

An Analytical Study of Development in Jammu and Kashmir after the Reorganisation Act, 2019

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Abstract

This study shows an inclusive development in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of 370. In this paper we will touch all aspects of development in both the regions. This study will also show the direct and indirect employment opportunities for local youths. The role of the centre and state government is to improve the trust of local people through various welfare schemes. We will discuss the tourism sector that is the backbone of the state economy, the role of employment opportunities given by the government to youths of the state and the review of the new reservation policy for weaker sections of the state after the abrogation of Article 370. The status of a special state, which was abolished by the central government, has also changed the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and divided it into two union territories.

Key Words: - Employment, Reservation, Grassroots, Abrogation, Delimitation

Introduction

In this study, we have covered all aspects of development in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. We have discussed the roots of development in both regions. We have also discussed the benefits and drawbacks of repealing Article 370 from the state constitution. In this study we have discussed "Back to Village" schemes run by the state government, political instability in both the regions, the COVID-19 Pandemic impact on the state economy, the tourism industry, which is the backbone of the state's economy, preservation of natural resources through sustainable development, implementation of new reservation policies, and the delimitation of assembly seats for future elections. Under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, Jammu and Kashmir had the status of a special state, which was abolished by the central government on August 5, 2019. The Union Govt. has abolished Article 370 as well as 35A. The central government has also changed the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and divided it into two union territories.

Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir perhaps possesses the most authentic account of its history from the very earliest period. Both regions in the state show their culture and traditions links in the past. Now one state has been divided into two Union Territories, Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Government of India has announced on August 5, 2019 that it will abrogate Article 370 and 35A from the Indian Constitution that provide a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. If we talk about the Jammu region, the majority of the people speak the Dogri language and they consider themselves Dogra people. In the same way, the majority of the people in the Kashmir Valley speak Kashmiri as their language, and they also consider themselves as Kashmiri people. Both regions have different cultural backgrounds. Their traditions are totally different from each

other. So, as we know, due to political instability in both regions over the last seven decades, our main focus is on the development of Jammu and Kashmir. Again, our main focus is on Article 370, where we discussed the pro and con of this article.

Benefits of removing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir

1. After the removal of Article 370, business will get a boost here.
2. Investment may increase in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Along with investment, if business grows here, then there are chances of increasing employment as well.
4. If production and business increases in Jammu and Kashmir, then it has a direct effect on GDP.
5. People of Jammu and Kashmir will not have to go for employment in any other state except their own state.
6. Kashmir has always been at the top in the field of tourism, and after the removal of Article 370, more people will start coming here.
7. The number of private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir is also very less, which is also more likely to increase after the removal of Article 370.

Disadvantages of removing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir

1. After the removal of Article 370, if business starts coming here from other states, then it will have a great impact on the business of the natives there.
2. The property prices will also start increasing here and due to this people will also be asked to buy property there.
3. With the increase in business, the number of machines will also increase, due to which the employment of people can also come under effect along with the damage to the environment.

The Main Objective

The main objective of this paper is to explain the analytical view of local people about the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A.

The methodology

Researcher has chosen both ways of gathering information regarding the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. Researcher has chosen both quantitative and qualitative research methodological tools to collect information. Because it is not possible to meet one-on-one due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, researcher chose to connect via telephony, and some of them via video conference from the Kashmir Valley. In the Jammu region, researcher met with respondents face-to-face. All the respondents were randomly selected from both regions to collect their different opinions about development after reorganisation Act. 2019. In this research, we have included both the sources of primary and secondary information for an analytical overview of this research.

COVID-19 Lockdown

After the abrogation of Article 370, business has come to a standstill for almost a year. First there was the shutdown of 370 and then the lockdown of Covid-19. All those factories here which were dependent on the government have been closed. About two hundred factories that used to make electrical goods here have been closed. There are hundreds of wooden factories in Jammu and Kashmir, but according to an estimate, in the last two years, about 40 million pieces of wooden furniture have come from outside. The development that the government is talking about should be visible. Here, instead of development, there is a decline.

Employment Status

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor said in a recent interview, "Initially our assessment was that the state can get an investment of about 25 thousand crores. But looking at the response received from industrialists across the country, we have made the target 40 to 50 thousand crores. This will create 7-8 lakh jobs in the next few years."

One senior research scholar from Kashmir University says, "The GDP of Jammu and Kashmir has not been brought out by the state government for the last three years because there is nothing to show. In the last two years, many people have lost their jobs in the private sector of Kashmir. The government has given some jobs, but they are nothing."

Opinions on the new land policy

During conversation, I asked a question to PhD, a research scholar from Pulwama district. My question is why has no outsider bought land and started work in the Kashmir Valley in the last two years? He said, "If anyone from the other states of India can come and live in Kashmir that is a Kashmiri Pandit." Those people are connected to this land; their feelings are connected. But despite all this, they (Kashmiri Pandits) are also not coming back. They are living peacefully in different cities in India, so why would any outsider from Kashmir come and live in the Valley? We have to sit inside the house for six months in the winter. How can we expect that someone from outside will come and buy land and start living here? "

This step of change in Jammu and Kashmir will strengthen the economy and it will increase employment opportunities in both the regions. Actually, there are two important components to attracting investment: the availability of land and natural resources in any state.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is now an important issue in Jammu and Kashmir and the region is completely safe for tourists. After abrogation, all eyes are on Jammu and Kashmir. Local people also want to generate income through trekking, motor biking, gondola, skiing, river rafting, on one hand, and cultural tourism on the other. The government stressed the accumulation of renewable resources of energy to meet the ever-increasing demands of the country. But local people demand sustainable development with a friendly nature. They are also aware of natural resources. They think that nature has a limit. We cannot keep looting forests and other fuels. There will come a time when most of our fuel will run out. Some of them are educated and always concerned about sustainable development. It has long been accepted by the United Nations. The future belongs to renewable energy and Jammu and Kashmir has a lot to offer on this front. We have sunlight, wind, biomass and rivers which hold immense potential to meet the future demands of the energy sector.

The train from Jammu and Kashmir slowly returned to the track

After the abrogation of Jammu 370 and 35A, there was a radical change in the atmosphere there. Although the entire Kashmir remained closed for a long time even after the abolition of Article 370, gradually the lives of the local people have started coming back on track. The Prime Minister called all the stakeholders to Delhi and talked with them. At the same time, the Delimitation Commission has started work in Jammu and Kashmir, after whose report the prospects of elections will start in the state. There is immense investment potential in Jammu in the food processing, handicrafts, handlooms, and horticulture sectors. Apart from this, tourism is the mainstay of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. However, despite this, this sector has not been able to earn much investment. In the field of real estate and health also, due to lack of adequate investment in Jammu and Kashmir, this sector also lags behind. Now the new industrial and investment policy is going to be announced soon. In such a situation, it was necessary to implement these land reforms to invite investment. The government had also selected more than 6000 acres of land for investment to build an industrial park.

Indications of Development

In the former Jammu and Kashmir, there was a provision to give land on lease for industries, but the rules were quite complicated. This is the reason why the state kept waiting for big investments. Now the time has changed and the apple and saffron of Jammu and Kashmir is ready to spread its fragrance across the world. According to a media report, Saudi Arabia's group has prepared for an investment of 2500 crores in Jammu and Kashmir. Now we need to establish more cold stores and food processing units, it has shown real development. The silk here is much better than China in many ways. Despite this, the silk industry continued

to falter. Now a ray of hope has appeared on those faces again. This is the reason most young people keep wandering in search of government jobs. J&K continued to suffer in the form of unemployment due to non-movement of the private sector and restrictions. Small-scale industries did not flourish. Apart from apple and saffron, Bhandwahi Rajma and Jammu and Anantnag rice have been able to make a mark in the world due to their fragrance. There is a huge treasure trove of Ayurvedic medicines hidden here and no effort was ever made to find it.

Development of tourism

During my visit to different areas and asking different people about tourism, they said tourism plays an important role in our state's economy and generates local level employment. They said we need to move towards green tourism by reducing our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy. This will help to protect the environment, glaciers, rivers and air quality.

With the formation of Industrial Development Corporation, investment activities will increase rapidly. Zones will be created for the development of industries. As soon as the law is changed, well-known industrial houses in the country are eager to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. The biggest strength of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir rests on tourism. Despite the immense potential of adventure tourism, Himachal still has tourists. And keep Uttarakhand first. There was a lot of discussion on investment possibilities in hydropower and solar energy, but the talk did not progress much. The handlooms and handicrafts of Kashmir have been able to make their mark on the world, but due to the unavailability of better technology and a market, the artisans are getting frustrated.

Empowering Panchayats and Villages

The government has made adequate arrangements to prevent any kind of loot. The land will not be allotted to anyone, but only those who want to set up industries in Jammu and Kashmir will be given land through the Industrial Park. Agricultural land will be safe with the farmers. Separate land will be identified for industries so that development can be promoted by setting up industries coming from outside.

If the law was strengthened for weaker sections, children, senior citizens, then the laws necessary for good governance were made effective, so that the administration becomes accountable. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which strengthened democracy till the last mile, have now been fully implemented in the state, empowering Panchayats and local bodies.

In such a situation, the question is bound to arise: how much has changed in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the last two years? How easy has life become? Whether it is a matter of women's empowerment, opportunity for young people, the goal of the welfare of SC-ST-Victims-Oppressed-Deprived or constitutional and basic rights of the people, the government is taking all possible decisions for the betterment of the common people. In the last two years, central laws related to the public interest have been

implemented in both the union territories, so that people get the benefit of them and the progress of the state is accelerated.

“Back to the Village” Scheme

If the development of Jammu and Kashmir is to be ensured, then first of all the people will have to be taken into confidence and they will also have to be trusted. This thinking by the Prime Minister is being continuously carried forward by the Lieutenant Governor. Taking feedback from ordinary people through the "Mulakat" and "Back to Village" schemes, empowering the Panchayati Raj system has proved to be very effective in this. For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir-Ladakh history, more than 98 percent of the votes cast in the election of the Block Development Council demonstrate this.

A new opportunity is being given to the aspirations of the people by bringing democracy at the grassroots level, so that the great heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh can be strengthened. Women and children have got rights which were earlier taken away when they married outside the state. In infrastructure too, the new Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are progressing rapidly. Hydropower is a great example of how it has accelerated in the last two years.

Delimitation Exercise

It is being speculated that the central government is preparing to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Delimitation is also a process in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The maximum strength of its assembly is 107 seats, which will be further enhanced to 114 after the complete exercise according to the act passed by Parliament on August 6, 2019. As we know, 24 seats in the assembly continue to remain vacant in PoK. After delimitation so that everyone gets equal rights. Jammu should get its own and Kashmir should also get its own. There will be a lot of change here in the time to come. The Central government is attempting to employ young people in Jammu and Kashmir.

New Policy for Government Employees

Govt. implementation of a new law for dismissal from passport services and government jobs for being involved in anti-national activities. The state government passed an order that those involved in stone pelting and other anti-national activities would not get the green signal from any security agencies in the scrutiny of passport applications and government appointments. After checking the local police records and digital means, if the people of Jammu and Kashmir are found involved in such activities, they will neither get passports nor get government jobs. Government employees will be on leave in connection with terrorists. The state administration of Jammu and Kashmir has now started sacking any government employee from the job if he has connections with terrorists.

Unnecessary Expenditure has been reduced.

Promotion of e-office: Through this, a campaign has been started to make governance completely paperless. For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the 150-year-old Durbar Move system has been abolished. Due to having two capitals for six-six months, all the goods were brought by the Durbar Move i.e. trucks. because government expenditure has increased. With the introduction of e-files and e-office, about Rs. 400 crore has been generated and it will also be saved.

Policy on Reservations

The status of the reserved category in Jammu and Kashmir is the same as it is in the rest of the country. But while in other places, they are protected under the law and given opportunities to move forward. At the same time, it was not possible to do this in Kashmir till 5 August 2019. As we saw before abrogation, most of the time, the BJP said due to Article 370, the provisions of reservation could not be implemented there. But now, after the removal of this unjust law, the situation has started to change. Now in Jammu and Kashmir also, a new dawn of hope has come for the reserved category.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes about the steps taken for the socio-economic development of the SC and ST community after the abrogation of Article 370.

The officials told the committee that the three systems of panchayats have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and reservation has been given to SC and ST on the basis of population in all civic elections.

For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, reservation was made available at the grassroots level in democratic institutions. He said that the 1989 Prevention of Castes Atrocity Act for SC and ST is applicable in Jammu and Kashmir. A nomadic survey has been conducted for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir. There is talk of giving reservation in jobs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act 2004 and Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules 2005 are available under which reservation is available in eight percent of jobs for SC and 10 percent for ST.

Political Stability

Political instability is a common thing in Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the time, the people of the state have little hope from their representatives due to political compatibility. In the Kashmir valley, there is a majority of Muslim people, and in the Jammu region, the majority of the people belong to the Hindu religion. Every election in the state has great interest in both the regions, especially when we talk about grass root level elections in Panchayati Raj Institutions. The government is trying to normalise the situation for the upcoming assembly election. We can see the results of the elections for Presidents of Block Development Councils and District Development Councils in different districts. We also notice tensions that prevailed in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This will be the

government's first major test of the current security situation. The Block Development Council elections have been held in 310 out of 316 blocks in the state. Out of 316, 172 seats are reserved for SC, ST and women.

Conclusion

Proponents of complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country argue that it is reasonable to expect that two years is not enough for development to materialize. Not a single developmental milestone has been set during the last two years. Construction of new roads, construction of power projects, or construction of rail links and tunnels, all these were started during the tenure of the UPA government. While politicians on both sides of the partition cannot be expected to agree on the developments after August 5, 2019, the common man in Jammu and Kashmir says that the last two years have been very difficult and they are striving for them. If we see the tourism sector, hardly any new industries will take place after the 5th August period of 2019. Even we waited for it to grow in 2020, but it didn't happen. However, over the course of four months, tourism has started to show. The government says it has paved the way for better markets for local horticulture, handicrafts and other local industries.

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