

JAMMU AND KASHMIR: A PARADISE ON EARTH AND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY!

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Abstract

Housing is one of the basic needs of every human being. It not only provides a shelter to a person and family but also acts as social and psychological force for their well beingness. To measure how good a society is and how developed a nation is many indices are in practise. Almost all of these indices have the component of livable home as one of the parameter. So, to know how well is the condition of citizens of a state or nation is, one can draw an inference from no. of homeless people and types of shelters in that state/nation. In the present paper, we have studied the problem of homelessness and its extent during the census years 2001 and 2011 with special reference to J and K state.

Keywords: Home less ness, Shelter, Roof Material, Census House, Census.

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1. Introduction

“A Comfortable House is the Great Sources of Happiness. It Ranks immediately After Health and Good Conscience” -Sydney Smith

Shelter is one of the basic human requirement in every part of the world. But unfortunately many families are homeless across the world because of different reasons .Major among them are job layoffs, exhausted unemployment benefits establishment of development projects or evacuation of slums. Development projects like Construction of Dams, Power Projects, Creation of Special Economic Zones leads to homeless situation of the affected families of that area. Many researchers have studied the problem of homelessness and its effect on various social and psychological aspects of families and individuals. In the United States there is large variation in age, gender, and ethnicity of homeless people, as well as the causes of homelessness that include many factors major among them are unemployment, disability, mental illness, domestic violence, and poor social networks (Hagen, 1987). In other countries there are distinct categories of homeless people ranging from “street children” (Aptekar, 1994) to sex workers (Biswas-Diener and Diener, 2001).A vast literature exists on homelessness which strongly suggests that there are many problems associated with life without a shelter. Different studies have shown that homelessness is associated with behavioral problems in children (Edleman and Mihaly, 1989; DiBiase and Waddell, 1995), strained family relationships (Votaries et al., 1996; Nyamathi et al., 1999), higher exposure to trauma (Hien and Bukszpan, 1999; Buhrich et al., 2000), increased anger and depression (Marshall et al., 1996), and the negative psychological impact of social stigma (Lankenau, 1999).Thus problem of homelessness affects the all important aspects of well being of a human. There is no doubt that the best way to combat the menace of homelessness is to avoid the reasons of people becoming homeless. But despite all reasons mass evictions continue to take place in populated cities alongside the development of multi-storey housing for ever growing middle classes. One of the primary difficulties in understanding the specific experience of homelessness is the fact that homeless people are a heterogeneous group (Brown, 1996).

This is an issue which affects both developing countries as well as nations with advanced economies. Similarly, in India there are numerous reasons for being without home, without shelter and so are the other social, economic and psychological factors among the population

affected by homelessness. Though, a study has not been done in Jammu and Kashmir to associate the different reasons for the homelessness. But, in the present paper, we have studied the quantum of problem of homelessness spread across in Jammu and Kashmir.

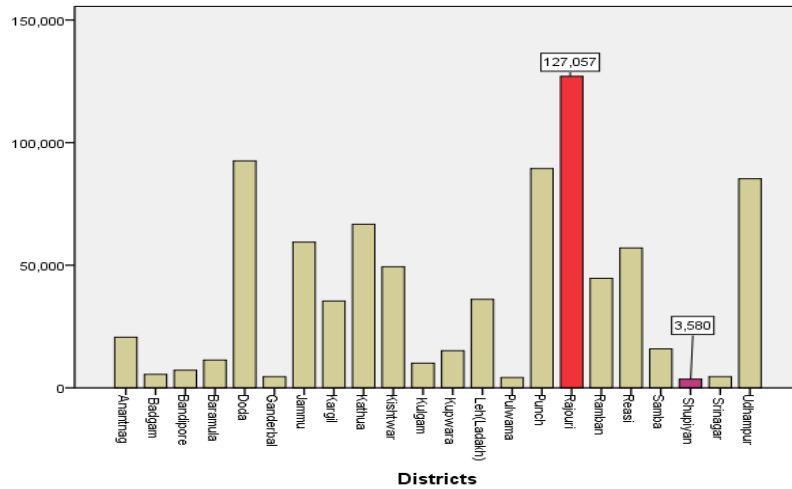
2. Status and spread of homeless

In the Census of India handbook “houseless population” is defined as the persons who are not living in ‘census houses’ which is defined as a structure with roof. It’s not only the status of being houseless or having house but also the condition of house which also matters. As apart from being homeless many houses do not have proper brick made walls or proper material roof. The collected data of Census 2011 show that only 53.2 percent houses of census houses at the national level are in good condition, 41.5 percent are just liveable and 5.3 percent are in dilapidated condition. If compared to Census 2001, it reveals an increase in good condition (3.0 percentage points) census houses but a decrease in liveable (2.8 percentage points) as well as dilapidated (0.2 percentage). So, situation has further worsened for peoples living in liveable and dilapidated conditions houses. As per the census 2011 the population of houseless has declined by 8.8% between 2001 to 2011 and in terms of absolute numbers there are 17.7 lakhs houseless households which means that 4.49 lakhs household (of average household size 3.9) still don’t have any shelter to sleep safely. But the brighter side is that share of such a families compared to total families in the country declined from 0.23% in 2001 to 0.18% in 2011. As per census conducted in 2001 there were 1.94 million houseless people living in India. 3/5th of them live in villages and 2/5th of them live in cities and towns. This figure however appears to be under estimated because an approximation indicates that merely the population of street children and beggar is 18 million respectively. It seems apparently that Jammu and Kashmir is a heaven. But if we look through the data of census an altogether different picture emerges. Apart from housing condition it’s a bold statement to make that “*Half of Jammu and Kashmir owns Telephone but not Toilets*”.

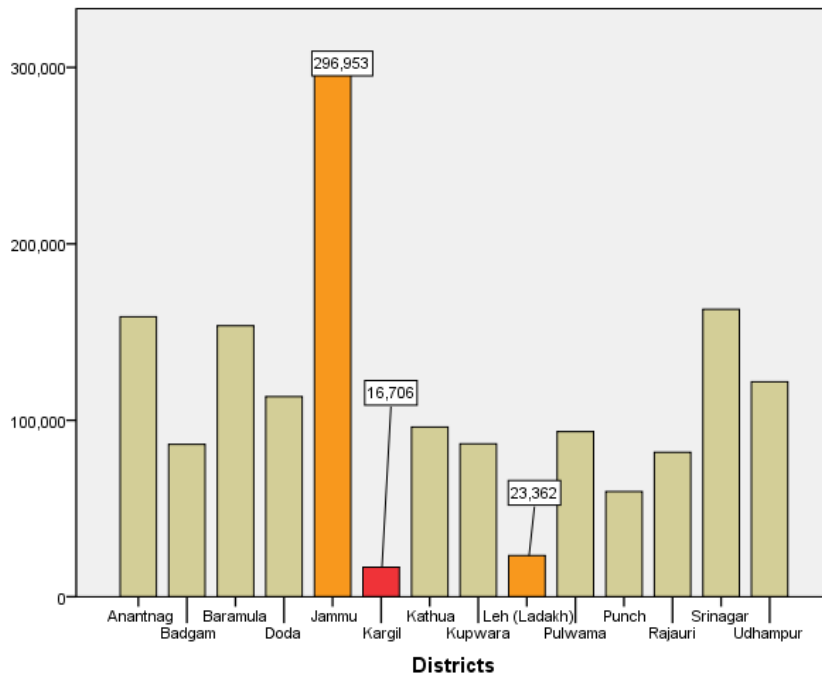
And moreover Jammu and Kashmir is a state where most of the districts receive snowfall in winters and still there are many households which are either houseless or don’t have a proper roof to save them from vagaries of adverse weather. Only 29.04% Indian households live in house whose roof material is made of concrete and rest of population live in houses whose roof

is made of grass/bamboo/wood/mud, machine made tiles, stones bricks et

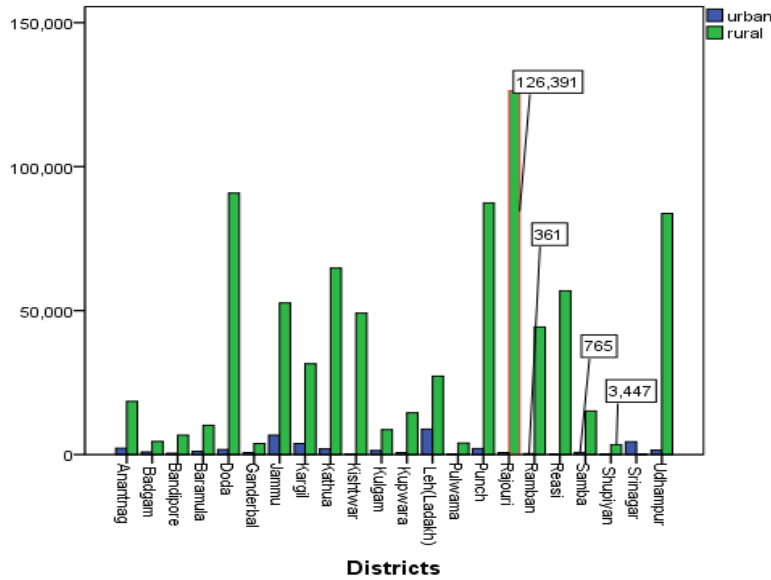
Total % of number of houses made of mud, wood, bamboo in J&K districts (2011)



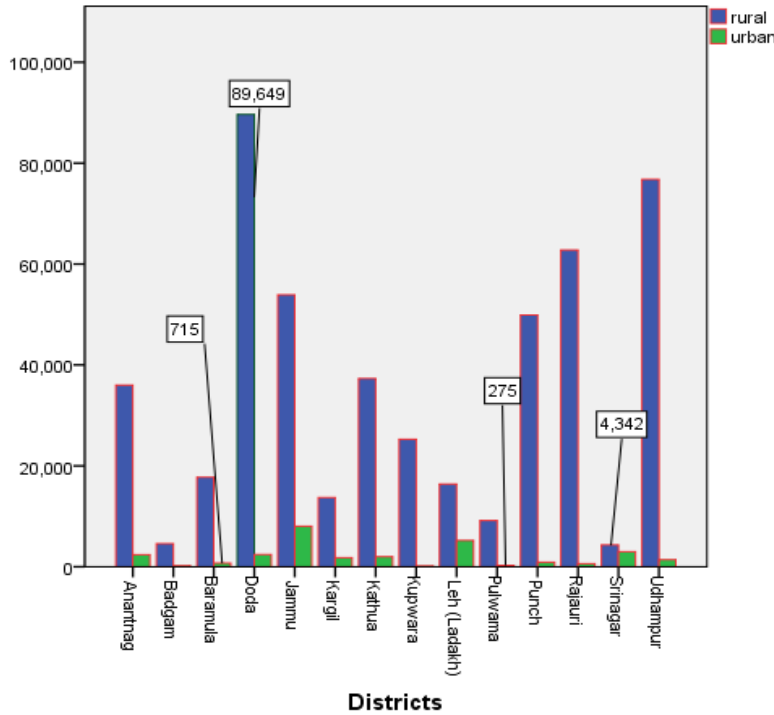
Number of Person having no house in J&K districts (2001)



Number of House whose roof made of mud, wood, bamboo in rural, urban and J&K district(2011)



Number of Person having no house in rural,urban in J&K districts(2001)



S. No	State/District	Person Having No House				Material of r\Roof (Bamboo,Wood,Mud)			
		Housel ess(nu mber)	No. of Person Househol d	Rural	Urban	Total pop	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total%
	2001								
	State - JAMMU & KASHMIR	2,123	12,751	1641	482	1,551,768	43	7	34
1	Kupwara	56	335	56	0	86,655	30	5	29
2	Badgam	134	1,074	114	20	153,613	12	2	3
3	Leh(Ladakh)	232	1,613	82	16413	162,879	27	10	24
4	Kargil	47	390	26	13734	86,339	95	86	93
5	Punch	41	206	35	6	93,616	75	7	64
6	Rajouri	256	1,681	223	33	158,707	90	21	85
7	Kathua	28	66	28	0	23,362	33	6	21
8	Baramula	7	18	7	0	16,706	30	5	29
9	Srinagar	92	534	72	20	113,431	14	3	12
10	Pulwama	184	1,157	157	27	121,859	6	2	6
11	Anantnag	21	126	21	0	59,644	11	3	10
12	Doda	103	612	97	6	81,850	94	87	93
13	Udhampur	363	1,701	236	127	296,953	86	26	81
14	Jammu	559	3,238	487	72	96,154	33	6	21

If we look at the status of homelessness in Jammu and Kashmir, there is an increase of 20% in homeless people from 2001 to 2011, highest being in Kathua it has increased 1744 times, in Baramula it has increased 2733 times. As can be seen from the graphs 1 and 2, Out of the 14

Districts (for comparison purpose we considered), the population of the homeless people has increased in 8 Districts. As weather vagaries affect the living condition but house is protection from these extremities too, in J and K 26% of households live in houses whose roof are made of grass/bamboo/wood/mud, machine made tiles, stones bricks etc., highest being 87.66 % in Kargil District and lowest being 1.92 % in Srinagar District. If we compare the figures of Censuses of 2001 and 2011, we see that percentage in Leh, Poonch and Kathua, has increased to as 63%, 3% and 13% respectively.

Lack of houses also leads to increase in slum population. As per Census 2011, Slum Households are 13.75 million, up from 10.2 million in 2001.

Some of the measures that can be taken up to provide the shelter to homeless are

- Government Sponsored Rental Housing for Homeless and Destitute
- Provision of Night Shelter
- NGOs/Private Sector to help ULB in running those Homes/Shelters
- Convergence of other Govt Services in such units
- Government may support with 60-75% Contribution

Government has launched three mega schemes among them Housing for All believe by 2022 there will not be a single soul without a proper shelter.

Table -3. Persons having no houses, Materials of roof in J and K (2001)

Table-4-Person having no house, Material of roof, Source of drinking water in J and K (2011)

S.No	State/District	Person Having No House				Material of r/Roof (Bamboo,Wood,Mud)			
		Houseless Households	No of Person	Rural	Urban	Total pop	% Total	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
1	State - JAMMU & KASHMIR	3064	19047	1441	1623	3275945	25.82	32.68	5.07
2	Kupwara	75	495	65	10	173293	8.75	9.54	3.18
3	Badgam	130	1080	108	22	176191	3.13	3.007	4.006
4	Leh(Ladakh)	11	46	8	3	41,411	87.11	93.86	71.31
5	Kargil	5	24	5	0	40,384	87.66	92.246	62.33
6	Punch	70	319	59	11	131690	67.91	73.23	16.74
7	Rajouri	239	1076	182	57	191779	66.25	70.749	5.071
8	Kathua	234	1290	219	15	196106	34.041	38.489	7.04
9	Baramula	85	424	55	30	247186	4.589	5.05	2.516
10	Bandipore	22	137	21	1	93,843	7.66	8.720	2.756
11	Srinagar	1212	8646	66	1146	238847	1.915	3.038	1.894
12	Ganderbal	134	959	79	55	73,062	6.249	6.395	5.54
13	Pulwama	127	851	92	35	159509	2.63	2.87	0.86
14	Shupiyan	12	52	12	0	74,969	1.915	3.038	1.894
15	Anantnag	88	750	75	13	255545	8.090	9.516	3.587
16	Kulgam	38	163	33	5	113524	8.88	9.60	6.095

17	Doda	12	53	10	2	121838	75.97	81.166	17.566
18	Ramban	37	157	37	0	77,108	57.909	60.595	8.995
19	Kishtwar	11	53	10	1	70,911	69.663	74.264	5.575
20	Udhampur	44	181	14	30	158161	53.896	63.788	5.675
21	Reasi	35	132	25	10	94,032	60.68	67.44	2.087
22	Jammu	366	1741	192	174	443790	13.385	22.274	3.258
23	Samba	77	418	74	3	102766	15.44	17.61	4.498

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