

CHAPTER: 2

KASHMIR AN OVERVIEW

Jammu and Kashmir is located in the northern part of India, in the Himalayan region. In 2021, total population of Jammu and Kashmir is expected to hit 13.65 million (1.36 Crores).¹⁷ On August 5, 2019, the Government of India altered Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and bifurcate the State into two Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

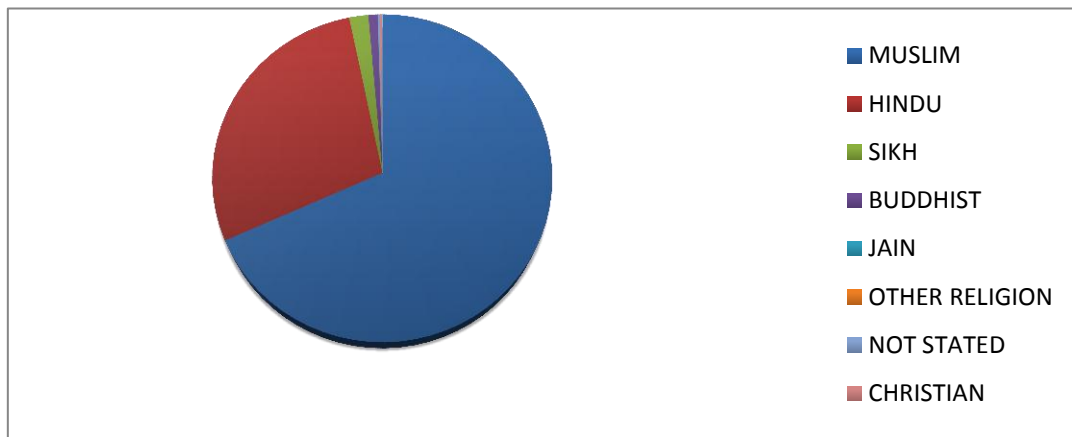
Major stream is Jhelum River in Kashmir Valley. This valley has a normal stature of 1,850 Meters above ocean level. Some significant vacation destinations in Jammu & Kashmir are Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Patnitop, Jammu, Srinagar etc.

India's Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir share borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, so this region is strategically important for India. India can enter Central Asian countries through Kashmir. India is the fastest growing country in the world and undergoing through the demographic dividend Therefore India is demanding energy resources. Central Asian countries have reserves of energy resources. The Gilgit-Baltistan region has reserves of energy resources which are illegally occupied by Pakistan.

¹⁷ UIDAI. (2021, October 20). *UIDAI*. Retrieved from <https://uidai.gov.in/images/state-wise-aadhaar-saturation.pdf>.

(1) Social Structure of Kashmir

Religious Stratification of Kashmir



Dig 2.1, Data Source: Cast Census 2011¹⁸

In Jammu and Kashmir, about 68.31% of the population professes Islam. The population following Hinduism is 28.44 percent. Christianity is followed by 0.28 percent in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, 0.02 percent in Jainism, 0.90 percent in Buddhism and 1.87 percent in Sikhism. About 0.01 percent said 'other religion', while 0.16 percent said 'no particular religion'. 27.38 percent of the total population live in urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The urban population has increased by 27.38 percent in the last ten years. The sex ratio in the urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir was 840 females per 1000 males. Children (0-6) In terms of sex ratio, the metropolitan area has 850 girls per 1000 boys. There were 425,897 children in the age group of 0 to 6 years living in urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir. In urban areas (0-6) children constitute 12.41 percent of the total population. In Jammu and Kashmir, the average literacy rate in urban areas was 77.12 per cent, with male literacy at 83.92

¹⁸ Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. (2011, March 11). *2011 Census Data*. Retrieved Nov 09, 2021, from 2011 Census Data: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011-common/censusdata2011.html>

per cent and female literacy at 56.65 per cent. The total number of literates in the urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir was 2,319,283. 72.62% people reside in rural area in J&K.

(1.1) Islam Jihad and Kashmir

Root of conflict in Kashmir can be traced on history of cultural stratification since independence. After the conflict of 1987, the movement against corruption and irregularities in election 1987 become an Islamic extremist movement and extremist started to demand separation and some of them was seeking to merger with Pakistan. Few Dharmagurus/Molanas of the Islam started to wash the brain of youth on the name of so called jihad and the movement become religious however the movement was started secular. In 1990s new era of terrorism started, highly educated natives of Kashmir started to join terror on the name of jihad. So called Islamic self proclaimed Jihadee Teachers of Islam in Kashmir only emphasize on the literal explanation of jihad and not enough capable to explain jihad on anagogic manner. However they do literal explanation intentionally to promote insurgency, alienation and terrorism in Kashmir¹⁹.

(1.2) Status of Education and Health services

Education and Health services are the determinants of human capital efficiency. Health and education are of utmost importance in militancy affected areas like Kashmir.

¹⁹ SIKAND, Y. (2010). Jihad, Islam and Kashmir: Syed Ali Shah Geelani's Political Project. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 125-134.

(1.2.1) Status of Education

"By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning."

- M.K. Gandhi

With an overall literacy rate of 67.16%, Jammu and Kashmir don't reflect a great education system.²⁰ Schools remained closed in the flood-affected areas of the former Jammu and Kashmir State in 2014-15 as a result of the devastating floods²¹. Due to security concern the number of working days is less. In 2016-17 schools remains shut down on 60% working days.²² Till date, the U.T, like the rest of the country, has followed the 10+2+3 system. The new education policy, however, will change the pattern to 5+3+3+4. Both the Central and State governments are planning to implement similar measures in the near future.

(1.2.2) Covid -19 Pandemic and Education

Education has been affected due to the ongoing conflict for almost four decades; the situation of education has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In other parts of the world students are getting education through telecommunication and internet. Due to security reasons there was double lockdown in Kashmir and students were not able to use the above mentioned mediums.

²⁰ Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. (2011, March 11). *2011 Census Data*. Retrieved Nov 09, 2021, from 2011 Census Data: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011-common/censusdata2011.html>

²¹ Akhzer, A. (2021, November 09). *The Indian Express*. Retrieved November 09, 2021, from The Indian Express: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/with-schools-shut-in-srinagar-future-of-thousands-hang-in-balance/>

²² Parvaiz, A. (2017, May 30). *hindustan times*. Retrieved November 09, 2021, from hindustan times: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/since-july-2016-kashmir-s-schools-and-colleges-stayed-shut-on-60-of-working-days/story-1FlfmjKN23a8osHATOlafM.html>

According to the Kashmir's Director of school education, administrators have used all available resources. He acknowledged that “Low-speed internet is an issue but the education department broadcasts video classes for the grades of 6th to 12th on monthly basis.”

“As per government data, Jammu and Kashmir region has more than 2.5 million students with more than 10,000 schools”²³. It is important to emphasize that education is important, and its proper use can help to break the cycle of violence and mistrust. Interruptions in schooling are detrimental to a child's psychosocial, emotional and cognitive development as well as literacy.

(1.3) Health Services in Kashmir

The link between the health of a population and the degree of civilization development is complex and varies over time. Throughout history, one of the primary rewards of progress is the progress in health services. Good Health services have a positive effect on development. Health can be considered a part of a society's capital stock.²⁴

The cost of treatment in private hospitals in Kashmir is high. Lack of cleanliness in government hospitals, lack of doctors, lack of ambulances, lack of paved roads from village to hospital etc. make worsens the access of people to the medical facilities.²⁵

²³ Sidiq, N. (2020, August 05). *A year without school in Kashmir*. Retrieved November 09, 2021, from A year without school in Kashmir: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/a-year-without-school-in-kashmir/1931973>

²⁴ THE WORLD BANK. (2004). *Health Economics and Development*. In P. Musgrove (Ed.). ashington, DC : THE WORLD BANK.

²⁵ Bodha, I. J. (2017). Health Care Services of Jammu and Kashmir: A study Hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir. *International Journal of Theoretical & Applied Sciences* , 54-59.

72% population of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir is living in the rural areas. Doctor- population ratio is 1:10000, in rural Kashmir.²⁶

(2) Politics of Kashmir

After becoming the Prime Minister in 1951, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah implemented land reform and other program of development in Kashmir on the lines of the central government. He was sacked by "Sadar-e-Riyasat" Dr. Karan Singh in 1953 on the ground of losing confidence in his cabinet and "Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad" was appointed as his successor. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah was arrested on the basis of irregularities. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah's successors were not strong enough to lead Kashmir so they run the administration with the help of the Indian government. The Congress party dominated the State politics from 1953 to 1974. Thereafter several attempts were made by Sheikh Abdullah and the Indian government to achieve an agreement and to emerge from political instability. In 1974 Indira Gandhi made a pact with Sheikh Abdullah and Sheikh Abdullah became the Chief Minister.²⁷

On the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah National Conference was elected in the 1977 assembly elections. After Sheikh Abdullah's death in 1982, the party was led by Farooq Abdullah and became chief minister, but he was quickly removed by the governor on grounds of losing confidence in his cabinet. Violence erupted in Kashmir due to the intervention of the central government and the removal of Farooq Abdullah.

²⁶ J&K Higher education department. (n.d.). *rural healthcare infrastructurel disparity* . Retrieved November 09, 2021, from J&K Higher education department: <http://jkhighereducation.nic.in/jkki/issue1/17.pdf>

²⁷ Copland, I. (1981). Islam and Political Mobilization in Kashmir, 1931-34. *Pacific Affairs, University of British Columbia* , 228-259.

The 1987 assembly elections were held. The National Conference-Congress combination won the election, and Farooq Abdullah was re-elected as C.M. From the early 1980s, there was a developing public discontent with dysfunctional officials within the State. By 1989, the State had been hit by a militant movement mobilizing for a separate Nation for Kashmiris. The rebels get sponsorship from Pakistan. Terrorists and extremists drive Hindus out of their homes.

After the cold war, Pakistan moved the Mujahideen from Afghanistan to Pakistan and began a shadowy war of terrorism and insurgency towards India. Therefore after the 1987 elections, pro-India views of Kashmiris were dramatically changed to the views of Kashmiri separatism. As a result, Kashmir suffers everyday riots, curfews, stone pelting and firing between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control (LoC).

State election held on 1996. National conference headed by Farooq Abdulla won the election but conflict remains same as Pakistan was supporting insurgent and terrorist groups in Kashmir.²⁸

In 2002, PDP with the coalition of congress come into the power and appeasement politics starts in Kashmir. In 2015, Mehbooba Mufti's People's Democratic Party collaborate with India's ruling Bhartiya Janta Party. However, this alliance did not last long. Despite the fact that the Indian government is working on several projects to contain militancy and restore normalcy in Kashmir, terrorist attacks like Pulwama have significantly disrupted the Peace Process.²⁹

²⁸ Widmalm, S. (1997). The Rise and Fall of Democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. *Asian Survey* , 1005-1030.

²⁹ Behera, N. C. (2016). The Kashmir Conflict: Multiple Fault Lines. *Journal of Asian Security (SAGE Publications India)* , 41-63.

The President of India had issued the Constitutional Order, 2019 (CO 272) under the provision mentioned in Article 370 and The Constitutional Order, 1954. As per the order, the provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable to J&K. Furthermore on 31 October 2019, the Indian Parliament approved the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, which dissolved the state into union territories. J&K in the West and Ladakh in the East.

(3) Economic Structure

The financial system of Kashmir is based on agriculture and allied sectors. Sericulture and cold water fishing activities also take place in the valley. Kashmiri willow is used to make the cricket bats. Kashmiri saffron is very famous and brings a lot of cash to the state.

Barley, Maize, Orange, Rice, Peach, Pear, Saffron, Apple, Jowar, Millet, Cherry, Vegetables and wheat are the major agricultural exports from Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite its modest size, the enterprise sector is growing significantly, especially within the Jammu division. The “ASSOCHAM” have identified several business areas that can attract funding to the state.

Tourism played an important role in the Kashmiri economy before the outbreak of conflict in 1987. The tourism business within the Kashmir Valley was most affected by the conflict in Kashmir and over Kashmir. However, the sacred sites Buddhist monasteries remain important pilgrimage sites for travelers, which are located in

Ladakh and Jammu. “Every month hordes of Hindu pilgrims visit the holy sites of Vishnu Devi and Amaranth, which has a positive impact on the country's economy.”³⁰

(3.1) Covid-19 Pandemic and Economy of Kashmir

However lock down in Kashmir was imposed after the alteration of article 370 due to the security compulsion. Kashmir was already in lock down when global pandemic of Covid-19 broke out. Therefore double lockdown was imposed in Kashmir. There was a communication blockage. Phone line and internet was blocked due to security compulsion. It affects trade and other activities adversely. All schools and education facility were shut down. It affects human capital formation adversely. 23% workforce involved in trading. 7% workforce involved in transportation business. Due to the double lock down both the sectors faces stagnation.

³⁰ Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir. (2012). *Jammu & Kashmir official portal*. Retrieved June 17, 2021, from Jammu & Kashmir official portal: <https://jk.gov.in/jammukashmir/?q=demographics>