



## **ASSESS THE HOUSEHOLD QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN POPULATION OF KASHMIR**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*It is widely agreed that housing is a crucial factor in determining life satisfaction. The standard of living and surrounding area are two indicators of this. This research focuses on a specific ethnic group in the North Kashmir Himalayas (the Gujjars) and their home quality index. The purpose of the sample survey was to evaluate the quality of life in the home. About 557 residences across five elevation bands were chosen for the survey's representative sample. Eleven factors were used to determine a household's quality of life index (HQLI). Two separate indices, the Housing Condition Index (HCI) and the Asset Possession Index (API), make up a family's quality of life. The research indicated that although there was some variance in the dwelling condition factors across the different altitude zones, the household quality of life index was highest in Zone A (5.3) and lowest in Zone C (4.5). The quality of houses in Zones D and B is quite bad. This demonstrates how factors such as location, household income, kind of dwelling, and ownership status affect residents' quality of life at home.*

**KEYWORDS:-***Quality, House, Population, Gujjar's, Zone*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The climate and economic status of the local population are the two most influential factors in determining the typical home design. The term "housing environment" refers to the aggregate of factors that surround a person's home. One of the key factors in determining QoL is the standard of living's abode's construction and its materials. Housing conditions are thought to have a significant impact on people's psychological and physiological wellbeing. In its broadest sense, the term "housing conditions" includes not only the structural features of a home but also the occupants' level of contentment within. Because there are so few comparable measures, gauging the impact of living conditions on people's happiness is a difficult undertaking. Housing is the finest physical and historical proof of a country's culture, reflecting its cultural, social, and

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economic values. The focus of this research is on the living conditions of the Gujjar people in the North Kashmir Himalayas.

The Gujjar people of the North Kashmir Himalayas are an ethnic minority with a distinct cultural identity and a poor socioeconomic position. Most anthropologists, sociologists, and geographers place Gujjar origins in central Asia. The Gujjars live in mutualistic harmony with their environment, which provides them with food, shelter, and other necessities. Their homes, diets, wardrobes, and lifestyle choices have all been heavily influenced by their natural surroundings.

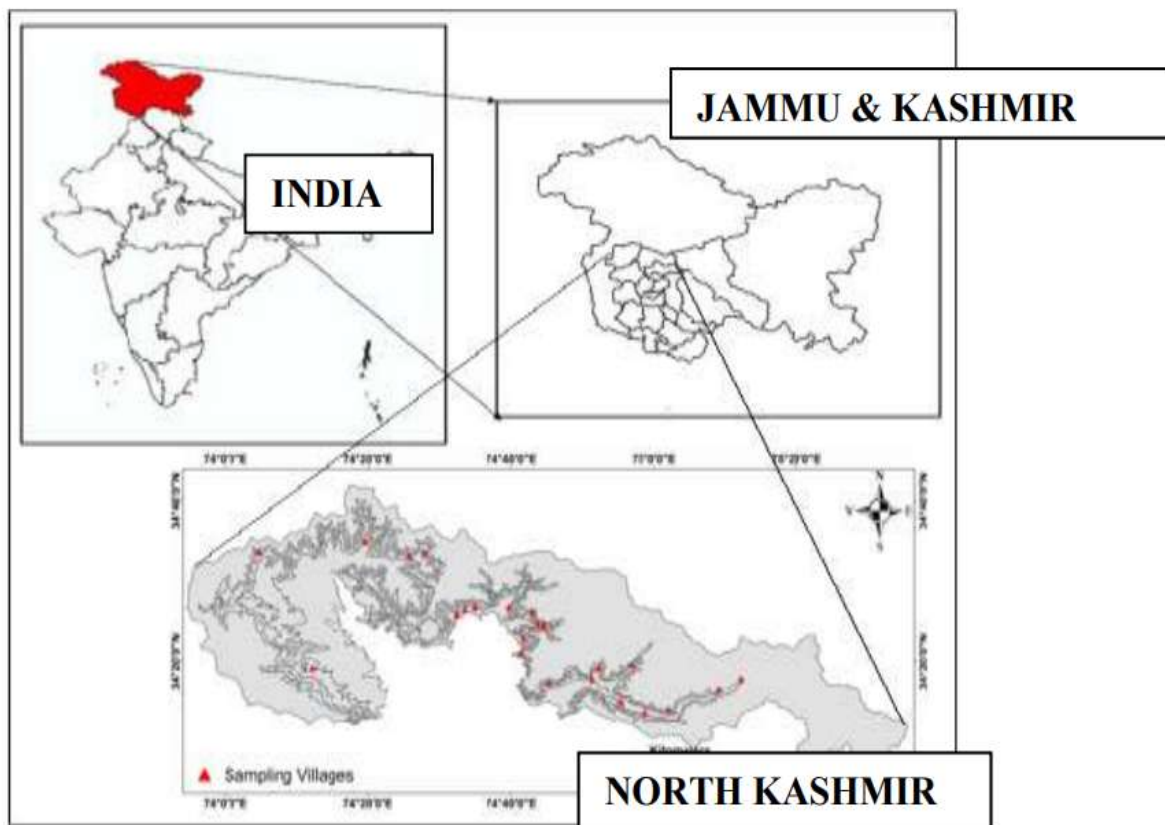
## **II. QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS**

Scholars in the social sciences and the field of environmental design have been arguing for a long time that the "quality" of any thing has both an objective reality and a subjective, perceptual component. The idea that diverse environmental settings would have unique features with regard to constructed, ecological, and socio-cultural components of the environment is central to this claim. However, all three of these elements make up people's living environments, and studies have shown that they contribute significantly to people's quality of life (QOL) or subjective well-being.

The authors of a recent, in-depth book on happiness note in their preface that an individual's quality of life depends on their own social and cultural background. Those scholars also contend that the subjective evaluations of individuals' lives are mostly determined by the objective aspects of society, such as poverty, crime rates, and pollution.

## **III. STUDY AREA**

The North Kashmir Himalayas are a subrange of the Great Kashmir Himalayas, lying between coordinates 34°16' and 34°40' North latitude and 73°45' and 75°35' East longitude (Fig. 1). The average elevation of this mountain range is 2324 meters, and its total area is 5110.60 square kilometers. South-western North Kashmir, between Zojila and Kazinag, is where the Himalayas start to converge. The North Kashmir Mountains act as a watershed between the valleys of Kashmir and Gurez, separating the Jhelum in Kashmir and the Kishanganga in Gurez. From North Kashmir, the Jhelum receives water from the Sind, Erin, Madhumati, Pohru, Kahmil, Mawar, and Viji rivers. The Gujjars, a permanently resident people group, call this place home. They settled in the North Kashmir Himalayas, between 1600 and 2400 meters above sea level. In the Himalayan area of northwest Kashmir, there are 113 villages inhabited by the Gujjar people. The Gujjar people make up around 24% (or 244501) of North Kashmir's total 2568071 inhabitants.



**Fig 1 Study Area**

#### **IV. METHODOLOGY**

The 2011 Indian census and various secondary sources provided all of the information utilized in this analysis. This research examines the housing and household amenity availability across all twenty-two districts in Jammu and Kashmir State. Jammu and Kashmir's housing and household amenity distribution was studied using a UNDP method that involves producing a variable index for each indicator.-

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

Where,  $X_i$  = Actual value of the variable

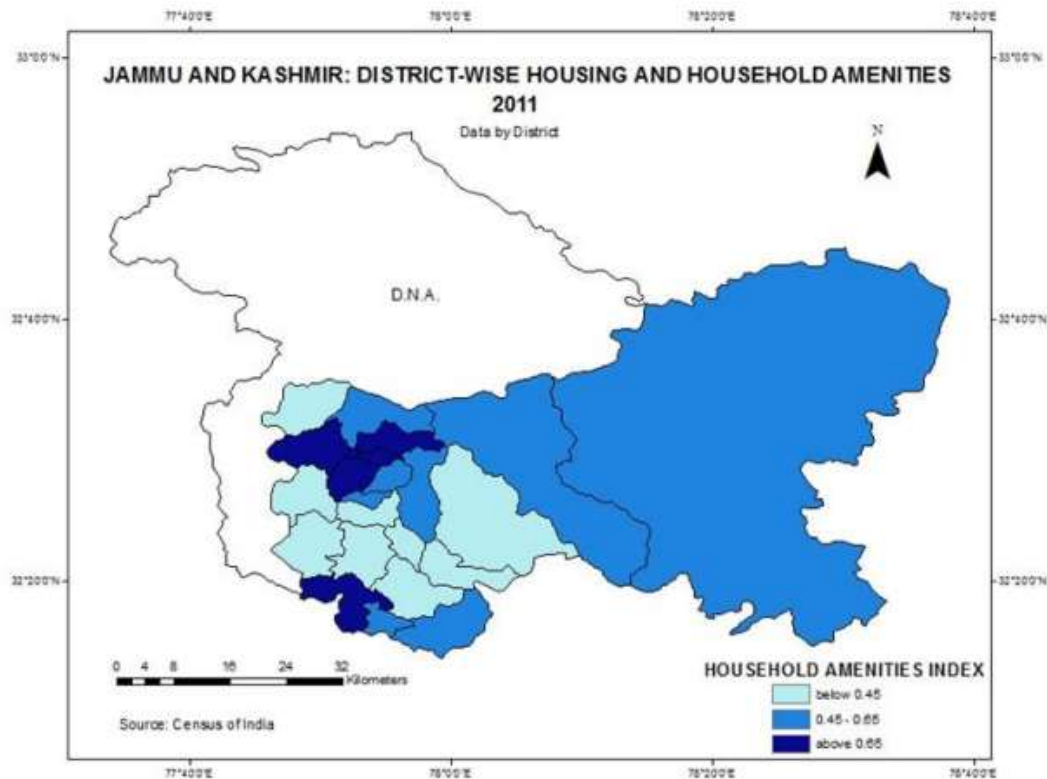
Min  $X$  = Minimum value of the variable

Max  $X$  = Maximum value of the variable

## V. ANALYSIS:

This article aims to make conclusions regarding the distribution of housing and household amenities in Jammu and Kashmir based on five indicators: the availability of contemporary comforts like running water and electricity, the presence of separate kitchen and eating rooms, and the presence of clean, well-maintained residences. Several patterns in the study area have emerged after data was collected on the selected variables.

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



**SOURCE: Census of India, 2011**

Table 1 shows that there is a significant variation in the availability of housing and other household utilities among the districts in Jammu and Kashmir State. The areas of Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, and Ganderbal in central Kashmir, and the Jammu district in southern Kashmir, have the finest housing conditions and perform highly on all the variables we examined. Throughout the valley, the majority of neighborhoods have upgraded housing and household utilities, such as reliable access to running water, reliable power, and habitable homes. Jammu and Srinagar are the respective district capitals.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The local population's quality of life is a crucial element in establishing the norms for housing. Overall, gujjar dwelling quality was found to be rather poor across all elevation bands, while it was somewhat better in bands A and C. North Kashmir's Himalayan population have challenges with their housing status due to the region's steep topography, low economic position, and inaccessibility. The study suffers most from the fact that subjective aspects are not accounted for in the home quality of life score.

There is a vast variety of property pricing and household development and infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Until residents in a region have reliable access to water, electricity, and other basic services, no development efforts in the area can get off the ground. According to the results of this research, rural households in Jammu and Kashmir lag significantly behind their urban counterparts in terms of basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation, and toilet facilities, as well as the quality of their homes.

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