

Detailed Field Survey Report

On

**Socio-Economic Aspects of
Mandlan and Frislan Villages of Pahalgam
Jammu and Kashmir**

SUBMITTED

BY

2nd SEMESTER GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS

Supervised

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Students of Geography

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Place: GDC Kulgam

1.1 Introduction

Socio-economic field surveys play a crucial role in geography as they provide valuable data and insights into the complex interactions between society and the economy within a specific geographic context. These surveys involve collecting information directly from individuals and communities, allowing geographers to understand the social and economic dynamics of an area. This detailed note explores the significance of socio-economic field surveys in geography and highlights their contributions to research, planning, and policy-making. Socio-economic field surveys facilitate the collection of primary data, offering a deeper understanding of the social and economic characteristics of a region. By conducting interviews, questionnaires, and observations, researchers can gather specific information on demographics, income levels, education, employment, housing conditions, and other relevant variables. This data is essential for conducting accurate analyses and forming a solid foundation for geographical research.

Field surveys help geographers identify spatial patterns and distributions of socio-economic factors. By collecting data from different locations within a region, researchers can map and analyze the distribution of various socio-economic indicators. This information enables the identification of disparities and inequalities within a society, helping policymakers and planners devise strategies to address regional disparities and promote balanced development. Field surveys provide a valuable tool for assessing the impact of socio-economic policies, programs, and interventions. By conducting surveys before and after the implementation of such initiatives, researchers can evaluate their effectiveness and identify unintended consequences. This data-driven approach allows policymakers to make informed decisions and adjust their strategies to achieve desired outcomes.

Socio-economic field surveys are essential for urban and regional planning. By understanding the socio-economic characteristics of a specific area, planners can identify the needs and demands of the local population. This information helps in determining the optimal location for infrastructure development, provision of public services, and resource allocation. Field surveys also contribute to the identification of

suitable sites for industrial and commercial activities, ensuring sustainable economic growth and improved living conditions. It provides policymakers with accurate and up-to-date information to formulate effective policies. By analyzing socio-economic data, decision-makers can identify societal challenges, such as poverty, unemployment, or educational gaps, and design targeted policies to address these issues. The data collected through field surveys helps policymakers understand the social and economic context of a region, allowing for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

Besides that field surveys promote community engagement and empowerment. By involving local residents in the data collection process, surveys give voice to marginalized communities and enable them to express their concerns and aspirations. This participatory approach fosters a sense of ownership and encourages community members to actively participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Furthermore, survey findings can be shared with the community, raising awareness about their socio-economic conditions and facilitating the mobilization of resources for community development initiatives.

To conclude Socio-economic field surveys are invaluable tools in geography as they provide accurate and detailed data on the social and economic characteristics of a region. By enabling data collection, spatial analysis, impact assessment, and community engagement, these surveys contribute significantly to research, planning, and policy-making. Their importance lies in their ability to inform evidence-based decision-making, promote social equity, and empower communities, ultimately fostering sustainable development and improved quality of life.

Field study is the essential component of the Geography and thereby socio-economic survey is prescribed in the syllabus of Geography. For this the students are asked to undertake the study on assigned topic. Finally a detailed report has to be submitted to the Department under the proper supervision of the supervisor.

The present survey was undertaken and findings were compiled by the 2nd Semester students of Geography of GDC Kulgam. The field study was conducted on 10th of June 2023 in the Mandalanand Frislanvillages of Pahalgam



1. Students getting ready for Field Survey

1.2 Data Base and Methodology



2. Door to Door Survey

The present report is based on primary data collected by students of 2nd semester during the visit and door to door survey conducted in the twin villages of pahalgam. The data was collected in the structured questionnaire framed for the purpose. The data was then tabulated and analyzed to get the results .Various statistical and cartographic techniques were used to frame the report.



3. Imparting Instruction to Students

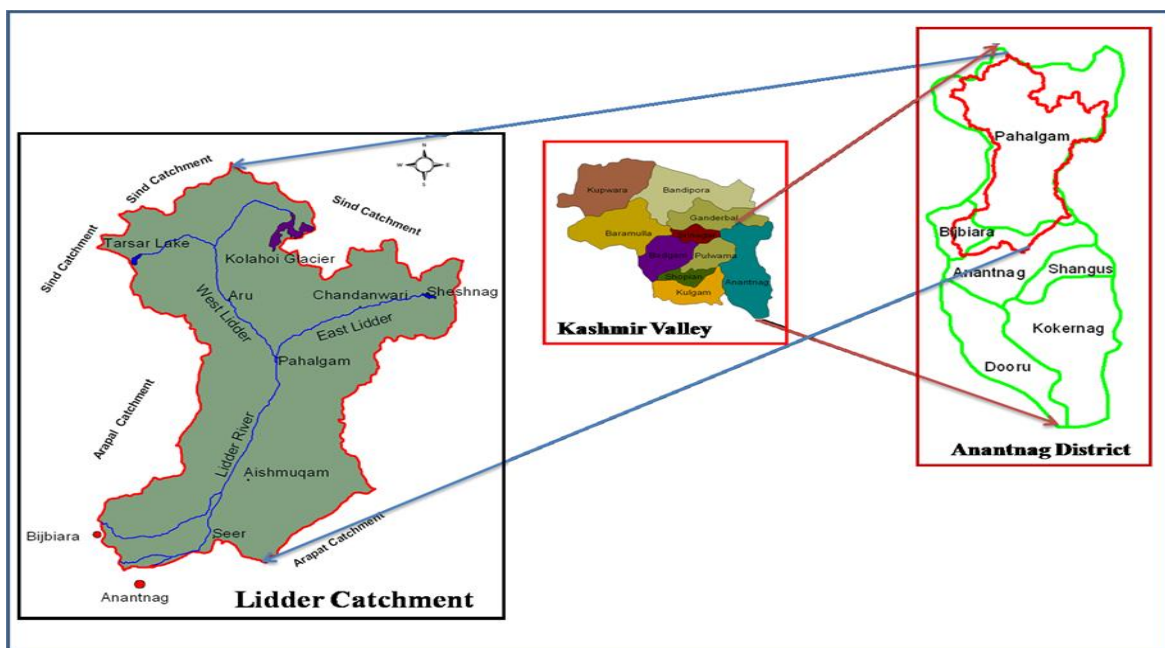
1.3 Study Area

Mandlan and Frislan villages are located in the Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir, India. With latitude of 34.025° N and longitude 75.302° E. Situated in the picturesque Lidder Valley, Both Villages are known for their stunning natural beauty and serene surroundings. Situated in the southwestern part of the Pahalgam region, within the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. Nestled amidst the majestic Himalayan Mountains and are surrounded by lush green forests, meadows, and the flowing streams of the Lidder River. The villages are located at an elevation of approximately 2,600 meters (8,530 feet) above sea level. Its higher altitude contributes to a cooler and refreshing climate, making it an attractive destination for tourists and nature enthusiasts. The twin villages are characterized by a diverse topography offering panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. The landscape features rolling hills, fertile meadows, and dense forests comprising a variety of trees, such as pine, oak, and cedar.

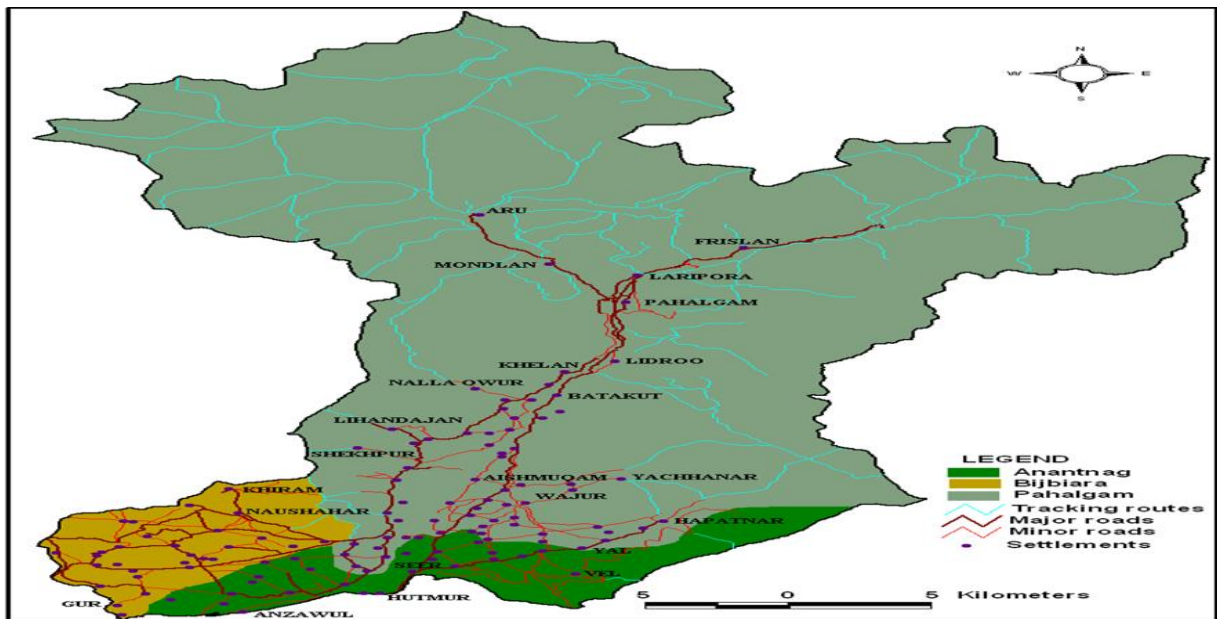
The villages experience a temperate climate with cool summers and cold winters. Summers (April to June) are pleasant, with temperatures ranging from 10°C to 25°C

(50°F to 77°F). Winters (November to February) are chilly, with temperatures often dropping below freezing, and the area receives moderate to heavy snowfall. Blessed with abundant natural beauty and biodiversity. The surrounding forests are home to a diverse range of flora, including coniferous and deciduous trees. The region's fauna includes various bird species, small mammals, and occasional sightings of wildlife like musk deer and Himalayan brown bears.

Both villages serve as a gateway to several popular tourist attractions in the Pahalgam region. Nearby attractions include the Lidder Valley, Aru Valley, Betaab Valley, and the famous Amarnath Yatra route. The villages provide ideal base for trekkers, nature lovers, and adventure enthusiasts to explore the breathtaking landscapes and embark on adventurous activities.



Source: Computed from SOI Toposheets 1971



Source: Generated from SOI Toposheet 1971

1.4 Socio-economic setup

Socio-economic surveys involve collecting data on a wide range of variables to capture the social and economic characteristics of a population. These variables provide information about the composition and size of the population, including age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, household size, and location.

Education Variables capture educational attainment, literacy rates, enrollment status, years of schooling, and qualifications achieved. While as employment variables cover employment status (employed, unemployed, inactive), occupation, industry, income levels, working hours, job stability, and employment benefits.



Income and Expenditure variables focus on the income and expenditure patterns of individuals or households, including total income, sources of income, savings, household expenses, and consumption patterns. Likewise Poverty Variables measure poverty levels, such as the number of people below the poverty line, poverty rates, and indicators of deprivation and housing Variables assess housing conditions, including housing type, tenure (rented, owned), access to basic amenities (water, sanitation, electricity), and overcrowding. Health Variables capture health-related information, such as access to healthcare services, health insurance coverage, self-reported health status, prevalence of diseases, and healthcare utilization.

Social Assistance Variables examine the utilization and impact of social assistance programs, such as welfare benefits, food assistance, unemployment benefits, and social security. Access to Services assess access to essential services, including education facilities, transportation, communication infrastructure, clean water, sanitation facilities, and electricity.

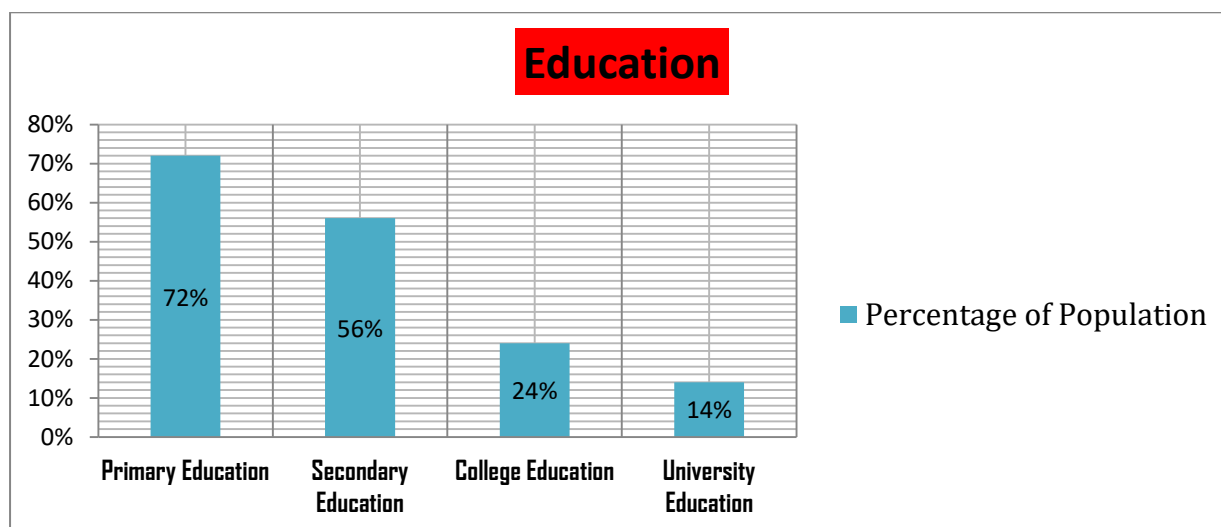
1.5 Education

Education Variables capture educational attainment, literacy rates, enrollment status, years of schooling, and qualifications achieved.



Data Table 1.1 Showing Education Levels

Education Level	Percentage of Population
Primary Education	72%
Secondary Education	56%
College Education	24%
University Education	14%



Based on the above table, it is revealed that the highest percentage, 72%, represents the portion of the population that has received primary education. This indicates that a significant majority of the population has completed at least primary school. Primary education is typically the foundational level of education, covering basic literacy, numeracy, and general knowledge. The table indicates that 56% of the population has attained secondary education. This suggests that a substantial portion of the population has continued their education beyond primary school and completed secondary school.

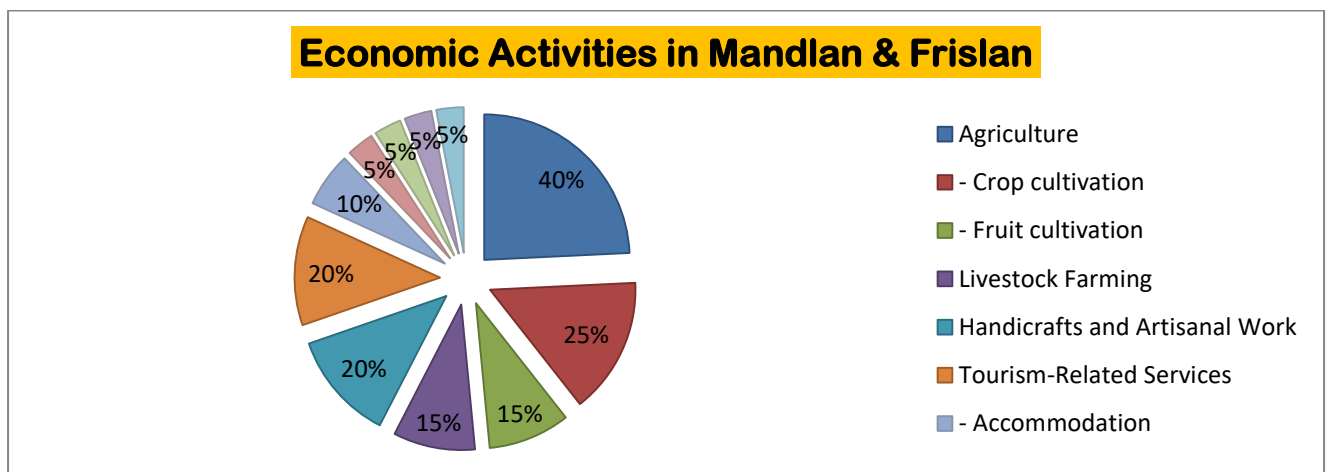
The percentage of 24% represents the population that has received a college education. This indicates that a smaller portion of the population has pursued higher education after completing secondary school. The table shows that 14% of the population has attained a university education. This suggests that a relatively smaller segment of the population has pursued further education beyond college.

The data implies that the education system might face challenges in ensuring a smooth transition from secondary to higher education, as the percentage decreases at each subsequent level. Additionally, factors such as gender disparities, socioeconomic conditions, and cultural norms can influence education levels and patterns within a population.

1.6 Economic Activities

Table 1.2 Economic activities in Mandlan and Frislan villages of Pahalgam

Economic Activities	Percentage
Agriculture	40%
Crop cultivation	25%
Fruit cultivation	15%
Livestock Farming	15%
Handicrafts and Artisanal Work	20%
Tourism-Related Services	20%
Accommodation	10%
Restaurants and food stalls	5%
Guiding services	5%
Trekking and Adventure Sports	5%
Other Economic Activities	5%



The table of economic activities in Mandlan and Frislan villages reveals that the largest percentage of economic activity is allocated to agriculture, accounting for 40% of the total. This suggests that farming plays a significant role in the villages. Crop cultivation represents 25%, indicating that a substantial portion of the agricultural activities is focused on growing various crops. Fruit cultivation, at 15%, suggests that cultivating fruits is also a prominent aspect of agriculture in the region. With a percentage of 15%, livestock farming holds a significant but smaller portion of the economic activities. This indicates that raising animals, such as sheep, goats, and cows, is a secondary economic activity in the villages. After analysis it is evident that 20% of population is associated to handicrafts and artisanal work. This suggests that the villagers possess traditional skills and engage in producing handicrafts, which could include carpet weaving, wood carving, and embroidery. This sector contributes to the local economy through the sale of these products, potentially targeting both tourists and local markets.

Besides that tourism-related services account for 20% of the economic activities. This indicates that the villages attract a considerable number of tourists. Accommodation, such as guesthouses and homestays, represents 10%, suggesting that there is a demand for lodging options in the area. Restaurants and food stalls account for 5%, indicating the availability of dining options for visitors. Guiding services, including horse riding and trekking, also contribute 5% to the economy, suggesting that tourists engage in outdoor activities. About 5% are associated with trekking and adventure sports. This indicates that the villages are situated in an area with opportunities for outdoor activities, attracting a small but noticeable portion of tourists interested in adventure sports like hiking, camping, river rafting, or paragliding. Lastly, 5% is allocated to other economic activities that do not fall into the above categories. This percentage represents miscellaneous services or small businesses that may exist in the villages but are not explicitly specified in the analysis.

1.7 Livestock

Table 1.3 showing the percentage of households owning different types of livestock

Livestock Type	Percentage of Households
Horses	20%
Ponies	12%
Cows	40%
Sheep	80%
Goats	60%

The above table shows the percentage of households owning different types of livestock, with different trends

Cows have the highest ownership rate, with 40% of households owning them. This suggests that cows may play a significant role in the agricultural and economic activities of the area. Cows are commonly raised for their milk, meat, and other by-products.

Sheep have a relatively high ownership rate, with 80% of households owning them. This indicates that sheep rearing might be a prevalent agricultural practice in the area. Sheep are typically raised for wool, meat, and in some cases, milk.

Goats also have a substantial ownership rate, with 60% of households owning them. Goats are known for their adaptability and can be raised for milk, meat, and their ability to forage in diverse environments.

Horses and ponies have comparatively lower ownership rates, with 20% and 12% of households owning them, respectively. This suggests that equine-related activities, such as transportation, recreational riding, or agricultural work, might be less prevalent in the area compared to other livestock.

The data implies that multiple types of livestock ownership may be common within households. For example, some households may own both cows and sheep or a combination of goats and horses, indicating a diverse agricultural range.



1.8 Health Services

Mandlan and Frislan villages, located in the Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir, currently faces significant challenges in terms of healthcare infrastructure and access to essential health services. Both Mandlan and Frislan villages lacks sub-centres and PHCs, which serve as the primary point of contact for healthcare services .Sub-centres and PHCs typically provide basic medical care, immunizations, maternal and child health services, and essential medicines. The absence of a sub-centre and PHCs in Mandlan and Frislan villages hampers the provision of primary healthcare services and creates a gap in healthcare accessibility for the local population. The absence of Sub –centres and PHCs limits the availability of essential medical services in the village, forcing residents to travel longer distances for adequate healthcare.

1.9 Transport Facilities

The twin villages Mandlan and Frislan are currently grappling with significant challenges regarding public transport infrastructure and services.

Both villages suffer from a lack of adequate transportation options. The absence of a well-connected public transport system, such as buses or taxis, restricts the mobility of residents within and beyond the village. This poses challenges for individuals commuting to work, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and other essential services, particularly for those without private vehicles.

The lack of efficient public transport facilities in Mandlan and Frislan villages adversely affects socio-economic opportunities for the local population. Limited access to transportation restricts employment prospects, educational opportunities, and engagement in economic activities. It also hampers tourism potential, as visitors may find it challenging to reach and explore the village, thereby impacting the local economy. Additionally, inadequate transport facilities during extreme weather conditions, such as heavy snowfall or rainfall, further exacerbate the challenges faced by the community.

Efforts should be made by the local authorities and relevant stakeholders to address the poor public transport facilities in both villages. This includes investing in improved road infrastructure, establishing regular and reliable bus services, encouraging shared transportation initiatives, and exploring innovative solutions to enhance connectivity within and beyond the village.

1.10 Employment Opportunities

Mandlan and Frislan villages of Pahalgam region of Anantnag face significant challenges in terms of employment opportunities, particularly the youth population.

Both villages, despite being tourist destinations, often struggle to provide adequate job opportunities for its residents, especially the youth. The lack of diverse industries and economic activities within the village limits the availability of employment options. Dependency on the tourism sector alone may result in seasonal and irregular

employment, leading to income instability and limited career prospects. Tourism activities in twin villages is highly seasonal, with peak tourist activity occurring during specific periods of the year. This seasonality creates challenges in sustaining year-round employment for the local population. During off-peak seasons, job opportunities become scarce, leaving many individuals unemployed or underemployed.

Besides that skills possessed by the local youth may not always align with the specific requirements of the tourism industry. This skills mismatch further contributes to the limited employment opportunities. Lack of access to vocational training programs and skill development initiatives hinders the ability of the youth to acquire relevant skills needed for employment in the tourism sector. Many individuals find themselves engaged in informal and low-paying jobs, such as porters, guides, or menial labours. This limits their earning potential and makes it challenging to secure a sustainable livelihood.

Efforts should be made to address the challenges faced by people of twin villages in terms of employment. This includes diversifying the local economy beyond tourism, promoting entrepreneurship and small-scale industries, improving vocational training programs, and attracting investments that can create sustainable job opportunities. Additionally, there is a need to focus on skill development initiatives that align with the changing demands of the job market.

1.11 Electricity and infrastructure

Mandlan and Frislan villages, grapple with significant challenges related to electricity availability and overall infrastructure. One of the key challenges faced by Mandlan and Frislan villages is the limited availability of electricity. The village may experience frequent power outages or erratic electricity supply, leading to disruptions in daily life, economic activities, and access to basic services. Insufficient electricity supply adversely affects households, businesses, and public institutions, hindering productivity and overall development.

The villages also suffers from inadequate infrastructure, including roads, bridges, drainage systems, and public facilities. Poorly maintained or non-existent roads make transportation difficult, limiting connectivity to neighbouring areas and hindering trade and access to markets. Inadequate drainage systems can result in waterlogging during monsoon seasons, causing inconvenience and health hazards for the residents. The lack of adequate electricity supply and infrastructure act as significant constraints on the socio-economic development of villages. Limited access to electricity and substandard infrastructure deter potential investors, hinder the growth of industries, and restrict the establishment of essential services. This results in a lack of job opportunities, reduced income generation, and overall economic stagnation.

By improving electricity supply and infrastructure in Mandlan and Frislan villages, the community can experience better living conditions, enhanced economic opportunities, increased investment, and improved overall quality of life for its residents.

1.12 Mobile and Internet Connectivity

Mandlan and Frislan villages suffers from limited mobile network coverage, resulting in poor signal strength and dropped calls. The hilly terrain and remote location contribute to the challenges faced by telecommunication companies in providing consistent coverage. Thus lack of reliable mobile network connectivity poses difficulties for residents in staying connected, making calls, and accessing mobile data services. Access to reliable and high-speed internet services is limited in both villages. The absence of robust infrastructure and the challenging geographical terrain make it difficult to establish a reliable internet connection. As a result, residents face challenges in accessing online information, conducting online transactions, and utilizing various internet-based services.

Not only has this but the poor mobile and internet connectivity hampered effective communication both within the villages and with the outside world. It limits the ability of residents to communicate with family and friends, conduct business transactions, and seek information. In emergency situations, the lack of reliable communication channels can be particularly concerning. Students face challenges in

accessing online educational resources and participating in remote learning programs. Businesses, including small enterprises and tourism-related activities, are also impacted by the inability to leverage online platforms for marketing, communication, and transactions. By improving mobile and internet connectivity which will enhance communication capabilities, foster economic opportunities, and participate more fully in the digital age.

1.13 Rural sanitation

Rural sanitation encompasses access to safe drinking water, proper disposal of human waste, and hygiene practices in rural areas. In India, the government has been implementing initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural areas.

Data table showing various sanitation indicators in Mandlan and Frislan villages

Sanitation Indicator	Percentage/Number of Households
Access to Household Toilets	85%
Access to Community Toilets	10%
Access to Clean Water	95%
Waste Collection Services	24%
Hygiene Education Participation	60%

Mandlan and Frislan villages, located in the Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir, are the rural communities'. The villages have made significant progress in ensuring access to clean water sources. 95% of households have access to safe drinking water, through piped water supply systems. Efforts have been made to promote water conservation practices, and public awareness campaigns have been conducted to educate residents about the importance of clean water and hygiene.

The majority of households in Mandlan and Frislan villages have access to individual household toilets, accounting for approximately 85% of households. These toilets

promote improved hygiene practices and contribute to maintaining a cleaner environment.

In areas where individual household toilets are not feasible, community toilet facilities have been established to ensure proper sanitation for residents. 10% of households utilize community toilets, which are well-maintained and regularly cleaned.

Besides that Efforts have been made to establish a proper waste management system in Mandlan and Frislan villages. But still only 24% of households have access to waste collection services, ensuring the proper disposal of solid waste. But rest of the people in twin villages of Pahalgam throw garbage at community dumping sites or on the banks of River Lidder which has posed a threat to water quality and biodiversity of the river. Although Awareness programs on waste segregation and recycling are conducted to encourage residents to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

The village Panchayat in collaboration with local organizations and government agencies, is implementing ongoing initiatives to further improve the sanitation situation in Mandlan and Frislan villages. These initiatives include the construction of additional household toilets, expansion of the waste management system, and the promotion of hygiene education through workshops and awareness campaigns. While significant progress has been made, challenges still exist in ensuring universal access to sanitation facilities. These challenges include geographical constraints, limited resources, and awareness gaps. The village administration aims to address these challenges through continued collaboration and the allocation of necessary resources to sustain the momentum of sanitation initiatives.

1.14 Tourism Sector

The twin villages Mandlan and Frislan situated in the scenic Pahalgam region of Jammu and Kashmir, possesses significant tourist potential. Its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and proximity to popular attractions make it an appealing destination for both domestic and international tourists.

Both Villages are blessed with captivating natural landscapes that attract nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. Surrounded by lush green meadows, snow-capped mountains, and pristine rivers, the village offers breathtaking views and opportunities for activities such as hiking, trekking, and photography. The picturesque beauty of Villages serve as a magnet for tourists seeking tranquillity and a connection with nature.

The strategic location, being close to several renowned tourist attractions in the Pahalgam region. The villages serve as a convenient base for exploring attractions such as Betaab Valley, Aru Valley, Chandanwari, and the iconic Amarnath Cave. Its proximity to these destinations make Villages an ideal starting point for tourists wishing to experience the natural wonders and cultural richness of the area.

The villages boast a rich cultural heritage that appeals to cultural enthusiasts and history buffs. These twin Villages are home to a vibrant local community that preserves age-old traditions, folklore, and handicrafts. Tourists have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, interact with friendly villagers, and witness traditional ceremonies and festivities. This cultural exchange adds depth and authenticity to the tourist experience.

The Villages also offers ample opportunities for adventure tourism, attracting thrill-seekers and adrenaline enthusiasts. The nearby mountains and rivers provide a range of adventure activities, including river rafting, rock climbing, mountaineering, and paragliding. The challenging terrain and diverse landscapes make them appealing destination for adventure tourism, catering to the adventurous spirit of visitors. Besides that The serene environment and tranquil surroundings of Mandlan and Frislan Villages create an ideal setting for wellness and relaxation. The village is dotted with natural springs and offers peaceful spaces for meditation and rejuvenation. Visitors can enjoy therapeutic experiences, such as yoga retreats, spa treatments, and nature walks, promoting overall well-being and providing an escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

Finally To fully capitalize on the tourist potential of twin Villages, there is a need to enhance infrastructure, including the construction and improvement of roads, accommodation facilities, public amenities, and signage, to ensure a comfortable and convenient experience for tourists.

Implementing effective marketing strategies to promote these villages as tourist destinations, highlighting its unique offerings, natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure tourism potential. Collaborate with tourism boards, travel agencies, and digital platforms to increase visibility and attract a diverse range of tourists. Involving the local community in tourism development initiatives, encouraging their participation in offering homestays, cultural experiences, and eco-tourism activities. This will promote sustainable tourism practices, preserves local traditions, and ensures that the benefits of tourism are shared among community members. Provide training and capacity-building programs for local residents, enabling them to offer quality hospitality services, adventure tourism guidance, and cultural experiences to visitors. This empowers the community to actively participate in the tourism sector and enhances the overall tourist experience.

Lastly capitalizing on its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure tourism potential, MandlannadFrislan Villages have the opportunity to become a sought-after tourist destination. With strategic planning, infrastructure development, community involvement, and effective promotion,

1.15 Conclusion and Recommendations

The socio-economic survey conducted in Mandlan and Frislan villages of Pahalgamby 2nd semester students of Geography provides valuable insights into the current state of these communities. The survey encompassed various aspects, including demographics, education, employment, healthcare, infrastructure, and access to basic amenities. The findings shed light on the challenges faced by the villages and emphasize the need for focused interventions to improve the socio-economic conditions of the residents.

The survey revealed that both Mandlan and Frislan villages face issues such as limited access to quality education, inadequate healthcare facilities, poor infrastructure, and a lack of employment opportunities. These challenges contribute to a lower standard of living and hinder the overall development of the communities.

Education emerged as a significant concern, with a considerable proportion of the population having limited access to primary, secondary, and higher education. This restricts the potential for personal growth and economic advancement among the residents, exacerbating the cycle of poverty.

Employment opportunities were found to be scarce, particularly in sectors other than agriculture and tourism. The limited job prospects, combined with the village's reliance on seasonal tourism, pose challenges for sustainable livelihoods and economic stability. This situation particularly affects the youth, who face hardships in securing stable employment opportunities and realizing their full potential.

Access to healthcare services was found to be inadequate, with a lack of sub-centers, primary health centers, and Ayush centers in the villages. This leads to difficulties in receiving timely and quality healthcare, resulting in compromised well-being for the residents.

Infrastructure, including electricity supply, public transportation, and mobile/internet connectivity, was identified as a major area requiring improvement. Insufficient electricity supply and inadequate public transportation networks hinder daily activities and limit economic and social opportunities. Moreover, poor mobile and internet connectivity restricts access to information, communication, and participation in the digital age.

In light of these findings, it is imperative to develop comprehensive strategies and implement targeted interventions to address the socio-economic challenges faced by Mandlan and Frislan villages.

Recommendations

- Improving access to quality education, ensuring schools are adequately equipped and staffed, and offering vocational training programs to enhance employability.
- Enhancing healthcare facilities by establishing sub-centers, primary health centers, and Ayushcenters to provide accessible and quality healthcare services to the residents.
- Promoting diverse employment opportunities by diversifying the local economy, supporting entrepreneurship, and attracting investments in sectors beyond agriculture and tourism.
- Investing in infrastructure development, including improving electricity supply, enhancing public transportation networks, and addressing mobile and internet connectivity issues to bridge the digital divide.
- Encouraging community participation and involvement in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among the residents.
- By addressing these challenges and implementing appropriate interventions, Mandlan and Frislan villages can witness improvements in education, healthcare, employment opportunities, infrastructure, and overall socio-economic well-being. This will contribute to the sustainable development of the communities and enhance the quality of life for the residents