

## Incertitude, curfew and unrest: A study of retrograded education system of Kashmir valley

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### Abstract

The present paper tries to highlight the basic factors which are responsible for the deterioration of education in the Kashmir valley. Kashmir Valley is the conflict zone; it has crossed decades of violence, unrest, confusion, chaos and Human Rights Violation. It is an unsettled conflict between two neighboring countries. On the one hand India claims Kashmir is its integral part and on the other hand Pakistan professes it belongs to them. Actually from 1947 when India and Pakistan divided their borders on the basis of two Nation theory, this unfortunate territory of Kashmir was under dispute. Since then these two nations could not bring any political settlement to Kashmir issue; then this problem was brought under UN Consideration, but still unsolved. It means history is the witness of uncertainty, and social and political turmoil in Kashmir. Fact is that, from the last uprising (which is post Burhan martyrdom) it witnessed that youth of the valley are not only careless about their future settlement or education but also does not give value and significance to their lives. The researcher has gone through the evidence of 2016 unrest and interacted with some great academicians of Kashmir valley. He came to know that everything in Kashmir valley including schools and all other educational institutions were closed for the period of six months. The students could not even attend 30% of classes, their syllabus was not completed and still they manage to pass their exams with good grades as compared to previous years. It was a so called great move taken by department of education that the syllabus for examination was reduced and the evaluators were guided to become lenient during evaluation. In conclusion the study reveals that the students were promoted to advanced classes but without knowing the basics of previous classes. It will obviously deteriorate the education of Kashmir division. Those students will hardly be able to compete with the students of other division of the state. Hence this uncertainty, curfew and unrest lead to downfall and demise to the society.

**Keywords:** education, conflict, deteriorated education, curfew, uncertainty, chaos

### Introduction

Kashmir is a conflicted zone; it has crossed decades of violence, unrest, confusion, chaos and Human Rights Violation. It is an unsettled conflict between India and Pakistan,

Jiska Law hai uska order,  
Made on order, law and order,  
India Pakistan ne milkar,  
Khaila humse border border,  
Ab na Hume Chode Hindustan,  
Ab na Hume Chode Pakistan,  
Arey Koi humse be tou pocho,  
Hum kya Chahte Azadi...

India claims Kashmir is its integral part and Pakistan professes it belongs to them. Actually from 1947, when India Pakistan shared their borders on the basis of two nation theory, this unfortunate alienated land of Kashmir became a matter of pride for both the countries. The ego of both the countries prevents them to bring any political settlement to this issue. The deliberate attempt of both the countries, particularly India didn't even allow United Nations to solve it, which evoked Kashmiri people especially the younger generation to stand against it. First of all they raised their voices against these

atrocities. When the voice reached nowhere, they picked up gun in 1988-89 followed by stones and public rallies demanding for self-determination in 2008, 2010 and now in 2016. Unfortunately the Indian govt. and security forces did not accept it any political issue but consider it as an issue of unemployment, poverty and Pakistan aided people's bestiality. These statements and on the other hand nonstop brutality of India irritated the people and compelled more and more educated youngsters for picking up arms against Indian administration and security system. This continuous unrest in Kashmir, which witnesses the closure of markets, schools, offices, factories, universities, colleges, business centers and everything brought doom to this so called paradise on earth. As we all know after July 08, 2016 when Hizbul Mujahidin Commander Burhan Wani was martyred, Kashmir witnessed six months of unrest, everything including schools, colleges and universities were closed. Students couldn't learn a single word in these six months, and the so called civil government couldn't give relief to the people instead showed the tyrannical power and killed innocent people. According to Mehbooba Mufti, CM of Jammu and Kashmir, "A total of 8,587 accused people were arrested during the six-month-long unrest in the Valley. Mehbooba said that "76 civilians", including two police personnel, were killed during the "recent law and order situation in the Kashmir valley". Around 522 persons were

detained under the J&K Public Safety Act.” and when they realized that at the end of five year tenure, they have to beg before these innocent people only for votes and showed their sympathy and love for people by conducting exams to the half syllabus and instructed the evaluators to be lenient in evaluation. Some classes were mass promoted, which according to them was a good step for the welfare of student. It actually saved one year of student but this ‘save’ was a big loss for the students. Students don’t know ABC of previous class and were promoted to next class. Every next class is a sequel of previous class. Instead of promoting the students to next class, if the govt. could have managed to help their people in hard times, I suppose this so called ‘good move’ was not needed.

### Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to find out the impact of unrest and insurgency on academic performance in educational institutions of Kashmir Valley. Further, the study sought to find out the impact of negative approach of authorities on education.

### Impact of Unrest on Academic Performance

There is clear evidence that 2016 unrest in Kashmir valley has deteriorated the education. Ninety Six percent of the people believe that impact of unrest in 2016 on education has worsened the whole system of education in Kashmir valley. Only four percent of population believes that it can be recovered by the students by self-learning. The researcher has visited 35 Govt. and non-govt. schools, seven colleges and three universities for collection of facts. He came to know that all the classes from class 1 to class 11 were mass promoted except 10<sup>th</sup> class. He came to know students of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class were allowed to copy from other students but were asked to keep quite only. When only 25 to 27% of attendance was observed, how come is it possible that results will be better in comparison with previous years? Unfortunately it was witnessed that result were better, it meant evaluation process was not proper but leniency was taken in evaluation. The university and college semesters were tapered to three months and some students claimed that they have wasted one semester. Now 40% of the students who were promoted to next class claim that the curriculum they are been taught seem to be alien for them. In short this unrest, insurgency and uncertainty have deteriorated the whole education system in all the ten districts of Kashmir valley.

### Objectives

1. To establish the causes of recent waves of unrest on educational institutions.
2. To establish the effect of unrest and uncertainty on academic performance of students.
3. To determine the losses caused by negative capability of concerned authorities.

### Justification

Quality of education is justified on the basis of academic performance. Quality education, in turn, is considered the key to economic and industrial growth and ultimately development. The national goals of economic recovery and industrialization are jeopardized by unrests and insurgency. The information provided by this research is important for the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders who have an interest in

quality education. The public and the parents also have an interest in education having invested heavily on it. The society expects good returns for its investment in terms of good academic performance. Unrests made vulnerable effect on education and the parents, who are spending a lot of money for this pious purpose, seem to get annoyed because returns meet the cost of unrest and closure of these institutions.

### Methodology

This study used a survey research method, employing interviews and conversations. The survey research obtained data that described the existing relationship between unrests and academic performances. The study took qualitative research approach. Qualitative approach was carried out through interaction with students and teachers of schools, colleges, universities and general masses specially parents of students in district Pulwama of J&K state. Data has been collected from secondary sources like books, journals, newspapers, published and unpublished research work, and various internet sources.

### Conclusion

According to this statistical data, “...literacy at 54% lags behind the all-India level of 65%.The discrepancy is slightly larger for women (42% compared to the national figure of 54%) and for men (66% compared with a national level of 76%).” It means the state of Jammu and Kashmir is lacking far behind in the field of education but the prestigious institutions of India and other countries witness the ability and intelligence of Kashmiris’. Now question arises why Jammu and Kashmir is lacking behind in the field of education? It doesn’t need any research work but obviously it is an open secret that Jammu and Kashmir particularly Kashmir division is a disputed territory and the uncertainty of the state is reason behind this low education rate. According to various geniuses and Pratibha Patil, “the route to peace and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir lies in education... (She’s) urging the youth to make the state progressive by studying hard and excelling in the field of education”. But how come is it possible that everything will be closed schools, colleges, universities and even tuition centers and the geniuses of Indian administration will suggest the plightful people to learn and get educated, and your problem will be automatically solved. It is true education is the medicine for every disease. The problem here is how educational institutions can remain open in such turmoil. The remedy according to this research is that both the parties should sit on two sides of the table and discuss the problem of common masses and find any reasonable solution. Until India should not put down its ego and give the common people ‘the right to decision’ Kashmir issue will not be resolved and until Kashmir issue will not be resolved, ‘we can only hope for better but we have to be ready worse than worst.’

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