

Impact of Conflict on Jammu & Kashmir Economy

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Introduction

Now-a-days we observe wide variety of violent conflicts around the globe. These conflicts are usually disastrous socially as well as culturally; economically as well as politically. Economic disruption is an integral part of conflicts, negatively affecting peoples livelihood and long-term development process. Violent conflicts affects economic outcomes mainly through the destruction of human and physical capital, shifts in public spending and private investment, as well as the disruption of economic activities and social life (Blatman and Miguel;2010).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its policy statement and Guidelines on Conflict, Peace and Development in 1977 argues that Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without peace and stability, and peace and security are not possible without meeting the basic needs of the people(OECD,1995).

The theory of “development as freedom” by Amartya Sen(Sen,1999) argues development and freedom are intimately related. Freedom is both constitutive of development and instrument to it. Sen defines five freedoms that are needed to bring true development:

1)Political freedoms; 2)Economic facilities; 3) Social opportunities ; 4) Transparency guarantees; and 5) Protective security. In this light, it can be argued that economic underdevelopment amounts to lack of freedom. This is very much the case of Kashmir where all kinds of freedoms that are both “means and ends of development” are under constant threat.

Jammu and Kashmir has continued to be afflicted by insurgency and violence. People see an atmosphere of decay and neglect everywhere. The deepest anxiety amongst ordinary people arises when they fear collapse of law and order and also fear that their loved ones on vulnerable to armed intruder. Thus they can protect neither life nor their property. Human rights violation both by security forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs) continued to be extensively reported from the state. The ongoing armed conflict

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