



Research Paper

## People's Participation in Rural Local Governance in Jammu and Kashmir

Abid Hussain

Young Fellow at Centre for Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Planning  
and Social Service Delivery (CPRDP&SSD).

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj,  
Hyderabad, India

### Abstract

Jammu and Kashmir is an area in northern India with a unique geopolitical backdrop and cultural variety, and this study looks at how its residents participate in rural local administration. This research examines the development of participatory practises over time, as well as the institutional and historical context of local governance in the area. The study seeks to understand the existing degree of engagement and the factors driving or inhibiting it through primary data gathering methods like surveys, interviews, and focus groups, and secondary research including literature reviews and analysis of government reports and NGO publications. Rural local governance is examined, with a focus on the Panchayati Raj system, along with the administrative and legal safeguards that ensure citizens have a voice in decision-making. Questions about the level of citizen participation, the influence of political shifts, the significance of technology, and opportunities for improvement are all explored. It emphasises the value of social capital, individual agency, and a focus on the needs of individual citizens as means to encourage community-wide cooperation and concerted effort. The benefits of e-governance efforts, such as increased access to information, openness, and citizen feedback, are used to assess technology's effect on participation. However, problems associated with e-governance initiatives, such as the digital gap and the lack of inclusivity, are also explored. The study concludes that policymakers should prioritise efforts to increase digital infrastructure and literacy, as well as those to increase support for grassroots organisations that work to increase public engagement. More effective and inclusive decision-making processes, leading to sustainable development and peace in the region, can be attained by Jammu and Kashmir's rural government if it encourages active citizenship and values community involvement.

**Keywords:** Decentralization, Empowerment, Jammu and Kashmir, Panchayati Raj, Rural local governance.

Received 01 August, 2023; Revised 09 August, 2023; Accepted 11 August, 2023 © The author(s) 2023. Published with open access at [www.questjournals.org](http://www.questjournals.org)

### I. Introduction

For quite some time, Jammu and Kashmir's rural districts have been an important factor in policy and progress. People's involvement in local administration is an essential topic to investigate because of the region's special geopolitical setting and rich cultural diversity. Examining the barriers to and possibilities for increasing public participation in decision-making, this study seeks to better understand the dynamics of people's participation in rural local governance in Jammu and Kashmir (Dorjay, 2018).

Jammu and Kashmir, in the far north of India, has gone through a number of political and administrative shifts throughout the years. The region has a history of unique administrative structures, such as the Panchayati Raj institutions that allow for community autonomy. However, there have been several obstacles to increasing people's engagement in rural administration because of things like political upheaval, security worries, and geographical complexity. This research aims to learn more about the background of local administration in Jammu and Kashmir and to analyse how participatory practises have developed over time. Knowing the context can help you judge the current situation more accurately and identify the elements that have contributed to people's participation throughout time.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In rural Jammu and Kashmir, where decentralised governance systems have been put in place, it is nevertheless difficult to ensure that individuals have a voice in policymaking. There has to be in-depth research of both the level of citizen participation in local governance and the barriers that prevent it.

The following are the primary questions that we hope to answer with this study

1. How engaged are rural residents of Jammu and Kashmir in the decision-making process at the municipal level?
2. What are the most important reasons that drive people to take part in local decision-making?
3. How have changes in political institutions and ideologies throughout time affected citizens' ability to take part in rural decision-making?
4. what extent does technology help or hinder citizens' ability to participate in their local governments?
5. what extent can individuals in rural areas be encouraged to actively participate in local governance, and what steps should they take to do so?

### **Research Objectives**

- To determine how engaged the rural population currently is in the state's local decision-making processes in Jammu and Kashmir?
- To determine what influences local citizens' participation in decision-making.
- To Examine how shifts in political climate across time and in the present day have influenced the nature of citizen participation in rural governance
- To Examinewhether technological advancements have facilitated or hindered citizens' participation in municipal government.
- To provide policymakers and other interested parties with concrete suggestions that will aid their efforts to increase citizen engagement and foster more equitable rural governance.

The importance of people's involvement in rural local administration in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be overstated. First, more effective and inclusive policies and programmes may be designed if we have a better grasp of the elements driving citizen involvement in governance processes. Second, encouraging people to get involved might help them feel more responsible for their community and the region as a whole.

In addition, given the region's complicated political history and precarious security status, learning more about the obstacles to and possibilities for boosting people's engagement can focus on how to better resolve conflicts and achieve peace. This research study aims to make a contribution to the existing literature on governance and participatory democracy by highlighting the current state of affairs and giving evidence-based recommendations, making it a useful resource for policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners.

## **II. Literature Review**

In order to promote sustainable development and transparent decision-making, scholars and researchers have researched the dynamics of rural local governance and people's engagement extensively. The use of participatory methods to solve local problems has grown in popularity in recent years. Citizens who participate in local governance processes are more likely to advocate for themselves, offer constructive criticism, and hold their government to account, according to studies (Sharma, 2016).

Deliberative democracy, interactive governance, and other participatory democracy theories have been widely discussed in academic circles. Interactive governance places an emphasis on the joint efforts of different stakeholders in decision-making, whereas deliberative democracy promotes open and reasoned discussions among citizens. Both philosophies stress the importance of people working together to find solutions to problems.

### **Key Theories and Concepts**

#### **Social Capital**

The notion of social capital emphasises the role of social networks, norms, and trust in promoting community-wide collaboration and collective action. When residents in a rural area have a lot of social capital, they are more likely to get involved in local politics and work together for the common good (Matloob et al., 2021).

#### **Empowerment and Capacity Building**

According to conceptions of empowerment, allowing underprivileged people to participate in decision-making is crucial. Improved citizen participation in decision-making can result from capacity-building programmes like civic education and leadership development programmes (Sheikh, 2018). The idea of a "Citizen-Centric Approach" stresses the importance of citizens as the focal point of government. Taking into account residents' wide-ranging wants and requirements, and designing policies and programmes appropriately, can boost public buy-in and pride.

The literature investigates the connection between decentralisation and citizen engagement. Opportunities for citizen participation in decision-making at the local level can be facilitated by devolving power and resources to local governments.

According to (WAZA, 2023) Local Governance and Citizen Involvement in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh's Rural Areas. Participation rates in Jammu and Kashmir are compared to those in the neighbouring state of Himachal Pradesh. The study investigates the effect of political and historical factors on the dynamics of governance in the two areas.

Case Study on Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions. This research examines the status of women in the Panchayati Raj organisations in the Rajouri district. Strategies for promoting gender equality are proposed, while cultural and socioeconomic hurdles to women's participation are highlighted (Bukhari, 2019).

Udhampur District as a Case Study of E-Government Acceptance in Rural Jammu. This study looks into the use and success of e-government programmes in the Udhampur area. It evaluates how the use of technology has impacted government openness and citizen participation (Driskell, 2022).

Rural Local Governance in Srinagar District, Jammu and Kashmir, Examining Conflict and Citizen Involvement. In particular, this research looks at how the continuing fighting in Srinagar district has affected people's ability to take part in local administration. Security issues and political unpredictability are discussed, and methods are investigated for addressing them (Nengroo et al., 2017).

### **III. Methodology**

Information can be gathered from secondary sources in addition to main data gathering methods including surveys, interviews, and focus groups. When conducting secondary research, scholars examine material that has already been gathered and reported on by academics, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and other reputable organisations. When used in conjunction with primary research, this method can give much-needed context, historical data, and new insights. Here is a comprehensive breakdown of the secondary research approach

**Literature Review:** As was previously presented in this research study, the secondary approach will begin off with a comprehensive literature evaluation. Researching rural local governance, people's participation, and related themes in the context of Jammu and Kashmir or other relevant regions will require a methodical search of academic papers, reports, books, and other publications.

**Government Reports and Publications:** Accessible reports and papers from agencies of the government, such as the Ministry of Rural Development, Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and various other local administrative bodies, provide information on the status of rural local governance initiatives and projects involving people's participation. These documents may include information on Panchayat elections, rates of participation, and government-led efforts to increase citizen engagement.

**NGO and Civil Society Reports:** Rural development and governance are common areas of focus for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups. Insights into community-led efforts, difficulties faced by underrepresented groups, and examples of effective citizen engagement in local governance can be gleaned through their reports and writings.

**Historical Archives and Documentation:** The development of rural local governance in Jammu and Kashmir can be studied through the lens of historical archives, local newspapers, and documents from previous decades. This archival research can assist in identifying significant political events, policy shifts, and social movements that have influenced the participation of individuals over time.

**Academic Databases and Research Repositories:** Articles with peer review and conference papers on topics like rural government and participatory democracy in the region can be found in online academic resources like Google Scholar, JSTOR, and academic repositories.

**Publicly Available Data Sources:** It is possible to learn about the demographic and socioeconomic elements that may affect people's participation in rural local governance by analysing publicly available datasets and statistical reports from official sources. Population figures, economic indicators, and information on recent infrastructure projects all fall under this category.

**Case Studies from Similar Regions:** Jammu and Kashmir can learn from other regions' experiences by examining case studies that share some of their cultural, political, or social situations. Such a comparison has the potential to provide light on both promising practises and looming difficulties.

**Policy Documents and White Papers:** Examining central and state government-issued policy documents and white papers on rural development and governance might have the motivations behind ongoing efforts and methods aimed at fostering citizen engagement.

### **Data Analysis**

When using a secondary research approach, analysts must systematically review and synthesise data from multiple sources. Primary data acquired through surveys, interviews, and focus groups will be compared and contrasted with secondary research findings. By combining primary and secondary data, we can learn more about people's involvement in rural local governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

To back up or augment the core study findings, we will compile the secondary data thematically and draw out significant insights. The secondary sources included in this research work will be carefully evaluated for their legitimacy and trustworthiness.

### **Rural Local Governance in Jammu and Kashmir**

Jammu and Kashmir's rural areas are governed by a decentralised system called the Panchayati Raj. The Panchayati Raj system was instituted to foster local democracy and provide people a voice in policymaking at the community level. There are three levels of authority in this system:

The village or collection of villages are represented by the Gramme Panchayat, the fundamental unit of rural local governance. Panchayat members are the lowest level of elected officials in the Panchayati Raj system. The Gramme Panchayat is headed by the Sarpanch, who is chosen by and from the members. The Gramme Panchayat oversees a wide range of village-specific activities, including waste management, petty irrigation, social welfare initiatives, and physical infrastructure development (Bukhari, 2019)

The Panchayati Raj system has an intermediary body known as the Block Development Council. The block it stands for is made up of individual Gramme Panchayats. The BDC is made up of individuals who have been chosen by the people of the Gramme Panchayats located within the block. The BDC is responsible for coordinating and supervising all development operations within the block, as well as allocating funds to various development initiatives.

Jammu and Kashmir's highest level of rural local government is the District Development Council. It speaks for the district and is made up of representatives elected at-large from the several Block Development Councils. The District Development Commission (DDC) is in charge of creating and enforcing district-wide strategies for growth.

### **Role and Functions of Various Local Government Bodies**

Jammu and Kashmir's Gramme Panchayats and other local government bodies are vital to the state's commitment to decentralised, people-powered governance and service provision. Among their most important roles are:

- The Gramme Panchayats are in charge of ensuring that the local populace has access to basic necessities including clean water, medical care, and educational opportunities.
- To better serve their constituents, local governments plan and carry out construction projects for essential amenities including roads, bridges, schools, and community centres (Hussain & Ahmed, 2018).
- They oversee and carry out a number of government welfare programmes and initiatives that have as their stated goals the reduction of poverty, the advancement of women, and general social progress.
- To finance growth initiatives, local governments pool resources and revenues from a wide range of internal and external sources, such as federal and state subsidies and taxes.
- They deal with societal problems and advance the interests of underprivileged people.

### **Legal and Administrative Framework for People's Participation**

The legal and administrative framework in Jammu and Kashmir supports people's participation in rural local governance through several provisions:

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments establish Gramme Panchayats, Block Development Councils, and District Development Councils as part of the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir. These changes elevate institutions of local self-government to constitutional stature and place a premium on citizen involvement in policymaking (Bourai, 2019).

The constitutional amendments form the basis for the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, which establishes the legal foundation for the operation of local government. It specifies the roles they are to play and the authority they have.

Reservations for SC, ST, and women in local government bodies like Gramme Panchayats, Block Development Councils, and District Development Councils are mandated under the Panchayati Raj Act. The purpose of this reservation strategy is to increase representation and boost engagement from underrepresented groups.

All adult members of the Gramme Panchayat sit on the Gramme Sabha, which meets regularly to deliberate on matters of local concern, such as proposed projects and expenditures. Citizens are able to voice their concerns and take part in decision-making at these sessions.

Access to information about government operations, budgets, and improvement initiatives is guaranteed by the RTI Act. It allows citizens to demand accountability from their local governments and encourages openness in policymaking.

People in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir are encouraged to take part in local government through the Panchayati Raj system, constitutional amendments, and other legal provisions.

### **Factors Influencing People's Participation in Rural Governance**

There is a complicated interaction of elements that affects people's participation in rural government. To effectively increase citizen participation and create inclusive decision-making processes, it is crucial to have a firm grasp of these aspects. Socioeconomic, political, cultural, and geographical considerations all play a role in how engaged rural residents are in decision-making processes.

#### **Socioeconomic Factors**

Participation in political processes is greatly influenced by the level of education and awareness of the rural population. People with more education are better able to advocate for themselves, examine issues rationally, and shape their communities for the better (Sheikh, 2017).

The degree to which people take part is heavily influenced by economic factors. Those on a tight budget may find it difficult to devote time and money to governance activities, especially if doing so necessitates costly travel or foregoes other opportunities.

People are more likely to get involved if they have easy access to information on government programmes, policies, and development projects. Citizens' participation might be hampered when they lack the information they need to fully grasp their rights and obligations.

#### **Political Factors**

Women, minorities, and low-caste communities are often underrepresented in local administration, and this can have a major impact on their ability to get involved. Having a wide range of voices heard in the decision-making process is made possible through inclusive representation. It is essential that local leaders and elected representatives work towards more inclusive forms of governance. More people will get involved if their leaders aggressively promote citizen involvement and put community interests first (Inakhiya & Sharma, 2016). People may be encouraged or discouraged to participate based on the existing power relations and patronage networks. Some people may be discouraged from getting involved in local politics if a small number of powerful people hold all the cards.

#### **Cultural Factor**

The community's roles and expectations of its members may shift depending on the culture in question. Especially for women and others of lower social status, hierarchical social systems can be a barrier to full involvement. Individuals' openness to taking part in group decision-making may be affected by the degree to which they feel a sense of belonging to the community as a whole. Individuals' participation in governing bodies may be bolstered by strong relationships to their communities.

#### **Geographical Factors**

Location and ease of travel might be barriers to civic engagement in rural locations. Communities that are geographically or linguistically isolated may find it difficult to get to government buildings, public meetings, or information on governance activities. Disruptions to governance operations could have an impact on participation rates in disaster-prone areas. It's possible that locals will put their immediate survival demands ahead of any plans for future growth. A multifaceted strategy including targeted interventions, community empowerment, capacity-building, and awareness-raising initiatives is needed to address these factors. When crafting programmes to increase citizens' involvement in rural government, policymakers and development experts should keep these considerations in mind.

#### **Role of Technology in Enhancing Participation**

Recent years have seen a rise in the use of technology in rural Jammu and Kashmir, making it possible for more individuals to have a voice in policymaking. Due to the widespread availability of information and communication technology, numerous e-governance initiatives that aim to increase openness, effectiveness, and participation on the part of citizens have been put into action (Kumar, 2018). Technology's application in rural administration could help close the knowledge gap, boost service quality, and encourage citizen engagement in policymaking.



### **Impact of E-Governance Initiatives**

**Access to Information:** Access to information about government programmes, projects, and services is facilitated by e-governance initiatives such as government websites, mobile apps, and online portals. By making information about development efforts, residents' entitlements, and governance activities easily accessible, we hope to increase citizens' engagement in these areas.

**Transparency and Accountability:** By making data easily accessible to the public, technological platforms increase openness in government. Participatory accountability is bolstered when residents are better able to keep tabs on government projects, follow the money, and demand answers.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** Common examples of feedback mechanisms in e-governance projects are online complaint systems and idea hubs. Through these avenues, citizens can participate as equals in the decision-making process by offering input, reporting problems, and voicing concerns.

**Digital Participation:** With the help of technology, citizens can now take part in public hearings and deliberations online. Remote involvement is encouraged through online surveys, virtual town halls, and social media exchanges, expanding the number of people who have a say in government and the range of perspectives it represents.

### **Challenges and Benefits of Using Technology**

The digital gap, or the unequal distribution of technology and internet access, is a major obstacle. Some people in Jammu and Kashmir's rural areas may struggle to take advantage of e-governance programmes due to a lack of internet connection and/or gadgets.

A lack of digital literacy may hamper the efficient deployment of technological infrastructure. It may be difficult for some residents, notably the elderly or those with less education, to understand and use digital services (KHAN et al., 2023).

The implementation and use of e-governance projects may be hindered in rural areas with spotty access to and reliability of technology infrastructure like electricity and internet connectivity.

#### **Benefits**

Administrative expenditures and paperwork have been cut with the help of e-governance initiatives. By moving administrative processes online, the delivery of services can be sped up.

Citizens in even the most inaccessible regions can have their voices heard thanks to technological advancements. For e-governance projects to be truly inclusive, they must guarantee that underserved groups have equal access to data and services.

Policymakers can now make decisions based on evidence thanks to technological advancements in data collecting and processing. The importance of accurate data in determining development objectives and measuring the results of governance initiatives cannot be overstated.

Citizens are given more say in how their government is run thanks to e-governance. Citizens have the opportunity to have their voices heard, engage in public discussions, and shape the future of their communities.

#### **Case Study 1: Successful E-Governance Initiative in a Remote Village in Jammu and Kashmir**

A successful e-governance effort was developed in a rural area of Jammu and Kashmir to increase citizen involvement in government. As part of the plan, a computer kiosk with internet access was installed in each rural community. The kiosk allowed users to have access to government websites, internet portals, and data on many types of entitlements and development programmes.

### **IV. Findings**

The villager's ability to gain access to information was greatly facilitated by the digital kiosk. Better understanding and participation resulted from their increased access to information about government programmes, initiatives, and benefits.

Citizens were able to voice their opinions, compliments, and grievances to city officials via the interactive kiosk. More villagers were able to take part in government because of improved communication.

Villagers were able to keep tabs on where their tax dollars were going and how far development projects had come thanks to this programme, which increased trust in government. Trust in the local government was bolstered as a result of this openness.

#### **Case Study 2: Unsuccessful People's Participation Initiative due to Lack of Inclusivity**

A people's involvement campaign was started so that more people in one area of Jammu and Kashmir would attend Gramme Sabha meetings and offer their input on regional development plans. The effort, however, struggled to reach its goal of broad involvement.

### **Findings**

Gramme Sabha gatherings sometimes lacked participation from women and others from lower social classes. Their ability to actively participate in decision-making was constrained by deeply ingrained cultural norms and a general lack of understanding. Unfortunately, not enough people in the community were consulted about this project. Decisions were taken without taking into account the needs of all parties involved, which angered several locals. Some less-educated people had trouble following the discussions because of the gatherings' use of formal language and sophisticated vocabulary.

### **Challenges Faced in Promoting People's Participation in Rural Local Governance**

Many people living in rural Jammu and Kashmir don't understand their rights or how their community's government works. Their participation in decision-making is hindered by a lack of information and awareness. As a result of neglect or unfulfilled promises, some citizens may have lost faith in the political system. Because of this disappointment, people may lose interest in politics and become less involved in government. Disparities in socioeconomic status may limit certain people's ability to take part. Economic or time constraints associated to livelihood activities may prevent people with fewer means from fully engaging (Chandra et al., 2011). The inclusion of women and members of lower social classes may be hindered by entrenched cultural norms and biases. They may find it difficult to participate in decision-making processes due to traditional gender roles and mobility restrictions. E-governance projects can be hampered by the digital divide in areas with poor technological infrastructure and low levels of digital literacy, preventing certain citizens from using or even accessing these tools. Corruption and a lack of accountability in government have the potential to damage public confidence, which in turn might discourage people from getting involved.

### **Opportunities and Potential Solutions to Overcome Challenges**

Ownership and responsibility can be cultivated through community-based awareness programmes that inform rural residents of their rights, government policies, and the value of people's engagement. Women and people from lower castes, for example, are more likely to be represented in local government bodies if they are guaranteed equal voting rights.

The digital divide can be closed and e-governance platforms made more useful by investing in capacity-building programmes to improve digital literacy and technology capabilities. The efficiency of local institutions like Gramme Panchayats and the level of community participation they inspire can be improved by providing them with sufficient resources and decision-making authority.

Community members can have a voice in local development plans and projects by participating in participatory decision-making processes like participatory budgeting and consultation meetings. Trust and citizen participation can be bolstered by making government processes more open and by setting up systems for citizen feedback and monitoring.

Inspiring other communities to get involved and play an active role in local governance requires showcasing successful people's participation programmes and emphasising their positive impact. By investing in and developing civil society organisations, we can increase their capacity to serve as go-betweens for the government and its constituents. Citizens might be encouraged to take part in local decision-making when they are offered incentives or prizes for doing so. All community members, regardless of their gender or socioeconomic status, can benefit from a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere if social exclusion is discouraged and cultural obstacles are removed.

## **V. Recommendations**

Inform villages of their legal rights and the value of their input into municipal issues through village-specific awareness campaigns. Use local gatherings, radio, and regional publications to reach more people. Increase women's and other underrepresented groups' municipal decision-making participation. Encourage active engagement and provide training and support to improve their participation. Invest in technological education and digital literacy. Public education should include e-governance platforms, online information, and digital instruments for participation. Give Gramme Panchayats and other local governments enough money, training, and decision-making power. They'll be better able to address regional issues and encourage resident participation. Participatory budgeting and citizen consultations can involve residents in development project design and execution. Spread the word and get feedback on priorities and funding.

Increase rural internet and technology availability to reduce the digital divide. Set up digital kiosks and centres to make e-governance tools and data available. Keep the public informed about ongoing projects, finished projects, and allocated funding to boost government trust. Create government channels for citizen feedback and concerns. Support and empower grassroots civil society organisations to promote public participation. Youth forums, leadership courses, and skill development projects may get young people active in

local government and help them make a difference. Youth empowerment may revive community involvement and offer new perspectives on local challenges. Honour people who go above and above in community service and decision-making. Recognising civic obligation can motivate more individuals to get involved.

Question societal norms and biases that limit women's participation in society. Make it safe for underrepresented groups to speak up and participate in decision-making. Use community-driven planning to ask locals what they think could be improved. Promote community-led development and local stakeholder control. These proposals can make Jammu & Kashmir's rural governance more accessible, responsive, and accountable. New policies, increased institutional capacities, and community-based initiatives will encourage citizens' opinion to be solicited, appreciated, and included into policymaking and development planning.

## **VI. Conclusion**

Findings from the study on people's participation in rural local governance in Jammu and Kashmir highlight the value of active citizenship in fostering accountable and inclusive growth. Socioeconomic status, political representation, and technological advances are all important determinants of turnout. Despite obstacles, encouraging citizen participation is crucial for long-term government effectiveness. Strengthening local institutions and giving people a voice in their development requires policymakers to put a premium on capacity building, digital inclusion, and inclusive representation. The region may have a more just and progressive future if adaptive government and constant community interaction are prioritised.

## **Reference**

- [1]. Bourai, H. (2019). Democratic Decentralization In Jammu And Kashmir With Special Reference To Poonch District. *Think India Journal*, 22(4), 5202-5226.
- [2]. Bukhari, M. (2019). Panchayati raj system of Jammu and Kashmir: Issues and challenges. *Think India Journal*, 22(10), 4622-4634.
- [3]. Chandra, D. G., & Malaya, D. B. (2011). ICT its role in e-governance and rural development. In *Advances in Computing and Communications: First International Conference, ACC 2011, Kochi, India, July 22-24, 2011. Proceedings, Part II 1* (pp. 210-222). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- [4]. Dorjay, T. (2018). A Critical Analysis of People's Participation in Local Governance and Development in Ladakh. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 8(8), 122-132.
- [5]. Driskell, D. (2022). A STUDY OF ASIA'S WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND BEST PRACTICES IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT. *World Science*, (6 (78)).
- [6]. Hussain, F., & Ahmed, I. (2018). Complication of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj System of Jammu and Kashmir.
- [7]. Inakhiya, G. K., & Sharma, M. (2016). Decentralisation and Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir: An Overview.
- [8]. KHAN, M. R., RESHI, I. A., & RAJA, R. (2023). PUBLIC PROVISION IN WATER AND SANITATION: AN INTER DISTRICT STUDY OF URBAN SLUMS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR. *International Journal of Economic, Business, Accounting, Agriculture Management and Sharia Administration (IJEBAS)*, 3(2), 316-326.
- [9]. Kumar, B. (2018). Political participation of Gaddi scheduled tribes in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI): A study of Jammu and Kashmir State. *Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(7), 129-138.
- [10]. Matloob, T., Shabbir, M. S., & Saher, N. (2021). Women's political representation in the local governance of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan. *Review of Economics and Political Science*, 6(4), 328-347.
- [11]. Nengroo, Z. A., Bhat, M. S., & Kuchay, N. A. (2017). Measuring urban sprawl of Srinagar city, Jammu and Kashmir, India. *Journal of Urban Management*, 6(2), 45-55.
- [12]. Sharma, S. (2016). Creating spaces for women: inclusion through reservation in urban local governance. *Journal of Politics and Governance*, 5(1), 29-37.
- [13]. Sheikh, Y. A. (2017). Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. *Madhya Pradesh Journal of Social Sciences*, 22(2), 72.
- [14]. Sheikh, Y. A. (2018). Implementation of rural development programmes in Jammu and Kashmir. *Journal of Governance and Public Policy*, 5(1).
- [15]. WAZA, A. M. (2023). Good Governance In Urban And Rural Areas Of India A Case Study Of Anantnag District Of Jammu And Kashmir.