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TOPIC OF NAME- **Psycho-Social Implications of Counter Insurgent Laws on Youth:
A Case Study of Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978**

Key Words: Public Safety Act, 1978; Preventive detention; Psycho-Social impact; Conflict; Kashm

FINDINGS

Kashmir has been engulfed in a protracted armed conflict. There have been various academic scholarships explaining the same. These studies mainly focus on the historicity of the armed conflict. Research studies have shown that armed conflict in general and the various mechanisms adopted within leads to severe negative impact on the population. But, there is dearth of a qualitative research study which documents such a negative impact on population in Kashmir. In order to reduce this gap, this thesis is an attempt in this direction to document the experiences of youth who have been the survivors of conflict.

This research study precisely analyses the psycho-social impact of preventive detention on the youth of Kashmir. This documents the subjective lived experience of the youth detained under preventive detention law namely Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kashmir. It mainly focuses on the aspect of life-after-release from prison. To say, post-prison life has been an important focus. It highlights the impact of preventive detention on the various life aspects of detainees such as education, livelihood, social relations, psychological well-being etc. The objectives of the research study include:

1. To study the profile of Public Safety Act (PSA) youth detainees and nature of detention.
2. To analyze the impact of PSA in relation to various aspects like education, occupation/ livelihood, family, etc on PSA youth detainees.
3. To study the effect of PSA on the psychological well-being of the PSA youth detainees.
4. To study the underlying causes vis-à-vis impact of PSA in above-mentioned aspects.

5. To suggest measures for humanizing the state efforts and bring out measures for the psycho-social re-integration of the PSA youth detainees after their release.

These objectives have been discussed throughout the thesis along seven chapters. The first chapter “*Introduction*” gives an introduction on the philosophy of detention. The main argument that has been discussed in this section is that the aim of detention has been to rehabilitate the offenders. Preventive detention is being operated on the premise of preventing the public from any future harm. But, what is seen in case of preventive detention in Kashmir, the aim has not remained the same. It has digressed from this philosophy. It is being used as a measure of control instead of prevention. This section is a theoretical explanation of this change which has been explained through Conflict Theory of Criminology and Foucault’s scholarship on prisons- *Discipline and Punish: The birth of a prison*. The second section of this chapter includes the literature review. In order to gain insight and to develop an understanding of what issues and problems detainees usually face and how much work has already been done on the theme, the existing literature was reviewed. This helped to avoid duplication. It also helped to develop a tool and an understanding how to approach this research topic. 4

The second chapter “*Framework and Design of the Study*” discusses the framework and methodology adopted to accomplish the objectives. Since the research study includes two aspects- one related to detention and second related to psycho-social impact. The detention aspect has been looked through the Human Rights perspective. There are various International Humanitarian Laws which grants various rights to prisoners protecting and safeguarding their dignity. Therefore, the preventive detention law i.e. PSA has been seen vis-à-vis these International Humanitarian Laws to analyse whether it stands in congruence with it or violates these provisions.