Cultural Setting of Kashmir Valley – Jammu & Kashmir

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Abstract

The people of a country are its greatest resource. It is they who make use of the country's resources and decide its policies. Ultimately a country is known by its people. The present study is based on cultural setting being experienced in Kashmir valley, which is one of the provinces of Jammu & Kashmir. The study is based mainly on secondary sources of data. The present study revealed that different trends of population composition of Kashmir valley; Population Distribution, Population Density, Growth of Population, Sex-Ratio, Rural-Urban Population, Literacy Rate, Work Force and Occupational Structure.

Key Words

Population, Growth, Distribution, Density.

Introduction

Population represents the total number of people living in a country. The people who constitute the population act as producers as well as the consumers of goods and services. The significance of studying population lies mainly in estimating the total man power available for production and total amount of goods and services required for their consumption. The science which deals which the study of population is called as Demography. The population distribution of Kashmir division is highly uneven. The distribution and density of population of Kashmir valley differ from district to district and from micro to meso-regions. As per the census of 2011 the total population of Kashmir division is 68.88 million. About 59% of population lay in four districts of Kashmir division namely Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramullah and Kupwara. The rest of six districts made the 40% of population of Kashmir division. The average density of population in Kashmir division is 43 people per sq. km against the state, which has 123 persons per sq. km. The growth of population in Kashmir division shows wide variation from district to district. The overall growth of population from last one decade (2001-2011) in Kashmir division is 16.91 million. The population in 2001 was 51.96 million which increases by 32.56% and reaches up to 68.88 million in 2011. In the Population Census of 2011 it was revealed that the sex-ratio in Kashmir division in 2011 is 902 females per 1000 of males. The Sex Ratio 2011 shows a downward trend from the census 2001 data. Census 2001 revealed that there were 914 females to that of 1000 males. In Kashmir division about 68.40% of population lives in rural area and 31.60% in urbanized areas as per 2011 census.

The average literacy rate of Kashmir division in 2011 is 61.56 per cent, which is below the states average of 67.16%. The Kashmir division is characterized by a low participation rate. The analysis of table shows that about 32% (main + marginal) is the workforce in 2011.in these 32% the share of main workers is 19% and the marginal workers are 13 per cent who worked for less than 183 days in a year. The non-workers constituted about 67 per cents of the total population. It is revealed that about 40 percent of the work force is engaged in agriculture, out of which 23% were cultivators and 17% were agricultural labour, 54% were engaged in other workers category and about 6% were engaged in household industry.

Methodology and database

The entire data is used for present study has been obtained from secondary source of data, collected from statistical hand book of Kashmir valley. In order to analyze the cultural setting of Kashmir valley, simple sophisticated statistical diagrams and cartographic techniques have been used. For preparing an inventory cultural profile at two point of time, simple method of percentage has been used.
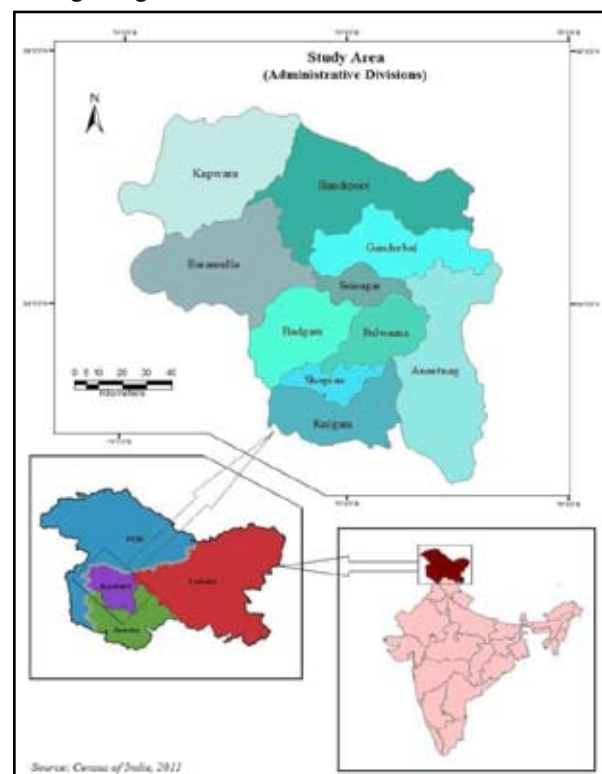
Objectives

The present study has set to archive following objectives:-
(1) To examine the Distribution, Density and Growth Pattern of population in Kashmir valley.
(2) To study the social characteristics of Kashmir valley.

Study Area

The area selected for the present study is Kashmir division. The valley of Kashmir has unique geographical location situated between $33^0 20^/$ N to $34^0 54^/$ N latitude and $73^0 55^/$ E and $75^0 35^/$ E longitude. The state of Jammu & Kashmir is a natural and inevitable destination. The main valley is 100 km wide and 15520.3 km in area. The Himalayas divide the Kashmir valley from Ladakh while the Pir-Panjal range which encloses the valley from west and south separates it from the plain of north India. The average height is about 1850 m above mean sea level.
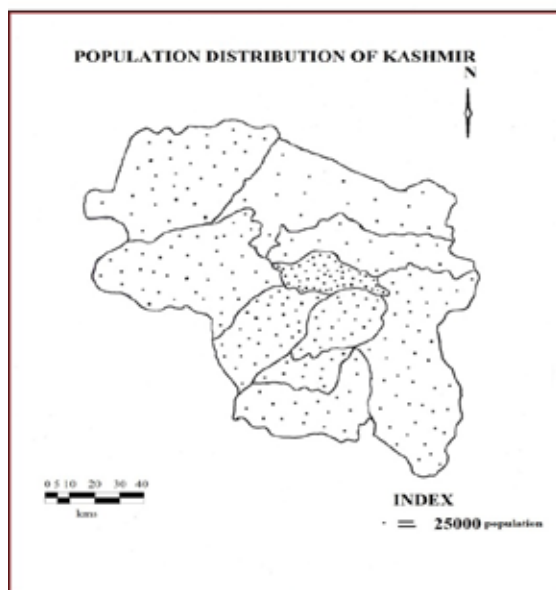

Source: Census of India, 2011

Population Distribution

The population distribution of Kashmir division is highly uneven. The distribution of population of Kashmir valley differs from district to district and from micro to meso-regions. A variety of factors have been responsible for uneven distribution of population in the Kashmir valley namely as; Physical factors, Socio-Cultural factors, Economic factors as well as Demographic factors. As per the census of 2011 the total population of Kashmir division is 68.88 million. About 59% of population lay in four districts of Kashmir division namely Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramullah and Kupwara. The rest of six districts contribute only 40% of total population of Kashmir division. The distribution of population by tehsils of Kashmir division is given below in table:-

Table 1 : Distribution of Population by Districts Kashmir Division

S.no	Districts	Area(sq. km)	Population
1	Anantnag	3574	1078692
2	Kulgam	410	424483
3	Pulwama	1086	560440
4	Shopian	312	266215
5	Srinagar	1979	1236829
6	Ganderbal	259	297446
7	Budgam	1361	753745
8	Baramullah	4243	1008039
9	Bandipore	345	392232
10	Kupwara	2379	870354
	Kashmir division	15948	6888475

Source:- census department 2011

Analysis

The table 1 shows that there is wide variation of population distribution from district to district. The district Srinagar is highly dense populated district out of ten districts of Kashmir division with 17.95% population, followed by Anantnag district with

15.65% Population, Baramullah district with 14.32% Population, Kupwara district with 12.64% Population, Budgam district with 10.95% Population, Pulwama district with 8.14% Population, Kulgam district with 6.16% Population, Bandipora district with 5.69% Population, Ganderbal district with 4.32% Population and least sparsely dense district is Shopian with 3.86% Population. The reason of high population in Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramullah and Kupwara is because of large area in these districts and also because of previous demarcated districts of Kashmir division. The low population in Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Ganderbal and Bandipora is because these are newly demarcated district (2009) and because of having low area.
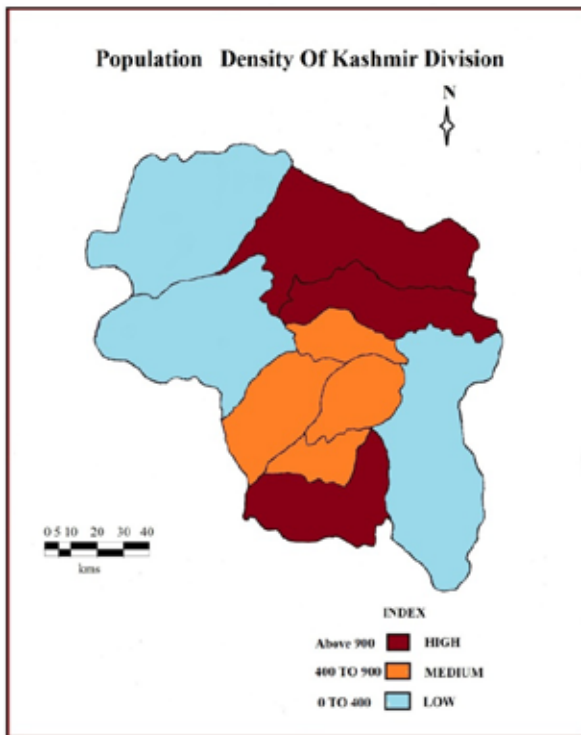
Population density

The number of people in relation to the space occupied by them is known as population density. The simplest measure, crude density of population is the number of people per sq. kilometers or to per unit area and is most useful for small units such as districts and blocks rather than state or country. The average density of population in Kashmir division is 43 people per sq. km against the state, which has 123 persons per sq. km .The density of population in the Kashmir division, may be said as sparse. However there is a significant variation in the average density of population. The density of population by districts of Kashmir division is given below in table:-

Table 2 : Density of Population by Districts Kashmir Division

S.no	Districts	Density
1	Anantnag	303
2	Kulgam	1035
3	Pulwama	516
4	Shopian	853
5	Srinagar	625
6	Ganderbal	1148
7	Budgam	554
8	Baramullah	338
9	Bandipore	1137
10	Kupwara	366
	Kashmir division	43

Source:- Census Department 2011

Population Density Of Kashmir Division

of population are intimately related. The growth rate of population of Kashmir division is shown in table given below as under:-

Table 3 : Decadal Growth of Population Kashmir division

S. No	Districts	2001	2011	Decadal variation	% of variation
1	Anantnag	778408	1078692	+300284	+38.58
2	Kulgam	394026	424483	+30457	+7.73
3	Pulwama	441275	560440	+119165	+27.00
4	Shopian	21332	266215	+54883	+25.97
5	Srinagar	1027670	1236829	+209159	+20.35
6	Ganderbal	127907	297446	+79539	+36.50
7	Budgam	607181	753745	+146564	+24.14
8	Baramullah	843892	1008039	+164147	+19.45
9	Bandipore	304886	392232	+87346	+28.65
10	Kupwara	650393	870354	+219961	+33.82
	Kashmir	5196970	6888475	+1691505	+32.55

Source:- Census department 2011

Analysis

From the above table 2 it is revealed the average density of Kashmir division is 43 persons per sq km. Out of ten districts of kashmir division, the highest density is found in Ganderbal district with 1148 persons per sq km, followed by Bandipora with 1137 persons per sq km, Kulgam with 1035 persons per sq km, Shopian 853 persons per sq km, Srinagar with 625 persons per sq km, Budgam with 554 persons per sq km, Pulwama with 516 persons per sq km, Kupwara with 336 persons per sq km, Baramullah with 338 persons per sq km and least density district of Kashmir division is Anantnag district with 303 persons per sq km. In general all the ten districts of Kashmir division have high density with respective of Kashmir division. A variety of physical factors have been responsible for high as well as low density in Kashmir division. The most important Physical factors affecting the density of population are climate, fertility of soil, availability of water, configuration of land, and geographical location. The favorable of all above physical factors leads to high density in several districts of Kashmir division and unfavorable conditions leads to low density in other districts of Kashmir division. Apart from Physical factors, Socio-cultural, economic as well as demographic factors are responsible for high and low density in districts of Kashmir division. But in general, the high density in Ganderbal, Kulgam and Bandipora small area with respective of population is one of the major cause of high density in these districts and low density in Anantnag, Baramullah and Kupwara is due to large area of these districts in kashmir division.
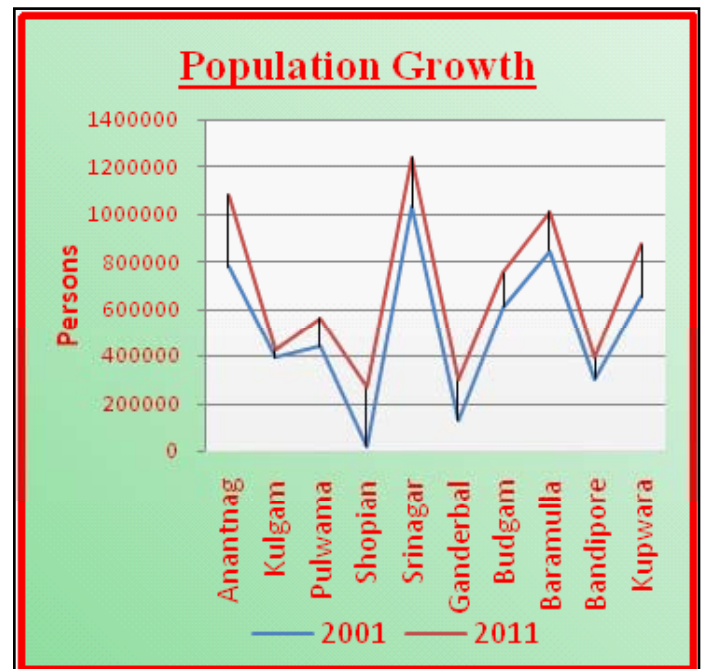
Growth of population

The size of population and its growth trend have a direct bearing on the economic development, social well-being, cultural values and political stability of a region. Population growth is thus pivotal to the regions demographic dynamism. It is this attribute with which all the change in population can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of population other characteristics

Analysis

The growth of population in Kashmir division shows wide variation from district to district. The table above shows that the overall growth of population from last two decades (2001-2011) in Kashmir division is 16.91 million. The population in 2001 was 51.96 million which increases by 32.56% and reaches up to 68.88 million in 2011. There is wide variation in population growth from district to district, the analysis of table shows Anantnag district has highest population growth of 38.58% and district Kulgam has lowest population growth of 7.73%, the other districts with high growth rate are Ganderbal 36.50%, Kupwara 33.82% these are three districts with growth rate above 30%, the rest of district having population growth between 20% to 30% are Bandipora 28.65%, Pulwama 27.00% , Shopian 25.97%, Budgam 24.14% and Srinagar 20.34%. Baramullah and Kulgam are two district with growth rate below 20% 19.45% and 7.73%. The reason of having high population growth in Kashmir division is

economically poor people, religious influence and less knowledge about family planning. Medicines used to control population are also not available up to satisfactory level. Having largest share of rural population, people take less interest towards controlling population.
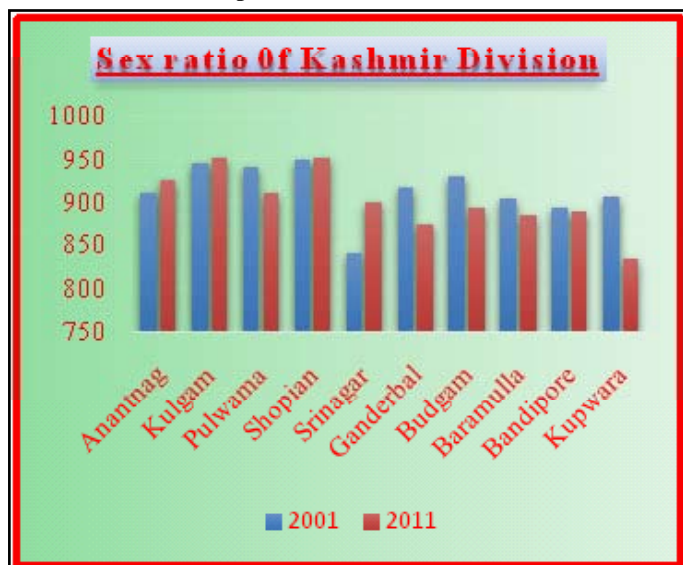
Sex ratio

Sex ratio is used to describe the number of females per 1000 of males. Among various elements of population composition, sex-composition holds a prime place for population geographers. The separate data for males and females are important for various types of planning and for the analysis of other demographic characteristics such as natality, mortality, migration, marital status, economic characteristics etc. The Kashmir division sex-ratio is given below in a table as under:-

Table 4 : District wise Sex ration of Kashmir division

S. No	Districts	2001	2011
1	Anantnag	911	927
2	Kulgam	945	951
3	Pulwama	942	912
4	Shopian	950	951
5	Srinagar	841	900
6	Ganderbal	917	874
7	Budgam	931	894
8	Baramullah	905	885
9	Bandipore	894	889
10	Kupwara	906	835
	Kashmir division	914	902

Source: - Census Department 2001

Analysis

 In the Population Census of 2011 it was revealed that the population ratio in Kashmir division in 2011 is 902 females per 1000 of males. The Sex Ratio 2011 shows a downward trend from the census 2001 data. Census 2001 revealed that there were 914 females to

that of 1000 males. Since Kashmir has seen a decrease in the sex ratio in 2011. The above table shows that sex ratio increases in four districts and decreases in rest of districts. The district which shows increase in sex ratio are Anantnag, Kulgam, Srinagar and Shopian. The decrease of sex ratio in Kashmir division is because of lack of medical attention during the time of pregnancy, less medical institutions, improper transport facility leading sometimes death on the way to hospital and religion orthodoxy.

Rural-Urban Population

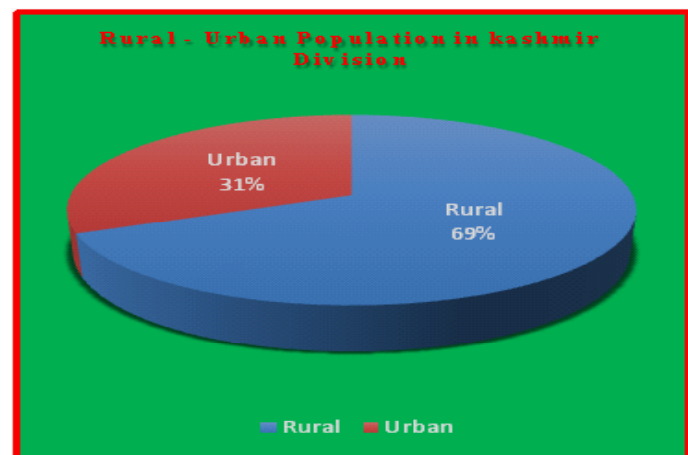All places with a municipality corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. and all places which possess following features

(i)   A minimum population of 5,000.

(ii) At least 75 per cent of the male main workers engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and

(iii) A density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. are known as urban area and all areas which are not categorized as Urban area are considered as Rural Area. In Kashmir division about 68.40% of population lives in rural area and 31.60% in urbanized areas as per 2011 census. The Rural-Urban population of Kashmir Division is shown in below table:-

Table 5 : District wise Rural/Urban Population of Kashmir Division

S.No	Districts	Rural	%	Urban	%
1	Anantnag	795805	16.89	282887	12.99
2	Kulgam	343870	7.29	80613	3.70
3	Pulwama	479978	10.18	80462	3.69
4	Shopian	249855	5.30	16360	0.75
5	Srinagar	17313	0.36	1219516	56.00
6	Ganderbal	250407	5.31	47039	2.16
7	Budgam	655833	13.92	97912	4.49
8	Baramullah	825539	17.52	182500	8.38
9	Bandipore	326871	6.93	65361	3.00
10	Kupwara	765625	16.25	104729	4.80
	Kashmir division	4711096	68.40	2177379	31.6

Source: - Census Department 2011

Analysis

The analysis shows that about 31% lives in urban areas and 69% in rural areas, and the district wise most urban population is in Srinagar district which has about 56% of share in total urban population of Kashmir division, followed by district Anantnag which has 13% of urban population. The rest of districts have below 10% of population in urbanized areas. The reason of being highest urban population in Srinagar is administrative city with vast development. The Anantnag district has 13 % of urban population because Anantnag is second developed district after Srinagar which is famous for its tourist spots and religious shrines. The districts with more rural population are Baramullah, Anantnag, Kupwara and Budgam, the reason is most people are engaged in agricultural activities and another reason is these districts has more mountainous area and marshy land. Another important reason is that these are most politically unstable affected areas which hinders there development.
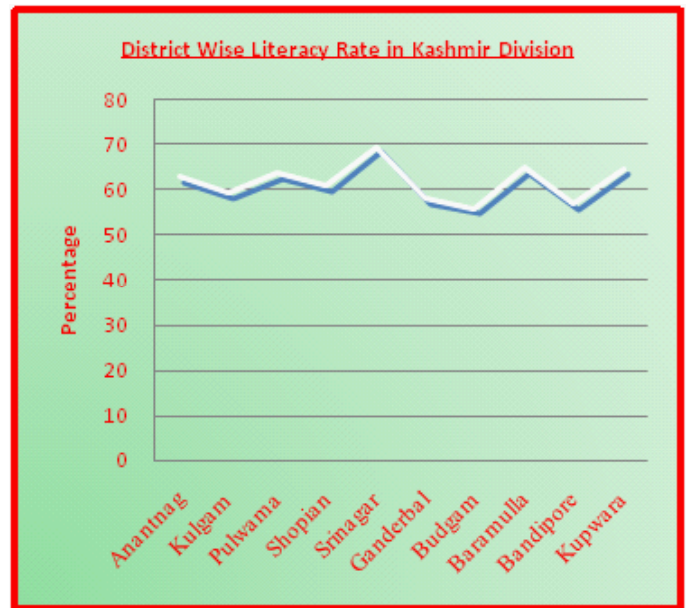
Literacy Rate

Literacy has been defined as the ability to read and write with understanding. Literacy reflects the socio-economic and cultural milieu of a nation, ethnic group or community. The concept of literacy however, varies from country to country. The Indian census has adopted the definition of United Nations commission of population, which is ability to read and write a simple message with understanding in any language as a sufficient basis of classifying a person as literate. The distributional pattern of literacy rate in the Kashmir division has been plotted in a figure below. The average literacy rate of Kashmir division in 2011 is 61.56 per cent, which is below the states average of 67.16%. The reason of having low literacy in Kashmir division is because of terrorist influence from last 25 years and also because of large share of rural population in the region. Another reason which we can say is economic backwardness and less facility of schools in far flung areas. The district wise-wise literacy has been given in table below:-

Table 5 : District wise Distribution of Literacy Rate in Kashmir division

S.no	Districts	Literate persons	Literacy rate
1	Anantnag	545532	62.69
2	Kulgam	209085	59.23
3	Pulwama	293985	63.48
4	Shopian	136500	60.76
5	Srinagar	748584	69.41
6	Ganderbal	143276	58.04
7	Budgam	335649	56.08
8	Baramullah	545149	64.63
9	Bandipore	185979	56.82
10	Kupwara	436954	64.51

Source: - census 2011

Analysis

Analysis of the table shows that Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir has highest literacy rate in Kashmir division which is 69.41% above state average, the reason of having such percentage of literacy is because of urbanized city and more facility of schools. The rest of district have literacy rate below state average. But all the district of Kashmir division has literacy rate above 50 per cent. The literacy rate of district Srinagar (69.41%), Baramullah (64.63%), Kupwara (64.51%), Pulwama (63.48%), Anantnag (62.69%) and Shopian (60.76%) is above 60% and the rest of districts has literacy rate below 60%. The little increase in literacy from last one decade is because of several efforts of government toward improving educational standard in Kashmir region like Serve Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) providing free education up to primary level, improving infrastructure in primary schools etc.

Since the economic development cannot be achieved without literacy, education and technological skill, it is imperative to accelerate the process of literacy and education in Kashmir division. Serious attention is to be paid to educate the younger generation and save them from misguided peoples which have a lot of influence in Kashmir valley.

Work Force

Any group of population consists of workers and non-workers. The workers are referred as manpower. The manpower consists of only those persons who could participate in economically gainful activities in the event of need.
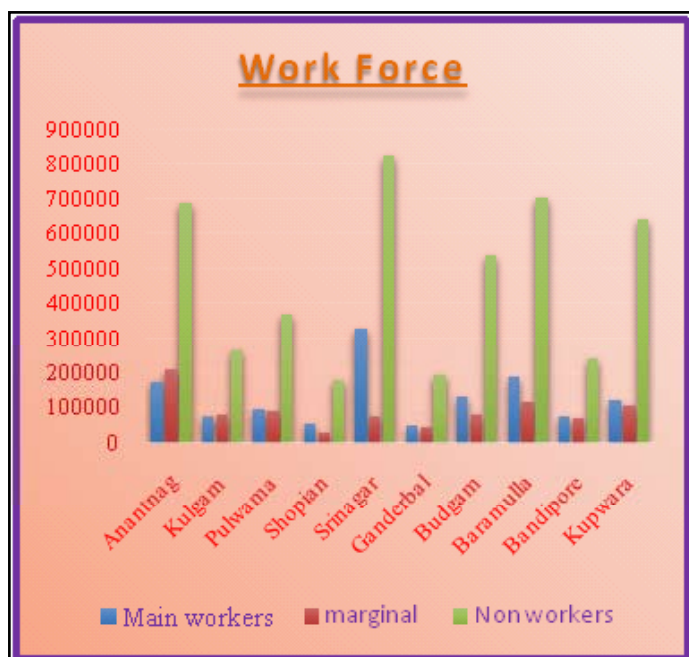
The population of a region is divisible into employed (workers), and unemployed (non-workers), the Indian census divides the entire population into two categories of workers and non-workers. According to the census of India, any person whose main activity was participation in any economically productive work either by his physical or by his mantel activity was classified as worker. Thus, work involved not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction. The workers have been sub-divided into (1) main workers, and (2) marginal workers. The main workers are those who worked in some economic activity for more than six months (183 days). Marginal workers on the other hand, are those who have worked any time at all in the year preceding the enumeration but have not worked for six months in the year. The

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table below gives the detailed study of Work force of Kashmir division:-

Table 6 : Work Force of Kashmir division at district level

S.no	Districts	Main workers	marginal	Non workers
1	Anantnag	176800	212884	689008
2	Kulgam	77812	82178	264493
3	Pulwama	98306	90114	372020
4	Shopian	54703	33018	178494
5	Srinagar	330547	76641	829641
6	Ganderbal	52949	47941	196556
7	Budgam	132003	82863	538879
8	Baramullah	187959	116241	703839
9	Bandipore	75173	74144	242915
10	Kupwara	123837	105227	641290
	Kashmir Division	1310089	921251	4657135

Source: - Census 2011

Analysis

The Kashmir division is characterized by a low participation rate. The analysis of table shows that about 32% (main + marginal) is the workforce in 2011. In these 32% the share of main workers is 19% and the marginal workers are 13% who worked for less than 183 days in a year. The non-workers constituted about 67 per cents of the total population. The low proportion of the workforce and the high dependency ratio in the Kashmir division was mainly because of the high birth rate and orthodoxy in the society which restricts the females to participate in the productive economic activities. It appears that in the tradition bound society of Kashmir of the rural females are not getting proper medical care and education. Consequently, the responsibility of breed earning is mainly on the shoulders of male workers. The district wise workforce table shows that Bandipora, Kulgam, Anantnag, has above 35 percent of workforce. The district Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Ganderbal,

and Baramullah has workforce varies between 30 to 35 per cent. The two districts Budgam and Kupwara has workforce below 30%.

Occupational Structure

Occupational structure means the division of working population in different occupations and professions. In each society, people engage themselves in different productive economic activities. The occupation of an individual refers to his trade, profession, and type of work. The occupational structure of a society is closely influenced by a number of geo-climatic, socio-economic, political factors and human aspirations. The nature and variety of physical resources base, like arable land, forest water and minerals also determine the occupational structure of the people of a region. The major occupations of the workforce of the Kashmir have been classified on several categories. The below mentioned table shows the district wise occupational structure of the Kashmir division as under:-

Table 7 : Occupational Classification of Working Force

Districts	Cultiva-tors	Agri-cultural labour-ers	Workers in house hold Industry	Other workers	Total workers (Main + marginal)
Anantnag	140957	76364	16322	156041	389684
Kulgam	69173	29928	6193	45696	150990
Pulwama	49746	34080	10615	93979	188420
Shopian	47424	10835	3395	26067	87721
Srinagar	12228	10408	20095	364457	407188
Ganderbal	15337	19312	7630	58611	100890
Budgam	55299	36630	29102	93835	214866
Baramul-lah	57495	62246	15084	169375	304200
Bandipora	28232	32882	20484	67719	149317
Kupwara	34680	56757	7946	129679	229064
	510571	369442	136866	1205459	2222340

Source:- Census 2011

Analysis

The analysis of table shows that about 40 percent of the work force is engaged in agriculture, out of which 23 percent were cultivators

and 17 percent are agricultural labour. 54 percent were engaged in other workers category and about 6 percent were engaged in household industry. District wise analysis shows that Shopian has highest number of workforce in agriculture which is about 66 percent fallowed by Kulgam 65 percent, the reason is clear, in these districts there has been more rural population and they are involved in primary activities like apple cultivation and rice cultivation etc. one more reason is less presence of industries. Mostly all the district have more than 40 percent of workforce engaged in agriculture, except Srinagar which is capital city and has wide range of jobs available there. Industries, trade and transport are also one of the reasons of having low number of people in agriculture in Srinagar.

The workers in household industry category is highest in Bandipora 13.71 percent fallowed by Budgam 13.54 percent and in the other districts the percentage is below 10 percent and is ranging between 1 to 5 percent

Srinagar has high number of people engaged in other workers category (90%) which includes manufacturing, processing, services and repair and trade and commerce. Srinagar is followed by Ganderbal and Kupwara having 58 percent and 56 percent respectively. The districts with lowest number of people in this category are Shopian 29 percent and Kulgam 30 percent. The rest of the districts have about 40 to 50 percent of workforce in this category.

Conclusion

The analysis of cultural setting of Kashmir division reveals following points:-

(1) The district Srinagar is highly dense populated district out of ten districts of Kashmir division with 17.95% population, followed by Anantnag district with 15.65% Population, Baramullah district with 14.32% Population, Kupwara district with 12.64% Population, Budgam district with 10.95% Population, Pulwama district with 8.14% Population, Kulgam district with 6.16% Population, Bandipora district with 5.69% Population, Ganderbal district with 4.32% Population and least sparsely dense district is Shopian with 3.86% Population.

(2) It is revealed that the average density of Kashmir division is 43 persons per sq km. Out of ten districts of kashmir division, the highest density is found in Ganderbal district with 1148 persons per sq km, followed by Bandipora with 1137 persons per sq km, Kulgam with 1035 persons per sq km, Shopian 853 persons per sq km, Srinagar with 625 persons per sq km, Budgam with 554 persons per sq km, Pulwama with 516 persons per sq km, Kupwara with 336 persons per sq km, Baramullah with 338 persons per sq km and least density district of Kashmir division is Anantnag district with 303 persons per sq km.

(3) The population in 2001 was 51.96 million which increases by 32.56% and reaches up to 68.88 million in 2011. There is wide variation in population growth from district to district, the analysis of table shows Anantnag district has highest population growth of 38.58% and district Kulgam has lowest population growth of 7.73%, the other districts with high growth rate are Ganderbal 36.50%, Kupwara 33.82% these are three districts with growth rate above 30%, the rest of district having population growth between 20% to 30% are Bandipora 28.65%, Pulwama 27.00% , Shopian 25.97%, Budgam 24.14% and Srinagar 20.34%. Baramullah and

Kulgam are two districts with growth rate below 20% 19.45% and 7.73%.

(4) In the Population Census of 2011 it was revealed that the population ratio in Kashmir division in 2011 is 902 females per 1000 of males. The Sex Ratio 2011 shows a downward trend from the census 2001 data. Census 2001 revealed that there were 914 females to that of 1000 males. Since Kashmir has seen a decrease in the sex ratio in 2011. The district which shows increase in sex ratio are Anantnag, Kulgam, Srinagar and Shopian. The decrease of sex ratio in Kashmir division is because of lack of medical attention during the time of pregnancy, less medical institutions, improper transport facility leading sometimes death on the way to hospital and religion orthodoxy.

(5) The analysis shows that about 31% lives in urban areas and 69% in rural areas, and the district wise most urban population is in Srinagar district which has about 56% of share in total urban population of Kashmir division, followed by district Anantnag which has 13% of urban population. The districts with more rural population are Baramullah, Anantnag, Kupwara and Budgam, the reason is most people are engaged in agricultural activities and another reason is these districts has more mountainous area and marshy land.

(6) Analysis shows that Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir has highest literacy rate in Kashmir division which is 69.41% above state average; the reason of having such percentage of literacy is because of urbanized city and more facility of schools. The rest of district have literacy rate below state average. But all the district of Kashmir division has literacy rate above 50 per cent. The literacy rate of district Srinagar (69.41%), Baramullah (64.63%), Kupwara (64.51%), Pulwama (63.48%), Anantnag (62.69%) and Shopian (60.76%) is above 60% and the rest of districts has literacy rate below 60%.

(7) The analysis of table shows that about 32% (main + marginal) is the workforce in 2011. In these 32% the share of main workers is 19% and the marginal workers are 13% who worked for less than 183 days in a year. The non-workers constituted about 67 per cents of the total population. The district wise workforce table shows that Bandipora, Kulgam, Anantnag, has above 35 percent of workforce. The district Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Baramullah has workforce varies between 30 to 35 per cent. The two districts Budgam and Kupwara has workforce below 30%.

(8) The analysis of table shows that about 40 percent of the work force is engaged in agriculture, out of which 23 percent were cultivators and 17 percent are agricultural labour. 54 percent were engaged in other workers category and about 6 percent were engaged in household industry.

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