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Name of the Supervisor: Dr. Humaira Showkat.

Year of registration: 2018.

Title of PhD: *Tribal Social Structure in Kashmir: A Sociological Study of Bakkerwals*

Short summary of the research topic: The aim of this study is to explore the socio-economic profile of the Bakkerwal tribe of Kashmir, focusing on the changing patterns of family and marriage, the dynamics of their cultural interactions with non-tribal communities, and the impact of modernization on their traditional and distinctive social structure. The study investigates the influence of sedentarisation process on the social structure, cultural practices, and occupational patterns of this indigenous tribe of UT of Kashmir. It examines the impact of cultural contact and modernization on the homogeneous cultural identity of this tribe which was shaped by their nomadic pastoralism, cultural occupational homogeneity and strong kinship bonds. The significance of this study lies in its contribution to address a critical gap in the existing literature on the Bakkerwals, a marginalized and less explored community. By analyzing the changing social structure of bakkerwals, the study provides insights into the complex dynamics of continuity and change in various aspects of traditional social structure within this tribal community in the face of modern influences. Furthermore, it challenges the stereotypical view of labeling Bakkerwals as isolated and socially excluded, offering a more nuanced understanding of their evolving identity and the external pressures they face. The study, which is qualitative-cum-quantitative in nature, employs a mixed methods approach to build rich data, ensuring a comprehensive analysis. This approach enhances the study's depth, making it a valuable contribution to the broader discourse on indigenous communities, cultural preservation, and social change in Kashmir. The findings also have important policy implications, underscoring the need for culturally sensitive approaches that respect the Bakkerwals' unique way of life while addressing the challenges posed by modernization.

Current status: Currently working on conclusion chapter of the thesis and making necessary modifications in previous chapters as recommended by the supervisor.