



A Comparative Study Of The Social Mobility And Social Stratification Among The Kashmiri Tribal And Non-Tribal Populations

Firdous Ahmad Dar Research scholar RIMT University.

Dr. Suneet Professor RIMT University.

Abstract: - This study investigates social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations in India. The research design uses a mixed-methods approach, to collect data. The findings reveal significant differences in social mobility and social stratification between the two populations, with tribal communities facing greater barriers to upward mobility. Factors such as education, employment, and access to resources play a significant role in shaping social mobility and stratification. The study highlights the need for policies and interventions that address the unique challenges faced by tribal communities in India, including improving access to education and economic opportunities.

Keywords :- social mobility, social stratification, Kashmiri tribal population, non-tribal population, India, mixed-methods approach, socio-economic conditions, education, employment, access to resources, policies, interventions, social inequality, social dynamics

Introduction:-

Social mobility and social stratification are complex and interconnected concepts that have significant implications for individuals and societies.(Grusky, 2019) In India, these concepts are particularly relevant in the context of the tribal population,(Kerbo, 2006) who have historically been excluded and marginalized from mainstream society. The state of Jammu and Kashmir, located in the northern region of India, is home to a large population of tribal communities, known as the Scheduled Tribes.(Dr. Javaid Rahi, 2016) These communities have a unique cultural identity and have been living in the region for centuries. However, they have also faced significant challenges in terms of socio-economic development, access to education, and political representation.(Aasif Ali Naikoo,Shashank Shekhar Thakur, & Tariq Ahmad Guroo, 2018)

The aim of this study is to examine the social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations, and to identify the factors that contribute to these phenomena. Specifically, the study will explore the following research question: How does social mobility and social stratification differ between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations?

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To compare social mobility and social stratification between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations
- To analyze the factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among the two populations
- To compare access to education, employment, and other socio-economic opportunities between the two populations

The significance of this study lies in its potential to contribute to the existing literature on social mobility and social stratification in India, specifically in the context of the Kashmiri population. By exploring the differences between the tribal and non-tribal populations, this study will provide insights into the challenges faced by the tribal communities in terms of socio-economic development and political representation. The findings of this study may also have implications for policy and practice, as they could inform the development of more effective interventions to address the issues faced by these communities.

Overall, this study will contribute to a better understanding of the social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations, and will shed light on the factors that contribute to these phenomena.

Literature Review:

Social mobility and social stratification are concepts that are closely intertwined, and are particularly relevant in the context of tribal and non-tribal populations in India. (Sorokin, 2019) Social mobility refers to the movement of individuals or groups from one social class to another, (Janowitz, 1956) while social stratification refers to the hierarchical arrangement of individuals or groups within a society based on factors such as wealth, status, and power. (Chekki, 1970)

In India, social stratification is a pervasive feature of society, with a complex system of caste-based hierarchies that have historically led to exclusion and marginalization of certain groups, particularly tribal communities. (Chekki, 1970) However, in recent years, there has been a growing focus on social mobility as a means to address these issues and promote greater equality and social justice. (Vaid, 2018)

Among the tribal and non-tribal populations in India, there are significant differences in terms of social mobility and social stratification. Tribal communities are generally considered to be at a lower level of the social hierarchy, and face significant barriers to upward mobility. Non-tribal populations, on the other hand, have historically enjoyed greater access to education, employment, and other socio-economic opportunities, which has allowed for greater social mobility. (Grusky, 2019)

In the context of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a significant population of tribal communities known as the Scheduled Tribes. These communities have a unique cultural

identity and have historically faced significant challenges in terms of socio-economic development, access to education, and political representation.(Irshad et al., 2013)

Existing research on social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri population is limited, particularly in comparison to other regions of India. However, some studies have highlighted the significant disparities in access to education and employment between tribal and non-tribal populations in the region. For example, a study by Andrabi in 2013 found that tribal populations in Jammu and Kashmir had lower levels of educational attainment and were more likely to be engaged in low-paying, manual labour jobs, while non-tribal populations had greater access to higher education and white-collar jobs. (Andrabi, 2013)

Another study by Sofi (2013) found that tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir faced significant discrimination and exclusion in terms of political representation and access to basic services such as healthcare and sanitation. This study highlighted the need for more effective policies and interventions to address these issues and promote greater social mobility and equality.(Sofi, 2013)

Despite these studies, there remain significant gaps in the current literature on social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri population. Specifically, there is a need for more research that explores the factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among tribal and non-tribal populations in the region. This could include factors such as education, employment, caste-based discrimination, and political representation.

In addition, there is a need for more research that examines the potential implications of social mobility and social stratification for policy and practice. This could include exploring the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions aimed at promoting greater social mobility and equality, and identifying areas for improvement.

Overall, the existing literature highlights the significant challenges faced by tribal communities in terms of social mobility and social stratification in Jammu and Kashmir, and emphasizes the need for more research and interventions to address these issues. By gaining a better understanding of the factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri population, it may be possible to develop more effective policies and interventions to promote greater social justice and equality in the region.

Methodology:

- The research design chosen for this study is a comparative research design. A comparative research design involves the comparison of two or more groups or populations with the aim of identifying similarities and differences between them.(Edwards-Jones, 2014) In this study, we will be comparing the social mobility and social stratification of the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations.

- The primary data for this study was collected through a survey questionnaire. The survey questionnaire was designed to collect information about the social mobility and social stratification of the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. The questionnaire consisted of both open-ended and closed-ended questions.
- The sample size for this study was 250 respondents.(Sharma, 2017) The respondents were selected using a combination of purposive and random sampling techniques. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample of tribal and non-tribal populations in the Kashmir region.
- The data collected from the survey questionnaire was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the social mobility and social stratification of the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. Inferential statistics were used to test for significant differences between the two groups. The data analysis was conducted using statistical software such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The results of the data analysis were interpreted and discussed in the subsequent sections of the research paper

Findings:

Comparison of Social Mobility and Social Stratification between the Kashmiri Tribal and Non-Tribal Populations:

- The findings of the study indicate that there are significant differences in the social mobility and social stratification between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. The non-tribal population has a higher social mobility as compared to the tribal population. The non-tribal population also has a higher social status and occupies more positions of power and influence as compared to the tribal population.

Analysis of the Factors that Contribute to Social Mobility and Social Stratification Among the Two Populations:

- The study identifies several factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. Education, employment, and access to resources are the most significant factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification. The non-tribal population has better access to education and employment opportunities as compared to the tribal population. This gives them an advantage in terms of social mobility and social stratification.

Comparison of Access to Education, Employment, and Other Socio-Economic Opportunities between the Two Populations:

- The study finds that the non-tribal population has better access to education, employment, and other socio-economic opportunities as compared to the tribal

population. The non-tribal population has more educational institutions, more job opportunities, and better access to resources as compared to the tribal population. This gives them an advantage in terms of social mobility and social stratification.

The findings of the study indicate that there are significant differences in the social mobility and social stratification between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. The non-tribal population has a higher social mobility and occupies more positions of power and influence as compared to the tribal population. The study also identifies several factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among the two populations, including education, employment, and access to resources. The non-tribal population has better access to these factors as compared to the tribal population.

Discussion:

Interpretation and Analysis of Findings:

- The findings of the study suggest that there are significant differences in the social mobility and social stratification between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. These differences are mainly due to differences in access to education, employment, and resources. The non-tribal population has better access to these factors, which gives them an advantage in terms of social mobility and social stratification. The study also reveals that social mobility and social stratification are closely linked and that access to education and employment opportunities is crucial for upward mobility.

Comparison with Existing Literature and Research:

- The findings of the study are consistent with existing literature and research on social mobility and social stratification in India. Studies have consistently shown that education and employment are the key factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification. However, the study also highlights the need for further research on the specific factors that contribute to social mobility and social stratification among tribal populations in India.

Implications of Findings for Policy and Practice:

- The findings of the study have several implications for policy and practice. The study suggests that policies aimed at promoting social mobility and social stratification should focus on improving access to education, employment, and resources for tribal populations. This could be achieved through targeted interventions such as affirmative action policies, reservation in educational institutions and government jobs, and support for entrepreneurship and small businesses. The study also highlights the importance of addressing the underlying structural issues that contribute to social inequality and exclusion.

Conclusion: - This research paper aimed to conduct a comparative study of the social mobility and social stratification among the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. The results of the data analysis indicated that there were significant differences in the social mobility and social stratification between the Kashmiri tribal and non-tribal populations. The findings of this study have significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders in the region. It highlights the need for targeted interventions and policies that aim to reduce the disparities in social mobility and social stratification between the two groups. These policies should focus on improving access to education and job opportunities, promoting cultural diversity and inclusion, and addressing historical injustices and marginalization.

In addition, this study also contributes to the existing literature on social mobility and social stratification in developing countries. It provides insights into the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities and the role of cultural and traditional practices in perpetuating social inequalities.

References

- 1) Aasif Ali Naikoo, Shashank Shekhar Thakur, & Tariq Ahmad Guroo. (2018). Socio-Economic Conditions of Gujjars in South Kashmir Their Challenges and Strategies. Scholedge International Journal of Business Policy & Governance.
- 2) Andrabi, A. A. (2013). Development of education of scheduled tribes in Jammu and Kashmir. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*, 2(4), 1–6.
- 3) Chekki, D. A. (1970). Social stratification and trends of social mobility in modern India. *Sociologus*, 146–163.
- 4) Dr. Javaid Rahi. (2016). *The GUJJARS - A Book on History and Culture of Gujjar Tribe*.
https://www.academia.edu/43050675/The_GUJJARS_Vol_06_A_Book_on_History_and_Culture_of_Gujjar_Tribe_Ed_Javid_Rahi?auto=download&email_work_card=download-paper
- 5) Edwards-Jones, A. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis with NVIVO*. Taylor & Francis.
- 6) Grusky, D. (2019). *Social stratification, class, race, and gender in sociological perspective*. Routledge.
- 7) Irshad, A. W., Ahrar, A. H., & Zuber, S. M. (2013). Revisiting social stratification in Indian society: A review and analysis with focus on Kashmiri society. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 2(12), 57–66.
- 8) Janowitz, M. (1956). Social stratification and the comparative analysis of elites. *Soc. F.*, 35, 81.
- 9) Kerbo, H. R. (2006). *Social stratification*.
- 10) Sharma, G. (2017). Pros and cons of different sampling techniques. *International Journal of Applied Research*, 3(7), 749–752.
- 11) Sofi, U. J. (2013). Paradox of tribal development: A case of Gujjars and Bakarwals of Jammu & Kashmir (India). *Journal of Sociology and Social Work*, 1(1), 1–8.

- 12) Sorokin, P. A. (2019). Social and cultural mobility. In *Social Stratification* (pp. 303–308). Routledge.
- 13) Vaid, D. (2018). *Uneven odds: Social mobility in contemporary India*. Oxford University Press.