

Punjab Region: - “Political, Economic and Socio-Cultural Aspects” Problems and Solutions

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ABSTRACT

The present Punjab came into existence on 1st November 1966, as a result of re-organization of the state. It is 7th smallest state of India. Punjab is one of the progressive and developed states of India. It is confined 22 districts. But presently Punjab is facing various economic, political, educational and cultural problems. Economically, Punjab's economy depends upon agriculture. It has less industrial development. So most of the burden of economy on agriculture, which create the problem of fewer wages and disguised unemployment? Punjab has need of big investment which could boost the industry. If we see the Punjab as politically only one party is ruling from last 10 years which talking about only Sikh community. It is

responsibility of government to take initiative for development. Development is the only tool which can solve all problems. Western culture is entering in our culture. Our educated youth is migrating to other country in search of work. So Government must create job opportunities for youth. Government should also provide health facilities to people.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The word Punjab derived from the combination of two words i.e. Punj and Aab. The word Punj means five and aab means water. So Punjab means land of five rivers namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum. But presently only three rivers Flow through its territory. But in ancient times. The territorial jurisdiction of Punjab extended over large area. But now it is

confined only to 22 districts. From the point of view of area. It is 7th smallest state of India. Punjab is one of the progressive and developed states of India. The present Punjab came into existence on 1st November 1966, as a result of re-organization of the state. It is located in north-west of India. It has common boundary with Jammu and Kashmir Haryana and Rajasthan. The River Ravi and Sutlej separate it from Pakistan. Punjab has an area of 50.36 Lakh hectares of Land. It constitutes 1.5 per cent of the total area of India. According to 2011 Census. Its population was 2.77 Crore. Punjab's population is 2.5 percent of total population of India. There are 22 districts 81 tehsils, 145 development blocks, 74 cities, 143 towns and 12581 villages in Punjab. It is a triangular state. It is broader in the south and tapers towards the North. There are three main rivers in Punjab i.e. Sutlej, Beas, Ravi. They flow throughout the year. They are used for irrigation and power generation purposes. River Ghaggar also irrigates the areas under Patiala and sangrur districts Punjab is mainly a plain region. It has highest per capita come, highest Net area Irrigated, Highest yield rate and Highest contribution to National wheat and rice pool

Presently farmers of Punjab are living in critical condition. They are attempting suicide. They are suffering from the burden of debt. Young boys and girls are also using drugs. Not proper education system, Economic condition etc problems are facing by Punjab.

1.2 POLITICAL CONDITION OF PUNJAB

Presently Punjab is dominated by mainly two parties one is shiromani akali dal and the other is Indian National congress other Prominent party is bahujan Samaj party especially doaba region. In 1992 BSP won 9 seat vidhan sabha elections. Also BSP won 3 lok Sabha Seats from Punjab. Communist parties also has same influence in Malwa area. Presently effect of Aam Adami Party has also ever eased. If we see present situation shiromani Akali Dal and congress is most dominated Parties. They both are blaming each other. From last 10 years Shiromani Akali Dal in Power. In these 10 years. We cannot see any biggest achievement of government. Funds are used for un-production work. I think Government should spend their income in those projects who create income for government and

people. Government should not distribute free articles and it should distribute job so people become economically independent. During SAD condition of farmer very poor. They are doing agitation against Government some farmers are attempting Suicide. Day by day poor becoming poor and rich becoming More rich. Most of population of Punjab depend upon agriculture. So to reduce burden of population on agriculture. Government has big role in states development. Government must think about only state's development not about what must be previous government has done. It must launch developmental programme which improve the living standard of people.

1.3 ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PUNJAB'S ECONOMY

Punjab is developed state. Mostly Punjab's Economy depend upon agriculture. Punjab has good infrastructure. This includes roads, rail, air and river transport links that are extensive throughout the region. Punjab has also one of the lowest poverty rate. Punjab is one of the most fertile region. The region is ideal for growing wheat crop, Rice, Sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. Punjab is

also called the "Granary of India or India's bread basket. It produces 17%of India's wheat and 11% of India's rice. The principal crops of Punjab are barley, wheat, rice, Maize and sugarcane. Among the fodder crops are bajra and Jowar. In the category of fruits. It produces abundant stock of kinnow productions. In Punjab Malout Abohar belt is main belt of Kinnow productions. Agriculture sector is largest contributor to the gross state domestic product (GSDP) of Punjab. According to the study on Agriculture department of Punjab. There are need of some changes such as objective of agriculture must be change, training schools, soil conservation programmes,Extend agricultural Market etc. All these changes can be Improve the agriculture sector.

The state has essentially and agrarian economy with a lower industrial output as compared to other states of India. A prominent feature of the industrial scenario of the Punjab is it's small sized industrial units. There are nearly 194000 Small scale industrial units in the state in addition to 586 large and Medium units. Ludhiana is an important centre for industry. The industrial units in the state are broadly divided into three category.

- Agro Based industry
- Machinery units
- Chemical units.

Main Industry of Punjab are Textile industry, Sugar Industrial, dairy industry and power. If we compare Punjab with our neighbouring state Haryana. Haryana has performed better than Punjab over both the periods concerned over 1994-95 to 2001-02, Punjab grow at an average rate of 4.3% while Haryana Managed 6.4%. Over 2004-05 to 2011-12 Haryana's growth went up to 9.3% while Punjab stood at 6.9% But in industrial growth rate of Punjab is better than Haryana. In agricultural growth rate , Haryana is better than Punjab. So Punjab needs more improvements in Industrial sectors It increase gross state domestic product (GSDP), per capita income ,reduce Inflation and Create employment for educated and uneducated people. It will be helpful to reduce burden of Agriculture Which improve agriculture and also reduce the attemptation of suicide. By promoting Industrial sector be can solve the problems of agriculture.

1.4 EDUCATION IN PUNJAB

With Indian Government's specially designed plan and co-operation with state authority, most of the people of Punjab gained, preliminary education. The ever-increasing rate of literate people in Punjab states at 77%. At present centre and state government's tireless pursuit of providing quality education to everyone is literally changing the education atmosphere for good and developing student to lead the competitive world with ease.

In order keep up, with the pace of neighboring states, Punjab government concentrating on Implementing special idea such as establishment of portals for distance education ,technical education in Punjab university and Many more. Punjab government has confirmed to launch a comprehensions plan to provide technical education to students for leading them to Industrial opportunities. These well devised plans are advancing education in Punjab to a newer level.

Education influences economic, social and political level of country. An educated farmer has a broad outlook compared to an illiterate and ignorant farmer. He is more hard-working and capable. Natural sources

of a country can be properly utilized only if its Manpower is educated and technically trained. With the efforts of state and central government literacy rate is Improving day by day.

Men and women Literacy rate in Punjab(in Percentage)

Table-1

Year	Marks	Women	Total
1991	65.66	50.41	58.51
2001	75.2	63.4	69.7
2011	31.5	71.3	76.7

Source Census, 2011, 1971, 1981

According to Census 2011 Male literacy rate is more than female literacy rate is improving from last year Enrollment level also decreasing.

Table - 2

Year	Boys (in Thousands)	Boys percentage	Girls (in Thousands)	Girls Percentage	Total in thousand
1979	1140	55.1	927	44.9	2067
1984	1088	54.9	897	45.1	1985
1989	1108	53.9	947	46.1	2056
1994	974	52.8	871	47.2	1845
1999	880	52.0	812	48.0	1692
2000	970	52.4	880	47.6	1850
2001	948	52.3	863	47.7	1816
2011	734	53.11	648	46.89	1382

Source : Statistical Abstract of Punjab (Various issued)

Above table explains about number of primary school students in Punjab. Total number of students in primary schools of Punjab was 2067 thousand for the year 1979

out of which 55.1% were boys and 44.9% were girls. The number of primary school students in Punjab declined to 1382 thousand for the year 2011 out of which only 46.9% were girls students.

Table 3 gives information regarding teacher pupil ratio. The teacher pupil ratio in Punjab at primary level in 1979 was 1:40 i.e. one teacher handle 40 student at a time, which slightly declined in 2011(i.e. 1:38)

Table – 3

Teacher pupil ratio

Year	Ratio
1979	1:40
1984	1:42
1989	1:38
1994	1:42
2000	1:42
2001	1:44
2011	1:38

Source: - statistical abstracts of Punjab.

DROPOUT RATE

The dropout rate in the primary level of education in Punjab declined from 29.39% in 1988-89 to 20.36% in 2000-01 and it is less than national level (42.39%) in 1998-99 (statistical abstract of Punjab) According to figures released by ministry of Human resource Development, the dropout rates as determined in 2011, ranged between 44%

and 48% in higher classes and from 23% to 25% in primary classes in Punjab schools.

In order to compare enrollment, retention and reduce dropout rate of students in primary classes and also to compare the nutritional status of primary school students, Government of India launched a country wide scheme MID-DAY-MEAL scheme. Government of India takes various steps to

improve an education system such as right of children to free and compulsory education Act 2009.

To improve Punjab education system government of Punjab must play vital role. It should implement all those schemes and programmes effectively which has been launched by central government because development of any state depends upon Education.

1.5 SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF PUNJAB:

Punjabi culture is one of the oldest and richest cultures in world history and also one of the most vibrant. The Indian state of Punjab exhibits a unique cultural landscape, which thrives in both traditional values and utilitarian aspects. But presently Punjabi culture is losing its value because western cultures are entering Punjabi culture. People of Punjab like to eat and wear western. They also listen western music. They understand that it's their social status. Government is ignoring all these aspects. Akali government talks about Sikh community and Congress talks about water of state. There are not only problems of Sikh community or state water. There are various problems which they must seek out. Today

Punjab is facing the problem of poor growth of industries, poor education and health system. Improvement in these departments can save maximum economic and political problems. Punjab is also facing some other economic, political, educational problems. Such as diseases of cancer, unemployment, inflation, suicide by farmer, debt burden of farmer and migration of youth to foreign countries. So government should take steps to solve all above problems. Educated youth which is migrating to other countries also must be stopped.

2.1 CONCLUSION

From above paper we study about the political, economic, education and socio-cultural aspects of Punjab state. We conclude Punjab is suffering from various economic, political, educational, socio-cultural problems. There are poor conditions of farmer, farmers are attempting suicide. 56 farmer laborers' suicide cases in Punjab were registered on 11 March 2016 (Hindustan Times). Government made tall claims of attracting big ticket projects and huge investment from across the country, the growth rate in the industrial sector in the state for 2013-14 has been still crawling at

2.55% (Hindustan times) so people of Punjab wants change so all these problems can be solved.

10. Statistical Abstract of Punjab

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