

# **PRESERVING THE OLD WORLD CULTURAL CHARM – A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO HERITAGE VILLAGE (GARLI –PRAGPUR), KANGRA, HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA**

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## **Abstract :-**

The old-fashioned yet appealing, historic cities or heritage villages are significant for their historical architecture & local culture with its intangible heritage resources. India is the multicultural country with its ancient civilization & rich cultural traditions. The village located in Himachal Pradesh with its scenic valley of Dhauladhar range i.e. Pragpur. The first heritage village of India certified by the state government in 1997, mainly because the locals have still held to the same roots and heritage.

The Pragpur in Himachal Pradesh is a popular heritage village for its ancient architecture, heritage and local culture. The ambience of the Heritage Zone (Culture Zone) of Garli - Pragpur is zealously preserved by the residents. This place has preserve and rejuvenated its own unique importance and ancient glory.

The UNWTO is also expanding its hand to preserve the ancient heritage culture through various programmes. (The first UNWTO event on Tourism and Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Winning Partnership held in Berlin, Germany on 8 March 2013).

The research methodology used is an in depth literature study on the topic and survey through a well-structured questionnaire. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the role of Pragpur heritage village in preserving and transmitting culture (local religious rituals, traditions and ancestral languages)

**Keywords:** Intangible heritage, Culture, Heritage Tourism, Preserving Cultural, Pragpur

## **1.0 Objective of Study**

- The role of Pragpur heritage village in preserving and transmitting culture (local religious rituals, traditions and ancestral languages)
- To make suitable suggestions for the improvement of Pragpur heritage village

## **2.0 Introduction to Cultural Heritage**

The three famous words ‘Atithi Devo Bhava’ or ‘The guest is truly your god’ are a dictum of hospitality in India. The hospitality of the Indians is legendary or it is in the blood of Indians. The culture of respecting the guest or saying three famous words came to the

existence from our intangible heritage resources. The heritage exists at various levels. Humanity as a whole has inherited a culture which may be called human heritage. A nation also inherits a culture which may be termed as national cultural heritage. Cultural heritage includes all those aspects or values of culture transmitted to human beings by their ancestors from generation to generation. They are cherished, protected and maintained by them with unbroken continuity and they feel proud of it.

Indian culture is one of the most ancient cultures of the world. The ancient cultures of Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc. were destroyed with time and only their remnants are left. But Indian culture is alive till today. Its fundamental principles are the same, as were in the ancient time. One can see village panchayats, caste systems and joint family system. Thus, Indian culture can be called an ancient culture, whose past is alive even in the present.

Culture varies from place to place and country to country. Its development is based on the historical process operating in a local, regional or national context. For example, we differ in our ways of greeting others, our clothing, food habits, social and religious customs and practices from the West. In other words, the people of any country are characterised by their distinctive cultural traditions.

India has its own uniqueness & tourist coming to the country has its own wisdom. With the passing years, we have witnessed a growth of 10.7 % in Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India. FTAs during 2016 were 88.9 lakh (provisional) as compared to the FTAs of 80.3 lakh during 2015.

### **3.0 Himachal Pradesh**

Himachal Pradesh is a small hilly state situated in the northern part of the India. The topography of the State is basically hilly ranging from small to very high hills. Its height ranges from 350 Meters to 6975 meters from main sea level. The State of Himachal Pradesh is situated between 30° 12'40'' and 33° 12'40'' north latitude, and 75° 47'55'' to 79 ° 04'22'' east longitudes. This snowy part of the State is the source of three major rivers Beas, Ravi and Chinab, while Satluj and Yamuna rivers originate from Tibet and Yamnotri, respectively.

The difficult terrain and isolation of Himachal has made it largely untouched by the modern and western influences of the world. Although technology has promised to change the state for good, but the old charm of Himachal is still intact. A state filled with mountains, Himachal and its culture is unique and different from others. Stats have revealed that almost 90 percent of the populations have a home in the village or small town's .With a sloping roof, the houses in the villages also boast of extended terraced lawns. With only a few shops for necessities, the villages in Himachal are usually self-sustained. Every village has a temple where the gods are often brought in palanquins (Palqui).

The daily activities of the locals depict the rich and varied culture of Himachal. Famous for their friendly and warm culture, the Himachali people with their illustrious bodily characters and colourful dresses have an untouched austerity which makes the state of Himachal even more beautiful.

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh has been recognized as one of the most important sectors of the economy as it is being realized as a major engine of growth for future. Himachal Pradesh as a whole is endowed with all the basic resources necessary for thriving tourism activity like geographical and cultural diversity, clean, peaceful and beautiful streams, sacred shrines, historic monuments, lush green forests and above all friendly and hospitable people. (censusindia.gov.in/2011)

Table 1 Number of Tourist Visited H.P. (2015-16)

DISTRICT/ YEAR	DOMESTIC	FOREIGN	TOTAL
2013	1,47,15,586	4,14,249	1,51,29,835
2014	1,59,24,701	3,89,699	1,63,14,400
2015	1,71,25,045	4,06,108	1,75,31,153
<b>District-wise:</b>			
1. Bilaspur	13,68,807	350	13,69,157
2. Chamba	11,22,984	1,197	11,24,091
3. Hamirpur	8,55,263	4	8,55,267
4. Kangra	23,96,970	1,12,843	25,09,813
5. Kinnaur	1,17,216	2,695	1,19,911
6. Kullu	33,14,463	1,09,468	34,23,931
7. Lahaul-Spiti	86,591	4,612	91,203
8. Mandi	10,86,231	10,478	10,96,709
9. Shimla	32,61,152	1,54,155	34,15,307
10. Sirmaur	10,16,060	3,377	10,19,437
11. Solan	10,72,486	6,692	10,79,178
12. Una	14,26,912	237	14,27,149

Source: Directorate of Tourism H. P.

The term “heritage” constitutes a vast array of objects, memories and systems typically rooted in the past that a society and its people inherit. Heritage can refer to practices or characteristics that are passed down through the years, from one generation to the next. If we look into our family tree, we would help to gain a sense of lineage heritage. Heritage is often used to demonstrate a cultural aspect or tradition that has been passing down through generations. For example, one can speak of an area’s “rich musical heritage or Ritual & customs.” Heritage can also refer to a person's ethnic or cultural background. In a legal sense, heritage is property that we inherit.

The ‘Culture’ is derived from the Latin term ‘cult or cultus’ meaning tilling, or cultivating or refining and worship. In sum it means cultivating and refining a thing to such an extent that its end product evokes our admiration and respect.

Culture is a way of life. The food you eat, the clothes you wear, the language you speak in and the God you worship all are aspects of culture. In very simple terms, we can say that culture is the embodiment of the way in which we think and do things. It is also the things that we have inherited as members of society. All the achievements of human beings as members of social groups can be called culture. Art, music, literature, architecture, sculpture, philosophy, religion and science can be seen as aspects of culture. However, culture also includes the customs, traditions, festivals, ways of living and one’s outlook on various issues of life.

**4.0 Pragpur- Heritage Village** Kangra district derives its name from Kangra town which was called Nagarkot in the ancient times Kangra proper originally was a part of the ancient Trigarta (Jullundur) which comprises of the area lying between the river "Shatadru" (probably Sutlej) and Ravi.

The Table I give the information about the visits of tourists to Himachal Pradesh. The Kangra District is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Position in attracting the tourist to its various destinations.

The Pragpur is presumably composed of two different syllables, 'Prag' (pollen) and 'pur' (full of) means full of pollen, which rightly describes the area when it is ablaze with blossoms in spring. As per the recorded history suggest that the area of Pragpur came within the Jaswan kingdom whose rulers were the descendants of Katochs of the Kangra lineage.

One of the important communities that settled at Pragpur was some of the 52 clans of the hill Sood's. At Pragpur, they built elegant buildings that lie interspersed amongst lovely mud-plastered and slate-roofed houses alongside streets paved with dressed cobbled stones. However, the magnificent buildings constructed by them some decaying and crumbling have largely remained unspoiled, giving Pragpur a medieval ambience. Recognizing that this unspoiled traditional area is contributing to the rural heritage tourism, the Government of Himachal Pradesh notified Pragpur as a heritage village in December 1997. It is ideal for Village land nature Tourism and is being promoted as an example of community involvement in tourism. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage jointly with the government of Himachal Pradesh is developing and preserving Heritage Village Pragpur.



#### **5.0 Initiative by Various Bodies:-**

In the initial phase the village took the assistance of the Chandigarh College of Architecture (CCA) for guidance on its preservation. Now, however INTACH has consented to guide the village and a unique Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between:

Indian Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

Government of Himachal Pradesh

Heritage Village Pragpur to develop Pragpur as an exemplary place for Village Tourism.

Pragpur-Grali, a Heritage Zone Recognizing the historic aspect of these villages in India, on the recommendation of INTACH the Government of Himachal Pradesh certified Pragpur as a Heritage Village, the first in India and followed this up by making Pragpur-Grali a Heritage Zone.

Indians live largely in villages where this country's Heritage, Culture Environment and Ambience are still alive. Therefore to enjoy India, tourists should be encouraged to go to Indian Villages. (Indian Heritage Hotel Associations)

The initiative to preserve and restore the ancient glory of the village has been taken by Mr Vijai Lal, who is the grandson of Justice Sir Jai Lal, the second Indian to become the Judge of the Punjab High Court, during the British rule. With its distinctive architectural features and pristine beauty, this village in the Dehra subdivision of Kangra district has been declared country's first "heritage village" (Tribune News Service, 1998)

Culture is a set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group. It encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, values systems, traditions and beliefs (UNESCO, 2001). There is no singular, specific definition of either cultural or heritage. Some call it cultural tourism, some heritage tourism, some cultural & heritage tourism or shortly cultural heritage tourism (Cultural & Heritage Tourism Alliance, 2002). The World has some 6000 communities and as many distinct languages. The National Trust's definition of cultural heritage tourism is "travelling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes historic, cultural and natural resources." (Cultural Heritage Tourism, 2005)

Heritage is a broad concept and includes the natural as well as the cultural environment. It encompasses landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as biodiversity, collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge and living experiences. It records and expresses the long processes of historic development, forming the essence of diverse national, regional, indigenous and local identities and is an integral part of modern life. It is a dynamic reference point and positive instrument for growth and change (The Charter Etos, 1999).

**TABLE II Three Categories of Heritage Attraction (Given below)**

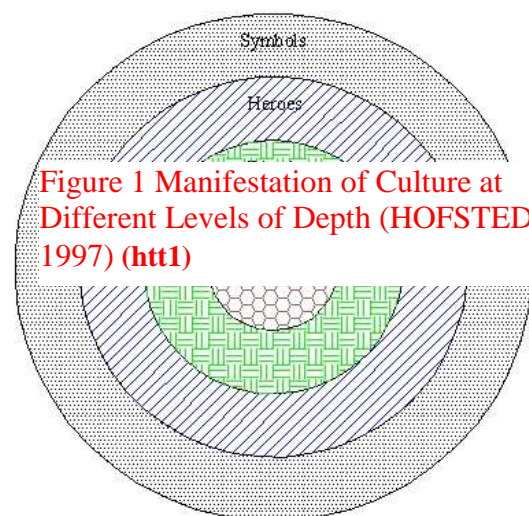
NATURAL	CULTURAL	BUILT
Landforms	Festivals	Historic homes
Rural	Scenery,	Arts/crafts, Monuments
Flora and fauna	Traditional practices/products	Industrial sites

(Jun, Nicholls, & Vogt, 9/1/2004)

According to TYLOR (1871) culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society" (Tylor, 1871.).

Definition of the Webster's New Encyclopaedic Dictionary which states that culture is "the characteristic features of a civilisation including its beliefs, its artistic and material products, and its social institutions." (Webster's New Encyclopaedic Dictionary, p. 244)

Anthropology originally stated that culture and



**Figure 1 Manifestation of Culture at Different Levels of Depth (HOFSTEDE 1997) (htt1)**



cultures are “unique bounded entities with limits and specific characteristics. Cultures were static, in that they could be captured by anthropological analyses. Their customs, habits, mores, relationships, uniqueness’s could all be detailed, and in doing so, the ways in which each culture was separate from all others could be seen. (htt)

On the other hand recent trends of the research on culture show that culture is not a bounded, unchanging entity. Cultures are not separated from each other providing a chance to continuously interact and contact with each other. This trend would also strongly determine the formation and development of cultural tourism as well.

The definition of HOFSTEDE (Figure 1) (1997) who states that: “Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving” (Hofstede, 1997).

Figure.2. (S, 1991) Demonstrate the Conservation & Tourism – Complementary agent in the management of heritage attraction



Heritage Culture tourism refers to leisure travel that has as its primary purpose the experiencing of places and activities that represent the past. Heritage sites provide the tangible links between past, present and future. Heritage sites are in the centre of the struggle between the potentially conflicting aspirations of conservation and tourism.

**6.0 Intangible Heritage Resources Of Paragpur**

**6.1 Traditions, Customs & Rituals**

The First Heritage Village of India has its own identity (Customs & Rituals), which has been carry forward to the present generation from their ancestors. The rituals & customs are followed for the whole year to maintain its importance & forwarding it to the future. Rituals & Customs for the worship of God are deeply religious in nature, and have the 'Kul-Devta and 'Kul-Devi'. Every year on the eve of 'bisowa', people from all walks of life gather at Kaleshwar Mahadev for taking a holy dip in the pond.

These ritual & customs can be seen through the various festivals & fairs.

TABLE -111- TYPES OF FESTIVALS & FEST		
FESTIVALS	OCCASION	IMPORTANCE
Chet (Dholru)	First month of the lunar year	Bring Happiness and prosperity In family
Navratras	Durga Asthmi in April - October	Appeasing goddess Durga for her blessings.
Haryali	16 <sup>th</sup> July	Signifies advent of the rainy season

Rakhri	Full moon day in shrawan	Sisters tie sacred thread on the wrist of their brother and pray for long healthy life.
Sair	September	Worshipping of local diety for prosperous future
Dashera	September - October	Signifies victory of good over evil and celebrated by burning effigies of Ravana, kumbakaran and meghnath 'Dashmi', i.e. 10 <sup>th</sup> day of celebration
Diwali	November	Symbolizing celebration of returning of Lord Rama's to his kingdom from exile after killing Ravana
Shivratri	February	Occasion for keeping fast to appease Lord Shiva to invoke his blessing
<b>FEST</b>		
Bisowa	13 <sup>th</sup> April	Agarain fair when people celebrated it by taking holy deep at kaleswar Mahadev
Gugga	August	Gugga worshipping constitutes a form of snake cult
Lohri	1 <sup>st</sup> Magh (Mid-January)	Celebrated by eating and dancing around bonhomie of fire

**6.2 Dress and Ornaments:**

The Pragpur has its own Dress and Ornaments to represent their culture. The Men wear 'kurta' (long shirt), trouser and 'safa' (a kind of turban) or shirt and trouser or pant whereas women wear 'kurti' (long shirt) with 'salwar' and 'chadru' ('duppata'). In winter, people generally wear cotton/woollen coat, 'waist coat' (sadri) and sweaters. At the time of marriage, bride wears 'ghagri' (a type of long skirt or 'lahenga') made of coloured silken cloth. Both men and women like to wear the jewellery made of silver or gold. Some of the jewellery are Balu Baluk, Koka for the nose, Mang Tikka for the hair, Dandi, Dhodun, Pher for the Ear, Dhol, Singi for the neck, Pajeb for the anklet and Mundris (Anguthi) for the fingers.

**6.3 Mud-walled Houses:**

The villages have their own life (eat simple, live simple and dress traditionally), which makes the atmosphere of the village simple, calm and peaceful. In the village, there is no hurdle; the activities of modern civilization are rarely seen in the village, which indicates they would like to stay in their own cultural atmosphere. These mud-walled houses are given place to well design buildings with Single storied or Two-storied. The slates or ridged iron sheets are supported by the bamboo wood. The outer walls of the houses are built of bricks, stones or pressed clay. The doors and windows are made of 'tunni', 'ber' and/or 'simbal' wood. For the single-storied houses the roofs are flat with slates or thatching grass. Grass and 'khazoor' brooms are used for sweeping the house; and tongs and brush used for cleaning the earthen 'chullaha'. The best example for the conserve of its ancestral culture can be seen in the Butail Niwas & the resident villager's houses.



**6.4 Crafts & Embroidery** Pargpur Heritage Village has the best crafts & embroidery of the area, which is very unique and it defines the culture of the area. The village is the home of the famous Kangra School of painting and probably the world's - most certainly India's - oldest ruling lineage comes from Pargpur. There are miniature paintings made with vegetable dyes based on love themes of Radha and Krishna. The art of embroidery is based on it and covers handkerchiefs, scarves, shawls, kurtas etc. The rugs, carpets and blankets too bear beautiful and colourful designs representing the culture of Pragpur. Example can be seen in the Judge's Court, this is two-storey brick-red house with six spacious rooms furnished with colonial-era furniture and paintings. Painting is taken from a post of art of legend India.



#### **6.5 Ancestral languages**

In today's technological world, still villagers are using ancestral languages as the way of communication. Every village has its own way for communication but within the busy world, these villages are keeping the ancient language as a priority to keep the future generation in touch with the Ancestral languages. These languages keep the ancient culture alive. In Pragpur, the Kangri & Dangri language is used by the resident for the communication.

#### **6.6 Grama Panchayat**

The villages have its own autonomy or self-governance. The villages managed their problems through the traditional institution of Grama Panchayat. This grama panchayat deals with all matter related to the village and it consist of the people from the village. These institutions also incorporate with the constitution, customs & ritual, which help them to retain the culture during the various events in the village.

#### **6.7 Ancient Water System**

The Taal or pond & Nakki is the ancient forms of water system in Pragpur village. The Taal or pond was constructed by the village brotherhood known as the Nehar Committee, which has records of its meetings since 1864. This body continues to be responsible for the maintenance of this ancient water system, which is still active for the daily activities.



The Nakki was created by, the Rerumal family provided a water point for common use, the overflow of which falls into small tanks where the village people bathed and washed. The heritage village has its own water system for the village & this system is still in the process.



The ancient water system simply identifies the core ancient culture for supply of water to the village.

### 7.0 Methodology

The data for this study was collected from the tourists visiting the Pragpur Heritage Village. The required information's are collected from both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is collected through questionnaire and personal interview with the tourists. Secondary data are collected from various relevant books, Magazine, websites, journals etc.

Research instrument-A survey method is used to get the information through interviews. A well-structured questionnaire is used for the data collection for this study. The interview questions are structured, to understand the role of Heritage village in preserving the culture of Pragpur.

### 8.0 Research Design

For the study two basic techniques was used i.e. observation method and survey method. The data collection instruments were developed to systematize the collection of data and to ensure that all the respondents are asked the same questions and in the same order.

Sampling Size- Sample size includes 200 tourists.

Sampling Technique- To selection of the sample is based on the convenience sampling. The questionnaire was personally administered with the respondents

### 9.0 Data Analysis Procedure

Data collected through 200 questionnaires& interviews. 160 respondents belong to Indian states and rest 40 belong to foreign countries.

Table IV: Reason of Visit to Kangra.

Reason of Visit	Frequency	Percent
Religious	39	19.5
Culture/ Heritage	101	50.5
Adventure Activities	20	10.0
Leisure Activities	40	20.0
Total	200	100

When the respondents were asked about the reason of visit to Kangra, it was noticed that their zeal to visit the district is mainly Culture & Heritage i.e. 55% of tourist visit the place. 19.5%, 10% & 20% shows the interest to visit the place due to Religious, Adventure Activities & Leisure Activities respectively.

Table V: Place of visit & Duration of stay

Duration of stay Places of visit	Overnight	2-3days	More than 3 days	No. of respondents Total	Total %
Kangra Fort	10	---	---	10	5%
Paragpur	52	30	9	91	45.5%
Bir Billing	10	10	---	20	10%
Dharamsala & McLeod Ganj	20	10	10	40	20%

Visiting Temples	20	15	4	39	19.5%
Total % of respondents	56%	32.5%	11.5%	200	100%

As per the analysis of Table V, this survey shows the interest of the tourist to visit the Paragpur i.e. (56%) and the 45.5% of the tourist prefer to visit the place. From the 200 respondent it was found that 91 respondent prefer to stay in Pragpur 52 (overnight), 30(2-3days) and 9 (More than 3 days). The data given above simply indicate that the tourist visiting Kangra prefer to visit the Paragpur to see the heritage Village & the Cuktire preserved by the Villagers.

**Table VI: Attraction of Village**

Attraction of Village	Frequency	Percent
Taal or the Pond	69	34.5%
Lala Rerumal Haveli	34	17%
Attiyalas or Public platforms	31	15.5%
The Judge's Court	30	15%
Butail Niwas	36	18%
Total	200	100%

34.5% of the respondent found the Attraction of Village is “Taal or the Pond”. The ancient water reservoir is the heart beat of the village and it serves as a recreational space for young and aged. The respondent also feel attracted towards the Haveli’s of the Ancient village i.e. Lala Rerumal Haveli (17%) and Butail Niwas (18%). The above analysis shows the zeal of the respondents to see the preserves of the ancient heritage village.

**TABLE VII: Components Representing - Preservation of Culture**

S. N O .	COMPONENTS REPRESENTING - PRESERVATION OF CULTURE	Stongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	(1+2)		Stron gly Disag ree(3)	Disag ree(4)	(3+4)		Cannot Say (5)	
		No. of Respon dent	No. of Respon dent	No. of Respon dent	Perce ntage (%)	No. of Respon dent	No. of Respon dent	No. of Respon dent	Perce ntage (%)	No. of Respon dent	Perce ntage (%)
1	Environment In & Around the Heritage Village plays a crucial Role	111	60	171	<b>85.5</b>	10	10	20	<b>10</b>	9	<b>4.5</b>
2	Activities(Fair & Festivals) conducted by the villagers preserve the culture	90	70	160	<b>80</b>	12	13	25	<b>12.5</b>	15	<b>7.5</b>
3	Buildings of the village represent the Ancient Architecture	109	70	179	<b>89.5</b>	10	9	19	<b>9.5</b>	2	<b>1</b>
4	Dress and Ornaments of the villagers represents the	89	51	140	<b>70</b>	25	25	50	<b>25</b>	10	<b>5</b>

	culture.										
5	Life style of the villagers represents the culture.	82	60	142	<b>71</b>	23	25	48	<b>24</b>	10	<b>5</b>
6	Involvement of youth in representing & preserving Culture	112	59	171	<b>85.5</b>	10	9	19	<b>9.5</b>	10	<b>5</b>
7	Local cuisine is served	60	40	100	<b>50</b>	35	35	70	<b>35</b>	30	<b>15</b>
8	Ancient Technique of Cooking Food	80	50	130	<b>65</b>	20	20	40	<b>20</b>	30	<b>15</b>
9	Local language used by the villagers for communication	149	30	179	<b>89.5</b>	10	1	11	<b>5.5</b>	10	<b>5</b>
10	Involvement of tourist in learning the culture of Pragpur	130	29	159	<b>79.5</b>	15	17	32	<b>16</b>	9	<b>4.5</b>

Source: Field survey

### As per the information from TABLE VII

#### 9.1 Environment In & Around Heritage Village

85.5% respondents agreed with the fact that Environment in & around the Heritage Village plays a crucial role in keeping the ancient heritage culture alive. 10% of the respondent doesn't agree with the same fact & 4.5% of respond cannot say anything about the same fact. With the above data, we can conclude that resident of the heritage village are maintaining the deposits of their ancestors.

#### 9.2 Activities (Fair & Festivals) conducted by the Villagers Preserve the Culture -

It was felt that 80% of the respondent agreed with the fact that activities conducted by the villagers helps in preserving the culture. The villagers conduct the driven force i.e. events to attract the tourists to the village to attend the events (Fairs, Festivals, Dances & exhibition of Dresses & Ornaments). These Activities keeps the tourist's interest in the place & allow them to demonstrate the culture of the Ancient Heritage Village.

#### 9.3 Buildings of the Village Represent the Ancient Architecture

89.5 % of the respondent finds the Infrastructure of the heritage village interesting and agrees with the fact that it represents the culture with ancient techniques of designing the houses. 9.5% of the respondent doesn't agree with the fact & 1% of the respondent cannot say about the fact.

#### 9.4 Dress and Ornaments of the Villagers Represents the Culture

As per the information grasped from the respondent, 70 % of the tourist felt them self attracted towards the dresses & ornaments of the villagers. The tourist prefer to capture them self in the dresses of the local villagers with the ornaments. 25% of the respondent doesn't agree & 5% cannot say anything about the link of Dress and Ornaments with the culture.

#### 9.5 Life Style of the Villagers Represents the Culture

71% of the respondents are interested to see, the way residents are living & do agree with the fact that lifestyle represents the culture. The tourists are keen to learn the life style of Pragpur heritage villagers. 24% of the respondent doesn't agree with the fact that lifestyle represents culture & 4 % cannot say about the fact. This indicates the interest & the preserved culture of Pragpur for which tourist are interested & keen to develop in themselves.

#### **9.6 Involvement of Youth in Representing & Preserving Culture**

The 85.5% tourists are guided & demonstrated by the youth of the village. The respondents agreed that involvement of youth is seen in representing the culture. The heritage uniqueness of the village is been described by the youth of village. The keen interest of the youth gives us the indication, that the culture of Pragpur is been taken forward. The ancestors and the present residents are preserving it by providing the youth with the knowledge of customs & rituals.

#### **9.7 Cuisine & its Development**

In Table VII, the Cuisine component is divided into the two parts - Local cuisine served and Ancient Technique of Cooking Food.

According to the field survey, 50 % of respondent agreed, 35% don't agree & 15 % cannot comment about the serving of local cuisine. From the above data it can be interpreted that the local cuisine is not impacting & creating interests of the tourists.

As per the information from Table VII, it can be concluded that 65% of respondents agreed with the fact that ancient technique of Cooking Food is used by the villagers. Therefore only 35% of the respondent doesn't agree & 10% of the respondent cannot say about the methods used for the cooking.

#### **9.8 Local Language Used by the Villagers for Communication**

89.5% of the respondents agreed with the component, that Local language used by the villagers for communication helps in preserving the culture of the Pragpur. On other hand, 5.5% of the respondent disagrees & 5% cannot say about the fact, that Local language used by the villagers for communication.

#### **9.9 Involvement of Tourist in Learning the Culture of Pragpur**

79.5% agreed that the above components are helping the tourists in learning the culture of Pragpur through the various activities. These activities try to involve the tourists in the local activities performed by the villagers. With this fact, we can conclude that, it helps the Pragpur heritage village to allow the tourist to learn their culture.

#### **10.0 Conclusions**

A cultural heritage plays a very important role in our life. It is what keeps us attached to our tradition, religion & beliefs. In today's modern world, we are moving away from our origin. Within such atmosphere & conditions we will be moving away from the deposits of our culture, for which our ancestors have worked hard & given the customs, beliefs to our society.

To make our heritage deposit more visible, the heritage villages can help us to keep in touch with our ancient culture. The heritage villages can be a model for the demonstration of our ancient culture. To create the awareness the heritage villages can play a critical role. The Pragpur village in Kangra is the role model for preserving our culture. It can prevent



migration of rural people to urban i.e. it helps in creating the employment. These villages are playing the critical responsibility to keep world history intact for the coming generation so they may have the same opportunities to learn about the past and keep their roots alive.

### 11.0 Recommendations

Governments must identify the importance of keeping our culture village heritage tourism at priority and help in creating healthy environment. Government should create more heritage villages in Himachal Pradesh. As such, the Government of Himachal Pradesh notified Pragpur as a heritage village in December 1997. The government should take further steps to preserve, protect, and promote the traditional cultures and knowledge of the indigenous people.

These villages should be promoted as a destination of interest. The government must indulge with the Marketing organisation, which can help the destination to come on international platform. These efforts will be bringing more tourists to the area & help the locals to make it's contribute in the economy.

There should be awareness or training programmes to make the residents more aware about the hospitality concept & to create the hygienic environment. These activities will help the heritage village to represent itself in a better way.

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