

Abstract

The new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi is currently under construction in a rural region of Himachal Pradesh. The consequences of such development will impact the social fabric, economy, and environment of the surrounding region. This project examined the impacts that the IIT will have on the surrounding villages. We used a qualitative approach in gathering data by conducting open-ended interviews with villagers, students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Respondents reported an overwhelming sense of optimism amongst the villagers who believe that the IIT will solve a majority of their problems or otherwise improve their life. Our findings and analysis, indicate that the villagers are not fully aware of the scope of construction of the IIT. We made recommendations to the IIT focused on better communication and cooperation with the villages with the purpose of amplifying positive effects while mitigating negative ones.

Stakeholders

- Local villagers of the Kamand Valley
- Students of the IIT Mandi
- Faculty and Administration of the IIT Mandi

Data Collection Methods

- Open-Ended Interviews with Villagers
- Student Interviews and Online Surveys
- Interviews with Faculty and Administration

Goal

The goal of our project was to understand the potential changes and consequences for the Kamand region due to the construction of the new IIT Mandi campus in Kamand

Recommendations

Our three overarching recommendations to the IIT, to foster the sustainable development of the university in all respects, are listed below.

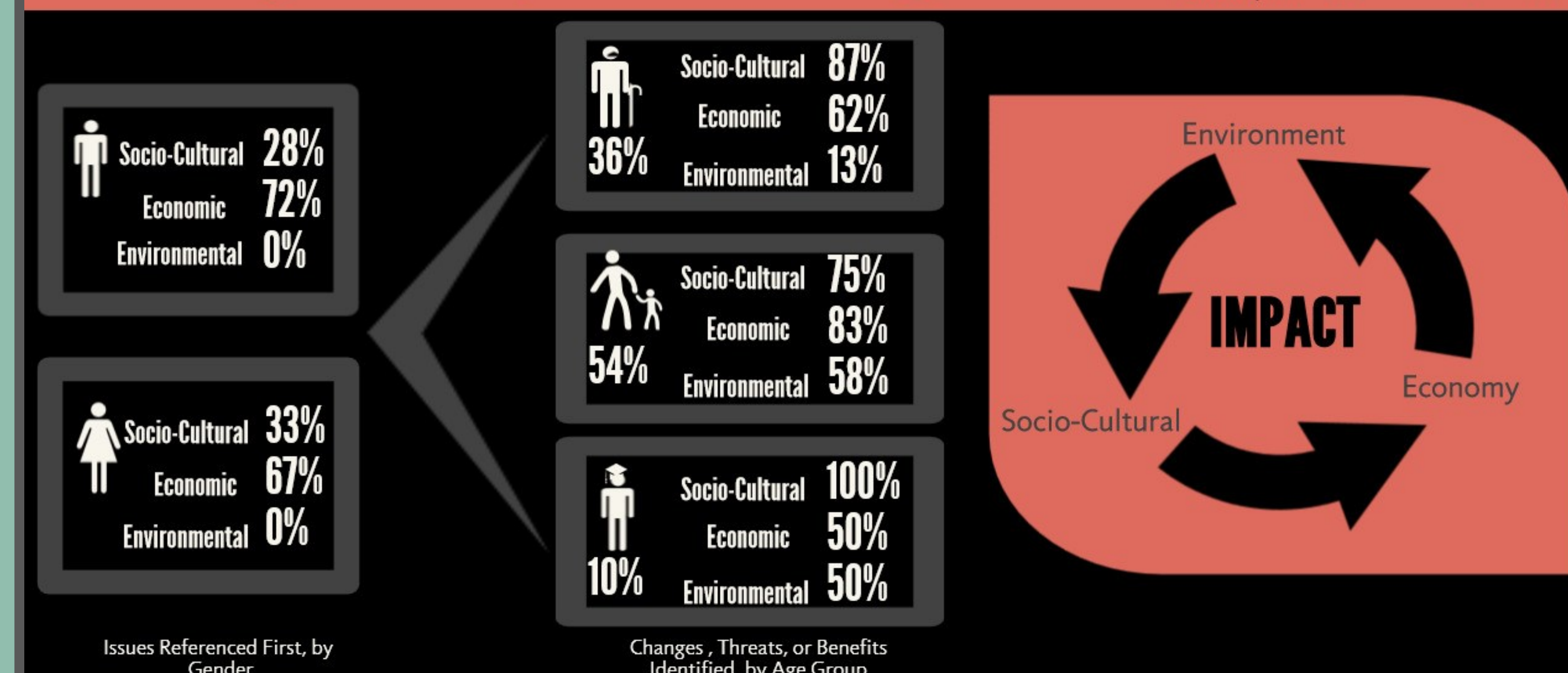
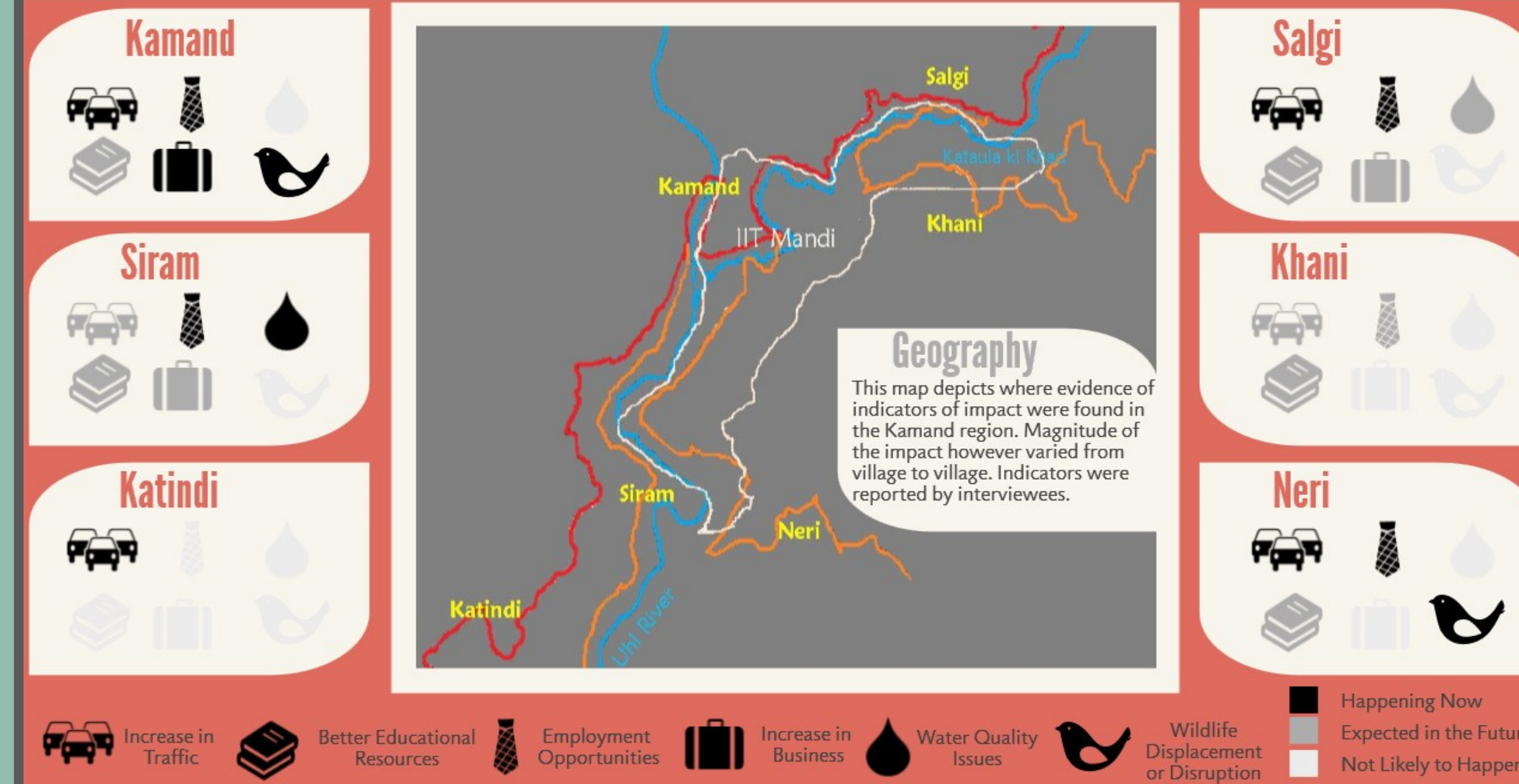
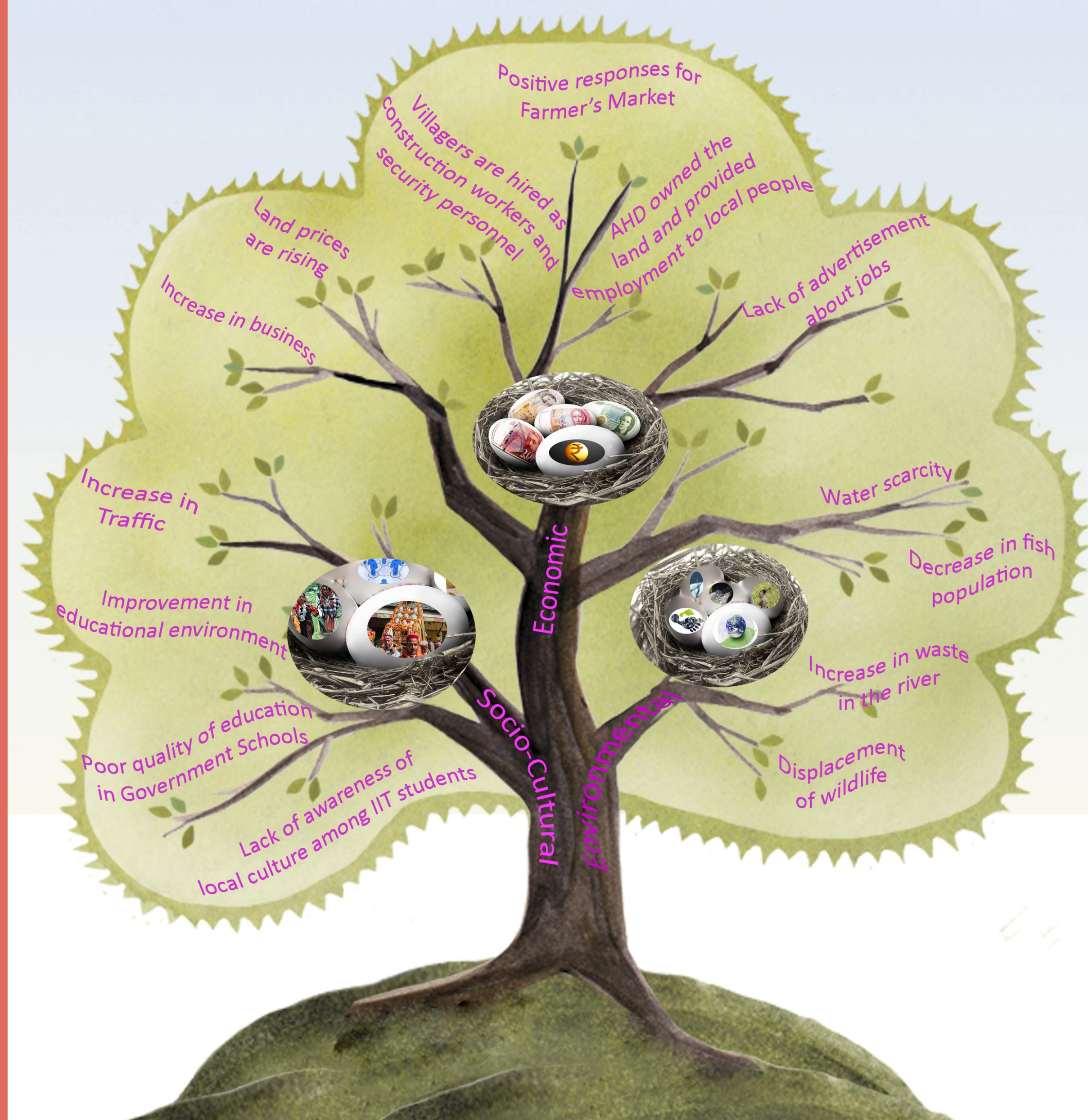
- Cooperate and communicate with the communities in the Kamand valley to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.**
 - A meeting every two months of a committee made up of faculty from various disciplines, administrators, and village heads.
 - A town hall meeting open to all community members, with the Director, upper-level administrators, and all members of the committee in attendance. This would occur every four months, approximately once a semester.
- Strive to develop awareness, through educational programs and policies within the university.**
 - Develop educational programs for students, possibly run by the NSS, to encourage awareness of local cultures and environmental responsibility.
 - Work with the construction companies to institute policies to encourage more environmentally responsible practices.
- Continue to implement socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable practices that extend beyond the university.**
 - Prioritize a sewage and chemical waste management system.
 - Prioritize the establishment of a waste management system on campus.
 - Prioritize the employment of qualified locals.
 - Try to buy local produce and dairy products.
 - Take care to be mindful of sacred sites located in and around campus, especially around North campus.

Perceived Indicators of Impact

In the Kamand Valley Due to Development of the IIT Mandi



Potential impacts stemming from the introduction of the IIT Mandi into the rural Kamand region.



Concerns Based on Demographic



- A map of the villages of the Kamand Region, provided by the people of Salgi.
- The team conducting an interview in Kamand.
- The team conducting an interview in Siram.



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