Economic and Social setup of Marginalised, Social and other Downtrodden Groups in Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

Social groups including Agricultural labourers, ChopansFishermen community, Scavengers, Gujjars and Bakarwals is the third largest group in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. They constitute almost 9 percent of the total population in the state (Census 2011). Social groups like Gujjars, Bakarwals and other's population is highest in Jammu region followed by the Valley of Kashmir. These tribes move from place to place for earning livelihood and for attaining education. Due to climatic conditions, gujjars and bakarwals have adjusted themselves to different patterns of life and adjustment over the time. The social groups have been ignored, because of being poor and less educated. They are economically, socially, culturallybackward and poor. These groups are living in traditional way of life, even it seems that modernisation has not even passed through nearby their houses. They live a miserable life either due to government apathy or due to social setup prevailing in the state. In this backdrop an attempt has been made by using suitable social and economic indices and scales to quantify the living pattern, health structure and social setup of these social groups. The study revealed that these groups are very poor and hardly meet their daily ends.They are culturally backward and are living a miserable life.

Keywords: Gujjars and bakarwals, demography, culture, literacy, backwardness, ignorant.

I.INTRODUCTION

The word marginalised group, indicates an ill and poor section of society. It means that a particular section and class of the society has been labelled as poor and needy. It is the inequality and discrimination, which is the root cause in evolving marginalised section in the society and by this interpretation; poor and destitute also falls under the category of marginalised section of the society. Indian society was badly infected with the virus of discrimination on the bases of religion, caste, creed and sex at the time of independence.

To be marginalized is to be forced to occupy the sides or fringes and thus not be at the centre of things. This is something that everyone probably experienced sometimes in their life. The marginalisation can be because they speak a different language, follow different customs or belong to a different religious group. They experience a sense of disadvantage and powerlessness vis-a-vis more powerful and dominant sections of society, who own land, are wealthy, better educated and politically active and at the helm of power. Thus, marginalisation is seldom experienced in one sphere.Thus, human development is a procedure of expanding people's choice, including leading a long and healthy life, to be educated and to have access to resources needed for a decent living of standard. In fact, human development has two sides, one is the formation of human capabilities-such as

improved health, knowledge of skills and the other is to use these capabilities for productive purposes. If the scales of human development do not finally balance the two sides, disappointment may occur among people. Thus, the concept of human development includes development of human beings by considering improvement of economic, social, educational, health and cultural condition of human beings of a state.

Various studies focusing on HDI, its methodology and limitations have been carried out. But studies on Household Level Human Development Index based on household level data are not available in the received literature across the regions and social and marginalised groups. Such studies in the context of Jammu and Kashmir State with varied social and marginalised groups among the population are of great importance.

II.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Records of revenue authorities highlights that, the district consists of 394 villages having 01 Municipal Council and 10 Municipal Committees. The district comprises of six tehsils Viz. Anantnag, Bijbehara, Dooru, Shangus, Kokernag and Pahalgam comprising of 16 Nayabats and 96 Patwar halqas. These villages have also been divided into 07 Community Development Blocks Viz. Achabal, Breng, Dachnipora, Khoveripora, Qazigund, Shahabad and Shangus.

Objectives

In order to formulate a sound basis for the present study, the following objectives were put forward for further analysis

1. To study the indicators like literacy rate, dropouts and gender disparities; accessibility and availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and health care facilities of these social and marginalised groups in the district.
2. To study income and consumption pattern of social and marginalised groups in the district.
3. To study the occupational differences among various social groups in the sampled district

Methodology

The study is based on both primary as well secondary data. The secondary data has been obtained from various reputed national international reports such as Census of India, Review of Jammu and Kashmir Economy, National Sample Survey Organization, Jammu and Kashmir Family Health survey, Economic Survey of Jammu and Kashmir, Economic Review of Jammu and Kashmir, Tribal affairs of Jammu and Kashmir, Digest of Statistics and Survey of Tribal Affairs of Jammu and Kashmir. The primary data in consonance with the specified objectives were collected from selected households among the various social and marginalised groups by using a specific and well developed questionnaire to supplement the secondary data. For collection of data, at first instance, the purposive sampling technique was used and at second stage multi-stage stratified random sampling with district as the primary unit, tehsil as the secondary unit, village as the tertiary unit and household as the final unit were taken. A total sample of 100 households for each social and marginalised group was randomly selected. The sample of the households was selected from a minimum of three villages in each group representing small, medium and large villages. Three villages for both the group were selected for studying Gujjar and Bakarwal and Chopans from tehsil Doru and Kokernag. For studying the Scavengers, three villages were selected from urban Anantnag and Bejbihara town. Three villages were selected from Khanbal and tehsil Bejbihara for studying the Fishermen community. In tehsil Anantnag, three villages were selected for studying

the most important group, the agricultural labourers. In totality a sample of 500 respondents was take to carry out a comprehensive study of this nature.

Statistical tools employed

Statistical tools like ANOVA (F-test), Lorenz curve, Human Development Index, Social Parity Index, Gender Parity Index were used. In addition following indicators were employed to arrive at logical conclusions.

Sex Ratio: Sex ratio has been defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. It is expressed as 'number of females per 1000 males'.

$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of Females}}{\text{Number of Males}} \times 1000$$

Labour Force Participation: All those employed (including people above a specified age (above15 years) who, during the reference period, were in paid employment, at work, self-employed and unemployed (above 15 years) who, during the reference period, were without work, currently available for work and seeking work.

Unemployment Rate: Refers to all people above a specified age (15-59 years) who are not in paid employment or self-employed, but are available for work and have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.

Dependency Ratio: Children who fall in the age group of below 15 years and old persons in the age group of (60 years and above) together constitute the dependent population. The ratio of dependents to the people in the working age group is called dependency rate.

$$\text{Dependency Rate} = \frac{\text{Percentage of dependent population}}{\text{Percentage of working population}} \times 100$$

Economic Indicators: The estimation of economic well-being is estimated for a social group for their upliftment. The main indicators estimated in the study include;

Household Income: Household income is the variable from which a research can be put to a logical conclusion in social science research. The income of a household can depict the social setup of a household. The main income sourcesfarming, self-employment in non-farming, salary, agricultural wages, non-agricultural wages, businesses and others.

Consumption Expenditure: Expenditure on consumption is an essential part of the household. Consumption expenditure will be the sum of expenses incurred on food and non-food items. Items of consumption covered for the study were;

*Consumption of food items***:** Comprising of cereals, pulses and other food items. Apart from regular items of cereals & pulses, 'other food items' category include such items as edible oils, vegetables, meat products, milk & milk products, sugar etc.

Clothing: consists of cloth for garments, readymade garments, hosiery items, tailoring charges, bedding, footwear and others.

*Consumption of Fuel***:** Includes both commercial fuels like kerosene, gas, electricity and non-commercial fuels like firewood, etc.

*Social gatherings***:** are of regular & irregular expenditure in nature. However, every household spends some part of its income on social gatherings like performing marriage, festivals and other celebrations.

Expenditure on Health: Covers the amount spent on fees, amount spent on medicines, hospital/nursing home charges, transport expenses for visiting hospital/doctor etc.

Education: Expenditure on the children incurred by the household includes school/college fees, books & stationery, uniform, transport expenses etc. few household spends some proportion of its income regularly on non-food items, but this could be a meagre amount. Non-food items covered for the study includes expenditure on toiletry/cosmetics, furnishings, entertainment, barber, travel expense and other non-food items.

Human Development related Indicators: The indicators by which economic performance and living status of social and marginalised groups could be assessed are described as;

HDI^H

In order to construct HDI^{H}four indices of selected social groups at the household level. These indices are; health, education and standard of living. The proxy variables were used to prepare the various dimensions of human development. Human Development Index for households is a composite index that measures the average achievement of the household in three basic dimensions of human development viz. health, education and standard of living. The indicators used for measuring various dimensions of household based human development in the present study are shown in blow given table.

Table 1: Indicators for Various Dimensions of Household Based Human Development Index

Dimensions	Indicators
Health	Source of Drinking Water
	Type of Toilet Facility
	Access to Primary Health Centres
Education	Educational Status of the Members of the Households (Numbers of Years of Schooling)
Standard of Living (Asset Based)	Cultivable Land (in Kannals)
	Type of House
	Livestock
	Vehicle
	Financial Access of the Households
Standard of Living (Income Based)	Average Household Annual Income

For estimation of HDI, the assigned scores were used. Firstly,the scores were assigned to the various indicators based on self-selection approach and value judgment. Summation of the scores attained by households in each dimension was carried out.

For calculation of human development index, a separate index needed to be calculated for each dimension like Health, Education and Standard of living. To calculate these dimension indices, minimum and maximum values are chosen for each indicator separately. The formula used for the calculation of these indices is

$$Dimension\ Index = \frac{Actual\ Value - Minimum\ value}{Maximu\ value - Minimum\ Value}$$

Here the performance is expressed in terms of 0 and 1. The HDI is then calculated as a simple average of the dimension indices. To construct composite indices for different social groups e.g. Agricultural Labourers, Chopans, and other communities separately, the following formula has been used:

$$Variable\ Index = \frac{Xij - XMinimum\ value}{XMaximu\ value - XMinimum\ Value};\ 0 \leq Variable\ Index \leq 1$$

Where Xij =Score value of the jth variable for the ith household

   Xmin= Minimum value of the jth variable

   Xmax = Maximum value of the jth variable; whereas **X** = **Health**, **Education** and **Standard of Living**

The household level HDI value of a particular group e.*g.* Gujjar and Bakerwals =

$$HDIH = \frac{Health\ Index + Education\ Index + Standard\ of\ Living\ Index}{3}$$

Social Parity Index (SPI)

The difference in social status between men and women is judged through the sex ratio. Accordingly, a Social Parity Index (SPI) can be constructed in order to examine the extent of variation of social status between men and women across social groups in the study area of the district. This can be constructed with the help of following formula.

$$S1i = \frac{Total\ female\ population}{Total\ male\ population} \times 1000$$

$$S1i\ Score = \frac{S1i - MinimumS1i}{MaximumS1i - MinimumS1i} \qquad i = Social\ Groups$$

Gender Parity Index (GPI)

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) reflects females' level of access to education compared to that of males. A GPI of less than 1 indicates that there are fewer females than males in the formal education system in proportion to the appropriate school-age population.

The indicators include:

➢   The numbers of boys and girls enrolled in education at each of the different levels of the education system, which measures the numbers of girls and boys enrolled as a proportion of the school-age population relevant for the level of schooling concerned.

➢   Dropout Rate (6-14 years of age)

➢   The average years of schooling attained for boys and girls.

➢   Literacy levels of males and females.

Indicators of gender parity tell us about the institutions of education by gender, and indicate whether men and women, boys and girls are represented in equal numbers.

$$GPI = \frac{Number\ of\ females}{Number\ of\ males}$$

III.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic features reveal many critical dimensions of socio-economic development of an economy especially in the developing economies like India. In the current demographic situation, four aspects deserve a special mention. Firstly, demographic explosion aggravates socio-economic problems, making them ever wider in scale and lowering living standards. Secondly, the demographic problem in the developing countries is closely related to problems of hunger, malnutrition and undernourishment. Thirdly, there is an aggravation of the employment problem-a major social issue at the current stage of overcoming backwardness. Fourth, the ecological problems of the developing countries are becoming more acute. These situations necessitate the need for the studies like the present one.

Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population, is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time. A change in sex composition largely reflects the underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society in different ways. Sex ratio is an important factor, which determines the socio-economic conditions of families in general. If a family is having more number of male populations than female, there is a possibility for the improvement of their socio-economic conditions at least in the near future and vice-versa.

As a prelude to the study, a sex wise classification of sample area has been attempted. The figure1 shows the sex ratio among various social groups in the sample area of district Anantnag.

Figure No. 1: Sex Ratio Among various Social Groups
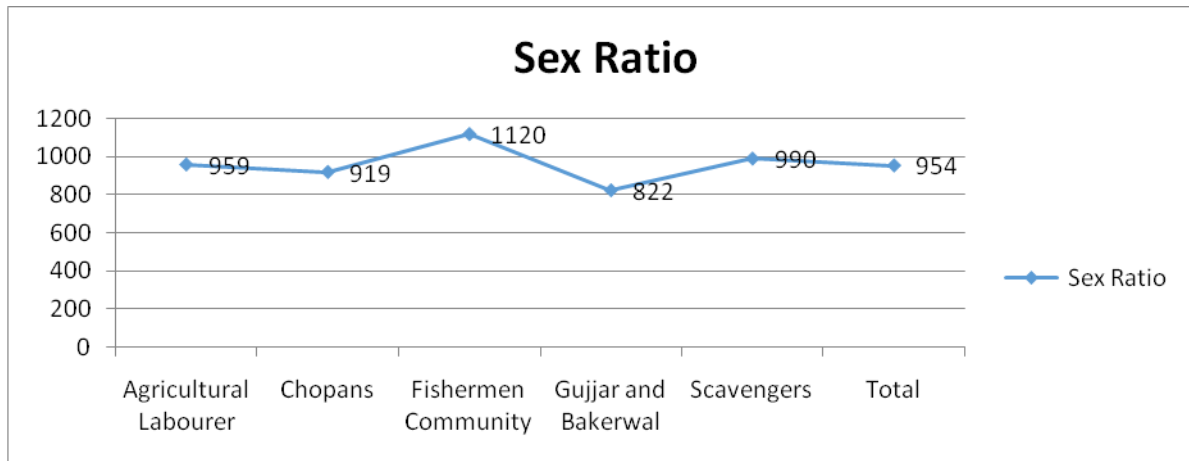
The sampled households comprised of 2961 individuals with a malepopulation of 1546 and 1415 female population having a sex ratio of 954, showing a favourable sex ratio as compared to overall state (883) sex ratio and the whole district Anantnag (927). The group wise/ category wise sex ratio to be calculated for agricultural labours 956; Chopans 919;fishermen community 1120; gujjars and bakarwals 882; scavengers 990. As per the analysis of data, it can be calculated that, sex ratio was favourable in fishermen community and unfavourable in Chopans community.

There is also some evidence suggesting that the sex ratio is worse among Gujjar and Bakerwal as compared to other social groups of the sample area. It is a well-known fact that the urban areas where Fishermen Community

resides are generally associated with better medical facilities. Chopans on the other hand spend much of their time in meadow which are quite inaccessible in terms of all facilities including health. This is of course a very important point while analysing gender development, as this indicates that a simplistic economic explanation of gender deprivation could be extremely misleading and that the nature of gender biases in particular area are an extremely complex mix of social and economic factors.

Measuring Gender-disparity

Uneven sex ratio is the simplest measure of gender disparity. Perfect gender equality implies 50:50 sex ratios. The divergence of the number of females per 1000 males is a measure of gender disparity. The following table 2 gives estimates of gender disparity among social and marginalised groups of the sampled area of the district Anantnag.

Table 2:Gender Disparity among Social Groups

Social Group	Total Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Gender Disparity
Agricultural Labourers	568	290	278	959	12
Chopans	591	308	283	919	25
Fishermen Community	583	275	308	1120	+33
Gujjar and Bakerwals	636	349	287	822	62
Scavengers	583	293	290	990	3
Total	2961	1515	1446	954	64

Source: Field Survey. **Note:** Gender Disparity: (Male population – Female population)

From the above analysis it can be predicted that among social and marginalised group's fishermen community and scavengers enjoys greater gender welfare & social development and equality than agricultural labourers, chopans and gujjar and bakerwals.

Sex Ratio and Social Parity Index

A Social Parity Index can be constructed to examine the extent of variation of social status between men and women across different social groups in the sampled area of the district Anantnag.

$$S1i = \frac{Total\ female\ population}{Total\ male\ population} \times 1000$$

$$S1i\ Score = \frac{S1i - MinimumS1i}{MaximumS1i - MinimumS1i}\ ;\ i = Social\ Groups$$

Table 3: Sex Ratio and Social Parity Index

Social Group	Sex Ratio	Social Parity Index	Social Rank
Agricultural Labourers	959	0.45	3
Chopans	919	0.32	4
Fishermen Community	1120	1.00	1
Gujjar and Bakerwals	822	0.00	5

| Scavengers | 990 | 0.56 | 2 |
| Total | 954 | 0.44 | |

Note: Social parity index is constructed by forming the dimension index of sex ratio: (Actual Value – Minimum Value) /(Maximum Value – Minimum Value)

In the present study, ranking of social groups has been made in ascending order of gender disparity. Under social ranking order of social groups like fishermen community (rank-1) and scavengers (rank-2) have achieved higher degree of social parity between men and women, while agricultural abourers (rank -3), chopans (rank-4) and gujjar and bakerwals (rank -5) are suffering from greater gender disparity. In the study area of the district, broadly, there are much significant variations across the social groups in terms of social parity index.

Nature of Family

The distribution of households according to the nature of family is presented in table No. 6.6 which revealed that the percentage of Joint families were more among scavengers viz 73 percent followed by agricultural labourers 71 percent, chopans 70 percent, gujjar and bakerwal 69 percent and fishermen community 61 percent respectively.

Educational Level

Literacy and educational attainments are the indicators of qualitative improvement in human resources. The level of education among the five social groups has been presented in table 3. As per Census counts educational status is classified into seven categories: primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary, graduate, and post-graduate and above. We have used this classification to measure the educational attainments of selected social groups.

The data reveals that 55.30 percent of sample population were illiterate. The population with primary level of education were 16.26 percent while as 11.94 percent of the population of the sample households were having middle level of education. There are 11.74 percent and 2.59 percent of sample population who possesses high and higher secondary level of education respectively. In case of higher education category level 2.04 percent population have attained graduation and only 0.22 percent are post graduates and above.

However, the glaring differences have been seen in the proportion of males and females at different levels of education. Among the illiterates the proportion of females (31.0 percent) are absolutely higher than the males (24.27 percent). The encouraging picture is that the percentages of females in primary (7.03percent) and middle (5.11 percent) education are almost similar to that of males which is 9.23 percent at primary and 6.83 percent at middle level. It indicates that gender disparity in education is narrow significantly at elementary level of education. Further, among educational group of high and higher secondary levels the proportion of female population (4.16 percent and 0.71 percent respectively) is comparably lower than their male counterparts (7.58 percent and 1.89 percent). However, the males with level of education as graduates were observed to be 1.53 percent as against of only 0.51 percent among females. Thus, it clearly depicts that the males are relatively better educated than females in higher educational category. As the level of education increases, the percentage of females in higher education decreases, even in the higher levels of educational group (post-graduation and above), the proportion of males is 0.15 percent and the proportion of females is negligible (0.7 percent).

The bulk of the sample population is educated only up to the primary level. Literate population is less than 45 percent out of which 16.26 percent have attained education. Among the social groups, 5.03 per cent of agricultural labourers have got only primary level of education, whereas it is 2.16 for the chopans, 3.02 per cent for fishermen community, 3.22 per cent for gujjar and bakerwals and 2.83 per cent for scavengers. The maximum proportion of the population with attainment of secondary level of education has been found among the scavengers (3.77 per cent) and lowest among agricultural labourers (1.22 percent). Only 0.22 per cent of the total population in the sample area has achieved higher education i.e., post-graduation and above. It is only among scavengers and no one among other social groups has been found to have achieved higher education.

The educational level of females needs a special mention here. The highest proportion of literate females is at the primary level of education. As the level of education increases, the proportion of literate females declines. The proportion of female's enrolment with higher education is only 0.51 per cent and 0.07 per cent for study area.

Of the total population of the study area, there are 2.04 per cent with an education level of graduation. The male-female gap among the category of graduates and above is 1.02 per cent, in favour of the males. The highest proportion of graduates is found among the agricultural labourers (0.82 per cent) followed by chopans (0.55 percent). Gujjar and bakerwals have the lowest proportion of graduates (0.16 percent). The number of post graduates and above is 0.15 percent in case of males and 0.07 in case of females.

Table 4: Educational Status of Household Members among various Social Groups

Educational Status	Agricultural Labourers			Chopans			Fishermen Community			Gujjar & Bakerwals			Scavengers			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Illiterate	98	148	246	144	160	304	122	157	279	136	165	301	118	160	278	618	790	1408
Percentage	7.20	11.51	9.66	10.59	12.45	11.94	8.97	12.21	10.96	10.0	12.84	11.82	8.67	12.45	10.9	24.27	31.0	55.30
Primary	77	51	128	29	26	55	41	36	77	43	39	82	45	27	72	235	179	414
Percentage	5.66	3.97	5.03	2.13	2.02	2.16	3.01	2.80	3.02	3.16	3.03	3.22	3.31	2.10	2.83	9.23	7.03	16.26
Middle	37	23	60	33	29	62	42	27	69	34	24	58	28	27	55	174	130	304
Percentage	2.72	1.79	2.36	2.43	2.26	2.44	3.09	2.10	2.71	2.50	1.87	2.28	2.06	2.10	2.16	6.83	5.11	11.94
High School	19	12	31	41	21	62	31	25	56	46	8	54	56	40	96	193	106	299

Percentage	1.40	0.93	1.22	3.01	1.63	2.44	2.28	1.94	2.20	3.38	0.62	2.12	4.12	3.11	3.77	7.58	4.16	11.74
Hr. Secondary	7	2	9	19	5	24	1	5	6	13	0	13	8	6	14	48	18	66
Percentage	0.51	0.16	0.35	1.40	0.39	0.94	0.07	0.39	0.24	0.96	0.00	0.51	0.59	0.47	0.55	1.89	0.71	2.59
Graduation	15	6	21	11	3	14	5	0	5	4	0	4	4	4	8	39	13	52
Percentage	1.10	0.47	0.82	0.81	0.23	0.55	0.37	0.00	0.20	0.29	0.00	0.16	0.29	0.31	0.31	1.53	0.51	2.04
PG and Above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	3
Percentage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0.08	0.12	0.15	0.07	0.22

Source: Field Survey   **M** = Male, **F** = Female, **T** = Total

Education	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3518.500	28	125.661	14.640	.001
Within Groups	51.500	6	8.583		
Total	3570.000	34			

Table 5: Results of (ANOVA) F-test-Education

With these inferences drawn from the stratified data, it is pertinent to test "whether there is any significant difference in the level of education among the various social groups". We used (ANOVA) F-tested to testify this hypothesis. The results are shown in table 4.

The values of F-statistic turns out to be 14.64% with P-value 0.001, which is highly significant (at 1% level). It indicates the hypothesis, "There is no difference among social groups in terms of educational attainments" has been rejected. Thus, it can be inferred that there is significant difference among the various social groups in terms of educational attainments.

Access to Education Institutions in the Study Area

Apart from gross availability, accessibility is also an important parameter. While urban areas contain educational institutions within their periphery, rural areas often do not, and substantial number of rural children drops out from the learning process because of the distance of schools particularly high and higher secondary

schools. Therefore, it is crucial to focus on the distance of educational institutions from the village, and same has been presented in table 5.

It is observed that about 81.81percent of the villages/wards have primary schools within the villages, 13.64 percent have within the distance of 1 km, while only 4.55 percent have it beyond 1 km periphery of the village. In the context of middle schools about 44.45 percent have it within the village, 18.18 percent within 1 km radius, and 36.37 percent beyond 1 km. In terms of high schools, about 36.37 percent of schools are within the village while as 40.90 percent beyond the range of 1km. Therefore, it seems that accessibility of educational institutions is quite satisfactory at primary level while as it lacks at middle and high school levels in the study area of the district. The results come out at par with many studies at national and regional level.

Table 6: Accessibility and availability of Educational Facilities in the Study Area

Indicator	Within Village	Within 1km	Beyond 1kms
Distance of Nearest Primary Schools	81.81	13.64	4.55
Distance of Nearest Middle Schools	44.45	18.18	36.37
Distance of Nearest High Schools	36.37	22.73	40.90

Source: Field Survey

However, there exists a substantial variation in accessibility of institution among the villages. To study these variations more carefully, accessibility have been shown on the basis of the distance of different types of institutions from the villages. It is found that the social group villages that are doing best in terms of this Access Index are scavengers, agricultural labourers and fishermen community. However, the villages of social groups that are doing badly in terms of this index are chopans and gujjar and bakerwals. This suggests that there is need to establish the educational institution in these far flung areas and these vulnerable groups can compete with other effluent groups of the society

Economic Attainment and Well-Being

An indicator of economic development is the rate of growth of income Per Capita (or Per Capita GNP). It takes into account the ability of a nation to expand its output at a rate faster than the growth rate of its population. Levels and rates of growth of real per capita GNP are normally used to measure the overall economic well-being of a population which shows how much of real goods and services are available to the average citizen for consumption and investment.

The conventional view is that growth in income and expansion of economic opportunities are necessary preconditions of human development. The real objective of development is to increase people's developmental choices. Income is one aspect of these choices. The present study documents the economic attainments and well-being of the households among the various social groups. The status of specified indicators of well-being and the inferences there from are discussed in the following sections.

Household Income

The quality of life is measured directly with the association of the family income. Annual per capita income is an important criteria used for measuring the standard of living. The income of the households is calculated by including income from all sources of all the members of the households. These sources include: wages, pension,

salaries, business earnings, rent and mixed income from self-employed persons. In case of members having occasional employment, average number of days per month getting employment together with an average wages is counted, where as in the case of those having regular employment monthly salaries are considered. The main findings are summarized in table 7.

Table 7: Average Annual Income per Household and Per-capita Income among various Social Groups

Social Groups	Total Income	percentage	Average Household Income per Year	Per Capita Income
Agricultural Labourers	6636000	26.13	66360	11683.09
Chopans	5461000	21.50	54610	9240.27
Fishermen Community	3807000	14.99	38070	6530.01
Gujjar & Bakerwals	4534000	17.85	45340	7128.93
Scavengers	4961000	19.53	49610	8509.43
Total	**25399000**	**100.00**	**50798**	**8577.84**

Source: Field Survey

The analysis of the above table reveals that an average annual income per household among all social groups was Rs.50798 which is higher than the expendable sum of Rs. 600 per capita per month for urban areas (Rs. 36,000 per annum for family of five members) and Rs. 500 per capita per month for rural areas (Rs.30,000 per annum for family of five members) that has been fixed as the poverty cut off point in order to measure the incidence of poverty as per the Below Poverty Line Survey of Jammu and Kashmir (2007-08). Average annual income per household was highest among Agricultural labourers (Rs.66360) followed by Chopans (Rs.54610). The average annual income per household among Scavengers was Rs.49610 and among Gujjar and Bakerwals, it was Rs.45340. The lowest average annual income was Rs. 38070 among Fishermen Community.

The average income per capita per annum in the sample area was Rs.8577.84 which is higher than the threshold level as specified in the BPL survey (Rs.6000 per household). The average income per capita per annum was highest among agricultural labourers (Rs.11683.09) followed by chopans (Rs.9240.27) and scavengers (Rs.8509.43) which is higher than the gujjar and bakerwals and fishermen community (Rs.7128.93 and Rs.6530 respectively).the per capita income of agricultural labourers and chopans is above the average per capita income of all the social groups taken together and same is true of average annual household income. The range or difference between the highest and lowest values of average annual income per household and per capita income was Rs.28290 and Rs.5153.08 respectively. If State level poverty line estimates are adjusted for inflation, the annual per capita income of two major social groups' viz. fishermen community and gujjar and bakerwals appears to be closer to BPL income. Meagre income of these groups is the main reasons of their low standard of living.

The difference in terms of average household income among various social groups is measured. by ANOVA (F-test) as shown in table 8.

Table 8: Results of ANOVA (F-test)-Income

Income	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1169.500	13	89.962	7.583	.001
Within Groups	130.500	11	11.864		
Total	1300.000	24			

The F-statistic value of 7.583 is significant at 1% level, therefore the null hypothesis that "there is no difference in terms of average household income among the social groups" has been rejected and its alternate hypothesis is accepted. Thus it can be inferred that there is significant difference in average household income among the various social groups.

Income Distribution-Inequalities within Social Groups

Fairer distribution of income and assets is the sign of egalitarian society. When income is fairly distributed the other socio-economic indicators follow the suit. Therefore to look at the distribution of income within each social group and relatively identify the social group with high degree of inequality in income (if, any) we used the annual income of households. The standard methods to analyse the inequality in distribution of income are Lorenz curve and Gini-coefficients. The Lorenz curve is a function of the cumulative proportion of ordered individual values mapped onto the corresponding cumulative proportion of their size or it shows the relationship between the cumulative percentage of income receipts and cumulative percentage of population (Lorenz et al., 1905). If all individuals receive the same income, the Lorenz curve is a straight diagonal line, called the line of equality which shows that income is equally received by all households. If there is any inequality in distribution of income, the Lorenz curve falls below the "line of equality". The more the Lorenz curve deviated from the line of equality, the more is the degree of inequality. The total amount of inequality can be summarized by the Gini-coefficient (also called the Gini ratio), which is the ratio between the area enclosed by the line of equality and the Lorenz curve and the total triangular area under the line of equality. The Gini-coefficient is a number attaining values between 0 and 1, where 0 corresponds with perfect equality (i.e. everyone has the same income) and 1 corresponds with perfect inequality (i.e. one person receives all the income, and everyone else has zero income).

We used Lorenz curves to analyse the distribution of income of all the social groups. For each social group, we arranger the annual household income in ascending order and 100 households in each group were divided into deciles. Therefore each decile, we estimated the corresponding share of income.

The Lorenz curves were drawn on the basis of cumulative percentage of population and cumulative percentage of household income for each social group. The Lorenz curve is shown in Figure-2.

Figure 2

Lorenz Curves for Households Income among Social Groups
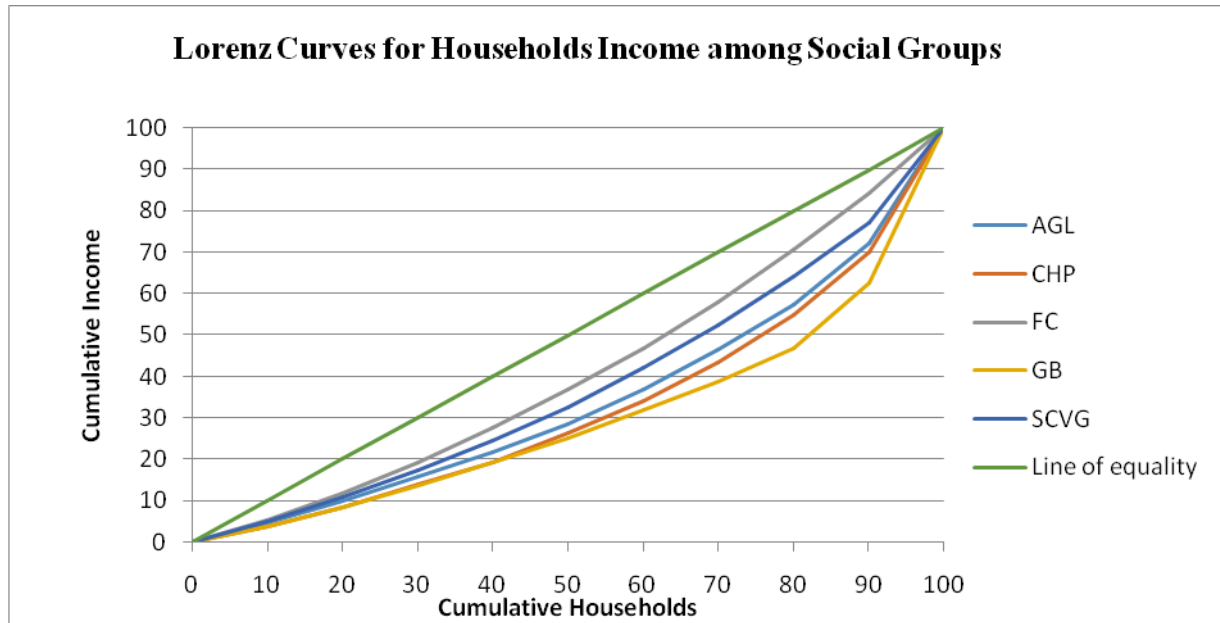
As revealed by Lorenz curve, among all the social groups the distribution of income is fair. The Lorenz curve of fishermen community is close to the line of equality therefore less degree of inequality, hence the Lorenz curve of gujjar and bakerwals deviates more from the line of equality, therefore high degree of inequality persists among them. Same conclusion can be drawn from ratio based analysis, among the gujjar and bakerwals, the poorest 20 per cent of the households receives 8.27 per cent of the total income while as richest (top) 20 per cent of the household receives 53 per cent of their total income. Among fishermen community, the bottom 20 per cent of households receives 11.85 per cent of their income while as richest 20 per cent of the households receive about 30 per cent of the income.

Thus, from the above analysis it can be inferred that there exists income inequalities within all the social groups and relatively low degree of income inequalities exists among fishermen community while as it is highest among gujjar and bakarwals.

Number of Rooms per Household

Adequate space availability among the household members was captured by analysing the number of rooms per dwelling unit. In study area, many household possess houses with more than two rooms, but since the size of households is often large, the living space remains somewhat limited. Besides some households may even be labelled as 'crowded' [i.e., having 1.5 or more persons per room (Bogue, 1969)]. Crowded condition as opposed to the adequacy of living space is an important characteristic of immediate physical environment of man, and is believed to affect the health and the quality of life as well as privacy of individuals. The availability and adequacy of living space also reflects the standard of living and socio-economic status, and is linked with fertility and mortality.

The number of rooms per dwelling unit is occupied by the households includes only bedrooms, living rooms, and kitchens and excludes bathrooms, toilets from the count. The social group-wise availability of number of rooms per household is shown in table 9.

Table 9: Distribution of Households by Number of Rooms Available in their Houses among Social Groups

Social Groups	1-3 Rooms	4-6 Rooms	7 and Above Rooms	Total	Room density
	HHs	HHs	HHs	HHs	
Agricultural Labourers	29	68	3	100	0.73
Chopans	49	48	3	100	0.62
Fishermen Community	82	18	0	100	0.46
Gujjar and Bakerwals	67	33	0	100	0.47
Scavengers	74	24	2	100	0.51
Total Households	301	191	8	500	
Percentage	60.2	38.2	1.6	100	0.55

Source: Sample Study. **Note**: Room density is the average number of rooms per person

The above table shows that 60 percent of households have 1-3 room houses. The 38.2 percent of the households have houses with 4-6 rooms and only 1.6 percent of households have 7 and above rooms. The distribution of households having houses of 1-3 rooms among social groups reveals that majority of the households belong to Fishermen Community (82 per cent) while in case of scavengers, gujjar and bakerwals, chopans and agricultural labourers, it 74 percent, 67 percent, 49 percent and 29 percent respectively.

The proportion of households having 4-6 room houses is highest among agricultural labourers (68 per cent) and lowest among fishermen community (18 percent).

Negligible proportion (1.6 percent) of households having houses with 7 and above rooms is among agricultural labourers and chopans (3 per cent each) and scavengers (2 percent)

The social group wise number of available rooms and the family size of the households were used to estimate the room density showing number of persons per room. Though the number of rooms has provided an understanding of the 'exposure' and 'resource' aspects of households, an attempt has also been made to study the average number of persons per room (calculated to measure the 'residential crowding'); which also reflects the adequacy of living space.

The average room density among all the social groups was estimated as 0.55 person per room. The room density is highest among agricultural labourer (0.73) followed by chopans (0.62). The average room density among scavengers is (0.51), gujjar and bakerwals (0.47) and fishermen community (0.46) reveals that they have not adequate number of rooms available per dwelling unit.

Among social groups, fishermen community seemed to live in 'crowded' houses with 0.46 persons per room. Overcrowding adversely effects health and disturbs life and hence is considered as an important problem to be addressed.

Electricity

The Indian Government is committed to provide adequate electricity for all segments of the society. However, rapid economic growth has increased electricity demands. Government policies have emphasized rural electrification through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikkaran Yojna and these efforts appear to be reflected in the rapidly rising rates of electrification. Nevertheless, a significant number of rural households lack electricity and where ever available, the quality of service still lags behind that of many other countries. The distribution of households having access to electricity is shown in table 10.

Table 10: Households Access to Electricity of their Houses

Social Group	Electrified		Total
	Yes	**No**	**Total**
Agricultural Labourer	100	0	100
Chopans	95	5	100
Fishermen Community	100	0	100
Gujjar and Bakerwal	85	15	100
Scavengers	100	0	100
Total	480	20	500
Percentage	96.0	4.0	100

Source: Field Survey

The study reveals that among all the social groups 96 percent of the total households is electrified and only 4 percent of the households lack access to electricity. Among the various social groups, agricultural labourer, fishermen community and scavengers have the highest percentage of households with electricity connections (100 percent). The percentage of households with access to electricity is lowest among gujjar and bakerwal (85 per cent) and chopans (95 percent). Mere electrification is not sufficient and poor electricity supply undermines its poor use. The government find it difficult to ensure round the clock electricity supply to remote areas due to difficult terrain. Inadequate supply is a severe problem across all the social groups which is a matter of concern.

Number of villages electrified significantly reflects or does not mean that all the households in an electrified village availed electricity or of the village is electrified. In spite of a number of rural electrification programme, some of the households have not yet availed the benefits of electricity. Though topography of the area can be viewed as hurdle in this regard, but it is more of poor attempt to connect all the households of the village with electricity rather than topography.

Even for those areas, which are electrified, there is a tremendous shortage of power supply. Thus it is very common for these areas to have supply of electricity less than twelve hours. As an alternative to electricity, kerosene is most widely used for lighting which is purchased either from Public Distribution System at a subsidised rate or from the open market.

Livestock possession

Livestock is the second most important capital asset among social groups. Both livestock and land are tied up. The social groups who have no land usually have no livestock. It is well known fact that livestock is an

important source of income, especially in rural areas. They contribute to a household's livelihood by providing cash income or in-kind income through the sale of animal products or animals themselves and thereby act as savings for future security. Social Group wise ownership of livestock by households is shown in table 11.

Table 11: Type and Number of Livestock Owned by Households among Social Groups

Social Group	Ag. Labourers	Chopans	Fishermen Community	Gujjar and Bakerwals	Scavengers	Total	%age
No Livestock	100	23	83	22	100	328	65.6
Cow	0	50	17	69	0	136	27.2
Nos.	0	57	18	82	0		0
Sheep	0	25	0	8	0	33	6.6
Nos.	0	1200	0	324	0		0
Horses	0	2	0	5	0	7	1.4
Nos.	0	3	0	7	0		

Source: Field Survey

Among all the social groups 65.6 percent of households do not possess any kind of livestock, while as 27.2 percent possess cows, 6.6 percent possess sheep's and only 1 percent possesses horses. The livestock possession was more among gujjar and bakerwals (78 percent) followed by chopans (77 per cent) and fishermen community (17 percent). However, no livestock was found among agricultural labourers and scavengers. The most widely reared livestock was sheep. The higher proportion of households rearing sheep's were among chopans (33 per cent) followed by gujjar and bakerwals (8 percent).

Among all households, 136 households possess in total 157 cows yielding an average of 1.15 cows per household. Similarly, 33 percent of households possess 1524 numbers of sheep's which gives an average of 46.18 sheeps per households. Chopans possess high level of livestock because livestock rearing being their primary occupation followed by Gujjar and Bakerwals who using grazing land and pastures for rearing their animals.

Health Status

Introduction

Health is an important determinant of human welfare. To lead a productive life, one should possess good health. The first requirement of high labour productivity under modern conditions is that the masses of the population should be literate, healthy and sufficiently well-fed to be strong and energetic. Health, like education, is desirable in itself. Sickness or ill-health imposes a burden on other members of the family and also on society. Absenteeism from work and reduction in activities on account of ill-health, results in the loss of production and productivity. Thus, to emerge as a wealthy nation, a healthy society is desirable. Health, however, cannot be ensured simply by individual efforts. Social action is needed for sanitation, water supply, clean air, waste disposal and an environment which does not breed diseases or result in epidemics. Public policy and action is critical in ensuring adequate infrastructure and follow-up for a healthy society.

Good health is one of the major components of human development. The progress of a society largely depends on the quality of its people. Unhealthy people can hardly make any contribution towards development of family, society and nation. Health is not only basic to leading a happy life but it is also necessary for productive activities in the society. Poor health is associated with many factors – poor nutrition, living conditions, access to health facility, capacity to pay for the cost of health services, environment surroundings so on and so forth. Good health is a valuable attainment of life. Better health contributes directly to economics and social growth of a nation, because healthy people contribute their strength to the production of the country.

The health condition is assessed by using set of miserable indicators on which reasonable and reliable data are available that reflect various dimensions of health. This includes indicators of mortality, morbidity and nutritional status called "Health Outcomes" and access to and utilization of preventive, primitive and cultural services broadly called health care. Some important health outcomes and health care related indicators were captured through to evaluate the quality of health of people among various social groups in the study area and are documented in the present chapter.

Illness is generally categorised into short-term or acute morbidity (such as infectious diseases affecting children, viz. Chest infection, cough, cold, diarrhoea; long term morbidity such as tuberculosis) and permanent or chronic morbidity such as (diabetes, arthritis, heart disease and other long term perpetual illnesses). An Increase in the prevalence of morbidity, both acute and chronic is attributed to many factors and one such factor is ageing of the population.

The prevalence of diseases among household members of various social groups in the study area is indicated in table12. The diseases commonly prevalent in the study area are fever, cough, cold and chest diseases etc. The incidence of these diseases according to age as shown in table reveals that there are variations in the reported morbidity among different household members of social groups but are not significant.

Table 12: Age Group-wise Incidence of Cough, Cold, Fever, Chest Disease among the Social Groups of the household

Type of Disease	Agricultural Labourer		Chopans		Fishermen Community		Gujjar and Bakerwals		Scavengers		Total	
	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age
1-5 Years	8	1.40	13	2.19	10	1.71	17	2.67	9	1.54	57	1.92
6-14 Years	5	0.88	9	1.52	7	1.20	12	1.88	7	1.20	40	1.35
15-39 Years	0	0	2	0.33	1	0.17	4	0.62	2	0.34	9	0.30
40-59 Years	2	0.35	5	0.84	3	0.51	8	1.25	6	1.02	24	0.81
60 and Above	7	1.23	11	1.86	9	1.54	15	4.13	13	2.22	55	1.85
Total	22	3.87	40	6.76	30	5.14	56	8.80	37	6.34	185	6.24

Source: Field Survey

Among all the age groups, children and elderly people (1-5 years and 60 years and above) appear to be most vulnerable to the commonly prevalent diseases (1.92 percent and 1.85 percent respectively). The proportion is less in the middle age group of 15-39 (0.30 percent) followed by 40-60 years (0.81 percent) and for 60 years and above (1.85 percent). As shown in the above table, 57 children in all under the age group of 1-5 years suffered from fever, cough and chest diseases. The incidence of illness among such children is more among gujjar and bakerwals (2.67 per cent) followed by chopans (2.19 percent). The lowest incidence of illness is among fishermen community (1.71 per cent), scavengers (1.54 per cent) and agricultural labourers (1.40 percent). In terms of overall incidence of all social groups, gujjar and bakerwals are more likely to experience short term illness (8.8 per cent) followed by chopans (6.76 per cent), fishermen community (6.74 per cent), scavengers (5.14 per cent) and agricultural labourers (3.87 percent).

The main reasons are lack of adequate nutrition which in turn is due to low level of income. The incidence of illness is low among high income families as they immediately take care of health. Some of the differences may also be due to differential climate pattern as well as the seasons during which the survey was conducted.

Illnesses like fever and cough are often caused by environmental conditions such as sanitation, hygiene, pollution besides other factors like the severity of rainfall and moisture in the air. Second many of these illnesses are communicable and spread through contact and once some individuals get sick, sickness can easily be spread.

Access to Improved Source of Drinking Water

Water is a major determinant of a household's general hygiene situation. Water is required in sufficient volumes and appropriate quality for consumption, cooking, washing, and proper sanitation.

Looking into the conditions of drinking water facilities available in the study area, it was observed that maximum number of the households have the facility of drinking water in their houses. Further, the analysis reveals that the main source of drinking water in the houses is tap connected to the civic pipeline. Among the sample households 92 percent of households have the tap facility as the main source of drinking water. Seven percent of households use streams as a source of drinking water, remaining 1 percent of households have the facility of tube wells for obtaining water for their houses. This is shown in table 13.

Table 13: Number of Household having Access to Safe Dirking Water among Social Groups

Social Groups	Source of Safe Drinking Water			
	Tap	Tube Well	River/Stream	Total
Agricultural Labourers	100	0	0	100
Chopans	87	5	8	100
Fishermen Community	91	0	9	100
Gujjar and Bakerwals	82	0	18	100
Scavengers	100	0	0	100
Total	460	5	35	500
Percentage	92.0	1.0	7.0	100

Source: Field Survey

The table reveals that the use of piped drinking water is more widespread among scavengers and agricultural labourers than among other social groups because the water filtration plants are located in the areas where these two groups reside.

Across the social groups, scavengers and agricultural labourers have a greater proportion of households (100 percent each) using taps compared to fishermen community (91 per cent), chopans (87 per cent) and gujjar and bakerwal (82 per cent). While as gujjar and bakarwals (18 per cent), fishermen community (9 per cent) and chopans (8 percent) households are using streams as source of drinking water. The 5 per cent of households among chopans are using tube wells as source of drinking water. Majority of the households do not purify the water as they consider tap and tube well water safe for drinking. The most commonly used method of water purification is boiling in order to take care for health. Incidence of purification is very low and wherever prevalent, boiling continues to be the main method of purification.

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