

# DOCUMENTATION OF A FILM ON GADDI TRIBE:

Its History, Society, People, Profession, Nature, Art, Culture, Language, Literature and Lifestyle.

## 1. THE PEOPLE

**Gaddi Community**, blissfully nestled in the verdant amphitheatre of Dhaula Dhar, is passing through a transition. It has been a long journey, since the time of its historical **migration from the Central Asia, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western Punjab and some other parts of the country** to the remote mountains to

- rule,
- capture the land (Kshetras),
- establish Monastries (Goasthas) in ancient times,
- in search of peace in middle historical period and
- escape the persecution and bigotry practiced by the then Mughal rules.

From its self-contented, semi-pastoral lifestyle, the community is striving to cope up with the fast changing realities of the present day's socio-economic environment.

The rich **cultural heritage** manifested in its folklore, costume, jewellery and lifestyle, **is under serious threat, and may fade into oblivion**. The Community's values of equality, rectitude, honesty, self-contentment, cooperation, simplicity and camaraderie are slowly but inexorably **falling prey to evils associated with the modern day society**. Penumbra of confusion is dogging the community, especially the youth about the path to be chosen. Unable to recognize and appreciate the richness of this invaluable cultural heritage, the youth is easily tempted to adopt the so-called modern way of life' with all its accompanied evils.

On the life hold front, the community has taken a severe beating. With the shrinkage of pasture and grazing land, it is becoming next to impossible to support the traditional vocation of shepherding. Ever-increasing number is **leaving the profession and joining the burgeoning informal labour market**. **Gaddi, from a position of pride and self-contentment, is getting marginalized and joining the ranks of deprived and excluded**. Though everything is not lost, there is a need for giving a proper direction to lead this Community to a position of pride, self-reliance and confidence.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

There is a **need to propagate the rich cultural heritage** of the tribal community in proper perspective to the people in general. At the same time it is an attempt to motivate the people of Himachal Pradesh to

- conserve,
- protect and
- promote

the identity of the Gaddi by making our self aware of the glittering cultural values and by developing a sense of

- pride,
- dignity and
- confidence

among the people for our ancient socio-cultural norms which are eroding rapidly. Above all, the ultimate objective is to project and **build up a sound, beautiful and fine image** of our State i.e. with the help of an exhaustive tool of documentation of the Gaddi tribe on its history, society, people, profession, nature, art, culture, language, literature and lifestyle,.

### **3. THE TARGET AUDIENCE**

The audience shall be people of

- all age groups
- classes

of all over the world in general and people of India in particular with special reference to the people of Himachal Pradesh. The film will be visually strong, illustrative and potential enough to sustain the interest of the audience.

### **4. RELEVANCE OF THE FILM**

It is well known that there are many ancient tribes in Himachal Pradesh, **Gaddi Tribal Community of them is major which constitutes the sizeable population of this “Himalayan State”**. Each tribe has its own characteristics. Some of their features are similar whereas others are completely different having resemblance among themselves on the one hand and contrary on the other. So, it is the **Gaddi tribes and their respective Cultural, Sociological & Economic status that ultimately imparts the hue & colour to the State**. An effort to project the Culture of Himachal Pradesh is the description about Culture of Gaddi Tribe.

Ironically, the things are not as these were earlier. Study reveals that most of the features are geographically and demographically influenced. Yet there are others which are characteristics to one's community which are fast diminishing. In other words the Gaddi **tribe is facing a cultural invasion**, the factors being numerous. Consequently, the people avoid revealing their identity. Similarly the

media has been unfair to this state by projecting the image of a poor state of nomadic people.

So the need of the hour is to preserve the rich & fast diminishing cultural heritage of the tribes by making people aware and motivated towards it. Hence the need of a film arises on this tribe to highlight the salient features of its values. The film would be an exhaustive documentation of tribal values, which could be an important tool for future generations to know about its culture and customs.

## **5. TREATMENT**

The film would be in documentary format. Structuring of the events and sequence in it will be in structure of each tribal region with the conflicts and coherences present. The various events will be organized and screened from

- Jalasu Jot and Dhars - the happier days of Gaddies grazing flocks in summer ;
- Jatras and Nualas – the celebration of religious functions while in leisure;
- Marriages of Gadheran – the social obligations again in a period of leisure;
- Migration to plains – to escape hardship and in search of food for self and fodder for flocks;
- Stay at Jandhar – for a brief period to cultivate rabi in foothills;
- March to Plains – to bear harassment;
- Stay in Plains – for a longer period for exploitation of foresters and to exploit minimum resources of kind populace of lower Himachal;
- Spring Season and Hopes – of return to its land and leisure;
- Return Journey – again painful experience;
- Arrivals in foothills – again to reap the rabi and sow the kharif and
- March to Jalasu-Jot- for joy and leisure.

The films introduce the tribe and give a historical account and also illustrate the geographical and demographical conditions that have influenced the culture and tradition of the tribes. Hereafter, the film deal and highlight the salient features of the tribes critically from all points of view: Like:-

- History and society;
- Characteristic features that differentiate them from one region to other.
- Social Stratification;
- Socio-economic conditions;
- Folk Art and Artifacts;
- Mobility aspects;
- Culture;
- Languages, habit, habitat, art & artifacts;
- Marriages;
- Dresses;

- Ornaments;
- Music;
- Folklore;
- Superstitions &
- belief etc.

No. sequence would be dramatized unless it becomes inevitable to shoot it naturally. For this, extensive shootings are required.

Finally the films would deal with the present status of the tribe and analyses as to why it is facing a cultural invasion. For this some **experts would be interviewed** for their comments to add an authoritative element to the films.

Throughout, the **film would be supported by voice over the native and primitive music (original) to make the film more and more vivid. The sound track would be of international mix so that if need be it could be dubbed** into other languages also.

## 6. METHODOLOGY:

- Exhaustive Recci & Field research
- Academic research in consultation with experts.
- Script Development
- Shooting
- Post production

## 7. DOCUMENTATION

The whole process will be audio-video graphed and documented. The database then will be

- published,
- produced (Audeo-Vedee) and
- uploaded to web site on Internet and made available to the target audience.

8. **BUDGET**

The budget according to the format would be as under:-

- 16 M M Celluloid : 25.00 Lakh
- Betacom : 20.00 Lakh
- Umatic High Band : 15.00 Lakh