1.1. Geographical Location of Kashmir

The valley of Kashmir, with an average altitude of 5,300 feet above sea level is surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges and dotted with rivers and lovely lakes. More than 90 percent of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir is mountainous. Geographically whole territory is divided into seven zones. From southwest to northeast, these zones consist of planes (Jammu region), the foothills (foot hills of the Himalayas), the Pir-Panjal range, the vale of Kashmir, the great Himalayas zone, the upper Indus valley, and the Korakaram range.

The vale of Kashmir (Kashmir proper) has always retained something of its own individuality. The valley of Kashmir is a deep asymmetrical basin lying between the Pir-Panjal and the western end of the great Himalayas.

Jammu and Kashmir is north most state of India, parts of which are occupied by India and Pakistan whose northern border is also disputed with China. India identifies Jammu and Kashmir as a constituent state with the special status under the constitution of Republic of India. The territory occupied by India has an area of 85,806 square miles. It is