

Indo-Pak War of 1971 and Forced Migration from Chhamb Sector

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Abstract: *Indo-Pak war of 1971 resulted in forced migration of the people from Chhamb sector of Jammu region in Jammu & Kashmir. When Indian Army started building up in anticipation then internal displacement was started in the first week of September 1971. These people perceived this migration as the temporary one as it had happened before in 1947-48 and 1965 wars with Pakistan. They left their homes with whatever little they could gather in a state of hurry, panic and terror. People even left behind their old, infirm, pet animals and heavy loads in the hope to return back. During war these people were left to fend themselves and lived under the shadow of guns. Ceasefire was declared on 16 Dec 1971 and at that time Chhamb Sector under Pakistan's occupation. Meantime, the Govt. of India in consultation with the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir decided to shift these Displaced Persons (hereafter referred to as DPs) to camps at Manwal and Kishanpur, about 70 kms from Jammu on the Dhar road near Udhampur. They were impossibly cramped in tiny tents. A family of 5-6 persons was given a tent covering about 13 Sq. ft area with no facilities whatsoever of bathing, cooking, toileting etc. They had no other option but to cope with these sufferings by surviving on their limited means of livelihood. It impacted them socially, economically and psychologically. Most of the people who suffered this displacement were senior citizens, women and children. Displacement, forced women to deal with the harsh realities of war. Suffering became more serious when the lone bread earner was lost. Women continued to be responsible for procuring and preparing of food, rearing children and looking after the elders and the infirm of the family. Faced with fuel and food shortages, lack of electricity, shortage of medicines and lack of safe water, these women faced a daily fight for their survival. Unemployment, loss of income sources, inflation and reduction in actual wages made people more vulnerable to the evils of suffering. People were even forced to sell their jewelry and valuables assets. Since children's education got discontinued therefore it put the great burden of work on them. This further led to undernourishment and malnutrition in children aged between 10-14 years of age. It also resulted in the early marriage of children as young as 10 years old. This was done to save girls and boys to a certain extent from sexual abuse and exploitation not just from outside but from within the family also. Displacement adversely affected the socio-cultural life of these displaced people. Community feelings and identities were eroded. This erosion was further aggravated when these people were forcibly evicted and rehabilitated in small groups. Continuous disruption of life due to cross border firing and general prevalence of insecure environment at the international border are further making life more problematic. The psychological disorders which became common then and are still prevalent now were depression, hypertension, insomnia, nightmares, hysteria, phobia, etc. These people are now border landers not by choice but by compulsion. There is a long trail of sufferings behind them. The intricate linkage between the external causes of war and internal dimension of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has further added ordeals for the border landers. The aim of this paper is to highlight the ordeals of the people who lost their homeland. Their social and cultural lives were shattered. They are still living the life of refugees not accepted by the host communities. Wherever they go people ask them Where are you from? Please tell me about your roots. Now these people are settled all along the International Border shared with Pakistan from Kathua to Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir. This displacement and uprooting had a lasting effect on their mental state.*

Keywords: War, Displacement, Unemployment, Camps, Displaced Persons, Forced migration, Education, Health, Hygiene & Sanitisation, Sexual abuses, Psychological disorders, Cross border firings, Disruptions.

1. Introduction

Indian subcontinent was divided on the basis of two nation theory in 1947 and this was the biggest mistake committed by the Britishers. At the time of partition two identities existed: one, the British Indian princely states and two, area under British occupation. The area which under British occupation was divided between India and Pakistan. Indian princely states were not subject to the partition of British territories in 1947 and hence each princely state was allowed to join either with India or Pakistan. When the British Govt transferred the powers to India and Pakistan, Maharaja Hari Singh of princely state of Jammu and Kashmir decided not to join either of two states. After attaining independence on 14 Aug, 1947, Pakistan started building up the pressure on Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir to join Pakistan. When all efforts failed Pakistan decided to annex Jammu & Kashmir through coercion. Preparators supported by Pakistan, attacked Jammu & Kashmir. These raiders were fully backed by the regulars and irregulars of Pakistan. When they

reached outskirts of Srinagar town then Maharaja Hari Singh approached India for help. On 26th of Oct, 1947 signed an Instrument of Accession with India. Indian Army pushed these raiders (Kabalis) back and in the time a ceasefire was declared by UNO. The 1949 UN Ceasefire Line is now called as LoC (Line of Control). This dotted line on the map actually divided the hearts of the people of the state. It has become almost like a border over a period of time but shifted either side in each war. Both the movement of people and shifting of lines on the ground rendered people displaced and this process did not end here but continued in 1965, 1971 and latest in 1999. Now this has become a recurring problem due to alienated borders between India and Pakistan. War, threats of war, building up of troops along borders, all have forced the people to flee. Sometime this migration was permanent and sometime this was temporary. Almost 6 to 8 times the migrations have taken place since 1947. Why is this happening? How is this happening? Problems associated with these migrations are

innumerable and need to be addressed at an appropriate level for permanent solutions.

After staying in camps for almost for five years, DPs of Chhamb sector were shifted to all along the border from Kathua to Jammu. Life here is very tough, every now and then experience firing from Pakistan. According to Martinez (1994), "An alienated borderland area are those areas, where cross-border interchange is nonexistent because of warfare, political disputes, intense nationalism, Ideological animosity, religious enmity, cultural dissimilarity, or ethnic rivalry".[1] "Caught up in hostility between India and Pakistan, the people in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir are stuck up in the situation of uncertainty. While multiple conflicts (1947-48, 1965, 1971 and 1999) created havoc in the border areas, even peacetime did not provide any relief to the people here. The borders have continued to remain volatile even during so called peacetimes. As the history or borders in the state shows, guns have actually never fallen silent. There has been intermittent firing and shelling generating a situation of unpredictability and insecurity. The situation during the last two and half decades has been more precarious with the onset of militancy, the borders have become more active. The infiltration bids by the armed militants have been accompanied by the firing and shelling adversely affecting the normal conditions of life" [2]

2. Historical Perspective

The Sikh empire was formed in Punjab under the leadership of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1799 when he occupied Lahore and this empire was disintegrated in 1849 after the second Anglo-Sikh war in 1848-49. Under his leadership, the Sikh empire rose to its prominence. The Sikh empire was divided into four provinces: Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Kashmir. He had an efficient and a strong army. "At the time of his death on 27 June, 1839, the Lahore state possessed an army consisting of just under 47,000 regular infantry and around 16000 regular and irregular cavalry in addition to a formidable artillery comprising almost 500 guns."[3] (Amarpal Singh, *The First Anglo-Sikh War 1845-46*, HarperCollins Publisher, India, page 23.) After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839 there was a total chaos and confusion due to internal divisions and mismanagement of political affairs by his weak successors. Maharaja Gulab Singh was a powerful feudatory of Sikh empire, during this period he consolidated his position in Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Mirpur, Ladakh, Baltistan, Gilgit, etc. Kashmir virtually passed into the hands of Maharaja Gulab Singh after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

The relations between Dogra Rajas and Sikh durbar strained after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh but still Dogra rulers stood by the Lahore kingdom, which was now in turmoil. To maintain smooth relationship with Sikh durbar, Dhian Chand Dogra sacrificed his life but attitude of Sikh rulers was indifferent toward Dogra rulers. Few elements in the Lahore durbar were acting under the influence of Britishers and they never wanted Dogra rulers to consolidate and support Sikh rulers. After the assassinations of Maharaja Sher Singh and his minister Dhian Chand Dogra, the attitude of Maharaja Gulab Singh toward Lahore durbar was changed dramatically. Administration in Lahore durbar

totally collapsed after the death of Maharaja Sher Singh. Virtually, the Sikh empire became sick with no hope of recovery. The spirit with which Sikh rulers went to war against the Britishers was eye opening because this was being fought to destroy the powerful army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh not to defeat the enemy. "The chiefs in their desperate condition desired the destruction of the army and their restoration to power." [3] Finally, the first Anglo-Sikh War was ended on 09 March, 1846 and following two treaties were signed:

- 1) "Treaty of Lahore. It was signed on 09 March, 1846 between Sikh rulers and Britishers, vide this treaty Sikh durbar was compelled to give Jullundur Doab, pay a war indemnity of 1.5 crores of rupees, reduce army to 20,000 infantry and 12,000 cavalry, recognition of sovereignty of Gulab Singh, restoration of Dalip Singh as head of the Govt in Lahore durbar." [4]
- 2) "Treaty of Amritsar. It was signed on 16 March, 1846 between Gulab Singh and Britishers, vide this treaty Gulab Singh got the title of Maharaja, the country between the river Ravi and the river Indus was transferred to Maharaja Gulab Singh, this territory included the portion of hill country to the south of the Ravi and the Indus and Ladakh and Gilgit, with Baltistan and Indus Valley to Chitral. Later on, Chamba, west of the river Ravi and Hazara were included in this territory." [5] Thus, a combined state of Jammu and Kashmir came into being on 16 March, 1846. Maharaja Gulab Singh and his descendants ruled over Jammu and Kashmir till Oct, 1947.

Partition of Indian Subcontinent took place in Aug, 1947 based on 'two-nation theory' fully conceived and contrived by British administration. There were about 560 princely states under the British domain and Jammu and Kashmir the largest princely state with an area of about 135185 Sq. Kms. Maharaja Hari Singh the last ruler of the state was bound by special treaty under the 'Doctrine of Paramountcy' to join either India or Pakistan before 14 Aug, 1947. "A month before partition Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of undivided India, addressing the princes for the last time in his capacity as the Crown Representative had advised them that practical considerations left them only with the choice of accession to India or Pakistan subject, among considerations, to the factor geographical contiguity." [6] In June 1947, Lord Mountbatten and Sh. Sardar Patel as head of the Department of States Affairs visited Jammu and Kashmir and advised Maharaja Hari Singh to accede to India or Pakistan as per the will of the state subjects and was told that Independent J&K is not possible. It was unfortunate that Maharaja Hari Singh couldn't take any decision to join either India or Pakistan. Meanwhile the communal riots erupted in Punjab part of Pakistan and affected people entered Jammu and Poonch districts. As partition drew nearer more riots erupted in many parts of border areas of the state. Revolt against the state ruler first erupted in Poonch, it was supported by Muslims deserters and ex-servicemen of the state forces. Maharaja was informed about the inadequacy of the state forces but he was in the state of denial. Pakistan, hoping to take advantage of the situation sealed the communication lines with state and stopped the supply of salt, sugar, petrol and other essential items, traders

were often raided, apprehended and robbed. The people staying near the border people were harassed by hit and run tactics. Slowly but surely these raiders crossed the border of the state and marched toward Srinagar town. These raiders were supported by Pakistan. Keeping in view the safety and security his subjects, Maharaja Hari Singh joined India on 26 Oct, 1947.

Indian Army supported by Indian Air Force succeeded in pushing back these raiders. In 1948 India went UNO for peaceful solution. Karachi Agreement, under the supervision of the UNCIP, military representatives of both Pakistan and India met in Karachi and signed the Karachi Agreement on 27 July 1949. It established a cease-fire line (CFL) in Jammu and Kashmir, runs from MANAWAR in the south, north to KERAN and from KE RAN east to the glacier area. Thus, the first war between India and Pakistan ended dubiously in 1949 with the help of the United Nations. Both the countries signed the Karachi Agreement in 1949, wherein a ceasefire line was drawn which divided Jammu and Kashmir in two parts.

2.1 Birth of a vital force of Indian Armed Forces. In response to the Pakistani invasion of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, local people arose to the call to save the motherland from the raiders and grouped as J&K Militias stationed at Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Nubra, etc. Sheikh Mohd Abdullah played an important role in motivating the people of J&K to join the militias. This was known as J&K Militia and later on it was deployed on L o C. Recognising its contribution in Indo-Pak Wars of 1965 & 1971 the J&K Militia was converted into a regular regiment-Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry. It is the finest fighting force of Indian Army.

2.2 Sino-India War 1962

This war began on 20 Oct, 1962 when People' Liberation Army invaded Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh (earlier known as North East Frontier Agency) in a comprehensive move. This war lasted till 21 Nov, 1962, when China withdrew unilaterally from Indian Territories before snowfall could take place. Around 3,250 Indian soldiers were killed in action and about 43000 Sq.Kms territories is still under illegal occupation of China.

2.3 Indo-Pak War 1965

The death of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on 27 May, 1964, created political uncertainty in the country and Pakistan perceived that India is no longer political and militarily strong hence decided to attack India to grab Jammu and Kashmir. This war was launched with following objectives:

- A limited offensive was launched in Kutch area to test the political waters and divert the attention of India away from Northern and Western borders.
- To launch infiltration in Kashmir through Line of Control (LoC) and instigate local populace against India.
- To capture Chhamb area first and Jourian-Akhnoor Bridge to cut off routes leading to Poonch.

Pakistan failed miserably. Unable to instigate Kashmiris against India, Yes in Chhamb area gained some positions but Indian Army troops reached Lahore.

2.4 Indo-Pak War 1971

The **Indo-Pakistani War of 1971** was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the war of Liberation in East Pakistan from 3 December 1971 to fall of Dacca on 16 December 1971. The war began with pre-emptive airstrikes on 11 Indian Airforce Stations, which led to the commencement of hostilities with Pakistan and Indian entry into the war of Independence in East Pakistan on the side of Bengali Nationalist Force called Mukti Bahini Lasting just 13 days, it is one of the shortest wars in history. Although we created a new nation called Bangladesh but we lost Chhamb area to Pakistan. This paper is about loss of Chhamb area and impact on Internally Displaced Persons who got uprooted, stayed in camps and were resettled all along with International Border thus aggravating their problems.

2.5 Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

Since Pakistan failed miserably in her repeated attempts to grab Jammu and Kashmir in conventional warfare therefore decided 'to bleed India by thousand cuts'. Pursuing her policy vigorously, in late 1989 and early 1990, terrorist' organisations abetted and supported mainly by Pakistan who unleashed the reign of terror and forced Kashmiri Pandits to flee from the Kashmir Valley. "According to a number of authors, approximately 1,00,000 of total Kashmiri Pandit population of 1,40,000 left the valley during 1990s." [7]. These KPs were given three options: either convert to Islam or leave the Kashmir Valley or be ready for the death. There are numerous incidents in Kashmir Valley which indicate the barbaric nature of the terrorist' organisations both home grown and foreigners. The rise of Islamist fundamentalism and emergence of Al-Qaeda, Taliban, ISIS, etc has added a new dimension to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Threat is not directly from these organisations but regional and internal forces influenced by these organisations. They merge with the local population and indulge in antinational activities as and when situation arises.

2.6 Kargil War-1999

This was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that happened between May to July, 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistani soldiers disguising as Kashmiri Terrorists entered into Indian side. This infiltration was carried under the codename 'Operation Badr'. To flush out these so-called terrorists, India Armed Forces launched an operation called 'Operation Vijay'. This was an example of high-altitude warfare. India successfully evicted Pakistani intruders on 26 July, 1999.

At present the territories of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has illegally occupied by both Pakistan and China. Roughly, they hold about 2/3rd territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In Indian Parliament this was raised and answered in Dec, 2019. It is very unfortunate that major chunk of Indian territory is under China and Pakistan. "Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 Sq. Kms of Indian territory in the Union Territories

of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Under the so-called 'Boundary Agreement' signed between China and Pakistan on 2 March 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 Sq. Kms of India territory in Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to China. India's consistent and principled position, as also enunciated in the 1994 Parliament resolution adopted unanimously, is that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall be an integral part of India. We have consistently called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal and forcible occupation".[8]

2.7 Parliament approves Resolution to repeal Article 370; paves way to truly integrate J&K with Indian Union on 05 Aug, 2019 (Press Information Bureau, Govt of India, New Delhi dated 06 Aug, 2019.

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

2.7.1 Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A

- Historic step to remove Article 370 and 35A of Constitution of India
- Brought JK & Ladakh at par with other States and UTs
- All provisions of Constitution of India, without any modifications or exceptions, to now apply to JK & Ladakh
- Laws of Union Government wrt education, empowerment of SC, ST, Minorities etc to be applicable to JK & Ladakh
- Boost to local economy and employment opportunities by increasing investment; Reservation to EWS of society in jobs & educational institutions to apply in JK & Ladakh
- Betterment of socio-economic infrastructure in JK & Ladakh

2.7.2 The Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Act, 2019

Jammu and Kashmir reorganised into

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with legislature, and
- Union Territory of Ladakh without Legislature
- Formally came into force on 31st October, 2019
- Maps of newly formed UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh released
- 1st Winter-grade Diesel outlet for Ladakh inaugurated by Union Home Minister; move to boost tourism in extreme weather conditions

2.7.3 The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Act, 2019

3% reservation in services and educational institutions extended to people living near the International Border (IB) in J&K, in line with reservation given to people living near the Line of Control

2.7.4 Cabinet approved Inclusion of 5,300 Displaced Persons families of J&K in the Rehabilitation Package for Displaced Families of PoJK and Chhamb, under the PM's Development Package 2015 for Jammu & Kashmir

3. Concepts

3.1 'War' according to Cambridge Dictionaries Online, War is defined as an armed fighting between two or more countries or groups. According to Wikipedia, war is a state

of armed conflict between two societies. It is generally characterized by extreme collective aggression, destruction and usually high mortality. A casual look at the literature available on the 'war' reveals many terms related to war such as 'limited war', 'all-out war', 'cold-war', 'hot-war', 'proxy war', 'psychological war', 'counter-insurgency war', etc. "War as means of continuation of the state policy." (Clauswitz). War and peace differ not in the goals pursued, only in the means used to attain them. (Barbera, 1973). "While some scholars see war as universal and ancestral aspect of human nature, others argue that it is only a result of specific socio-cultural or ecological circumstances" [9]. Moving away from the mere definition of war let us now look at the consequences of war. "In every war in which American soldiers have fought in, the chance of becoming psychiatric casualty-of being debilitated for some period of time as a consequence of stresses of military life-were greater than chances of being killed by enemy fire"[10] Most wars have resulted in significant loss of life, along with destruction of infrastructure and resources, which may lead to famine, disease, and death of civilians in the war zone as well as in other affected areas.

3.2 Alienated Borderlands. According to Martinez, "Alienated Borderlands are functionally closed areas where cross border interaction is totally or near totally absent". Generally, there is a tension on the borderlands and inhabitants behave in a strange manner, even though are of the same ethnic groups or kinship groups. As per above mentioned definition the borderlands of Jammu and Kashmir can rightly be described as 'alienated borderlands'. There exist an awful environment of insecurity and uncertainty on the borders of the Jammu and Kashmir. People living there have been victims of the war-like situation, an extremely strange and dangerous situation of 'No War No Peace' exists along the International Border and LoC in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

3.3 Displaced Persons. Displaced persons or migrants emerge out of crisis or conflict. "Internally Displaced Persons or IDPs are among the world's most vulnerable people. Unlike refugees, IDPs have not crossed an International Border to find sanctuary but have remained inside their own countries. Even if they have fled in the wake of war/armed conflict"[11]. According to Merriam Webster, "A Person expelled, deported, or impelled to flee from his or her country of nationality or habitual residence by the forces or consequences of war or opposition constitutes a Displaced Person".

3.4 Social, Economic and Psychological effects of Displacement. According to UNCHR, "Displaced persons are highly vulnerable. They suffer from discrimination, experience significant deprivation. Marginalized in their own society and facing the emotional trauma of their uprooting experience, displaced people turn into excluded people who suffer loss of economic opportunities, breakdown of cultural identity, loosening of social and familial structure, interruption of schooling and increased poverty levels. They also suffer from grief relating to dead or missing family members, in extreme cases, resort to delinquency and begging in order to survive."

Impact of displacement is felt more essentially by children, women with small children or heading the family, and disabled and elderly people. They often feel the disorder freezing their existence and this fear is expressed by feelings of isolation, muddle, terror and agony and by indications of mental health/illness, of lack of direction etc.

4. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of this paper are enumerated in ensuing paras:

- To examine the Social, Economic and Psychological impacts of Indo-Pak War of 1971 on Internally Displaced Persons of Chhamb Sector.
- To comprehend that how Internal Displaced Persons get affected by war between two nations.
- To critically examine the role of Govt. in relief and rehabilitation of forced migrants.
- To study 'Alienated Borderlands' and consequence on people staying close to borders.
- To suggest policy measures to safeguard the basic human rights of the affected displaced persons.

5. Unravelling of events

Sun Tzu said, "All warfare is based on deception." On 07 Dec, 1970 there was first general election in East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) and Awami League led by Mujib-ur-Rehman won the election with thumping majority. But Pakistan rejected the results of this election. Civil disobedience movements started in East Pakistan. To quell the general uprisings, West Pakistan started military operations and committed so many atrocities. There was rise in Bengali nationalists and armed conflict movements. So many refugees entered in India thus creating economic and social problems for India. On 25 March, 1971, West Pakistan launched an operation called 'Operation Searchlight' against the people of East Pakistan. It pursued systematic elimination of nationalist Bengalis, Students, Intelligentsia and armed personnel. They even scrapped the election and put Mujib -ur- Rehman under arrest. Since East Pakistan was brewing terrorism in northeast states therefore India decided to give morale support to those who were fighting for their independence. West Pakistan blamed India for uprising in East Pakistan and declared war against India on 03 Dec, 1971. This war ended on 16 Dec, 1971 and a new nation came into being called Bangladesh.

5.1 Forced migration. Situation in East Pakistan had turned volatile after March, 1971, it was in the interest of India to support ongoing struggle for Independence in East Pakistan. When situation ran out of hands of Pakistan then to divert the attention of its people, Pakistan decided to go all-out war against India. Military started building up along the IB and LoC some where in Sept 1971. Although actual war started on 03 Dec 1971, when Pakistan carried out airstrikes on Indian airfields, yet apprehending the risk of life involved, these people started coming out of this battle zone in the first week of Sept 1971. For good about 4 months, people moved in columns, crossed the river Munawar Tawi and marched directionless toward east. Hardships suffered by these people are beyond the comprehension of normal human beings. The

winter season took a harsh toll on them. Women, children and elders were the main victims. They stayed alongside the road, canal without overhead protection and survived on dried Chapattis and Achar for many days. Most of the time they filled their bellies with water only. Dressed in torn clothes and the dust on their bodies made them invisible from themselves. They carried the burden of fate for many days to come.

5.2 Life under the shadow of guns. For good about one and half months the waves of human sufferings, agonies, pains swept across the river Munawar Tawi. People stirred in columns, crossed the river Munawar Tawi in terror and panic. Men, women, and children were enforced to flee on foot due to onset of the hostilities between India and Pakistan. Human beings walked in the open like a herd of cattle without any direction. The dust thrown by the feet of cattle and human beings hung over these columns thus providing an artificial screen and disguising them from the eyes of the enemies. At nightfall, crumpling along the wayside, they struck fires to cook food and keep themselves warm against the quivering cold weather conditions. From a distance the radiance of fires mixed with the dust gave a colour of red luminosity, rendering some kind of hope to these people. Looking at these dazed and despicable human beings, one could not even begin to fathom the horror which they were going through. They carried on with the same clothes often with one sandal/shoe for months together. Elderly men and women went piggy back on their sons, pregnant women on their husbands and young children to their fathers and mothers. The crippled, the sick and the dying added to their sufferings.

Women were seen carrying a few cooking utensils, ghee, pickles, some valuables and young children on their heads and shoulders. Men were seen carrying a wooden pole on their shoulders to carry the infants and sacks of food grains on each side. Bullocks, buffaloes, oxen, camels, horses, donkeys, etc. they all shared their distresses and liabilities of fate with their owners, they marched persistently along with their masters even some time ahead of them and showed the course of tramp.

It was not just a small journey to another village which these DPs of Chhamb sector were making but this was a march with no come back to their roots. Each step taken forward was laden with fatigue and starvation and every step taken backwards was loaded with the past of sadness and sufferings of thousand counts. These DPs were ready to give away their valuables for a morsel of grain. People started trickling from across the Munawar Tawi after the first week of September 1971. This was the time when problems started building up in then erstwhile East Pakistan and now Bangladesh. Pakistan moved its troops to IB and LoC on western front. Ceasefire was declared on 16 December 1971. After displacement and before moving to camps these ill-fated people sought shelters at every possible place be it an abandon building, school, tree, etc. But some people could go across the river Munawar Tawi to attend their cattle, crops and infirm people before start of actual war on 03 December 1971. But on this fateful day they faced the brunt of war and most of them couldn't come back alive. Indian Army suffered defeat in this sector and the pressure

of Pakistan Army was very high. Seeing the advancement of enemy Indian Army destroyed the bridge at Mandiala crossing on the river Munawar Tawi. It stopped the movement but paved the way of the permanent loss of Chhamb sector to Pakistan. On the fateful day of ceasefire i.e. 16 December 1971, Pakistan managed to acquire the land up to the river Munawar Tawi in this sector.

In the second week of January 1972 the DPs of the Chhamb sector were loaded in buses and trucks and were taken to Camps at Manwal and Kishanpur about 70 km from Jammu near Udhampur. Sitting in the buses they looked at each other for an answer but no one was clear about their destination. They were unable to understand why destiny was playing cruel jokes with them time and again.

5.3 Life at Camps

After staying in qualms and fear without overhead protective shelters these DPs were now thrown in open at Manwal and Kishanpur to fend for themselves. They had paid the price for staying closer to the border. But people failed to understand that despite India registering a great victory against Pakistan, why was Chhamb lost to them? It was a splendid success against Pakistan. It was won single handily, despite major obstructions and stiff resistance from many countries including USA. About 93,000 soldiers of Pakistan army had surrendered to the Indian Army. But this victory was pointless for the 4,900 families of Chhamb Niabat who were reduced to the status of the homeless in their own country. What a painful experience this was! Sights at the camps were pathetic; streets were desolate, household things were strewn all around. Young children were crying of hunger. Parents were helpless as they didn't have anything to feed their children except tears and false promises. This big victory gave no consolation to these people, who were left to starve and shiver. People just sat there, stared at each other without speaking a word. Their eyes became dull and throats had dried up. Time had left a deep wound mark on their minds. These sorrows gradually ate away into their hearts like termites, absolutely wrecking their minds and bodies.

Life at these DPs camps further caused psychological problems especially for women and children who constituted the major portion of the Displaced population. On an average a tent covering about 13 sq. ft. for a family of 6-8 persons. There was no privacy at all and these tents offered no protection against bad weather conditions. The ground was rocky. There was no separate place for cooking and bathing. For cooking earthen *Chullas* were made in front of tents, without any overhead cover. Initially the fresh water was supplied through water tankers but later supplied through pipes. This was insufficient and hence, people used to get water from *baulies*. Mostly people used take bath in the open near tents only. Pot holes were created at many places. There was scarcity of basic sanitation, hygiene and medical facilities. There were no separate bathing and toileting facilities for women, they had to take bath in the hours of darkness. Women, Children and Elders suffered from infections, psychiatric disorders, stress, anemia, malnutrition, etc. Riddled by diseases, cramped in tents and being illiterate made these people unemployable. Therefor

people grew angry, depressed and alienated. Children looked pale and unkempt due to malnutrition and lack of proper sleeping conditions. Their childhood was missed somewhere.

5.4 Rehabilitation and Resettlement

To ensure effective and efficient resettlement of these Displaced Persons, a joint committee of Govt of India and the State Govt of Jammu and Kashmir was formed in 1974. This committee was headed by Chief Secretary of the state. Central authority viz Chhamb Displaced Persons and Rehabilitation Authority (CDPRA) was formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the state.

“The Ministry of Home Affairs apprised the committee that as a result of delineation of the Line of Control along the Jammu and Kashmir border following the Shimla Agreement, the ‘Chhamb Niabat’ area comprising of about 39000 acres of land in Jammu and Kashmir fell on the Pakistan side of Line of Control. Over 18000 persons comprising about 4,900 families who had been uprooted from this area, were immediately provided relief assistance in camps situated at Kishanpur and Manwal at a distance of about 70 kms from Jammu”[12]

“Various schemes were implemented through CDPRA for the families of the displaced persons from Chhamb. The details of relief granted are as under: -

- (i) Eligible urban families were given a grant of Rs.14,500/- which included housing grant of Rs.7,500 per family, Ad-Hoc maintenance grant of Rs.800/- per family, special resettlement grant of Rs.500/-per family, milch cattle grant of Rs.1000/- per family, grant of Rs.3000/- for construction of shop per family, grant of Rs.2000/- for other structural requirements in the shop per family, and loan per family of Rs.5000/-.
- (ii) The agricultural families were given 4 acres of irrigated or 6 acres unirrigated land per family. Govt. of India had agreed to pay cost of deficiency of land allotted @ Rs. 5000/- per kanal. In addition, they were given Rs.13,500/- rehabilitated grant which inter alia included housing grant of Rs.7,500/- per family, Ad-Hoc maintenance of Rs. 800/- per family, special resettlement grant of Rs.500/- per family, milch cattle grant of Rs.1000/- per family, grant of Rs.2000/- for purchase of bullock per family, agricultural implements grant rs.500/- per family, in addition a loan of Rs. 1,875/- per family.
- (iii) Special assistance for the widowed and destitute was given which include pension of Rs.60/- per month, Ad-Hoc maintenance grant of Rs.300/-, special resettlement grant of Rs.100/-, house grant up to Rs.5000/- and a small plot.” [13]

“The Ministry further stated that out of total number of 4,900 families in Chhamb 1971(Camp) category, 3,900 families were allotted land. Rest of the families were excluded some (300) families were not agriculturalists. Some (182) families were serving soldiers’ families and some (218) families were widows and destitute”[14]

The ownership rights in respect of state land allotted the Chhamb Displaced Persons of 1971, who stayed in camps were given in the year 2000. But still they don't have occupancy rights in respect of lands belonging to Evacuees Properties. All the Chhamb Displaced Persons of 1971(camps) were allotted plots and lands in rural areas in (129) *basties* expect 27 families.

Chhamb sector displaced persons of 1971 were also settled in Pindi Camp along the International Border line in 1976. Border is the place where states meet but people part. "Borders are the physical markers not merely the territorial limit and the extent of the sovereign authority of the state but also the psychological symbols, dividing people and their sense of belonging between(us) and(them)" [15] Of the total 3,323 kms, India and Pakistan border, Jammu and Kashmir share 1,225 kms with Pakistan. While LoC forms 788 kms and IB is 210 kms. The widespread danger of exposure to these borders within J&K can be assessed from the fact that 22 districts of the state are the border districts and 10 falls in Jammu region. The whole area of IB is located in Jammu region itself, starting from Kathua to Akhnoor. Two important rivers drawing the natural borderlines are the river Munawar Tawi in the west and the river Ravi on the east.

5.5 Life at border

Life along the borders is very different from the mainland because of unreceptive conditions created by both India and Pakistan. Not just during the wars but even during peacetimes this border has become risky. The harmony and calmness of the people depends up the state of relations between India and Pakistan. Sometimes there is a continuous state of cross border tension, fear of militancy and subversion, etc. Thus, resentments between India and Pakistan have led to militarization of the border areas on the both sides. Earlier farmers on the both sides used to get some respite at least during cultivation and harvest seasons but these days there is no respite at all. Sporadic firing and bombing are a normal phenomenon. Right since partition, these border people have faced the impact of hostility from India and Pakistan. Actually, guns have never fallen silent at the borders, war or no-war. In present situation of No War No Peace in the state, the border suddenly comes alive to exchange a pound of gun powder.

"When started living here in Pindi Camp after rehabilitation the situation was quite volatile, we didn't have any sense of security and safety. Our cattle would be frequently taken away. We would keep vigil during night by turns" says Shanti Devi. With not many opportunities for earning of livelihood some people would indulge in cross border theft. Besides thieves, smugglers were very active in this area. In fact, this became a route of smuggling and trafficking. In 2003 the border was fenced as part of the overall strategy of India for Borders management. But before that border crossing was very common and occasionally accidental. Very often the stray cattle used to cross the border, even a few human beings also crossed to the opposite side. But they were exchanged with the help of BSF on Indian side and Rangers on Pakistan side. People to people contact was very sympathetic and encouraging.

Borders are not the ordinary places and can't be compared with the areas where people live normal settled life. There are certain strategic points along the border which are required to be secured at any cost. This process of safeguarding the tactical places further leads to militarization of the border areas. Due to cross borders terrorism and smuggling incidents at the borders between India and Pakistan, India decided to fence its borders. Therefore, the border belt in PindiCharkan Kalan areas was also fenced.

After shifting to Pindi Camp in 1976 these DPs of Chhamb Niabat adopted the basic habits of the people living very close to the border. They merged with local people but kept their social customs and cultural identities intact. They involved themselves in the daily routines of the locals to forget the trail of horrors. But destiny had something else in the store for these DPs.

5.6 Ceasefire Line violations, Cross border Firing and Displacement

Since 1947 the Physical borders between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir have been a bone of contention. There are series of contentious descriptions of IB and LoC given out by Pakistan. First Cease Fire Line in J&K was drawn in 1949 as a result of Karachi Agreement. It was re-designed and re-named as Line of Control in 1972 as outcome of Shimla Agreement. Extension of LoC is from Akhnoor to point 9842 and in Siachen it is Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL). The IB runs from Akhnoor to Kathua mainly defended by BSF (Border Security Force) on Indian side and on Pakistani side by Rangers.

Sequence of Composite Dialogue Process which was started in 1997, got its first hit by major setback suffered due to Nuclear Tests by India and Pakistan in 1998. From Indian side the process of peace talks was initiated by Lahore Declaration but Pakistan's misadventure in Kargil in 1999 shaped a situation of suspicion between India and Pakistan. After the Agra Summit's failure and attack on Parliament on 13 December, 2001 talks between both the countries got disrupted once again. After almost a war like situation in 2002, the Ceasefire along LoC and IB was observed in Nov 2003. This ceasefire agreement was observed in letter and spirit till July 2014 but intensifications picked up and increased abruptly. Now we hear about ceasefire violations every now and then. This is a very worrying tendency. These ceasefire violations cause a great destruction to life and property of the people staying near the borders. It is a matter of serious unease. Both India and Pakistan are blaming each other for violation of ceasefire and disruption of peace along the borders. Life of the people staying very close to the borders has been adversely affected in many ways due to these ceasefire violations. "Over 562 ceasefire violations, highest in 11 years took place in 2014. Out of these 562 ceasefire violations, 410 took place on IB in Jammu and 152 on LoC(The Economic Times dated Dec28, 2014). More than 32,000 border people were displaced in Jammu region and were temporarily shifted to makeshift shelters.

Ceasefire violations have cast a horrendous shadow on the villagers especially farmers living close to the border. There

is a great loss to human lives, loss to the property and cattle stock etc. due to cross border firings. And above all the insecurity of being bombed at any time creates disaster on the psyche of these border inhabitants. "A total of 73,368 people in the border villages of the Jammu and Kashmir were displaced temporarily due to the recent ceasefire violations by Pakistan, Minister of State for Home Affairs Haribhai Partapbhai Choudhary said on Wednesday"[16]

6. Impact of war on the people of Chhamb Sector

As a consequence of being displaced, civilians often struggle to meet essential needs amid exacerbated hardship, and they may face particular threats, such as tensions between them and host communities, settlement in unsafe or unfit locations, and forced return to unsafe areas. Also, the lack of access to official documents, often left behind or lost during move, is one of the major concerns affecting internally displaced persons and one that can prevent them from gaining access to essential services such as health care and education. Internal displacement can have devastating effects on the lives of displaced people, their dependents, their hosts and those who are left behind in their community of origin. Its impacts on health, livelihoods, security, housing and access to infrastructure, as well as to education, social life and the environment, can damage wellbeing and affect society as a whole.

6.1 Loss of territory

Pakistan gained about 45 square miles (120 km²) of Indian Territory in Chhamb sector. Strategically, it is an important area and should not have been lost. Akhnoor and Poonch are now directly threatened by Pakistan.

6.2 Poor health

When people are forced to leave their homes, it affects their health both physical and mental, especially when such migration is prolonged and permanent. This move was sudden, swift and intense. There was only one Primary Health Center located in these camps to cater the health facilities for 4,900 families which were multiplying at very fast rate. They had an extremely high mortality rate. The most commonly reported causes of deaths were diarrhea, measles, acute respiratory infections, malaria, malnutrition and other infectious and communicable diseases, the major killer diseases noticed in the camps were as mentioned below: -

- i) Acute Respiratory infections-4.30%
- ii) Malnutrition -2.15%
- iii) Pre-Natal and post Natal -4.30%

"Armed conflict and emergencies create a wide range of problems experienced at individual, family, community, and societal levels. The psychological and social impacts of emergencies be acute in the short term, but they also undermine the long-term mental health and psychological wellbeing of the affected population" [17]

In addition to limited resources, the growing population at camps put more strain on availability of food, water and

shelter. Emotional disorders such as depression, prolonged grief disorders, PTSD and various forms of other anxiety disorders were noticed among all sections of the DPs. Consumption of alcohol was very common among them and surely it increased with the passage of time.

6.3 Social and Cultural fabric breakup

The sudden disruption of social and cultural life was the major setback for these displaced persons. The breaking up of joint family system and paving way to more nuclear families resulted in disorder among the people. Elderly people were left in lurch to fend themselves. Although it gave some financial stability to newly formed families but it further increased the stress and strain on them. Women and children felt more insecure. A sense of loneliness was felt by the elders in the family. The old, widowed and divorced, felt more insecurity. In their villages they were living as a close-knit family but this unit got disintegrated after coming to these camps. The local language 'Chibbali'[18] spoken by these people in their villages was fast eroding. Here there was much emphasis on Urdu, Hindi, Dogri. The language was further undergoing significant changes. Cultural identity was lost as invaluable manuscripts, paintings, objects of arts and antiquity were left behind when these people fled Chhamb sector. These were subsequently damaged and destroyed by the occupant forces.

Early marriages of young children due to financial constraints was also noticed during the stay in camps. Girls, especially were married off at an early age to complete the social obligation/responsibility as well as to decrease the financial burden. To secure the higher income of grooms, parents married off their daughters to far flung places, even out of the state. This further resulted in an imbalance in the sex ratio. This proved to be very dangerous for the families, especially for old parents. There was sudden increase in family disputes and marital discords.

6.4 Economic Conditions

Lost their assets when forced to flee by the circumstances beyond control. Now they were unable to perform their former work this led to unemployment and underemployment thus leading to a significant loss of incomes. These displaced persons on an average had 8 to 10 acres of land with one or two persons employed in military or Central Paramilitary Forces or Police or civil. This displacement rendered them homeless as well as unemployed. Moreover, they were not qualified enough to take up the respectable jobs thus most of them became forced laborers but those who were literate, physically fit and mentally robust found their ways to military and para military forces. The financial assistance given by the govt. was not sufficient for all the family members' expenditure. The detail of assistance given is as under: -

(a) Monetary Help:

- (I) Rs 45 per adult per month.
- (ii) Rs 30 per child up to the age of 10 yr.
- (iii) Rs 15 per child below the age 10 yr.
- (iv) Rs 3 for

(b) Ration per adult per month.

- (i) Atta- 12 kg.
- (ii) Rice- 3kg.
- (iii) Sugar-750 gm.

Those who were employed were excluded from the members who were subject to this assistance. This meagre assistance was not sufficient to support the families staying at camps.

6.5 Education

Displacement interrupted children' education separated from their school environment, teachers, friends, classmates, peer groups, etc. Gaps were created in their studies and put stress and strain on them. Once displaced persons have met their basic need for food, water and shelter then their primary concern is to at least give primary education to their children. All children have an absolute right to education. This right applies without discrimination whether are at home in camps or anywhere else. No govt. can deny this to a child within its boundaries. Very low level of education was seen among these displaced persons. Only 2% of the total population of male members was matriculation and above, 9% was 8th std pass and 16% was 5th std pass. Whereas only 8% of total women were 5th pass. Educational facilities at these camps were very dismal. Most of the schools lacked basic infrastructures and teaching facilities, these schools were either co-located with temples or in the open. Only Senior Secondary School Chhamb was located in *pucca* building of the forest department. Qualified teachers were not available. There was a lack of proper uniforms and books for the children. Malnutrition in the children prevented these from attending the schools. Most of the children worked at home to help sick and old members of the family. This was playing disaster for the future of young generation.

6.6 Mental health

Displacement creates adverse effects on mental health state of people and further compounded by events unfolding. Problems such shortage of food, income, healthcare, education, finances, discrimination, etc. are the constant sources of mental stress and strain. It is highly likely that the risk of developing mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and psychoses are greater among displaced populations than that of stable populations. [19] Traumatic events, overcrowding in displacement and poverty affected the mental health of the people from across the river Munawar Tawi, while political, environmental and socio-cultural determinants were found to have associations with the development of psychopathology.

Practically, a stable sense of identity and its belongingness to social and cultural surrounding is very essential to sound mental health. "By neglecting the effects of trauma and violence, during the events following the creation of the nation states of South Asia, we (in India) sidestepped the notion of universality, both of understanding the psychological spaces and of delivering medical care. The lack of this discourse thus had an impact on our current predicament, wherein we pay relatively little attention to

social trauma and distress and its role in mental (ill) health, as also a fractured system for providing health care." [20]

7. Recommendations

Forced migration is not a new phenomenon to the history of mankind. In India such migrations have taken place many a times. People of Chhamb sector suffered forced migrations in 1947-48, 1965, 1971, 1999 due to wars with Pakistan. Every situation is different and unique so warranted different measures to different migrations. Now it is a known fact that people were displaced from Chhamb sector due war between India and Pakistan and loss of territory to enemy. These people faced ordeals during war and suffered during their stay at Camps. And now they are settled all along the International Border sharing with Pakistan. There is no peace, environment is insecure due to cross border firings from across the border. Life at border is not easy but full of difficulties. The solution lies in better management of life, here are some recommendations how we can achieve this?

7.1 Border management

This border is a man-made and doesn't follow any natural barrier in this sector but prone to infiltration. In addition to this, political instability, cultural radicalism, patronage of mafia and terrorism by our adversary make border management an important aspect of national security. Effective border management call for proper coordination between people, process and technology. If this border is managed properly then it could lead to smuggling, human trafficking, infiltration, drug trafficking, organized crimes, terrorism, etc. The border can be made safe by adopting following measures:

- Establishing effective communication among various security agencies and local people.
- Controlling illegal trafficking of human-beings and goods.
- Eliminating the threat posed by terrorism and organized crimes.
- Controlling the illegal migration of people.

Further we can enhance the security at the border by constructing roads, floodlighting the areas, fencing, plugging the gaps, etc. use of technology, radars and collection of intelligence and corroborating with various agencies.

7.2 Development of border areas. The border areas need special development for wellbeing of the people. An essential infrastructure by convergence of all schemes for development of basic infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill-development. In the border areas development of essential infrastructure facilities and opportunities for sustainable development would certainly help these people to integrate with hinterland. This will create positive perception among the people and will certainly help them to in the border areas. These activities will help in creating an environment for sustainable living in the border areas of the country by providing additional job opportunities, improving quality of life and standard of living in the border areas, while also helping integrate the border areas with the mainland,

building a positive perception and encouraging the people to stay on in the border areas.

7.3 Skill development. Almost every household staying along the International Border in Jammu district has or had some presence in the Indian Armed forces. People take pride in joining the forces. The youth of the region also takes deep pride in joining the forces. With this in background, people should be trained to join Indian Armed forces and Para Military Forces, border youth should be equipped with necessary physical and mental skills which ultimately facilitate their recruitment into the Indian Army/Navy and Airforce, besides other paramilitary forces.

7.4 Addressing educational and health needs. Education, including literacy training, primary, secondary, tertiary, job-related, life skills, and informal and other age specific educational opportunities are needed for the young children. The focus should be on the employability. Education plays a major role in psychological and social healing, skill development, earning livelihood, cementing social and cultural bonding, leading healthy and meaningful life, etc. It also enlightens them about their rights and duties toward society and nation. At the same time effective health facilities should be provided to them. Women and Children must get access to health safety measures especially reproductive needs.

7.5 Occupancy/Tenancy rights

It is pertinent to mention that occupancy/tenancy rights in respect of evacuee's property has not been done so far. They have been allotted the land and tilling since 1976. About 40 years have been passed but they still not have occupancy rights. This right is necessary to obviate the disparities between the refugees of POK 1947. Nothing has changed on ground. There is an emergent requirement to amend the Agrarian Reforms Act 1976. This would allow these displaced people to own the land in their name.

7.6 Land deficiency compensation at par with other displaced persons

Since the Displaced Persons of 1947 are being considered to be compensated with the deficiency of land therefore it is recommended that the Displaced Persons of 1971 be considered for compensation for deficient land holding. This should be done in case of Displaced Persons of 1965.

7.7 Compensation for agriculture land occupied fencing and mining

There is a requirement of detailed analysis of the effects of fencing and mining on the life and property of the border people and these people should be compensated accordingly. If possible then fencing should shifted as close as possible to IB. This will ensure the vacation of land of the DPs and then they will be able to cultivate their land and earn some livelihood.

7.8 Capacity building

Over the years, there has been a paradigm shift in the way terrorists carry out their attacks at national borders. Latest technologies and sophisticated weapons are being used to execute these attacks. And, this is the reason why capacity building has assumed such a high priority in effective border management. Latest technologies for investigating crimes, proactively collect information on potential threats, tracking the criminals and neutralising them before they cause any harm to the nation, disaster management, emergency situations, bomb disposals, etc. The success of technology advancements in ICT implementation for security totally depends on the readiness of our forces to understand and then implement them. Capacity building and change management forms an integral part of smart border management since it will develop the capability of defence forces to maintain one's own safety, minimise liability, ensure that the forces. The agencies involved in border management shall ensure that all existing and new recruited security personnel shall receive adequate and frequent trainings, provide functional capacity to the agencies involved in border management need to establish faster and more innovative training avenues and strategies for capacity building and training. An example of such a solution would be to conduct computer-based training programmes at border academies that will decrease the training costs and enable sharing of knowledgeable best practices and learnings across various defence forces. The border management agencies may also collaborate with local computer institutions to utilise their existing infrastructure for remote training campuses.

8. Conclusion

War affects both combatants as well as non-combatants. Soldiers, civilians especially women and children face the brunt. Civilians suffer unspeakable vagaries of war. "War has a catastrophic effect on the health and wellbeing of nations. Studies have shown that conflict situations cause more mortality and disability than any major disease. War destroys communities and families and often disrupts the development of the social and economic fabric of nations. The effects of war include long-term physical and psychological harm to children and adults, as well as reduction in material and human capital. Death as a result of war is simply the "tip of the iceberg". Other consequences, besides death, are not well documented. They include endemic poverty, malnutrition, disability, economic/ social decline and psychosocial illness, to mention only a few. Only through a greater understanding of conflicts and the myriad of mental health problems that arise from them, coherent and effective strategies for dealing with such problems can be developed." [21]

Forced migration impacts the life of people, their hosts as well as those who are left behind. The repercussions are felt in the terms of health, livelihood, social and cultural fabric, education, security, etc. These problems don't affect alone but strike collectively. Their inherited severe effects on many generations to come could be seen. It is very difficult to assess the impacts of such displacements due to lack of data. The war related stress had a negative impact on the

psychological well-being of the people who were displaced from Chhamb sector. Even today violent conflicts at the border causes many people to leave time and again.

Termination or initiation of war is a political decision. War termination is a matter of sound judgement because it has the consequences on nation. War should be terminated from the point strength when both aims and objectives have achieved. Policy of a nation decides the initiation of war as well as the termination of war. On 16 Dec, 1971 the Eastern Command of the Pakistan Army surrendered at Dhaka in Bangladesh. The war ended after the chief of the Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, along with 93,000 troops, surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini. General A A K Niazi signed the Instrument of Surrender on 16 December 1971 in Dhaka, marking the formation of East Pakistan as the new nation of Bangladesh. Pakistan also lost half of its territory with the birth of Bangladesh. Position as on 16 Dec, 1971. India had occupied certain strategic positions along the Line of Control (LoC), made inroads in Pakistan in Shakargarh and Rajasthan sectors, 93,000 Pakistan soldiers were taken as Prisoners of War (PoWs). On the other hand, Pakistan had made gains in Chhamb, Hussainiwala and Fazilka sectors. India declared unilateral ceasefire on 17 Dec, 1971 after creation of Bangladesh out of erstwhile East Pakistan. Shimla agreement was signed between India and Pakistan on 02 July, 1972, no efforts were made by the Govt of India to negotiate the lost territories with Pakistan in lieu of release of PoWs. Why Chhamb was lost? This issue has been debated and discussed at length by the military strategists in India and is beyond the scope of this paper. The fact is India lost its territory to Pakistan in Chhamb sector and there was a forced migration of people from this area. They left their homeland in panic-stricken situation, lived under the open sky and were terrified by sounds of guns and air sorties. They lived under fear anxiety and uncertainty. They were forced to sell their valuables to make both ends meet. And after the loss of Chhamb sector to Pakistan they were shifted to newly established camps. Life here was tough and difficult to cope up. After negotiating troubled life in camps, they were shifted to areas adjoining International Border. Sufferings have multiplied over here due to unprovoked cross border firings. It is difficult to fathom the miseries and ordeals under which these people have undergone and unfortunately still undergoing.

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