



## Khah as a Rural dialect spoken in Chenab Valley J&K

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### Abstract

*Khah, a Kashmiri dialect is spoken in the district Ramban which is the part of Chenab valley in Peer Panchal area of Jammu And Kashmir State. There are three Tehsils in which this dialect is used a mother tongue of the people. All the population belong to the rural area and is rich in cultural heritage and ethical values. This research paper describe that the Khah as a dialect is the only rural dialect of the area which is unexplored in its context. The efforts have been made to prove it as a dialect spoken in only rural area. It is much used by the people of this area and they have been named after it on the basis of zamindars (landlords) in this area. The purpose of this paper is to provide a new insight to the readers and make them aware about the language and cultural diversities of the rural area.*

**Key Words:** Khah, Dialect, Peer Panchal, Cultural Heritage, Zamindar, Insight, Diversities

### Introduction

The Chenab valley is consisted of three districts like Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban. The chenab valley is one of the hilly and prone area of Jammu and Kashmir state. District Ramban which is located in the lap of Peer Panchal area. The people of this area speak different languages and have rich cultural heritage. Languages like Kashmiri, Badarwahi, Dogri, Kishtwari, Gojri, Serazi and Khah. This area is hilly and rural area of the state of J&K. The population of District Ramban is near about three lakh and is divided into tehsils such as Ramban, Banihal, Khari, Ukerhal, Gool and Rajgarh. The Khah dialect is mainly spoken in three tehsils of district Ramban which are rural tehsils of the district.

**Tehsil Banihal :** The population is divided into different areas like Kaskot, Tethar, Nowgam, Charel, Bankoot, Phago, Camalwas, Neel and Chaknarwah. In Banihal area only two villages like Chanjlu and Phago used Khah dialect as mother tongue. The population of this area is totally rural population of the city Banihal. Chamalwas area which is consisted of various villages like Amkoot, Tetnihal, Krachihal and Chaknarwah. All the population of mentioned villages are using Khah as a mother tongue. Even though

there are other language speakers as well but main language of the people is khah which is considered as a language of farmers in far flung areas of this tehsil they having their own traditional folks and cultural values which is existing in this language of the society. There is another area namely Neel which is consisted more than forty small villages and is twenty five kilometres away from the city. All population of this area used this language as a mother tongue and have great value for it.

**Tehsil Khari :** Newly created Tehsil of District Ramban of the state Jammu & Kashmir and are divided areas like Nachilana, Shagon, Tregam, Mahu and Mangit. The population of tehsil Khari use this language as mother tongue including its surrounding villages. There are some speakers of other languages as well like kashmiri, gojri and dogri. In all these areas khah is used as main language and the interesting fact is that the speakers of other languages are using this language too. This dialect is spoken in rural area and the maximum area of District Ramban falls under rural area.

**Tehsil Ukerhal :** Ukerhal Tehsil is also created newly in District Ramban. The area of this tehsil is totally rural and hilly and is consisted of villages Tajnihal, Khawra,



Batro, Ukerhal, Pogal, Panchal. Sujmatna, Paristhan and Alinbas. All the villages are rural populated area of the tehsil Ukerhal. The people of mentioned areas are predominantly speaking khah language in the society.

Tehsil Ramban ; The population of main city of the district Ramban speak Dogri language as they are original habitants of the area. The people speaking khah language have been migrated from different rural areas of the district like Khari, Neel, Pogal, Paristhan, Ukerhal and Chamalwas. Migrant population is speaking this dialect in main city of this District. To prove this dialect as a rural dialect spoken in district Ramban of state of Jammu and Kashmir. Samples have been taken from all the tehsils of the district where this dialect is spoken by a majority of people in the rural area.

### Sample

Ten people (sample) from tehsil Banihal over 60 years old.

Ten people (sample) from tehsil Khari over 60 years old.

Ten people (sample) from tehsil Ukerhal over 60 years old.

Ten people (sample) from tehsil Ramban over 60 years old.

Table

S.No	Name of Tehsil	Total Samples	Rural Dialect	Urban Dialect	Irrelevant
1	Banihal	10	10	-	-
2	Khari	10	10	-	-
3	Ukerhal	10	09	-	1
4	Ramban	10	09	-	1

Result : In Banihal all people believe that this dialect is spoken in rural area and is named as khah language of the farmers they believe that this dialect is used by farmers of rural people since the ages.

In tehsil khari all the collected samples believe that this dialect dominantly spoken by rural people that why this had been named khah language of the rural people.

Tehsil Ukerhal 10 samples collected out 10 only 09 people give correct answer of the sample and one person give irrelevant answer of the question.

In main Ramban tehsil 10 samples were collected out 10 only 09 believed that this dialect is rural one and the speaker of this dialect are called the Khah people.

### Conclusion

In the conclusion, out of (40) forty samples (38) thirty eight people believe that this dialect is rural dialect and is mother tongue of the rural people residing in hilly area of this district only two people have given irrelevant answer of the question. It means that the total 95% of the samples believed that this dialect is spoken by rural people of the area as it is proved through this research method.

All the samples have been taken to make an effort to prove this dialect is spoken in rural area of the district Ramban State of J & K. The inference of this research paper is to prove that the Khah dialect is being used in rural areas as mother tongue of masses. Khah dialect is accepted as language of the farmers as the other speakers of the languages believe that this is used as their mother tongue and is spoken in their respective areas. The purpose of this research paper is to provide authentic picture of this dialect to the reader. This dialect is frequently used by the rural population of district Ramban of Chenab valley.

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