

Population Demography & Impact of Terrorism in State of Jammu & Kashmir

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ABSTRACT – Population demography in the All-Time violence and terrorism suffered but naturally extremely beautiful most northern region of India, the state of Jammu and Kashmir, has always been of interest for researchers in the fields of geography, political science, and sociology. This paper studies the persistence of the effects of terrorist attacks on the population demographics in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India.

The results reveal that the terrorism had a negative and transitory impact on population growth. This is further captured that the incidents of deaths implied more adverse effects on population demography and made it even more uneven in the state.

Key words: Population Demographics; Terrorism; Cross Border Politics

I. Introduction

‘Jammu and Kashmir’ is the northern-most state of India that is highly rich in natural vegetation and water resources but face extreme climate conditions and have been suffering from Communal Terrorism for many decades.

This although is a Muslim majority state but has good population from other religions including Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhism.

Communal Terrorism in past few decades in the state has forced multiple migrations of populations of specific religions and has hereby negatively impacted the sustainable growth of population of different religions in the state. Whereas the overall religious population demographics have not changed significantly but the distribution of the population has been highly impacted.

II. Population Demographics in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir state of India is a Muslim majority state although it has good population from communities of Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs too. The spatial distribution and density of population in the state is highly uneven due to different physical factors.

A. Spatial Demographics of Population

The spatial distribution and density of population in the state is highly uneven. The state experiences extreme weather conditions in sloppy and fields areas and this further makes the special distribution of the population uneven.

Naturally, the physical factors like climate conditions, terrain, topography, slope, natural vegetation, availability of agriculture resources, drainage soil, transport, roads, and other resources plays decisional roles in distribution of population over any region and due to highly uneven physical factors, the special distribution of human population in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is also uneven.

In general, Jammu plains and the Jhelum floor or the Kashmir Valley serves to about 85 per cent of the total population of the state whereas about 14 per cent of the total population is living in the Kandi that constitute the lower hilly slopes areas and the side valleys in the state within 2,000 m above the sea level. The remaining about 1% of the total population of the state is distributed in the areas of high latitudinal zones of the Himalayas, Zaskar, Karakoram Ranges, and Ladakh region.

B. Religious Demographics of Population

Jammu and Kashmir state of India is a Muslim majority state and about 67% of the population of the state is Muslim. Further about 97% of the population of the Kashmir Valley region of the state is Muslim although the state also has good population from communities of Buddhists, Hindus (inclusive of Megh Bhagats) and Sikhs.

In Jammu, Hindus, Muslim, and Sikh populations respectively constitute 65%, 31% and 4% of the population. Ladakh is a Buddhists majority region who constitute about 46% of the population whereas the remaining is the Muslims population.

In aggregation, the Muslims constitute 67% of the population in the state of Jammu and Kashmir whereas 30% are the

Hindus, 2% are the Sikh, whereas the remaining 1% are the Buddhists population in the state. [7]

III. Terrorism in J&K

According to an official report of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, since 1990, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been the main area of actions of Terrorism activities sponsored by external sources. These terrorism activities have cost many thousand lives (about 27,000 till 2001 from 1990) in the state. The casualties include defense personnel as well as civilians. [10]

According to the reports, the terrorist violence caused extensive damage to private and public property, with large number of people, particularly minority Hindus, being forced to migrate from the Valley. A political scientist Alexander Evans stated that approximately 150,000 to 160,000 Kashmiri Pandits) that constituted about 95% of the total Hindu population of the state left the Kashmir Valley in 1990 as militancy engulfed the state. Additionally, about 300,000 Kashmiri Pandits from the state have been internally displaced due to the ongoing violence, as estimated by the Central Intelligence Agency in one of their report. [10]

IV. Impact of Terrorism on Population Demographics in J&K

According to 1961 Census that was the first in the state after independence and partition of India, Muslims population constituted 68.3 per cent of the state population whereas Hindus population constituted 28.45 per cent of it. [3]

In 2006, the total number of districts the in state of Jammu and Kashmir were raised to 22 after addition of eight new districts. Out of these 22 districts, 17 are Muslim majority districts. Out of these 17, 10 Muslim majority districts are in Kashmir and 06 are in Jammu whereas one is in Ladakh.

Out of the remaining five districts, four are in Jammu region that have Hindu population in majority. The remaining one is Leh and that remains the Buddhist majority district.

Although, at broader level across the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the population demographics were not majorly changed in past decade but looking into the special demographics of the human population in the state, communal terrorism has given a significant impact on it. [3]

As reported on the official website of Jammu and Kashmir government, Muslims currently constitute the 97 per cent of population in Kashmir Valley region of the state. 2% of the population in the Kashmir Valley is of Hindus including majority of Megh Bhagats among them.

Table 1: Population and decadal growth rate by residence - Persons (Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India) [10]

MILITANTS ACTIVITIES IN J&K SINCE 1990 to 2001

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Since 1990 upto Dec.01
<i>No. of Incidents</i>	4158	3765	4817	5247	5829	5938	5014	3420	2932	3071	3074	4522	5178
<i>Civilians Killed</i>	461	382	634	747	820	1031	1336	948	857	821	762	919	9718
<i>SFs Killed</i>	155	173	189	198	200	237	184	193	236	355	400	536	3053
<i>Terrorists Killed</i>	550	844	819	1310	1596	1332	1209	1075	999	1082	1520	2020	14356
<i>Foreign Militants Killed</i>	14	12	14	90	122	85	139	197	319	305	436	622	2358

Hereby, the composition of the state's population at macro level is similar to that in 2011 Census – where Muslim to Hindu population ratio is nearly 2.4:1. But demographic equation at the micro level has changed during this period due to communal terrorism.

As per the figures released by state Directorate of Census Operations in a report published in 2013, Jammu and Kashmir faced a negative population growth by around six per cent in the decade from 2001 to 2011.

Table 2: Population and decadal growth rate by residence - Persons (Source: Census of India 2011) [3]

District Code	State/District	Population 2011			Percentage Decadal Growth (Persons) 2001-2011		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Jammu & Kashmir	12548926	9134820	3414106	23.71	19.77	35.66
01	Kupwara	875564	776322	99242	34.62	24.23	289.26
02	Badgam	755331	666620	88711	24.40	24.23	25.67
03	Leh (Ladakh)	147104	83901	63203	25.48	-5.30	120.69
04	Kargil	143388	130635	12753	20.18	20.23	19.67
05	Punch	476820	438176	38644	27.97	25.68	61.16
06	Rajauri	619266	575332	43934	28.14	27.96	30.54
07	Kathua	615711	527176	88535	20.38	21.83	12.46
08	Baramula	1015503	840948	174555	20.34	21.18	16.45
09	Bandipore	385099	320070	65029	26.31	23.84	40.08
10	Srinagar	1250173	15928	1234245	21.65	-83.27	32.37
11	Ganderbal	297003	250203	46800	36.30	22.54	241.08
12	Pulwama	570060	491370	78690	29.18	27.62	39.87
13	Shupiyan	265960	251010	14950	25.85	26.08	22.08
14	Anantnag	1069749	791237	278512	37.43	25.80	86.36
15	Kulgam	423181	343739	79442	7.40	-8.36	320.06
16	Doda	409576	377003	32573	27.89	26.33	49.17
17	Ramban	283313	271527	11786	31.81	33.09	7.90
18	Kishtwar	231037	216196	14841	21.06	22.90	-0.64
19	Udhampur	555357	445850	109507	20.86	22.79	13.63
20	Reasi	314714	288010	26704	27.06	26.63	31.84
21	Jammu	1526406	768577	757829	12.48	6.57	19.18
22	Samba	318611	264990	53621	16.90	27.91	-17.96

Table 3: POPULATION GROWTH IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 1901-2011 ([2] Bilal 2018)

Year	Population (in Lakhs)	Absolute Change (Lakhs)	Decadal Variation		Average Annual Growth Rate
			J &K	India	
1901	21.39	----	-	-	-
1911	22.92	1.53	7.16	5.75	0.69
1921	24.24	1.31	5.75	-0.31	0.56
1931	26.70	2.45	10.14	11.0	0.97
1941	29.46	2.76	10.36	14.22	0.99
1951	32.53	3.07	10.42	13.31	1.00
1961	35.60	3.07	9.44	21.64	0.91
1971	46.16	10.55	29.65	24.80	2.63
1981	59.87	13.70	29.69	24.66	2.63
1991*	77.18	17.31	28.92	23.86	2.57
2001	100.69	23.51	30.46	21.34	2.69
2011	125.48	26.51	23.71	17.70	2.63

Source: Various issues, Census of India, Jammu and Kashmir

*The 1991 census was not held in J&K. The population of India includes projected population of J&K (excludes area under occupation of Pakistan and China) as on 1.3.1991 made by the Standing Committee of Experts.

Percentage of total population living in villages has declined decade after decade. In fact, people from rural areas have migrated to urban areas because of security reasons, other facilities, and opportunities. ([2] Bilal Ahmad Khan 2018). Terrorism in the state has played decisional role in this migration.

V. Conclusion

Human Population in Jammu and Kashmir state of India comes consists of followers of Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh religion. Due to terrorism impacting the state for multiple decades, security has been a prime desire of residents. Communal terrorism has forced migration of non-Muslim population from Kashmir Valley to urban regions of Jammu. Uneven distribution of population has been governed by terrorism in the state for its current demography.

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