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## open space

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### Women in low intensity political conflict (through the lives of Kashmiri women)

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The analysis of gender in conflict and fragile situations is an emerging area of research. Little to no attention has been paid to it up until very recently. There is scant scholarly work available that directly addresses this issue, and there is no research on the relationship between gender and low intensity conflict in Kashmir. It is in this light that the current research note has been written. It traces the broad impact that conflict has had on the lives of women living in the Kashmir region, the conflict centric part of Jammu and Kashmir. Through this research note it is established that the women in Kashmir have been exposed to the shock of unpredicted fragility, and the study is further endorsed by some instantial ethnographic case studies. These shocks have impacted them economically, psychologically and socially. Generations of women have been suffering from the negative impact of the conflict. Although disastrous for the most part, women have gradually developed some resilience. With time more and more Kashmiri women have been striving towards gaining economic independence by learning skills, by the acquisition of education and by being gainfully employed.

**Key words** conflict • fragility • Kashmir • low intensity conflict • women

**JEL Classification**  
D74; J16

#### Key messages

- Women in the region of Jammu and Kashmir have been suffering directly and indirectly due to the persistence of low intensity conflict.
- Over time however there has been a growing degree of resilience reflected by women in Jammu and Kashmir towards facing fragility and uncertainty.

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