

DISPLACEMENT AND EXCLUSION ON BORDER VILLAGES OF DISTRICT RAJOURI

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ABSTRACT

This paper is based on the ramification of mortar shelling and heavy firing on the citizenship rights of the inhabitants of border area village. In regard to displacement of these people, they displaced during the war and conflict situation between the two countries and settle down in the camps and underground bunkers made by the government for them. During firing and shelling numerous dwellings and shelters of people were spoiled and animals put to death. The present study has been conducted in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory; it is an endeavour to scrutinize the condition of displacement and exclusion of border villages using observation, interviews and secondary source of information.

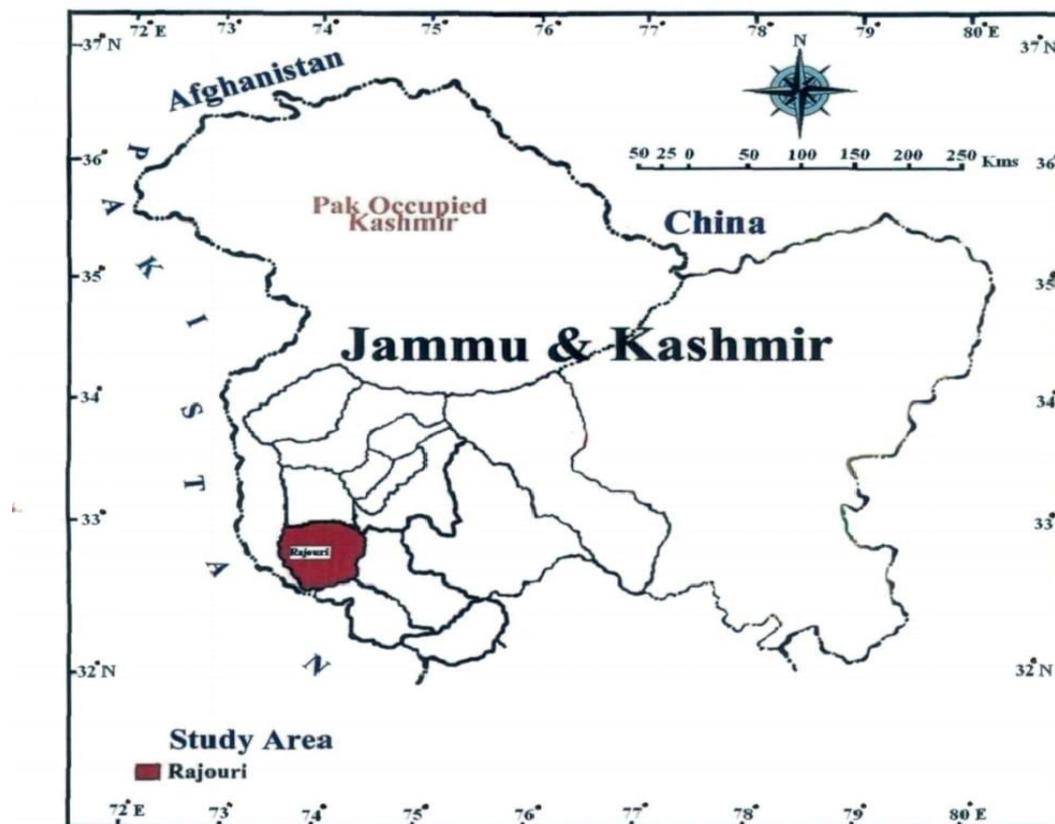
Keywords- *Border-area, Citizens, Displacement, Dwellings, Jammu and Kashmir*

I. INTRODUCTION

The forcible movement of people who are residing near the LOC (Line of Control) between has been ascending in the past few days or years. Due to the lost of socio-economic associations they suffers from psychological and physical distress. Thousands of people in overall the world have left their place of origin due to violence and conflict. Internally displaced people are those who left their home due to persecution, insurgency, natural disaster, communal clashes and ethnic conflict (Mmahi, 2016). ‘The partition line drawn between India and Pakistan by the boundary commission is not considered as an outcome of proper practical field study’ (Das, 2008). It was observed that after the creation of the border fencing in India –Pakistan border huge numbers of border villages were got affected. The military border fencing separated 15,000 people from their land in Jammu and Kashmir state in 2009 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2010). The internal displacement of persons mentions the forcible movement of people from their environment. It is a kind of change in society or social change due to conflict by armed force (Datta, 2018). According to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons (IDPs) ‘are people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their home or places of habitual residence, in particular, as a violations of human rights, or natural or human-made- disaster, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border’(United Nations, 1992).

II. AREA OF STUDY

The area of study is Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. Line of control (LOC) runs 120 km long through district Rajouri and covers 72 villages in which 22 villages becomes the target of cross border shelling and firing. Rajouri district lies near the LOC (Line of control) between India and Pakistan, district Poonch lies to its north, district Reasi to its east, Jammu district to its South and Line of Control to its West. Pir Panjal range located to the north of Rajouri district, river Manawar Tawi and its tributaries drains the whole of Rajouri district. The texture of soil is mountainous and fertile, and the main crops are rice, wheat and maize. Rajouri district has 13 tehsils, according to 2011 census the total area of Rajouri was 2,630 km², total population was 642,415 and density was 24/km². The map of Jammu and Kashmir below showing the area of study.



Source: Internet

III. METHODOLOGY

The study entitled ‘Displacement and Exclusion on the Border Villages of District Rajouri’ is based on the problems of people who are living near the International border between India and Pakistan. Sociological study was conducted to understand the daily lives of people who regularly become the victims of border shelling in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Observation method was used to conduct the study and Purposive technique of sampling was conducted for interview process with the border area people. Secondary source of data collection was also used to explore the problems of these people.

IV. CITIZENSHIP RIGHT OF BORDER VILLAGE PEOPLE

Citizenship meaning is not to reside in a definite terrain and to acquire identification. It stipulates the social ties to a union territory by birth and they want to continue their social bond of belongingness to their territory. It is not due to closeness, they have spiritual and emotional attachment to their land (Singhvi, 1998).

The fencing in the border areas of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has been restricting the freedom of people living within the fencing area. Due to such restrictions near the border areas the socio-economic and political conditions of border area communities is ruptured. On the other hand these restrictions displaced number of people from their area but some families are still dwellings in under the restrictions of Indian Border Security Force. One respondent from village Lam said,

'As we are living within the fencing our relatives are not allowed to visit us because of army's restrictions and number of formalities to cross the border gates. Border gates are closed after 6pm, in case of any emergency gates is not supposed to open by army personnel'.

The families residing near the border areas in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir don't have courage to displace from their place of origin, they are excluded from their citizenship rights. Citizenship has predominantly pointed out to a specific political interest involving particular duties and public rights in connection with a prescribed political association (Bellamy, 2008). In political and legal theories, 'citizenship refers to the rights and duties of the members of a nation state' (Scott & Marshall, 2009). People who are living within the fencing, they are not the active member of any governmental order or scheme.

Indian villagers in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir who are residing near the international border between India and Pakistan are not accessible for internet connectivity, electricity, educational institution, health institution, road connectivity and drinking water facility.

V. IRR MODEL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE CONDITION OF BORDER AREA PEOPLE

Impoverishment Risk and Resettlement (IRR) model was suggested by Michael M. Cernea, there are eight impoverishment process in Internal displacement are Joblessness, homelessness, landlessness, food insecurity, marginalisation, increased morbidity, loss of access to common property resources and community disarticulation (Cernea, 1997). Multinational development banks adopted the revised policy that redefines 'Restricted access to certain resources in protected areas as a form of involuntary population displacement even when it is not accompanied by physical (geographical) displacement'. This hypothesis has expanded the connotation of 'Displacement' on the far side of its usual accepted meaning as terrestrial movement to include economic dislocation and economic as well (Cernea, 2006).

VI. SECURITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

Rajouri district almost becomes the target of heavy shelling and firing as Rajouri lies on the International border between India and Pakistan. Pakistani troops are regularly violating ceasefire near the LOC of district Rajouri, exchange of firing between both the countries is responsible for destroying the lives of people who are living near the border area villages. Due to motor shelling and firing, one army personnel was killed on July 10, two

women from villages near the LOC were killed on July 11, and one more army men killed on August 1 and 65-year old person was killed on August 7 (The Times of India, August 19, 2020). During firing and shelling numerous dwellings and shelters of people were spoiled and animals put to death. People who are residing near the LOC took shelter in bunkers to secure their lives. These people are demanding more bunkers to roof over head. One respondent from Nowshera village said;

'We don't know when we will be killed with the firing and shelling by Pakistan. We don't have proper underground bunkers facility, we can't leave our place of living this is our ancestral land our parents and grandparents gifted us'.

VII. CONCLUSION

On the border area people are still suffering from numerous problems related to their security of life and property. The citizenship rights of these people are violated; they are deprived and becoming exploited. The government of India is sending compensation and not ready to take any strict decision related to this matter because people are emotionally attached to their place of origin. The inhabitants of border villages living in a deprived and restricted life in such a territory. At present both India and Pakistan having a antagonist relationship but in case of conflict situation and emergency these are the people who will confront the impact firstly. They are living at the edge of the country without any secure accommodation will become the bull's eye of any hardship in future.

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