

# Last Chance Tourism: Terrorists Threats to Commercial Aviation Safety & Security: A Study on Jammu and Kashmir

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**Abstract:** *Conflict of any kind and any nature has for eternity a long collision on the societies and economics of world. Slow development is only accredited to violence in Jammu and Kashmir. Trend in development is not heartening. The ongoing conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir has not only effected economic configuration of state but also effected tourism sector and also resulted in dislocation of non- Kashmiri households. There has been dent to infrastructure and annually economy growth lagged behind as compared to national level, tourism suffered extremely; forest areas and other areas were occupied by security forces. During the turmoil hundreds and thousands of precious lives have been wasted. When we look into the circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir it is not only the precious lives that has been lost, other segments of the state also received a considerable down fall. In addition, loss of human resources resulted in unhappy marriages and people were trying to save young girls and children were very unpromising of their future career. Violence has affected the development scenario in the state of Jammu and Kashmir thereby not only hopeless private investment but also creating obstacles in implementation of developmental policies initiated by public authorities. It is indicated there is a need and yearning for peace, due to which income generation behavior and trade and skill building programs in addition to literacy turn out to be possible.*

**Keywords:** Violence, Economic, Tourism, Human Resources

## 1. Introduction

Set like gleaming diamond, Kashmir is a stunning and fascinating land that abounds with natural beauty. Changing its hues with every season, it is always reasonably beautiful. Blessed with honey-dewed orchards, rippling lakes and splendid blue skies. The Mughals rightly called Kashmir, The Paradise on Earth. This pristine image of Kashmir has been replaced by a much more frightening one. India and Pakistan both claim ownership of Kashmir and this dispute has resulted in two major wars as well as thousands of deaths, human rights violations and fearful acts of aggression. The conditions of violence of Kashmir are beyond the minds of people. Suicide bombings, attacks by militant groups and open fire by security forces are the main reason for hostility. Civilians are killed on daily basis. Every year there limitless reported cases of torture, rape and deaths in custody. Indiscriminate violence has marked the area since 1989. During the turmoil it is not only the expensive and valuable lives that has been lost but it has also affected the economic condition of Kashmir very badly. Unwillingness of businessmen to set up business and decline in the number of tourist count has very significantly affected the economy of the Jammu and Kashmir. During the Pre-militancy era the favorite destination was the beautiful Kashmir valley. The ongoing armed conflict that erupted in early 1990s has hit hard the tourism sector causing the loss of tourist desire for this particular destination. By 1991 there was a virtual shut down of tourism sector, which impacted the economy of the entire state and percolated down to every household. Tourism, which was the main stay in the economy of J&K, was deeply affected by various circumstances created out of the unsettled environment. Kashmir became a risky

place for tourists and unrest became identical. Tourism and its related sectors were battered causing not only the creation of a negative Kashmir image but also loss of livelihood to those dependent on it directly or indirectly. In this study we found a significant relationship between the change in the armed conflict and economy and tourist count of the state.

## 2. Literature Review

Since ancient times, Jammu and Kashmir was among the most popular travel destinations of India due to its natural beauty and being a "seat of great learning" (Mohammad, 2006, p.42). However with the increase of violence the number of tourists dramatically decreased which caused serious problems for the locals who heavily depended on the revenues of tourism. When we look from the psychological point of view of the decision making process of travelers, the decline of tourist arrivals is a logical consequences of rising terrorist activities since people choose their holiday destination according to the most benefits and least costs, i.e. risks (Sonmez & Graefe, 1998) whereby a destination with frequent terrorist attacks are usually perceived as high cost.

At the early stage of the present exercise, an attempt was made to highlight views of eminent scholars in the two fields of terrorism and tourism through a thorough review of the relevant literature. There have been a number of studies on these subjects worldwide and with a particular reference to Jammu and Kashmir. Social scientists, defense analysts, tourism experts, top brass of defense services especially after retirement, counter terrorism specialists and peace researchers have been

attentive to the problems of their concerned areas over a period of time reflecting their views, experiences and thoughts to overcome the challenges thrown by terrorism. From the vast array of published studies, researcher has narrowed down on certain studies, selected the appropriate tool for analysis of the present research work. (Richard Jefferies)

Singh, (1986) while estimating strengths and weaknesses of India, identifies internal unrest due to encouragement to terrorism, China's support to Pakistan, Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, poor communications and inadequate infrastructure in far flung areas and illiteracy as crucial issues which the country faces. Author views peace without strength as incorrect policy and supports the need for a strong force to deter any threat including the use of nuclear weapon of our neighbor. Understanding local population and winning their heart and mind is an appropriate solution to terrorism and re-orientation in the deployment of security forces against terrorism will curtail expenditure in combating terrorism.

Kishore, (1987) adopted functionalist approach as the structure of the government and societies by and large remains the same, argues that language and religion apart from social inequalities and regional disparities are the main issues confronting national integration in India. As no rigid principle can be applied for national integration, the author recommends to chalk out a plan depending upon the problem with due consideration to time and place apart from development, communication and education as vital tools for strengthening the national integration in India.

Established that terrorism as tourism crises. Further random acts of terrorism curtail tourist liberty resulting in cancellation or avoiding risky destinations. Persistence of terrorism activities tarnish the destination image and completely ruin tourism industry. Media's improved ability in covering terror incidents increases the negative impact, especially among viewers. Terrorist choice of the tourist as target is not coincidental as they gain financially, tactically more and disturb tourism demand pattern by damaging positive image of the destination. While offering suggestions for managing the effects of terrorism on tourism, the authors recommend switching to recovery marketing techniques integrated with effective crises management techniques, increasing domestic tourist inflow, devising strategies to increase visitation, encouraging host community experts in image building exercise, working in close co-ordination with media, in-depth understanding between security officials and tourism stakeholders, practicing community policing and preparing to face future crises to avoid wastage of time and resources. Sonmez, Apostolopoulos, & Tarlow, (1999)

Moreover the occurrence of 9/11 gave India the opportunity to involve the Kashmir issue in the current war on Terrorism and "to draw maximum benefit from the changed international opinion in favor of fighting terrorism lock stock and barrel"(Akther 2007). Most of the top scholars believed that the Kashmir conflict which is always perceived as a religious conflict is basically not a religious conflict but a political one. It is only to give it a shape of

terrorism it has been framed into that situation. AS we can easily draw conclusions from the above mentioned statements and there is a great amount of studies (Poland 1988; Toman 1991; Schmid & Jongman 1988 cited in Sonmez & Graefe 1998) support the argument that the actual definition of terrorism cannot be used in the case of Jammu and Kashmir. So in this study we have tried to identify the impact of armed conflict on the economy of state of Jammu and Kashmir and also on the tourism sector.

### 3. Objectives

- Impact of Conflict on the Economy of Jammu and Kashmir
- Impact of Armed Conflict on the Tourism of Jammu and Kashmir

### Impact of Armed Conflict on the Economy of Jammu and Kashmir

Terrorism imposes significant economic effects on societies and will not only lead to direct material damage but also to long term effects on the local economy. The identification and the estimation of these economic effects of terrorism have received broad attention in economic literature and research during the last few decades. Primary economic impact of terrorism "refers to the effects arising from the abrupt aftermath of a terrorist event". These effects include the physical damage of urban objects and the human casualties. There is a direct relationship between the armed conflict and economy of the state. Armed conflict has led to decline in handicraft business, agriculture production and tourism count, especially in the late 1980's (Mahapatra, 2007). Even basic infrastructure like power supply, roads, communication systems and drinking water remain poor because resources are sidetracked to counter-terrorism activities. Likewise silviculture is not possible anymore since Kashmiri's forests have become the perfect hiding place for terrorists. Without doubt there is a clear connection between terrorism and increasing unemployment as well. Statistics have shown that the employment rate decline from 44.3 percent in 1981 to 36.6 percent in 2005. In view of that the government is almost the only employer (due to the lack of private investments), that the fact is not really surprising. Another very important cost of violence is the waste of human talent and loss of creativity that has stunted development and has forced people to think only of survival not of progress. Quality of education has suffered significantly since schools and universities are often closed or even come under fire because of terrorism related activities. The basic cause is not ideological or the jihad factor. Most went because they have nothing here. No future. No job. No hope. If they have hope they would not go. As a matter of fact Jammu and Kashmiri's economic growth could not maintain up with the national level and can display only 5.27 percent annual growth in comparison to the national average of 6.6 percent. In 2011 the per capita income of the state is only two-thirds of the national average in India. The economic cost of the conflict cannot be confined to a particular sector of industry or investment vision but it had affected the important sources of

livelihood of local people such as tourism, horticulture and handicraft industries also. Nevertheless terrorism and violence are not the only cause for Jammu and Kashmir's economic dejection but poor policy management, corruption and lack of infrastructure as well. So in this study we will identify how much terrorism has impact on the economy of the state.

## Impact of Armed Conflict on the Tourism of Jammu and Kashmir

Tourism which was considered to be the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir has been hugely affected by the evolution of the armed conflict. The state which was favored situation of the tourists till 90's has been isolated of the tourists for a very long time. Terrorism often causes cancellations and withdrawal of travel plans to certain destinations; though specify the tourism industry as extremely durable. The negative news by the most of the international and national news channels makes it unthinkable to the people around the world to visit Jammu and Kashmir because the way they present the news makes Jammu and Kashmir the terrorist paradise. The new channels and reports play a very important role, the way they make situation worse in Jammu and Kashmir no one else has contributed to that. They make the dead bodies tentative in their new channels like they are showing some sort of miraculous objects not keeping in view the psychological effects they have on people. In order to avoid this intentional or unintentional damage to the travel business in Jammu and Kashmir and to keep a positive image alive media and officers of the travel industry must co-operate and strictly work together. Consequentially the involvement of the concerned countries of origin increases pressure on the actual targeted government and the world wide publishing of the militant opinions makes travelers the best channel for militants to get the messages and demands across. In this regard also the attack on the tourist is perceived as attack on the government. In Jammu and Kashmir many such incidents have also taken place where the people from the resistance have attacked the local and foreign tourists. So in this study we will also try to identify the armed conflict on the tourism of the state.

## 4. Research Methodologies

### Data Source and Sample Size

In the present study mostly secondary data have been used, data have been collected from various interim and annual reports presented to The Ministry of Tourism, State of Jammu and Kashmir India. In addition to this the data have also been collected from various journals, articles, newspaper archives. The economic condition of the state is represented by the NSDP. The data for number of fatalities due to the armed conflict has been collected from the South Asian war Statistics report. The data has been collected from year 1992 to 2016. The data for all the three variables has been collected for 25 years.

## Statistical Methods and Development of Model

First of all the graphical illustration to make comparison between the percentage change in number of fatalities and the change in NSDP and the percentage change in tourist count. Then a correlation analysis has been conceded to identify the degree of relatedness between the variables. Also the same process has been recurring for the tourist count and NSDP. We have used simple linear regression model to identify the impact of armed conflict on the economic performance of the state. Another regression equation gives us Impact of armed conflict on the tourist count. The two equations can be written as

$$Y1 = \alpha + \beta X + \mu \quad \text{eq. (1)}$$

$$Y2 = \alpha + \beta X + \mu \quad \text{eq. (2)}$$

Here:

- Y1 = NSDP for different years
- Y2 = tourist count for different years
- X = number of fatalities due to arms conflict for different years
- $\alpha, \beta$  = parameters
- $\mu$  = error term

So by this model we will be able to identify the impact of armed conflict on the economy and tourism of Jammu and Kashmir.

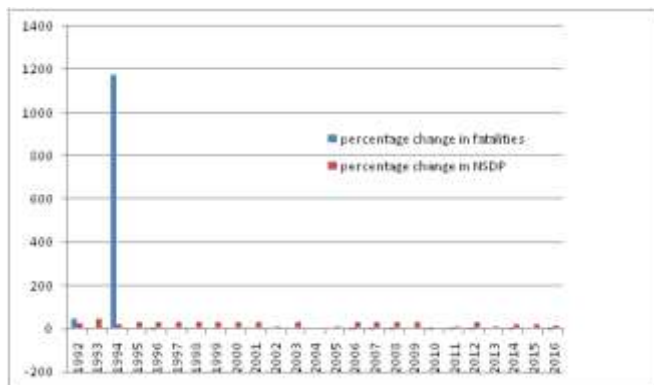
## 5. Results

The results of study can be interpreted in two different steps

### Impact of Armed Conflict on the Economy of the State

We have first of all plotted a graph between the changes in to NSDP and change in the fatalities due to armed conflict and then we have recognized the cause and relationship analysis between the two variables using the simple linear regression model.

While analyzing the impact of armed conflict on the economy of the state from the graphical representation it becomes clear that there is a negative relationship between the armed conflict and the economy of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. From the following graph the situation becomes clearer.



As we can evidently see from the graph that for the years there is high increase in the percentage of fatalities the growth in the economy is very straight and vice versa. The graph makes it clear that relationship between the two variables is opposite to each other, there is a negative correlation of  $-0.5$  which means with the increase in one other is going to decrease. We can also identify from the graph still the economy is not recovering because of economic stability and economy is not recovering to the extend it should have recovered with decline in the percentage of the fatalities. The reason being the sensitivity of the people, because they think the situation in Kashmir is highly volatile and it can change its face anytime. So most of people are unwilling to invest their money in Jammu and Kashmir and also the tourists have still in mind and they are not ready to risk their lives.

Now to identify the extent to which the armed conflict has affected the overall tourism count a regression is being run between the two variables to identify the extent of the impact.

Here:

$$Y1 = \alpha + \beta X + \mu \quad \text{eq.(2)}$$

- $Y1$  = NSDP of the state per year
- $X$  = number of fatalities due to armed conflict per year
- $\alpha, \beta$  = parameters
- $\mu$  = error term

The regression model of the equation also comes up with the considerable results. The model has been tested for the different assumptions. The impact of armed conflict on the economy of the state will be highlighted from the following estimated regression equation using OLS regression model. The fitness of the model was calculated through  $R^2$  and the value of  $R^2$  was found to be  $0.65$  which means model explains  $65\%$  of the change in one variable with respect to the other.

$$Y1 = 317.29 - 0.065X$$

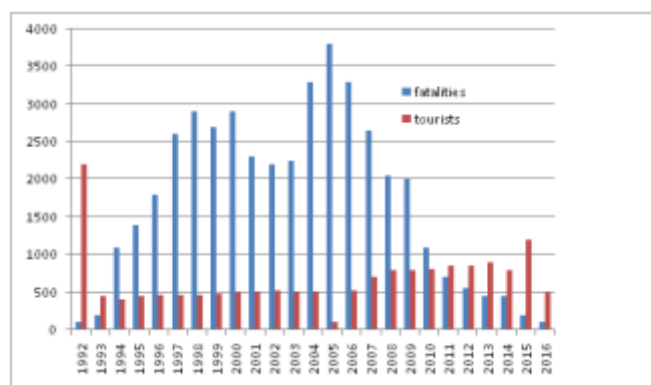
The estimated equation provides us information that with every  $1\%$  increase in the violence that means with every percent increase in the violence there will be  $0.7\%$  decrease in the NSDP of the Jammu and Kashmir state. The result was found to be significant at  $5\%$  level of significance.

This means there is a very significant impact on the economy of Jammu and Kashmir by this armed conflict.

### Impact of the Armed Conflict on the Tourism Count of the State

In this section of study we are trying to identify the impact of armed conflict on the tourism of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We have first of all plotted a graph between the tourism count and number of fatalities due to armed conflict and then we have identified the cause and relationship analysis between the two variables using linear regression.

The following graph clearly shows a negative relationship between the two variables as with positive change to the number of conflicts it is radically reducing the tourist count as we can clearly see from the graph. While we have identified the correlation between the two there were found to be negatively correlated. A negative correlation of  $-0.64$  was found between the two variables which is very high value. As tourism has been originate to be one of the most important sectors of Jammu and Kashmir economy the decline in this sector has significantly affected the overall economy of the state.



- Number of fatalities per year
- Total tourists visited per year in thousands

Now to identify the extent to which the armed conflict has affected the overall tourism count a regression is being run between the two variables to identify the extent of the impact.

Here:  $Y2 = \alpha + \beta X + \mu \quad \text{eq.(2)}$

- $Y2$  = NSDP of the state per year
- $X$  = number of fatalities due to armed conflict per year
- $\alpha, \beta$  = parameters
- $\mu$  = error term

When the regression was run between the two variables the results were found to be statistically significant at  $1\%$  level of significance. The model has been tested for the different assumptions. The impact of armed conflict on the economy of the state will be highlighted from the following estimated regression equation using OLS regression model. The fitness of the model was calculated through  $R^2$  and the value of  $R^2$  was found to be  $0.64$  which model explains

64% of the change in one variable with respect to the other. So the final estimated regression model will be  $Y_2 = 1096.076 + -.232 + \mu$

The following model suggests that with every 1 % change in the number of fatalities there is a negative change of .232%. This has also been exposed by the graph clearly which shows a negative correlation between the two. So from these results we have found that tourism is very heavily exaggerated by the armed conflict and also we have qualified the impact of every unit increase in the conflict.

## 6. Limitation of the Study

The study has been conducted for whole state of Jammu and Kashmir but when we look at the condition of Jammu and Kashmir we understand that armed conflict is mostly confined to the Kashmir province only. Also we have taken overall economic condition into consideration we can also look into different sectors like tourism industrial growth etc. Further study can make an elaborative differentiation between the effects on the three provinces of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to make it more specific.

## 7. Implication

The implication of the study is very broad. It can be used as government to make better necessities to tackle these issues of armed conflict and form new policies and rules. It can also be used to make people alert about what they have lost during previous 25 years so that they think of better future without the armed conflict. This will also give a message to the other parts of the world about the economic effects of the armed conflict. This will also encourage the researcher to work on this topic and particularly on the state of Jammu and Kashmir and identify various other aspects of conflict.

## 8. Conclusion

Violence has affected the development of State, as it discourages private enterprises to invest and creates obstacles in implementation of developmental activities. So in this study we have tried to identify to what extent the armed conflict has an impact on the economy of the state. So to identify this we have taken data of last 25 years right from the time when the conflict started of three important variables which include NSDP of the state. Number of fatalities per year and tourism count per year. First of all we have used NSDP as to measure the overall economy of the state and number of fatalities as proxy for the condition of the armed conflict. Also the number of tourist count of last 25 years has been collected from the website of J&K tourism. So the three variables were major elements of the [11]m)

study. First we have tried to identify the impact of armed conflict on the economy of state and it has been clearly found that there is a negative impact on the economy of state by the armed conflict and the cause and effect relationship was found using linear regression model. It was found that with every unit increase in the armed conflict decrease the NSDP by 0.65 units. Also when we tried to identify the relationship between the armed conflict and tourism of the state we have found a very significant negative correlation between the two. A negative correlation of 0.65 was found to be present between the two variables. While analyzing the impact of armed conflict on the tourist count of the state it was found to be having very high impact. The regression results imply that with every one unit increase in the armed conflict there is a decline of .232 units in the tourist count. Thus supports the results which were interpreted by the graphical representation.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has really suffered a huge loss due to the armed conflict from the last 25 years and this thing must be made clear that the conflict is not going to help the state any way nor it is going to help the India which is spending a huge chunk of its defense budget only in Kashmir. So a better mutual solution should come out so that the state of Jammu and Kashmir can flourish in near future.

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