

KASHMIR: QUEST FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

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ABSTRACT:

In the politico-strategic perspective, Jammu and Kashmir is considered one of the most difficult and challenging state in India. Its fragmented society is regarded as a major hurdle in the way of its building and state development. With its majority-ethnic and majority-linguistic groups, it is a complicated part global map. In this situation, it can be imagined that the internal peace is linked with the lowest credibility, development is linked with its disputed character and inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir are linked with terrorist groups of Hizb and Lashkar Tobia. Resistance against the social and political order has remained the core feature of Kashmiri society. Throughout its history, several internal and external players have been involved in their game of interest. In addition it is essential to view the situation in Kashmir through a regional prism, thus acknowledging the impactful role of Pakistan, China and India. This paper attempts to identify the Kashmir conflict by its base and why people from Kashmir are struggling for their human rights and has been the victims of atrocities, furthermore it will also analyse on which grounds they want to seek their identity in a globalized interface of the world and finally paper will focus on basic concerns of Kashmir region.

KEY WORDS: - Jammu and Kashmir, India, Peace, issue, Kashmir conflict.

INTRODUCTION:

History of Kashmir is full of external interferences, internal troubles and continued hostilities between India and Pakistan through various segments directly leave impact on its population. In its modern history, the situation got further worse by **more violence, more political and economic instability, more hatred and more suffering for the ordinary people**, followed by separatist's resistance. The geographical location of Kashmir is at the junction of Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and China in the Himalayan Mountains. Mughal emperors by the beauty of its surroundings called Kashmir paradise. However, in the last seven decades Kashmir not only lost the name of paradise, but also from its long struggle and experiencing many efforts by external and internal actors to take control of Kashmir, the people of this state are still far from peace and prosperity. The people of Kashmir were trapped in the current of a bitter dispute between India and Pakistan. Kashmir became an epicentre of conflict between India and Pakistan.

In Aug 1947, with the imminent division of India and creation of Pakistan, the state of Jammu and Kashmir including Aksai Chin had an area of 222,236 square kilometers. Out of this area Kashmir had only 10 percent, Jammu 14.4 percent, and the frontier districts 75.6 percent. According to the census report of 1941 population of Kashmir was 4.02 million, 77 percent were Muslims and 20 percent were Hindus. The present position is: the Kashmir province with 96.4 percent Muslim; the Jammu province with 62.6 percent Hindu majority province and 33.5 percent Muslim. The other province Ladakh is Buddhist majority but the Kargil district of Ladakh is Muslim majority. Today 45.62 percent of the original state territory is with India, 35.15 percent with Pakistan and 19.23 percent with China. The Line of Control (LOC) divides Jammu and Kashmir to 778 kilometers long area and there is an uncontested border of 198 kilometers between the part of state with India and Pakistani Punjab. In the Siachen area there is an undefined line about 150 km separating India and Pakistan (Karnad, 2004).

After independence of India, Kashmir became a bone of contention between the both states. Furthermore, it also generated other serious security crises, e.g., water crisis, dam's construction issue and emergence of self-determination movement in Kashmir. Some contentious issues emerged after the partition of India in 1947 has proved to be as difficult and problematic as the sub-conflict between India and Pakistan over the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir dispute labelled with Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Greek-Turkish-Cypriot dispute owing to its persistence, sensation and impregnability to rational settlement (Hellman, 1976). In the backdrop of Kashmir dispute between the two nuclear countries, Richard Nixon Wrote: "Nuclear powers have

never fought each other, but the clash between Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India over the disputed Kashmir territory could erupt into world's first war between nuclear powers" (Nixon, 1992).

KASHMIR CONFLICT:

The Kashmir is a dispute primarily between Kashmiris, India and Pakistan, having started soon after the partition of India in 1947. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir, including the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1947 and 1965, as well as the Kargil War. The two countries have also been involved in several skirmishes over control of the Siachen Glacier. Kashmir is the main root of conflict between India and Pakistan which has become a hurdle in Democratic development, peace and tranquillity of entire integral state of India.

The dispute over Kashmir is neither an area of great geopolitical importance nor involved in vital strategic stuff unless unlike other inter-state disputes. The actual sources of this dispute perhaps may be sought in the diverse conceptions regarding the emergence and the growth of a new state in South Asia region, probably this may be the cause of Kashmir dispute at fullest extent, but India's leadership would impossibly digest this cause. India claims that Jammu and Kashmir is her integral part and Pakistan is interfering in domestic affairs of state by supporting terrorism and insurgency even after maharaja's acceded to India on 26 October 1947. Pakistan is equally very much important regional country which wants to integrate Kashmir into its dominion. Its leaders argued that their nation was incomplete without inclusion of Kashmir (Ganguly, 2006). The conflict over Kashmir has tuned a hub of bloodshed, violence, human rights violation and a trust deficit between Delhi and Islamabad. It's growing tourist industry fade completely in the outbreak of military incursions and militant activities. Moreover, Atrocities of Indian Army in Kashmir have been excessive and still constantly, Indian anti-Minority eminent power holder fuelling Indian army to treat innocent civilians in Kashmir with t inhuman behaviour, and there is no justification to that.

Kashmir not only witness massive use of force by India state, but also suffering with intense agitation. Despite having no evidences, the government of India continuously holds that all agitations in Kashmir are Pakistan sponsored. The government has failed to address the political issue from last seven decades which had led to the popular upsurge in Kashmir completely indigenious. Actually the government itself is responsible in somewhere to provide a space for the people of Kashmir to express their grievances in the shape of anger and agitation. Although peaceful protest and agitation is constitutional right in any democratic nation. In Kashmir all protest and agitation are people's expression against the violation of human rights and for the resolution of this long dispute. It also marked that the largest democracy had failed to address the grievances of people in Kashmir and therefore remained ineffective to find a democratic solution of the problem.

Protests and agitations are only happened when mass killings and violence occurred in the valley by any means and people cannot remain mute.

Kashmir conflict, in its actual sense is a quest for peace and identity. Identity for people belonging to Kashmir is as their basic and has been the most persistent and dominating urge of the people for this particular region. Therefore, Kashmir's Indian identity was not problematic for the Kashmiris themselves but the autonomy that Kashmir enjoyed became a problem for the central government. And thus, ever since partition, there has been mounting tension between India and Pakistan as they both want to exert control over the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. India's identity, over Kashmir is not more than a belief as Kashmir is always seen as a smaller Pakistan. In addition, currently, civil rights and political liberties are virtually non-existent in Kashmir. These beliefs could be most hurting mindset about Kashmir. Thus, Kashmir has also become hostage to these bitterly contending identifications. In addition, Kashmiris are also struggling to meet their basic needs, such as healthcare, education and water, the lack of which breeds further resentment and desperation. Finally, human rights violations by both state and non-state actors are widespread. War crimes and crimes against humanity are common, while solution and redress for these abuses are severely non-existent.

BUILDING PEACE IN KASHMIR:

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has lost its identity. There is hardly any way to build peace in Kashmir because India claims that it is an integral part in the realm of territory and its wonderful resources. In its most modern era when all democracies of the world have accepted globally that India is the largest democracy in the entire world. But it is a small part of world's largest democracy called Kashmir, which has to struggle for its identification, to protest for its self-determination. Kashmir was peaceful, secular and cosmopolitan in nature. However, partition between Pakistan and India in 1947 and emergence of armed conflict in mid-90's leaves some religious fanatics over it and made it a hell for coming generations. Peace in Kashmir could be establish and would be a win win situation but it will not be an easy struggle.

The government of India should have to pay an advance attention from vision lenses. They should have to fulfill their immediate demands and accept before Kashmir skidded away as the fact is that Kashmir started to rewrite their history of freedom with struggle and peace with dignity. Spread the trust by decreasing narrow minded ideologies from Delhi to Kashmir and also led the common people to believe that a peace process with their active participation can accrue benefits to them. The problem is that the military establishment in Kashmir is no longer able to control cross border terrorism and in addition they are hurting common innocent people, doing inhuman guerrillas and

destroying generations of generation from this particular region with the power of arms and ammunition because the government has to pay them. The dreams of Kashmiri peoples “permanent peace’ in the region cannot be fulfilled. The need of the hour is to approach the global community to resolve the long standing Kashmir issue, weather it would be through plebiscite or any other through peaceful means.

The representatives of both India and Pakistan would have to create an atmosphere of trust, harmony and pleasant relationship until the Kashmir issue reached to its goal and destination. Both countries should have to maintain flexible border allowed to people meet their kith and kins that boundary divides them long ago. Without giving consideration to the aspiration of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, world cannot be a peaceful place to live, I am strongly urging. The problem of Kashmir is just a lack of our political will and foresight. We should have to learn from our past mistakes and never repeat them again and again.

Military establishment in this region is also a factor of its disturbances and unrests. The role of the military leads some negative impact over Kashmir because civilians were treated with inhumanity, their human rights violation anomalously and there were no difference in terrorists and civilians for Indian army. According to a data compiled by South Asia terrorism portal run by conflict management has showed 24909 civilians were killed since 1996.

If Kashmir has to make a peaceful state, demilitarize it first and then following AFSPA’s revocation. The so called largest democracy of the world has to reconsider the role of army and perhaps India has to lose its army for Kashmir. Increasing atrocities and aggression of Indian army in Kashmir had created a sense of separation and deprivation among the oppressed section of this region and it has been said Kashmir is an integral part which is not good enough to say. Now the situation in Kashmir has got worsen and the people of Kashmir in earlier decades only used to express alienate and anger feelings but now it can be a hate and a voice of destiny.

Now the time has come to say goodbye to the draconian practices of Indian Security forces particularly in Kashmir for the existence of peace and for the existence of Kashmir also. People’s involvement in developing peace process in Kashmir is totally invisible in the wake of disappeared human approach. People in Kashmir now believed that peace with dignity is a distant dream and an unachievable goal but it can be achieved if walls of hatred and violence are dismantled. For the establishment of peace in Kashmir the government of state and Centre should have to frame policies and programs on broad based framework such as corruption free administration, increased level of employment opportunities, transparent governing system, accountability and all round development of the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir. In Kashmir, militancy alone is not the major hurdle in the

way of progress and development but presence of military and security forces are also major hindrances in the way of peace and progress. Government should have to reconsider on the agenda withdrawal of troops for the everlasting establishment of peace and progress. The government at both central and state level has to understand the dissimilarity of the state of Jammu and Kashmir if this has not be understood no peace and progress can be achieved. For Kashmiris this could be a base of their strength.

CONCLUSION:

The issue of Kashmir is a complex issue. After partition several attempts have been made to address the issue at governmental level without taking care of people's wishes and aspirations. India and Pakistan have been concerned with this disputed territory of Kashmir only to fulfil their own self-political motivated interest. The Issue of Kashmir is chiefly a political issue and the people of Kashmir now exhausted with this long-run. But still there is a possibility of a peaceful atmosphere which can be achieved through dialogue with civil society, student groups and eventually must be held with separatists. There is also need to reduce the presence of armed forces. Strengthening of relationship is also an effective tool in the road of building peace. Without giving importance to the aspirations of the people the issue cannot be resolved. There is a need of the hour to call all those necessary mechanisms for the restoration of human rights in Kashmir. Kashmir demands for the resolution of conflict by the process of negotiation and peace rather by the coercive means.



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