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Topic of Research: **SCHOOLING IN SPECIFIC ZONES: A CASE STUDY OF KASHMIR**

FINDINGS

The present synopsis presents the major findings of the doctoral research titled "Schooling in Specific Zones: A Case Study of Kashmir" submitted to Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

The study examines schooling in Kashmir within the context of prolonged socio-political turmoil, focusing on the relationship between conflict, schooling processes, and identity formation. The research adopts a qualitative exploratory case study design and integrates Bourdieusian habitus and phenomenology to understand both structural and lived dimensions of schooling. Data were collected from students, parents, and teachers across three educational zones-Bandipora, Srinagar, and Pulwama through interviews, focus group discussions, and observations. Thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke (2019) was employed.

The findings indicate that school's function both as spaces of stability and constraint. Despite infrastructural limitations, schools provide routine and continuity. Teachers adopt adaptive strategies, while students demonstrate resilience.

The historical impact of turmoil has normalized disruptions in the past, such as school closures and infrastructural damage. However, schools also emerge as sites for peacebuilding.

Parental school choice is shaped by safety, proximity, and economic factors rather than purely academic considerations.

Students lived experiences reveal anxiety and uncertainty, yet also strong aspirations and commitment to education.

Schooling plays a crucial role in identity formation, with both divisive and inclusive possibilities.

The study contributes empirically and conceptually by integrating habitus and phenomenology, offering insights into schooling in areas impacting violence.

Policy implications include strengthening infrastructure, psychological support, teacher training, and inclusive education.

In conclusion, schooling in Kashmir is a complex social space shaped by turmoil, resilience, and identity formation.