

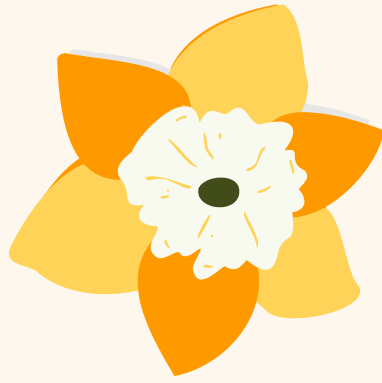
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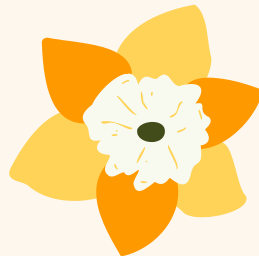
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DEGRADATION OF MORAL VALUES

Written by Falisha Wani
A DPS Srinagar Student

The decline in values in our society is a collective lament for us. All nations have some values that help them reach the pinnacle of glory and differentiate themselves from others. No country has ever consciously or unconsciously trampled on these values and called itself a valueless society. But in a trance, they lose them. And once the values go down, you can't get them back. In our society, values are either forgotten or otherwise they have taken the back seat.

It's not a one-time thing. It's a long-term problem. In the distant past, every nook and corner of the Kashmir Valley was a center of values that the world admired and followed. Kindness, patience, love, forgiveness, honesty, etc. used to be our hallmarks, but now they are rarely seen. From adults to children, everyone is in the same boat. If so, there must be some reason behind it. In the following lines, let us shed light on the causes responsible for the erosion of values in our society.

The first is materialism. In anticipation of accumulating more and more, we have lost touch with reality; our values. Greed for profit has made us a machine and we no longer care about values, be they spiritual or religious. In today's world, a free market economy works. The harder you work, the more you earn, and vice versa. Money brings happiness and peace. It's just that the values don't fill the stomach, so they are least preferred. In this situation, values lose their status and people who are on the top rung of creation become living corpses.

The second is science and technology. A man's goal in life is comfort. Science and technology are of little value. But they still bring happiness. For statistics, however, the long-term impact is far-reaching, but always painful. When life becomes difficult and you have no reason to live for it, you finally choose science and technology, sacrificing value on the altar of comfort and luxury. Valueless people can make a lot of money, so why should a value-lover fall into decay?

The third is the secular approach. Now we have become so worldly that we consider any religion or code of conduct, old or new, to be worthless. Disguised as secularism, we have crossed all borders and are living in the liberal zone. As a result, people can now do whatever they want. It has created a negative notion of freedom. A driverless vehicle isn't going anywhere. We are the same. We live happily and comfortably in a mundane world created by our imagination

The fourth is an ungodly society. We believe that God is not necessary to keep the world in balance. It works alone and needs no supervision. Everyone is created free, by whom whatsoever. Life is about enjoying these moments here and dying, never to rise again. The value is irrelevant in this situation. Believing in the Hereafter will make us conscious. Each step will be carefully executed. We will be careful when dealing with others. But when it evaporates from our minds and lives, we suddenly lose control and start trampling on cherished values, the result being chaos and confusion.

Fifth and last, is the distortion of religion. Every religion teaches some form of code of conduct. But so-called religious advocates manipulate it for personal gain. Rituals and habits are useless without a clean heart and soul. All the organs of our body, such as eyes, ears, tongue, skin and nose, must always be bound by rules and regulations. Rituals have specific purposes. But caring for others and thinking of others is a real life, a life worth living. Religion preaches values that make society worth living.

So, the need of the hour is to live a life of values. In the current chaos and turmoil, humanities and values play a big role. Frustration and depression end when we try to live as humans. Let us resolve that we will try our best to live our lives full of values.

" The society we live in has always taught us to believe that a woman of substance is one who has great virtues and moral values . "

Sherlyn Chopra

THE EROSION OF VALUES IN OUR SOCIETY

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Written by Syed Mustafa Ahmad

The erosion of values in our society is a collective mourning for us. Every nation has some values that help it to reach the pinnacles of glory and to remain apart from others. Till today, no nation has consciously or unconsciously, trampled on these to be called a valueless society. However, in the state of trance, they lose these. And when they lose value, there is no coming back. In our society, values are falling into oblivion or, in other senses, they have taken a back seat.

It is not a one-day affair, rather it is the malaise of many years. A long time before, every nook and corner of the Valley of Kashmir was a centre of values that were worldly admired and followed as well. Kindness, patience, love, forgiveness, integrity, etc., were our characteristics, but now these are hardly seen. From adults to children, everyone is in the same boat. If this is the case, there must be reasons responsible for this. In the coming lines, let us throw some light on the causes responsible for the erosion of values in our society.

The first is materialism. In the hope of piling more and more, we have lost touch with reality, i.e., values. Greed for profiteering has made us be machines and not bother about values. Values have some spiritual or religious values. Or we can say it helps in a realised personality. But in today's world, free market economy works. The more you work hard, the more you earn and vice versa. Money brings happiness and comfort. However, values don't fill stomachs, so uncomfortable. In this situation, values lose their status and people who are on the top rung of creation, become living dead.

The second is science and technology. A man's aim of life is comfort. Science and technology is almost valueless. But it still brings happiness. However, in case of values, they always bring pain, though they have far-reaching effects in long run. When life goes tough and you have no cause to live for, you eventually opt science and technology and sacrifice values at the altar of comfort and luxury. When a valueless person can earn a lot of money, why should a valued lover fall in decay.

The third is secular approach. Now, we have become so secular that we think any religion or the code of conduct, whether old or new, is of no value. In the garb of secularism, we have trespassed all the bounds and are living in a liberal zone. The outcome is that everywhere, people are free to do what they want. It has given rise to the negative concept of freedom as well. A driverless vehicle will reach nowhere. The same is the case with us. We are living happily in the secular world, created by our imaginations and are feeling comfortable there.

The fourth is Godless society. We believe that there is no need for God to maintain the balance of the world. It works itself. There is no surveillance. Everyone is created free, by whom whatsoever. Life is about enjoying these moments here and dying, never to rise again. In this situation, values don't matter. Believing in the Hereafter will make us conscious. Every step will be taken carefully. Dealing with others will be in a watchful manner. However, when this thing evaporates from our minds and lives, we suddenly become rudderless and begin to trample the cherished values and the result is chaos and confusion.

The fifth and last is distortion of religions. Every religion teaches a code of conduct, in one way or another. But the so-called champions of religions, manipulate it for personal gain. Rituals and customs are useless if you don't have a pure heart and pure soul. Eyes, ears, tongue, skin, nose, etc., all organs of our body must be bound by rules and regulations all the time. Rituals are for a particular purpose. However, caring for others and thinking good about others is a real life and a life of values. Religions preach values to make society a liveable place.

So, the need of the hour is to live a life of values. In the present chaos and confusion, humanities or values have a lot of role to play. Frustration and depression will end when we try to live as human beings. Let us resolve that we will try our best to live our lives full of values.

" You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

Buckminster Fuller

EDUCATION AND KASHMIR

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Written by Syed Mustafa Ahmad

It is a fact that the only way to achieve the pinnacles of glory, is the way of education. Education is both a way and an end in itself. If we look at all the civilized nations of the world, it is education that has made it possible to reach the glory. China is a live example of this. Their educational system is compatible with the society. Originality is what they want. They believe that after knowing the man minutely, it is necessary to have such a system that can allow him to live the best life. So, they are progressing with each passing day. However, in Indian case in general and Kashmir in particular, there is something miserably.

No doubt we have the most fertile brains, but the irony of fate that due to one reason or another, they are either unutilized or there is brain drain. Due to infrastructure problems, students prefer the West to fulfil their dreams. In case of Kashmir, the situation is quite dismal. We have been caught in an unending misery since 1947 in general and 1990s in particular. Here, education has lost its meaning, because there is no guarantee of life. It is a sensitive place that is surrounded by three nuclear countries, that are hell bent upon to make it a nuclear flashpoint. Apart from many things that Kashmir has lost, the irrevocable loss of education is hurting badly. This loss can never be compensated, if "healing touch" flows in nook and corner of the valley. This is not a malaise of some years, but as discussed above, it has a lot of factors to play their role. Let us try to know about some causes in the following lines.

The first is political. Since 1947 when the "Partition" took place, Kashmir became the soft target of petty politics. Resources that had to be spent over education, were spent on futile politics. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir. Thousands of soldiers have died from both the sides. Thousands of Kashmiris are also dead. Hundreds of thousands are injured. No day passes when both sides don't miss an opportunity in declaring that for Kashmir, we can go to any extent. In this war of words, Kashmiris suffer. And the main casualty is the future, education. It is civilized nations that don't allow education to become a scapegoat in the hot wars as well, but in our case a slight political disturbance, makes things go out of hand and education is lost in oblivion.

The second is economic. If we divide Kashmir economy, primary sector contributes 21 percent to SGDP, secondary or manufacturing sector 22 percent and tertiary or service sector 57 percent. The first sector is somehow going on. But the second and most importantly the third sector, have been badly hit due to political disturbances. Tourism sector is almost defunct. Whether it is a conspiracy or our fate that in Kashmir, any kind of violence begins in March and ends in October. This period is fit for tourists arrival. When these months are lost in mindless propaganda, the result is that economic activities come to stand still and it has a direct bearing on our educational system. Many parents are engaged with this sector. No work means no money. No money no education. Education is itself quite expensive, so without money, it is impossible. Our rivers, religious places, mountains, gardens, lakes, river's, religious sites, etc., wait for tourists, but they are not to come due to many reasons. A one day hartal in Kashmir costs 300 crore. 450 days of hartal cost a lot of money.

The third is corruption. It has acted as the last nail in the coffin. In reality, the steel frame bureaucratic system is to blame for this. A common man has to grease the palms of many officials to do his work. In this way, education becomes its target. Undeserving students sit on chairs while deserving candidates are left to commit suicide. A student works hard for 22 years to get a post to live a happy life, but when he or she sees that those students, who are good for nothing, enjoy their lives, he or she hates to begin to hate education and in this way, others follow the suit and the casualty is education.

The fourth and the last is out-dated syllabi. The present educational system is incompatible with the society. Education wants to produce those students, who are fit in society; not unfit students. However, in present Kashmir, almost all the students have become problem creators; rather than problem solvers. Whatever they have learnt, is never found on the ground level. They don't understand themselves and have become parasites on society. In this way, the pious path of education has taken a heavy hit.

In short, the need of the hour is to give education back its status, what it is entitled to. Rhetoric won't work. Infrastructure should be upgraded, syllabi must go through a drastic change, textbook-centred curriculum should be replaced by child-centred curriculum, happy curriculum must be introduced at the earliest, learning by doing should be the mantra, introspection must be the guiding principle of education and last but not the least, experts must be consulted before devising paths for the future generations. Moreover, political disturbances should be minimized as much as possible. Kashmiri's economic growth should be allowed to bloom. Bottlenecks should be removed and the path for development should be laid. Furthermore, corruption must be nipped in the bud. It will give an opportunity to meritorious students to achieve greatness and set the nation on the path of progress.

MATHEMATICS AND PRESENT CHALLENGES

Written by Aqib Ahmad
A KU MSc Student

I think there is not a single definition that can encompass the whole mathematics. It is such a broad term that needs a range of things to be in mind. But the truth is that it has fascinated every curiosity of every age, while has acted as a big challenging task for a majority of students. Since the creation of the Universe, Mathematics is here. From counting gods or God to numbering species, it is Mathematics that is omnipresent. No sane person can deny the importance of this subject, as it is one of the basics of building a grand building of creative learning. The miraculous brain works in compatibility with the genius of the subject.

From Babylon to Greece to Arab, Mathematics used to be the most loving subject of every philosopher, thinker, religious scholar, etc. because it soothed their nerves. Measuring distances, time taken by Earth and other planets to complete their revolutions, keeping the record of biodiversity, seasonal movements, etc., used to be under the great influence of mathematics. However, at present, this great subject has become a thing to be hated. In our society, maths is considered a burden to be shed after secondary school education. Short cut ways are adopted to clear this subject somehow. No one is interested in it. Recently, an online news portal of India, Scroll.In, came up with an article that talks about the presence of Trigonometry in Babylonia, thousands years before it was thought by people in Greece. Such kinds of things don't find position in our discourse. Now, let us discuss some of the causes responsible for its complications and taking a backseat in our lives.

The first is syllabi. Our syllabi, which are taught in educational institutions, are incompatible with the needs of society. Being a teacher myself, I have come across many concepts and practical questions in Mathematics that are difficult for a teacher to understand; what to talk of students. A teacher memorizes the question or concept, so that he or she is able to speak in front of the students. Lines and Angles, Trigonometry, Triangles, Surface Areas and Volumes, Calculus, time consuming derivations, assumptions, etc. In this way, the main aim of Maths is thrown to winds.

The second is lack of infrastructure. Classrooms are not designed in such a way to cater the needs of creative or general students. They belong to the ancient period, where oral knowledge used to be the best way to learn. Moreover, proper buildings are not there where mathematical equipment or things are found, so that a student becomes enthusiastic to delve deep into the seas of Maths and come with pearls.

The third is lack of management. In every educational institution, there is race to complete the well-defined syllabi. The managers don't think that it is better to practise more than teach two or three volumes of a single class textbook. In this way, a student is forced to opt for rote learning and the result is that, after teaching for so many years, we have been unable to produce brilliant minds in Maths, barring some great teachers, who crave modernization in this subject.

The fourth is highhandedness of the higher authorities. In our society, those who have nothing to do it, are usually found to be interfering unnecessarily in the affairs of every subject, particularly Maths. Some time back, the Indian Express came up with an editorial regarding the powers of IITs and IIMs, where they discussed the diminishing powers of educational bodies. In this situation, thinking of high class research and compatible maths is a mirage.

The fifth and last is corruption. Corruption has acted as the last nail in the coffin of Maths. Brilliant minds get wasted either due to corruption or political approach. Undeserving students or teachers occupy places that are the possessions of some others. In this way, the greatest damage is done to this subject.

The need of the hour is to ponder over the importance of Maths again and make it compatible with society. Without Maths, no community or nation can think of progressing. Let us, at our individual levels, try to improve the standard of maths and do not become the soft target of hysteria that is found around maths. Hope good sense prevails!

Without mathematics, there's
nothing you can do. Everything
around you is mathematics.
Everything around you is
numbers.

Shakuntala Devi

SMART PHONE ADDICTION AND WAYS TO AVOID IT

Sayidwrites@gmail.com

Written by Syed Mustafa Ahmad

Covid-19 brought many miseries with it, but one of the greatest miseries, it brought was and is smartphone addiction. I am sharing my experience that I bought smart phone for the first time in 2018. At that time, at our village, out of 10 students, 2 or 3 had smart phones. Till 2019, there was hardly any craze for smartphones. But situation began to change in 2020. In 2020, when Internet was restored in Kashmir after almost 6 months, there was a craze for this. Two causes were responsible for this; First was shutdown in the wake of Article 370 abrogation and the second was the Covid-19. During shutdown in 2019, I noticed students watching movies offline. I was told by some people that at some place in Srinagar, it costed Rs 50 to download a game. For this, they needed smartphones. Moreover, games like PUBG had gained currency. Games like this, are adventurous and are more entertaining than academic studies, as was observed by the writer.

The last nail in the coffin came in the form of Covid-19. It shut the whole world. Everything came to halt. Students were stuck at homes. To keep alive the tradition of learning, physical classes shifted to online classes. In this way, the most damage began to start. From pre-nursery students to university level students, smartphones became a necessity. Immature and emotional children were provided with the phones, that have the potential to manipulate their lives for destruction. Nevertheless, there is an element of exposure, but that's exposure is not without harmful danger. Now, the situation is that original students are gone while imitative children are everywhere. If this is the case, what are caretakers doing? Those who have been entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of the future of students, where they are. In this situation, what is the role to be played by the parents, religious heads and doctors?

The first is try to reopen schools. Shifting back to physical classes is the best way to free the students from this dangerous addiction. In the physical classrooms, the students are able to note down their home work and work accordingly. It doesn't create space for the third party. So, let us try our best to help government in reopening educational institutions as early as we can.

The second is counselling. Addicted students should be counselled in a calm manner, keeping the present chaotic atmosphere in mind. Don't try to snatch phones from them. Try to make a friendly relationship with them and motivate them to visit a counsellor, who will make him or her understand the advantages or disadvantages of a smartphone. In this way, our future will be saved from destruction.

The third is keep your children busy in some work. For example, if you dig a piece of land, you will be given some amount of money. In this way, a student's mind will slowly and steadily begin to divert from the addictive games. He or she will begin to think practically. However, it won't work quickly, but in the long run, it will work.

The fourth is impart religious education. Religious education in the sense that morality, saving time, respecting others, praying on time, rising early, sleeping early, doing household chores, studying hard, helping others, etc., are necessary conditions for living a good life. It will help him or her in the long run. Send your wards to religious seminaries, where original Islam is taught. Refrain from co-education as much as you can. Yes, it is true that exposure is necessary, but it should be in a limited manner.

The fifth and last is talk about everything freely. If a student is addicted, talk to him or her freely. In today's world, love affair has gained prominence. Moreover, sexual instincts have been activated in such a way that students want to have a sexual intimacy in the very beginning. In this situation, talking to them about this, is the best remedy. Listen to them and it will create an atmosphere of no shyness and the result will be fruitful.

So, the need of the hour is to free students from addiction. Everyone has to come forward in this regard. Internal as well as external factors are responsible for this. But if we at the earliest set our houses right, then the external factors won't harm us. We, at our individual levels, can build such an infrastructure that will reduce dependence on Internet and other related things. Gather brilliant minds and teach the students exposure. Speaking skills, writing skills, personality development skills, scientific temper, selfless work, optimism, etc. Build charity houses so that students are not forced to create FB pages, YouTube channels, etc., to earn and get lost in the maze of stupidity. Let us resolve to do this.

Jamia Masjid Shopian

For religious and archaeological reasons, the most important building in the city of Shopian is Jamia Masjid, located in the heart of Shopian's main market. It has courtyards, 4 vaulted entrances and minarets like Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, but the entire structure is only 74 years old. The turrets of the Masjids are made of Deodar wood while the windows are graced with geometrical arched designs. The dozens of wooden pillars inside the Masjid give it a majestic appearance. Spreading over land of nine kanals, it is the second largest mosque in Kashmir after Jamia Masjid Srinagar.



March 17, 2016 source : thetaluat.xyz

Jamia Masjid is said to have been built during the Mughal period. Being an important stop on the Mughal road through Pir Panjal, where the Mughals visited Kashmir. The earlier and old mosque was also built on the side of the road at a sloped and dominant height. The mosque has been repeatedly gutted and destroyed. with Tibetan pagodas, but in contrast, the mosque's floor is straight sloping- covered with clay spread over the burza. The woodwork inside the mosque was a masterpiece in which Pinjrakari and Jafri were used, and the wood used was entirely deodar. Shopian's modern Jamia Masjid was built by locals with the design and style of Jamia Masjid Srinagar. The cornerstone of this mosque was laid in 1940. It took eight years to build the mosque.

This mosque was built in the 1940's by Ustab Habib Ullah, a carpenter from Srinagar's Down-Town area. He was asked to supervise the construction of the mosque. Stones were mined using camels and horses from the vicinity of Rambiara River. Women donated large numbers of silver jewelry as well as golden ornaments for the construction of great historic mosque. Even marginalized groups of society took part in the construction of the mosque. People worked day and night to build the such a magnificent mosque. The Worker's used to rub the bricks to give them a special finish. Moulana Adbullah Shah, a local cleric, then carer, and Waiz of masjid.

Jamia Masjid Shopian is of historical importance and unlike many other monuments in the valley, it is a mosque built by the masses without the help of rulers and governments.



June 27, 2008 source : thetaluat.xyz

Till 12 December 1987, the Jamia Masjid was purely a Masjid and no Ziarat was present inside its complex. Mirwaiz Moulvi Abdul Hamid, somehow managed one relic hair of Hazrat Imam Hussain رضي الله عنه as well as one of Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani. Since January 1988, the same is reportedly housed in the Jamia Masjid, Shopian. However a dispute arises among different sects of religion. Since the day many people (several generations) aren't visiting to the mosque as of presence of Ziarat.

It is still a milestone and attraction not to be missed today. It is a famous religious place for the Muslim community. The architecture of the mosque is creatively maintained. The roof of the mosque is carved and decorated with lights. The beauty of the place is worth visiting.

Recently, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism has recently added Jamia Masjid Shopian to its heritage list.

He who builds a masjid in the way of Allah, God will build a house for him in the paradise.

Abu Bakar R.A

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality is, first and foremost, a human right. A woman is entitled to live in dignity and freedom. Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities and improve prospects for the next generation.

The importance of gender equality is underscored by its inclusion as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals. Gender equality is acknowledged as being a key to achieving the other seven goals. Yet discrimination against women—including gender-based violence, economic discrimination, reproductive health inequities, and harmful traditional practices—remains the most pervasive and persistent form of inequality. Since the beginning of civilization, there has been major evidence of women being considered inferior to men. Almost every country, no matter how progressive, has a history of ill-treating women. This has eventually nudged women to retrospect their status in society and has even led women from all over the world to be rebellious to reach the status they have today. Since then, women have been vocal about gender equality and have continuously made efforts to empower themselves to achieve that equality. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic, and health status is a highly important end in itself.

In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household. In all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and well-being as a result of being overburdened with work and of their lack of power and influence.

In most regions of the world, women receive less formal education than men, and at the same time, women's knowledge, abilities and coping mechanisms often go unrecognized. The power relations that impede women's attainment of healthy and fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the most public.

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that "everyone has the right to education". But despite notable efforts by countries around the globe that have appreciably expanded access to basic education, there are approximately 960 million illiterate adults in the world, of whom two-thirds are women. More than one-third of the world's adults, most of them women, have no access to printed knowledge, to new skills or to technologies that would improve the quality of their lives and help them shape and adapt to social and economic change.

Countries should act to establish mechanisms for women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life in each community and society and enabling women to articulate their concerns and needs. Governments and organizations should try to eliminate all practices that discriminate against women; assisting women to establish and realize their rights, including those that relate to reproductive and sexual health. Adopting appropriate measures to improve women's ability to earn income beyond traditional occupations, achieve economic self-reliance, and ensure women's equal access to the labor market and social security systems.

Also, violence and safety is a major threat to women in society. Domestic violence, rapes, etc are alarmingly increasing day by day. More so, because women are afraid to speak up. Similarly, women who do the same work get paid less than their male counterparts. It is downright unfair and sexist to pay someone less for the same work because of their gender. Thus, we see how women's empowerment is the need of the hour. We need to empower these women to speak up for themselves and never be a victim of injustice.

There have been several organizations and institutions advocating for women, promoting legal and policy reforms and gender-sensitive data collection, and supporting projects that improve women's health and expand their choices in life. Even governments of various nations are tirelessly trying to promote education for womenfolk. These are clear indications that all the forces that conform to a society have been collectively supporting empowering women. However, many adversities are blocking the ways to attain a complete gender-unbiased society.

Moreover, today there are different denotations of the term "Women Empowerment" which have led to different sects of belief. Empowerment holds different meanings for different psyches and this divergence, this comprehension of facts against fiction, this way of interpretation that people of various sects, associations and understanding makes the basic understanding of "women empowerment" more complex. However, it is important for every woman to remember that they must acquire empowerment themselves rather than have it given to them by an external party and women should believe in having the capability to make important decisions in their lives while also being able to act on them.

Empowerment and disempowerment are relative; therefore, empowerment is a process, not a product. There has been immense progress in uplifting women financially, politically and socially, but it is still an open-ended process. In the light of many ongoing, a clear vision emerges, a vision of the empowerment of each deserving one. Even though a new age woman is far more empowered, her progress skids to a halt when cases of violence or any unprecedented aggressive evil emerges. So, when one evaluates whether women empowerment is a myth or reality, it is not that easy as women empowerment at times seems to be an illusion that has been made into reality by some but remains uncharted territory to many. We, as a society, need to applaud every effort made so far to bring to parity the gender debate and need to understand why this battle is not overrated and is completely important to be justified. Empowering a woman today will lead to a progressive society for tomorrow and this silver lining should be our motivation in analyzing any gender equality discussion.

QALEEN: THE CARPET OF DREAMS

Carpet Weaving (qaeleen kaem), from Yaqand, was a flourishing business in the past. It is said that it was the gift from those who helped to spread Islam in Kashmir. The book " Kashmir Under the Sultans" written by Mohibbul Hassan tells that Sultan Zain-Ul-Abideen, who ruled from 1420-1470, brought different kinds of profession or occupation from the Central Asia. Badshah(Zain-Ul-Abideen) had good contacts with outside countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. Today, we often listen about the Silk Route. The modern CPEC between China and Pakistan is a small replica of that grand route. It was the route that brought Islam and handicrafts to Kashmir. This route also took Buddhism from Nepal to China. Abdul Gani Sheikh from Ladakh has written about the route in eleventh class Urdu (JK BOSE). Zain-Ul-Abideen was influenced by the traditions of his ancestors like Sultan Shihab-Ud-Din and Sultan Sikandar. Sayyid Mir Ali Hamdani and his son Mir Muhammad Hamdani brought different professions with them in order to be self-independent. Sayyid Hamdani had written a book about the economic system in Islam that left a profound influence over people. Moreover, they were aware of the physiography and the culture of Jammu and Kashmir. In this way, it helped the native people very much. It contributed about 9,000 crore to the state exchequer. It was a remedy for unemployment. It was a perennial profession or occupation that used to provide livelihood to those who could not go to school or were forced to abandon his studies like Adil. It was a privilege for some to be engaged in this profession with the charming things like the warp and weft, knife, beating comb, shears, silk of different colors, etc. A lot of stories are associated with this business. Adil is one of them. It is full of nostalgia. Adil and his family were happy that they had a loom at their home. Adil was the third child among five. His two elder brothers were illiterate and hence labourers. Adil's younger siblings were not highly educated. His sister was unmarried and was an Anganwadi helper. His youngest brother was working as a porter in a defense camp. Adil's ancestors were famous for learning, particularly in Persian and Arabic. But Adil and his siblings were not so lucky in gaining any good knowledge.

Agriculture was and is the main source of income at Adil's village. His father and his elder brothers were busy in agriculture while Adil took to Qaleen Kaem. When he was in the primary school, he was forced to abandon his studies. It is because in the 1980s, some so-called rich of the village brought the Carpet Weaving to the village. As told earlier it was a craze at that time to be in this occupation. They were good in one respect that it would bring monetary benefits to the village and they would not remain idle at different places like margas(Meadows), grazing lands, Karewas, etc. But the misery was waiting for them after a brief lull. The village, being illiterate, had some hope of literacy when in the 1980s some students like Adil began to go to the local primary school. They were happy because there was a lot of innovative things to do. Books were windows for them to look at different things and places. They felt pity over those who were busy in child labor. But they didn't know that the misery that was more horrible than theirs, was waiting for them, with mouth wide open.

Adil was forced to abandon his studies. One day, as he was coming back for lunch from the school, in the corridor of his home, his modest school uniform was put off forcefully by his father. He could not understand at that time what his father was doing to him. But one thing was crystal clear that the liberty of theirs was going to be snatched away. The local primary school contained spaces for both the school and the Qaleen Waans(Carpet Looms). He wept to his might but his father, being a hardcore person, did not feel pity over him. He was told plainly that your freedom was over. Now, you had to go to learn Kasb(Skill) so that you could live your life with ease. It was not a surprising thing for him because at that time, poverty was common.

As the building contained both the school and the looms, there only was the shift of rooms: from classrooms to Qaleen Waans. No, it was more than that. In classrooms, there was a new world in front of the students. They learnt that my Creator, you are my hope and never leave me in want while in new rooms, there were tight strings that hurt tiny fingers. In classrooms, a teacher would give some time to rest but in the new rooms, there was a lunch break of only 25 minutes. In the classrooms, there was a hope that one day would come when we would live like birds. There would be freedom but their wings of desires were clipped before the flight. Adil, after that day's incident, woke up next day to prepare himself for the school but to his astonishment, he was gifted with some carpet weaving tools like a knife, beating comb, shears, etc. In place of pencil, slate, and ink, he was to take iron and wooden tools with him. He was looking at them minutely but could not differentiate between the two. The former things needed freedom but no money; while the latter gave money but no freedom. Caught in this situation, Adil accepted his mother's advice and with brimming tears, left for the same building but with a lot of differences. The rhyming sounds from the adjacent classroom, would haunt him. He yearned to be among them. His heart longed to enjoy those illustrated books. However, something different was in store for him.

Years passed and it took the shape of decades. Adil made this his occupation. Working under different teachers, he, at last, installed his own loom at his home under the tutelage of the teacher from Downtown area. For Downtown area was the hub of this craft. For 15 years, Adil worked for them. He helped his family with as much as he could. Barring Fridays, he was busy on his loom through out the year.

However, the long relationship came to a sudden end when he left working under the teacher. The reason was simple: no liking for quality, introduction of machines, government apathy, etc. His teacher could not keep pace with the mechanized-world.

Today, Adil hates to work on the loom. He doesn't expect this craft to guarantee him a good life. He has two daughters. He is living separate. He wants government to intervene. He is hopeful that if government intervenes, there are chances that it may be revived. But according to me, it is buried under the Earth. No one is interested in taking up this profession. What is the fun of being engaged in such a profession that now is a source of misery and curse! I have seen Adil fighting with his wife over this profession. Yes, his wife was right in saying that if you could not afford to meet the basic necessities of life, you would better find some alternative. I think every carpet weaver has to find an alternative.

Drug Abuse , Addiction , Youth And It's Menace

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Written by Malik Saboora

Drug abuse is that social evil which has ruined many a lives and is gradually on the rise. The youth has been affected by it the most. The composition deals with the ill effects of drugs and why one must keep away from it

In modern times easy accessibility of most of the things has made life comfortable. Yet, like the two sides of the same coin it has also brought in its wake many challenges.

One of the problems afflicting most Nations of the world is drug abuse. It is a social evil which can destroy the very vitals of the society. It can make it weak and hollow as it nibbles gradually a slowly at the quality of human resource of a country.

Today, there is an alarming increase of drug abuse in schools and colleges. Drugs such as cocaine, heroine, LSD, hash, crack, opium marijuana are taken for their stimulating and relaxing qualities, little realizing that this misadventure can lead to addiction- a trap from which it is difficult to get out.

Initially, these drugs may give you kicks but ultimately become a threat to the addict's life. A drug called 'ecstasy' can kill a person in one hour. Addiction to drugs of any kind even alcohol or pain killers, tranquillizers develop suicidal tendencies, affecting a person's mind, moods, emotions and feelings. They are also responsible for making drug users, take to a life of crime, violence and aggression.

A man becomes pathetic because under the influence of drugs he is unable to control his thoughts and actions. Not only do they make themselves a laughing stock but their performance also becomes impaired. They become a liability rather than becoming useful members of the society

Physical and mental harm caused to them is irreparable as breaking this habit requires a lot of determination, courage and patience. The process of coming out of it is extremely painful as it involves frequent jitters and pain.

Addicts can not function as normal members of the society; they neglect and abuse their families who also are traumatized. Not only this, it is one of the root causes for encouraging crime.

Criminal gangs and Mafia underworlds flourish with the money from drugs requiring countries to spend heavily on police resources, for getting the information of such crimes like smuggling and dealing in drugs.

The danger from drugs can not be ignored because of the multiple problems which countries and communities face. It is a much greater problem than disease and poverty. It saps the nation of its manhood, eliminating this social evil may appear to be impossible, still steps can be taken to weaken the hold of drugs on society.

Drugs have been used by mankind for the medical purpose since ages. But never before had the abuse of drugs caused such a worldwide concern and posed an alarming problem. According to a survey conducted by WHO, there are about 7 million heroin addicts. There are 4.8 million cocaine abusers and 3.4 million addicts of other narcotics. The abuse of the drug is now an international problem. Recent statistics in India show that 88% of the heroin addicts in India are in the age group of 14-25 years. The students of India are virtually being crippled by this menace. Children of families whose parents maintain strained relations become easy prey to drugs. To start with, the addict student takes a pill to get a thrill. Very soon, he develops a mental dependence on the thrill. He requires an increasing dose of daily drugs which affect his mind, health and morals. Physically, mentally and spiritually he becomes a wreck. The gravity of the student demands the declaration of an all-out war against the menace of drugs. In schools and colleges, students should be enlightened about the devastating effects of drugs. The government institutions and voluntary organizations should work hand in hand to wipe out this evil from the society in general and the student community in particular.

The menace of drugs can be tackled by educating children at home and in schools about drugs. They need to be made aware of the ill effects of drugs so that they can make a conscious decision of avoiding this problem. It is common knowledge that very often young children get into this habit because of the influence of their friends and the desire to become a part of the so-called fashionable, liberal and modern society.

Thus, youth has to be trained to make the right choices, learn to resist temptations and not succumb to peer pressure - all this boils down to the responsibilities of parents and schools to lay a strong foundation of moral character and discipline.

Monster Of Kausar Nag



The larger spring called Kounsar Nag is the most famous hill spring of the southern Kashmir. Situated over a rocky bed, the spring measures about three miles in circumference. Its waters are blue while ice blocks float in it throughout the year. This is also a historic spring in the sense that famous King of Kashmir, Zain-ul-Abidin (Bud Shah) is believed to be a regular visitor to at the sight. The great king would make sure that each season he spends time at this amazing place.

Besides the lustrous beauty and impeccable glaciers, Kousar Nag is also famous for various curious legends and mysterious stories associated with it. Once Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, the patron saint of Kashmir is learnt to have sent one of his disciple to this spring who was, the legend says, attacked by the water beast. The saint, who was engaged in some work back at his place, hurled a stick towards a wall exposing blood stains on it. The other disciples were taken aback and inquired about it. The saint is believed to have informed them that the disciple who was sent to the spring was attacked by a water beast while the saint had rescued him by killing the beast. A historic legend accounted by Hassan in his monumental book, Tareekh-i-Hassan also recorded a similar event.

“One of our friends went to bathe in the spring and with little knowledge of swimming he went inside. Suddenly his two feet stopped swimming. We took his turban and tied a stone to it, and threw it over (the water). So he reached the bank by pulling it along with it. Then we saw that an animal had swallowed his feet in his mouth. However, much we tried to injure it with stone, stick and hatchet, it did not have any effect on it, until it swallowed the body of our friend to the knees. So we put wood on its head and lighted it. As it got burnt by the fire a sound like gun-fire was heard from the stomach of the monster. It jumped once into the air and flung itself into the spring. It was destined to die of its own food. The animal resembled a shield (‘Alq). Its length was two cubits and its width at the lower side was one cubit, and towards the head 8 girahs. Its skin was hard and granulated and that is why striking with the hatchet did not have any effect on it.”

~ An account of visit to Kausar Nag narrated by Moulvi Ghulam Hasan Shah (1832-1898) in his ‘Tarikh-i- Hasan’.

I came across it in ‘Historical Geography of Kashmir: Based on Arabic and Persian Sources from A.D. 800 to 1900’ by S. Maqbul Ahmad, Raja Bano (1984) where the writer suggest Hasan must have come across an alligator. However, given that gangetic turtles are found in some other lakes in the Himalayan region, it is more likely Hasan saw a type of a turtle, probably a Snapping Turtle, a creature that is known to survive in icy lakes.

Interestingly, while most Kashmiris now would be able to write tomes about Kausar Nag, its religious significance, its environmental significance and its history, why the war over it is necessary, yet, none can tell if there is (or was) a species of turtle found in the lake, its breeding cycle and diet. We are still busy in chasing the monsters. But there remains a mystery whether the monsters are still living inside the lake or there presence vanished away a very time before.

Suicide

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Written by Syed Mustafa Ahmad



*Suicide is a crime.
Whether for old or prime.
Life is a gift from God.
Ending it by yourself is a fraud.
Life is about up and down
Some colours are green while some are brown.
Materialism is not only aim.
A sane person doesn't run behind fame.
A person's suicide is destruction of the whole society.
Never do it for satiety.
Never burn the whole house for one thing.
If you want to fight, why fight in a ring.
Share? your pain and don't hide it.
At the end, you are to hit.
Don't cry over past.
Time moves fast.
Try to be contented with your life.
The only aim is not to have a wife.
Try to live yourself.
Everyone is acting like an elf.
Never commit suicide.
Never take yourself for a ride.
Have a will of living.
Have a habit of singing.
Never commit suicide,
But wait for your side.*

Prayer

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Written by G.A Mehjoor

Sahibo sath chum mein cheni
wath mein aslich hawtam
kuut kalah rozi bezaan
zaneh hund mas chavtum
boztum faryad va zari
soztum dadyen dawa
roztum hurdum meherban
zanh ti parrei mat paavtam
kawhli kam himti vaswas nishi thavthum mei
durr

Walwalh joshe ti armana dilas manz travtum
Yim saukhan paida karan
khalqan andar ulfat ti lol.
Shabnumkum peth aftabas
kut kal kar intizar
godniche anwari poshan
seethi suli wuznavtum
Saklichus insan magar
Insenyati nish be khabar
Hayawtum mate imtihan
yimi shakli mat mandhchavtum
Duur chus piyomut lukovnish
chum tavey mahjoor naav
Tim agar durun mei nish
cheti dur zahni mate taravtum

Oh Lord I only depend upon you
Show/lead me to way that is right
How long Shall I dwell in ignorance
Enrich my soul the divine way
Hear my plea and requests,
cast me away from harm.
Keep me under your guidance,
never let me roam.
I might be human by the face,
but humanity isn't known to me.
Keep me away from apathy, fatigue,
panicking.Happiness, Valour,
Calmness is what I ask to reside in me.
Those anecdotes which might create,
respect and love
Teach me to speak things that sootges the
angered.
Like dew how long shall I wait for the first flash
of the sun
Awaken me with (like) the flowers in the first
stroke of the dawn.
Subject me not to the trials, shame not my
human form
Forsaken by men am I
So they call me Mehjoor
People May Desert Me
But You Don't Abondon Me

The poem 'Prayer' has been pen locked by 'G.A. Mehjoor' popularly known as 'Shair-e-Kashmir'. The poem is addressed to God and the poet beseeches God to guide him to the path of truth. Earlier, he has been living a life full of ignorance, so he earnestly requests his lord give him to drink the nectar of knowledge. He pleads his lord to pay heed to his wailings and pleas and cure him of all distress and pain. He wants that his lord shall remain always kind to him so that he will never feel want and need of anything. He prays God to save him from sloth, infirmity and doubt. He requests lord to impregnate his heart with passion, zest and hope.

The poet wants to avoid those songs which will induce sleep among the people and want to chant such songs that can fill enthusiasm into their dead souls. He wants that his songs should inspire people with love and rid hatred that exists between them. God has brought him to bloom (to life) like the flowers of spring that flourish with the earliest breeze so he asks Him to protect him from the burning heat of summer which can wither him grey. He wants awakening like the flowers that flourish in the first stroke of dawn.

In the end of the poem, the poet says to his lord that in form he looks a human being but fact is that he doesn't possess humanity. Therefore, he requests almighty to save him against the bitter tests of life so as his human form will not feel shame and guilt in their failure. The poet is not afraid about people who may desert him but he eagerly requests his lord not to abandon him.

Knowing Life

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Written by Syed Mustafa Ahmad



Knowing life is aim of life:
 Inner world as well as outer world has to be conquered.
 What is life?
 Who creates life?
 Why life is created?
 Is there one life or more than one life?
 Who controls us?
 Why are we controlled?
 Who are we?
 Are we what we look?
 What is living?
 What is dying?
 Why are celestial bodies?
 Who controls them?
 How an atom has consciousness!
 Why is there complex system?
 Who is God?
 What He wants from us?
 What is happiness?
 What is sadness?
 Why do we like happiness?
 Why do we sadness?
 Why a man dies?
 Who takes his soul?
 What is materialism?
 Why do we love materialism?
 What is the "theory of everything"?
 What is in reality?
 What is real and what is unreal?
 I think this is life.
 Mystery is life.

Tree

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Written by Airah



Be like a tree.

Trees are very strong.

In thunder, in lightning, in rain,
they stand, they don't lose hope, like a tree.

In hardship, in worst time, in difficult
situations.

You stand, you don't lose hope.

Put your hope on God.

What does tree mean?

Why I relate this to human?

~Tree see very things humans can't like
humans are in our houses when rain falls
, thunder, lightning etc but we see outside
trees stand in rain, thunder etc. So, if you face
problems don't lose your hope like trees they
face rain, thunder etc but they stand in front
of it, they don't lose hope, you also stand
in front of your problems.

Face strongly every problem which come in
your life and believe in God what he do for
us. That's better for us.

There are 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules, 5 appendices with more than 100 amendments in the Indian Constitution. Not every article of the Indian Constitution is a must to know for UPSC Exams.

IAS Snack



Elections

- Article 324 – Superintendence, direction and control of Elections to be vested in an Election Commission
- Article 325 – No person to be ineligible for inclusion in or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex
- Article 326 – Elections to the house of the people and to the legislative assemblies of states to be on the basis of adult suffrage

Right To Freedom

- Article 19 – Guarantees to all the citizens the six rights and they are:
 - a – Freedom of speech and expression.
 - b – Freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms.
 - c – Freedom to form associations or unions.
 - d – Freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
 - e – Freedom to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.
 - f – Omitted
 - g – Freedom to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- Article 20 – Protection in respect of conviction for offences.
- Article 21 – Protection of life and personal liberty.
- Article 22 – Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.

Right To Freedom Of Religion

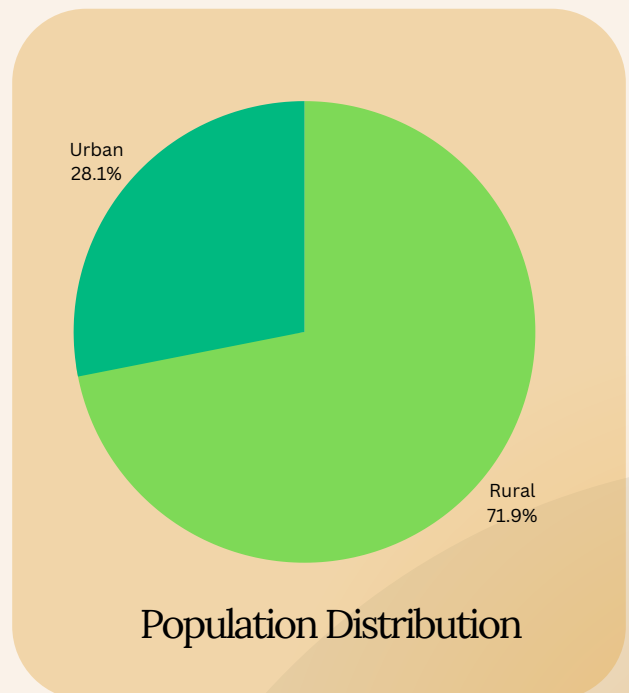
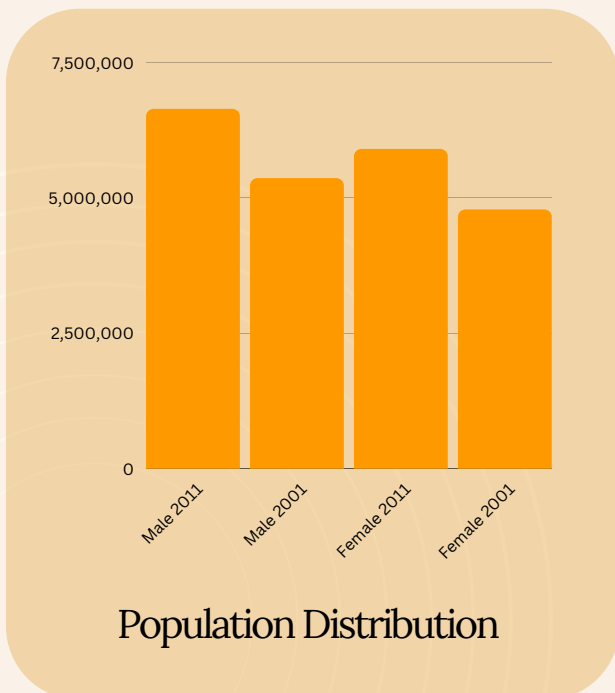
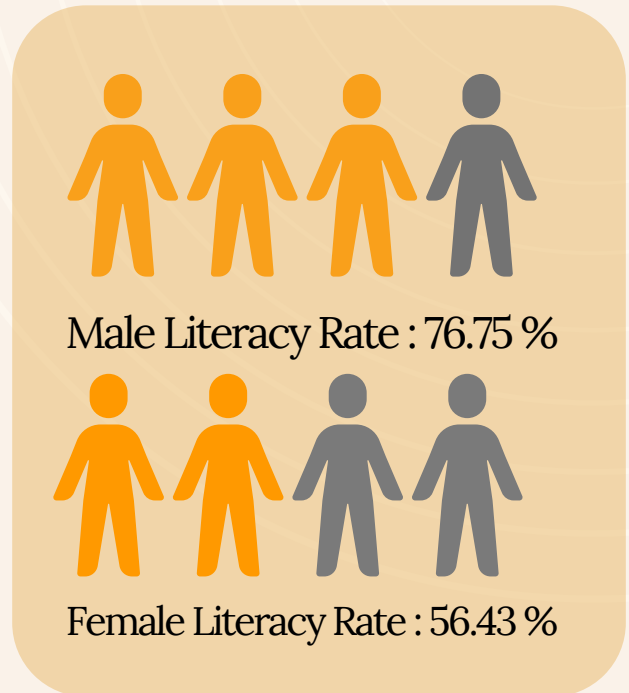
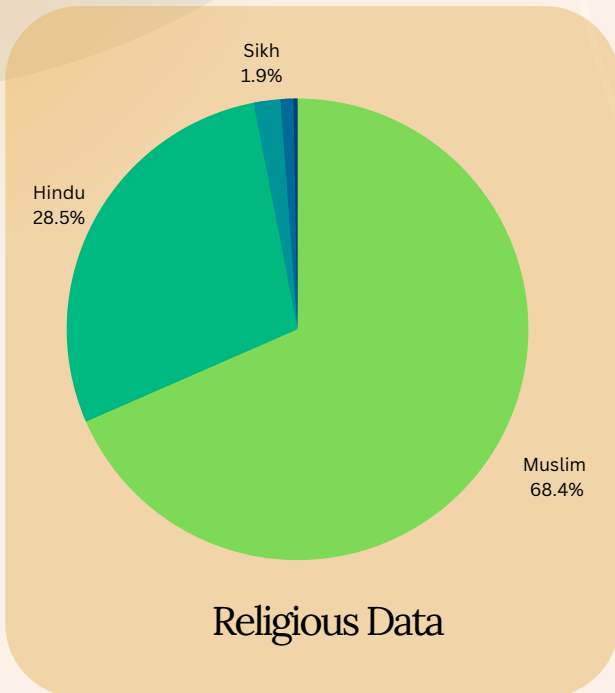
- Article 25 – Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- Article 26 – Freedom to manage religious affairs.
- Article 27 – Freedom as to pay taxes for promotion of any particular religion.
- Article 28 – Freedom from attending religious instruction.

Right To Equality

- Article 14 – Equality before the law.
- Article 15 – Prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- Article 16 – Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- Article 17 – Abolition of the untouchability.
- Article 18 – Abolition of titles.



Jammu and Kashmir





Jammu and Kashmir



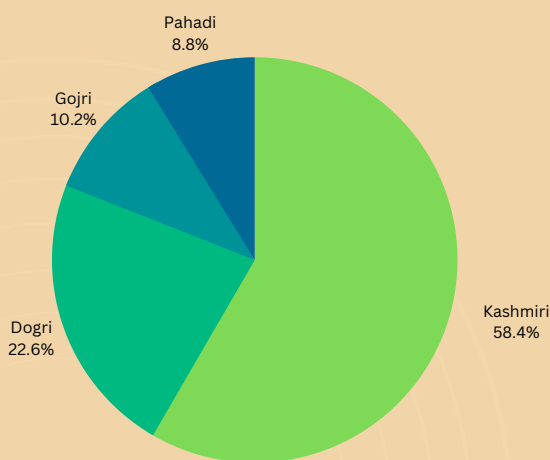
Districts

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Jammu | 1. Srinagar |
| 2. Kathua | 2. Anantnag |
| 3. Samba | 3. Pulwama |
| 4. Poonch | 4. Kupwara |
| 5. Rajouri | 5. Shopian |
| 6. Udhampur | 6. Ganderbal |
| 7. Reasi | 7. Bandipora |
| 8. Ramban | 8. Baramulla |
| 9. Doda | 9. Budgam |
| 10. Kishtwar | 10. Kulgam |

General Information

Total Number Of Hospitals : N/A
 Total Number Of PHC's : 627
 Total Number Of Schools :
 Government - 1574
 Private - 869
 KV's - 9
 Total Number Of Colleges : 223

Total Number Of Tehsils : 207
 Total Number Of Naibats : 523
 Total Number Of GQ's : 427
 Total Number Of Patwari Halgas : 1632
 Total Number Of Village : 6850

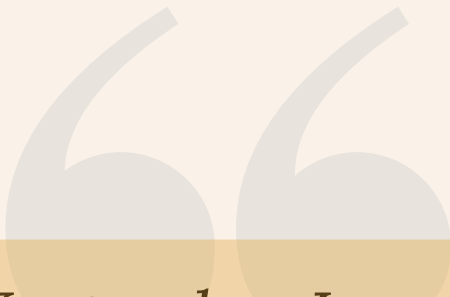
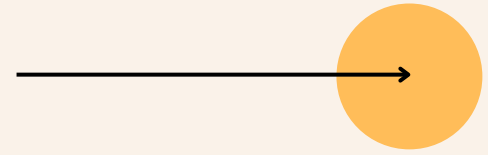


Language Data

Major Educational Institutions

1. Kashmir University
2. Jammu University
3. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir
4. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
5. Islamic University of Science & Technology
6. NIT Srinagar
7. IIT Jammu
8. IIM Jammu
9. IIM Srinagar
10. NIFT Srinagar
11. IHM Srinagar
12. SKIMS
13. Government Medical College in Srinagar
14. AIIMS Vijaypur
15. AIIMS Awantipora

Inspirational Quote



Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.



INSPIRING THE YOUTH



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