

Socio-Economic Transformation in Kashmir, Post-Article 370:

Never Ending Anxieties Of Kashmiris

Kashmir, a landmark of immense beauty and resources with its challenging proximity and strategic correlation with the two major nuclear powers of South Asian i.e. India and Pakistan, clearly resulting to conflictual relations and claims leading to wars and tensions and conflict arousal between states, affecting the entire region's security imbalances. The issue is being a source of tension from the past 76 years, however little efforts are being made by both the states as well as international community. From time to time diplomatic negotiations are being held having zero results due to the non-cooperation of India or the no attention silenced behavior of international community.

These tensions further exceeded with the adaptation of article 370 by Indian government in IIOJK, fueling the conflict and transforming the socio-political and economic set up of the region. The entire map of IIOJK was transformed without its people knowing and consent. The land for which the patriotic people of IIOJK were fighting since 1947 was divided into two with broad changes in its settlement and socio-economic atmosphere, heightening the frustration and resistance of the locals.

India, which claims to have taken the step towards article 370 for development and well-being of IIOJK can be fairly condemned as the current scenario of IIOJK does not provides any justification. However, the scenario has been worsened after Aug. 5,2019 as the region's political crisis and separatism has further widened. India has set up a regime of de-jure and de-facto impunity by breaking the state into two affecting the geography, environment, economy along with the socio-political setup of the region.

Case-Study highlighting the Socio-Economic Transformation in IIOJK (Post-article 370)

1. Disappointing trade-upsetting the apple cart:

The valley of Kashmir and the entire IIOJK region is being famous for its fruit production specifically that of Apple cart. The demand of this fruit is quite high in international market and about RS.8000 crore per year is being earned through it which provides livelihood to about 33 lakh families and about seven lakh farmers are dependent of it.

But unfortunately, the socio-political situation of the region has led to trade disparities affecting the Apple trade and the entire region in context of economy. After implication of article 370 the gap further widened as a complete curfew was seen in order Sellers that were recently the largest i.e 75% exporters are now struggling to sell their products in a fair amount to earn their livelihood. Their struggle seems to bring no results as the fruit market at Sopore in Baramulla- Asia's second largest market- remains shut due to complete Indian black out in IIOJK.

According to interviews taken from the locals, most of the problem arises due to the non-availability of communication resources to contact sellers from Delhi and outside IIOJK region, that provides a good amount of price and fair pay in advance as nobody is prepare to do that in the premises of IIOJK that leads to their unending woes and anxieties.

2. Tourism as a setback in the region:

The captivating beauty of the region was a major key player in attracting tourism that bought about 70000 to 75000 of revenue generation acting as the 2nd largest economic source for the region. But India's hypocrisy and brutality has transformed it into a bleeding industry currently changing it into a life threat and security failure for the tourists. Due to India's lack of security confrontation and services, tourists are from time to time portrayed to acts of

violence and terrorism.

The recent case study involves that of Pahalgam Attack in which about 26 tourists were being brutally killed due to lack of security and proper means of administration and safety. India, who is currently blaming it on Pakistan is setting a justification for its failure of proper management and security providence to the people and tourists of IIOJK. The injured tourists were waiting for medical help and police access in the region but unfortunately none provided to them till their deaths. These people are being exposed to terrorists acts which adds as a set back to the tourist industry of that region.

3. Domicile and law; Loss of identity:

IIOJK, while holding a special status in the Indian constitution was provided with certain special privileges which were open for just locals of the region such as those who were born and belonged to that area. But after the revocation of article 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution the local government was able to affix special privileges such as the ability to purchase land and issuance of domiciles to decide who are the permanent residents and who have the sole authority on the land of IIOJK.

According to the leader of People Democratic Party (PDA) MLA Waheed Parra, about 83742 domiciles are being issued to non-state subjects in the past two years, allowing non-Kashmiris in that region to apply for government jobs and own property in the IIOJK region. These domiciles were either illegally provided to them or were given on the basis of settlement to those who have spent about 8 to 10 years in the region. This law thus opened the path of privileges to the non-local- illegally identified holders of domiciles-as well. Thus, with the revocation of Kashmir's special autonomous status, the identity of the Kashmiri state was altogether erased. Event some of the screams rang in the opposition chambers of the Indian Parliament, the deadly silence of state was more ignorant.

4. Land Law; Zionist mode of settlement:

A major Indian government step leading to anxiety among Kashmiris was

their Zionist mode of settlement. The settler narrative like all others was intimately linked with the land and control of the region as the Indian state has illegally seized Kashmiri land; not just strategic borders but civilian infrastructure, hotels, sport stadiums, university facilities and hospitals for their military settlements and purposes. The tale on Indian Zionist mode of settlement existed long before the abrogation however, the adaptation of land law further justified this scenario.

The settler colonial project in IIOJK recruited non-Kashmiris to dilute the region's predominantly Muslim population which leads to arousal of local's anger and frustration. As for most of Kashmiris, the situation is far more depressing and hopeless as it has never been. The abrogation has so overwhelmed them that creates as a sense of betrayal and loss that may lead to the possibility of war and Anti-government operations. The actions of Indian government lead to the militarist operation being conducted by locals such as the case of Pahalgam attack in which the militant asked the lady to go tell Modi that its all because of his Zionist settling project being carried out in order to bring demographic changes to the region.

Conclusion:

The Indian's acts in IIOJK can never be justified under the ground that it is being meant for the people of Kashmiris and the development of the region as the truth is quite clear displaying the real brutality in the region. The laws currently enforced without the consent of the people of IIOJK are not just colonially oppressing for Kashmiris but are erasing them altogether. The development of IIOJK is never possible without the disempowerment of it people for which the policies and illegal laws of the Indian's government must be revised and amended on the core level.

About the Author: This Research Report is written by Abna Yaqub-Research Fellow at YFK