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Original Research Article

SWOC Analysis on Sarli and Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centres of Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract: Arunachal Pradesh has a long international boundary. It shares boundaries with Bhutan in the West; China in the North and; Myanmar in the East. Infact, the state has vast potential for Cross-Border trade. In addition, it can become a hotspot for the economic development of the state and India as a whole. The result of SWOC analysis in the present study revealed that Sarli Cross Border Trade Centre is favorable as it has positive figure. The degree of favorability is (+) 01. Interestingly, the SWOC analysis unveiled that that Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centre is also favorable as it has a positive figure too. It is favorable for India to the extent of (+) 04 given under the present total conditions. Further, the result of SWOC analysis or 'V' of the Study Centres (Sarli and Taksing) shows a Positive result, i.e., (+) 05. It implies that Sarli and Taksing Informal cross-border trade Centres does collectively stand favorable for India. With this background, the present study makes an attempt to analyze SWOC analysis on Sarli and Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centres.

Keywords: Arunachal Pradesh; Cross Border Trade; India; SWOC; Sarli and Tasking.

INTRODUCTION

Arunachal Pradesh shares an international border with Bhutan, China and Myanmar. It is inhabited by twenty-six tribes and more than one hundred sub-tribes. Arunachal Pradesh exclusively banks upon the assistance of the centre for plan investment as a special category state. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh introduced reforms in various sectors to steer the course of development. It created a new Department called Trade and Commerce in 1998 to facilitate the border trade. The Government located Bleeting (Namtsering), Bongkhar and Dongshengmang of Tawang district in the Indo-Bhutan border, Pangsau pass (Nampong) in Changlang district of Indo-Myanmar border, Kibitho of Anjaw district, Bumla and Kenzamane (Zemithang) of Tawang district, Gelling (Kepangla Pass) of Upper Siang district, Mechuka (Lolla pass), and Monigong (Dumla pass) of West Siang district in the Indo-China border as possible trading points.

Experts on border trade also suggest rebuilding the old Stillwell Road to connect Ledo with Kunming in Yunnan province of China through Pangsau Pass and Wauling at Mongya. They expect that the reopening of this strategic route would enhance the prospect of cross-border trade with China as well as Myanmar. The connection of Stillwell Road to the Asian Highway project through *Hukwang* valley of Myanmar may expand economic co-operation and pave the way for the formation of growth triangles or growth zones in the future. However, its success depends upon the pragmatic considerations and the multilateral approach of India, Myanmar and China.

Arunachal Pradesh is the north easternmost of India and it has a long international boundary with Bhutan in the west (160 km), China in the North (1080 km), and Myanmar in the East (440 km). Arunachal Pradesh has the vast potential to carry Cross-Border trade as it is the only state in the union of India that shares three foreign countries i.e. China, Myanmar, and Bhutan. It can become a hotspot for the economic development of Arunachal Pradesh and India as a whole. However, due to the lack of proper connectivity of transport and communication, it could not able to generate much revenue for the state and nation as a whole.

The traditional cross-border trading had been carried out by the local people residing near the international boundaries since time immemorial. Still on the border of Bhutan and Myanmar, trading of local produce goods is being carried out by both parties.

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Mostly they trade their good by conducting trade activities in the form of bazaars, Melas, and festivals. But along the China border, trade of commodities has been banned after the Indo-China war of 1962. Still, people residing on the boundary of Indo-China exchange local goods.

The potential of cross-border trade can be seen from trading various trading points situated in our state. At present, there are nine explored trading points which the government of India has identified, i.e., Bumla, Kalaktang, Bleeting, Taksing, Mechuka, Monigong, Geiling, Kibitho, and Pangsau Pass. Also, there are many unexplored trade routes situated in our state. An interesting fact is that the highest trading point identified by the government of India is along the Indo-China border (i.e., 7 trading points), which has been banned after the 1962 war between India and China.

The traditional or informal trade relation between the local people of our state and Tibet province of China has been carried on since time immemorial, which was discontinued after the China-India conflict in 1962. The once-flourishing trade between the local people of Arunachal Pradesh and the people of the erstwhile Tibet, now a province of China, was discontinued abruptly after the 1962 China-India conflict. Moreover, the geographical condition of Tibet province of China is an Arid Zone, and the province is very far away from their mainland. Therefore, the export of agricultural and Horticulture products has immense potential to meet their demands and needs. However, the Union Govt. of India, with its all-out efforts, has actively been pursuing for re-establishment of the past trade points under the Indo-China sector. Up till now, no LCS could be approved by the Union Govt, under Indo-China Trade Points due to a lack of clearance at the bilateral levels.

An Overview of Sarli and Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centres

The Tasking and Sarli illages re ituated long India-China order nder pper Subansiri istrict and Kurung Kumey Districts of Arunachal Pradesh. It is guarded by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) of India. Taksing is a Circle Headquarter situated in Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh, India. It has total population of 1,295 with 14 villages. The major inhabitant of the circle is Tagin. It is 175 Kms away from district headquarter of Upper Subansiri District. However, it is only 3 kilometers away from Line of Actual Control (LAC). The poor communication and Infrastructure of the circle has been a major factor for migration of people to the district headquarters. Consequently, it results in declination of Population. Times out of mind, people of Taksing have been engaging in informal cross border trade with China (Tibet). They purchase goods like salt, chilly, ornaments, spade, cloths etc. from China and sells goods like skins of animals, claws of animals and birds and other parts of animal to Chinese counterparts.

Sarli is a medium size village located in Sarli Circle of Kurung Kumey District of Arunachal Pradesh. Sarli village has only 39 households. It has population of 340 out of which 194 are Males while 146 are Females as per population Census 2011. Sarli village is 50 Kms away from its district headquarter- Koloriang. The Literacy rate of Sarli is 70 percent. The Nyishis, Bhangu and Puriok are the main inhabitants of the Sarli Village. Since time immemorial, the eople of Sarli Village are engaged in cross border trade with China. They purchase goods like salt, chilly, ornaments, spade, cloths, utensils etc. from China. on the other side, they have been exchanging goods like skins of animals, claws of animals and birds, split canes, dyes, rice tc., to Chinese people.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To highlight Sarli and Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centres.
2. To administer SWOC analysis on Sarli and Taksing informal Cross-Border Centres.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology adopted in conducting the research pertaining to study of cross border trade in Sarli and Taksing are as follow:

- **Research Methods & Tools**: An effort has been made to make the study empirical. Field Survey Method has been used for the present study. Again, personal interview, informal discussion, internet social networking, telephonic contacts and observation methods have been used during the field study to collect primary data. Structured schedules, digital camera, video camera, telephone and other stationeries have been the prominent research tools used to collect field data during the field survey.
- **Sources of Data**: The study in its entirety is based on both primary and secondary data. Personal interview and observation have been the main sources of primary data. For better analysis of the topic, various secondary data have been collected from various books, journals, reports, magazines etc., of national and international repute. Also, reports and publications of department of trade and commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and official websites have been referred to for better understanding of the research problem. However, internet is one of the most used sources of secondary data for the study.
- **Sampling Technique and Size:** The purposive or judgmental sampling under none probability sampling technique has been applied for the study. Altogether, 370 samples have been drawn from the

2 informal cross border centers to draw inferences on the population parameters. Estimation of an optimal sample size is most crucial for any research study. The required sample size for this study is calculated using Taro Yamane (Yamane, 1973) with 95% confidence level. The formula for calculating sample size by Taro Yamane is given below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n is the required sample size, N is the population size and e is the allowable error (percent).

The total population of Sarli and Taksing circles together is 4415 as per the population census of 2011. On substituting the value of N in the above formula the researcher get:

$$n = \frac{4415}{1 + 44155(.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{4415}{1 + 4415X0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{4415}{1 + 11.0375}$$

$$n = \frac{4415}{12.0375}$$

$$n = 366.770$$

$$n = 370$$

Table 1: Sampling Frame

Unit of study	Name & Population	% Shares	Sample size (As per Taro Yamane)	% Shares
Circle	Sarli (3120)	3120 (70% 4415)	370	259 (70% of 370)
	Taksing (1295)	1295 (30% of 4415)		111 (30% of 370)
Total	**4415**	**4415**		**370**

Source: Researcher Compilation
Note: Population data is based on Population Census, 2011

The sample size for the study have been divided into two groups. 259 samples (70% of 370) have been taken from Sarli circle and the rest 30% which amounts to 111 samples have been taken from Taksing circle.

- **Universe of the Study:** The study covers the entire population of Taksing and Sarli areas. The population includes Indian traders, students, public leaders, village elders and others from the two selected centers.
- **Period of the Study**: The reference period of the study extends from 2021 to 2023. Data over these three years have been used for analysis for the study.
- **Tools of Data Analysis:** For analysis of data, statistical tools of data analysis like percentage, bar diagram etc. have been used. Statistical packages like SPSS, MS Excel and Minitab are used to process and analyze the field data.

Moreover, Kuder-Richardson reliability test (KR-21) has been applied on the study to test the reliability of the result which is shown as:

$$r = \frac{n}{n-1}\left[1 - \frac{\sum pq}{\sigma^2 x}\right]$$

Where, r = Reliability of a test
n = Number of items in the test
p = Number of persons answering items correctly
Number of persons taking the test
q = Number of persons answering items wrongly
Number of persons taking the test

$\sum$ = Summation symbol indicating that pq is summed over all the items.

$\sigma^2 x$ = Variance of the total test

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

SWOC analysis has been administered in the current study by the researcher. SWOC analysis stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges analysis. It is a framework for identifying and analyzing the internal and external factors that can have an impact on the viability of a project, product, place or person. It helps to see competitive advantages and positive prospects, potential problems, etc. Also, it helps to develop plans to capitalize on positive conditions and address deficits as well.

A. SWOC Analysis on Sarli Informal Cross Border Trade Centre:

For the present study, the researcher has made an attempt to design a new model of SWOC analysis hereafter, called as *Philip's Model,* which is presented as follows:

$V = \{(S^1+S^2+S^3.....+S^{nth}) + (O^1+O^2+O^3.....+O^{nth})\} - \{(W^1+W^2+W^3.....+W^{nth}) + (C^1+C^2+C^3.....+C^{nth})\}$

Or

$V = (S+O) - (W+C)$ ---------- (i)

Whereas,
V stands for the Value of SWOC analysis.

S = Total Strengths; O = Total Opportunities; W = Total Weaknesses; C = Total Challenges

In the model, (+) 01 point is awarded for each *Strength* and *Opportunity* as these are considered as 'Helpful' or that contributes certain value. However, (-) 01 point is given to each *Weakness* and *Challenge* as these factors are considered as 'Harmful' or which degrades the value. Value (V) may be negative, positive or even zero. If it is negative, then the subject on which the analysis is made is unfavorable. Likewise, it is considered favorable if, it is positive. However, in the case of zero, it shows neutrality, i.e., neither favorable nor unfavorable. Also, the higher the figure of a positive value, the more favorable and vice-versa. In addition, the value of a SWOC analysis must be <= to 01 in order to consider the subject favorable under consideration.

Table 2: SWOC Analysis of Sarli Informal Cross Border Trade Centre

	Helpful		**Harmful**	
Internal Factors	**Strengths**	**Points**	**Weakness**	**Points**
	Availability of Chinese products	(+) 1	Poor electricity supply	(-) 1
	Cheap prices	(+) 1	Communication problem	(-) 1
	Nearness of Chinese Markets	(+) 1	Non-existence of Trade Centre	(-) 1
	Presence of a satisfactory educational institute	(+) 1	Lack of banking services	(-) 1
	Good roadway connection & Transportation services	(+) 1	No Tourist Lodge Lack of trading skills & education	(-) 1 (-) 1
	Increase in Income	(+) 1	Inadequate power supply	(-) 1
	Improvement in living standard	(+) 1	Poor health services	(-) 1
			Negative balance of trade	(-) 1
	Total S or S^A	**(+) 07**	**Total W or W^A**	**(-) 9**
	Opportunities	**Points**	**Challenges**	**Points**
External Factors	Establishment of Trade Hut	(+) 1	Inadequate Govt. policies	(-) 1
	Establishment of Custom Office	(+) 1	Smuggling of precious and ban products	(-) 1
	Setting up of currency exchange Centre.	(+) 1	Illegal immigration from both countries	(-) 1
	Setting up of Communication network Tower	(+) 1	Complete Trading Ban from govt. of India	(-) 1
	Setting up of Banking institutions	(+) 1	Decrease in wild animals and bird's population	(-) 1
	Establishment of public health centres.	(+) 1	Military problems from both nations	(-) 1
	Setting up of new power connection	(+) 1		
	Scope for construction metal road	(+) 1		
	Strengthen diplomatic relations	(+) 1		
	Total O or O^A	**(+) 09**	**Total C or C^A**	**(-) 06**

Source: *Field Study, 2022 & 23*

V = (S+O) ─ (W+C)
Now, by substituting the actual values in the model----(i)
SWOC analysis (V) of the Sarli cross border trade centre = (07+09) ─ (09+06)
V = 16 ─ 15
V = (+) 01

In this case, result of SWOC analysis shows that Sarli Cross Border Trade Centre is favorable as it has positive figure. The degree of favorability is (+) 01.

It is revealed from Table 2 that Sarli cross-border trade centre has the highest *Weaknesses* with (-) 09 points. However, it has the least *Challenges* as such, with only (-) 06 points. On the positive note, it has (+) 07 points as *Strengths* and (+) 09 points for *Opportunities*.

B. SWOC Analysis on Taksing Informal Cross Border Trade Centre:

Table 3: SWOC Analysis of Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centre

	Helpful		**Harmful**	
Internal Factors	**Strengths**	**Points**	**Weakness**	**Points**
	Organic vegetables and Fruits are being traded	(+) 1	Poor Medical Facilities	(-) 1
	Positive Trade Balance	(+) 1	Nonexistence of Trade Centre	(-) 1
	Nearness of Market	(+) 1	Inadequate communication facilities	(-) 1
	Satisfactory Educational Institutes	(+) 1	No banking facilities	(-) 1
	Availability of products	(+) 1	Poor economic background of the people	(-) 1
	Increase Cultural Changes	(+) 1	No currency exchange Centre	(-) 1
	Positive demographic changes	(+) 1	No black topped road and Narrow road	(-) 1
	Increase in income	(+) 1	Very inadequate electricity	(-) 1
	Good Public health services	(+) 1	Complete ban on trade by the Indian Govt.	(-) 1
	Increase in employment	(+) 1	No tourist lodges	(-) 1
	Improvement in living standard	(+) 1		
	Total S or S^B	**(+) 11**	**Total W or W^B**	**(-) 10**
	Opportunities	**Points**	**Challenges**	**Points**
External Factors	Establishment of Trade Centre	(+) 1	Changes in the Demographic Characteristics	(-) 1
	Construction of all whether roads and communication	(+) 1	Changes in cultural characteristics	(-) 1
	Promotion of tourism vis-a-vis trading	(+) 1	Drugs smuggling into Indian territory	(-) 1
	Setting up of Ayurveda or herbal medicines firms	(+) 1	Illegal immigration of from both countries	(-) 1
	Scope of increasing the trading items beyond 11 items	(+) 1	Competition	(-) 1
	Scope for setting up of Tourist Lodge	(+) 1	Military problems from both nations	(-) 1
	Scope for formal trade	(+) 1	Complete shutdown of trade by the Indian govt.	(-) 1
	Provide a trade license to even small traders	(+) 1	Decrease in wild animal and bird populations	(-) 1
	Scope of opening the market Hut throughout the year	(+) 1		
	Establishment of a Currency exchange institution	(+) 1		
	Strengthen diplomatic relations	(+) 1		
	Total O or O^B	**(+) 11**	**Total C or C^B**	**(-) 08**

Source: *Field Study, 2022 & 23*

Also, V = (S+O) ─ (W+C)
Now by putting the actual values in the model -------- (i)
SWOC analysis (V) of the Taksing cross-border trade Centre = (11+11) ─ (10+08)
V = 22 ─ 18
V = (+) 04

The result of the SWOC analysis shows that Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centre is favorable as it has a positive figure. It is favorable for India to the extent of (+) 04 given under the present total conditions. Further, it is revealed from Table 3 that Taksing informal cross-border trade Centre has *Weaknesses* with (-) 10 points. However, it has a good scope of *opportunities* for further development as the points of Opportunities is (+) 11. Interestingly, it is observed from Table 3 that *Strengths* and *challenges* points i.e., (+) 11 and (-) 08 respectively.

On comparison note, Taksing cross-border trade Centre with V = (+) 04 is more favorable than Sarli Informal cross-border trade Centre with V = (+) 01 in the present overall conditions.

C. The Study Centers:

SWOC Analysis of the Study Centres= SWOC Analysis of Sarli + SWOC Analysis of Taksing-= $(S^AW^AO^AC^A) + (S^BW^BO^BC^B) = (S^A+O^A+S^B+O^B) ─ (W^A+C^A+W^B+C^B)$

Or

$(S^A+S^B+O^A+O^B) ─ (W^A+W^B+ C^A+C^B)$ ---------- (ii)

Note: *Model (ii) may be applied in the case of two subjects*.

Whereas,
S^A = Total Strengths of Sarli Trade Centre
S^B = Total Strengths of Taksing Trade Centre
O^A = Total Opportunities of Sarli Trade Centre
O^B = Total Opportunities of Taksing Trade Centre
W^A = Total Weaknesses of Sarli Trade Centre
W^B = Total Weaknesses of Taksing Trade Centre
C^A = Total Challenges of Sarli Trade Centre
C^B = Total Challenges of Taksing Trade Centre

Table 4: SWOC Analysis of the Study Centers

Internal Factors	**Helpful**		**Harmful**	
	Strengths	**Points**	**Weakness**	**Points**
	Total (S^a) Total (S^b)	(+) 07 (+) 011	Total (W^a) Total (W^b)	(-) 09 (-) 10
	Total ((S^a) + (S^b)	**(+) 18**	**Total (W^a) + (W^b)**	**(-) 19**
	Opportunities	**Points**	**Challenges**	**Points**
External Factors	Total (O^1) Total (O^2)	(+) 09 (+) 11	Total (C^1) Total (C^2)	(-) 06 (-) 08
	Total (O^a) + (O^b)	**(+) 20**	**Total (C^a) + (C^b)**	**(-) 14**

Source: *Field Study, 2022 & 23*

Now by substituting the actual values in the model (ii), SWOC analysis of the Study Centres = (07+11+09+11) ─ (09+10+06+08) = 38-33 = (+) 05.

Result of SWOC analysis or 'V' of the Study Centres shows a Positive result, i.e., (+) 05, which implies that Sarli and Taksing Informal cross-border trade Centres does stand favorable for India. In order to consider it favorable, the SWOC analysis value must be <= 01. Altogether, the degree of favorability of the Study Centre is (+) 05.

In addition, it is unveiled from Table 4 that *Opportunities* stands highest with (+) 20 points. However, both *Strengths* and *Weaknesses* share points of (+) 18 and (-) 19 respectively. Also, it is uncovered from Table 4 that the Study Centre has the least Challenges with (-) 14 only.

CONCLUSION

Arunachal Pradesh has a long international boundary. It shares boundaries with Bhutan in the West; China in the North and; Myanmar in the East. Infact, the state has vast potential to carry Cross-Border trade. In addition, it can become a hotspot for the economic development of the state and India as a whole. The result of SWOC analysis in the present study revealed that Sarli Cross Border Trade Centre is favorable as it has positive figure. The degree of favorability is (+) 01. Interestingly, the SWOC analysis unveiled that that Taksing Informal Cross-Border Trade Centre is also favorable as it has a positive figure too. It is favorable for India to the extent of (+) 04 given under the present total conditions. Further, the result of SWOC analysis or 'V' of the Study Centres (Sarli and Taksing) shows a Positive result, i.e., (+) 05. It implies that Sarli and Taksing Informal cross-border trade Centres does collectively stand favorable for India. In order to consider it favorable, the SWOC analysis value must be <= 01. Altogether, the degree of favorability of the Study Centre is (+) 05 in its totality.

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