Conclusion
CONCLUSION

This is an exploratory study of Kashmir conflict and role of non-governmental organisations in peace building. The conflict has been persisting for a very long period and has intensified since 1990. The conflict has attracted attention of innumerable scholars and media persons. But so far no prominent study is about the role of NGOs who are present there since the existence of the Kashmir as a conflict in this way we can say our study is first of its kind.

The NGO sector today is comprised of many thousands of organisations, diverse in size and structure as well as in the activities they undertake, working on issues ranging from health to human rights, community services to the environment issues.

For this study we have selected descriptive research design and collected data through the mechanism of interview – schedule and case study method. We have selected 245 respondents from three geographical regions and from four major religious communities of the state. We have tried to identify major factors and consequences of the conflict as well as strategies for its peaceful resolution. Further in order to know the role of NGOs working for peace and development we have selected some imminent representatives for knowing their contribution towards peace building in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir conflict in all its manifestations can be contextualized in terms of a number of issues such as the issue of identity and self-determination, the issue of centre-state relations, an issue of regional conflict between India and Pakistan, and the issues of militancy and insurgency. The fifteenth of August 1947, not only changed the fate of Indian people but also wrote a script of Independent India. The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir grew intense after the partition of the country in 1947 and with the evolution of militancy and cross border insurgency in 1989. The worst face of this conflict was seen in Jammu and Kashmir during last two and a half decades. While the atrocities in the valley were on the go, an emergence for building peace and confidence among the people was felt, to overcome the situation and to curb the conflict in a peaceful manner. Among all the Agencies, Institutions and Organisations, the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) was prominently different because of their sympathetic and pacific approaches towards the process of peace building and development. The NGOs, being distinctive from that of government and other organisations, have enhanced the peace process in Jammu and Kashmir and
worked unceasingly for the betterment of people affected by the conflict. The Peace building and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are closely related to each other. The non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a very significant and predominant role in preventing the start or resumption of violence or conflict in almost every part of the world. The main purpose of Peace building is conflict prevention and easing of tension in the valley. Before taking into account the Peace building efforts in Jammu and Kashmir, one should look into the matter attentively and point out the reasons of conflict particularly in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Prior to the independence of India in 1947, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was under the reign of Maharaja Dynasty. The emergence of building and maintaining peace in the conflict area of Jammu and Kashmir was felt with the uprising of militancy and cross border insurgency in 1989. The politically and socially recognised NGO’s have the potential to pressurize the government to meet the necessities of people in terms of maintaining peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir. There are two approaches to the conflict prevention; firstly the Militaristic approach which cannot settle the disputes alone, although being capable of implementing peace the military employs the different techniques that may sometimes prove unfavourable in certain circumstances. The second and most essential approach is the negotiated settlement or Peace building approach, to which most of the people on global level would show acceptance. So the work is best assigned to the NGOs and Civil Societies. The NGO’s having no political status, associate itself to the conflict prevention and Peace building processes in the psychologically disturbed areas of the state. Some peace NGO’s presently active in Jammu and Kashmir, have pointed out certain important but undesirable causes of violence like protests against Indian Government, patriarchal rule, post-world war consequences and the belief of alienation, aloofness and distinctness from Indian federation. While some of the researches reveal that terrorism and the military atrocities in the valley have worsened the condition since 1989 thereby hardening the labour of socially and politically recognised NGO’s. Khan and Ayoub1 in their writings provide a statistical data that the large number of people in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been affected with violence and economic downfall since 1989. Besides Peace building and conflict prevention, the civil societies and NGO’s can have a leading role to play in the progress and development of the state because of the neutral character and a sympathetic approach towards the affected persons.
In order to accomplish the Peace building efforts in a particular region, the NGO's have to keep the Anthropological and geographical conditions of that region into consideration and join hands with local NGO's, institutions and communities to provide financial assistance to the needy and deserving people. For the establishment of peace in the conflict-ridden region, the civil societies and NGO's have to be vibrant and honest and at the same time local communities should accompany NGO's to make peace a reality. However people don't have much faith in the government and its institutions because of the personal interest of political leaders. The NGO's can act as the best mediators in loosening the tension between the states and countries. Why civil societies and NGO's were required to maintain peace and help restoring normalcy in Kashmir? The answer lies in the background of conflict between India and Pakistan in 1947. The fate of people of Kashmir was to be decided by means of plebiscite and some prerequisites were laid by the then premier Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru but India and Pakistan; both claimed the territory to be its own asset which resulted in the erupting of mass demonstration, violent conflicts and a feeling of right to self-determination in the minds of people of Jammu and Kashmir. The more intensified form of this conflict was seen in 1989 with the uprising of militancy and cross-border terrorism. However the scene further intensified in 2010 unrest in Kashmir. The dispute has now grown so intense that negotiations, Mediations or reducing tensions seem to have a lesser applicability. A commendable role has been played by various NGO's to rehabilitate the victims of 1989 insurgencies. This proved to be the main reason for requirement of NGO's to direct the state of Jammu and Kashmir towards the dawn of peace and an atmosphere free of violence and conflicts. The NGO's highlighted the problems of people in conflict-ridden areas and forced both the counterparts (India and Pakistan) to take measures to settle the dispute of Kashmir amicably. It is because of NGO's that a majority of people around the world came to know the problem of Kashmir. The civil societies and NGO's have not only prevented human rights violation but also enhanced the socio-economic condition of masses in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chari and Chandran2 in their work illuminates the different pathways to settle the dispute in Kashmir. Amongst the role played by various agencies, religion apart can play a very essential role in the prevention of conflict because religion is of great essence and importance in a way that it decreases the animosity between the countries. Almost whole of Asia is absorbed by the conflict and concept of war and violence is at its peak, so the peace of nations and collective
security gets compromised thereby forcing the international brotherhood to take immediate steps to look into the matter. While pointing out the negative aspects of peace the Newman and Richmond in his book “Challenges to Peace building: Managing Spoilers during Conflict Resolution” perceives that peace can have adverse effects if it is prolonged and the actors could be considered as the spoilers to the conflict.

In summing up, NGO’s can play a pivotal role in building peace and rehabilitating the victims of war and militaristic atrocities. However the present circumstances in the state of Jammu and Kashmir demand peace and NGO’s and civil societies working collaboratively have got the potential to implement peace in the valley to save the victims from further repercussions of conflict. The government should take measures to ensure safety and protection of the Kashmiri people by joining hands with local people and pressure groups. For me, Education is the best possible solution to overcome the Kashmir problem. To prolong the peace in the state would mean to express the pain, the people of Kashmir are experiencing and the day is not far, when the Emperor Jahangir’s beautiful lines regarding Kashmir (“if there is paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this”) will assume real and honourable interpretation.