



Kashmir Insurgency and Inverse Development

*Rayees Ahmad Ganie

Ph.D Research Scholar in Sociology, Jiwaji University Gwalior (M.P)

**Rayeesa Akhter

Ph.D Research Scholar in Sociology, Jiwaji University Gwalior (M.P)

Abstract

The current study focuses on the mismanaged development sector of Kashmir. It is a well-known fact that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is under the grip of political unrest during the past few decades, which put negative alterations in every sector especially on the development sector. Official estimates indicate that during the continuous cycles of turbulence, the infrastructure/development sector of the state remain in devastated condition. Further the corrupt Government of past as well as the current ruling authority did not take serious concern in the shaping the infrastructure/development sector of the state and as a result the development sector remain inverse in the state.

Keywords: Kashmir, Reverse development sector, Insurgency.

Introduction

“Through development, we seek to invest in countries’ efforts to achieve sustained and broad-based economic growth, which creates opportunities for people to lift themselves out of poverty, away from violent extremism and instability, and toward a more prosperous future.”

(Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, 2010)

Development is ‘Good change’ according to Chambers (1997), but this is not as straightforward as it sounds. For example, who decides which change is good?

Thomas (2000) clarifies three ways the word ‘development’ is used.

Development as a Vision: A vision or depiction of how desirable a society is. The Visions of development briefing explores these further.

Development as a Historical process: Social change that takes place over long periods of time due to inevitable processes. For example, arguments have been made that both capitalism and communism are unavoidable results of progress.

Development as Action: Deliberate efforts to change things for the better. For example, providing food aid to alleviate hunger.

Development has a history of being linked with capitalism (see the History of development briefing) with ‘Good Change’ commonly associated with industrialization and modernization on the basis of free markets. Therefore, development is closely bound with ideologies and values which are explored in the next section. Beliefs about definitions of development shape the assumptions, values, actions, processes and aims of organizations and institutions (their theories of change).

Views and perspectives of Development

Neoliberalism: A capitalist perspective-no development action is needed except to have free markets. The resulting perpetual economic growth will ‘trickle down’ so everyone benefits. Neoliberalists see history as the result of individual rational actions. **Structuralism:** The state is in control-history is the result of political and economic struggles. Development is mostly the responsibility of the state and aims for a modern industrial society.

Interventionism: A viewpoint that recognizes there are losers as well as winners of capitalist progress. Development action tries to help the ‘losers’. More recently, a concern of the negative impacts of capitalist growth on the environment has been considered. In some cases intervention is to remove barriers to modernization, in others it is to influence the direction of change.

People centered alternative: This is based on the belief that all humans can reach their potential. Development encompasses empowering groups and individuals to make their own choices. Individuals and social movements are the agents of change.

Post development: This viewpoint claims that development is not a good thing, in this view development agencies and governments use ‘doing good’ as an excuse to maintain power and control.¹

Objective of the study

To identify the impact of insurgency on development sector of Kashmir

Methodology

The details for the present study has been collected from secondary sources. Government of Jammu and Kashmir official estimates, newspapers, books, journals, published and unpublished studies and also take help from many search engines.

¹ <http://www.hubcymru.org/images/user/Hub%20What%20is%20Development.pdf>

Insurgency and scattered development

Armed struggle acts as an unexpected barrier for the overall development any nation. Its magnitude can be easily measured on inferior, middle-class dwellers, males, females including both rich and poor are slayed and wounded in the conflict affected areas like in towns, pastoral areas, regions and outskirts. On an estimate two third of homicidal violence around the world occurs through well-equipped means like hand guns, assault rifles and other weaponry. Reports reveal that annually 740,000 people around the world die directly or indirectly through armed violence. The place where equipped struggle happens the victims and survivors are affected by pain, misery and traumatic shocks long after the shooting stops.²

Armed Clash shrinks the productivity of civic health assets that are allocated. “Period of war causes demolition and disorder of the transportation, infrastructure and declines the capacity state to distribute hygienic water, foodstuff, treatment facilities, and aid materials, both to emigrants and to others who stay in place” (Degomme and Guha-Sapir, 2010, p. 297) analyzed Darfur and claimed that “majority of the deaths, 80% were not caused by violence.” Such deaths are caused due an increased ratio of various kinds of diseases, which ultimately raise the child mortality ratio. The intensified ratio of diseases are caused due to less ability of the state to deliver medical facilities to its inhabitants during the period of war and the unhygienic conditions in migrant camps which resulted the diffusion of various kinds of diseases. Extensive violence and physical demolition disorders the transportation, which causes communication gap between rural and urban populations and thus makes them inaccessible to medical, educational and other facilities. The defense or military costs invariably increases during the war time, which causes reduction in funds that are allocated for general public in order to provide them basic necessities of life.

Wars put adverse effect on economies. According to Collier (1999) this happens through five mechanisms: demolition of assets, disruption of social order, and diversion of public expenditure, dis-saving, and the shifting of assets out of the country. In *Breaking the Conflict Trap*, Collier et al. (2003, p. 17) consequently describe civil war as development in reverse. Ghobarah et al. (2003, pp. 191–192) develop a speculative structure for studying the magnitude or effect of conflict on the progress outcomes summarized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They argued that “health conditions are shaped by the interplay of exposure to conditions that create varying risks of death and disease for different groups in society and the ability of groups in society to gain access to health care and receive the full range of benefits produced by the health-care system.”

In addition to the combat zone fatalities, equipped war sometimes causes forced migration, immigrant flows, capital flight, and the demolition of social order, substructure. Societal, governmental, and economic organizations are permanently damaged. The magnitude of war, and mainly civil war

² Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (2010). More violence, Less Development. Examining the Relationship Between Armed Violence and MDG Achievements

makes development process traumatized. Warfare generates a progress gap among those countries that have faced it and those that have not.

Further Lai and Thyne (2007, p. 282) investigated that during war time a state “minimizes its educational expenses by 3.1 to 3.6% annually.” Surprisingly they found that this decline in costs is not due to “guns for butter” exchange, but the civil wars disorder a state’s “over-all capacity to deliver social amenities like education to its inhabitants.” (Lai & Thyne, 2007, p. 284), also analyzed that warfare shrinks the education enrollments and it remains protracted till the conflict ends.³

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The Kashmir tragedy is one of the most surprising tragedy in worldwide, and its solution lies in the hands of two atomic powers i.e. India and Pakistan. The expenditures of this conflict remain intolerable for all engaged in it. Official estimates indicate that around 40,000 lives have been lost since the inception of armed uprising in 1989, other calculations suggest that the toll is much greater than this. Further the ongoing insurgency has caused large-scale displacements from different parts of the state (Shekhawat, 2006). On an estimate nearly one million inhabitants of the state have been displaced due to Insurgency. The conflict also encouraged both India and Pakistan to deploy large amount of security forces in the occupied territories of state, which raise the Military costs and other financial requirements for both the countries. The economic price of the conflict cannot be limited to a specific segment of industry only, but it has also shattered the other vital sources of income of the inhabitants of state like tourism, horticulture and handicrafts industries.

Besides the large scale damage to the infrastructure of state, the vicious conflict has reduced the private investment which pushed the economy of the state towards stagnation. The decreased movement of economy has been observed during late 1980s when Insurgency gained momentum. The brutal circle of turmoil has led underdevelopment and in this horrible set-up it is the general inhabitants of the state who suffer the most.⁴

Ample literature is available on Kashmir issue on political grounds. Primarily nothing has been written on how people are coping with the problems, which they are facing on daily grounds. There is hardly any research which focuses on the sufferings of inhabitants of the state like absence of sustainable peace, high risks of insecurity etc.

The elongated phases of turbulence since 2008 onwards become a normal routine in Jammu and Kashmir which ultimately put adverse impression on financial progress and infrastructural improvement of state. The persistent series of turmoil and Insurgency during the previous twenty five years have altered the progressive picture of the state, which not only act as an obstacle in private investment, but also create

3 Gates.S and Strand.H (2012). Development Consequences of Armed Conflict. *Peace Research Institute Oslo Norway, Vol.40, No. 9, PP.1713-1722*

4 Mahapatra D.A. and Shekhawat. S. (2008). The Peace Process and Prospects for Economic Reconstruction in Kashmir. *Peace and Conflict Review, Vol.3 , issue 1, ISSN: 1659-3995*

barriers in shaping the basic set-up for the provision of general public facilities. As we are already aware about June 2008 unrest and afterwards, when few sets of turmoil occur like Amarnath land controversy, Shopian 'rape and murder' case, 2010 summertime unrest and the recent turbulence of 2016 when Hizb militant Burhan Wani was eliminated. These phases of instability have badly hampered the transfer of public necessities which dramatically reduce the developmental expenses.

Latest turmoil of 2016 which led continuous clashes between the inhabitants of valley and security forces, resulted heavy bloodshed and civilian injuries, burning down of Government assets, and remarkable damage of Industrial means and services by turmoil, long spells of curfews and hartals remain continue for a period 5 months from 8th July, 2016 to November, 2016. The Tourism and industrial/business sector which is the spine of Kashmir's economy remain destabilized during that period.⁵ As per the Economic Survey of 2016 a report prepared by Minister of Finance Haseeb Drabu in Assembly which indicates that the state has lost nearly Rs 16000 crore during the five month long Kashmir turbulence.⁶

The report "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" for 2016 has been submitted to US Congress by the Department of State in the first week of March. This yearly report revealed that the elimination of Burhan Wani resulted civilian demonstrations in Kashmir which caused more than 90 civilian fatalities. It was also revealed that among the 90 deceased persons 88 were civilians and remaining 2 were police officers.

As per the media inputs, more than 4,500 civilians and more than 4,000 security personnel were injured. Further the Schools, marketplaces, work-places/offices, trade and commerce remain closed for prolonged periods.⁷ Media information also revealed that 31 schools and 110 government structures have damaged and burned-down in Kashmir Valley during the five months of turmoil. Among the 31 schools, which were set ablaze by unknown persons, 25 were government schools, 2 were private schools and rest 4 were run by trusts or other social organizations, and out of 110 government structures, 65 were either entirely gutted or moderately burnt down and the remaining 55 were damaged through other means.⁸

Conclusion

Armed violence ruins the development, infrastructure and economic set-up of a nation/state that has experienced it. In other words it is an inverse development. It has a potential to destabilize the every sector of a nation or country like mismanaging infrastructure, demolition of resources, disruption of social order and alteration in public expenditures. The countries in the world that have experienced insurgency have turned towards the detestable conditions and have lost the capacity to deliver basic facilities to its

5 Economic Survey 2016, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Directorate of Economics and Statistics

6 www.greaterkashmir.com/news/front-page/uprising-cost-kashmir-rs-16000-cr-government-238389

7 www.greaterkashmir.com/news/front-page/kashmir-killings-pellet-guns-figure-in-us-report/243746

8 indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news/kashmir-unrest-31schools-110-govt-builings-damaged-in-valley-3737697

citizens i.e. adequate food supply, provision of clean water, road system, electricity and more importantly the medical facilities. As for as the state of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned which has experienced the insurgency during the last few decades, resulted a huge loss of lives including development and infrastructural sector. The ongoing turbulence has put negative impression on income generating sectors like tourism, agriculture and handicraft industry. Further the funds issued by the Indian government for development purposes did not utilize properly and honestly because of greedy and corrupt politicians. State of Jammu and Kashmir is the only reason which is responsible for several wars between India and Pakistan. Now it is the responsibility of both India and Pakistan to address the issue of Jammu and Kashmir through peaceful means in order to maintain sustainable development of the region.

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