



## **Economics of Health Human Capital in Jammu and Kashmir**

Javid Ahmad Khan<sup>1</sup> and Sarita Agarwal<sup>2</sup>

### **Introduction**

Health indicators of any State are important determinants of the socioeconomic development as well as of the human capital. Better health means the efficiency of productivity of work increments<sup>1</sup>. Better health of the economy means the better human resources which later in turn effects the growth of the economy<sup>2</sup>. Better health also leads to the personal economic gain by working<sup>3</sup>. Health is the fundamental human right and necessary for individual well-being at micro level and indispensable prerequisite for economic growth and development in a country/state at the macro level<sup>4</sup>. Among the Indian states Jammu and Kashmir, situated between 32° 17' N and 36° 58' N latitudes and 73° 26' E and 80° 30' E longitudes, constitutes the northern most extremity of India. The state occupies 19<sup>th</sup> rank in population, with 125.41 lakh souls as per 2011 census<sup>3</sup>. As per 2011 census, the population density in the state is 124 persons per sq. km of area as against density of 382 persons per sq. Km at national level. The state ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among states/ UTs of the country in thin density of population. Sex ratio of 889 females per thousand males, places Jammu and Kashmir at 29<sup>th</sup> rank in the country. As per Census 2011, literacy rate of the state is 68.74% with 78.26% male literates and 58.01% female literates. The percentage of urban population to total population was 27.37 percent in 2011 compared to 24.81 percent in 2001 in the state. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the low per-capita income states of India. In terms of per capita income, its rank has never gone beyond 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> position in the Indian union. The Sectorial composition of the State income has undergone considerable changes over a period of time. Over the last five decades, the share of primary sector has declined steadily from 28.16% in 2004-05 to 17.83% in 2014-15 and the share of Secondary sector has declined from 28.13% in 2004-05 to 25.53% in 2014-15, while as the share of Services sector has substantially increased from 43.71% in 2004-05 to 56.64% in 2014-15. Besides other economic features the state has bulk of unemployed youth<sup>5</sup>.

Given different features of the state, the policy concern of the state remains how to catch-up with the developed states of the country. Different economies can follow different paths to make a transformation of the economy in the long run from low

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor Economics, Islamic University of Science and technology, Kashmir

<sup>2</sup> Professor Economics, Faculty of Social science, Central University of Gujarat

