

Migrant Workers in Conflict hit Jammu and Kashmir: Livelihood Vs Security

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Abstract: The Kashmir Valley is an abode to number of workers from different states and union territories of India. The present study attempt to investigate the causation of inflow of migrant workers to most highly militarized and conflict hit zone in the world. The study is based purely on secondary data. The migration data has been related to civilian fatalities because the fatalities of civilians create more fear of insecurity among the masses than the military casualties normally in conflicting zone. Simple statistical tools of growth and CGAR has been used to show the trend of both the migrants and civilian fatalities over more than three decades along with major massacres occurred during the period under study. The study found that despite several massacres and individual civilian killings in the conflict hit Jammu and Kashmir the migrant workers didn't stopped coming to this conflicting zone except after the abrogation of article 370 when a new trend of targeted killing started on out of state migrant workers which hitherto was not visible. It is only after abrogation of said article the migrant workers started out flowing from the UT especially Kashmir valley temporarily when spate of attacks were carried out by Terrorist groups with fear of demographic change. The main reason behind the in-migration of workers in spite of having conflicting zone are lack of economic opportunities at their place of origin and better wages and community support at the destination place. It is also revealed by study that livelihood is paramount to security for the migrant workers. The workers are ready to take risky employment to feed their dependents than caring about their lives

Key words: Migrants, Conflict, Security, Livelihood, Employment.

Introduction: The movement of human beings for the purpose of earning livelihood and settling down occupies a central place in the drama of human history as well as in the growth of civilization. The history of migration is the history of people's struggle to survive and to prosper (Joseph, 1987). The movement can occur over long distances, from one country to another (external migration), and also within a single country (internal migration) which is the dominant form of human migration (Caves, 2004).

So far as security is concerned, security is a prototypical public good and each citizen has the right to it without restricting its consumption for others. In case of conflict zones, security is the first casualty. Even long after the end of conflict people might be threatened. In case of any nation there is no definite answer whether migration causes security threat or lack of security is the threat to migration. This debate on security- migration nexus gets another dimension when the focus shifts to the migration for work in these areas where there are security threats. An increase in migrant labour inflows during conflict periods has a positive effect on host destination employment, particularly in sectors such as construction and agriculture. They also find that wages for low-skilled native workers decrease slightly during conflict periods due to increased labour market competition.

It has been estimated (2011 census), about 45 million Indians who moved outside their district of birth for economic opportunities (be it employment or business) making up thirty seven percent of the country's population, up from thirty percent in 2001. This is an increase of forty five percent, which far exceeds the population growth rate of eighteen percent across 2001-2011 (Census 2011). In India, as in most countries, there are generally no restrictions on internal movement. The annual net migrant flows amounted to about one percent of the working age population. The all-India migration rate was 28.9 percent in 2021, with a 26.5 percent migration rate in rural areas and 34.9 percent in urban areas. Despite the significant increase in internal migration, the nature of movement remains relatively unchanged since 2001. Bulk of the migration (sixty two percent) is within the same district while another twenty six percent is across the districts within the same state. Only twelve percent of movement is inter-state. Inter-state migrants represents only four percent of population in India (Govt. of India, 2011), a rate almost unchanged since 2001 indicates that optimal allocation of human resources across the regional dimension is facing frictions (World Bank 2019).

The erstwhile state Jammu and Kashmir now a Union Territory (UT) is on the northern most border of India sharing borders with China and Pakistan. Due to tense borders with these countries, it has remained disturbed since independence. The region has geostrategic importance for India and Pakistan, resulting in three wars between two countries besides several armed skirmishes since its formation and is one of the most militarized zones in the world today. Since 1989 due to unending proxy war; it has remained turbulent till date. This has inflicted both physical and emotional damages, destroyed infrastructure and consumed lots of lives. Topographically as it lies in the middle of Himalayas, it has harsh winter. Thus turbulence and extreme climate should have typically resulted in very low flow of migrants to the region but it is seen that Kashmir valley have many migrants who have become integral part of Kashmir's economy.

This process of in-migration of labour in Jammu and Kashmir started from early 1970's, though there were certain instances of individual migration even before seventies. This process of in-migration became mass movement by the decade of eighties in occupations like agriculture, construction, brick kilns etc. The decade of nineties saw arrival of militancy and violence in Kashmir valley resulting in decline in in-migration to valley. But the turn of the century witnessed control on militancy to some extent, which saw the revival of migrant inflow to the state (Now UT) and lakhs of migrant labourers arrived in the State again. Presently there is a strong migrant labour community present in the valley working in all the sectors of the economy and sending their money back to their homes in different parts of India. At present there are around 140000 registered migrant workers in the state (Department of Labour J&K Government-2022). Against this background the present paper attempts to explore the dynamics of in-migrants to Kashmir valley from the other states of the country. The study is mainly based on empirical information taken from NSSO and Census of India. Of the two the main source of information was the census of India since it gives information of the migrants workers at place of destination. Based on the availability of authentic empirical information the period of study is from 2001 to 2011 since the 2021 census was not conducted. While it is concluded that around two lakh to five lakh migrants come during the peak of summer and work from March to November every year. The presence of such a large number of migrant workers contradicts the view that conflict has large negative externalities for the region having turbulence (Dumn and Tau, 2019). The armed conflict exacerbates the vulnerability of migrant labourers, leading to higher levels of poverty, reduced access to healthcare, and increased risk of exploitation and abuse (Mahmud & Chung, 2018).

Development of Conflict in Jammu and Kashmir:

The Genesis of violence in the Kashmir valley can be traced to the partition of country in 1947. Going to pre-partition period to find out the source of conflict historically it was found that the Kashmir was ruled by Afghan from 1752 to 1819 until its conquest by the Sikh emperor Maharaja Ranjit Singh (Snedden, 2015). It was ceded to the East India Company under the treaty of Lahore after the 1st Anglo Sikh war (1845-1860). It was later sold to Gulab Singh in 1846 under the treaty of Amritsar for 7,50,0000 Nanak shahi rupees. Gulab Singh (Founder of Dogra Dynasty) took the title of the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. From 1846 till 1947 partition of India, Kashmir was ruled by Dogra Dynasty as a princely state under the British paramountcy.

According to the Census (1941) the state's population was 77 percent Muslims, 20 percent Hindu and 3 percent others (Bose, 2003). In spite of it being Muslim majority state, the princely rule was a Hindu Dominated (Rai, 2004). The majority community suffered by having very few opportunities for growth and advancement, high taxes of the administrations, institutionalized discrimination and fixed labour without wages by the Dogra ruler (John, 2004). Hindu elite ruled over a vast, impoverished and exploited Muslim peasantry who were deprived of organized political representation till 1930's (Talbot and Singh, 2009) and large number of Kashmiri Muslim migrated to Punjab province of British India due to such atrocities (Bose, 2013). Despite being small percentage of valley's population, the Pandit community possessed 30 percent of land in the valley (Bose, 2016). Their authority grew under patronage of Maharaja Ranbir Singh who introduced Chakdari system in 1862 under which there were very easy conditions to grant allotments of uncultivated Land (Rai, 2004).

The first Kashmiri Muslims protest against Dogra regime was launched in 1931, encouraged by Ulama against what they saw as unfair Hindu administration (Ahmed, 1998). On July 1931 several Kashmiri Muslims protesting the arrests of Abdul Qayyum were shot dead by the police firing. The protest gained momentum after the killings and for the first time communal violence broke out in the Valley in which three Hindus were killed. Muslims termed the anti Dogra movement a religious war (Choudhary, 2015). In 1932 Kashmiri Muslims created their political organization, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim conference (AJKMC) aiming for the political unification of Kashmiri Muslims (Chowdhary, 2015). The religious aspect of the movement was reaction to the State exerting its Hinduness and discrimination against Muslims due to their religion (Chowdhary, 2015). In 1939 Muslim conference was converted into all J&K National conference (JKNC) to represent all Kashmiris regardless of religion on the behest of Maulana Sayeed Masoodi, Bakshi Gulam Mohammad and Sheikh Abdullah (Behara, 2007). At its annual session in 1945, it passed a resolution embracing Indian unity, Indian independence and self determination for India's cultural nationalities (Chadha, 2007).

British rule in the Indian subcontinent ended in 1947 with creation of new states: the Dominions of Pakistan and India as the successor states to British India. The British paramountcy over the 562 Indian princely states ended, (Panguimi 2015). The then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh decided to stay independent because he expected that the Muslim would be unhappy with accession to India and Hindu and Sikhs would become vulnerable if he joined

Pakistan (Ankit and Rakesh, 2020). The Jammu division of the State got caught up in the partition violence. Large number of Hindus and Sikhs from Rawalpindi and Sialkot started arriving in March 1947 following massacre in the Rawalpindi, bringing harrowing stories of Muslim atrocities. This provoked counter violence on Muslims in Jammu (Chatha, 2009). The violence in the eastern districts of Jammu that started in September developed into widespread massacre of Muslims around October organized by Hindu Dogra troops of the State and perpetrated by the local Hindus including those displeased from neighbouring areas of West Pakistan. The maharaja himself was implicated in some instances.

On August 11, 1947 Pakistanis decided to pre-empt this possibility by wresting Kashmir by force if necessary (Rhagavan, 2010). Faced with the Maharaja's indecision on accession the authorities in Pakistan waged a private war by obstructing supplies of fuel and essential commodities to the State. Later in the same year Muslim league officials assisted and possibly organized a large scale invasion of Kashmir by Pathan tribesmen (Copland and Ian, 1991). Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan, the Maharaja's nominee visited Delhi Sept 19, 1947 requesting military assistance and supplies of essential commodities which had been blocked by Pakistan and communicated the Maharaja's willingness to accede to India. Upon Governor General Lord Mountbatten's insistence, India required the maharaja to accede before it could send troops. Accordingly the Maharaja signed an instrument of Accession on October 1947 (Rhagavan, 2010), but a proviso was added that it would be submitted to a reference to the people after the State is cleared of invaders since only the people and not the Maharaja could decide where Kashmiris wanted to live (Varhsney, 1992). The largest political party National Conference headed by Sheikh Abdullah endorsed the Accession.

The Indian Troops Secured the Srinagar airport. The national conference also worked with the Indian army to drive out the Raiders resulting first Kashmir war, which, ended with UN mediated ceasefire along a line that was named the Line of Control (LOC) and lasted until the end of 1948 (Qasim, 1992). This was the beginning of Pakistan using irregular forces and asymmetric warfare which has continued ever since. Under the Article 35 of the UN charter December 1947 the dispute was referred to United Nation (Lyon, 2008).

On February 15, 1954 under the leadership of Bakshi Gulam Mohammad, the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir ratified the state's accession to India (Hiro, 2015). On 17 November 1956, the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir was adopted by the Assembly and it came into full effect on 26 January 1957 (Noorani, 2000). On 24 January 1957, the UN passed a resolution stating that the decisions of the Constituent Assembly would not constitute a final disposition of the State, which needs to be carried out by a free and impartial plebiscite (UN, 1957). On August 8, 1958 saw arrest of Sheikh Abdullah on the charges of Kashmir conspiracy case (Dar, 2015) from which he was released in 1964, He was requested by the Prime Minister of India Pandit Nehru to act as mediator between India and Pakistan but with demise of Pt Nehru, the initiative ended (Noorani, 2000).

On September 1, 1965 Pakistan launched an attack across the Cease Fire Line, targeting Akhnoor in Jammu to which India retaliated. In response, India broadened the war by launching an attack on Pakistani Punjab across the international border. The war lasted until 23 September 1965, ending in a stalemate. Both the sides withdrew their forces to their pre-conflict positions, and agreed not to interfere in each other's internal affairs after Tashkent Agreement.

In 1966 saw the formation of Plebiscite Front in Azad Kashmir with an armed wing called the National Liberation Front (NLF), it was later named as Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

The third Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 saw the Liberation of Bangladesh and signing of Shimla Agreement. The personal meeting between the Prime ministers of both the countries resulting in PM Bhutto to acknowledge that the Kashmir issue should be finally resolved and removed as a hurdle in India-Pakistan relations (Dixit, 2003). In a bid to stop confrontation politics the then CM Sheikh Abdullah came to an accord with the PM Indira Gandhi (Indira-Sheikh accord, 1975). Under this the demand for plebiscite was given up in lieu of people being given the right to self-rule by democratically elected government. The Decade of eighties saw increase in anti India demonstration which resulted in use of force by the state authorities. This anti India sentiment was exploited by pro independence JKLF and Pro Pakistan Islamist groups when Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front founder Maqbool Bhat was executed in February 1984, strikes and protests broke out in the region. Large numbers of Kashmiri youth participated in widespread anti India demonstrations, which faced heavy handed reprisals by Indian state forces (Sikand, 2000). In 1986 some members of the JKLF crossed over to Pakistan to receive arms training but the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir, which saw Kashmiri nationalism as contradicting Islamic universalism and its own desire for merging with Pakistan, did not support the JKLF movement. The then Chief Minister Gul Muhammad Shah's administration, which did not have the people's mandate, turned to Islamists and opponents of India, notably the Molvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari, Mohammad Shafi Qureshi and Mohinuddin Salati, to gain some legitimacy through religious sentiments. This gave political space to Islamists who previously lost overwhelmingly, allegedly due to massive rigging, in 1983 state elections (Swami, 2007).

In 1986, Shah decided to construct a mosque within the premises of an ancient Hindu temple inside the New Civil Secretariat area in Jammu to be made available to the Muslim employees for 'Namaz'. People of Jammu took to streets to protest against this decision, which led to a Hindu-Muslim clash. On his return to Kashmir valley in February 1986, Gul Shah retaliated and incited the Kashmiri Muslims by saying Islam khatrey mein hey (Islam is in danger). As a result, communal violence gripped the Region, in which Hindus were targeted, especially the Kashmiri Pandits, who later in the year 1990s fled the valley in large numbers.

The political development of Eighties created the bubbles of discontentment among the masses which bursts in the form insurgency and triggering point was accusation of rigging of State assembly election 1987 by JKNC and INC. The

rigged elections are widely perceived to have contributed to current turmoil in the UT and the rise of unending militancy. This was the major turning point and marked as watershed in the history of political development of Jammu and Kashmir.

An alliance of Islamic parties organized into Muslim United Front (MUF) to contest the elections, of 1987 which saw record eighty percent voting. MUF received victory in only four of the contested forty three electoral constituencies despite its high vote share of 31 per cent. The elections were believed to have been rigged by the ruling party National Conference, in alliance with the Indian National Congress. In the absence of rigging, the MUF would have won most of the constituencies in the Kashmir Valley (Hussain, 2002). This resulted in the formation of militant wings and marked the beginning of the Mujahadeen insurgency, which continues to this day (Swami, 2006). Due to rising insurgency and Islamic militancy in the Kashmir Valley, Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee the valley. They were targeted by militant groups and many Hindu Women were raped while Hindu men were slaughtered. On 4 January, 1990, Srinagar based newspaper Aftab released a message, threatening all Hindus to leave Kashmir immediately, sourcing it to the militant organization Hizbul Mujahideen where there were announcements from mosques loud speakers for Hindu men to leave Kashmir without their women. On 19 January 1990, Kashmiri Pandits fled from Kashmir due to atrocities such as killing and gang rape (Gupta & Kanchan, 2005). On 21 January 1990, two days after Jagmohan took over as governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Gawkadal massacre took place in Srinagar when the Indian paramilitary troops of the Central Reserve Police Force opened fire on a group of Kashmiri protesters. At least 50 people were killed, with some reports of the deaths reaching as high as 280. In the aftermath of the massacre, more demonstrations followed. This was followed by Mass exodus of Kashmiri pundits from the state from March 1, 1990.

This way the so called Paradise on Earth got transformed into the most dangerous place on earth. The most vulnerable section was civilians who were ruthlessly attacked by insurgents to exhibit their presence. Though cutting across the line all the civilians were targeted but being a Muslim majority state the non Muslims and pro govt population was hard hit by this conflict. Since the insurgency started in the Union Territory in 1989, thirty large massacres of civilians occurred across the State both by the armed forces and militants including a full scale war between Pakistan and India in 1999.

Table.1 Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in J&k Since 1988

Year	Incidents	Civilian Fatalities
1988	390	29
1989	2154	32
1990	3905	862
1991	3122	594
1992	4971	859
1993	4457	1023
1994	4484	1012
1995	4479	1161
1996	4224	1333
1997	3004	840
1998	2993	877
1999	2938	799
2000	2835	842
2001	3278	1067
2002	NA	839
2003	NA	658
2004	NA	634
2005	1990	557
2006	1667	389
2007	1092	158
2008	708	91
2009	499	71
2010	488	47
2011	340	31
2012	220	15
2013	170	15
2014	222	17
2015	208	15
2016	322	40
2017	342	39
2018	614	09
2019	135	42

2020	140	33
2021	153	36
2022	151	30
2023	12	12

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs Govt. of India.

From the table it can be seen that during the first decade of militancy i.e. 1990s when insurgency was at its peak, on an average 1030 persons (civilians) died per year. The highest number of casualties of civilians took place in the year 1996 i.e. 1333 and number of violence related incidents happened were 4224. There was decline during the second decade (2001-2010) of insurgency as govt. strengthened its control over armed groups during the given period sliding down the fatality number. Further during the third decade (2011-2020) only 26 persons per year on an average died during the whole decade. Also during the first three years of fourth decade (2021-2023) the numbers of civilian deaths were seventy six in 316 incidents averaging only 25 persons per year.

August 5th, 2019 witnessed the abrogation of Article 370 and the conversion of state Jammu and Kashmir into union territory. This led to another dangerous trend with respect to civilian attacks by the insurgents, the targeted attack on non state residents especially migrant workers. The purpose of these attacks is to evoke fear among the non-residents forcing them to leave the valley. It is observed that after the abrogation of article around one hundred and seven civilians has lost their lives of which one third were the migrants workers.

Labour Migration in Jammu and Kashmir

The Union Territory of J&K has a strong migrant labour community working proactively in all the sectors of the economy and sending money back to their homes in different states of India specially Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujrat. These migrant workers have become an integral part of the valleys economy, predominantly works in the realm of informality. They are mainly engaged in sowing and harvesting of crops, works in apple orchards, brick kilns, industries, construction sites, vegetable sellers, barbers, domestic servants and packaging of fruits exported to other parts of the country as well as abroad. Though there is scarcity of authentic empirical data on the number of migrant workers, it is observed from official records that the numbers of migrant workers were 86768 in 2001 and increased to 122787 in 2011 showing an annual growth of 3.53 percent. This number increased to 1,40,000 by 2021. As per the unofficial estimates there are around two lakh to five lakh migrant workers engaged in various activities during the months of March to November every year.

Inflow of out of state migrant workers in J&K and civilians Deaths

Year	Migrants	CAGR of Migrants
2001	86768	-
2011	122787	3.53
2021	140000	1.32

Source: 1. Census

2. Department of Labour Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is observed that though the recent estimates are not available, but a fair idea about the presence of migrant workers can be got through the two census of 2001 and 2011. It is seen that during this period maximum concentration of migrant workers was found in Jammu district interestingly the maximum growth during the decades was observed in violence ridden districts of Srinagar, Badgam, Doda, Poonch and Kupwara. While in the districts of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur relatively peaceful areas, comparatively there was less growth.

INFLOW OF OUT OF STATE MIGRANT WORKERS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

Districts	2001	2011	Growth rate(CAGR)
Srinagar*	4994	10640	7.86
Anantnag*	3699	5625	4.28
Pulwama*	1158	1391	1.85
Baramula	2327	3247	3.39
Kupwara	678	1266	6.44
Badgam	674	1424	7.77
Jammu*	39843	54056	3.10
Kathua*	14212	22329	4.63
Udhampur*	15333	18198	1.73
Doda*	906	1794	7.07
Rajouri	2347	3711	4.69

Poonch	597	1106	6.36
TOTAL	86768	122787	3.53

Note- * Districts have been club with newly formed districts in 2007 in order to make it compatible both the census.

Source: 1.Census

2. Department of Labour Govt. Of Jammu and Kashmir.

While in the districts of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur relatively peaceful areas, comparatively there was less growth.

Paradox of Conflict and migration:

The above increased incidences of migrant workers in conflict hit districts contradict the generally accepted view that deadly conflicts are driving the massive exodus of the people (Jean and Marie, 2016). Globally the number of refugees increased from 27.1 million in 2021 to 35.3 million at the end of 2022 (UNHCR, 2022). More than half of these refugees came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (6.5million), Ukraine (5.7 million) and Afghanistan (5.7million). Even in Palestine about 423,000 people have been displaced as a result of Israeli strikes since October 2023 (UNHRC, 2023). New and ongoing conflicts continue to force people to flee as result of conflict and persistent insecurity. Civil war and other forms of violence have been identified as the main determinants of forced migration and there is no significant difference in the effects of any type conflicts on the magnitude of forced migration (Melander and Magnus, 2004). In case of India also around 13000 people flee their homes due to conflict or violence (IDMC, 2021). This clearly indicates security is utmost priority of human being. People affected by conflict have two overriding concerns: surviving immediate physical threats and overcoming long term threats to their livelihoods (USAID, 2005). Conflict, security and migration thereby livelihoods are interdependent on each other. The Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an outlier to this view as there is continuous increase in out of state migrant workers in this trouble torn valley. These workers are a consolidation of cultures, languages and dialects from across India (Aswani, 2022). In spite of the fact that none of them understand Kashmiri there is a common motive i.e. earning Livelihood which brings them to the valley, one of the most militarized zones in the world?

Why Kashmir

Unending unemployment is one of the main reasons for in-migration in Kashmir. There is much unemployment across the country that labourers are ready to migrate anywhere and everywhere. Even when they know the situation in Kashmir, there hunger brings them here (The wire July 17, 2022). The gravity of unemployment across the country is that the data released by the center for monitoring Indian economy (CMIE) shows India's unemployment rate 8.45 percent in June 2023 which rose to 10.05 percent in October 2023 with rural unemployment rising to 7.93 and urban Unemployment 8.11. Moreover the unemployment rate in migrant sending states such as Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand is 28.5, 19.1 and 18 percent respectively which is comparatively higher than Jammu and Kashmir (CMIE, 2023). The high rate of unemployment in migrant sending states and easy availability of works Kashmir pulls them to Kashmir amidst insecurity and violence. In an interview with The wire on July 17, 2022 one of the migrant worker working in Kashmir said "We know we are not safe here but we earn better here even eat better here" (Rajender Ram).

Moreover, the workers get higher wages here than other parts of the country. Recently released data on average wage rate by Reserve Bank of India shows that Jammu and Kashmir is second highest paying average wage rate next to Kerala (Rs. 586). As per data the average wage rate in J&K is Rs. 501 where as it is Rs. 374 in Rajasthan, Rs. 274 in Uttar Pradesh, and Rs. 272 in Bihar and Rs. 207 in Madhya Pradesh (RBI, 2022). We know we are not safe here but we earn double than Jharkhand or Bihar says Rajender Ram (The wire July 17, 2022). He admits that he earns Rs 1800-20000 a month working in Kashmir but earns only Rs.8000 elsewhere in India. Kashmir and Kashmiris as a workplace and as employers help him save more which he sends home. Migrants have reported that they are helpless and risking their life for available work and higher wages (Naqash, 2016)

Beside, higher wages migrants also get free of cost meal and rooms for stay from employer. All of this is Bonus as it comes free of cost unlike in their home states which helps them in increasing their saving.

Dignity of labour is another factor responsible for in-migration of workers in Kashmir valley. The Kashmiri people treat and help in-migrants with respect in all circumstances (Zaid, 2014). The locals in Kashmir are pleased to accept in-migrants and provide them with a high degree of hospitality (Leinback, 2003). The migrants here get respect which they could not find in rest of the country. They feel good about working in Kashmir even during conflicts because people in Kashmir work at a relaxed pace and do not make migrants feel alienated. They receive all kinds of support that is needed as revealed by the in-migrants (Turrey, 2023). The Kashmir is far better than other parts of India as people in Kashmir are kind and whenever situation worsens, they accommodate them without any discrimination of caste, colour, religion, or region. Most of the migrants receive local support during conflict. Relaxed work and friendly gestures from locals are among the main driving forces to attract the increasing number of in-migrants in the valley.

Demonstration effect also plays role with regard to increased influx of in-migration. The high wages, availability of work, Dignity of work, Hospitality, free meal and free accommodation attracts the other workers living in their localities at home as well as their friends and relatives in their circles. That's why every year there is an increase of in migration of workers in Kashmir valley.

There is also an organized process of hiring migrant workers in Kashmir. Number of contractors and agents brings migrant workers from Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh to Kashmir valley to fill the gap as the valley is reeling with non availability of skilled and cheap labour. Kamaluddin Ansari, 36, has been ferrying labourers from Bihar to Srinagar for ten years. Ansari has been bringing labourers who work as masons, painters, plumbers and daily wagers of different types. "I have just arrived from Bihar with six labourers whose ages are under 25. Desperation pushes them to Kashmir," said Kalamuddin (The wire July 17, 2022).

Above all the environmental condition of Kashmir is also attracting factor for in-migrants. As Kashmir is globally known for congenial climate, natural scenic beauty, clean and fresh air, low Temperature. Everybody prefers to come and work here.

Conclusions:

The Kashmir valley is one of the most preferred destinations for out of state migrant workers. According to one estimate around three to five lakh undocumented migrant workers are working in Kashmir every year from March to November. On the one hand Kashmir is one of the most militarised zones on earth and hot bed of territorial conflict between India and Pakistan. On the other hand it is becoming one of the desired destinations for migrant workers. This paradoxical feature of migration unfolds that the livelihood is above the security of life. It reveals that it is high wages, dignity of labour, Bonus, love, affection and support from the local people which allure them to come this turbulent area amidst of killing and bloodshed without caring about their lives. The only thing which forces them to evacuate during the conflict is unavailability of work and communication.

This shows Livelihood is utmost to workers than the security as is observed with respect to Kashmir. Although valley remains disturbed due to conflict, but this does not stop them from coming in valley. Every passing year the migrant trend is increasing while exposing themselves to high risk and violence. These migrants have become permanent part of labour market while sidelining local labour force because of their low price and high dexterity and the Kashmir's economy is dependent on them. They come from regions with limited economic prospects and job opportunities for work and business. The allure of finding work in Jammu and Kashmir, even amidst conflict, often stems from the lack of better alternatives in their home regions. Economic necessity to support their families and to secure a livelihood is a powerful driver of in migration in Kashmir valley. The income they earn in Jammu and Kashmir is essential for their survival and the well-being of their dependents. It is fact that Conflict-affected regions often have a prevalence of job availability but there is lack proper protections and security. The locals avoid taking on these jobs but Migrant workers because of unavailability of works at home, are more willing to accept such work conditions and fill these labour gaps thereby helps in the promotion of welfare of UT Jammu and Kashmir as well their own regions.

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