



IMPACT OF RESETTLEMENT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF KASHMIRI MIGRANTS AT JAGTI

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ABSTRACT

KEYWORDS:

Migration, Resettlement, Migrants and Displacement.

The phenomenon of migration in society is universal and is applicable to all stages of human life. The history of mankind is the history of human movement, mostly voluntary, but as the world became more populated and as open spaces began to shrink, these movements increasingly became involuntary. The migration of Kashmiri Pandits took place during 1989-90 which were forced to migrate and it is referred as the involuntary migration. After displacement, many displaced people have settled in other parts of India, a substantial number of displaced families are languishing in various government-run camps on the outskirts of Jammu city. After construction of the TRTs in different camps i.e Muthi camp, Purkhoo camp, Nagrota camp and Jagti camp, Kashmiri migrants were shifted to those TRTs. But largest chunk of Kashmiri Pandits, after living 21 years in government run camp, were resettled at Jagti with high hopes and aspirations that the developed colony will finally put an end to their basic needs of housing, health and education etc. The present paper has made an attempt to look into the socio-economic life of Kashmiri migrants at Jagti and as important to made a comparison about the experiences of those first settled in camps and then resettled at Jagti. It has also tried to analyse the resettlement of the Kashmiri migrants in Jagti Township of Jammu district and also exploring whether the resettlement has put an end to their problems. The objective issues like family, family size, income, education and age were included in the study.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary context of globalization, the world is in a constant state of flux. People are presented with multiple worlds, images, things, persons, knowledge and information at the same time and at an ever increasing pace. Individuals are forced in one way or the other to respond to the large forces operating on them, since no one remains completely removed from the turmoil that surrounds them; the world having come closer, globalization has facilitated the process of migration considering the forces of demand and supply, needs and gratifications, and the increased and the easier possibility of movement and communication¹.

In the process of movement, one undoubtedly leaves behind a familiar world to explore one's chances in an alien land. The process of migration may thus have a constraining effect on us not only in structural terms, of the choices made available, or cultural terms, but also in the sense in which it may include abuse and exploitation, and emotional and

psychological distress. However, migration is largely undertaken with the positive hope of a better life in an unseen world. There is therefore a need to investigate the nuances and complexities entailed in this process and the way in which it impacts the lives and identities of the individual migrants in a world which is in constant flux and movement².

Physical, economic and social hardships often drive people to resort to migration. Search for means of livelihood is the chief cause of migration and unavailability of the means of livelihood in the area of prior residence is believed to push people to other regions. Sometimes, these people are accepted by the host community or else they return to their native habitats after the restoration of peace. However, in some cases, the country does not accept them and they are considered a burden by the host country. On the other hand, some of these migrants refuse to go back to their native place because of a feeling of insecurity and the existence of political instability in the native community³.

A similar situation occurred in 1988-1989 in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The rise of insurgency in the Kashmir valley and its adjoining areas since 1988 led to an ethno-religious divide between the two major communities inhabiting the valley and its immediate and a major consequence has been the migration of 55,304 families, which mostly comprised of minority Kashmiri Pandit (Hindus) families, to Jammu and other parts of the country. Out of these migrant families, 21,199 are living outside the state while 34,105 have sought shelter in the Jammu division as per government records. However, the unofficial figures put the number of families which migrated from Kashmir at one lakh. Though the migrants mainly comprised of minority Kashmiri Pandits (Hindu), some Sikh families and a few Muslim families who were perceived to be Pro-Indian were also a part of the exodus. These families moved to Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country to seek shelter⁴.

The proposed research was both an exploratory and descriptive in nature. The exploratory method was used to find out the facts related to social and economic conditions of Kashmiri Migrants, while a descriptive method was used to describe their resettlement process.

The present research has made use of Purposive Sampling method. The purposive sampling is also called as 'judgment sampling'⁵.

Our universe for the study were the registered Kashmiri migrants of Kashmir who are presently living in the Jagti Township which is one of the village in Dansal tehsil in Jammu district in Jammu & Kashmir state. Jagti is 10.8 km far from its district main city Jammu. All registered Kashmiri migrants settled in the Jagti Township formed the universe of the study.

The population of Kashmiri Migrants was heterogeneous in nature which comprised of Kashmiri Hindus, Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Sikhs. Since through the data, it was seen that the maximum number of Hindus were residing in Jagti. Therefore, 50 households were taken from the population purposively.

The migration of Kashmiri migrants from the Kashmir valley since 1989-1990s has remained an important and vital issue both for the national and international agencies. Several issues pertaining to their problems regarding culture, ethnicity, identity etc. has been discussed and debated for a long period of time both by the academicians and the politicians. The issue of their rehabilitation has remained a point of concern for the community in particular and the government in general.

Soon after the migration in 1989-1990, the migrant families were initially resided in tents from January 1990 to 1994. Later on, the government had no either option and in the year 1995, the registered migrants were shifted to ORT's (one room tenements) in a phased manner. Only, 4,558 families were accommodated in ORT's (one room tenements) and rest had to manage their own accommodation (Non-camp migrants) and were placed there till 2008 with very limited facilities and faced several problems related to accommodation, privacy, education, health and many more. The changes in their family structure, family pattern, food habits, method of celebrating festivals and other cultural activities and also in role-relationships were seen soon after their migration from the Kashmir valley.

After construction of TRTs in different camps i.e. Muthi camp, Purkhoo camp, Nagorta Camp and Jagti Camp. Kashmiri Pandits were shifted in those TRTs. In 2006, the

construction of TRTs was started and in 2008, Kashmiri Pandits were shifted in the TRTs. Some Kashmiri Pandits were shifted in TRTs of Purkhoo, Muthi and Nagrota camp. But maximum no of Kashmiri Pandits, after 21 years (approx.) of their stay in the camps were shifted to a newly built colony at Jagti in Jammu district.

After migration, they were languishing in camps in one room hutments mostly in and around Jammu city but after 21 years of living together in camps, they were again forced to shift to the new place. So they were resettled at Jagti but some were shifted in the TRTs of Muthi camp, Purkhoo camp and Nagrota camp.

Jagti is one of the villages in Dansal tehsil in Jammu district in Jammu & Kashmir state. Jagti is 10.8Km far from its district main city Jammu. The resettlement of the Pandits from one camp to the another constructed camp in the form of a colony at Jagti has once again landed them in a new environment and have further raised the question of their socio-cultural sustainability. The migrants who migrated 21 years back from the valley have once again been resettled to the new set up with high hopes and aspirations, hoping that the developed colony will finally put an end to their basic needs of housing, health and education etc.

A project titled "Construction of Two Room Tenements under Prime Minister's reconstruction programme" was sanctioned by the government of India during 2005-06 for providing better accommodation to those families living in various camps. The land was identified at Jagti in Nagrota. The flats were constructed at one single place so that all facilities required by people could be made available at a single place as, besides accruing other advantages, it was presumed that it would help in maintaining the cultural heritage of the Pandits.

The construction of Jagti Township started in September 2007. In March 2011 first allotment of flats was done and a few i.e 8 to 10 families were given flats by Prime Minister. In the second phase i.e in September 2011, again the allotment of the flats was done. The families who were allotted these flats were from Purkhoo, Mishriwalla, Muthi and Nagrota. The government had set a fixed criteria for the allotment of these flats. The criteria was adopted to allot these flats to both camp as well as non-camp registered Kashmiri migrants in a phased manner. The priority was given on the following basis:

- Militant hit families
- Suffering from incurable diseases
- Families living on rent or families of police personnel are registered under relief category.

Besides this, a lottery method was also adopted to allot TRT's to these Kashmiri families who were not having their own accommodation at Jammu were residing in the (ORT's) One room Tenements in the camps viz. Purkhoo, Mishriwalla, Muthi and Nagrota.

The Jammu & Kashmir government has allotted 3,472 two-room flats to Kashmiri migrants in Jagti Township here. The flats were in the rectangular shape with G+2storeys. Out of the total number of 4,224 flats, as many as, 3,472 flats have been completed and allotted to the migrants families at Jagti Township. According to them, the remaining 752 flats were almost complete and will be allotted soon. The township has developed to resettle Kashmiri migrants under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation and return package for the Kashmiri migrants which has provisions like internal roads, educational

health institutions, community halls, parks, shops and drainage system⁶.

According to the Zonal Office⁷ Records of Jagti, the total households of Kashmiri migrants at Jagti were 3002. Besides majority of Kashmiri Hindu families (2976), there were also Kashmiri Muslim families (6) and Kashmiri Sikhs families (20). The number (3002) included both relief (1721) and non-relief holders (1281).

The handbook of Relief Commissioner's office (2010)⁸ highlighted the facilities which were provided at Jagti Township. At Jagti, all blocks have been provided with proper road connectivity. The roads have been provided with proper black toping. Beside this, all blocks have been provided with one soakage pit and a septic tank each and also there was proper arrangement for drainage system. There was a provision of parks for providing recreational facilities to children and for elders, 38 parks have been developed in front of every block. There were number of old age homes where old age persons were living alone. Children of such old age persons were serving outside J&K or abroad and these elderly persons continue to stay at Jammu so that they remain linked with the valley. There was an arrangement of health centre. A forty bedded hospital have been developed. There was also an arrangement of water supply. A separate water supply scheme has been designed for the township. Four OHT having capacity of 344000 gallons have been constructed at various spots in the colony. Along with this, for organizing social and cultural functions three community halls have been constructed at various locations within the colony. These community halls were available to the migrants living in the colony. Sufficient land was available adjacent to the community halls for organizing bigger functions whenever required.

In addition to above, shopping complex, commercial complex, common facility centre were also being constructed within the colony and provisions has also been kept for further expansion of commercial complexes keeping in view the future requirements. Also separate spaces have been created for vegetable and meat market.

The relief organization has also established a fulfilled office at Jagti for providing assistance to the migrants.

The mini township was first of its kind in the state and in the neighboring states which has been developed for a population of 25000 souls with all inbuilt facilities required. The Two-Room Tenements have been constructed for making the stay of the migrants at Jammu comfortable and in no case was a permanent rehabilitation. For permanent rehabilitation migrants have to return to their native places.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Age of the respondents

It can be argued that we have the respondents of different age groups ranging from 30-75 years of age which have provided different-different views regarding resettlement in terms of socio-economic and cultural life of Kashmiri migrants at Jagti.

Gender status

With the help of interview schedule, it has found that maximum number of males and minimum number of were females. Preferably head of the households were interviewed and where they were not available, the females were taken into consideration.

Educational Qualification

With the help of interview schedule, it has found that the maximum number of respondents were matriculate.

Occupational status

As is evident while interviewing of the Jagti migrants with the help of the interview schedule, the occupational status has changed significantly during the post-migration period as households dependent on agricultural activities and replaced by a new category of jobless/relief-holders and majority of the respondents were relief holders and they argued that there was a change in occupation because in camps, they had better opportunities to get Pvt. jobs because camps were closer to the city. But Jagti was very far away from city so it became very difficult for them to do Pvt. jobs in city and there was no any scope of getting job at Jagti.

Income

It has found that in the study most of the respondents were engaged in private jobs from which they get meager salary and some of them who have no jobs so they have to rely only on cash assistance provided by the government of Rs.10000 per month.

Accommodation in camps

Majority of the respondents stated that they were provided with one-room tenement (ORT's) in camps. Majority of the respondents argued that they were satisfied with camp accommodation than Jagti accommodation because they were construct rooms according to their own choice because of the availability of space outside the one room. The reason for their dissatisfaction that government didn't compensate them for constructing rooms in camps.

Accommodation at Jagti

Majority of the respondents stated that they were provided with Two-Room Tenements (TRT's) which included one-room, one-lobby, one kitchen and one bathroom in Jagti accommodation. They argued that if they compare two-room tenement with one room tenement then it was little bit better than Camp accommodation because there again they feel difficulty to accommodate their relatives. Although government provided them with 2-room tenement but they were not satisfied because they couldn't construct rooms according to their choice because there was no availability of space outside the two-room tenement and also because of poor construction material used for two-room tenement and temporary accommodation.

Type of family

Maximum numbers of families were joint families in Kashmir. However after migration, due to acute shortage of accommodation and financial problems, most of the families had to break up giving rise to nuclear families. So in camps, there was increase in the nuclear families because camp accommodation could not satisfy a single person, how it could be sufficient for a joint family. Thereby the constituent units of the family separated from their parent family. There was also increase in nuclear families in Jagti because in two-room tenement, there was one room, one lobby, one kitchen and one bathroom which was inadequate to accommodate a joint family. Therefore it was found that the resettlement has further led to the nuclearization of families. On the contrary it could have brought an end to this process and could have rejoined the families. It was also found that in the camps though they were nuclear in terms of residence but they could still be seen as functionally joint but now at Jagti the families have been totally shattered because few are in camps and few at Jagti.

Majority of the respondents stated the stay in camps was more comfortable because 20 years of living together has created a kind of strong ethnic feeling in them

which was shattered when they were made to shift at Jagti. Another reason was that the infrastructural facilities like water supply, electricity, transport and medical etc. were available in proper way. But only few respondents stated the stay in Jagti was more comfortable because of availability of space in 2-room tenement which included bathroom, kitchen, lobby and 1-room. Of all, some respondents were not in favour of any of them because according to them neither Jagti nor camps could end their problems be it the infrastructural ones or the ones related to their socio-cultural identity.

Educational institutions in camps

Almost all the respondents stated that the availability of educational institutions in camps. There was only 1 Govt. Migrant educational institution in camp. The facilities provided in the camps were books, computers labs, uniforms, mid-day meal in middle school, scholarship, games facility, well qualified Kashmiri teachers, good educational facility, music facility.

Educational institutions at Jagti

Almost all the respondents stated the availability of educational institutions in Jagti. They argued that there were 2 educational institutions in Jagti (Govt. middle school and Hr. Sec. School) and the facilities provided by the government were books, computers, mid-day meal in middle school, uniform, games facilities .

Majority of the respondents argued that they were satisfied in camps because they provide their children education in private schools and also private tuitions because the camps were closer to the city but at Jagti, it has become very difficult for them to send their children to receive private tuitions in city.

Health centre in camps

Almost all the respondents stated that the health centre was available in camps. The facilities provided in the

camps health centres were bandages, free medicines, gauze, beds, and free advice of doctors, nurses, ultrasound machines, glucose, injections, and regular check up by the doctors. The camp health centre was arranged in a quarter.

Health centres at Jagti

Almost all the respondents stated that there was availability of health centre at Jagti. The health centre of Jagti was in Lane 20-21 . The facilities available in Jagti health centres were medicines, doctors, ambulance, glucose, laboratory, admit facility, oxygen facility, and availability of beds, ultrasound facility, lady doctor, physicians, psychiatrist, and physiotherapist. The condition of the Jagti health centre was not so good because ambulance available in health centre were not in well working condition. Drivers were not present to drive the ambulance.

The new 40-bedded hospital was under construction at Jagti.Majority of the respondents were not satisfied in Jagti because were facing difficult when there was serious condition of a patients and city was far away from them.

Aid and assistance

Although the relief of Kashmiri migrants is increasing but they were not satisfied. They argued it was not sufficient for us because of the increasing dearness day by day. They want permanent accommodation instead of this temporary accommodation. They further argued that how could they satisfied their self with this meager relief at Jagti. It has found that in the study that majority of the respondents stated that Jagti was far away from the city. When they were settled in the camps they did get work near to the city but now they become handicapped who can't do anything except crying on their helplessness.

Relief measures provided to Kashmiri Pandits by Government

Relief measures		Amount/Quantity
S.No	Financial Assistance (Year)	
1.	Jan, 1990 to Apr, 1990	Rs. 500 per family per month
2.	May,1990 to Apr, 1994	Rs. 1000 per family per month
3.	May, 1994 to May,1996	Rs. 1500 per family per month
4.	June, 1996 to Mar,1999	Rs. 1,800 per family per month
5.	Apr, 1999 to May,2003	Rs. 2,400 per family per month
6.	June, 2003 to June,2006	Rs. 3,000 per family per month
7.	July, 2006 to June, 2009	Rs. 4,000 per family per month
8.	July, 2009 to March 2013	Rs. 5000 per family per month (1250/- per soul per month subject to a ceiling of Rs.5000 per family per month)
9.	April,2013 to June, 2015	Rs.6600 per family per month (1650/-per soul per month subject to a ceiling of Rs.6600 per family per month)
10.	July, 2015 to till now	Rs.10000 per family per month (2500/-per soul per month subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10000 per family per month)
Food (Ration)	Rice	9 kg per month
	Wheat	2 kg per month
	Sugar	1 kg per month

Source : Relief Commissioner's Office

CONCLUSION

From the above study one finds that Kashmiri migrants were initially resided in the tents and after that they were accommodated in TRTs in different camps. After living 21 years in government run camps, they were again resettled at Jagti. So it can be argued that they were not satisfied with

the resettlement process. For them, resettlement process is not beneficial. Now, they are only demanding for jobs and one-time permanent rehabilitation in J&K. So they further argued that this is not 'resettlement' but 're-migration'. So after analysing the problem, it has found that neither Jagti nor camps could end their problems be it the infrastructural ones or the ones related to their socio-economic conditions.

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