

Review

History of Political Parties in Jammu and Kashmir: A Historical Perspective

Shabir Ahmad War

Department of Political Science Vikram University Ujjain. (M.P). E Mail: wmuzi142@gmail.com

Accepted 23 December 2018

Every nation of the world whether developed, developing or underdeveloped is represented by a definite political framework. India being a pluralistic society represented is by parliamentary form of government which is functioning through the support of national as well as that of regional political parties. As far as the crown state of India i.e. Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, prior to independence it was a princely state ruled by the Dogras. Like other states of the Indian Union, Jammu and Kashmir has its own party system. The politics of the state of Jammu and Kashmir after independence has been mostly dominated by regional political parties like National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples democratic Front (PDF), etc. The present paper is an attempt to investigate the chronicled foundation of the political parties, their emergence, and their political tenure in the state of being from the opposite ideologies to the main stream politics.

Keywords: *People's Democratic Party, National Conference, Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Janta Party*

Cite this article as: War, S.A (2018). History of Political Parties in Jammu and Kashmir. Int. J. Polit. Sci. Develop. 6(8) 280-286

INTRODUCTION

The article explains the history of political parties in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The article discusses the era from the treaty of Amritsar to the present political discourse of the state. A vast chunk of literature is already available on the history of state politics of the Jammu and Kashmir. Many renowned authors have described the history in an epic way. The author will try to discuss the history of political parties from time to time based on facts and government records in a charismatic way.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To investigate the political developments of Jammu and Kashmir after Dogra Rule.
- To explore the historical background and

emergence of political parties, their political unrest in Jammu and Kashmir.

METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted through secondary sources in an interdisciplinary approach. The design of the study is exploratory in nature and the major concern of the proposed study is to evaluate the history of political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. The present research paper is analytical and fact based, the current work is theoretical in nature. Hence it is based on secondary sources of data. For this purpose, the reference books were widely consulted, the access to internet research journals, occasional papers, and govt. reports to develop the plan of the research paper.

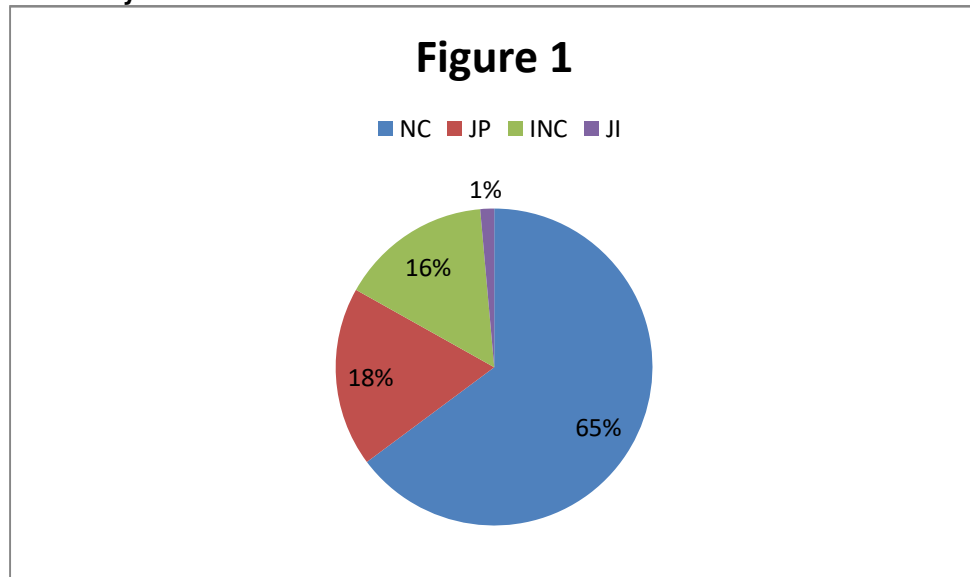
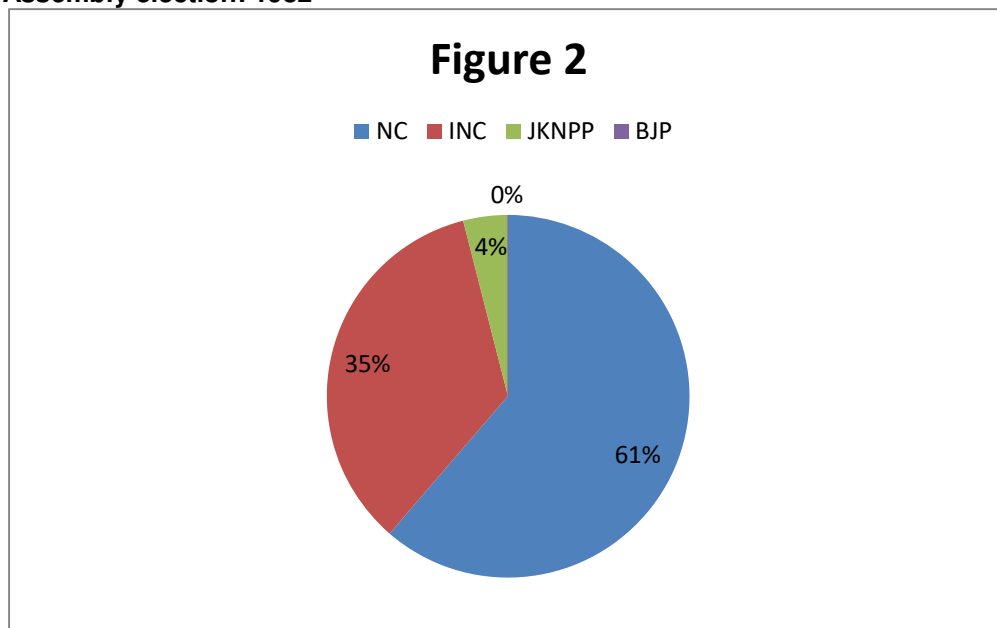
DESCRIPTION

The state of Jammu and Kashmir, as it exists today was founded by Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of Dogra rule in the state. Raja Gulab Singh got the valley of Kashmir from the east India Company through a sale deed commonly known as Treaty of Amritsar, signed at Amritsar on 16th March 1846 for a sum of Seventy five Lakh rupees (Nanak shahi). The state of J and K is the Northern most state of India situated in the Himalayan range that shares its international borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and national borders with Punjab, Himachal Pradesh. The state comprises of three divisions viz, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and dual capital with summer capital in Srinagar and winter capital in Jammu. The valley of Kashmir is famous for its beautiful mountains, landscapes and Jammu is numerous shrines attract tens of thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year, while Ladakh is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and Buddhist culture. The state of Jammu and Kashmir possesses 87 legislative assemblies. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is the only Muslim majority state in India with an area of 22223 square kilometers (Asifa).

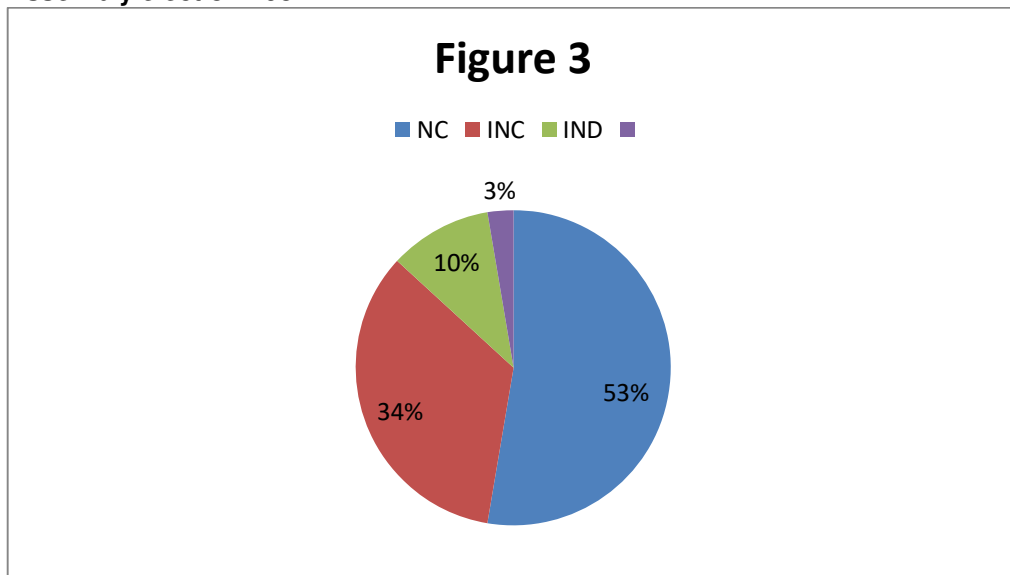
Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah returned from Aligarh Muslim University after completing his Law degree started agitation against the Dogra rule when he failed to get a satisfactory job in their regime. Sheikh Abdullah is said to be one of the inaugurator of regional politics in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He founded first political party in 1932 namely All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (Mohammad). On 11 June 1939 the Muslim conference was renamed as the All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was elected as its president (Arsheed). After the end of the Dogra regime, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on 5 March 1948 was appointed as the first prime minister of the state. But before the sheikh was allowed to play the part of a defender, he was removed from the seat of authority on August 9 1953 by the Sadar-I- Riyasat (PM) and was put behind the bars for a period of eleven years. After the dismissal of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, Bakshi Gulam Mohammad was appointed as the next Prime Minister of the state. Sheikh Abdullah was released from the prison on April 1964. On May 1965 Sheikh Abdullah was again arrested in New Delhi after returning a trip board. As a result of an amendment to the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir in 1965, the position of Prime Minister was changed to Chief Minister. Gulam Mohd Sadiq became the first chief minister of the state for the term of six years (Hassan). On February 25, 1975 Sheikh Abdullah was sworn in as Chief Minister of the state. Eventually, the precarious structure collapsed under the impact of parliamentary elections of 1977, when the Congress party was rooted in northern India. Anticipating that Sheikh Abdullah would break relations with the Congress and arrive at settlement with the Janta

Government, the Congress party which had strength of 45 members in the legislative assembly withdrew its support for government on March 27 1977. Sheikh Abdullah resigned and in First time the state of J&K was placed under governor's rule for a period of three months. After the end of governor's rule elections were held in the state on 30 June 1977, in the results national Conference won 47 seats out of 75, and the Janta party won 13 seats. Sheikh Abdullah became again chief minister of the state on 9 July 1977. On 8 September 1982 Sheikh (lion of Kashmir) left for the heavenly abode which in turn transferred the leadership of the party in the hands of his elder son Dr. Farooq Abdullah. In the election of 1982 National Conference emerged as the single largest majority party in the state. Dr. Farooq Abdullah was sworn as the chief minister of the state but due to some political crises in the state Dr. Abdullah couldn't complete his tenure that in turn led to the governor's rule. The Rajiv Farooq accord revoked the governor's rule on Nov. 7 1986. National conference and Congress alliance got took over the reins of administration in the state. National conference won 40 and Congress won 26 out of 76 legislative assemblies. Dr. Farooq chaired the Chief ministerial ship for a period of three years. The rigging of elections gave rise to militancy which somehow had an impact on the government of the state. This once again led the state under governor's rule for a period of six years. This period is termed as the longest governor's rule in the state (Amin). After the prolonged rule of governor fresh elections were held in 1996, National conference won 57 seats while BJP won 8 seats in legislative assembly. This gave Dr. Farooq a chance for the third time to form a government as chief minister and completed his tenure of six years. This was for the first time the Dr Abdullah had a stable government for a full tenure of 6 years (Wali)

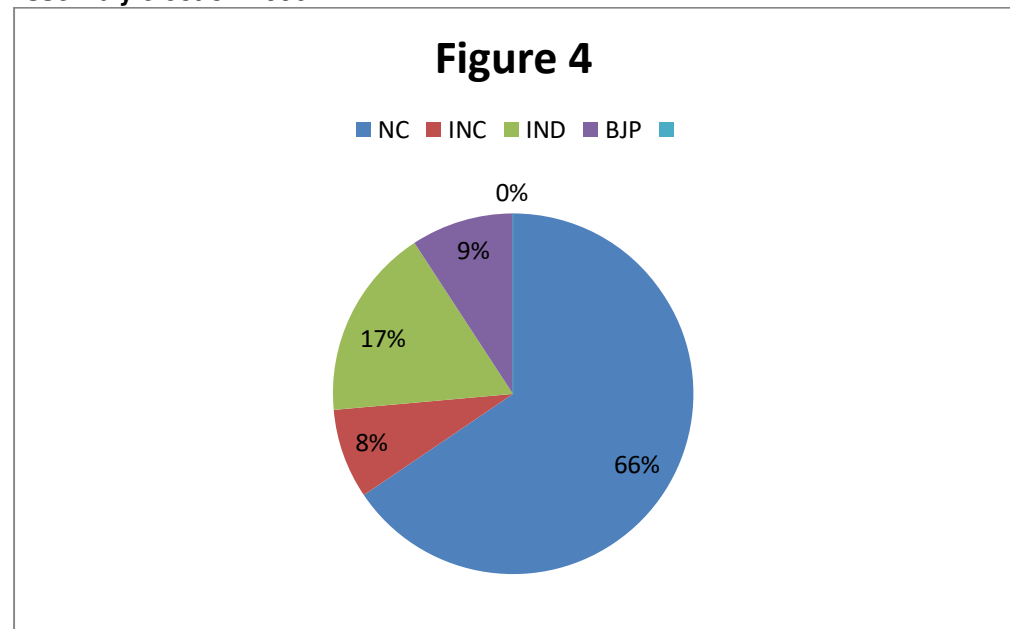
Mufti Syed who had been former union minister returned to Kashmir politics after having rejoined the Congress in 1996 hold some clues. His youngest daughter, Mehbooba Mufti won the Bijbehara assembly seat, Syed himself won the Anantnag Lok Sabha Seat in 1998, but soon resigned from both their positions and party hence forth gave birth to their own regional political party namely The People's Democratic* Party (Yudhister). The 2002 assembly elections that ended the hegemonic political period of National Conference has a strong impact on both National conference as the single dominating party in the political sense. The people's Democratic Party led by Mufti Syed won 16 seats, NC won 28 and INC won 20 seats in Legislative assembly that can be easily understood by the given pie charts in the end. The Peoples Democratic Party and Indian National Congress formed the coalition government, and Mufti Syed became first time chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for three years (Shazia). On the basis of collation government Gulam Nabi Azad of Indian National

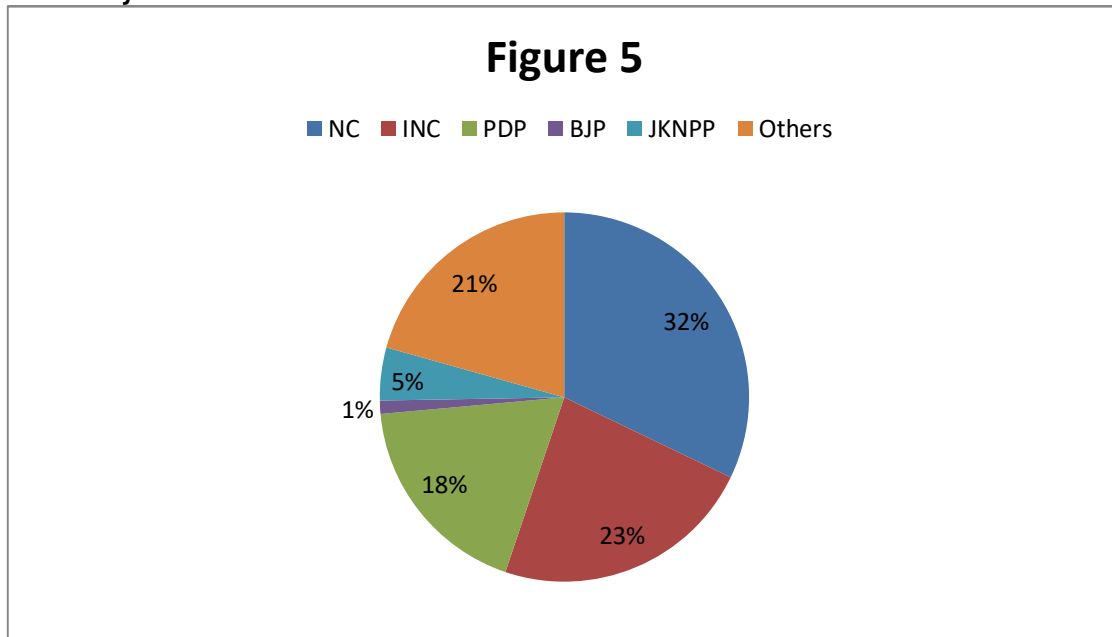
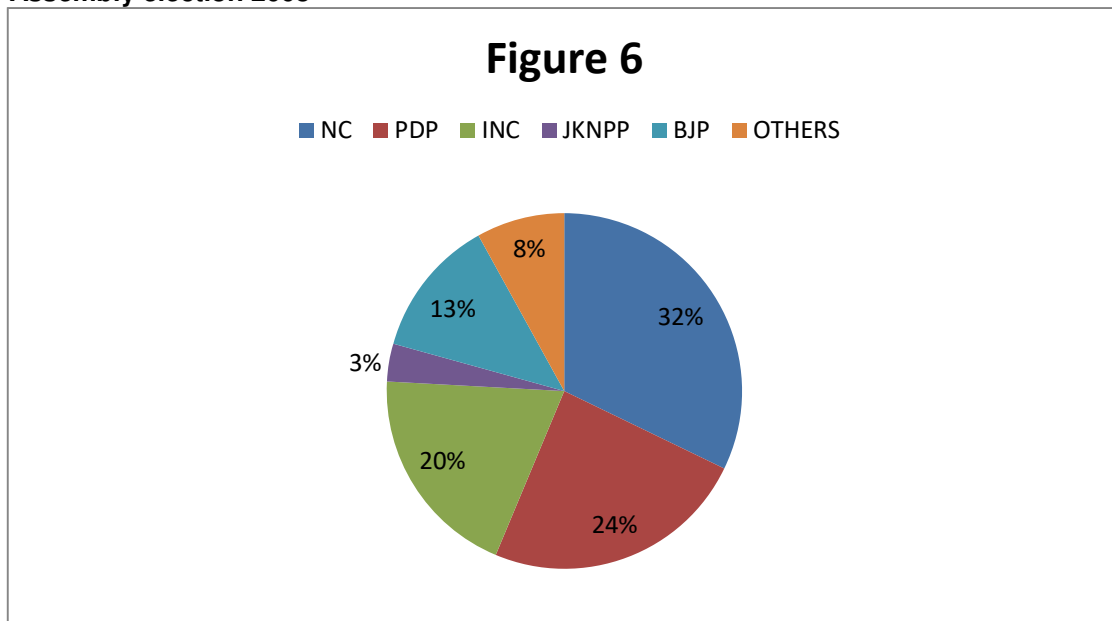
Assembly election 1977**Assembly election: 1982**

Assembly election 1987

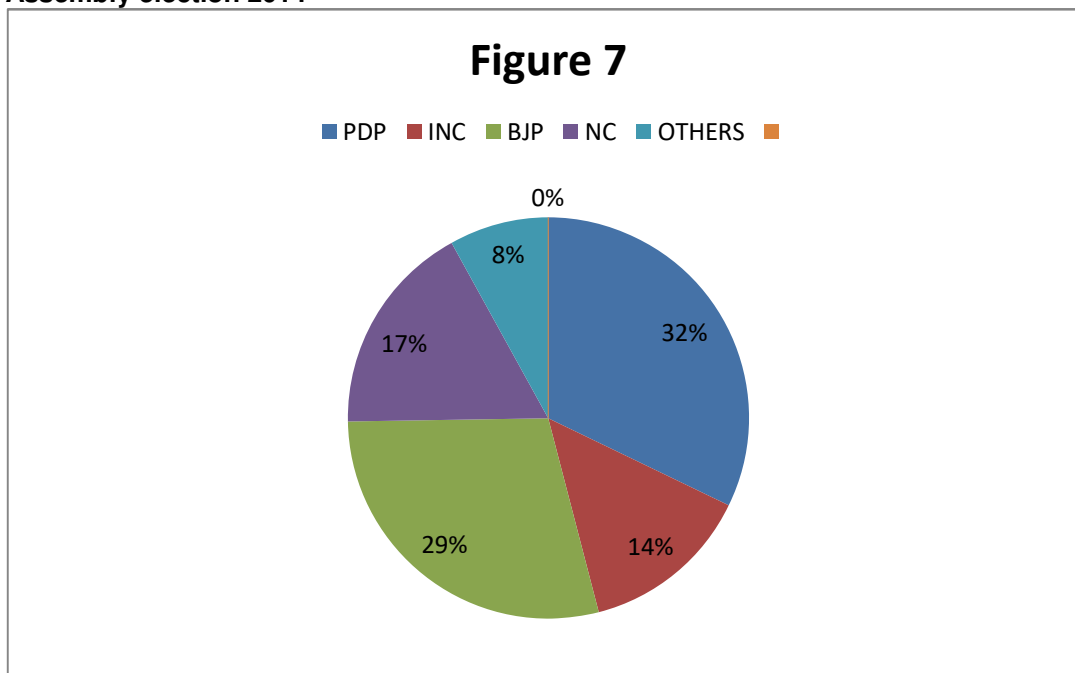


Assembly election 1996



Assembly election 2002**Assembly election 2008**

Assembly election 2014



Congress became the chief minister of state from 2005 to 2008, but he cannot complete his tenure of three years due to controversy over transference of land to Shri Amaranth Shrine Board (SASB). This controversy resulted in governor's rule for a period of one year. The state was totally shut down for six months. This period was very hard to come back for any political party (Rekha). After normalization sanitation in state, elections were held in November 2008. National Conference emerged as the single largest party with a number of 28 seats, but did not won sufficient number of seats to form government in the state on its own. Thus the results of 2008 state assembly elections led to hung the assembly with the result another coalition government was framed between Indian National Congress and National conference and Omar Abdullah was given a chance to serve the state for a period of Six years. He was the first youngest chief minister of the state (Riyaz). In 2014 assembly elections Modi wave hit Jammu division and failed to achieve the mission of 44+ seats out of 87 in the state legislature assembly. People's Democratic Party emerged as single largest party with 28 seats, while BJP got 25 seats for the first time in the history of Kashmir. After long delay, on 1 march 2015 Peoples Democratic Party and Bharatiya Janata party the two opposite sides of a coin formed a Collation government in the state, with Peoples Democratic Party patron Mufti Mohd Syed became second time chief minister of the state for full tenure and Bharatiya Janata party leader Dr. Nirmal

Singh as deputy CM (Shabir). After completion of 10 months journey by PDP-BJP government, Mufti Syed kicked the bucket in New Delhi after a prolonged illness on 7 January 2015 due to multiple organ failure. This changed the power of Chief ministerial ship to his daughter Mehbooba Mufti; however the death of Mufti Syed left vacuum in the party. The ideological difference of both the coalition partners led to disintegration or collision of the BJP and PDP government on 19 June 2018 after Bharatiya Janata party withdrew its support. This once again led to governor's rule in the state as no party in the state was in a position to form the government. The state is still under the governor's rule (Abass).

The above pie charts (Figure 1-7) will help to understand the statics of the political discourse from 1977 to 2014 in an efficient manner.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above study and pie charts and that due to political differences in the state, the political parties failed to achieve their desired goals and success. The situation in the state has worsened a lot from the independence era; however the governor's rule can be seen for the greater part of the time which shows how the political discourse is fatal in the state. The people of the state are always showing a positive

increase in voter turn out to see a stable government but the political parties always fail to do so, as the state is termed as the most volatile and disturbed state of India. Such disturbances are the important backdrop for the stability of government and political parties.

REFERENCES

- ❖ Arsheed Ahamd Ganie & Dr. M. Deivam, society politics and peace: Role of national conference in J&K. Golden research thoughts, ISSN 2231-5063, Vol. 6,issue 5, November 2016, P 1.
- ❖ Asifa Jan, Naya Kashmir, Zeba publications Chinar Avenue Naseem Bagh Srinagar 190006 Kashmir, 2004,P 1.
- ❖ Chowdhary Rekha, electioneering in Kashmir: overlap between separatist and mainstream political space, economic and political weekly, 12 July 2008.
- ❖ Dr Gh Hassan khan, government and politics of Jammu and Kashmir, published by Miss Natasha , govt. housing colony Rawalpura Srinagar Kashmir, 1988, PP 54-60.
- ❖ Dr Mohd Amin Malik, the role of national conference in politics of Jammu and Kashmir, Tahzeeb publishers and distributors Azadpur Anantnag and Khanyar Srinagar,2010, P P. 363-79.
- ❖ Mohammad Yusuf Ganai, Kashmir's struggle for independence 1931-1939, Mohsin publications Srinagar, 2003, P.113.
- ❖ Mohd Abass Bhat, coalition government of PDP & BJP formation of government and their common minimum program in J & K, international journal for school studies, Vol. 2, ISSN 2455-3220, issue 02, February 2016, P 64.
- ❖ Riyaz Ahmad Mir, working of Indian national congress in the coalition politics of J & K 20008-2014, international education & research journal, ISSN 2454-9916, Vol. 3, issue 6 June 2017, P 274.
- ❖ Shabir Ahmad Lone, Modi's mission failed in J & K: the coalition only alternative, international journal of applied research, Vol. 2, ISSN 2394-5869, issue 2, 2016, P 662.
- ❖ Shazia Majid, One party dominance and its break down in J & K, international journal of political science and development, Vol. 4, ISSN 2360-784x, Dec 2016, P 328.
- ❖ Wali Mohd Aseer, Focus On J and K, Crescent Publication House Jammu (J &K) India, 2006. PP 422-630
- ❖ Yudhister Kahol, Kashmir return of democracy, Anmol Publications PVT. LTD New Delhi 110002 (India), 2003, P. 51.