

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR.

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Received: June 30, 2018

Accepted: August 15, 2018

ABSTRACT

Housing conditions and amenities reflect a household's quality of life. Housing and household amenities such as source of lighting, safe drinking water, housing assets, separate kitchen, toilet facility reflects a household quality of life. The often used Hindi phrase "Roti, Kapda, Makaan" which describes the man's basic needs which also captures the common man's perception. In modern life, household possessions are both the signs of social status and instruments for a better life. But, still, even after more than 70 years of Independence, majority of Indian people have been deprived of standard housing without access to basic minimum facilities of drinking water, sanitation and public hygiene etc., which required urgent attention. The access to basic amenities like electricity, drinking water, toilet facility and clean fuel are critical determinants of quality of life in most of the developing countries like India. As per 2011 census, 14.9 percent of households have no access to electricity, 36.9 percent have no access to safe drinking water and only 51.2 percent have access to toilet facility. This paper attempts to study the availability of housing and household amenities in the 22 districts comprising both of urban and rural areas. Subsequently, this study categorizes all 22 districts as low, medium and high using a composite score.

Keywords: Housing, Housing conditions, Quality of Life, Spatial Patterns.

INTRODUCTION

A Roof over one's head is a dream that every human being aspires for. While the rich persons create splendid homes for themselves whereas the poor man tries to build himself and his family a shelter be it only a tent (Kachhal, 2017). A stable home is a necessary requirement for life and happiness of every individual or family. For the majority of them their dwelling is the place where they spend best time and where they feel relaxed, secured. The dwelling not only provides shelter and a place to eat, but also provides security, privacy, neighborhood and social status/relations, community, facilities, and control over the environment. It is also the prime base for family and social activities and a form of expression of personality and taste and for enjoyment of leisure activities. Once a house is purchased their dwelling is likely to be their most valuable economic asset and the kind accommodation occupied by a household is an important indicator of socioeconomic status. Households which lack any of the basic amenities or have to live in decaying "slums" are rightly seen as deprived, under stress and becoming homeless is regarded by most individuals and particular by families met with any natural disaster. (Amestoy, 2008) Housing and household amenities play an important role in our day to day life. Housing and household amenities are the basic needs of human beings as it offers shield from weather, place to

bring families and a place to work and also it is fundamental duty of the government to provide affordable homes and housing amenities to everybody. Household assets and amenities reflect a household's quality of life. The day to day lifestyles of the people households by focusing on their consumption patterns through access to amenities such as clean water, sanitation, electricity, separate kitchen and the condition of the houses. The provision of basic services such as piped water, sanitation, electricity has been an important goal of Indian Developmental Planning. It helps in the socioeconomic importance of housing, improvement of housing and the condition of the houses. Housing and household amenities plays a crucial role in the economic as well as in the educational aspect and also helps in the development of a particular area. (Shaw, 2007)

Houseless is a growing major problem across the world in both rural and urban parts due to poverty, unemployment, low income, costly land and building materials, decreasing size of land holdings. In addition to that millions of people without access to the basic amenities have been worsened the housing status. Lawrence (2004) in his paper housing and health studies that, "Housing is a meant to provide shelter and security and is considered a fundamental development process, in which the built environment is created, used and maintained for

the physical, social and economic well-being and quality of life of individuals and households.” As far as the houses are concerned these are just the human structures which are meant to live in, work or store things. However, the term basic amenities refers to the source of drinking water, sanitation, electricity and other basic facilities available to households provided by the governmental and non-governmental bodies. **Nayyar(1997)** examined the housing amenities and health improvement in India and found that that “ housing conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitation, availability of drinking water, sanitation facilities etc. might contribute to health improvement of people and determine quality of life of people live in the society”. All these indicators provide a description of people’s living standard as measured by the basic amenities such as access to water, sanitation, fuel and electricity. **Edelman &Mitra (2006)** in his paper slum dwellers and access to basic amenities and analysed that the availability of basic amenities by observing the prevailing conditions of slum areas which shown a positive relationship between political contact and access to amenities. They also considered that the social capital is effective in generating improved outcome. The social capital that the low income household possesses needs to be nurtured and it should be used as an interest in developing access to basic amenities and improved living conditions. **Bhagat (2011)** assessed urbanization and access to basic amenities in India and analyzed thatthe lack of drinking water, sanitation, toilet facilities is more eminent in rural areas and also in small, medium towns/streets in the urban areas. He also observed that lack of drinking water; sanitation and toilet facilities make people susceptible to various types of disease.

India scenario

Land in India is scare that is the availability of land per person is also decreasing day by day because India has about 17 per cent population of the total population of the world whereas it accounts only 2.5 per cent of the land resources to the total land available on earth (census of India). Density of population is also increasing because India’s population increases with a very fast speed. Urban areas increase with exponential growth rate in term of population increase. This phenomenon becomes a cause of various serious problems like wise shortage of houses and unavailability of household amenities becomes a serious issue of the society. Majority of people have been deprived from some standard housing facilities and basic household amenities.

Rapidly rising population, especially in developing countries is one of the major cause of concerns in the twenty first century. India, currently being the second most populous country in the world after China, is projected to surpass China’s population in 2024 according to Population Division of the United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Simply put, more the people, more is the demand for resources, thus more is the exploitation of already limited resources, hence faster environmental degradation affecting land, water, air and other basic resources at our disposal. This is not a good sign for future generations of India because this burden of overpopulation significantly affects the rate of development. Overpopulation results in social problems like poverty, unemployment, and lower standards of living in India. Standard of life is reflected by housing, living conditions, per capita income and availability of basic facilities to live happy and healthy life.

According to 2011 census of India, 2/3rd households reside in rural and 1/3rd live in urban area. More than 40% of households live in houses having just one room. Unemployment, low income, increased land values and cost of building materials, decreasing size of land holdings and heavy influx of rural migrants is forcing them to live in open on roadside pavements, under flyovers and railway platforms. Although overall, there has been a decline in number of houseless people in rural areas but there has been 20% increase in houseless people in urban areas from last census. Millions of people living in such conditions have further deteriorated the status of housing in the country. The Jammu and Kashmir is the state belongs to hilly regions of the country due to their difficult terrain, variable agro-climatic conditions and distinct socio-culture features, faces problems inhibiting their process of development as compare to the plain areas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

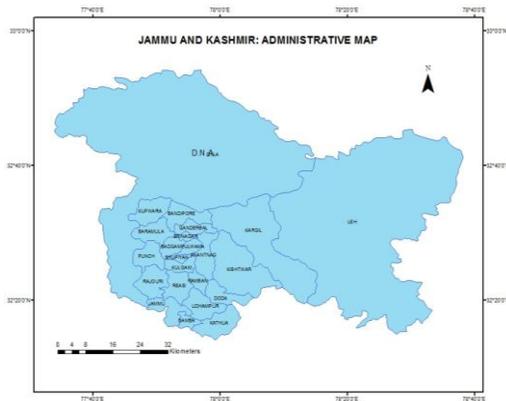
1. To examine the spatial distribution of housing and household amenities.
2. To comprehend the factors associated with spatial variation in housing and households amenities in the study area.

STUDY AREA:

Jammu and Kashmir as a whole has been chosen as a study area. Lying in the lap of the Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir is the northernmost state of India. It consists of three divisions namely- Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. It occupied the central position in the Asian continent and located between 32^o17/ to 37^o06/ N latitudes and 73^o26/

to 80°30' E longitudes. It has two capitals Srinagar is the summer capital and Jammu is the winter capital. The geographical area of the state is 222236sq.km which is 6.4 percent of the total area of the country. Its boundary touches the countries of Tibet in the east, China and Afghanistan in the North and Pakistan in the West. Punjab and Himachal states lie to its south. The state is divided into 22 districts, 82 tehsils and 182 blocks. The physiography of the state is such that low-lying valleys surrounded by mountain ranges characterize and the most important of them is the Kashmir valley that lies 1700 meters above sea level. Some of these valleys are Tawi valley, Chenab valley, Poonch valley. The mountain range adorn the region include Karakoram Range, Zaskar range, Nunkun range and Nanga Parbhat range. The main rivers flowing in the state are Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. Due to geographical location, climate, soil, rainfall and altitude, the vegetation in the states ranges from tropical deciduous to temperate coniferous. The Jammu & Kashmir region has a loamy soil rich in magnesia, in most of the state. The climate in this part of India is naturally cool and extremely cold depending upon the altitude and mountainous topography (Husain, 2015).

Figure 1:



DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present research work is entirely based on secondary sources of data collected from census of India, 2011. In the present analysis, a set of five indicators have been taken into account to determine the level of development in respect of availability of housing and households amenities among twenty-two districts of Jammu and Kashmir State.

For analyzing spatial patterns of housing and households amenities of Jammu and Kashmir,

variable index for each indicator has been calculated by using UNDP formula:-

$$\text{Variable Index} = \frac{Xi - \text{Min } X}{\text{Max } X - \text{Min } X}$$

Where, Xi = Actual value of the variable

Min X = Minimum value of the variable

Max X = Maximum value of the variable

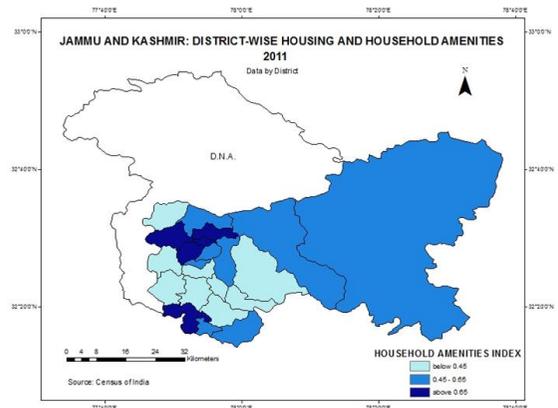
Furthermore, a composite index has been formulated by taking good condition of houses, electricity, safe-drinking water, toilet facilities and separate kitchen index for each district with the aim of demarcating the development scenario of Jammu and Kashmir State. Arc view GIS software (Arc View10.3) has been used for showing the spatial patterns of households and housing amenities in the study area.

ANALYSIS:

The present paper is an attempt to analyze the spatial pattern of housing and households amenities in Jammu and Kashmir by taking into the consideration of five indicators namely electricity, safe drinking water, toilet Facilities, Separate kitchen and good condition of houses. By collecting the data on the selected indicators, different patterns have been appeared in the study area.

Spatial Patterns at District Level:

Table no. 1 Total Housing and Household Amenities in Jammu and Kashmir State, 2011



SOURCE: Census of India, 2011

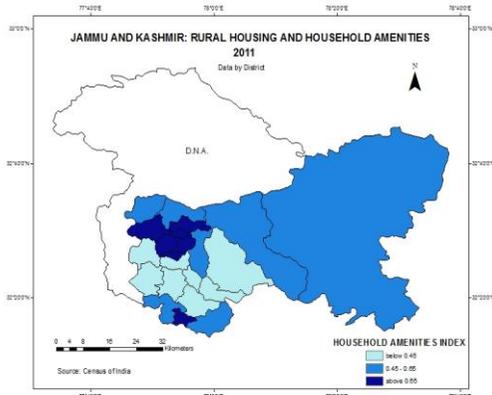
The analysis of Table 1 reveals that there is a wide range of variations in level of development in respect of housing and household amenities in the districts of Jammu And Kashmir State. High spatial pattern of housing and household amenities index is highest in western and central part of Kashmir (comprising of Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, and Ganderbal) and southern part of the state (i.e. Jammu district) having better housing conditions

and perform well in all the selected indicators. The two districts namely Jammu and Srinagar are the administrative capitals and most of the districts of the valley region have better facilities in housing and household amenities having better availability of safe drinking water, electricity, and good condition of houses.

Medium spatial index of housing and household amenities is between 0.45-0.65. The medium index value is mainly observed in eastern and southern districts of the state which mainly comprising of Anantnag, Bandipore, Kargil, Kathua, Leh, Samba, Pulwama and Shupiyan. These districts are performing unevenly in the selected indicators.

Low spatial index of housing and household amenities (below 0.45) is observed in south central part of the state (Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Punch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi and Kulgam) and north-western part of the state (Kupwara). A low household amenity in the hilly districts of the state is due to their difficult terrain, climatic conditions, and socio-economic features facing problems inhibiting their process of development.

Spatial Patterns at Rural Level:



SOURCE: Census of India, 2011

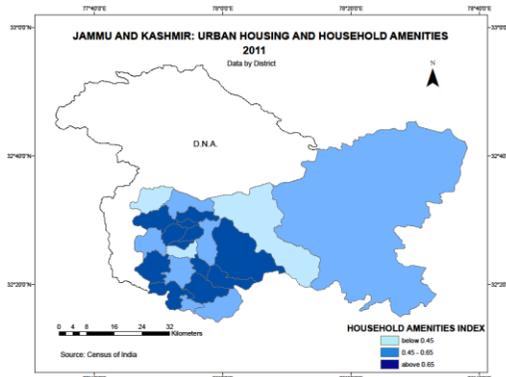
The entire array of variation in respect of rural household amenities has been arranged into three categories namely high (above 0.65), medium (0.45-0.65) and low (below 0.45). The high level of housing and household index is recorded in north-western part of the state (i.e. Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Shoupiyan) and one district of south (i.e. Samba). At provincial level, rural conditions for household amenities in Kashmir Province are slightly better from Jammu and Ladakh province. But still there is a need of improvement in availability of safe drinking water as people in Kashmir mainly depends on untreated water sources like: ponds, lakes and springs for drinking purposes.

Medium spatial index of housing and household amenities is between 0.45-0.65. Medium spatial index is found in northern, eastern and southern part of the state comprising of Anantnag, Bandipore, Shupiyan, Kargil, Leh, Jammu and Kathua districts. Although some indicators have higher index value but indicators like safe drinking water and good condition of houses are showing lower index value due to which these districts are fall under medium category.

The districts with composite score less than 0.45 are categorized under low level of household amenities. The districts under low category are Punch, Rajouri, Ramban, Kathua, Reasi, Udhampur and Kulgam. It is due to lack of awareness which results in shortage of safe drinking water and lack of toilet facilities. In a general way the people in rural area are in great disadvantage and have to suffer many social problems. In the state of Jammu of Kashmir only 48.33 percent have good condition of household which is an area of concern (2011 census). Districts of Kashmir and Ladakh Province, good condition of houses and safe drinking of water are major problem at rural areas where as in Jammu Province lack of toilet facilities is the major problem.

Spatial Patterns at Urban Level:

Table 3: Urban Housing and Household Amenities in Jammu and Kashmir State, 2011



Source: Census of India, 2011

The analysis of Table no.3 clearly show a different scenario in case of urban areas The entire range of variation in respect of urban household amenities has been arranged into three categories that are high (above 0.65), medium (0.45-0.65) and low (below 0.45). An examination of data given in table shows that twelve districts namely Srinagar, Shupiyan, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Baramulla, Jammu, Ganderbal, Udhampur, Pulwama and Budgam lies in western and central part of the state which have high index value. There are seven districts namely Kathua, Bandipore, Anantnag, Samba, Reasi, Punch , Leh,

which fall under the medium level of housing and household amenities index and only 3 districts lies under low index value i.e. Kargil, Kathua, and Kulgam.

This means that the overall condition in urban areas in Jammu and Kashmir is better when compared with rural areas but still in urban areas availability of safe drinking water is a bigger issue and it is due to compact settlements, high population, high density, lack of sanitation facilities and poor drainage facilities which may create a challenge in providing safe drinking water. The urban regions in Jammu Province have better facilities with respect to the other provinces nevertheless it needs to focus on its poor sanitation condition and poor availability of toilet facilities. On the other hand, Kashmir division is lacking behind Jammu division in amenities index. This is result of the higher density than Jammu province (according to 2011 census), poor condition of houses and less availability of safe drinking water and electricity. According to census 2011, state of Jammu and Kashmir have 6.6 as the average size of household but in case of Kashmir its value is above 7 which is higher than state average where as in case of Jammu Division its value is slightly below 6. This leads to overcrowding and congestion in district of Kashmir province which leads to the depletion of quality of living space. Even in Ladakh Province, the conditions of housing and household amenities are not on better side due to poor accessibility.

CONCLUSION

Overall development of housing and households amenities shows different variations in the Jammu and Kashmir state. Access to basic amenities, ensuring well-being of people, is a foundation to the development efforts of any region. In Jammu and Kashmir state, as the results of this study imply, worrisome levels of deprivation prevail in access to basic amenities in rural and urban India, with rural households lagging much behind the urban households, especially in access to drinking water, sanitation and safe drinking water, toilet facilities and poor condition of houses, as highlighted by Census data. The analysis further reveals there is a difference in patterns in hilly areas and plains areas. The situation in plain areas is better because all the five indicators electricity, safe-drinking water, separate kitchen, toilet facilities and good condition of houses perform well in the development scenario related to

housing and household's amenities. It is due to the level of development, employment, accessibility fertile soil, urbanization and infrastructure development. On the other hand the situation is disappointing in hilly areas because of backwardness. The findings of this paper recommend that special and immediate action towards access to drinking water facility, sanitation facilities and drainage arrangement is needed, with more focus on rural areas, addressing the systematic weaknesses of the top-down approach followed by the main policies. The development can be possible by making proper plans and implementation of various government policies launched by the government for rural and urban areas.

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