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CHANGING PATTERN OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

The population growth and distribution has attracted increasing attention from Geographers and Planners in India from two or three decades to make special approach in them to solve the human problems, which is a great task to handle. Here an attempt has been made on demographic dimensions of human resources to examine spatial and temporal variations in population growth, distribution and density during the last four decades (1981-2011). Total Population in the state is 12548926 persons (Census 2011). The Study indicates that Jammu and Srinagar districts recorded high distribution of population of 1,529,958 and 1,236,829 respectively, mainly on account of being the Union Territory Administrative capitals which have made them the hub of socio economic activities. The population distribution and density pattern indicate an overwhelming influence of geo-physical disposition across the different regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

KEY-WORDS: Population, distribution, growth, Changes.

INTRODUCTION

Population distribution denotes the spatial pattern due to dispersal of population, formation of agglomeration, Linear spread etc. Population distribution is the pattern in which people live across the globe. The unevenness in the population distribution based on the distribution based on multiple factors. The people of a country are its rural wealth. It is they, who are the actual recourses and make use of the country's other recourses and decide its policies. Ultimately a country is known by its people, The population of the world is unevenly distributed. The remarks of George B. Cressey about the population of Asia that "Asia has many places where people are few and few place where people are very many" is true about the pattern of population distribution and density help us to understand the demographic Characteristics of any area. The term Population distribution refers to the way people

are spaced over the earth's surface. The population growth or population change of a territory refers to the change in the number of inhabitants over specific time period. This Change would be both positive and negative. It can be expressed either in absolute numbers or as a percentage of population change in a region is an important indicator of economic development, social upliftment and the regions historical and cultural background as the census data of 2011, Uttarpradesh ranked first (199,812,341 persons) followed by Maharashtra (112,374,333 persons) and Bihar (104,099,452 persons) in third place.

STUDY AREA

Jammu and Kashmir is named after the two regions, it comprises-The Jammu and Kashmir Valley Provision for the formation of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu and Kashmir Re-Organisation act 2019, which was passed by both houses of Parliament of India in August 2019. The act reconstituted the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union Territories, one being Jammu Kashmir and other being Ladakh w.e.f 31 October 2019. Jammu and Kashmir occupies 42,214 Sq.Km area. Jammu and Kashmir is located in the Himalayan region in the North India. Jammu and Kashmir population is estimated to be 13.62 million (1.36 Crores), by Sep 2021, Jammu and Kashmir population is projected to be 1.34 crores as per Unique Identification Aadhar India, updated 2022. On August 5 2019, the Government of India Scraped the article 370 from the constitution of India and integrated with other States and Union Territories (Article 370 was created on 26 October 1947, signed by Hari Singh, The Last Maharaja of Kashmir) and introduced a bill to divide the state into two union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir is home to several valleys such as Kashmir Valley, Tawi Valley, Chenab Valley, Poonch Valley, Sind Valley and Lidder Valley. The Jhelum river is the major Himalayan river which flows through the Kashmir valley. This valley was an average height of 1,850 metres (6,070 ft) above sea level. Some major tourist attractions in Jammu and Kashmir are Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Patnitop and Jammu. The Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is bounded by China in the north and east, Afghanistan in the north-west and Pakistan in the west and South, Punjab in the west and Himachal Pradesh in the South. Jammu is the winter Capital and Srinagar is summer. It is believed Raja Jamboo Lochan founder the city in the BC Era and his name "Jamboo" became "Jammu" as the time was passed. Jammu and Kashmir is on 19th rank with more than 14 million(est) for the Population rank in India. Agriculture and Allied activities are the main Occupation of around 80% of its population.

OBJECTIVES

The Present study has been under taken with the following objectives. 1.To study the arithmetic distribution of population in the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. 2.To find out the Changing pattern of population distribution in study area.

To find out the decadal variations of distribution pattern.

METHODOLOGY

Present paper is primarily based on the secondary sources data mainly collected from District census handbooks, Statistics digest, Socio-Economic Abstract etc. Various statistical Techniques are used in the present paper to know the demographic patter of the study area.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN J&K

Uneven population distribution is characterised by massive difference in the density of population across geographical Locations. There is extremely high density of population at some places such as Srinagar, Pulwama, whereas, the district of Kishtwar has very low population density. Hence, there is uneven distribution of population in J&K. The factors responsible for uneven distribution of population in J&K are:-

A. RELIEF: -Mountains have rugged surface and are covered with thick forests along with harsh climate are not all suitable for human habitation, high hilly areas are sparsely populated while, Jammu plain area and Srinagar fertile valley providing suitable climate, level land along with knit transport system, is density populated.

B. CLIMATE: -The density of population is high in good climatic regions. But the very hot or cold and very dry climatic regions have low density of population.

C.SOILS: -The fertile soil regions have very high crop productivity. The soil type in Jammu and Kashmir plain region is described as alluvial, which is majority found in Kathua and Jammu.Kashmir's highly fertile alluvial fertile deposits called 'Karewas'suitable for several crops which support high density of population.

D.INDUSTRIES, TRADE AND COMMERCE: -Industrialized, commercial and business areas of the state have densely populated. e.g Srinagar, Samba, Kathua, Jammu Industrial areas.

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS: -Geographical Location that favours development of modern infrastructure attracts more population. Srinagar valley, Jammu region all are well connected by means of road ways or railways. This control Location made them populous.

F. SECURITY: -People like to stay in a good security of life and property. Hence it is also influenced on population distribution. e.g Border areas of Jammu and Kashmir are sparkly populated.

POPULATION GROWTH

The population of state has increased more than two-fold in the state during last 30 years. In the first two decades of the 20th century the population growth was below 10%. After 1931, it was raising at constant rate of 10 percent per decade. Upto 1961, were from it has an unprecedented rise of 29 % per decade which is one of the highest rates in the country (17.64% of India)

Table 1. Decadal Population Growth of Jammu and Kashmir (1901-2011)

Year	Population	Percent Growth
1901	21.39	--
1911	22.92	7.16
1921	24.24	5.75
1931	26.70	10.14
1941	29.46	10.36
1951	32.53	10.42
1961	35.60	9.44
1971	46.16	29.65
1981	59.87	29.69
1991	77.18	28.92

2001	100.69	30.46
2011	125.48	23.71

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

The Spatial distribution of population in Jammu and Kashmir is highly uneven. The Physical factors like terrain, topography, slope, climate, soil, natural vegetation and accessibility have largely controlled the distribution and density of population in the state. In general, about 85% of the total population of the state is occupying the Jammu plain and Kashmir valley, 14% is living in Kandi areas. The Jammu and Kashmir has a population of 12548926 (census of India 2011) with a density of 124 persons per sq. Km.

Table 2. District wise distribution of population of J&K (census 2011)

S.No	District	Population	Increase.
1	Jammu	1,529,858	12.74%
2	Srinagar	1,236,829	20.35%
3	Anantnag	1,078,692	38.58%
4	Baramulla	1,008,039	19.45%
5	Kupwara	870,354	33.82%
6	Badgam	753,745	24.14%
7	Rajouri	642,415	32.93%
8	Kathua	616,435	20.53%
9	Pulwama	560,440	27.00%
10	Udhampur	554,985	20.78%
11	Poonch	476,835	27.97%
12	Kulgam	424,483	7.73%
13	Doda	409,936	28.00%
14	Bandipora	392,232	28.65%
15	Samba	318,898	17.01%
16	Reasi	314,667	27.04%
17	Ganderbal	297,446	36.50%
18	Ramban	283,713	31.99%
19	Shopian	266,215	25.97%
20	Kishtwar	230,696	20.88%

CONCLUSION

The Spatial distribution of population in Jammu and Kashmir is highly uneven. The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has a population of 12548926 (census of India,2011) with a density of 124 Person per sq.km. The Most outstanding feature of population is its uneven distribution, which is directly related with relief, Climate and Soil. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the least Population State's of India because only 10% of its area is suitable for cultivation. The density of study area has increased from 59 Persons/Km in 1981 to 124 Persons/Km in 2011.Thses variations at District level were analyzed for the period 1981-2011.Srinagar and Jammu and Districts recorded high density of population 644 and 597 persons per Km² respectively, mainly on account of being the UT's Administrative Capitals which have made them the hub of socio-economics activities. The lowest population density is found in the Ladakh division with only 3 persons per Km² in Leh district. The population distribution density pattern indicates an overwhelming influence of geo-Physical disposition across the different regions of the state. In addition to this centralized distribution of small manufacturing and service sectors in few urbans have also influenced the population density and distribution pattern as well. Since social, economic and technological development are in the early stages, agricultural land capability(growing, season, irrigation) carrying capacity of land (Soil fertility) and concentration of non agricultural economic activities especially service activities has played significant role in population concentration and high density of population Jhelum played significant role in population concentration and high density of population of Jhelum valley Floor consisting of Srinagar, Budgam,Pulwama, Anantnag, and Baramula district.

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