



## **Report on Youth Dialogue Program Kashmir Conflict Series (Session I)**

**Date: November 30, 2024**

## Introduction

The Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) organized the first session of its Youth Dialogue Program – Kashmir Conflict Series on November 30, 2024. The event was held in the institute's conference hall and focused on engaging young leaders, students, and professionals in discussions about the Kashmir conflict. The program provided a platform for participants to share ideas and understand the issue better, encouraging them to play an active role in the



Kashmir movement. The event included students, youth leaders, and professionals and had three sessions, each addressing an important aspect of the conflict. It ended with a certificate distribution and feedback session.

## Structure of the Program

### *Opening and Participant Engagement*

The program commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a warm welcome and introductory remarks by Mr. Syed Usman Ali Bukhari, Assistant Director of KPRI, who served as the Stage Secretary. He elaborated on the objectives of KPRI and the purpose of the Youth Dialogue Program, highlighting its role in fostering informed dialogue and empowering youth leaders. Participants actively engaged in discussions, shared perspectives, and presented innovative ideas and solutions. Their contributions underscored the critical role of youth in shaping narratives and influencing policy-making processes related to the Kashmir conflict.

### **Session I: A Brief Overview of the Kashmir Conflict**

#### **Resource Person: Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan**

Dr. Raja Sajjad Khan provided a detailed historical overview of the Kashmir conflict, tracing its origins to the events surrounding the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. He explained the emergence of the Kashmir dispute, focusing on the political complexities and the involvement of the United



Nations. He elaborated on key UN resolutions, mediation efforts, and the differing perspectives of India and Pakistan, which have contributed to the ongoing stalemate over Kashmir.

In his session, Dr. Sajjad highlighted the significant role misinformation plays in exacerbating conflicts, using the Kashmir issue as a prime example. He emphasized how distorted narratives hinder resolution efforts and lead to confusion on global platforms. Participants were encouraged to critically analyze information, separate facts from propaganda, and actively counter misinformation to develop a clearer understanding of the conflict.

The session provided participants with a thorough understanding of the historical and diplomatic dimensions of the Kashmir conflict. He emphasized the need for informed advocacy, urging participants to approach the issue with critical thinking and a balanced perspective. His insights aimed to inspire meaningful discussions and foster a proactive approach to addressing misinformation and promoting constructive dialogue.

## **Session II: Legal Aspects of the Kashmir Conflict**

**Resource Person: Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Hussain Gillani**



The second session was conducted by Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Hussain Gilani, who shared valuable insights on the history of Jammu and Kashmir. He explained that before March 16, 1846, the regions now known as Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir were separate entities with distinct identities. The Treaty of Amritsar on March 16, 1846, unified these territories into the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He rejected the claim of a 5,000-year history, asserting that the region only became a unified entity after the Treaty, with the areas falling under Ranjit Singh's empire prior to that.

He detailed the role of Gulab Singh in the state's formation, noting that he extended his control over several regions under Ranjit Singh's authority. Gulab Singh's intelligence and diplomatic skill allowed him to create a state, leading to the creation of Jammu and Kashmir as a political entity. Initially named the State of Jammu, Kashmir, Tibet, and Aksai Chin, the name was eventually shortened to "Kashmir" due to shifting political circumstances. He referenced

Maharaja Karan Singh's interview with CNN, where he identified himself as from Jammu, not Kashmir, stating, "Kashmir was my state." This, according to Justice Gilani, reflects how regions like Poonch have lost their distinct identities, with residents now identifying as Kashmiris.

He also discussed the impact of the Indian Independence Act of 1947, which nullified treaties like the Treaty of Amritsar. He emphasized the formation of Azad Kashmir on October 24, 1947, when these areas had already broken away from the Maharaja's control, undermining his authority to accede to India.

In conclusion, Justice Gilani criticized India's attempts to undermine United Nations resolutions and its inconsistent stance on the Kashmir issue, which have complicated the conflict. He stressed the need to address these legal and historical realities to uphold the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. His insights provide a clearer understanding of the historical developments that shaped the region and the complexities surrounding the Kashmir conflict.

### **Session III: The Human Cost of Kashmir Conflict**

#### **Resource Person: Altaf Hussain Wani (Chairman KIIR )**

In the third session, Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, presented a detailed account of the grave human rights violations and the devastating impact of the Kashmir conflict. He highlighted that, since 1990, the region has been engulfed in systematic violence, resulting in widespread civilian casualties, mass displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. He shared that 96,373 killings have occurred over the decades, including 7,365 custodial deaths. Additionally, 172,304 civilians have been arrested, 22,980 women widowed, and 107,971 children orphaned. Disturbingly, 11,265 women have been subjected to gang rape or molestation during this period.



Mr. Wani also shed light on the human cost of the conflict since August 5, 2019, a period marked by intensified oppression. He reported 940 killings, 2,449 cases of torture or critical

injuries, and 25,365 civilian arrests in this time. The destruction of 1,123 structures, alongside the widowing of 72 women and the orphaning of 193 children, has further compounded the suffering of the Kashmiri people. Additionally, 134 women have faced sexual violence since this recent phase of escalation.

In terms of infrastructure, Mr. Wani presented alarming data from 1990 to 2001, indicating the widespread destruction of civilian property. A total of 1,932 shops, 1,063 residential houses, 11 hospitals, 333 bridges, 633 educational institutions, and 1,134 government buildings were destroyed, highlighting the extensive material cost of the conflict.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Wani urged the youth to take a proactive role in uncovering and documenting these violations. He emphasized the importance of evidence-based reporting and global advocacy to amplify the voices of the oppressed and draw international attention to the humanitarian crisis in Kashmir. He encouraged participants to act as ambassadors of justice, using their platforms to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri people.

### **Certificate Distribution Ceremony**

At the conclusion of the program, Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani and Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajad



Khan distributed certificates among the participants. Feedback was collected, with attendees expressing their appreciation for the initiative and recommending additional sessions to enhance learning and engagement. Participants suggested extending the duration of such workshops to allow for deeper discussions and greater awareness.

## Feedback.

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KPRI- YDP ( KASHMIR CONFLICT SERIES WORKSHOP -1)  
FEEDBACK FORM  
(Please provide brief views on the following)

1. Your Comments on Session 1?  
It was really insightful session. It includes a overview of Kashmir History. Very informative, I need sup.

2. Comments on session 2?  
This session was highly fascinating. Justice Muzaffar Pooni and some legal issues during that time and in past.

3. Comments on session 3?  
Mr. Nisar elaborate the human cost and legal aspect of it in very descriptive way. The thing that I like is very interesting understanding about the war and its history.

4. How did this workshop benefit you?  
It overall increase my knowledge about Kashmir's history and conflict.

5. Deficiencies in the workshop?  
Introduction session should be held in first session. Incorporate activities.

6. General Suggestions for KPRI

Name Huma Gulzar Signature Huma Gulzar

KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
KPRI- YDP ( KASHMIR CONFLICT SERIES WORKSHOP -1)  
FEEDBACK FORM  
(Please provide brief views on the following)

1. Your Comments on Session 1?  
In the first open session, he told us about the historical background of the Kashmir and the Kashmir conflict. I learned alot from this open session regarding the background and the roots of this Kashmir conflict.

2. Comments on session 2?  
This session provides the knowledge on the legal aspects of the Kashmir conflict and the status of Jammu and Kashmir at the time of partition. From this, I learned that we have to seek for solution on this conflict based on ground realities.

3. Comments on session 3?  
This session expands the knowledge on the human cost of the Kashmir conflict. From this, I learned about connectivity, producing literature, human rights and self-determination etc.

4. How did this workshop benefit you?  
It benefits me in gaining more knowledge about the Kashmir conflict in multidimensional aspects, exploring my ideas and in seeking different solutions to resolve this conflict with the best of my knowledge and efforts.

5. Deficiencies in the workshop?  
I haven't find any deficiency in this insightful workshop. It is an impactful experience indeed.

6. General Suggestions for KPRI  
Keep organizing such events, conferences and seminars regarding the Kashmir conflict, promoting public awareness and knowledge, so that they can also contribute as much as they can.

Name Areesha Malik Signature Areesha Malik

KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
KPRI- YDP ( KASHMIR CONFLICT SERIES WORKSHOP -1)  
FEEDBACK FORM  
(Please provide brief views on the following)

1. Your Comments on Session 1?  
The open session which had been conducted by Dr. Sajid Khan. He is very polite and clear all my misconception. He give me all answers to questions which I have been asked.

2. Comments on session 2?  
The session 2 had been conducted by Justice Muzaffar Pooni. His teaching method is very good and he did his session very well.

3. Comments on session 3?  
The 3rd session is conducted by Mr. Nisar. His teaching method is very insightful. His session is not boring and also his session is very interesting. He convey alot of knowledge to us.

4. How did this workshop benefit you?  
This workshop gives us very benefits, we gain new mind and get more knowledge about Kashmir conflict. This workshop helps me to get rid of confusion in all my question and in my mind.

5. Deficiencies in the workshop?  
I don't think there is any deficiency in this workshop. Everything is perfect.

6. General Suggestions for KPRI  
Give us more opportunities, give us more workshop.

Name Saba Azeem Signature Saba Azeem

KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
KPRI- YDP ( KASHMIR CONFLICT SERIES WORKSHOP -1)  
FEEDBACK FORM  
(Please provide brief views on the following)

1. Your Comments on Session 1?  
Open session with Dr. Sajid Khan going in brief overview of Kashmir conflict and answer our questions relating to it. Honestly a wonderful session about history of 1947.

2. Comments on session 2?  
2nd session with Justice Muzaffar Pooni about legal aspects of Kashmir conflict and how to solve Kashmir conflict legally and clear all our misconceptions about it.

3. Comments on session 3?  
Session about human cost of the conflict discuss the history of Kashmir's crisis that they faced and engage the participants among them.

4. How did this workshop benefit you?  
This workshop benefits me and gives us a platform to talk freely about Kashmir conflict and clear our thoughts.

5. Deficiencies in the workshop?  
I don't think there is any deficiency in the workshop.


6. General Suggestions for KPRI  
As perfect. Give us more opportunities to clear our thoughts and engage us in our confidence.

Name Saba Azeem Signature Saba Azeem

KASHMIR POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
KPRI- YDP ( KASHMIR CONFLICT SERIES WORKSHOP -I)  
FEEDBACK FORM  
(Please provide brief views on the following )

1. Your Comments on Session 1?  
1st Session is very informative as well as engaging. The speaker not only share the knowledge with reference but also ask from audience from their perspective & I like that he must.
2. Comments on session 2?  
Session 2 is very confusing the speaker changing its stance on every question. I think speaker is not clear what he is saying. Someone I think speaker spoke emotionally not on realities not given any future mission that will be implemented.
3. Comments on session 3?  
1st part of session 3 was not of content but focus more on interested human rights also after then focusing on legal happening in Kashmir of rest of human cost of Kashmir conflict. But the 2nd part very good.
4. How did this workshop benefit you?  
This workshop is refreshed for me on Kashmir conflict as we gain knowledge on different aspect of Kashmir also historic and legal perspective on conflict.
5. Deficiencies in the workshop?  
I think the session is not engaging as I expected also there is no introduction session or networking opportunity I think this should be covered in next session.
6. General Suggestions for KPRI  
A Appreciation for KPRI for taking step and involving youth in session & I think it should be remain continue. I have to attend next session.

Name  
Nurana Durrani

Signature  


## Conclusion

The Youth Dialogue Program – Kashmir Conflict Series (Session I) was a resounding success in raising awareness among young participants about the historical, legal, and humanitarian aspects of the Kashmir conflict. The program not only equipped attendees with in-depth knowledge but also encouraged the development of critical thinking and informed advocacy skills. Through engaging discussions, participants explored practical approaches to address the conflict, laying a strong foundation for actionable solutions.

Furthermore, the session fostered leadership and advocacy skills among youth leaders and professionals, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourse and efforts surrounding the Kashmir issue. This initial session has set the stage for subsequent installments in the series, ensuring continuity and a more profound impact in advancing the cause of justice, peace, and progress in the region.

## Media Coverage

The event received significant attention from local and regional media outlets, which highlighted its role in promoting youth engagement and fostering dialogue on the Kashmir conflict. Media coverage emphasized the program's impact on empowering the younger generation and raising awareness about the region's challenges and aspirations.





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