

DETAILED FIELD STUDY REPORT

On

**A Visit to Disaster Hit Area
Waltangoo Nard Kund (Kulgam)**

Jammu and Kashmir

SUBMITTED

BY

6th SEMESTER (GEOGRAPHY) STUDENTS

Supervised

By

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Almighty Allah, the Most Gracious, Beneficent, and Merciful" First and foremost, Alhamdulillah praises and thanks Allah, the Almighty, for His showers of blessings throughout our operations that enabled us to successfully accomplish this one-day field survey.

We, the sixth semester (Geography) students, are really gratified to convey our gratitude to our supervisors/teachers Dr. Jahangeer Afzal, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Geography & Geology, GDC Kulgam. And our beloved teachers ,Dr. Masoon Ahmad Beig. Dr. Suhail Ahmad Bhat and Mr. Mohd Rafiq Bhat Lecturers of Geography.

We are highly thankful to Prof. Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Lone, our worthy Principal of Govt. Degree College Kulgam for giving us permission and accompanying us to conduct this one-day geography field survey at Disater Hit Waltangoo Nard Kund of Kulgam district. We also extend our gratitude to Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Assistant Professor Department of Physics & Incharge tours, GDC Kulgam for providing us transport facility during this one-day field survey.

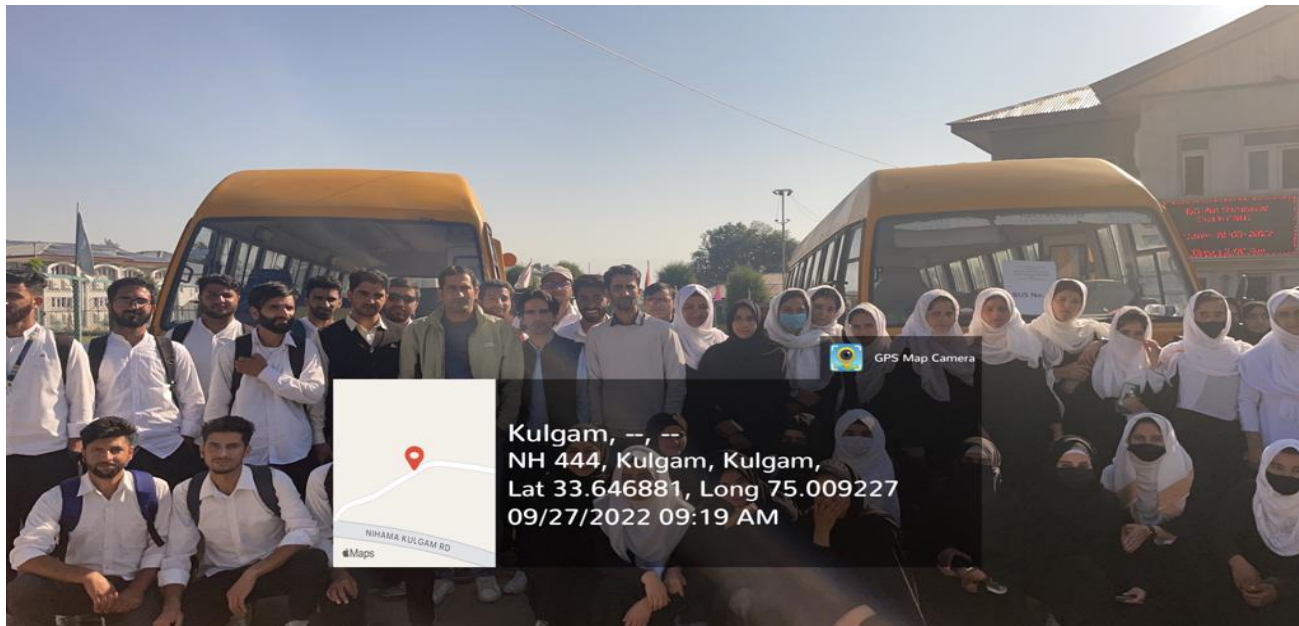
We also extend our gratitude to residents of waltangoo Nard for providing us information and assisting us during this field survey.

Date: 30 september 2022

Students of Geography 6th semester 2022

Place: GDC KulgamS

Image 1.1 Students Getting Ready for the Field Studies



1.1 Introduction

For a realistic grasp of the subject, fieldwork is crucial and extremely vital in a variety of fields. One appropriate subject that maintains a strong presence in the sphere of observation is geography. Thus, social and economic geography, two aspects of geography that are utilized and appreciated by members of society, are integrated in the field trip. The field work for various sciences is very important and of extreme importance for the genuine understanding of the subject. Geography is among proper subject, which keeps considerable position in the field of observation. The field study is of great importance for helps in proper understanding of region, which in turn will assist in minimizing the irrationalities in area. The positive virtue of a survey is the opportunity, it provides for surveyor to understand the numerous dynamic aspects of the society. Such survey is valuable not only because it enables the surveyor to keep into account multiple conditions enjoyed and availed by the persons of the society.

Field study is the essential component of the Geography and thereby a tour to the Disaster hit area is prescribed in the syllabus of geography in course - Fundamentals of Disaster

Management. Finally a detailed report has to be submitted to the Department under the proper supervision.

The present survey was undertaken and findings were compiled by the 6th Semester students of Geography of GDC Kulgam. The field study was conducted on 27th of September 2022 in the Waltangu Nard Kund area of Kulgam District. which was hit by a snow storm on 19th of February 2005

1.2 Study Area

The present study was conducted in the Waltangu Nard - A far-flung village in Kandi belt of Kund Valley in District Kulgam. Located at an Altitude of 5485ft. The study area lies between 33° 32' 52" North latitude and 75° 06' 44" E Longitude. The area is having harsh geo-climatic conditions and rugged topography. The settlements are sparsely distributed. The area is drained by seasonal streams and has also a good number of natural springs. The prominent one is the Vasaknag –A cold water spring that flows out merely for six months, appears in the month of April and disappears in the mid September and again appears in the month of April. Whether a geographical wonder or spiritual origin, the springs attracts the travelers for visit. The village has almost the population of more than 400 hundred souls and belong the Gujjar tribe. Living there from centuries in the laps of Pir-panjal range has learnt to adapt themselves to harsh geo-climatic conditions. The region is having almost uniform geo-climatic, socio-economic, demographic, historical and cultural conditions. The people of this village are still living the primitive life with rudimentary technology.

The region came to limelight only after the February 2005, when the snow storm hit the whole village and left more than 250 people dead. The lack of transport and communication, pure drinking water, electricity, market facility, health, medical and educational facilities has kept their standard of life extremely low even today.

1.3 Socio-economic set up

The village waltangoo Nard Kund has unique socio- economic characteristics owing to the topography and the less resources available there.

The present study is the outcome of the detailed survey done by the students of Geography of this College. The study is based on the primary data collected by doing door to door survey in the village. Random stratified sampling method was adopted to collect the data with regard to socio-economic status of the village.

1.4 Population characteristics

It is well known fact that people constitute the important resource of any region. But at the same time if any region with huge population of illiterates, unhealthy and poverty stricken people can do little with its resources. For the present study the demographic needs to be studied for the purpose of planning, Socio-economic functions for area and also for understanding areal variation of demographic characteristics in the Waltangu Nard area of Kulgam.

As per the present field study it has been observed that the area is sparsely populated with moderate population density. The Region has sex ratio of 987 females per thousand of males. The literacy rate of the area is very low with more than 46% illiterates, 20% Of the population have got primary education. While as 6% and 5% of the population have received secondary and higher education respectively.

So far the economic activities of the people are concerned it is a fact that more if more people are doing primary activities the region is said to be called underdeveloped. It has been observed from the data that more than 865 of the population is engaged with primary activities, while as 10% of the population is involved in secondary activities awhile as only 4% population is doing territory activities. So from the above analysis it can rightly be inferred that the region is less developed and the graph of poverty is very high.

1.5 Transport and communication

The present field study reveals the fact that the village lacks basic facilities like post office. Besides that in this era of digital revolution the area has a poor mobile and internet connectivity. Although the Village is connected with the district headquarter by macadamized road but without any means of transportation. The lack of transport has added to the problems of the people especially during any emergency.

1.6 Health and hygiene

The village also lacks basic health facilities as there is neither a medical dispensary nor a sub-centre. Interestingly during survey we did not even find any private medical shop in the area. Secondly there is no ICDS Anganwadi Centre and hence it was found most of the children and adolescent girls are malnourished.

1.7 Housing and Sanitation

As per the field study it has come to notice that the whole village is living in the Kacha houses with improper ventilation and sanitation. A room is usually shared by five to six persons in every house which is a grave concern and the question mark on the Scheme housing for all. None of the houses was having toilet facility and the village has open defecation even after the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission. Almost all the households are using firewood to cook meals. Only few people have access to LPG and kerosene.

1.8 Land and Livestock

Land and livestock constitute one of the main resources of any region. Agricultural land is considered as the backbone of economy of any region. But it has been observed by the survey that almost all families have small patches of land which are un-irrigated and have low production. Most of the land in the regions is under maize cultivation. The low production of the crops has resulted in low living standard of the people as they have to spend huge amount on feeding their large families. Secondly the livestock population in the region is very low hence the income generated through livestock is also meager. The region is also lacking a veterinary centre. Hence it has resulted in low living standard of people in the area.

1.9 Electricity

Electricity being the most important social amenity without which modern man is handicapped. Like other hilly regions of Kashmir valley the Waltangu Nard Village is having very poor supply of electricity. The area is provided electric supply only for few hours, while as during winters the electricity in the village remains cut for weeks together. Some households were solar lights in the past. Most of them are not functional now.

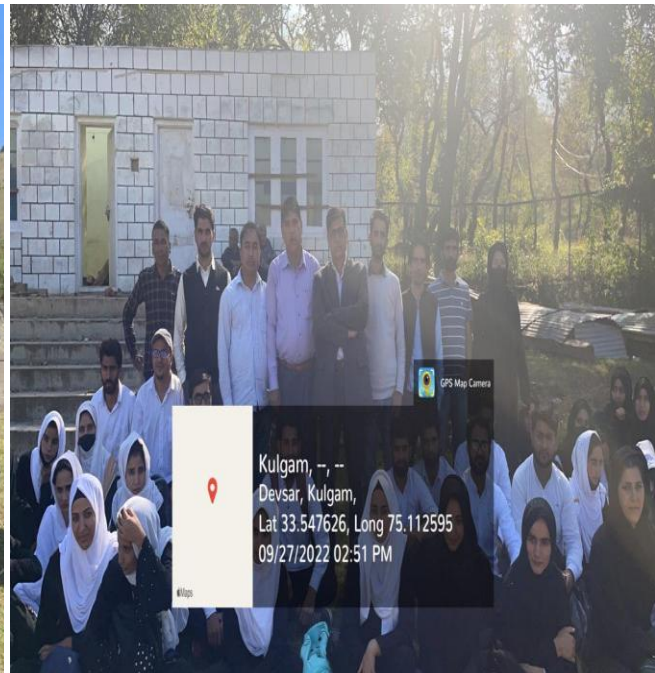
1.10 Drinking water

The survey conducted by the department of geography of this college reveals that Waltangoo Nard ids having very poor drinking water facilities. The stream and springs are main source of water in the area. The anthropogenic pressure has now changed the water quality of stream water. The poor quality of water in the area is evident from the facts that most of the people in area have got water born diseases especially Diarrhea, Jaundice, typhoid, etc.

Geography Staff and students with Principal at Vasaknag Kund



Students during field study





1.11 Disaster (Snow Storm) Effects

Waltengo-nard, a tribal hamlet in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, was devastated by a snowstorm on 19th of February 2005, A snowstorm blanketed 200 homes in the tribal village living over dangerous slopes. Nearly 200 people died that were trapped in their houses by the snow storm, The dead include young, old and children and several more were hurt and displaced by the disaster.

Table 1.1 Damage to Houses

House	Damage Percentage
Fully	88
Partially	11
Minor	01

Table 1.1 reveals that the houses got damaged due to heavy snow storm. The data reveals that about 88% of the houses got fully damaged likewise 11% suffer partial damage and only 1% of

houses got minor damage .The houses in this area are usually kacha so they did not bear the load of heavy snow hence got damaged.

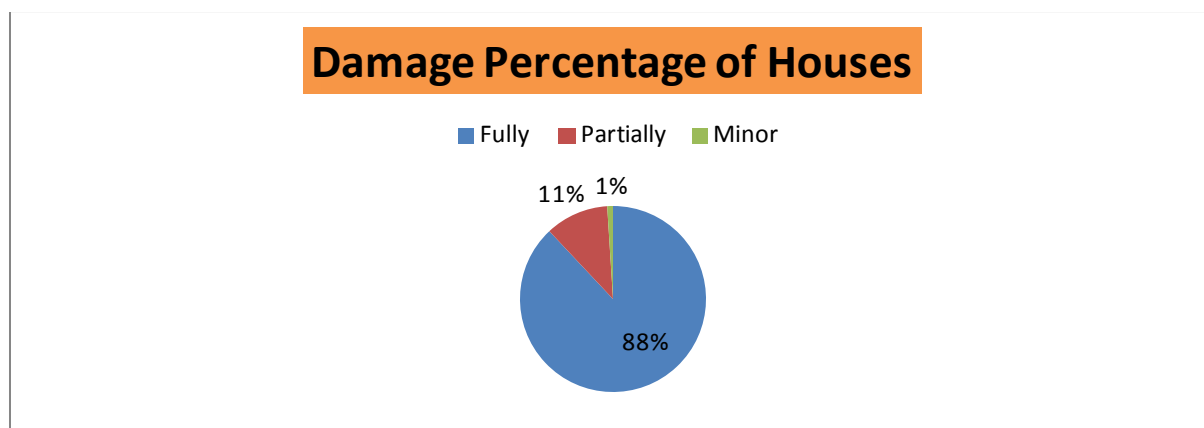


Table 1.2 Damage to Cowsheds

Cowshed	Damage Percentage
Fully	91
Partially	07
Minor	02

As per the survey conducted it has been observed that the livestock plays important role in economy of this area and every household has a separate or attached cowshed. But as per the data available it has been found that about 91% of cowsheds got damaged due to snow disaster. While as partial damage was reported for about 7% and only 02% of cowsheds suffer minor damage. The cowshed made of mud hence they are prone to damage and the snow storm of February 2005 vanished most of the cowsheds in the area.

Damage Percentage of cowsheds

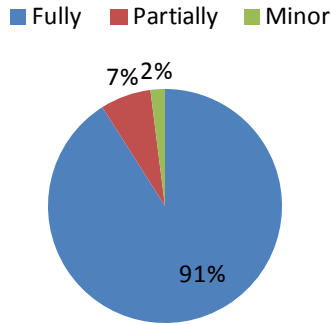


Table 1.3 Damage to Shops

Shops	Damage Percentage
Fully	76
Partially	18
Minor	06

Although it has been observed that a very small grocery shops are setup in this mountainous area. But the storm did not spare the shops and they too got damaged .From the table 1.3 above. It is clear that 76% of shops in area were fully damaged .about 18% shops got partially damaged and 06% shops suffer minor damage.

Damage Percentage of Shops

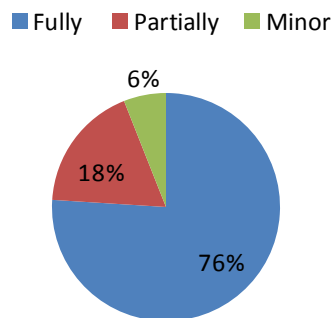


Table 1.4 Damage to Grainaries

Shops	Damage Percentage
Fully	92
Partially	05
Minor	03

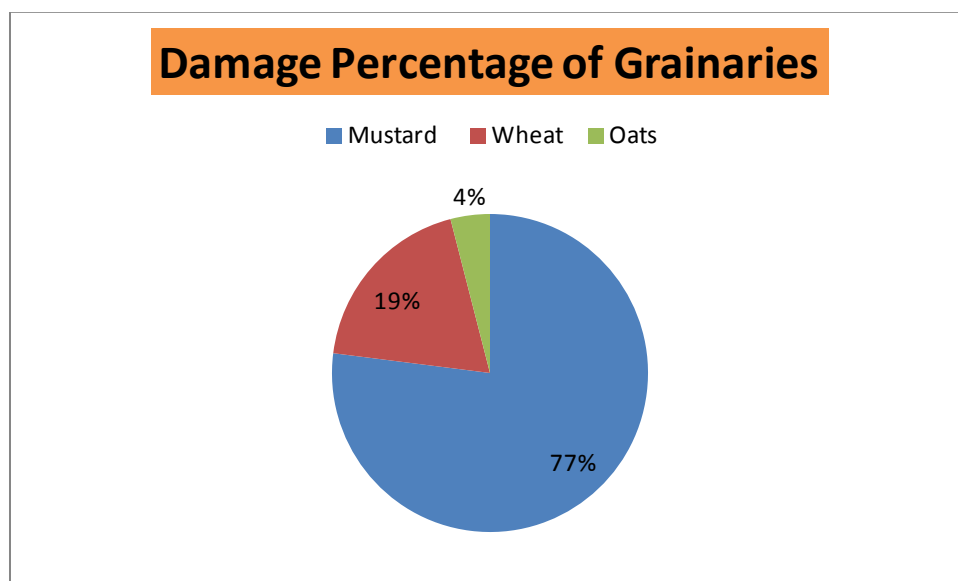


Table 1.5 Damage to Crops

Crop	Damage Percentage
Mustard	77
Wheat	19
Oats	04

The Region is kandi in nature with no irrigation and almost rabi crops are grown in this area. The Rabi crops grown in the area include Mustard, wheat and oats. The snow storm affected badly the rabi crops and most hit was the mustard which suffer 77% of loss and wheat suffer 19% of loss. The oats which is usually grown for fodder purposes also suffered 04% loss. The rabi crops

got damaged due to heavy accumulation of snow in the area and the snow cover was present on land till late April .There the rabi crops got totally damaged.

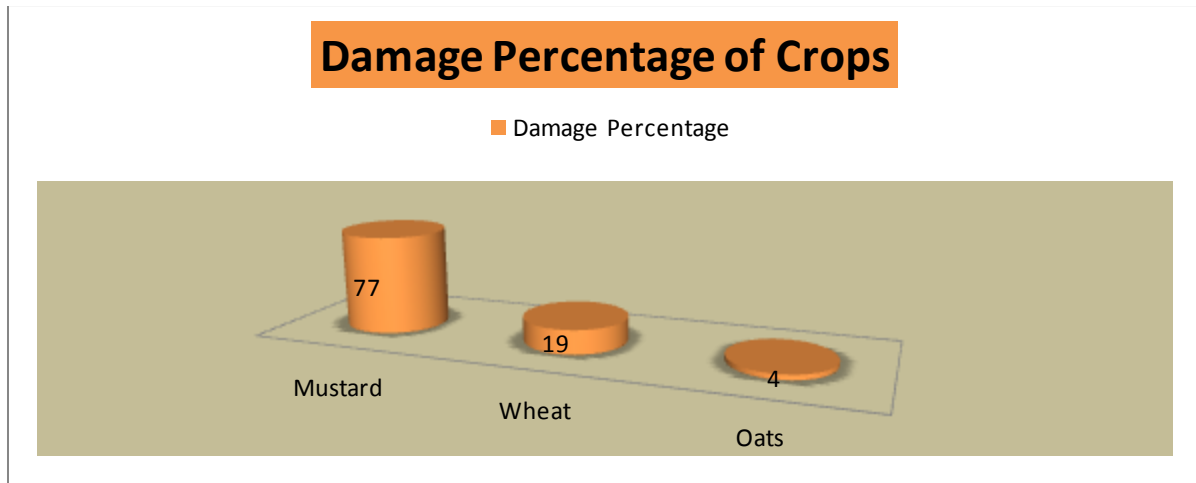
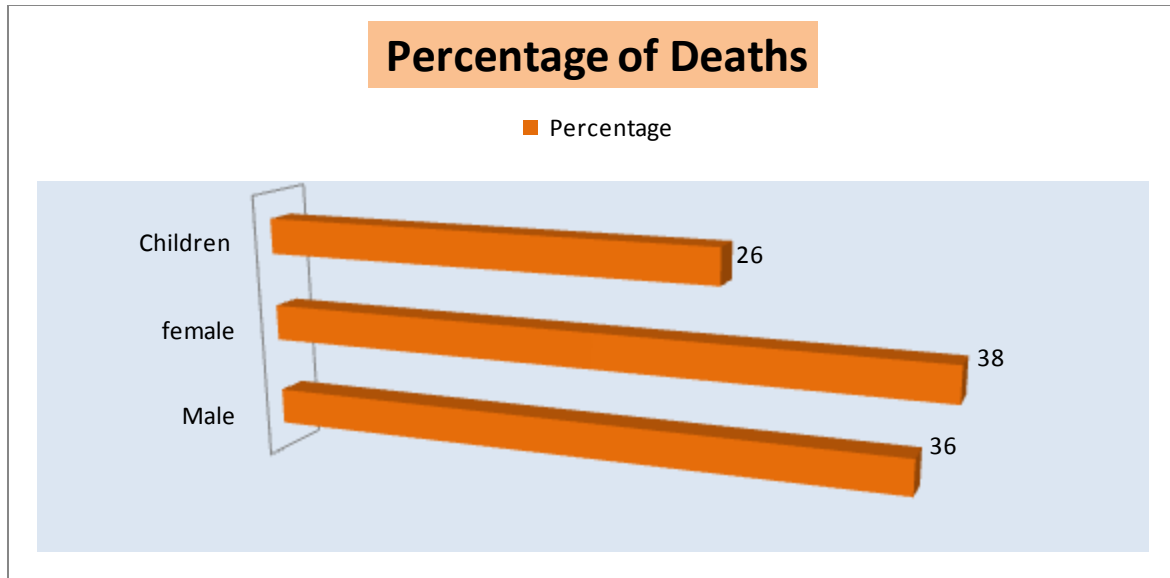


Table 1.6 Deaths

Gender	Percentage
Male	36
female	38
Children	26

The snow storm takes a heavy toll of life in waltangoo Nard area of Kund Kulgam on 19th February 2005. More than 180 persons got buried alive under the blanket of snow. The table 1.5 reveals that among deaths women percentage was more as compared to male and children. About 38% among dead were female , 36% male and 22% children. Women are the delicate group hence more affected by disaster of February 2005. As per survey it was revealed that the area has no tape water and most of the women were out to fetch water from nearby spring and were trapped in the snow storm, which lead to their death.



Conclusion

The present survey has been carried out in a comparative methodology framework. The survey reveals that the socio-economic conditions of the people of that very area are of low standard. Most of the families of the region are living below poverty line. The overall developmental scenario of the region is very poor. The lack of medical aid, drinking water, electricity, transport and mobile network has added to the miseries of the people living there.

The Disaster of February 2005 has put grave impacts on the people's life living on these tough slopes in the laps of Pir- panjal. The snow storm has destroyed their social and economic fiber. Besides that the damage to life and property has shook the very foundations of those tribal people. This tribal area was already away from the eyes of Government, but the snow storm bring this region to limelight and Government has taken many steps for their rehabilitation. But now almost 17 years has passed but the rehabilitation process is still in progress. Only few house-holds were provided accommodation by government in the newly constructed mini houses. The study reveals the government is not so much serious about the rehabilitation of those victims of snow storm, which is evident from the fact that most of the people are still living in temporary sheds and mud *Khotas* in this disaster prone area and the developmental works has not been carried out up to mark. The study also reveals that no awareness programmes are not organized by government and NGO's to make aware people about the hazards of the region. Not

only snow storm the area is also susceptible to landslides, snow avalanches, cloud bursts, but the people are ignorant and lack basic training of handling such disasters.

Recommendations

Keeping in view the above facts it is therefore recommended that the Waltanguu Nard region of kund Kulgam can be developed and living standard of the people will be upgraded if the area is provided with all weather transport and communication, Besides there is a need for setting up of medical care centre, veterinary centre, Anganwadi centre, etc.

There is a great scope for solar energy plant which will help in providing better power supply to the area. Not only this but the provision for the pure drinking water supply to every household should be done on priority. The launching of awareness campaign with regard to various welfare schemes of government is the need of the hour. Installation of telecommunication towers and introduction of high speed internet should be done on war footing basis so that the people may get benefitted. Most of the land is un-irrigated with less fertility so to enhance the quality of soil health card scheme should be launched in area. Besides that expansion of horticulture and introduction of high density varieties of different crops especially walnut and apples should be introduced.

Keeping in view the disaster of February 2005. There is a need to have disaster vulnerability assessment of the region. The mitigation plans should be launched to save this tribal region from future disasters. Besides snow storm the area is also susceptible to landslides, snow avalanches, cloud bursts, so there is a need of awareness and training to people so that they can handle the future disasters in a strategic way.

The topography of area and the presence of water bodies especially Vasaknag Spring and lush forests provide a base for development for tourism in the region. It is apt to mention that the region has been recently included in tourist village map. But being ecologically fragile the Waltanguu Nard should be developed as eco-tourism Village.

Questionare Sample

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FIELD STUDIES FOR M.A. IN GEOGRAPHY (PART I)

VILLAGE SCHEDULE

1. NAME OF THE VILLAGE: Wahga 2. BLOCK: Kulgam 3. DISTRICT: Kulgam
 4. TOTAL AREA OF THE VILLAGE (APPROX.) TOTAL: 1000
 5. POPULATION: 500
 6. VILLAGE TOPOGRAPHY: Sub. Mountain
 7. MAJOR NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE VILLAGE: Forest, Spring
 8. COMMUNICATION: Post, Road, Telephone
 9. ALL WEATHER ROAD/METALLED NON METALLED: Kacha
 10. POST AND TELEGRAPH: Post 11. MOBILE CONNECTIVITY: Yes 12. INTERNET: Yes
 13. SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER: Well, Spring
 14. TAP WATER / RIVER / WELLS / SPRING / OTHERS: Well, Spring
 15. SETTLEMENT PATTERN: Dispersed
 16. HOUSE TYPE: Kacha 17. PACCA: Yes
 18. COMMON DISEASE FOUND IN VILLAGE: Cholera

HEALTH CARE FACILITY: Not available
 HOUSE HOLD SCHEDULE

1. HOUSE NO: 10 2. TYPE OF HOUSE: Pacca
 3. NAME OF THE HOUSEHOLD: Abdullah
 4. Type of House: Thatched
 5. Damage to House: 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Minor
 6. Damage to Cows: 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Minor

7. Damage to Grainary: 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Minor
 8. Damage to shop: 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Minor
 9. Damage to Agriculture land (In Kanals): 2.5 Kanals
 10. Land prone to landslides (In Kanals): 2.5 Kanals
 Type of Crop Damaged: 1. Beans 2. Maize 3. Pulses 4. Any other
 11. No. of timber trees damaged: 45
 12. No. of fruit Trees damaged: 1. Apple 2. Pear 3. Cherry
 4. Any other: Walnuts, Timber
 13. Damage to vehicles: 1. Fully 2. Partially 3. Minor
 14. No. of deaths in family: 1. Male 4 2. Female 4 3. Children 4
 Young: 1
 15. No. of injured in family: 1. Male 1 2. Female 1 3. Children 4
 Young: 1
 16. Type of injury: 1. Major 2. Moderate 3. Minor 2
 17. Did you receive any grant- in- aid from government: 1. Yes 2. No
 18. Did you receive any relief material like blankets, garments lantern, solar lights, etc? 1. Yes 2. No
 19. Was rehabilitation shed granted in your favour: 1. Yes 2. No
 20. Are awareness programmes organized here: 1. Yes 2. No

Submitted by: Muneer Ahmad
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 Semester: 6th

