

NON-AGRARIAN SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ECONOMY FROM 1846 TO 1885

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Abstract:

Jammu and Kashmir was one of the biggest Princely State in India which was under the power of Dogra Maharajas from 1846 -1947. Maharaja Gulab Singh being the first one and founder of this dynasty through the Treaty of Amritsar in the year 1846. Dogra rule in Jammu and Kashmir was having the greatest historic significance which to some extent changed the history of J&K. Four rulers of this dynasty have ruled over the state. The main focus of this study is based on their non-Agrarian economy from 1846-1885. This non-Agrarian economy consists of various sectors like wise Artistic skills, crafts, industrial estate, tourism, trade and Transport.

Key Words: Princely State, Dogra Dynasty, Jammu and Kashmir, Non-Agrarian Economy.

Review of literature

A literature review is an overview of scholarly data on a topic. It is used to recognize examples, conversations, and openings in research. The inspiration driving a writing survey is to give preparation of data on subject. Perceive areas of prior award to prevent duplication and give credit to various subject matter experts. Recognize inconsistencies: openings in research, conflicts in past assessments, open requests left from other investigation. Before drafting this paper the following referred to writing audits were checked and refereed to for fostering this paper in a valuable way.

Hussain, S. B. (2019) Economic Development inthe Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir (1846-1947). This paper meant to give a status of the economy of the august province of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 1947 and an outline of improvement during Dogra rule (1846-1947). During Dogra rule, the method for creation stayed heavily influenced by a class of a couple landlords

and modern capitalists, who used to take advantage of the excess of the larger part working in the fields and factories.

Malik Ausif Bashir Non-Agrarian Economy and Economic Reforms in Kashmir under Dogra Rule (1846-1947) have mainly focused on the beginning of Dogra rule and development of art and craft during their rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pir, A. M. (2013). Formation of the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, This paper, regardless, tries to discuss the certain underpinning of the locales of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh; and the cycles and frameworks which were locked in with cobbling together of these disparate spaces by the English East India Company and Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu to make the imperial region of Jammu and Kashmir. An undertaking to highlight the scrutinizing that followed the development of this state is made to make an assurance concerning the giving over of Kashmir to Gulab Singh.

Methodology

The study attempts to examine the “NON-AGRARIAN SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ECONOMY FROM 1846 TO 1885”. It is primarily a fact-finding undertaking based on exploratory method. Thus, this study is based on descriptive and historical approach. Furthermore secondary data were collected and analyzed for the study, secondary data includes books, journals and web sources had also been collected for the study.

Introduction

Prior to digging into the primary topic, exploring the Dogras' foundation of the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir and its importance for Kashmir is fundamental. Through the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846, the Sikh feudatory and Dogra Raja, Maharaja Gulab Singh, cut out the august province of Jammu and Kashmir, the northernmost piece of Indian association. It was one of the 562 royal states in India. Its distinctive element was its bigger size and more assorted qualities than the remainder of pre-autonomy India's august states. This was a turning point in Jammu and Kashmir's set of experiences, with extensive outcomes. It introduces another time of modernization in an area set apart by both progression and change. It additionally saw the presentation of new components in the financial domain, as well as British impedance in the inner issues of the state, which finished first in the arrangement of a British authority on unique obligation in 1852, and afterward in the arrangement of a British Resident in 1885.

As past human headways have richly illustrated, the economy approaches the underpinning of an administration and has a shocking bearing on essentially every plan of society and chooses the course of history of that area. Since the times from past times, Kashmir has stayed an autonomous economy, with cultivating as the prevailing piece of the economy, which, as indicated by the 1891 registration, associated in excess of 75% individuals of Kashmir at the hour of study and contained the spine and essential sort of income to the state to collect the expenses of association and get organizations for the state. The non-agrarian economy, which imagines countless sources and strategies for overflow and perseverance other than cultivation, laid out a critical part of Kashmir's economy, which either straightforwardly or in a roundabout way helped the state's agrarian economy. The non-agrarian economy, which incorporated the advanced region, lodge produces, painstaking work, mineral overflow and their trade, claimed trade, and business, was a wellspring of food for a huge part of the general population and a huge supporter of the state exchequer. Kashmir has been notable all around the world for its touchy and inventive things since vestige. Since antiquated times, Kashmir has been notable for a few

inventive activities. The urgently present day spin was in and around the Srinagar region. We have data from dependable sources that various areas of Kashmir were notable for their remarkable collecting. Anantnag was popular for its weaves, Bijbehara for its woodcarving, Kulgam for its woodwork, Zainager for its loosening up woolen material, and Shopian for its covers.

Shawl industry

The shawl has been used in India since pre-Historic times, the history of Shawl is not clearly documented but references have been found in the great epics like Atharveda, Ramayana and Mahabharata. Kashmir is known to the outside world by its Shawls but the wool for manufacturing for these Shawls came from Tibet and Chinese Turkestan. In 1586 the Mughal Emperor Akbar conquered Kashmir. His court historian, Abul Fazal has described the art of shawl making in great detail. According to M. Dauvergne, the history of Kashmiri Shawl goes back to the times of Mughal emperor Babar. With the coming of Afghan rule in Kashmir, Shawl Industry flourished. During the Sikh rule, Kashmiri Shawl has its market in Turkistan, Afghanistan, even Russia and later in Europe. Kashmiri shawls were of two kinds, such as loom and handmade. In the handmade system, the person was known as SadaBaf, in the loom system, there was a Karkhandar who employed a number of persons in his Karkhana. The best Shawls were produced during Ranbir Singh's time that was very soft and highly decorated. We have the evidence that even French agents were coming to Kashmir to purchase Shawls. Messrs, uhlan and Co., were the agents of Kashmir State in France. During the period of Dogra, in general, the condition of shawl weavers was not good. Maharajah Gulab Singh had imposed an annual tax on each shawl weaver. During Ranbir Singh's rule, the high taxation and miserable wages further deteriorated the condition of Shawl Weavers. In the view of Andrew Wilson, the Shawl weavers got miserable wages. He further says that Weavers were like slaves, they could neither leave Kashmir nor can change their employment.¹¹ With high taxation and oppression by government officials, Shawl weavers laid a protest during Maharaja Ranbir Singh's rule. The Shawl weavers started the procession against the governor Raja KakDar and assembled at Zaldagar in the city. The Daroga informed the Governor that the processionists will attack the house, on hearing this governor immediately send his troops to disperse the protestors and in the incident, twenty-eight shawl weavers were killed and dozens were injured. The leaders of the weavers, Sheikh Rasool, Abli Pala, Qudda Lala and Sona Shah were imprisoned. Later, two of them died and other two leaders were put in Bahu fort at Jammu. By 1925, this Industry became extinct, due to many reasons. Charkha which was found in every household has been turned out from the cities and towns. Taxes were high and also the government did not make efforts to protect the industry. Shawl trade received another death blow during the French-German war in 1870. France was the market for Kashmiri Shawls but due to its defeat by Germany, Shawl trade declined. The Shawl weaver's hopes were dashed, when a famine in 1877 visited the valley and thus Shawl weavers were mostly affected and many left the Valley and settled at Lahore, Amritsar and Agra.¹²

Silk Industry

It was the most important and biggest industry in Srinagar. For its development, it undergoes many ups and downs due to many reasons. The silk of Kashmir has been repeatedly mentioned by local source and even by European travellers. Mirza Haider Dughlat, a ruler of Kashmir and the cousin of Babur wrote that "One of Kashmir's wonders is the abundance of mulberry trees cultivated for their leaves, from which silk is made." Moorcroft, an English explorer for the East India Company, travelled extensively in the Himalayas, Tibet, and Central Asia. He also

mentions that the silk produced during the Sikh period was "insufficient for domestic consumption". In 1869 Maharaja Ranbir Singh established sericulture and machinery which were imported from Europe for the development of this industry but could not flourish due to lack of supervision and disease in silkworms. In his rule Silk was made as a Government monopoly under the head of Baba Nilamber Mukherji. Four production houses were built in Kuthar parganas at villages of Sherpora, Shangus, Nowgam and Akingam. The silk produced in Srinagar is superior to other silk that was produced in India. The silk factory at Srinagar is the largest and biggest factory in the world due to its climatic condition. It is interesting to note that the factory at Srinagar obtained its electric power from Mathura in western U.P. Sericulture department was organised in 1942 and for its development, many methods were adopted including the construction of seed house and sericulture conferences.

Pottery

Potters also existed in the urban areas of Srinagar. We have some evidence furnished by W. R. Lawrence that in Srinagar the best and most durable pottery was manufactured in Rainawari. These products were in great demand. A city potter always earned his in the form of cash and not in kind as was the case with the rural potter, who accepted even the old clothes or got his share at the harvest. The city potter was materially better off in comparison to the rural potter. In addition to all these sections of the social structure there existed a number of working class of men to whom a passing reference is made owing to the scarcity of material. Among these mention may be made of tailors, bakers, washer men, carriers, milkmen, vegetable sellers, fishermen, butchers, barbers, dyers and snuff makers. They were also known as Nangars as they were the non-agricultural tribes and their position was not defined as was the case with menials of the Indian villages, because their rate of remuneration was not fixed.

Mat Makers

The art of mat making was indigenous to Kashmir and it provided employment to a large number of people. The villagers of Lasjan in the south side of the city were the best mat-makers in the valley. They also prepared ropes, beds and kiltas of the same raw material that was used in the process of mat-making. Though it was subsidiary industry, it fetched the government good revenue.

Wood Carving

There are many ancient references to the industry. It is said that it received due attention during the era of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin. Wood work was a paying profession before the coming of Mohammadans. It appears that with their coming in power this industry flourished in Kashmir. In the beginning, the most artistic designs made on the wood work consisted of the minutely delicate surface carvings in shawls, floral and geometrical patterns. But the later development was in the direction of over-elaboration and border carving in relief of the various flowers and dragon designs. Furthermore designs were copied from foreign catalogues on articles produced in European countries.

Metal works

The reputation that Kashmir had attained in metal works was no less great. It has been recorded and reference are found in Kalhana's Rajatarangini, where mention is made of the use of gold bangles, armlets and finger rings made of gold and many other ornaments. During the sultanate period this industry was patronized by sultan Zain-ul-Abidin as we have the existence of the goldsmiths, gold-washers, gold beaters, blacksmiths and many other who dealt with metal works. Under the Mughals this industry flourished to a great extent and gained momentum by virtue of

the artisan's intelligent and exceptional artistic aptitude, which was very resourceful and ingenious. Coming to the latter half of the nineteenth century we find that this industry achieved great fame. C. E. Bates writes about silver, gold and blacksmiths and their work, which was "uniform in design". Among the metal works silver and copper were listed at the top.

Paper Mache

Among Kashmir's traditional crafts, Paper Mache was the most well-known. It was introduced by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, who brought experts from Samarkand to train locals. It was not only one of the best examples of Kashmiri art, and one that "attracted all lovers of art and colour," but also one of the best in India, second only to the best Persian. Paper Mache items were made from pounded scrap and waste-paper, glued with rice water, dried, plastered, rubbed, and then painted with remarkable skill in free hand without the use of any mathematical instrument. This work was also known as Kar-i-qalamdani, because the best examples of the old work were pen boxes. During the last two decades of the nineteenth century, a variety of articles such as tables, tea-pots, trays, screens, picture frames, and candle stands were made in order to instil taste in the people. It was exported to Central Asia, France, and other European countries. In 1911, the average annual output was Rs. 15,000, and 150 workers were employed. A day's pay for a worker was one rupee and eight annas.

Developmental steps taken by Dogra Rulers

Maharajah Gulab Singh organised the administration, he suppresses crime ruthlessly, he captured the leaders of Gala Wans and executed them, he defeated the Khakhas and Bombas and thus established normalcy for trade and commerce. He also reorganizes the Shawl Department. During Gulab Singh's time, there were more than 25,000 weavers working at around 11,000 looms but were given low wages and also the Karkhandar keep the workmen under bondage but Maharajah Gulab Singh listened to the grievances of weavers and the weavers were paid according to their work and also they can change their employee. Silk was an important export of trade during the period of Gulab Singh etc. Maharajah Ranbir Singh also reorganized the agriculture department; he spent money on vines, silk industry and hops. The gardens were laid and silkworms were imported from China and distributed to the villagers, for the development of trade and commerce he built roads, the cart road from Rawalpindi to Srinagar began to develop during his rule, telegraphy and a postal system was also built by him. He spent lakh of rupees on repairing the paths. Maharajah Pratap Singh also reformed the economy of Kashmir. During his time British were successful in establishing the Residency in Kashmir and due to the efforts of the Residency, Kashmir changed from medieval to the modern age. During the period of Maharajah Pratap Singh, two British officers Wingate and Lawrence make land settlement of Kashmir and the revenue assessment carried by Walter Lawrence whose memory is still cherished and People of Kashmir called him as Larn Sahib. Through his settlement peasants were given property rights in land. It was through efforts of Maharajah Pratap Singh that in 1912 when the powers were restored to him and one of his ministers Dr A. Mitra planned to construct a cart road over Banihal and thus in 1915 Srinagar was linked with Jammu. Maharajah Pratap Singh also developed many Industries like sericulture, he brought the seeds from Italy and France and distributed among the peasants for rearing cocoons and a factory was established in 1907 in Srinagar for rearing cocoons. He also improved the Horticulture department French experts were called to study the making of wine in Valley, many experts came, but they were not successful in establishing the Wine Industry but the State established Department of Agriculture and Horticulture in 1907 through their efforts.

Conclusion

The above study shows that the valley of Kashmir was rich in different non-agricultural products and people practised different arts and crafts since ancient times. With the establishment of Muslim rule in Kashmir, the Industries received a new impetus. The arrival of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani, in 1383 in the valley and the period of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin from 1420-1470 started a new phase in the nonagrarian economy of the region under study. Both the historical figures introduced many new industries like Paper Mache, shawl, woodwork, Metal work, Mat making etc. which improves the economy and the standard of living of the people. The establishment of Dogra dynasty in 1846 by Gulab Singh reformed these Industries in their own ways as discussed above. Maharaja Gulab Singh established the Shawl department and Maharaja Ranbir Singh developed different roads and connects the Srinagar with the rest of the country. During the Period of Maharaja Pratap Singh, British established the Residency in Srinagar and it is through this residency, trade received a new impetus. Articles of a number of varieties were imported and exported from the Valley of Kashmir to the rest of the country and the economy of Kashmir changed from Medieval to Modern.

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