार के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित हैं। उनकी रचना नाचो बहुत गोपाल में दलित जीवन के संघर्ष, पीड़ा, सामाजिक विसंगतियों तथा चेतना के उभार को अत्यंत प्रभावी ढंग से चित्रित किया गया है। इस शोध पत्र में उपन्यास में उपस्थित दलित चेतना के विभिन्न आयामों का विश्लेषण किया गया है।

मुख्य शब्द – अमृतलाल नागर, नाचो बहुत गोपाल, दलित चेतना, सामाजिक विषमता, यथार्थ चित्रण



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The Case Study of the Śākta Sculptures of Karsog Region of Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract. This paper attempts to study the Śāktasculptures of the Karsog region and how sculptural art and worship of Śakti spread in this region. This paper also brings to light some unpublished images from the imaginative, historical and iconographical perspectives. In Himachal Pradesh there are many temples dedicated to gods like Śiva and Viṣṇu but the popularity of the mother goddess appears to be more prominent. Sometimes Śiva and Śakti are given equal importance here. She is known by different names in different localities and villages. In fact, Himachal Pradesh was a stronghold of Śāktism which exercised also a great influence in the Karsog region of Mandi district of Himachal. Besides, throughout Karsog region one still finds an incalculable number of small shrines with all but formless forms of the goddess placed on their altars, and are worshipped by common village folks as Chandi, Kālī and Durgā. In some remote villages of the Karsog region the goddess is worshiped under a tree or an open space in comparatively lonely surroundings and in others, her sculpture is placed in a temple in the core of the village. Among all the manifestations of Śakti, however, Mahiṣāsūramardīnī is the most popular form. She is depicted as a slaying demon in animal and human forms with her trident. That in the Karsog region there existed the tradition of portraying the demon in anthropomorphic as well as in animal form in the early medieval period. These forms seem to have evolved independently in Himachal Pradesh as well as the Sutlej valley during the seventh or eighth century by the innovative artists of the region.

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SCULPTURES FROM KARSOG REGION OF SUTLEJ VALLEY

In the former state of Suket (now a subdivision of Mandi district) lies a small valley known as Karsog. It is drained by two streams named Imbla and Bimla which unite at some distance below the village of Mamel and then fall in the Sutlej river. It is a fertile tract and this area is famous for the temple of Mamleśwara Mahādeva and Kāmāksyā Devī Temple. The cult of Devī worship seems to be oldest in this region because there is also another temple which is dedicated to goddess that of Chaṇḍika at Chindi village, Jogini Devī temple located in an open space on the top of the hill of Mamel village and Annapurna temple which stands as the southern end of the Karsog town. She represents the maternal power which dominated this region.

Sun Worship in the Sutlej Valley: A Study of Sculptures in Karsog Region of Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh.

Mrs. Nisha Kumari
Department of History,
HP University, Shimla 171005

Introduction: Himachal is predominately a mountainous region with rivers that flow from the north-east to the south-western direction parallel to the main Himalayan Mountain. There is an enormous wealth of sculptures in the Sutlej valley region.

In the present study, the author has studied the Surya sculptures of the Karsog region of Sutlej valley. This paper attempts to study the Surya sculptures that are placed in the temples of the Karsog region and how sculptural art and Sun Worship spread in the Sutlej valley. This paper also brings to light several unpublished images from artistic, historical and iconographical perspectives.

In the Vedic period, certainly, the idea of worship of the sun is based on the concept of natural phenomena; Sun was held in the highest esteem and worshipped under such names as Suṛya, Savitra, Pusan, Bhaga, Vivasvat, Mitra and Visnu.³

In the times of Vedas, Brahmanas, Upanishads, Epics, Suṛas, Puraṇas and the Tantras, we get the references and description of images of the Sun. Even in the Buddhist and other literary sources, there is a reference to Sun worship. All these literary works make it clear that sun worship was practiced in the different parts of India⁴ and its worshipers were known as Sauras.⁵ The earliest reference for a personified Sun-god and his attendants is found in the *Aitareya Brahmana*.⁶ In the later text like *Brihat Samhita* of Varahmihra, for the first time, laid down the iconography of the image of the sun.⁷

SUN WORSHIP IN THE SUTLEJ VALLEY: The earliest evidence of sun in Himachal Pradesh we find in the punch-marked coins of tribal, janapadas such as Audumbaraś, Kunindas, and Kuluśas. Sun is symbolically represented in the shape of ray disc. After the downfall of tribal states there emerged various minor States such as Kuluśa, Suket and the rulers of these states claim their lineage either from the Sun or Moon.¹⁰ The Nirmand copper-plate of Samudrasena mentions that Suṛya worship was prevalent at Nirmand region of Sutlej valley.¹¹ The several stone Sun images of the deity from

Folk Elements in The Sculptures of DattāTreya MahāDeva Temple at Dattnagar, Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

The term 'folk' describes the common people of a society or particular region considered as the representative of a traditional way of life especially the carriers of the socio-religious customs and cultural practices of common people. It is also an emotional outcome of rural people's daily lifestyle. Art forms in Himachal Pradesh have been exquisite and attractive. It has had cultural influences as well as religious impacts. Himachal Pradesh has a rich heritage of regional culture. This is a mixture of multiple cultural traits originating from different sources. On the basis of field visit to the Shimla region of Sutlej valley of Himachal Pradesh, we have noticed an abundance of sculpture belonging from different phases of art forms; therefore, a study of the sculptures of the Dattātreya Mahādeva Temple at Dattnagar of Shimla region of the Sutlej valley is proposed in this study.

Keywords

Mahīśūramardini, Lakṣmī-Nārāyaṇa, Folk, Shimla Region, Śakti, Ornaments and Dress.

Introduction

There are many studies on many temples of Himachal Pradesh but there are many temples in different districts that deserve much more attention and careful study. The temple is a very important institution. Besides their religious importance it reflects the social-cultural life and various spheres of human activities.[1] One such temple named Dattātreya Mahādeva Temple is discussed in the present study. This temple possessed many stone and metal sculpture which are iconographically very interesting. In the Shimla region of Himachal Pradesh sculptors continue to fashion these sculptures which still serve the majority of the people in the temples, in processions for religious festivals in shrine. Therefore, we can say that artists, who made sculptures according to clearly defined rules in the text, and their style, developed their creative talent to realizing the figures according to the highest standard of which they were capable of. Thus perfection was initially an act of worship.

Objective of study

This paper attempts to analysis the sculpture and their iconographic features of numerous gods and goddesses of brahmanical faith. This paper also brings to light some unpublished images from the imaginative and iconographical perspectives. Therefore, the objective of my study is to shed some light on the peculiar or folk features of the sculptures of the Dattātreya Mahādeva Temple at Dattnagar of Shimla region. We find different unique types of folk or regional elements in sculptures of Dattātreya Mahādeva temple. Regional communities are an integral part of the culture and history of Himachal Pradesh, therefore regional elements influenced much the Himalayan arts and artefacts as we can notice in Indian art.

Review of Literature

Penelope Chetwode in her work, entitled *Kulu: The End of Habitable World* and also in her article 'Traditional Hindu architecture in Western Himalaya', published in

V.C. Ohri's edited book *Arts of Himachal* in 1975, deals with the architecture and sculptures of western Himalaya, especially of the Sutlej Valley.

Mian Govardhan Singh in his work *Wooden Temples of Himachal Pradesh*, (1999) and another work *Art and Architecture of Himachal Pradesh*, (1983) have discussed the temples style and architecture of Himachal Pradesh.


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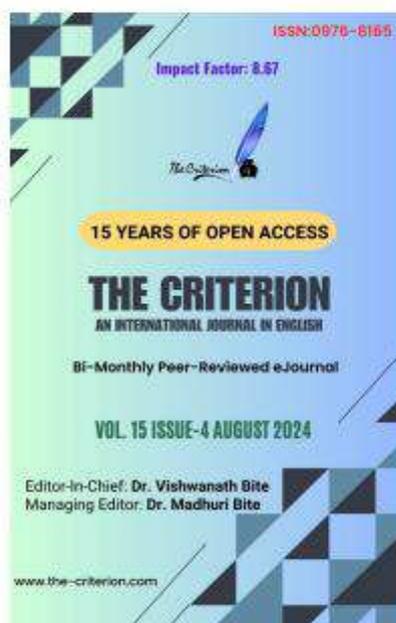
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Unveiling the Veiled: An Islamic Feminist Study of Orhan Pamuk's

Snow

Upma Sharma

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Abstract:

Pamuk's works are characterized by a confusion or loss of identity due to a clash between the Eastern and the Western values. His novel titled *Snow* delves deep into the complexities of modern Turkey. The country is torn between the Islamic fundamentalists and the secularists. *Snow* tells the story of Ka, a poet and political refugee, who returns to Turkey after spending more than a decade abroad. He travels to Kars, far in the east, at a time when the city is boiling with many socio-cultural, political and religious issues. One of them is a recent spate of suicides by young girls banned from wearing headscarves to school. While trying to learn more about the suicides, he finds himself drawn into a more significant conflict. The present paper examines how Pamuk portrays the female struggle for identity amidst religious and secular ideologies. It also aims to take into account the concept of Islamic feminism and the question of individual choice and freedom.

Keywords: Female struggle, Freedom, Islamic Feminism, Identity, Ideologies.

Ferit Orhan Pamuk, familiarly known as Orhan Pamuk, is a leading Turkish novelist. He is the most widely read, critically acclaimed and one of the most significant authors of this century. His work has sold over thirteen million books in sixty-three languages, making him the country's best-selling writer. Pamuk is the recipient of various Turkish and international literary honours, including the most prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature in 2006. He is the first Turkish citizen to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. During an interview in February 2005, with the

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THE INFLUENCE OF LYRICS ON EMOTIONAL RESPONSE IN MUSIC

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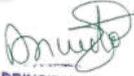
Abstract

There is a great influence that the lyrics of Indian music have on the emotions of those who listen to it because of the diversity of the phrases. This study is being conducted with the intention of gaining a deeper understanding of the ways in which the meaning of Indian music lyrics might influence the emotions of those who listen to them. The participants were presented with many types of Indian music, including classical music, Bollywood music, folk music, and devotional music, along with their respective lyrical equivalents. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods was used in the data collection process. In addition to the self-reported emotional responses, physiological markers such as heart rate and galvanic skin response were used in order to quantify emotional reactions. According to the results, lyrics have a significant role in the emotional effect of a song, particularly when they relate to the listener's sense of history, culture, or place of origin. Listeners are known to experience feelings of happiness and delight when they listen to Bollywood tunes and festive folk music. These kinds of songs feature lyrics that are lively and pleasant. Ghazals and other classic ragas, on the other hand, with their lyrics that are either melancholy or reflective, have the potential to elicit feelings of melancholy and introspection in their listeners.

Keywords: Lyrics, Emotional, Response, Music

Introduction

There is a range of feelings that may be evoked by music, ranging from happiness and enthusiasm to melancholy and reflection on the past. Music is a worldwide language that transcends cultural and linguistic borders. There is a widespread consensus that melodies, harmonies, and rhythms are the key drivers of emotional reaction in music; yet, the significance of words continues to be equally vital despite the fact that it is less well investigated. Lyrics, which are the linguistic component of music, have the exceptional capacity to express tales, thoughts, and feelings in a specific manner. They frequently serve to attach the emotional experience of a listener to concrete topics and settings. To fully appreciate the emotional resonance that songs have with audiences, it is essential to have a solid understanding of the relationship that exists between music and words. The atmosphere that is established by the music can be amplified, complemented, or even contrasted by the lyrics, which in turn shapes how listeners perceive and react to a


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Demographic Shifts: Exploring the Impacts of Population Ageing in North-West India

Reenu Devi*, Pankaj Aashish* and Arvind Paul**

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ABSTRACT

The demographic landscape in Northwest India is undergoing a transformative shift characterized by population ageing, which poses significant challenges and opportunities for the region. This paper investigates the specific impacts of population ageing on various societal, economic, and healthcare dimensions within the context of Northwest India. Through a comprehensive analysis of demographic trends, socio-economic data, and regional dynamics, we examine the implications of ageing populations on healthcare and intergenerational relationships in the region. Additionally, we explore the cultural and societal factors that influence the experiences of older adults and their families in Northwest India. Furthermore, this paper discusses potential policy responses and interventions tailored to the unique needs and challenges of ageing populations in the region, emphasizing the importance of culturally sensitive approaches and community engagement. By providing insights into the demographic shifts occurring in Northwest India, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the impacts of population ageing and informs evidence-based strategies for fostering healthy and resilient communities in the region.

Introduction

Population ageing or ageing of population is the ultimate consequence of demographic transition where mortality first and then fertility falls from a very high level to extremely low levels. Such alterations in mortality and fertility result in an increase in the number of the elderly, a fall in the number of children and young adults, and relative stability in the number in the central age group (Roland Pressat, 1989). In *The Dictionary of Demography* (1989), Roland Pressat defines ageing of the population as "alteration in the age structure of a population in the direction of an increase in the relative importance of old persons say those over 60, and usually reflected in an increase in the average age of the population". Population ageing is one of the greatest triumphs

of development in human history, meaning that the majority of people can expect to survive in to old age (Help Age International, State of World's Older Population 2002). The demographic landscape of Northwest India is experiencing a significant transformation characterized by population ageing, a phenomenon with profound implications for various facets of society. As life expectancy increases and fertility rates decline, the region is witnessing a steady rise in the proportion of older adults within its population (Bali, 2001). In this context, understanding the impacts of population ageing in Northwest India is paramount for policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and communities alike. This paper aims to

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Regional Patterns of Educational and Health Development in Himachal Pradesh: A Spatial Analysis^{1,2,3,4,5}

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Abstract

In Himachal Pradesh, the education and health systems were underdeveloped before independence, with education being accessible primarily to the affluent. Health, a crucial component of socio-economic development, serves as an index of social progress. This study investigates regional patterns of educational and health development in Himachal Pradesh using a spatial analysis approach. Despite notable advancements in human development, significant regional disparities persist in education and healthcare across the state's districts. The research utilizes secondary data. Geographic Information System (GIS) tools are used to map these inequalities, revealing distinct spatial patterns. The findings highlight socio-economic and geographical factors driving these disparities and propose targeted interventions, such as improving infrastructure, enhancing access to services in remote areas, and incentivizing professionals in underserved regions. Addressing these inequalities can promote inclusive and balanced regional development. This research offers valuable insights for policymakers and planners to design strategies for equitable and sustainable development in mountainous regions.

Keywords: Regional Disparities, Educational Development, Health Development, Spatial Analysis & GIS.

Introduction

Development not only generates economic growth but also distributes its benefits and empowers peoples rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities and providing for their participation in decision that affects their lives (Ali and Islam, 2014). The 1996 Human Development Report (HDR) published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states "Human Development is the end, Economic growth a means." Socio-Economic development ensures and enlarges the choices of people primarily by providing them with education, health, better nutrition, employment opportunities and social security. It is the development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women (Roy, 2008). The development of a nation is not measured through the buildings it has built, the roads it has laid down, the bridges it has constructed and like but by the human resources the nation has developed through a well-defined system of education (Tiwari, 2000).

Education is necessary organ for development of society. It is the basis for creating dissemination system that triggers technical progress which is main component of economic growth and productivity of labour. Thus, there is dialectical relationship between education and society. Social and educational developments are inseparable (Pal, 1995). The prosperity of the country does not merely depend upon the development of agriculture and industry but also on the system that transform the agriculture and industrial knowledge to aspirants (Kumar, 2000). There were no uniform educational facilities in constituent units of Himachal Pradesh. There was no proper organizational set up for education and even no institution for higher learning in any part of the state (Department of Education Survey and Data Processing, 1986). Planned educational development in the state commenced in 1950-51 with the launch of first five-year plan. Government paid special attention towards expansion of educational facilities.

Medical facilities are crucial to a check on morbidity and mortality rates of a population. The human misery related to disease is reduced and longevity of life enhanced with availability of

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Demographic Shifts: Exploring the Impacts of Population Ageing in North-West India

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Introduction

Population ageing or ageing of population is the ultimate consequence of demographic transition where mortality first and then fertility falls from a very high level to extremely low levels. Such alterations in mortality and fertility result in an increase in the number of the elderly, a fall in the number of children and young adults, and relative stability in the number in the central age group (Roland Pressat, 1989). In *The Dictionary of Demography* (1989), Roland Pressat defines ageing of the population as "alteration in the age structure of a population in the direction of an increase in the relative importance of old persons say those over 60, and usually reflected in an increase in the average age of the population". Population ageing is one of the greatest triumphs

of development in human history, meaning that the majority of people can expect to survive in to old age (Help Age International, State of World's Older Population 2002). The demographic landscape of Northwest India is experiencing a significant transformation characterized by population ageing, a phenomenon with profound implications for various facets of society. As life expectancy increases and fertility rates decline, the region is witnessing a steady rise in the proportion of older adults within its population (Bali, 2001). In this context, understanding the impacts of population ageing in Northwest India is paramount for policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and communities alike. This paper aims to

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**Regional Patterns of Educational and Health Development in Himachal Pradesh:
A Spatial Analysis^{1,2,3,4}**

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Abstract

In Himachal Pradesh, the education and health systems were underdeveloped before independence, with education being accessible primarily to the affluent. Health, a crucial component of socio-economic development, serves as an index of social progress. This study investigates regional patterns of educational and health development in Himachal Pradesh using a spatial analysis approach. Despite notable advancements in human development, significant regional disparities persist in education and healthcare across the state's districts. The research utilizes secondary data. Geographic Information System (GIS) tools are used to map these inequalities, revealing distinct spatial patterns. The findings highlight socio-economic and geographical factors driving these disparities and propose targeted interventions, such as improving infrastructure, enhancing access to services in remote areas, and incentivizing professionals in underserved regions. Addressing these inequalities can promote inclusive and balanced regional development. This research offers valuable insights for policymakers and planners to design strategies for equitable and sustainable development in mountainous regions.

Keywords: Regional Disparities, Educational Development, Health Development, Spatial Analysis & GIS.

Introduction

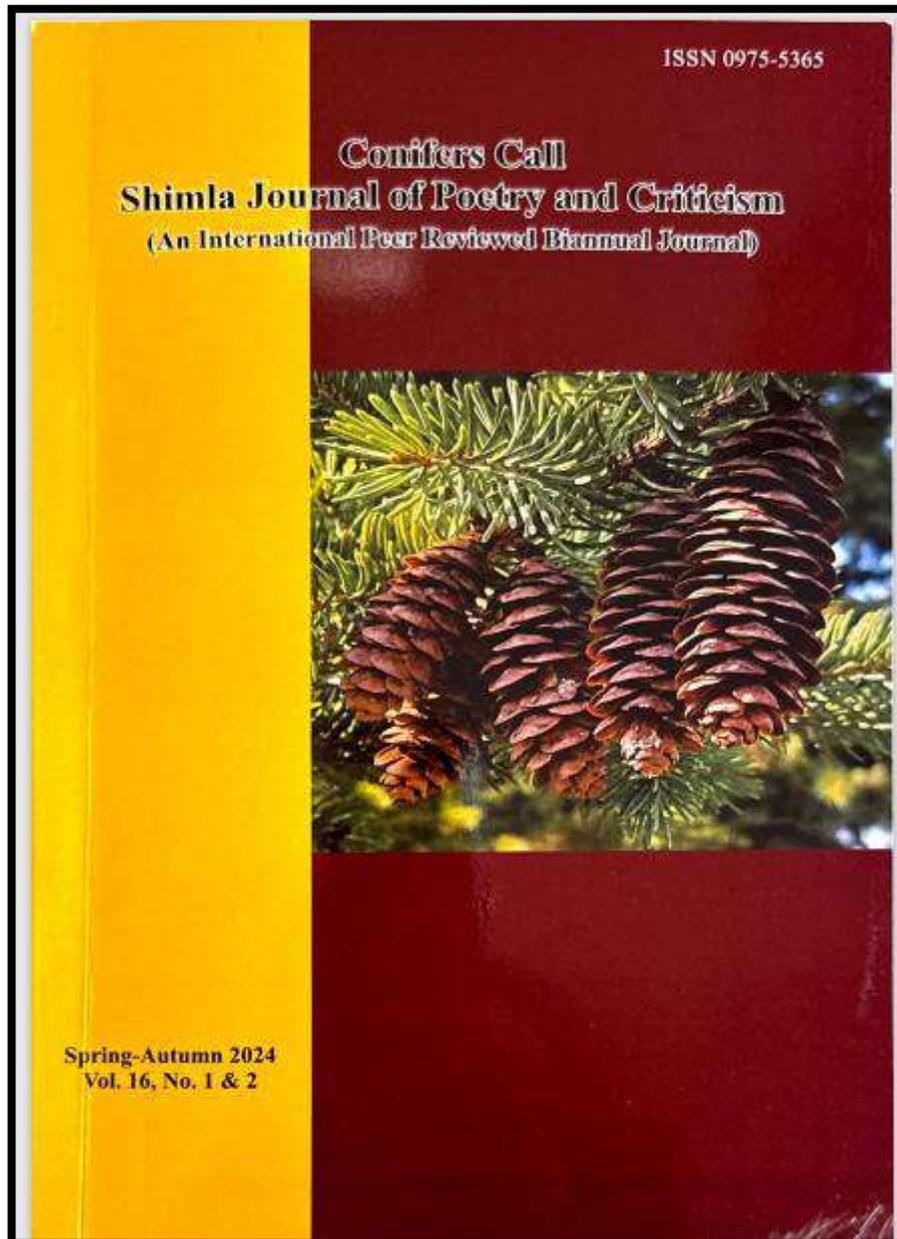
Development not only generates economic growth but also distributes its benefits and empowers peoples rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities and providing for their participation in decision that affects their lives (Ali and Islam, 2014). The 1996 Human Development Report (HDR) published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states "Human Development is the end, Economic growth a means." Socio-Economic development ensures and enlarges the choices of people primarily by providing them with education, health, better nutrition, employment opportunities and social security. It is the development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women (Roy, 2008). The development of a nation is not measured through the buildings it has built, the roads it has laid down, the bridges it has constructed and like but by the human resources the nation has developed through a well-defined system of education (Tiwari, 2000).

Education is necessary organ for development of society. It is the basis for creating dissemination system that triggers technical progress which is main component of economic growth and productivity of labour. Thus, there is dialectical relationship between education and society. Social and educational developments are inseparable (Pal, 1995). The prosperity of the country does not merely depend upon the development of agriculture and industry but also on the system that transform the agriculture and industrial knowledge to aspirants (Kumar, 2000). There were no uniform educational facilities in constituent units of Himachal Pradesh. There was no proper organizational set up for education and even no institution for higher learning in any part of the state (Department of Education Survey and Data Processing, 1986). Planned educational development in the state commenced in 1950-51 with the launch of first five-year plan. Government paid special attention towards expansion of educational facilities.

Medical facilities are crucial to a check on morbidity and mortality rates of a population. The human misery related to disease is reduced and longevity of life enhanced with availability of


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Dr. Ritu Sharma Research Publications



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Bound by Honor: Towards a More Equitable Future for Women in South Asia

Ritu Sharma

Abstract

Honor killing is an extreme form of violence perpetrated against women in Pakistan and many other countries. It is linked with the rituals and customs of these countries. Attempts made by women to raise their voice against such killings and discrimination has met with a strong backlash by patriarchal forces who are opposed to women seeking their rights. The honor killing of Samia Sarwar in Pakistan is a pointer towards the discrimination against women. She was murdered for seeking a divorce from an abusive husband. Such discrimination against women is also carried forward when they move out of their houses for jobs or for seeking education. Their way of dressing in western attire and related independent behavior also has a social stigma attached to it. However, women have now started to raise their voice against such discrimination. An educated class of women has taken the lead in seeking equal rights and put an end to oppression that they face in their day-to-day lives. These women have started to raise their voice not only for themselves but also for those who go on to face the battering and deprivations silently. They have encouraged others also to come forward, raise their issues, expose the falsehood that is being spread in the name of honor, culture, and traditions. With proper education and gainful employment, more women can become economically independent and acquire the agency to effectively interrupt the oppressive conversation and discourse on women's position in society.

Keywords: *Honor killing, backlash, discrimination, agency, interrupt*

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Sustaining Shimla's Heritage: The Role of Self-Help Groups in Ecotourism and Craft Promotion^{p.p.57-61}

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Abstract

Shimla, the capital city of Himachal Pradesh, is renowned for its picturesque landscapes, colonial-era architecture, and rich cultural heritage. In recent years, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in and around Shimla have emerged as important contributors to sustainable tourism and local economic development, leveraging the region's tourist appeal to promote eco-tourism, handicrafts, and homestays. This paper explores the role of SHGs in fostering these sectors, assesses their impact on the local economy, and evaluates their potential as sustainable drivers for tourism-related businesses. Through qualitative research, case studies, and interviews with local stakeholders, this study aims to highlight the effectiveness of SHGs in integrating socio-economic empowerment with environmental conservation and heritage preservation.

Keywords: Self-Help Groups, eco-tourism, handicrafts, homestays & empowerment.

Introduction

Shimla, a hill station nestled in the Himalayan range, has long been a popular tourist destination. The region's natural beauty, pleasant climate, and proximity to major urban centers make it an ideal location for eco-tourism and cultural tourism. Considering the hilly terrain and lack of employment opportunities in such areas, the rural areas face numerous problems related to poverty, illiteracy, lack of skills, lack of formal credit etc. These problems cannot be tackled at an individual level and need collective efforts

In such a situation, Self Help Groups play an important role to empower their members by helping them save money, access loans, and start small businesses. SHGs also promote financial independence, build confidence, and encourage teamwork among members. The concept of SHGs began to emerge in India in the 1980s when NGOs began forming small groups of women to encourage collective savings and provide informal credit facilities. The movement took a significant leap in 1992 when NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) launched the SHG-Bank Linkage Program. With time, SHGs further expanded when they were integrated into government schemes like the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in 1999 and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011. These programs aimed to alleviate poverty by organizing the rural poor into SHGs and providing them with training, financial and marketing support. Over the years, SHGs have expanded beyond financial goals to address social issues such as education, health, and women's rights, transforming into a tool for holistic community development. Today, SHGs are a vital part of rural India's socio-economic landscape, fostering financial independence, promoting entrepreneurship, and building community solidarity. Their success lies in their grassroots approach, where trust, mutual support, and collective action empower individuals and improve livelihoods across the country.

Taking a leaf from these, the concept of SHGs has also gained importance in hilly areas like Shimla. The increasing influx of tourists has provided an opportunity for local communities to engage in income-generating activities through the development of handicrafts, homestays, and eco-friendly tourism initiatives. In this context, SHGs' have emerged as a critical mechanism for empowering women, promoting local crafts, and enhancing sustainable tourism practices. They empower women by promoting financial independence, leadership, and decision making, giving them a stronger voice in their families and communities. SHGs also provide

The Honor Paradox: Tradition, Modernity and the Human Cost¹⁸⁻¹⁴

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Abstract

This paper attempts to investigate various honor-related issues that women in traditional societies of the Middle-East, the South-Asia and other countries face. In these societies, a culture of honor is being prioritized at the cost of human lives. These have almost negligible occurrence in the developed modern western countries. However, with the advent of globalization and resulting influx of immigrants, the western world has also started witnessing many of these honor-related issues which are mainly confined to the immigrant communities only. The Western societies have for long practiced the concept of multiculturalism that lays greater stress on least interference with the culture and traditions of immigrant communities. In her text, Unni Wikan has linked the honor killings of Fadime and many other young women in the Scandinavian countries to the failure of multiculturalism and the assimilation policy of these countries. These modern societies have failed to recognize unequal power structures and the existence of patriarchy within immigrant communities. To take into account the above, they have now come forward with the concept of liberal multiculturalism. This concept highlights the importance of respect for culture and traditions of immigrants but at the same time lays greater stress on the human rights and the country's legislations.

Keywords: Immigration, multiculturalism, assimilation, patriarchy, human rights.

Introduction

The concept of honor being strongly linked to culture has become a way of life for people in many countries in Middle-East and South-Asia. In these countries, the societies are built on what are termed as traditional concepts in contrast to the concepts of modernity that exist in the developed Western countries. In these traditional honor-based societies, people are constrained to follow the culture of honor, which bestows greater rights to men than women. This is believed to be a time-tested culture that has endured the many ups and downs in its clash with modernity that has now attained greater predominance in the Western world. The classic definition of honor as given by Pitt-Rivers and quoted by Rowe states that "Honour is the value of a person in his own eyes, but also in the eyes of his society. It is estimation of his own worth, his claim to pride, but is also the acknowledgment of that claim, his excellence recognized by society, his right to pride" (Rowe 108). A person who is considered to be honorable is given the right to pride. The society then gives more respect and admiration for the person. In modern societies, a person is considered to be honorable based on his actions that benefit the society as a whole. There is no distinction between men and women. Both can claim to be honorable based on their work that is recognised by their society to be worth appreciating. In traditional societies also, at the evolution stage, this concept of honor was gender-neutral. However, over time, the concept of honor became associated with gender. "As time went on, the honor of a group (or individual man) depended on the behavior and morality of its female members (or his female relatives)" (Husseini 101). Women are expected to perpetuate the virtues of honor and respect even at the cost of their lives. Women are the keepers of honor and respect of their men and are also called the 'repositories' of family honor. Any deviance by women which impacts the honor of men warrants punishment. This unequal power structure has resulted in the strengthening of the patriarchy in traditional societies.

The Concept of Multiculturalism

With globalisation, there has been an influx of immigrants from the countries with traditional societies to the modern Western countries. These immigrants bring with them the culture and traditions of the countries of their birth which are totally at variance with the modern culture and practices of the Western world. The concept of honor which is prevalent in these immigrants is being viewed with surprise by the Western countries receiving the immigrants. The concepts of culture and society has brought to fore terms like multiculturalism, which was adopted

Green Consumer Practices: How Does Gender Matters?

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ABSTRACT

Green consumerism has evolved as a significant trend in global markets, which shows increasing awareness among buyers about the environmental impact of their purchase decisions. This growing concern about environmental sustainability is reengineering buyer behavior and impacting market dynamics in different industries. Despite the extensive literature on green consumerism and consumer behavior, several critical gaps remain that warrant further investigation. This study answers specific questions about how do environmental concerns of companies influence the evolution of green consumer behavior over time; what are the socio-economic factors that most significantly impact green consumer behavior and how do perceptions of product quality and effectiveness influence consumer willingness to purchase green products. This study is specific to Himachal Pradesh using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from a random sample of 706 respondents using online surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data has been synthesized using descriptive statistics such frequency distribution, percentages, mean, standard deviation, variance, skewness, and kurtosis. After then, demographic characteristics, particularly gender of the respondents has been used to cross-tabulate the associations. The hypotheses have been examined using Chi-Square Test of Independence and t-test. The analysis reveals significant gender differences in various aspects of green consumerism. Females are more influenced by environmental sustainability in purchase decisions, notice more green marketing, and are more affected by green marketing in their purchasing behavior. On the other hand, males show greater concern about the environmental impact of products before purchasing and have higher trust in companies' environmental claims. No significant differences were found in areas such as promoting brands as eco-friendly or supporting brands for their environmental commitment, suggesting that some perceptions of green consumerism are shared between genders.

Keywords: Consumer Behavior; Digital Platforms; Environmental Sustainability; Green Consumerism; Green-washing; Social Media.

JEL Classification: E71, D91, Q56.


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RESEARCH ARTICLE

YOUTH'S BUYING BEHAVIOUR THROUGH THE LENS OF INFLUENCER MARKETING

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ABSTRACT

Advancement in social media has made influencer marketing most popular way for brands to launch and promote their products and services. Therefore, influencer marketing leverages the followers' trust and reliability specifically among the youth. Thus, social media-dependent adolescents' purchase intent can be affected by influencer marketing. The genuineness, reliability, and engagement of influencers have transformed how marketers reach young customers. The present research study addresses adolescent acquaintance with Influencer Marketing, key experiences, potential, and risks, and how it affects youth buying behavior. This study is specific to Himachal Pradesh using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from a random sample of 506 respondents using online surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data has been synthesized using frequency distribution and percentage. Thereafter, demographic characteristics, particularly age of the respondents has been used to cross-tabulate the associations. The hypotheses have been examined using chi-square test of independence and ANOVA-F-test. The survey reveals that influencer marketing is a powerful tool for reaching young, urban consumers, especially through platforms like Instagram. However, the study underscores the importance of building trust, ensuring authenticity, and fostering long-term brand relationships. Brands and influencers must navigate these challenges to effectively engage with their audience, especially younger consumers who are more discerning about the credibility and ethical practices of influencer marketing.

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INTRODUCTION

Recent years witnessed a rapid growth of social media platforms leading to significant transformation in the landscape of marketing, where the most notable advancements is the growth of influencer marketing as a strategy where brands collaborate with individuals who have a strong online presence to promote products and services. Influencer marketing leverages the trust and reliability that the influencers have cultivated with the followers, particularly among younger demographics. Therefore, influencer marketing has now become a powerful tool to shape the buying intent of youth, who are highly engaged with social media platforms (De Veirman, Cauberghe, & Hudders, 2017). Youth are particularly vulnerable to social media because of trust and opinions of their peers they perceive as authentic and reliable (Jin & Phua, 2014). Traditional advertising relies on overt and intrusive messaging, whereas influencer marketing presents products and services in a more lucid way. The youth tend to value authenticity and transparency in the contents. The decision-making processes of young consumers have a crucial role of credibility and perceived expertise of influencers often leading

to higher engagement and purchase intentions (Hwang & Jeong, 2016). As the social media is interactive and allows young people to connect with influencers through likes, comments, and shares, the persuasive power of influencers is further increased accordingly. The emotional connect between the influencer and the followers are strengthened, which fosters a sense of belonging between them. As a result, rather than seeing influencers as merely marketers, youth is more likely to be impacted by the advice and opinions of influencers (Lou & Yuan, 2019). Therefore, influencer collaborations holds a higher priority than traditional forms of advertising in marketing strategies of businesses. The visual and content-driven nature of social media platforms makes influencer marketing campaigns targeting particularly the youth. These platforms let influencers to showcase products in a way that is visually tempting and contextually significant to their audience. The use of storytelling and personal experiences by influencers adds an additional layer of reliability, making the endorsed products more attractive to young customers (Casaló, Flavián, & Ibáñez-Sánchez, 2020). As a result, the visual and chronicle aspects of influencer content have become key drivers in shaping buying behavior of young consumers.


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RESEARCH ARTICLE

BUILDING FINANCIAL BRIDGES THROUGH DIGITAL CHANNELS AMONG THE YOUTH OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract

Digital platforms have altered business, communication, and client engagements. These platforms, which boost efficiency and innovation across industries, are vital to the global economy. Digital financial services have substantially boosted financial inclusion, yet consumers still struggle to access, afford, and feel comfortable utilizing them. Cyber security, digital literacy, and regulatory frameworks must be addressed to maximize financial inclusion. The most marginalized communities, who often face additional barriers to financial services, need targeted measures. Digital platforms can improve financial inclusion in Himachal Pradesh, notably by overcoming geographical and infrastructural barriers, according to studies. However, digital literacy, infrastructure, and technology access must be improved to realize this promise. Further research and policy attention are needed to distribute digital financial services' benefits across the state. Despite advances, the studies reveal that particular steps are needed to address remaining issues, such as cyberspace risks and digital literacy gaps. This study answers specific questions about how familiar youth are with digital platforms, how they use them, their key experiences, opportunities, and threats, and how different digital platforms are contributing to financial inclusion among youth in Himachal Pradesh. This study is specific to Himachal Pradesh using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from a random sample of 836 respondents using online surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data has been synthesized using descriptive statistical tools like frequency distribution, percentage, arithmetic mean and standard deviation. After then, demographic characteristics, particularly age of the respondents has been used to cross-tabulate the associations. The hypotheses were examined using Chi-Square Test of Independence and ANOVA/F-test. The study reveals that the modern digital channels have an important contribution in promotion of financial inclusion among youth, particularly for those aged 18-24 years, who are the most engaged and benefit the most from digital financial services. Despite high levels of satisfaction with the speed, convenience, and security of these platforms, challenges such as poor internet connectivity, security concerns, and lack of awareness persist, especially in rural areas. While

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Financial Literacy and Investment Decisions among Youth: An Analysis Using Prism of Age

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ABSTRACT: Modern financial management relies on financial literacy, which affects investment decisions. To make smart savings, borrowing, and investment decisions in the increasingly complicated financial world, one must grasp and utilize financial facts. Younger investors' decisions have received attention as they become more interested in financial markets. Studies reveal financial competence, risk tolerance, and societal effect affect these choices. Traditional financial education and modern social influence create a unique atmosphere where new investors are informed and affected by multiple sources. This accessibility has raised concerns regarding impulsive and speculative investment methods, as younger investors may trade high-risk securities without fully understanding the hazard. While the financial literacy initiatives are performing well in their execution, more thorough study is needed to investigate their influence on young investing behavior. Some particular research questions about how the socio-economic elements are related with financial literacy; and investment decisions and how the financial literacy influences the investment decisions among the youth have been tried to be answered through this research. This study is confined to the state of Himachal Pradesh, further grounded on both quantitative as well as qualitative approaches to gather data from a random sample of 631 respondents with the help of online surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data has been synthesized using descriptive statistics such frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, variance, skewness, and kurtosis. After then, demographic characteristics, particularly the age of respondents has been used to cross-tabulate the associations. The hypotheses were examined using Chi-Square Test of Independence and ANOVA/F-test. The survey highlights the critical relationship between financial literacy and investment decisions among youth, with age playing a central role in shaping both financial knowledge and investment behaviors. Enhancing financial literacy through education could lead to better investment decisions, improved confidence, and more informed financial behaviors among the youth.

KEYWORDS: Financial Literacy; Investment Decisions; Risk Tolerance; Regional Disparities.

JEL Classification: D03; J11; M21; P46.

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized world, financial literacy has emerged as a crucial component of effective financial management, significantly influencing individuals' financial decisions, particularly those related to investments. As the financial landscape grows increasingly complex, individuals must have the ability to understand and utilize financial information to make informed decisions about saving, borrowing, and investing. Financial literacy, therefore, serves as a foundation for economic stability and personal financial well-being. The efficient management of personal finances hinges on financial literacy, especially in an era where individuals bear more responsibility for their financial security [28]. The 2008 global financial crisis underscored the consequences of low financial literacy, as many individuals made poor financial choices due to a lack of understanding of basic financial concepts.

Financial literacy encompasses a range of knowledge and skills, including understanding financial products, interest rates, inflation, and the time value of money. Financial literacy as the ability to manage financial resources through the application of financial knowledge and skills [29]. It involves not only grasping key financial concepts but also applying them practically to make well-balanced decisions on budgeting, saving, investing, and borrowing. As younger generations show an increasing interest in financial markets, their investment choices have become a focus of attention. Studies suggest that these decisions are significantly influenced by factors such as financial knowledge, risk tolerance, and social influence. There is a critical role of financial education in equipping young investors with the knowledge required to navigate complex financial markets [26].

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Green Consumer Practices: How Does Gender Matters?

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ABSTRACT

Green consumerism has evolved as a significant trend in global markets, which shows increasing awareness among buyers about the environmental impact of their purchase decisions. This growing concern about environmental sustainability is reengineering buyer behavior and impacting market dynamics in different industries. Despite the extensive literature on green consumerism and consumer behavior, several critical gaps remain that warrant further investigation. This study answers specific questions about how do environmental concerns of companies influence the evolution of green consumer behavior over time; what are the socio-economic factors that most significantly impact green consumer behavior and how do perceptions of product quality and effectiveness influence consumer willingness to purchase green products. This study is specific to Himachal Pradesh using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from a random sample of 706 respondents using online surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data has been synthesized using descriptive statistics such frequency distribution, percentages, mean, standard deviation, variance, skewness, and kurtosis. After then, demographic characteristics, particularly gender of the respondents has been used to cross-tabulate the associations. The hypotheses have been examined using Chi-Square Test of Independence and t-test. The analysis reveals significant gender differences in various aspects of green consumerism. Females are more influenced by environmental sustainability in purchase decisions, notice more green marketing, and are more affected by green marketing in their purchasing behavior. On the other hand, males show greater concern about the environmental impact of products before purchasing and have higher trust in companies' environmental claims. No significant differences were found in areas such as promoting brands as eco-friendly or supporting brands for their environmental commitment, suggesting that some perceptions of green consumerism are shared between genders.

Keywords: Consumer Behavior; Digital Platforms; Environmental Sustainability; Green Consumerism; Green-washing; Social Media.

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