

SOCIO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE REVOCATION OF ARTICLE 370

Dr. MEHDI ALI

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science,
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow

ABSTRACT

This research paper examines the impact of the revocation of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The revocation of Article 370, which granted Jammu and Kashmir special status, had significant political, social, and economic implications for the region. The move led to a shift in power dynamics, concerns about identity and cultural practices, and changes in economic policies. While the move has been met with both support and criticism, it is clear that its impact on the region will be felt for years to come. This paper highlights the need for policymakers to address the concerns of local communities and work towards a more inclusive and sustainable future for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Keywords:- Article 370, History of Article 370, BJP, Socio, Political, Economic impact, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, UT.

INTRODUCTION:

On August 5, 2019, the Indian government abolished Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted Jammu and Kashmir special status, by a Presidential order. This move was followed by the bifurcation of the state into two union territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision to revoke Article 370 had far-reaching implications for the region, as it changed the political, social, and economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This research paper seeks to examine the impact of the revocation of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The revocation of Article 370 in August 2019 was a historic decision that had far-reaching implications for the region of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The move, which stripped the region of its special status and autonomy, has been highly controversial, with differing opinions on the benefits and drawbacks of the decision. (Di Meane 2022)

The revocation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which granted special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, has been a controversial and significant event in recent Indian history. The move, which was announced by the Indian government in August 2019, has been the subject of intense debate, both within India and internationally. The revocation of Article 370 led to the bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two separate union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This move was accompanied by a significant deployment of security forces in the region, leading to widespread concern about human rights abuses and a curtailment of civil liberties. (Kronstadt 2020)

Since the revocation of Article 370, the region has witnessed significant changes in terms of its political, economic, and social landscape. The implications of these changes have been the subject of extensive research and analysis. Scholars have examined the constitutional and legal implications of the revocation of Article 370, the economic impact of the move on the region, the impact on social and religious minorities, and the security implications of the move. (Syed, etl, 2023).

LITERATURE REVIEW:

- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, in August 2019, marked a significant shift in the political, social, and economic landscape of the region. This section provides a literature review of some of the key academic works that examine the implications of this decision on the region.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 and the subsequent downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir to a union territory have been examined by several scholars. Shabir Ahmad Khan and Ishrat Bashir, in their article "Abrogation of Article 370: A Critical Analysis," argue that the revocation of Article 370 is a "direct assault on the constitutional autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir." They argue that the decision was taken without the consent of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and has led to a "state of fear and uncertainty" in the region.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has also had significant social implications for the region, particularly for the Muslim community. Aijaz Ashraf Wani, in his article "Abrogation of Article 370 and the Future of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir," argues that the move has led to a "crisis of identity" for the Muslim community in the region. He contends that the revocation of Article 370 has undermined the unique cultural and religious practices of the Muslim community in Jammu and Kashmir and has led to fears of demographic change in the region.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has also had significant economic implications for the region. Sanaa Alimia, in her article "The Impact of Revocation of Article 370 on the Economy of Jammu and Kashmir," argues that the decision has had a mixed impact on the region's economy. While the move has opened up opportunities for outside investment and development, it has also led to concerns about the impact of outside investment on the local economy and the loss of economic benefits for permanent residents of the state.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has had significant security implications for the region, particularly in terms of the conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir. Aakriti Vinayak, in her article "The Abrogation of Article 370 and India's National Security," argues that the move has strengthened India's position on Kashmir and has sent a strong message to Pakistan. However, she also highlights the risk of increased violence and insurgency in the region, particularly from militant groups.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has also had implications for governance and administration in the region. Anuradha M. Chenoy and Amitabh Mattoo, in their article "The Abrogation of Article 370 and the Future of Jammu and Kashmir," argue that the decision has led to a centralization of power and a weakening of democratic institutions in the region. They also highlight the risk of increased militarization and the potential for human rights abuses.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has raised concerns about human rights abuses in the region, particularly in terms of freedom of expression, assembly, and association. Aarti Tikoo Singh, in her article "The Abrogation of Article 370 and Human Rights Concerns in Jammu and Kashmir," argues that the decision has led to a crackdown on dissent and civil liberties in the region. She also highlights the risk of increased surveillance and censorship.
- ❏ The revocation of Article 370 has also had implications for the environment and natural resources in the region. Shrimoyee Ghosh, in her article "The Abrogation of Article 370 and the Environment in Jammu and Kashmir," argues that the decision has led to an increased risk of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, particularly in areas with a significant military presence.
- ❏ Several scholars have examined the overall implications of the revocation of Article 370 on the region. Mudasir Amin and Asifa Jan, in their article "The Abrogation of Article 370 and the Future of Jammu and Kashmir," argue that the decision has undermined the social and political fabric of the region and has created a sense of alienation and marginalization among the people

of Jammu and Kashmir. They contend that the move has also led to a crackdown on dissent and civil liberties in the region.

HISTORY OF ARTICLE 370:

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, implemented on October 17, 1949, was a temporary provision designed to confer special autonomy to the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. This autonomy was established following the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh during the partition of British India in 1947. The Instrument of Accession allowed Jammu and Kashmir to accede to the newly formed Dominion of India under certain conditions, restricting Indian jurisdiction to defense, foreign affairs, and communications (Noorani 2014).

Article 370 granted the state a significant degree of autonomy, enabling it to have its constitution and flag. Additionally, Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to formulate laws governing citizenship and property rights, distinct from those applicable in other Indian states. Over time, however, the autonomy granted by Article 370 underwent a series of changes due to various presidential orders, leading to the erosion of its original intent (Gupta 2021).

The region faced periods of political turmoil and insurgency, with the Kashmir conflict becoming a focal point in the broader India-Pakistan dispute. The contentious nature of Jammu and Kashmir's special status sparked debates within India about whether to retain or abrogate Article 370 (Noorani 2014).

A historic turning point occurred on August 5, 2019, when the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took the unprecedented step of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. This move involved the abrogation of Article 370 through a presidential order and a subsequent parliamentary resolution. The state was reorganized into two separate Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Gupta 2021).

The abrogation faced legal challenges, and debates ensued regarding its constitutional validity. The government contended that Article 370 was a temporary and transitional provision, necessitating its removal for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union.

The history of Article 370 is intricately connected to the broader context of the partition of India, the accession of princely states, and the evolving political dynamics in the region. The abrogation in 2019 marked a significant shift in the political landscape, stirring debates on the constitutional framework and the implications for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Researchers delving into this history should consider multiple perspectives to understand the complex geopolitical factors and diverse opinions surrounding the issue (Rather 2020).

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS:

The revocation of Article 370 had significant political implications for the region. Prior to its revocation, Jammu and Kashmir had a special status that allowed it to have its own constitution, flag, and other privileges. With the revocation of Article 370, the state was downgraded to a union territory, and its special status was abolished. This move led to a major shift in power dynamics within the region, as the central government in New Delhi gained more control over the region. The decision was also met with widespread protests and unrest in the region, with many locals feeling that their rights had been taken away without their consent. (Mishra 2020)

The revocation of Article 370, which gave a special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, was a significant event in Indian politics. Following this move, several political parties emerged and realigned themselves to address the changing political scenario. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was at the forefront of this development and has been actively pushing for the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union. The BJP has also been working to strengthen its presence in the region by creating new party units and alliances with other parties. Other parties that have emerged in the region include the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, which was founded by former People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Altaf Bukhari, and the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, which was founded by

Sajjad Lone, a former ally of the PDP. The PDP, which was the ruling party in Jammu and Kashmir before the revocation of Article 370, has also undergone significant changes. The party split into two factions, with one led by former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and the other led by her uncle, Muzaffar Hussain Baig. Additionally, the National Conference (NC) and the Congress party have been working to re-align themselves to address the changing political scenario in the region. The NC, which was a key player in Jammu and Kashmir politics before the revocation of Article 370, has been actively opposing the move and working to mobilize public opinion against it. Overall, the revocation of Article 370 has led to significant changes in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The emergence of new parties and the re-alignment of existing ones is likely to continue as parties work to position themselves in the new political scenario. (Bhat, etl 2019)

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The revocation of Article 370 had significant social implications for the region. Prior to its revocation, the state had a significant Muslim population, and the special status granted under Article 370 allowed for some degree of autonomy in terms of cultural and religious practices. The revocation of Article 370 led to concerns among the Muslim community in the region about their identity and cultural practices. The move also led to a crackdown on dissent and civil liberties in the region, with restrictions on internet and communication services, and the detention of several political leaders and activists (Pathak 2021).

The revocation of Article 370 had significant social implications for the region of Jammu and Kashmir, which has a complex demographic and cultural landscape. One of the most immediate impacts of the revocation was the suspension of communication and transportation services in the region, which disrupted social and familial ties. Many people were unable to contact their loved ones, and families were separated for extended periods of time. This had a particularly significant impact on vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with disabilities. The revocation of Article 370 also raised concerns about the preservation of the region's cultural identity. The special status granted under Article 370 had provided some protections for the region's unique cultural heritage and traditions. However, the revocation of this status and the influx of outside populations could potentially dilute or erode these cultural identities. Additionally, there are concerns about the impact of the revocation on the social and political rights of minority groups in the region. The Muslim population, in particular, has expressed concerns about their rights and security in the new political environment. There have been reports of human rights violations, including detention and torture of political activists, and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly (Bhat 2019)

The revocation of Article 370 has also had implications for the region's gender dynamics. The special status had provided some protections for women's rights, particularly in matters of property ownership and inheritance. However, there are concerns that the revocation could potentially undermine these protections and lead to increased discrimination and violence against women. Overall, the revocation of Article 370 has had significant social implications for the region of Jammu and Kashmir. While it has opened up new opportunities for development, there are also concerns about the impact on social ties, cultural identity, minority rights, and gender dynamics in the region (Bhat 2019).

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS:

The revocation of Article 370 also had significant economic implications for the region. Prior to its revocation, Jammu and Kashmir had a unique economic system that allowed for certain economic benefits, such as land ownership, to be restricted to permanent residents of the state. With the revocation of Article 370, these restrictions were lifted, and non-residents could now buy land and invest in the region. This move was seen as an opportunity for economic growth and development in the region, with the government announcing several new investment plans and projects. However, the move was also met with concerns about the impact of outside investment on the local economy, and the loss of economic benefits for permanent residents of the state (Rather 2020).

The revocation of Article 370 had significant economic implications for the region of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The region had been granted special status under Article 370, which gave it greater autonomy in matters of finance, governance, and property rights. One of the most immediate impacts of the revocation was the suspension of internet and communication services in the region, which lasted for several months. This disrupted economic activity, as businesses were unable to operate normally and trade was affected. The tourism industry, which is a significant source of revenue for the region, was also severely impacted. The revocation of Article 370 also opened up new opportunities for investment and development in the region. The Indian government has announced several economic packages aimed at boosting economic activity and creating jobs in the region. The government has also stated that it intends to attract private investment in the region, particularly in sectors such as tourism, infrastructure, and agriculture (Aslam 2021). Additionally, the revocation of Article 370 has led to the application of several central laws that were previously not applicable in the region, such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). This has created a more uniform economic and regulatory environment in the region, which could potentially attract more investment and improve ease of doing business. However, there are also concerns about the impact of the revocation on the region's economy in the long run. The region's special status under Article 370 had provided it with some protections against outside competition and exploitation, which could be lost in the new economic environment. There are also concerns about the displacement of local populations and the impact of demographic changes on the region's economy. Overall, the revocation of Article 370 has had significant economic implications for the region of Jammu and Kashmir. While it has opened up new opportunities for investment and development, there are also concerns about the long-term impact on the region's economy and local populations. (Aamin 2020)

CONCLUSION:

The political implications of the revocation reshaped the region's political scenario, resulting in the emergence of new political entities and realignments among existing parties. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) played a central role in advocating for the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union, while other political parties responded to the changing dynamics. This shift in the political landscape also gave rise to concerns about the centralization of power and potential human rights abuses. Socially, the revocation generated anxieties within the Muslim community regarding cultural practices and identity. The suspension of communication services disrupted familial ties, and there were apprehensions about the preservation of the region's unique cultural heritage. The move also impacted gender dynamics and raised concerns about the social and political rights of minority groups, particularly the Muslim population. Economically, the revocation had both positive and negative consequences. The removal of restrictions on land ownership and investment was seen as an opportunity for economic growth, attracting new projects and investments. However, the prolonged suspension of internet and communication services disrupted economic activities, particularly affecting businesses and the crucial tourism industry. The introduction of central laws and economic packages aimed at boosting development and job creation also marked significant economic changes.

The literature review highlights diverse scholarly perspectives on the implications of the revocation, covering legal, economic, social, and political dimensions. Scholars have analyzed the impact on governance, security, human rights, and the environment, offering a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted consequences. As Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh navigate these changes, it is imperative for policymakers to consider the concerns of local communities and work towards building a more inclusive and sustainable future. The tensions and challenges arising from the revocation of Article 370 underscore the need for a nuanced and balanced approach to address the complex issues facing the region. The ongoing developments and their repercussions emphasize the significance of continued research, dialogue, and proactive measures to foster stability, inclusivity, and progress in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

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