

## **Displacement: A Serious Challenge in Jammu and Kashmir State**

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**Abstract:** *Displacement of Kashmiri Pandit is a strategically national Challenge. Crossborder challenge pushed million of people to flee their homes every year. The resulting displacement crisis not only create logistical and humanitarian nightmare, these crises also threaten International or natioanal security and the risk the lives of displaced people. In every conflict situation people leave their homes to escape political violence since 1947, large scale conflict induced displacement, leading to the increase in the number of refugees or internally displaced in Jammu and Kashmir state. After the creation of Indo Pakistan border in 1947 increasing number of people have been forced to leave their homes as a result of war or conflict like situation in Jammu-Kaskmir. The paper aims to explore the implication of conflict situation in Jammu-Kaskmir which has resulted large scale desplacement of population from the affected areas. The paper is best on secondary source like generals, articles, books and government reports regarding replacement in Jammu-Kashmir state. The competing claims over Kashmir by India and Pakistan are key source of conflict in Jammu-Kashmir. The claim and consequence are the result of the opposing policies in India and Pakistan. Diverging responses associated with the claim from both sides have given birth to the war or war scarce and militancy in the state.*

**Keyword:** *Militancy, conflict, war, displacement, violence, crossborder*

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### **I. Introduction:**

Each discipline tries to understand conflict from its own perspective, it become a lop sided attempt, if one emphasizes on only one aspect of the conflict such as taking into consideration only the economic in a social conflict or social tensions inherent in group identities. To have a holistic perspective on understanding conflict, it is pertinent to understand social, political, cultural, economic, strategic and international issues related to conflict. To understand the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir state one has to get into the genesis of the issue that is political, religious, social, economic and geo strategic, due to geographical positioning between India and Pakistan and then graduate to what it means for the security of people of Jammu and Kashmir state in particular and India is general and the role of the armed force and internationalization of the issue duty involvement of Pakistan and other extra regional countries and organisation. Therefore, conflict is a very complex phenomenon and it equally complex to understand and explain it. It exist more or less in every part of the globe, though the intensity varies is according to the time and space. Conflict in Jammu and Kashmir state, the competing claims over the Kashmir by India and Pakistan are the key sources of the conflict. The claim and consequences are the result of the opposing palicies of India and Pakistan. Diverging responses associated with the claim from both sides have given birth to armed conflict and militancy in the state. The conflict situation in which the state of Jammu and Kashmir is involved for more than six and half decades now, has both external as well as internal dimension. The contestation between India and Pakistan over there respective claim leading to a number of war and prolonged hostility between the two countries form the external dimension of conflict. The internal dimension of conflict however is defined by Kashmir's relationship with India, specifically the context of political alienation in Kashmir and the consequent political situation. Seen from this perspective, the internal context of conflict has evolved around the Kashmiri identify. However, this identity politics does not exhaust the whole range of political claim and assertions, Political divergence is the reality of the state and providesa complexity both to the nature of conflict as well as its resolution. Conflict of any kind and any nature has always a long impact on the societies. The ongoing conflict in jammu and Kashmir has not affect the socio economic structures of the state but has also resulted in displacement of population. Large scale displacement from different parts of state is an internal part of Kashmir conflict.

### **Displacement of Population :**

Displacement and conflict are inextricably related. Civilians are often exposed to systematic atrocities and without adequate physical protection during the conflictsituation. They are many times, forced to flee from their native places. Thus, the dislocations seem to be an inevitable offshoot of the conflict situation. In fact, the post cold war era is witnessing the phenomena of displacements the word over in an unprecedented number both across and within national boundaries. Major upheavals have led to the uprootednessof many people who leave their hearths and homes because of compulsive reasons like persecution, human rights abuse, civil war etc and look for safety and greater opportunities elsewhere. Jammu and Kashmir conflict is multi-faceted one with historical, territorial, strategic, legal, ideological and cultural aspects. Since its origin in 1947 as an inter-state

conflict, it not only got intensified in last few decades but also attracted International attention but also developed an internal dimension. A long history of violent political conflict has shaped the lives of people who live in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir state. During each period of interstate and intra state armed conflict, people were forcibly dislocated across the military Line of Control. The apocalyptic uprooting that occurred during the creation of Indo-Pakistan border in 1947 has been estimated to have displaced fifteen million people, constituting the largest group of refugees in history, with an approximated one million casualties. The major problem of displacement, which was the result of partition have accompanied with the creation of India-Pakistan border in 1947.

The displacement in Jammu and Kashmir is as old as the partition of the Indian sub-continent. The partition accompanied with the communal riots forced millions of people to move either side. By and large the issue of dislocation was settled subsequently and people were rehabilitated. However, in Jammu and Kashmir state the issue of conflict induced displacement continued. The problem of forced migration, starting in 1947, become more complicated as the decades passed. Jammu region itself, at present is having an amalgamation of over seven types of dislocated people Total number of temporarily and permanently displaced person in Jammu is almost equal to the total numbers of native.

In the partition related displacement nearly 15000 people fled from the adjoining areas of Pakistan, mostly from Sialkot district. This can be termed at first kind of displacement. The refugee camps were open at many place in Jammu and Kashmir in government and private building to accommodate them. Though many of these refugees gradually left the state to settledown elsewhere, a considerable number of steel living within the state. As per report of the Badhwa committee of 2007 constituted by the government of Jammu Kashmir, around 5764 families consisting of 47215 persons migrated from west Pakistan and got settled mainly in area of Jammu, Kathua and Rajauri district of Jammu division. No land was allotted to them by the state government. These people have not been treated at par with the refugees in other part of India. They have been denied the basic rights of owing land and employment since they are not the subjects of Jammu Kashmir state.

The second kind of displacement was from Pakistan occupied Kashmir. There was huge influx of the Hindus and Sikhs from the areas of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Bagh, Rawalakot, Bhimber, kotali, Jhangar etc, which we are occupied by Pakistan. According to the Hardit Singh Panchi, president of Jammu and Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) 50,000 families had been displaced at that time. While some of the displaced from Muzaffarabad came to Baramulla, most took shelter in Poonch town, After some time these displaced people were air lifted to Jammu where in they were kept in six camps in Nagrota and one in chattha. In 1964, the government officially registered around 31619 families. At present more than twelve lakh Pakistan occupied Kashmiri displaced people are there in various part of the state. The main places of their concentration are Bhour Camp, Digiana, Gole Gujral, RS Pura, Rehari colony, Bakshi Nagar and Sarwal in the Jammu district and Resai, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Poonch districts.

The 1965 war also led to large scale displacement of the people from border areas. Indo- Pak war in 1965, Hindus and Sikhs in large numbers migrated from the areas, which were captured by Pakistan during 1947-48 war. The war affected the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir including the ChhambJurian area in Jammu region when Pakistani army attacked it. The displaced people wear lodged in eighttent camps in different parts of Jammu region. After signing of the Tashkent declaration in 1966 most of them returned to their homes. The biggest migration after 1947 across the divide took place in 1971, during Indo-Pak war when the entire Chhamb area in Jammu division comes under Pakistan. Following the Shimla agreement, the Chhamb Nibat area comprising about 39,000 acres of land in the Jammu and Kashmir fell on the Pakistan side of the line of control. Over 18,000 persons comprising about 4600 families who had been uprooted from this area, were immediately provided relief assistance in camps situated at Kishanpur, Manwal, at a distance of 70 kms from Jammu. Around 2500 families, which preferred to stay with their relatives, were denied the government help. The Kargil war in 1999 also resulted in the displacement of a considerable number of people from Kargil. Many of them went back, yet some are still residing in Kashmir as well as in Jammu. As a consequence of continuous shelling from across the border area, the estimated number of migrants rose to 175,000 up to June 2002 according to a team of union home ministry. Some of 60,000 have returned and some have settled elsewhere, where as 6000 families still remains in camps. From Akhnoor block, nearly 6072 families and from Pallanwala area of this block, a total number 1044 families were displaced. Besides from Kargil, the war also led to the displacement from the border areas all over the state. The entire population of border villages had to abandon their homes and take shelter in the interior part of Jammu region due to heavy shelling. Many of them returned as soon as crisis was over. But thousands of people from Pallanwala and other adjoining areas of Akhnoor district are still living in the camps in Jammu region. Large scale internal displacement took place from the valley during 1989-90, when the region came under the control of many secessionist groups. Since the beginning of 1989, the minority communities in Kashmir started receiving notices to quit Kashmir. Panic gripped the Valley, secessionist organizations called for bycott against those opposing secessionist movement in the state. Kashmiri Pandits, the non Kashmiri Hindus, Kashmiri Sikhs and other minorities were thus forcibly

displaced from Kashmir. As per official statistics, 49760 displaced families from Kashmir are registered as migrates. 28561 registered families living in Jammu division. Out of these 25215 families are Kashmiri Hindus, 1803 Sikhs and 1468 Muslims. 21,199 registered migrant families are living outside Jammu and Kashmir state. More than 10,000 families who have not been able to register as migrants due to their immobility, ill health, old age, official apathy and other factors. As such around 60,000 Kashmiri Pandits families comprising this entire community of more than 3,00,00 have been forced out from their ancient indigenous habitat in Kashmir by terrorist and religious forces. Their forced displacement has had devastating consequences on the socio-psychological, physical, health and demographic profile of the Kashmiri Pandit community which is on the verge of extinction.

This displaced community has thus been living with the most traumatic experiences of the destruction of its social fabric, economical, familial and environmental relationships and infrastructure. The two countries came to the brink of war on many occasions. This also led to large scale displacement in the state, especially from the border areas. The war scares led to an increase in the firing on the borders and consequently forced people to leave their places which come in the direct range of firing from across the border. Internally displaced persons in the state include those who have been displaced since fleeing armed conflict in 1998 in Doda, Poonch and Rajouri district where the majority of population is Muslim, as well as civilians displaced by shelling along the LOC. Over 2200 Hindu families comprising almost 12000 people fled their homes in Doda, Poonch and Rajouri district of Jammu in 1998 after receiving threats from militants and following the killing of 27 Hindu people at Prankot in the Reasi region in 1998. More than 400 of these families have been staying at the Talwara camp in Udhampur district. The Talwara camp was established by the Jammu and Kashmir Government which provided assistance to the internally displaced persons until 2004. For instance, the war scare of December 2001 after the attack on Indian Parliament led to massive displacement from the border areas. Another war scare due to the May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir state also led to displacement. According to an estimate, since the 1999 Kargil war to the 2002 war scare, over one lakh people in the state were forced to leave their native places from border areas, 2200 from Poonch, 9000 from Rajouri, 125000 from Jammu and 25000 from Katwa district. There is also large scale silent inter-district displacement from the militancy-affected districts of Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch. This displacement from hilly areas of the Jammu region is of a silent type since it has not been able to draw attention of anyone, be it government, media or NGOs. A majority of the displaced, comprising Hindus as well as Muslims shifted to Jammu district. Around 1800 migrant families from Doda, Poonch and Rajouri are staying in the Beli Charana camp in Satwari, Jammu. As per an estimate, from the Doda district alone around 30,000 people have moved to Jammu after increased militancy in the areas in 1994-95. Besides, there has also been intra-district forced migration. Large numbers of people from the militancy-affected far-flung villages in that district of Udhampur, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri have taken shelter in the main town of Jammu district.

## II. Conclusion

There are different groups of the people displaced at different times, ever since the Kashmir dispute began in 1947. In the absence of any state policy or international law for these displaced persons, there are different ways of treating the displaced, as for the whims or the political needs or often the greed of those in power in Jammu and Kashmir. The nature of violence and the government's role in conflict is highly influential on political agenda, that can impact state responses towards these displaced persons. In Jammu and Kashmir state every conflict situation creates the crisis of displacement of population but the government only recognizes the consequences of an extremely violent and has led to reluctance to accept responsibility for contributing to conflict-induced displacement. The process of conflict-induced displacement is a recurring phenomenon in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

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