



Original Article

International Journal of Educational Research and Technology

ISSN 0976-4089

IJERT: Volume 4 [1] March 2013: 18 -21

© All Rights Reserved Society of Education, India

ISO 9001: 2008 Certified Organization

Website: www.soeagra.com/ijert/ijert.htm

Violences and Turmoils Adversely Effected Jammu and Kashmir Economy

Bilal Ahmad khan

Department of Economics, D.A.V.V Indore (MP)

Email: bilalahmadk9@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Conflict of any kind and any nature has always a long impact on the societies and economies of world. Slow development is only attributed to violence in Jammu & Kashmir. Trend in development is not encouraging. The ongoing conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir has not only effected socio-economic structure of state but has also resulted in displacement of non-Kashmiri households. There has been damage to infrastructure, and annual economy growth lagged behind as compared to national level, tourism suffered tremendously, forests areas and other areas were occupied by security forces. In addition, loss of human resources resulted in distressed marriages and people were trying to save young girls and children were very hopeless of their future career. Violence has effected 'the development scenario in the state of J&K, thereby not only discouraging private investment, but also creating obstacles in implementation of developmental policies initiated by public authorities. It is indicated that there is a need and desire for peace, due to which income generating activities and trade and skill building programs in addition to literacy become possible. Therefore the main object of this paper is to explore possibilities for peace prospects in Jammu And Kashmir State and accordingly to initiate developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir State that will be step towards prosperity of people of entire stat.

Received 24.02.2013 Accepted 19.03.2013

© 2013 Society of Education, India

INTRODUCTION

Jammu and Kashmir State is continuously affected by violence and Human Rights Violations which has retarded growth and development and shattered peace spectrum of state. The state in totality is having its own resource potential. Exploration of this natural resource material can be step towards peace and prosperity. Agricultural economy coupled with tourist potential and forest resources can play a role in growth and development of state in particular and country in totality. The state has a wide range of tourist potential that probably can be exploited profitably on an expanded scale. There are good prospects for rising yields of agricultural crops through better irrigation and cultivation practices and an intensive framework. The states extensive snowcapped mountains provide a favorable backdrop for the development of tourism and the service sector in general.

According to official estimates, some 40,000 lives has been lost since from 1989 though other estimates put the toll much higher. Largest scale displacement from different parts of state is an integral part of Kashmir conflict (Shekhwat 2006). An estimated one million people has been displaced in the state due to militancy. About 20000 women have been killed due to recent turmoil in J&K during last two decades (NHRC, 2006). There are reports of rape, molestation and abduction of children during the ongoing conflict (NCRB, 2006). About 40000 children were orphaned due to conflict in the state. Most of them have been living in miserable conditions. About 55476 Kashmiri Pandit families remained displaced since early 1990s. The govt. of India and state govt. of J&K regularly announced various schemes to encourage their return but failed.

The relationship between conflict and development is strong and is two way process. Conflict retards development and equally failure in development increases conflict. There arises a "conflict trap" – A cycle of conflict related violence and economic retardation (Collier and Hoffer 1998). Other humanitarian costs included negative impact on women and other vulnerable groups and a noticeable increase in the psychiatric patients are in consideration (Medicine Sans Frontiers, 2006). List of 109 lives has been lost in 2010 due to turmoil (Asian Center for human rights). Persons died

during protests in J&K from 11 June to 15 October, 2010. Shoot-At-Sight orders (Kashmir Times 14 September 2010) Almost all socio economic sectors got affected. The conflict has also cost the Indian govt. heavily in terms of deployment of security forces as well as other financial responsibilities.

The Kashmir conflict is one of the burning issue in the international politics. Though the parties involved in the conflict have their own perspectives regarding the cause and course of conflict. However all agree that region is in need of peace which is important for development. When PM Dr. Manmohan Singh was forced to intervene and convene a meeting of all parties of Jammu & Kashmir to solve the crises on 10 August, 2010, he himself states that Kashmir needs Political Solution (**Times of India, 10 August, 2010**) which will bring peace.

The theory of development by Amartya Sen (Sen, 1999) argues development and peace are intimately related. Peace is both constitutive of development and instrument to it. Sen delineates five indicators that are needed to bring true development.

1. Political freedom
2. Economic facilities
3. Social opportunities
4. Transparency guarantees and
5. Social opportunities
6. Protective security

In this light it can be argued that economic underdevelopment amounts to lack of peace and prosperity. This is very much the case in Kashmir, where all conflicts and turmoil have not allowed economic developments to prevail upon. He argues that growth of GNP or individual income can of course be very important as the means to expanding the peace processes enjoyed by members of society (Sen 1999. P.3)

Thus the present study is an attempt in this direction and examines the social and economic costs of conflict on society.

However, this paper argues that ongoing peace can be used to economic development on the right track, but Kashmir issue cannot be resolved only by means of economic development but spirit of reconciliation and harmony among them including people of Kashmir, govt. of India and some important external and international actors. Kashmiri people include not only (NC and PDP etc) but leaders of Hurriyat party, private persons. Surely involvement of people of J&K in the peace process will gain momentum.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the socio-economic costs of armed conflicts and peace process is only the instrument which can really contribute towards progress. The study intends to present the social economic conditions of people due to violence.

METHODOLOGY

Literature on Kashmir conflict is very less. There is no substantial work on peace and development linkages concerned with Kashmir. There has not been done any work on this area. Thus the latest one. Hence major sources of material is first hand information. However, besides primary sources, the author has consulted the available secondary sources.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The trend in development has been discouraged. The continuous conflicts have adversely affected all socio-economic sectors of Jammu and Kashmir. Violent conflicts cause growth to decline (Collier,2007), damage infrastructure (Rodrick,1998,Binzel and Bruck, 2006, Bruck and Schindler, 2007), destruct physical capital, reduce investment(Knight et al.,1996; Imai and Weinstein ,2000); and induce capital flight (Collier,1999a) and lower personal saving rates (Russett and Slemrod,1993). The ongoing armed conflict in J&K has resulted in forced migration of Kashmiri Hindu and non Kashmiri Hindu and Muslim communities since mid nineties, damage to infrastructure, lags behind annual economy growth is compared to national level, tourism suffered tremendously, forest areas and other areas occupied by security sources. The average annual growth of net state domestic product from 1980-81 to 199-2000 was 12.45percent for J&K against 15.01 percent, 14.28 percent, 13.83 percent and 14.3 percent for Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat, West Bengal and

Kerala respectively. Similarly average annual growth of per capita net state domestic product during 1980-2000 was merely 9.63 percent for J&K against 12.9 percent, 11.63 percent and 12.86 percent for Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat, West Bengal and Kerala respectively (planning commission of India 2006. P.1).

The state lags far behind in annual economy growth as compared to national level, and its per capita income is also behind the national average. The survey indicated that state has shown 5.27 percent annual growth during first three years of 10th FYP, against national average of 6.6 percent per capita income in the state stands at INR 17174 per annum much below the national average of INR 25907 per annum.

Tourism one of the main industries in the Kashmir valley has suffered tremendously due to violent activities. It has declined substantially since late 1980s when military gained momentum. The number of tourists visiting the state per year had gone down from around seven million in paramilitary days to few thousands in following years. It is estimated that state lost 29 million tourists from 1989-2002 leading to tourism revenue loss of \$ 3.6 billion.

State forest area is below the standard prescribed by national forest policy that state the total forest area in hilly states like J&K should be 66 percent of total land area. Official figures reveal that only 50.97 percent of area in the state was demarcated as forest in 2006. The forest included a diversity of flora. The damage to these forests had deprived the state of many plants of medicinal value thereby negatively affecting the prospects of verbal trade. The forests resources have been damaged not only because of logging but also to illegal occupied areas of forests by security forces. The security forces have also occupied other areas other than forests due to which our production, infrastructure and flora damaged and declined. According to conservative estimates, the militants have raised about 650 schools to the ground and security forces have occupied several areas in rural (Mahapatr, 2007). The violence in the state has led to sharp increase in unemployment. The unemployment rate in the state is 4.21 percent against 3.09 percent in national level. Once of the main consequences of violence is a low literacy rate in the state which stands at 54.46 percent as compared to all India literacy rate of 64.8 percent according to census 2001.

PEACE PROCESS

Kashmir needs peace for development which has been retarded from last two decades. At international level many peace agreements were launched by multiple players India, Pakistani, Kashmiri and other international actors. In joint statements they each showed willingness to starts a composite dialogue for peaceful settlement of all issues but finally results is still nil

At national level, various peace missions were launched to create a peace environment. India announced major combat operations in J&K from 1990s but the result was not really satisfied. Fortunately and most importantly J&K witnessed assembly election in 2002 that have been recognized free and fair, because no particular party won by outstanding majority. This elections dismantled one party politics of state and govt. was formed by people's Democratic Party PDP in coalition with congress and other parties. Under the elected govt. the state played active role in facilitating the peace process under the healing touch policy. This was followed by panchayat elections after more than two decades.

FINDINGS

After the peace process, the sectors like tourism art and handicrafts, agriculture and related sectors, industries, private investment etc all received great importance. The recent opening of roads across the LOC has encouraged the prospects of both development and peace in the state. The opening of Srinagar- Muzaffarabad road in April 2005 followed by Poonch Rawalakote in June 2006 and ongoing talks to open many other roads like Jammu – Sialkot, Jhanger – Mirpur has vast potential for economic revival. Infrastructure growth is very necessary for economic revival of state which was damaged by violence. Industrial openings infrastructural development etc all provides and leads to employment generations. Surely, it is only the peace which can make our state strong and welfare.

CONCLUSION

Violence has affected the development of state, as it discourages private enterprises to invest and creates obstacles in implementation of developmental activities. The ongoing peace process has

created a space wherein conflict and development can be co-managed in J&K without jeopardizing the interests of parties involved not only those of common people inhabiting the region. Though conflict is to be resolved, the peaceful space can be used for development.

Kashmir can become a place of peace and development when all parties are involved for participation. The current chance to bring peace by means of development to the region needs to be utilized, instead of waiting for conflict to be resolved fully. Our Indian politician planners and social scientists can explore all possibilities for exploiting the resource potential of state to its fullest extent and that way there will be an economic growth which can ultimately bring peace to state and unemployment will go down.

REFERENCES

1. Mahapatra, A. Debidatta (2007). Poonch for Peace: An Eye Witness Account. Kashmir Times. May 6. P. 6
2. Medicins Sans Frontiers (2006). Kashmir; Violence and Death. Amsterdam: Author.
3. NHRC (2006). Annual Report, 2004-2005, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi.
4. NCRB (2006). Annual Report 2005, National Crime Records Bureau New Delhi
5. Sen, Amartya (1999). Development as Freedom, New York: Random House.
6. Planning Commission of India (2006). Jammu and Kashmir: Development Scenario, Executive Summary. Retrieved January 7, 2007, from <http://planningcommission.nic.in/plans/stateplan.sdr.j&k/sdrjkexecutive.pdf>.
7. Across LOC (2005). Interview with Justice Majeed Mallick, July September, 11-13.
8. Bukhari, Shujaat (2006), Unemployment, the Root Causes of Militancy: Azad. The Hindu. February 6. P. 1.
9. Lists of 109 Persons Killed, Collated By (Asian Centre For Human Rights).
10. Shoot- At- Sight Orders (The Kashmir Times, 14 Sept. 2010).
11. PM Statement "Kashmir Needs Political Solution". Time of India, 10 August 2010
12. Shekhawat, seema. (2006). Conflict and Displacement in J& K : The Gender Dimension. Jammu: Saksham Books International.
13. Collier, Paul and Hoffer, A. (1998). On Economic Causes of Civil War, Oxford Economic Papers, 50(4),563-573.
14. Lists of 109 persons killed, Collated by (Asian Centre for Human Rights).
15. Binzel, Christine and Tilman Bruck (2006), Analysing Conflict and Fragility at the Micro Level; Paper presented at USAID-HICN conference on conflict and Fragility, Nov 5-6 Washington D.C
16. Bruck, Tilman and Kati Schindler (2007): "The Impact of Conflict: A Conceptual Framework with Reference to Window and Refugee Households: Paper Presented at Second Annual Workshop of Household in Conflict Network, Antwerp, 19-20 January.
17. Collier, Paul (2007), The Bottom Billion: "Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing And What Can Be Done About It", Oxford University Press.
18. Imai, Kosuke And Jeremy Weinstein (2007): "Measuring The Economic Impact Of Civil War", CID Working Paper No. 51, Harvard University.
19. Knight M. N. Loayza And D. Villanueva (1996), "The Peace Divided: militancy Spending Cuts And Economic Growth; IMF Staff Papers, 43(1); 1-37 Washington DC, United States
20. Shoot - At - Sight Orders (The Kashmir Times 14th September 2010)
21. PM Statement, " Kashmir Needs Political Solution" (Times of India 10 August 2010).
22. Rodrik, Doni (1998), " Where did All Growth Go?" External Shocks, Social Conflict And Growth Collapses, NBER Working Paper 6350, Washington D.C. (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w6350.pdf>)