

Structural Backwardness in the Kashmir Valley: Planning Implications and Development Strategies

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Abstract- Region specific development concerns have always been factored in the strategies of inclusive and sustainable development in India. Hence parameters of structural regional backwardness which is determined by spatial and socioeconomic characteristics have always been given due weightage. The Kashmir valley, one of the regions of the state of Jammu and Kashmir with a population of 6.908 million (2011) is of significant importance for regional and urban planners not only because of its great potential for growth but also because of its geopolitical importance, the recent incursions and the increasing demand for development. The valley suffers from a stagnant economic growth, low levels of urbanization, lack of social facilities and services, low agricultural productivity and disadvantages of location. Within this overall stagnation in the valley there are districts which show characteristics of structural backwardness.

This article is an attempt to study the phenomena of intra-state disparities in the Kashmir valley, located between the Karakoram and the Pir Panjal ranges in the state. It has only one million plus city, Srinagar, which acts as a pivot for the valley and is the only node where all higher order amenities and facilities are concentrated. Since the valley shares international borders with Pakistan and China, it is geopolitically very sensitive and of great strategic importance.

In this study an attempt has been made to, i) identify the indicators as well as the levels of regional development in the Kashmir valley; and, ii) a methodology which can identify the most backward districts and the regional planning issues that beset them. This has helped us to identify strategies to bring out a more balanced regional development in the Kashmir valley.

Index Terms- Backwardness, Development, Backward districts, Kashmir valley, Region.

I. INTRODUCTION

Differences among regions or states within countries are only one form of spatial inequality. Although, more significant are differences within single state. Inter-state disparities are unavoidable in view of the availability of the natural resources and diversity of earth's surfaces, but why do differences in development status occur within a state? This phenomenon is certainly supported by some extra-natural factors, which could be the socio-cultural background and people's perception and attitudes as well as bottlenecks in local government administration. As a result, there are wide differences in levels of social and economic welfare and also in the levels of technical knowhow.

In August 1947, when India achieved independence, attempts were made by the government to tackle the problems of poverty, illiteracy, food deficit and industrial backwardness. The Planning Commission was set up on 15 March 1950 to carry out the planning process. In order to make the development programmes more effective through people's participation a new system of rural local government "Panchayati Raj" was introduced at the district level as per the recommendations made by the Balwantrai Mehta Committee Report (Mathew, 1994). It proposed a three-tier system of local self-government, the 'Gram Panchayat' at the village level, the 'Panchayat Samiti' at the block level and 'Zilla Parishad' at the district level. The administrative setup and the proposed system of agricultural and industrial based development helped the potential areas to improve further (Neale, 1985). In 1969, the Pande Committee identified industrially backward states/districts and Wanchoo Committee suggested fiscal and financial concessions whereby regional imbalances could be minimized. Similarly, Shivraman Committee 1978 identified problem areas as backward for planned development and Sarma Committee 1997 also conducted various studies for the identification of backward districts (Planning Commission, 1981).

II. CONCEPT OF BACKWARDNESS

Areas classed as "Backward" are particular areas or districts or groups of districts having bordered topological space and facing particular locational problems such as grim poverty, unemployment, low income etc. According to Friedman (1966), Backwardness is "structural" in two senses:

1. Locational disadvantage or spatial containment leading to lack of integration with the interregional economy.
2. Socioeconomic characteristics specific to social groups living in backward areas.

Regional disparities can be brought down in the real sense when all regions are encouraged to exploit their own development potentials and formulate development plans suitable to their needs, potentials and aspirations. If backward regions are helped by this way, they will have an opportunity to overcome their inherent weaknesses and achieve higher rate of growth and development (Kurian, 2000).

Planning commission has been the only agency at national level which is working for development of backward areas. It has proposed various policies and strategies through the five-year plans and also established committees for evaluation and implementation of such plans for backward areas. It is to be noted that besides the rural resource development schemes, several other programmes, such as the industrial development of backward areas through focal point/ growth centre approach, along with credit, rural marketing and administration, have been considered by the planning commission for the development of backward areas (Planning Commission, 1981). Therefore, it may be stated that the development of backward areas can be done by adopting different approaches.

III. MEASURING BACKWARDNESS

There had been done an attempt to identify the most backward districts in the country in 1960. As the Pande Committee and Wanchoo Committee were set up in 1969 to recommend the criteria for identifying backward districts in backward states whereby regional imbalances could be minimized or eliminated by arranging establishment of industries of all sizes in selected backward areas or regions through financial and fiscal incentives (Planning Commission, 1981). Rao (1977) has been employed the principal component approach by taking twenty-four indicators representing the sectors of agriculture, industry, banking and education for the identification of backward regions and to identify the trends in regional disparities in India.

The National Committee on Development of Backward Areas (NCDDBA) appointed by planning commission in 1978 under the chairmanship of Shri. B. Shivraman, identified problem areas as backward for planned development (Planning Commission, 1981). The problems areas identified by the committee were:

- Chronically drought prone area
- Desert area
- Tribal areas
- Hill areas
- Chronically flood affected areas
- Coastal areas affected by salinity

A committee of the Government of India's Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (1997) conducted one of the most elaborate exercises for the identification of backward districts. EAS Sarma was principal advisor to the planning commission and the committee used a composite method with differing weights for parameters such as:

- Incidence of poverty
- Education
- Health
- Water supply
- Transport and communications, and
- Degree of industrialization.

The Sarma Committee identified 100 most backward districts which includes:

- 38 districts from undivided Bihar
- 19 from undivided Madhya Pradesh
- 17 from undivided Uttar Pradesh
- 10 from Maharashtra, and
- A smaller number of districts from other states

There were no districts from Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The committee was considered the north-eastern states as well as Jammu and Kashmir as it felt that they had problems which were unique and peculiar. Many target-specific development programmes were initiated to address intra-regional disparities through district development agencies such as the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), Backward Regions Grant Funds (BRGF) and National Food for Work (NFW), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) (Planning Commission, 2003).

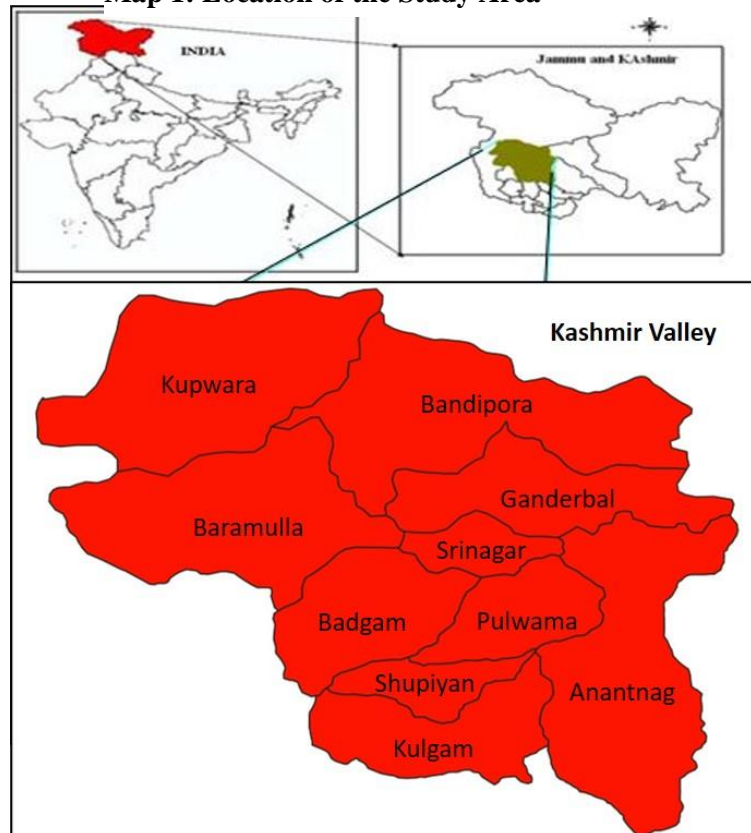
Regional backwardness in development has become an extremely sensitive issue in recent times with serious social and political ramifications. The problem of regional backwardness in the levels of development is a universal phenomenon. Both developed and developing countries have witnessed this problem in the path of their socio-economic advancement, but its adverse impact has been felt more in the latter. This phenomenon is a natural outcome of the development process itself; wherein certain regions develop faster than others due to a number of factors. Regional inequalities are generally an outcome of numerous factors such as variations in natural and physical endowments, differences in social and attitudinal parameters, institutional structures and to some extent, the discriminatory policies of the state. There were given focus on location, space, resources and policies of a region in order to address the regional inequalities (Friedman & Alonso, 1964). This case study of Kashmir valley is based on the understanding of the factors which hinder

the growth and development process of Kashmir valley. An attempt has been made here to analyze some of the important aspects for which detailed information has been collected to comprehend the factors responsible for the backwardness in this region.

IV. STUDY AREA

Kashmir valley lies between the Karakoram and the Pir Panjal range in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is also one of the three administrative divisions and natural regions of the Jammu and Kashmir state, consisting of plains of Jammu, the Kashmir valley and the cold mountainous desert of Ladakh. The Valley is encircled by mountain ranges characterized by snow covered high mountain peaks and has an area of 15,984 square kilometers. The total population of Kashmir valley is 6.908 million which is almost half the total population of 12.55 million of Jammu and Kashmir State (Census of India, 2011). Jhelum and its tributaries like Lidder, Indus, Bring, Vishav, Pohru, Sandran, and Surkhmag are prominent rivers of the Valley. The Kashmir Valley consists of the following districts: Budgam, Bandipore, Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Shopian and Srinagar. It lies between the coordinates of 73° 55' E and 75° 35' E, and 35° 25' N and 34° 45' N.

Map 1: Location of the Study Area



Source: Census of India, 2011 & OpenStreetMap, 2016 (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/>)

Rationale for Case Study Selection

1. The Kashmir Valley has great potential for development because it has both natural as well as man-made resources.
2. It is considered “heaven on the earth” and has been a much in demand tourist destination because of its overwhelming scenic beauty and attractions.
3. It produces special agricultural products because of its climate such as Kashmir apples, almonds, cherry, walnuts and saffron which have a national market as well as international market.
4. Its handloom and handicrafts such as pashmina shawls, carpets, hand embroidery, wood carving, and papier mache products have an international market.
5. It is a favored location for proposed biotechnology, information technology and for innovative emerging knowledge-based industries.

Justification of the Case Study

1. The Kashmir valley has strategic and geopolitical importance as it is near to the international border of Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.
2. Its total population (6.908 million in 2011) is almost half the total population of 12.55 million of Jammu and Kashmir State in the same year.
3. It lacks in development despite rich resource base. Poor industrial infrastructure along with the poor investment has reduced the industrial sector into sick industries.
4. Lack of governance and financial management has been responsible for the poor economic growth of the state.
5. It is known for tourist destination of domestics and foreign tourists. The tourist's places like Gulmarg, Dal Lake, Pahalgam, Amarnath temple have crucial role in tourism sector.
6. It falls in seismic zone five and is vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, avalanches and landslides.
7. The Sectoral contributions of GSDP for State (2013-2014) had 21.07 percentage in primary sector, 22.39 percentage in secondary sector and 56.44 percentage in tertiary sector. Similarly, the Kashmir valley is also tending from primary sector to tertiary sector (Digest of Statistics, 2013-14).

Objectives

1. To identify indicators that lead to the disparities in levels of regional development in the Kashmir valley.
2. To identify the most backward districts in the Kashmir valley and to study their structural characteristics in terms of selected indicators of demography, urbanization, economy, agriculture, industry, transportation, social amenities and assets etc.
3. To suggest regional development strategies based on area specific drivers of growth.

V. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of this study is to analyse the key factors responsible for the existing disparities in regional development in the Kashmir valley. On the basis of selected indicators, the levels of development in the valley have been established at the district level through a composite index using the HDI methodology. The Structural backwardness has been analysed in terms of selected indicators of demography, urbanization, economy, industry, agriculture, transportation, communication and social amenities and assets. Literature reviews has been done pertaining to different backward regions with the help of journals, articles and books etc. Data has been collected from secondary sources. ArcMap has been used for preparing map. Finally, the implications and strategies has been formulated to the most backward districts of the study. Forty indicators which have been used for the identification of backward districts in the Kashmir valley.

The HDI (Human Development Index) methodology has been used in this study to indicate and analyse structural backwardness in the Kashmir valley. The backwardness of each district has been explained sector wise. The procedure of the HDI methodology is given below:

- 1) Calculate Minimum and Maximum of each variables.
- 2) It is calculated by the method of (Actual Value-Minimum value/Maximum Value-Minimum Value).
- 3) Calculate the average value for the variables by simply adding the values of all the variables and dividing it by the number of variables.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the Human Development Index (HDI) methodology Kupwara, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Bandipora are the four most backward districts in the Kashmir valley in terms of selected indicators of demography, urbanization, economy, agriculture, industry, communication, transportation and social amenities and assets. In these four backward districts, the composite index is lower than 0.30. Srinagar is the only district which has a composite index higher than 0.50 and is the most developed in the Kashmir valley. Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal are the three insurgent border districts which are near the Line of Control (LoC) where as Kulgam is an inland district adjacent to Jammu region. The causes for backwardness of these districts are the peculiar physical features and lack of proper infrastructure and services. These are the few characteristics which are responsible for the low growth of development in the Kashmir valley. The following table shows the total composite of overall sectors.

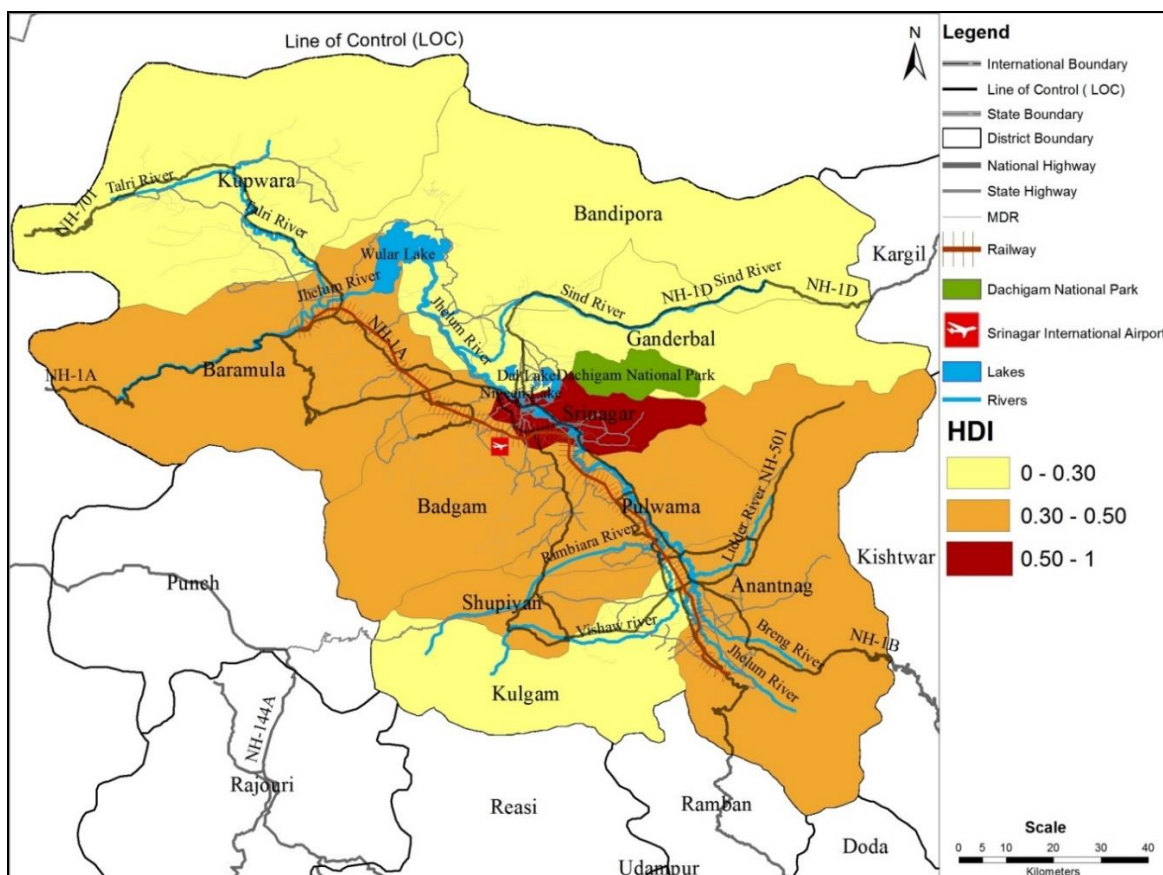
Table 1: Sector wise Development Indices using HDI Methodology

Districts	Urbanization	Demography	Economy	Social amenities and assets	Industry	Agriculture	Transportation and communication	Total composite index
Kupwara	0.03	0.37	0.40	0.27	0.06	0.33	0.01	0.21

Badgam	0.04	0.25	0.53	0.31	0.41	0.36	0.26	0.31
Baramula	0.09	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.26	0.83	0.30	0.40
Bandipora	0.07	0.43	0.48	0.20	0.17	0.37	0.12	0.26
Srinagar	1.00	0.60	0.50	0.83	1.00	0.39	1.00	0.76
Ganderbal	0.06	0.34	0.45	0.34	0.10	0.15	0.13	0.22
Pulwama	0.05	0.42	0.43	0.23	0.45	0.44	0.30	0.33
Shupiyani	0.00	0.50	0.40	0.18	0.00	0.73	0.29	0.30
Anantnag	0.17	0.59	0.46	0.19	0.29	0.47	0.24	0.34
Kulgam	0.07	0.50	0.40	0.05	0.02	0.55	0.19	0.25

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12 & Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011.

Map 2: Development Index based on HDI Methodology



Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12 & Census of India, 2011.

Kupwara, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Bandipora are the four most backward districts in the Kashmir valley as per the total composite index. The composite index of demographic indicators has been calculated with the help of HDI methodology in order to find out the level of development in the Kashmir valley. Kupwara, Ganderbal and Badgam are the three most backward districts in terms of demographic indicators. The composite index of urbanization shows that Srinagar district has high level of urban development whereas Baramulla, Bandipore, Anantnag, Kulgam and Ganderbal districts have medium level of urban development in the Kashmir valley.

Kupwara, Badgam, Pulwama and Shupiyan districts have low level of development of urbanization composite Index. These four districts are highly backward in terms of level of urbanization and number of towns with more than 20,000 populations. The composite index of economic indicators depicts that Kupwara, Kulgam, Shupiyan and Pulwama are the most backward districts in terms of level of development in economic indicators. The composite index of agricultural indicators shows that Kupwara, Badgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora are the most backward districts in terms of agricultural indicators in the Kashmir valley.

Kupwara, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shupiyan have the lowest composite index in terms of industrial indicators in the Kashmir valley. On the other hand, Srinagar, Badgam and Pulwama are the most developed districts as all the major industrial establishments are located in these districts Bandipora, Anantnag, Shupiyan and Kulgam districts have low composite index of level of development. Hence, these are highly backward districts in terms of social assets, commercial assets, educational assets, energy assets and households' amenities. But Srinagar and Baramulla districts have a high composite index of level of development in terms of social amenities and assets. The composite index of transportation and communication indicators is high in the Srinagar district as it is the capital of commercial activities and acts as a nexus point to all the other districts. While Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kulgam districts have low composite index of level of development pertaining to transportation and communication indicators. The selected indicators are given below:

Table 2: Demographic Indicators (2011)

Sr. No.	District name	Total population	Total no. of households	Population density(sq.km)	No. of literates
1	Kupwara	870354	106,777	366	439654
2	Badgam	753745	99,219	554	335649
3	Baramulla	1008039	145,990	242	545149
4	Bandipora	392232	56,794	378	185979
5	Srinagar	1236829	167,448	1056	748584
6	Ganderbal	297446	43,249	284	143276
7	Pulwama	560440	81,241	516	293958
8	Shupiyan	266215	41,947	853	136500
9	Anantnag	1078692	142,987	366	545532
10	Kulgam	424483	69,203	1051	209085

Literacy rate	Sex ratio	SC population	SC population (in %)	ST population	ST population (in %)
64.51	835.45	1048	0.12	70352	8.08
56.08	893.64	368	0.05	23912	3.17
64.63	885.13	1476	0.15	37705	3.74
56.28	888.64	392	0.10	75374	19.22
69.41	899.53	1068	0.09	8935	0.72
58.04	874.03	117	0.04	61070	20.53
63.48	912.35	402	0.07	22607	4.03
60.76	950.58	43	0.02	21820	8.20
62.69	927.04	1826	0.17	116006	10.75
59.23	950.57	21	0.00	26525	6.25

Source: Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011

Table 3: Urbanization Indicators (2011)

Sr. No.	District name	Urban population	Level of urbanization (in %)	No. of towns more than 20,000 population
1	Kupwara	104729	12.0	21771
2	Badgam	97912	13.0	15338
3	Baramulla	182500	18.1	71434
4	Bandipora	65361	16.7	37081
5	Srinagar	1219516	98.6	1256831
6	Ganderbal	47039	15.8	28233
7	Pulwama	80462	14.4	18440

8	Shupiyam	16360	6.1	16360
9	Anantnag	282887	26.2	159838
10	Kulgam	80613	19.0	23584

Source: Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011

Table 4: Social Amenities and Assets Indicators (2011, 2011-12)

Sr. No.	District name	Households with electricity	Households with electricity (in %)	Households with treated drinking water	Households with treated drinking water (in %)	Households with using firewood	Households with using firewood (in %)
1	Kupwara	83,071	78	13,928	13	85324	80
2	Badgam	90,190	91	30,163	30	55413	56
3	Baramulla	138,180	95	54,721	37	93224	64
4	Bandipora	45,469	80	9,617	17	38010	67
5	Srinagar	165,403	99	137,350	82	10039	6
6	Ganderbal	38,487	89	23,678	55	29767	69
7	Pulwama	73,629	91	24,257	30	49497	61
8	Shupiyam	35,282	84	10,395	25	29434	70
9	Anantnag	114,899	80	34,276	24	102530	72
10	Kulgam	47,913	69	5,662	8	52652	76

Households with using LPG/NPG	Households with using LPG/NPG (in %)	Households with latrine	Households with latrine (in %)	No. of schools (2011-12)	No. of school per 100 sq.km (2011-12)	No. of medical institutions (2011-12)	No. of medical institution per 100 sq. km (2011-12)
15828	15	54,335	51	2053	121	267	20
15118	15	83,615	84	1709	125	225	16
33022	23	113,281	78	2330	165	308	28
8868	16	42,035	74	890	123	97	9
138119	82	164,002	98	998	708	171	121
10410	24	31,492	73	691	66	96	16
16828	21	53,836	66	1084	134	150	14
3727	9	25,628	61	623	102	90	15
28984	20	80,917	57	1802	62	235	19
4301	6	31,048	45	926	105	166	12

Occupied census houses used as shop/office	Occupied census houses used as shop/office (in %)	Occupied census houses used as school/colleges etc.	Occupied census houses used as school/colleges etc. (in %)	Occupied census houses used as hotel/lodge/guest house etc.	Occupied census houses used as hotel/lodge/guest house etc. (in %)	Occupied census houses used as hospital/dispensary etc.	Occupied census houses used as hospital/dispensary etc. (in %)
16,512	9.49	2,137	1.23	158	0.09	459	0.264
16,781	9.46	1,556	0.88	135	0.08	322	0.181
26,957	10.86	2,854	1.15	392	0.16	528	0.213
7,931	8.43	885	0.94	81	0.09	145	0.154
43,041	17.62	1,388	0.57	1,356	0.56	372	0.152
7,324	9.97	620	0.84	117	0.16	163	0.222
15,427	9.60	1,130	0.70	115	0.07	243	0.151

7,927	10.52	631	0.84	51	0.07	107	0.142
27,074	10.50	1,768	0.69	662	0.26	378	0.147
10,181	8.91	831	0.73	46	0.04	175	0.153

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12 & Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011

Table 5: Economic Indicators (2011)

Sr. No	District name	Main workers	Main workers (in %)	Main HH industrial workers	Main HH industrial workers (in %)	Main cultivators' workers	Main cultivators' workers (in %)	Main agricultural workers	Main agricultural workers (in %)
1	Kupwara	123837	54.06	2571	2.08	14585	11.78	9834	7.94
2	Badgam	132003	61.44	14401	10.91	34173	25.89	11560	8.76
3	Baramulla	187959	61.79	7650	4.07	31114	16.55	19159	10.19
4	Bandipora	75173	50.34	9526	12.67	10778	14.34	9423	12.54
5	Srinagar	330547	81.18	12577	3.8	6602	2	6513	1.97
6	Ganderbal	52949	52.48	1931	3.65	5227	9.87	5539	10.46
7	Pulwama	98306	52.17	3711	3.77	18816	19.14	6992	7.11
8	Shupiyan	54703	62.36	1519	2.78	29183	53.35	3761	6.88
9	Anantnag	176800	45.37	5352	3.03	36670	20.74	19664	11.12
10	Kulgam	77812	48.64	2616	3.36	26771	34.4	8830	11.35

Main others workers	Main others workers (in %)	Female workforce population	Female workforce participation rate	Non-workers population	Non-workers population (in %)	Households availing banking	Households availing banking (in %)
96847	78.21	38165	16.66	641290	73.68	53,634	50.23
71869	54.44	52288	24.34	538879	71.49	53,447	53.87
130036	69.18	54619	17.95	703839	69.82	98,006	67.13
45446	60.46	47937	32.1	242915	61.93	26,634	46.9
304855	92.23	74037	18.18	829641	67.08	1,40,086	83.66
40252	76.02	27585	27.34	196556	66.08	26,083	60.31
68787	69.97	49992	26.53	372020	66.38	53,870	66.31
20240	37	23790	27.12	178494	67.05	22,697	54.11
115114	65.11	145652	37.38	689008	63.87	89,068	62.29
39595	50.89	57673	36.05	264493	62.31	33,415	48.29

Source: Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011

Table 6: Agricultural Indicators (2011-12)

Sr.No.	District name	Cultivable area (in hectare)	Cultivable area as % of reporting area	Area under commercial crops(hectare)	Area under commercial crops as % of gross area sown
1	Kupwara	48118	72.26	2678	5.88
2	Badgam	50727	65.18	11876	22.45
3	Baramulla	69530	63.94	18310	27.86
4	Bandipora	21464	62.61	3922	16.29
5	Srinagar	8316	71.06	2438	23.82
6	Ganderbal	19699	50.12	3693	19.76
7	Pulwama	38588	63.5	25370	44.02
8	Shupiyan	25669	69.69	21391	84.86

9	Anantnag	47861	66.34	23954	33.53
10	Kulgam	35834	75.22	13604	34.58

Net area sown (000 hectare)	Net area sown as % of geographic area	Total fresh and dry fruit production (MT)	Total share of fresh and dry fruit production (in %)	Total fish production (quintals)	Total share of fish production (in %)	Total livestock population (in lakh)	Total red meat production (lakh kg)	Total white meat production (lakh kg)
45534	27.00	246987	11.45	8360	4.19	10.805	7.94	7.258
41542	30.32	117791	5.46	12405	6.25	8.385	10.066	4.136
64551	54.00	678738	31.46	43600	21.96	16.297	19.542	9.31
20696	23.00	80279	3.72	35200	17.73	9.795	14.395	5.278
8316	22.00	37426	1.73	20900	10.53	2.279	2.854	1.284
13798	13.20	66770	3.09	17100	8.61	4.044	6.877	1.56
32729	30.14	138739	6.4	8320	4.19	4.397	6.082	1.872
19564	31.97	251101	11.64	3620	1.82	2.924	4.314	1.125
47861	38.00	186372	8.64	9180	4.62	9.769	11.787	4.826
30679	44.00	172660	8	4900	2.47	6.299	8.164	3.097

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12

Table 7: Industrial Indicators (2011, 2011-12)

Sr. No.	District name	No. of registered small industrial units	No. of registered SSI units per 100 sq.km	Employment generation in SSI units	Occupied census houses used as factory/workshop/work shed etc. (2011)	Occupied census houses used as factory, workshop etc-2011 (in %)
1	Kupwara	1866	78	6744	1,258	0.72
2	Badgam	4206	307	29076	1,571	0.89
3	Baramulla	4272	127	18015	2,495	1.00
4	Bandipora	161	47	786	890	0.95
5	Srinagar	10163	7208	49961	3,611	1.48
6	Ganderbal	175	17	1128	591	0.80
7	Pulwama	2897	267	14344	1,642	1.02
8	Shupiyan	138	23	715	519	0.69
9	Anantnag	4452	153	19871	2,602	1.01
10	Kulgam	184	45	1159	819	0.72

Handicraft centres	Handicraft trainees trained	Handloom centres	Handloom trainees trained	No. of cooperative societies	Membership (unit number)	No. of units identified sick
27	322	10	98	173	3022	16
91	1422	6	69	323	2349	33
48	908	7	83	211	1927	32
12	216	1	10	106	1041	16
68	834	7	90	1039	2349	141
39	645	4	39	182	1276	24
23	231	4	45	217	1833	31
6	52	1	10	35	381	13
28	491	6	75	260	2365	65
19	290	1	10	70	582	10

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12 & Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011

Table 8: Transportation and Communication Indicators (2011, 2011-12)

Sr. No.	District name	Road length-2011-12(km)	Road length per 100 sq.km (2011-12)	No. of registered vehicles (2011-12)	No. of registered vehicles per 100 sq.km (2011-12)	No. of post offices (2011-12)	No. of post offices per 100 sq.km (2011-12)
1	Kupwara	1339	56.28	7886	331.48	78	3.28
2	Badgam	1825	133.21	27351	1996.42	84	6.13
3	Baramulla	2265	112.00	34683	1034.39	126	18.00
4	Bandipora	638	89.00	1981	574.20	54	8.00
5	Srinagar	1365	968.09	197329	6453.90	69	48.94
6	Ganderbal	456	43.64	3582	29.67	28	2.68
7	Pulwama	884	124.00	25929	786.00	76	7.00
8	Shupiyan	573	122.00	3274	1024.00	15	2.45
9	Anantnag	1647	85.00	35913	1231.16	123	15.00
10	Kulgam	603	76.00	3128	762.93	49	10.00

Households with availability of television	Households with availability of television (in %)	Households with availability of mobile	Households with availability of mobile (in %)	Households with availability car/ jeep/van	Households with availability of car/ jeep/van (in %)	Households with availability of computer/laptop	Households with availability of computer/laptop (in %)
26,828	25.13	53,437	50.05	2,988	2.8	5,256	4.92
54,170	54.60	65,783	66.30	5,091	5.13	5,892	5.94
75,137	51.47	97,257	66.62	10,075	6.90	10,645	7.29
25,399	44.72	31,256	55.03	2,237	3.94	3,155	5.56
152,945	91.34	120,553	71.99	34,586	20.65	33,831	20.20
20,350	47.05	24,498	56.64	2,313	5.35	2,779	6.43
45,967	56.58	57,529	70.81	6,164	7.59	5,293	6.52
19,896	47.43	29,737	70.89	3,634	8.66	3,440	8.20
67,166	46.97	91,482	63.98	7,846	5.49	8,612	6.02
25,825	37.32	46,828	67.67	2,421	3.50	3,542	5.12

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Jammu & Kashmir, 2011-12 & Census of India, Primary Census Abstract, 2011.

VII. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The main characteristics of the Kashmir valley is the predominance of the agricultural sector, low development of economic growth, low degree of urbanization, inadequately developed infrastructure and low levels of investment. These characteristics have hampered the growth of regional development in this region. In order to establish a balanced regional development, this study identifies planning development strategies for the most backward districts in the Kashmir valley.

A comprehensive strategy for reduction of structural backwardness has been proposed for the four most backward districts of Kashmir valley based on a two-pronged approach; one containing action needed inside the region and the other consisting of the initiatives to be taken outside the region, i.e., at the state level. We find that the efforts that need to be made inside the region are development of one or two nodal growth points; creating better connectivity, marketing facilities, basic social infrastructure and consumer and producer co-operatives. The actions to be taken at the extra-regional, i.e., state level are linking the backward districts (functionally and spatially) with the nearest core region's markets and amenities; provision of investment opportunities so that profits earned from exports from the region's specialized products stay within the region; ensuring substantial inflow of enterprise capital by providing good governance and inducing development through central government investment and subsidy programmes and indirect incentives. A comprehensive strategy for reduction of Structural Backwardness consists of two Sets of approaches and it is mentioned below:

Table 9: Two Broad Strategic Development Approaches of the Region

Approaches Inside the Region	Approaches Outside the Region
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activation of one or two nodal “growth” points to provide higher order services as well as employment opportunities. 2. A networks of local, regional and interregional roads. 3. Marketing and distribution networks. 4. Educational and vocational institutions. 5. Consumer and producer cooperatives. 6. Basics social infrastructure 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Linking backward areas (functionally and spatially) with the nearest core region’s markets and amenities. 2. Provision of investment opportunities so that profits from exports earned from the regions specialized products stay within the region. 3. Ensuring substantial inflow of enterprise capital by providing good governance. 4. Inducing development through Central government investment, subsidy programmes and indirect incentives.

There is needed to promote regional connectivity and provide post office facilities in Handwara, Karnah, Damhal, Hanjipora and Devsar tehsils of Kashmir Valley. There should be provision of mobile networking system, primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) in rural areas of the districts of Kulgam, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Bandipora. Provision of toilet facilities in the tehsils of Gurez and Sumbal, Sonawari, Kangan, Lal and Wakura are also in urgent need. There is expected to upgrade the infrastructure of primary and secondary schools in census towns of Safa Pora, Wail and other backward tehsils. Similarly, biotechnology, IT (Information Technology) and medical institutes should be encouraged and established. Handicrafts and handlooms sector are supposed to be strengthen as it has international market. The sick industries are meant to be functional and operational in the backwards districts. These sick industries could be regenerated through special grants and financing. There must be provision of banking facilities and regional development banks in all tehsils of Kashmir valley. There must be establishment of storages and warehousing along national and state highways in order boost commerce and trading. There is needed to adopt land pooling technique based on public/private cooperation. Promotion of floriculture and sericulture can be promoted. Revamping governance in order to have peace in the insurgent areas/armed militancy areas. Moreover, it can be developed as a health tourism, eco-tourism, religious tourism, and heritage tourism destination.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This study indicates that Kupwara, Ganderbal, Bandipora and Kulgam are the four most backward districts in the Kashmir valley. These districts are specifically not developed in terms of urbanization, economy, industry, communication, social amenities and transportation. The causes are the peculiar topographical features, insurgency, low productivity of agricultural products, fragmentation of land, small market, sick industries, lack of basic facilities and ineffective governance. The economic sector in this study is traced from agricultural to service sector both in the Kashmir valley as well as in the state. The sectoral contribution of state GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) had 21.07 percentages in primary, 22.39 percentages in secondary and 56.44 percentage in tertiary sectors respectively (Digest of Statistics, 2013-14). But now the tertiary sector, which is emerging as major contributor to GSDP and GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Agriculture has been predominant sector in this region which supports around 70 per cent of its population. It depends entirely on the income generated by animal husbandry and agricultural sector. Livestock of poultry and cattle are considered the most crucial tool for the enhancement of rural economy. Similarly, the production of blankets, carpets, shawls and pashmina shawls of Kashmir can earn handsome foreign exchange for the country. Rice is the principal crop of this region followed by wheat, maize and barley. Nearly 75 percentage of the country’s temperate fruits particularly apples are grown in this region. There is great scope for the

production of high value crops like saffron, black zeera and other spices in the region. Allied activities like fisheries, horticulture, dairy development, livestock and sericulture also play significant role in the agriculture sector.

The Kashmir valley has not been able to attract investments of industries. Thus, it has remained as an industrially backward region because of financial crunch, marketing problems and lack of infrastructure. There is less employment generation in small scale industrial (SSI) units in the four most backward districts in comparison with other districts. Similarly, the number of sick industries is high in this region. The handloom and handicraft centres are also in decline because of poor incentives and financing from the state and central governments. Industrial estates should be developed keeping in mind economic considerations like raw material availability, human resources, geographical location, proximity to the market etc. In order to encourage investments, government must play a leading role to build up the confidence of the private investors in this region. In the social sector, there are shortages of hospitals, schools, colleges, dispensaries, electricity, toilets and drinking water facilities in the four most backward districts. The post offices, road connectivity, availability of mobile phones, television etc are also poor in the four most backward districts of Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kulgam. The road networks are densely located in lowland areas in the region due to its physiographic features. Road lengths per 100 square km are higher in the Srinagar district as compared to other districts. The locational disadvantage and inadequate infrastructure are prominent reasons for the lack of proper road infrastructure. There should be precise governance system in the insurgent / militant districts areas in order to establish peace notably in the highly backward districts. The region is also known for tourism and emphasis should be given to health tourism, eco-tourism, religious tourism and heritage tourism. Therefore, there is needed to have planning intervention strategies in order to have inclusive balanced regional development.

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