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"A STUDY OF LOCAL COPING AND ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES TO CURRENT IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN LEH DISTRICT OF LADAKH"

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ABSTRACT

The study highlights the livelihoods of rural communities in the study region, highlighting key socio-economic and environmental adaptations. Using a mixed-methods approach, we analyze various aspects of daily life, including healthcare accessibility, agricultural diversification, nonfarm employment, water resource management, housing trends, government employment, and literacy patterns. Our findings reveal significant disparities in healthcare access, with remote villages facing limited medical services, often relying on traditional healers. The study also documents a shift in agricultural practices, as households increasingly cultivate exotic vegetables and mushrooms to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Additionally, economic diversification is evident, with many households supplementing agricultural income through non-farm activities, particularly in villages closer to district headquarters. Water availability remains a critical challenge, with seasonal variations affecting household access. Infrastructure initiatives like the Jal Jivan Mission Scheme have improved water accessibility, but disparities persist. Housing trends indicate a transition toward concrete roofs to mitigate water leakage, although traditional homes remain prevalent due to their climate adaptability. Government employment, especially in the armed forces, plays a crucial role in household financial stability, while literacy trends demonstrate a divide between villages with better educational access and remote areas with limited schooling opportunities. Overall, the study underscores the resilience and adaptability of these communities in navigating climate change and socio-economic transformations. These insights provide valuable guidance for policymakers and development agencies in formulating targeted interventions to enhance rural livelihoods and sustainability.

KEYWORDS: *Livelihood; Adaptation; Climate Change Resilience; Rural Communities; Sustainable Development; Socioeconomic Dynamics.*

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