STRATEGIC ROADMAP & VISIONARY PLANS

for

Sustainable Development of

KALASH VALLEYS

Minhas Uddin
Director General
(KVDA)

**A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH THROUGH INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT IN KALASH VALLEYS**

KALASH VALLEYS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DEDICATION

KVDA would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, line departments, development partners and community of Kalash valleys who contributed their time, expertise, and insights in the development of the Strategic Roadmap and Visionary Plans for Kalash Valley, Chitral. The dedication and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive vision for the future of this unique and vibrant region.

Together, we have laid the groundwork for sustainable development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment and look forward to continuing this journey together and realizing the potential of Kalash Valley.

KVDA would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Pamir Konnect Services & Consultant Chitral for their invaluable support in the data collection and survey efforts. Their expertise in crafting the strategic roadmap and visionary plans for Kalash Valley has been instrumental in advancing our goals. We deeply appreciate their contributions and dedication.

MESSAGES

Message from Advisor to CM on Culture, Tourism, Archeology and Museums, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Culture and tourism are pivotal to a country's economic and social development, and their growth remains a top priority for the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To harness the cultural and tourism potential of the province, several impactful initiatives are underway. The rich cultural heritage of KP is an invaluable asset, deserving focused attention and preservation.

The Kalash Valleys, with their living indigenous culture and breathtaking scenic beauty, present vast tourism prospects. However, various challenges continue to hinder progress. The Strategic Roadmap and Visionary Planning for the Kalash Valleys is a commendable effort to identify community needs, address existing gaps, and build on initiatives by the government and development partners. The document outlines actionable strategies across critical sectors and provides a clear implementation mechanism.

The government is committed to boosting the tourism sector, and several strategies outlined in this roadmap could serve as a valuable foundation for sustainable growth in the Kalash Valleys.

MR. ZAHID CHANZEB

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Message from Chairman The Special Purpose Kalash Valleys Development Authority

The Kalash people, an ancient Indigenous community, maintain a unique identity through their beliefs, language, and customs. To ensure sustainable development in the Kalash Valleys, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa established the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA). The Strategic Roadmap and Foresight Visioning Plan outlines strategies for short-, medium-, and long-term growth, focusing on improving livelihoods, preserving cultural heritage, and protecting natural resources while integrating climate resilience. As a Chitral native with over 30 years of experience in tourism, I emphasize the importance of this roadmap for the long-term sustainability and preservation of Kalash heritage.

SHAHZADA MAQSOOD UL MULK

Message from Secretary Culture, Tourism, Archeology and Museums, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

I am delighted to share the Strategic Roadmap and Foresight Visioning Plan for the Kalash Valleys, which outlines comprehensive strategies, emphasizing sustainability and collaboration. As the Tourism, Culture, Archaeology & Museums Department is responsible for promoting culture and tourism across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, I acknowledge that several development authorities have been established for promotion of tourism. However, the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA) is uniquely mandated to both preserve the Kalash community's culture and heritage and promote tourism in the valleys.

The strategic roadmap for Kalash valleys has highlighted actionable strategies across various sectors, ensuring alignment with provincial policies. I urge all stakeholders to use this roadmap to harmonize efforts with the needs and priorities of the Kalash Valley communities, avoiding resource duplication and funding waste. Together, we can take significant steps toward the sustainable development of the Kalash Valleys.

MUHAMMAD BAKHTIAR

Message from Director General, The Special Purpose Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA)

I am pleased to present the Strategic Roadmap and Visioning Plan for the Kalash Valleys. This document outlines actionable & community emphasized strategies across key sectors. The roadmap was developed through extensive consultations with line departments, development partners, community members, and former Adviser to the Chief Minister Mr. Wazir Zada.

The plan is aligned with key provincial policies such as the Sustainable Development Strategy, SDGs Framework, and KP Climate Change Policy etc. The primary goal of the document is to guide stakeholders in planning and ensuring sectoral strategies, in development process. We visualize, that this roadmap fosters sustainable development, improve livelihoods, enhance resilience, and preserve Kalash heritage and natural resources. My sincere thanks to all contributors for helping craft this actionable plan, vital for the valleys' long-term prosperity.

MINHAS UDDIN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kalasha valleys Bumburait, Rumboor, and Birir span 456 square kilometers in District Lower Chitral, known for their diverse natural forests like Pine, Chilgoza, Deodar, and a range of Non-Timber Forest Products crucial to Kalash comunity livelihoods. The community sustains a mixed mountain economy, blending agriculture (wheat, maize) with livestock and indigenous knowledge.

Despite their rich resources, the Kalash community face formidable challenges threatening their survival: harsh terrain, adverse climates, unplanned tourism, limited livelihoods, cultural dilution and climate awareness gaps. These challenges highlight the need for a centralized authority to coordinate and steer development activities.

Responding to this need, the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA) was established to centralize efforts, coordinate with stakeholders, and to undertake integrated development strategies. Thus, the strategic roadmap & visionary plan for Kalash valleys were developed which is based on data baseline study and in-depth community engagement. These include short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans across sectors like agriculture, livestock, energy, waste management, and biodiversity conservation. Aligned with provincial policies and climate change strategies, this roadmap aims to guide effective, community-aligned development initiatives, promoting sustainable livelihoods, resilience, and preserving cultural heritage and natural assets in the Kalash Valleys.

This document aims to guides Government departments and partners to align their activities with Kalash Valley priorities, ensuring effective implementation of sectoral strategies. It aims to foster sustainable development, enhance local well-being, economic security, and preserve cultural heritage and natural resources of Kalash valleys.

Chapter 1

Strategic Vision, Mission, and Policy Alignment

1.1 Background and Context

The Kalash comprises an indigenous community living in the three small valleys of Biriu (Birir), Rukmo (Rambur) and Mumorete (Bumburait) in the District Lower Chitral.

The Kalash has a unique culture, are considered to have one of the oldest living cultures in the world. In 2018, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the Kalash people as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). The Kalash Valleys hold historical, cultural, and environmental significance.

Historically, the Kalash community are considered one of the oldest Indigenous communities in the region, with debated origins linked to Indo-Aryans or Alexander the Great's troops. The valleys serve as a living repository of unique rituals, traditions, and myths, drawing significant interest from historians and anthropologists.

Culturally, the Kalash community maintain a distinctive identity through their unique belief, language, festivals, and customs, which set them apart from neighboring communities. Annual festivals like Chilam Joshi, Uchal, and Chawmos celebrate agricultural cycles and honor their deities, reflecting their deep bond with nature and heritage.

Environmentally, the Kalash Valleys are a biodiversity hotspot within the Hindu Kush, home to diverse flora and fauna, many of which are endemic and critical to the ecosystem. The Kalash community practice sustainable farming and animal husbandry, harmonizing with the rugged terrain while maintaining ecological balance. The valleys' glacier-fed rivers and streams are vital for local agriculture and community sustenance.

The unique features of the Kalash Valleys and their people necessitate a collective and collaborative approach to community-centric and sustainable development. Recognizing this need, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa established the

Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA). This centralized authority is tasked with safeguarding and preserving the valleys culture and heritage, promoting responsible and community-focused tourism, and ensuring local ownership of development initiatives undertaken by various development partners.

1.2 Key Authority for the valley's Sustainable Development

The Kalash Valley Development Authority, (KVDA) established under Section 19 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Act 2019 and governed by the Special Purpose Kalash Valleys Development Authority Rules 2020, is managed by a 12-member board. The core objective of authority is to act a centralized body to coordinate with Public and Private sector organizations working on preservation of Kalash culture and heritage, promotion of sustainable tourism, livelihood diversification. This authority can execute various initiatives related to education, healthcare, infrastructure development, tourism promotion, cultural preservation, and socio-economic empowerment.

1.3 Purpose and Objectives of the Roadmap

The development process in the Kalash Valleys cannot be undertaken in isolation. Numerous projects initiated by the government and development partners have positively influenced the developmental landscape of the Kalash valleys. However, the community needed developmental portfolio, lack of foresight plan for valleys, scarcity of funding and associated challenges hinders the smooth implementation of sustainable development. To overcome these barriers, establishing a collaborative and centralized authority with a long-term strategic approach across all crucial sectors is essential to ensure sustained progress and equitable resource allocation. Recognizing this need, the Strategic Roadmap and Foresight Visioning Plan for the Kalash Valleys was developed.

This comprehensive framework outlines short-, medium-, and long-term strategies for sustainable development across key sectors. It is the result of extensive data collection, community engagement, and thorough needs assessments. The plan aligns with provincial policies and integrates climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the unique challenges posed by climate change. The roadmap's core objective is to guide stakeholders in systematically planning and executing need-based projects, maximizing community benefits while avoiding duplication and resource wastage. By

focusing on sectoral strategies tailored to community priorities, it aims to foster effective local implementation and drive sustainable growth in the Kalash Valleys.

1.4 Methodology and Approach

The study employed a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies for comprehensive analysis. It focused on the four valleys under the Kalash Valleys Development Authority i.e. Bumburait, Rumboor, Birir, and Jinjirait Koh i.e. selected for their unique socio-economic, cultural, and environmental characteristics. Data collection included primary data gathered through field studies using structured questionnaires and secondary data from the Line department in Lower Chitral and other stakeholders. Quantitative surveys assessed human capital (population demographics, education, health), financial assets (income, expenditure, credit access), physical assets (housing, infrastructure), natural assets (forests, agriculture, water), and social assets (cultural and tourism practices). Qualitative methods included key informant interviews (KIIs) with community leaders and government officials, focus group discussions (FGDs) with Muslim & Kalash community and direct observations of infrastructure, resources, and cultural events. Stratified random sampling ensured balanced representation, with 142 households surveyed (66 in Bumburait, 34 in Rumboor, 24 in Birir, and 18 in Jinjirait Koh), alongside 8 (KIIs) and 6 (FGDs) per valley. Quantitative analysis utilized descriptive statistics, cross-tabulations, and correlation analysis, visualized with bar charts, pie charts, scatter plots, and heatmaps. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically, identifying recurring themes and gaps, with graphical representations. Tools included structured questionnaires for data collection, R programming and Microsoft Excel for analysis, and R Studio for visualization.

1.5 Policy Frameworks for sustainable development

KP Province has a very sound policy ecosystem for sustainable development. Some of the worth mentioning plans/policies and frameworks providing strategic guidelines for sustainable development include:

- Sustainable Development Strategy (2019-24)
- Urban Forest Policy (2023)
- SDGs Framework (2018-30)
- Climate Change Policy (revised) (2022)

- Social Protection Policy (2022)

- Livestock Policy (2018)

- Agriculture Policy (2015-25)

- Wildlife and Biodiversity Act, 2015

- Women Empowerment Policy (2018)•

- Youth Policy (2016)

- Forest amendment Act (2022), etc.

These policies represent just a glimpse of the broader initiatives required. Their practical implementation demands a collaborative framework, and adequate financing. Thus, the primary focus of this Strategic Roadmap and Visionary Plan for the Kalash Valleys is to foster coordination, joint resource mobilization, prevent duplication of efforts, nd ensure sustainable development, in these valleys.
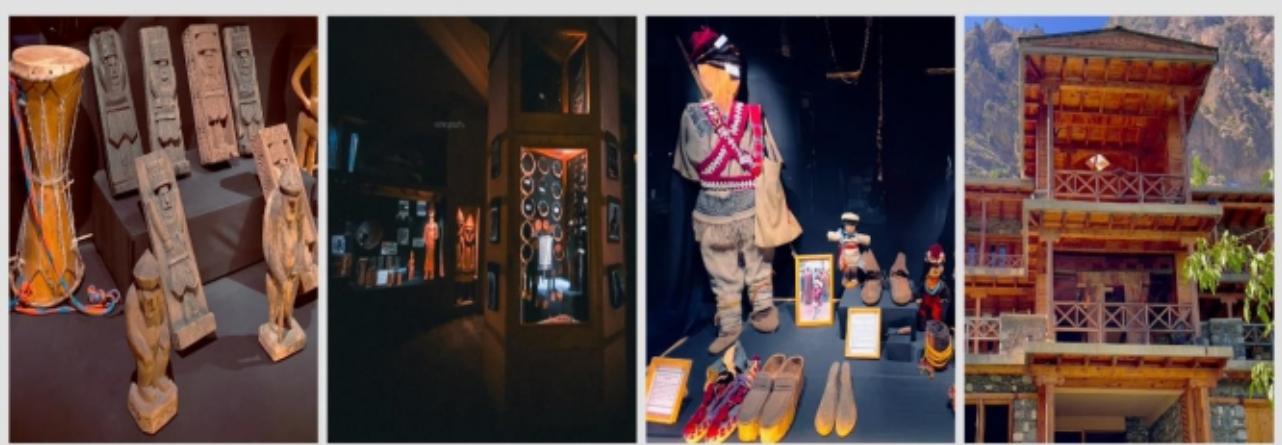
Kalasha Graveyard
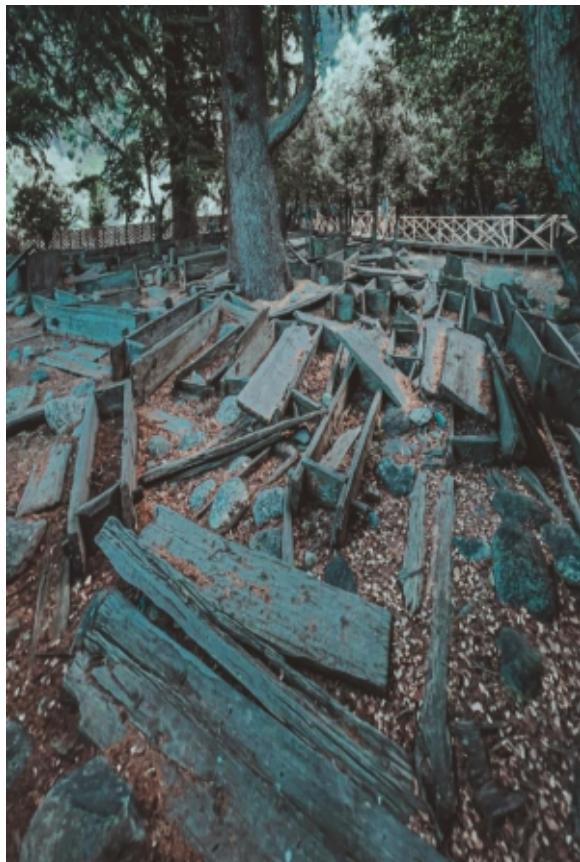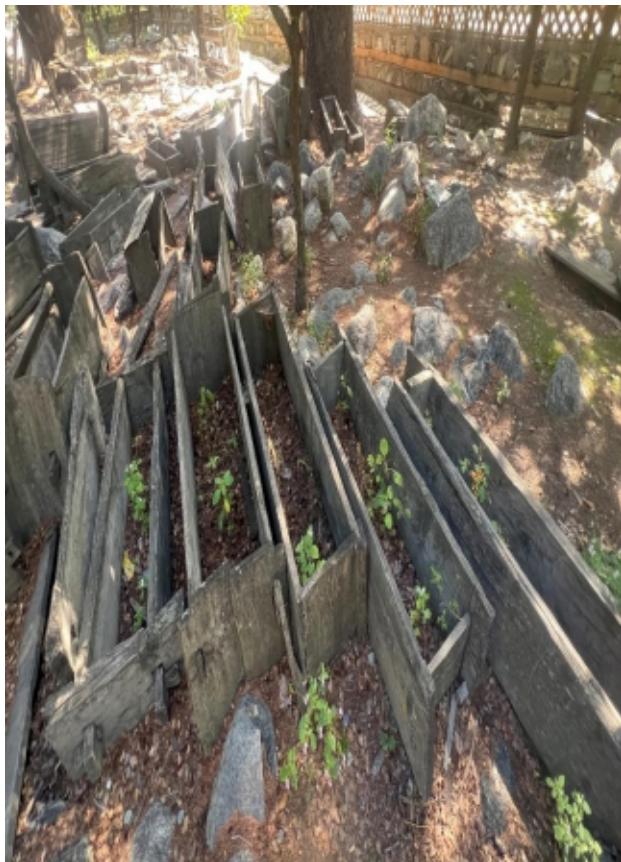
Chapter 2

Baseline Study-Prevailing Situational Analysis & Developmental Assessment of Kalash Valleys

A comprehensive and authentic document capturing the Kalash Valleys' baseline data, ongoing initiatives, gaps, and an actionable development framework is currently lacking. A baseline study of Bumburait, Rumbur, and Birir is essential to understand their unique dynamics and address pressing challenges. Despite abundant natural resources, rich cultural heritage, and significant tourism potential, development remains slow. This study aims to provide a thorough SWOT analysis, identify gaps, and guide sustainable development aligned with provincial policies and community priorities. It ensures effective resource allocation, reduces duplication, and fosters resilience, economic security, and cultural preservation.

2.1 The Kalash and their Valleys

Chitral, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is renowned for its diverse culture and breathtaking scenic beauty. The Kalash community resides in three valleys to the south of Chitral i.e. Bumburait, Rumbur, and Birir. Spanning 456 sq. km, these valleys sit at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 meters, with forests concentrated between 2,000 and 3,000 meters. Summers in the region are mild, with average maximum temperatures ranging between 23°C and 27°C (73°F - 81°F). Winters are harsh and cold, with average minimum temperatures between 2°C and 1°C (36°F - 34°F).

Bumburait Valley:

This is the largest and most renowned of the three Kalash valleys, situated approximately 40 kilometers from Chitral. The journey to the valley takes around 2.5 hours via an unpaved, jeepable road. Upon arrival, the valley unfolds into a picturesque landscape featuring a serene water stream flowing along one side.
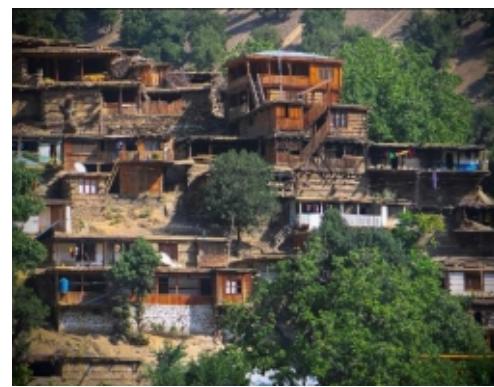
Bumburait valley

The valley hosts a larger population of the Kalash community compared to the other valleys and offers more accommodations for visitors. The Kalash and Muslim communities coexist harmoniously across many villages, showcasing a unique model of cultural integration.

Rumbur Valley:

The second Kalash valley, Rumbur, is located approximately 32 kilometers from Chitral. The road leading to both Bumburait and Rumbur is shared until the Dubash Levies Check Point, where a separate, unpaved road branches off toward Rumbur.

Rumboor Valley
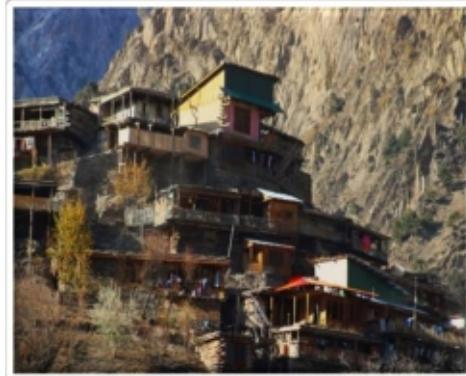
Rumbur is celebrated for its rugged beauty and unique topography. Though narrower than Bumburait, it offers equally stunning vistas of terraced farms, flowing streams, and towering mountain peaks. The valley's relatively lower population has helped preserve its natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

Tourists are drawn to Rumbur to immerse themselves in its vibrant culture, explore traditional Kalash houses, and experience the living traditions of the community. While the valley has fewer hotels compared to Bumburait, it boasts a broader cultural charm, making it a captivating destination for those seeking authenticity and tranquility.

Birir Valley:

The third Kalash valley, Birir, lies approximately 34 kilometers from Chitral and is accessed via a distinct route, separate from those leading to Bumburait and Rumbur. It is the least populated of the three valleys in terms of the Kalash community but is renowned for its deep connection to ancient Kalash culture.

Birir Valley

Birir is characterized by its terraced fields, flowing streams that support agriculture and green energy initiatives, and its treasure trove of authentic old Kalash architectural heritage. The valley also features various cultural landmarks that showcase its rich traditions. Surrounded by towering mountains and dense forests, Birir offers a serene environment and ecological richness that appeals to nature enthusiasts.

Due to limited accommodation options, most tourists visit Birir during the day. However, those seeking an unfiltered experience of Kalash culture often prefer this valley for its purity and authenticity. Historically, travelers could journey between Birir and Bumburait via an old, scenic track, adding a touch of adventure to their exploration of these valleys.

2.2.1 Demographic Insights of Kalash Valleys

The data analysis is based on the data collection made by Kalash Valleys Development Authority in December 2024.

Population Trend of Kalash Valleys

The population distribution in the Kalash Valleys reveals a significant Muslim majority, with the Kalash community making up a smaller proportion of the total population. In Bumburait, the population is 7,106, with 5,304 Muslims (74.7%) and 1,802 Kalash (25.3%). Rumbur has 6,567 people,

with 5,090 Muslims (77.5%) and 1,477 Kalash (22.5%). Birir has a population of 4,225, with 3,395 Muslims (80.3%) and 830 Kalash (19.7%). Across all three valleys, the total population is 17,898, with 13,789 Muslims (77%) and 4,109 Kalash (23%).
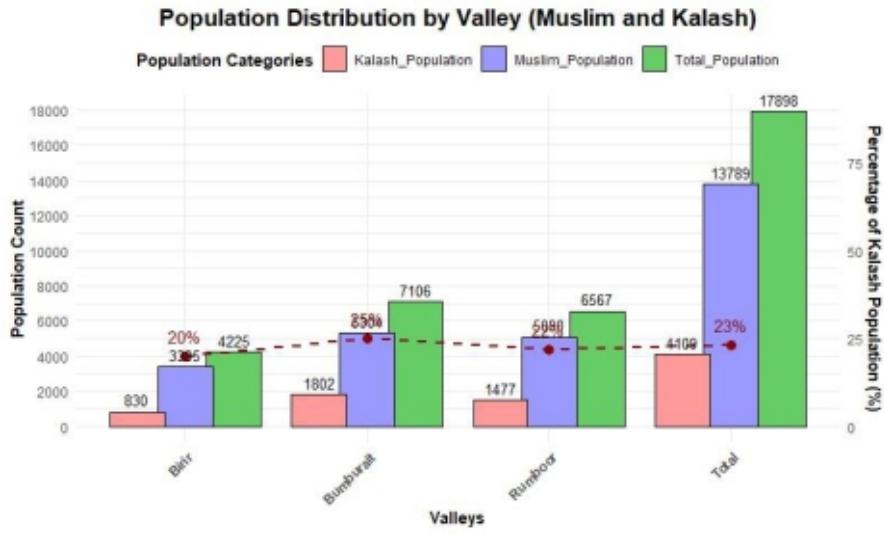
Muslims & Kalash Population Percentage

Muslim makeup the majority in all three valleys, comprising 77% of the total population, while the Kalash community represents only 23% of the total population. The Kalash have the highest proportion in Bumburait (25.3%) and the lowest in Birir (19.7%). These figures highlight the coexistence of the Muslim and Kalash communities, with Muslims being the dominant group, though the Kalash maintain a strong presence, particularly in Bumburait and Rumbur.
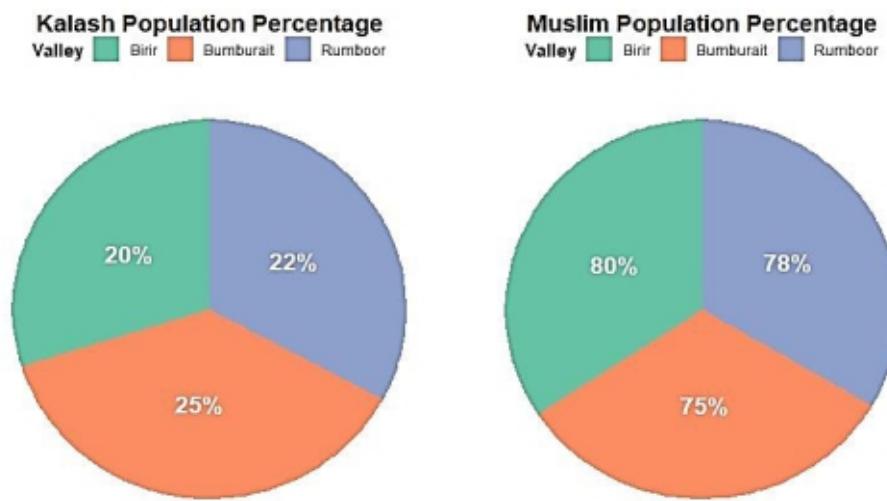
Population Trend of Kalash Community

Accurate data on the population of the Kalash community has historically been scarce. However, efforts have been made over the years to gather reliable figures.

In 2007, Mr. Wazir Zada, the then Advisor to the Chief Minister, conducted a house-to-house survey while working with the Ayun Valleys Development Program (AVDP), a local LSO. According to the AVDP-2007 survey, the total population of the Kalash community was recorded at **3,137**.
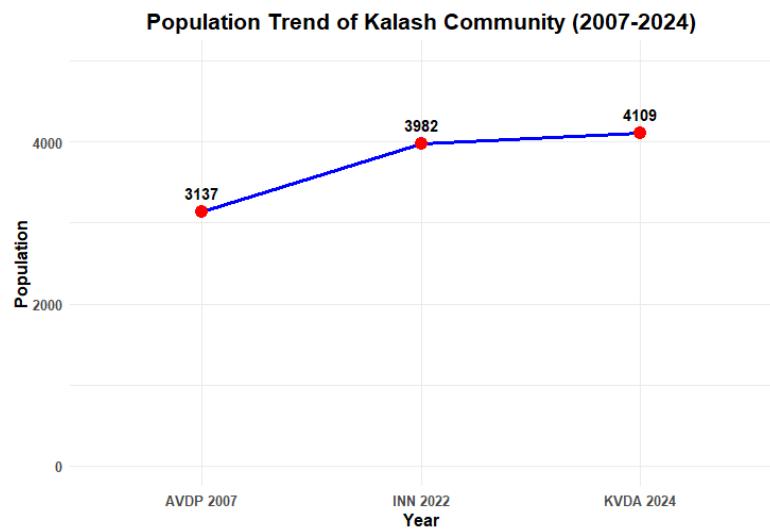
In 2022, Mr. Luke Rehmat, a human and fundamental rights activist from Kalash community, conducted another survey through the Ishpata News Network. His findings indicated that the Kalash population had recorded to **3,982**

More recently, in December 2024, Mr. Akram Hussain Kalash, Assistant Director of the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA), conducted a comprehensive house-to-house survey across all three valleys. His survey reported the total population of the Kalash community at **4,109** He also noted that there were **30 deaths** of kalash community were recorded in 2024, with the primary causes being **Cardiac arrest, cancer,** and **k**
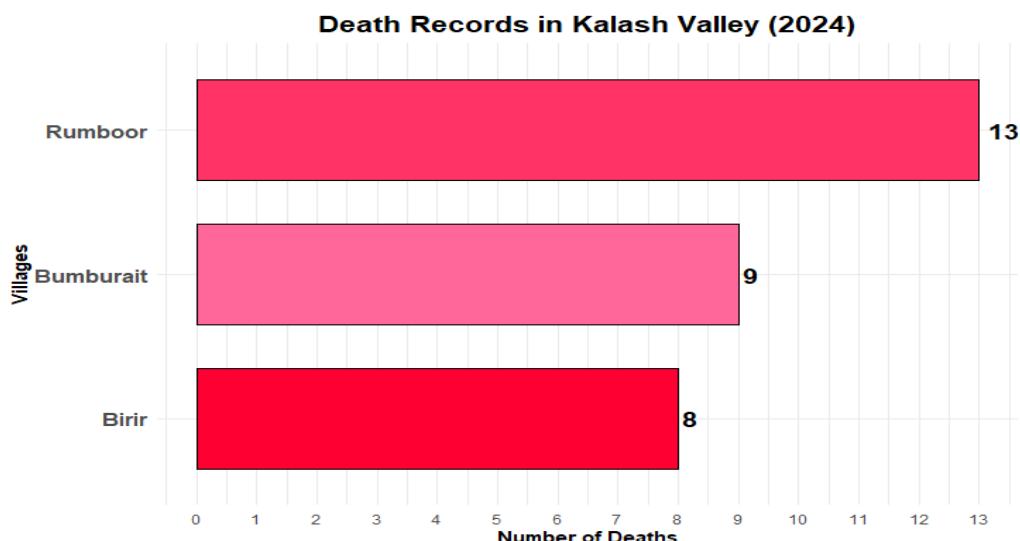
Kalasha Male and Female Population

According to the survey of KVDA in 2024 The male-to-female population trend across the valleys consistently shows a slight male predominance. In Bumburait Valley, males constitute 53.2% (959),
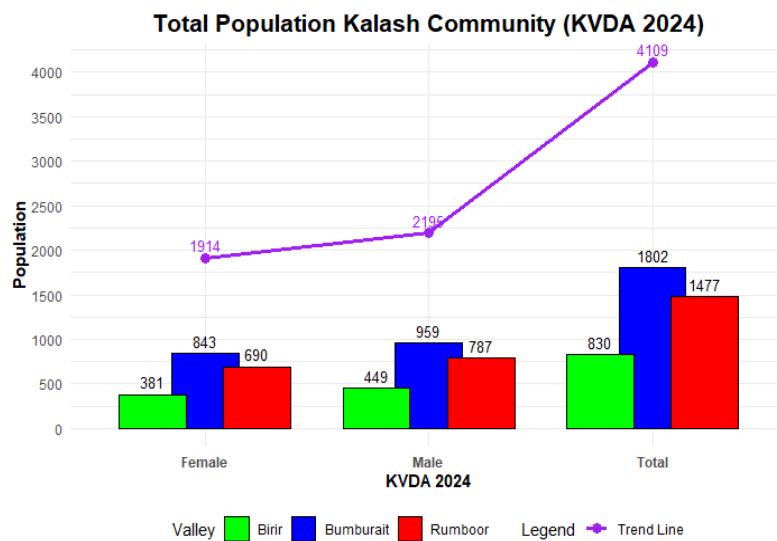
compared to 46.8% females (843). Similarly, in Rumbur Valley, males make up 53.3% (787), while females account for 46.7% (690). Birir Valley exhibits the highest male-

to-female ratio, with males at 54.1% (449) and females at 45.9% (381), reflecting a slightly stronger male dominance.

Vulnerable Community in Kalash Valley

The data highlights the number of (both Muslim & Kalash) persons with disabilities (PWDs) and widows in the three valleys number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) 58 individuals, while Rumbur follows with 34 individuals and Birir has the lowest count, with 15 individuals. But very few Persons with Disabilities are registered with Social Welfare. Department. Similarly, the number of widows is significantly higher in Bumburait (153 widows) compared to Rumbur (52 widows) and Birir (25 widows).
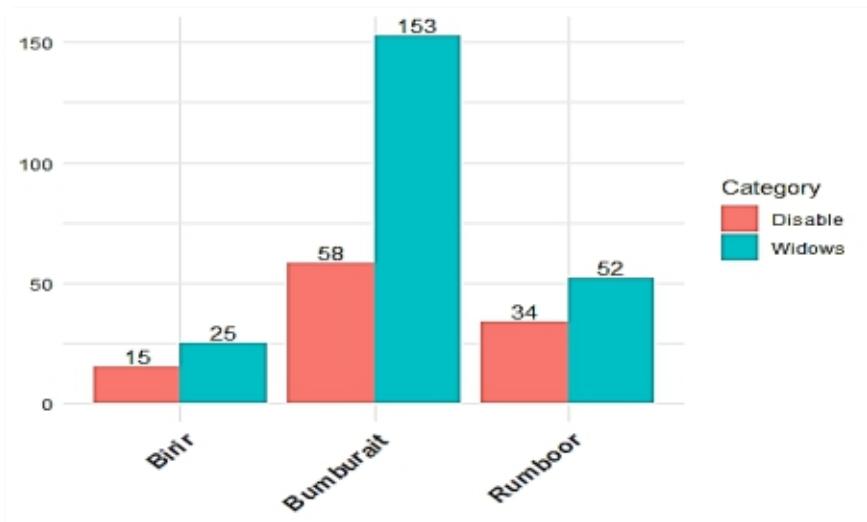
Housing Conditions in the Kalash Valleys

The study reveals a stark disparity in housing quality across the Kalash Valleys, **92%** of respondents live in **Kacha (mud) houses**, While Only **8%** reside in **Pakka (permanent) houses**,
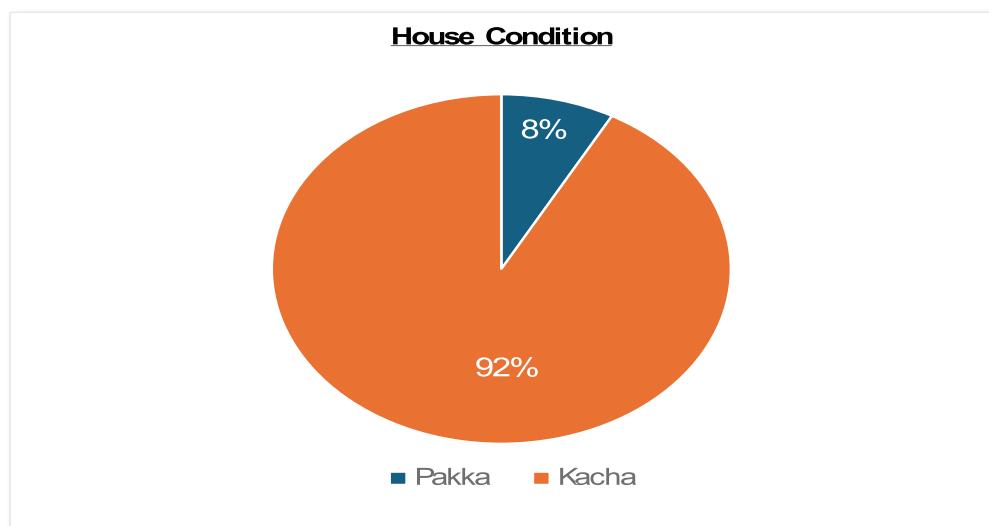
2.2.2 Health Facilities

The following health facilities exists in Kalash valleys are:

S.No.	Valley	HealthCare facility
1	Bumburait	01 BHU
2	Rumbur	01 Dispensary
3	Birir	01 Dispensary

Valley wise Outpatient Department (OPD) Attendance

The one-year OPD data of DHO office lower Chitral regarding facilities of Bumburait, Rumbur, and Birir highlights key trends in outpatient attendance. Female attendance consistently surpasses male attendance across all valleys and age groups, indicating higher healthcare utilization among women. The "15-49" age group records the highest attendance, reflecting the healthcare needs of the economically active and reproductive population, while attendance declines sharply in the "50+" age group, possibly due to fewer elderly individuals or reduced healthcare access.
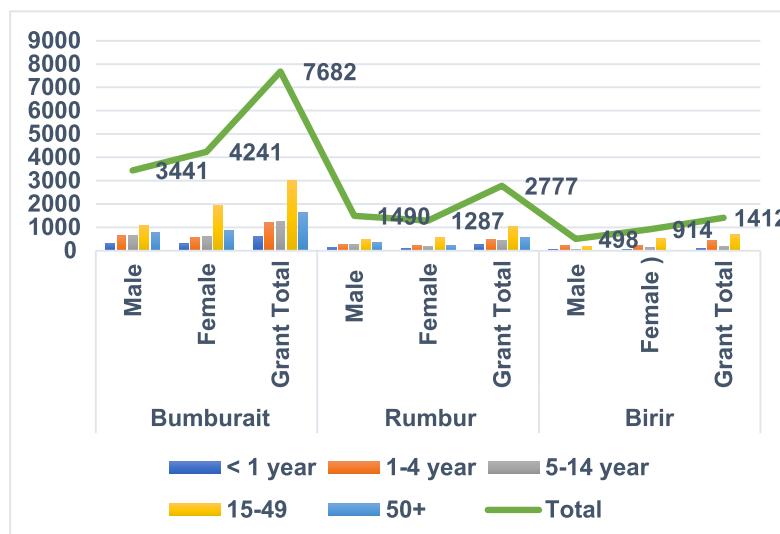
Bumburait stands out with the highest total outpatient attendance, likely due to its larger population, better healthcare facilities, or greater health awareness. In comparison, Rumbur and Birir show significantly lower attendance, suggesting disparities in healthcare access. The sharp spike in Bumburait total attendance underscores its role as a regional healthcare hub, while targeted efforts are needed to improve healthcare utilization in Rumbur and Birir.

Notably, outpatient attendance for children under five years old ("< 1 year" and "1-4 years") is significant but lower than adults, emphasizing the need for enhanced child healthcare programs.

Disease Patterns and Healthcare Needs

The bar chart indicates that Bumburait Valley has the highest rate of disease, with a significant number of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), followed by Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) and dermatitis. Fever and depression are also prevalent. Rumboor Valley ranks second in reported health issues, primarily ARI, dermatitis, and UTI. Birir Valley sees high cases of ARI and UTI, similar to other valleys. Additionally, traffic accidents, dog bites, drug addiction, burns, otitis media, and diabetes are reported across the four valleys.
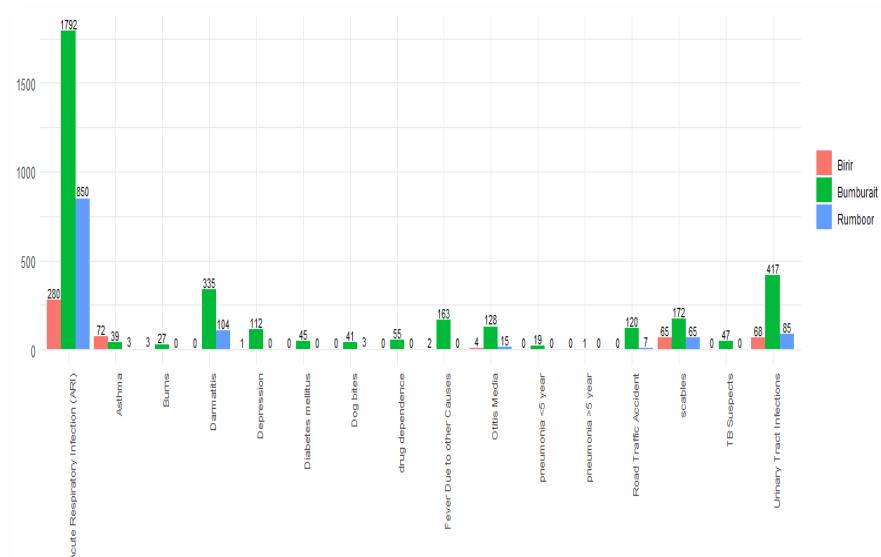
Medical Services Needs in the Valley

The pie chart illustrates the three most common medical services needed by the people of the region. According to the data, 64% of people expressed the need for maternal health services, 19% for general health services, and 17% for emergency health and casualty service.
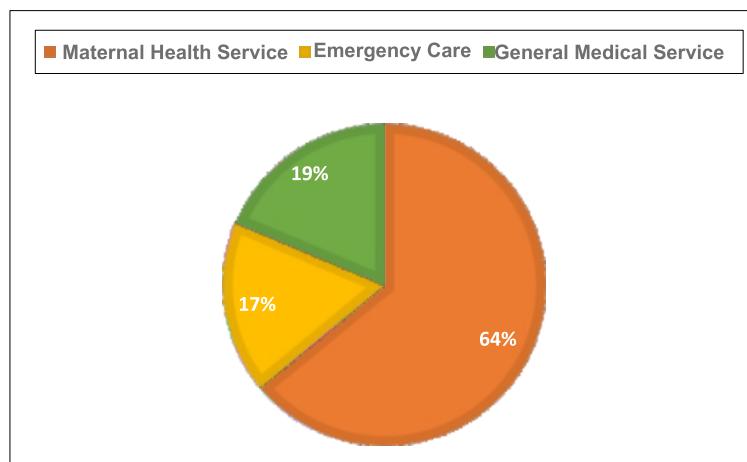
Satisfaction with Health Services

The donut chart reveals that most people are not satisfied with the health services, with 56% expressing overall Dis-satisfaction. Among them, 22% are satisfied, and 8% are highly satisfied. However, 14% remain neutral.
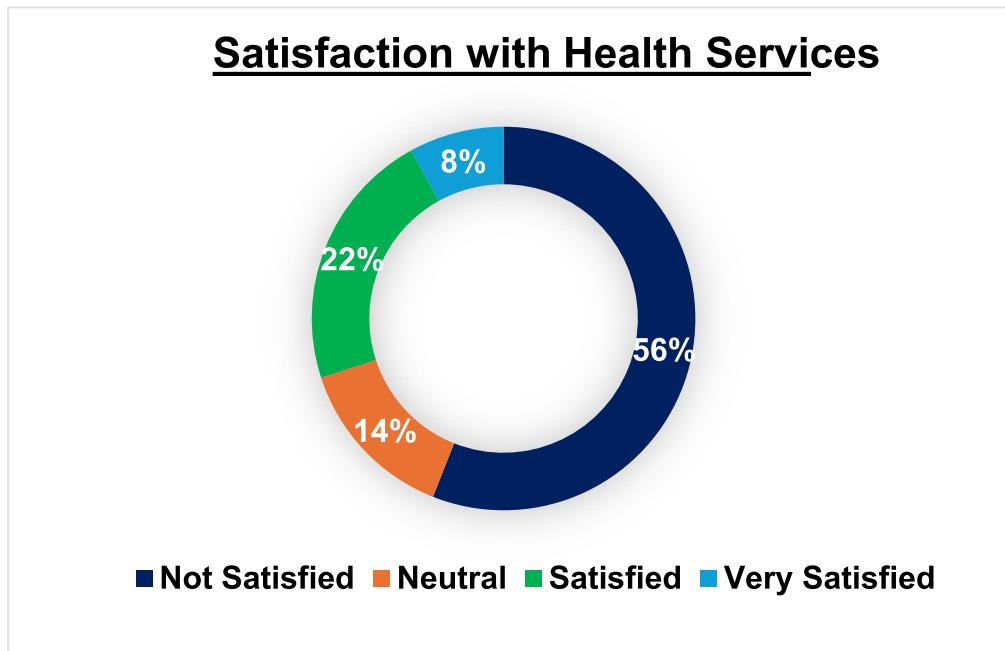
2.2.3 Educational Facilities

The graph highlights the distribution of educational facilities across Kalash Valleys showing that limited schools are available for female students across valleys.
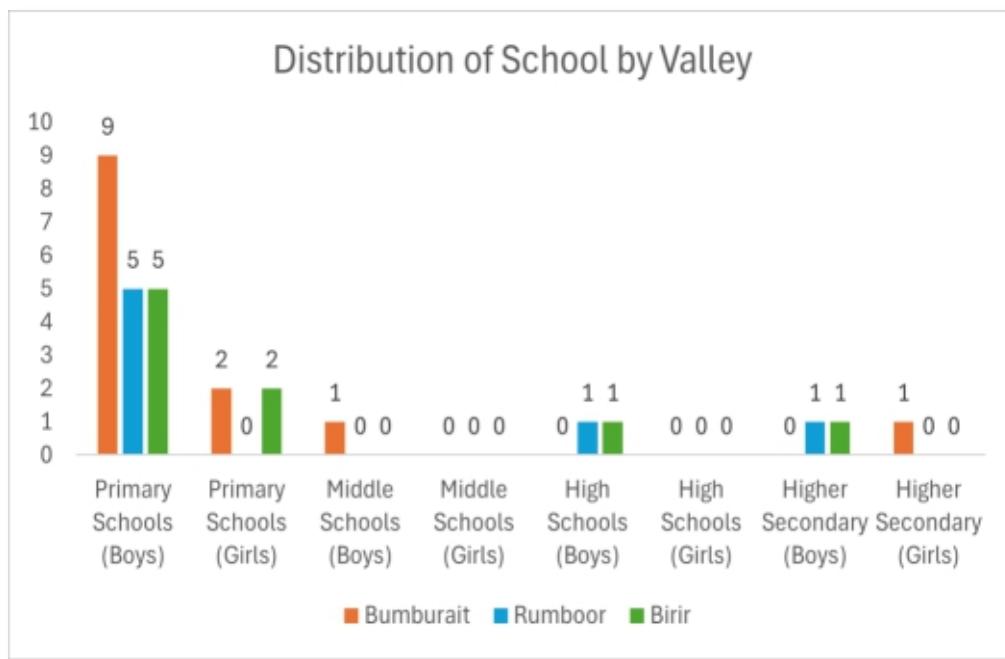
Gender Parity of Schools in valley

The data shows a significant gender imbalance across different school types. In Higher Secondary School, the number of boys and girls is equal (1 each), while in High School and Middle Schools, there are only boys (2 and 1, respectively), with no girls' Middle schools. Boys Primary Schools are higher number (20) compared to girls (4). This suggests that girls face barriers to education at higher school levels, with more efforts needed to encourage female enrollment across all school types.
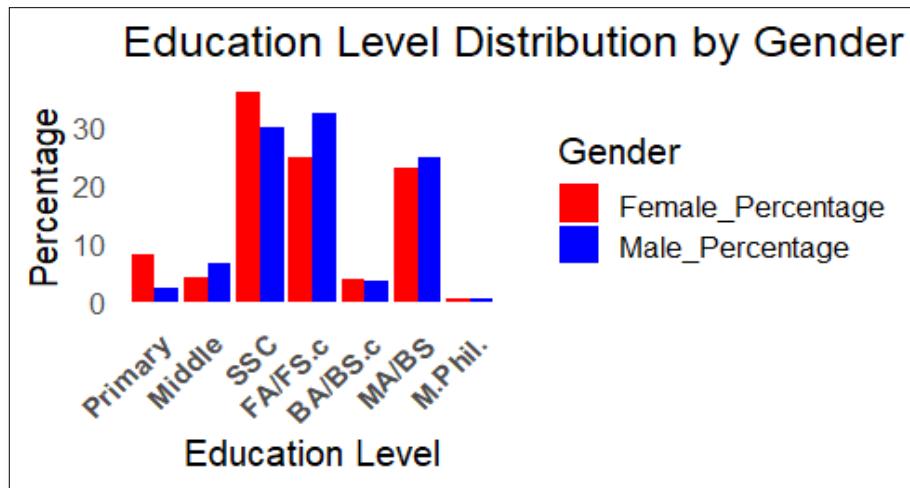
Education Level

The study reveals that in 143 households, there are 341 educated males and 186 educated females. While female students show higher representation at the primary
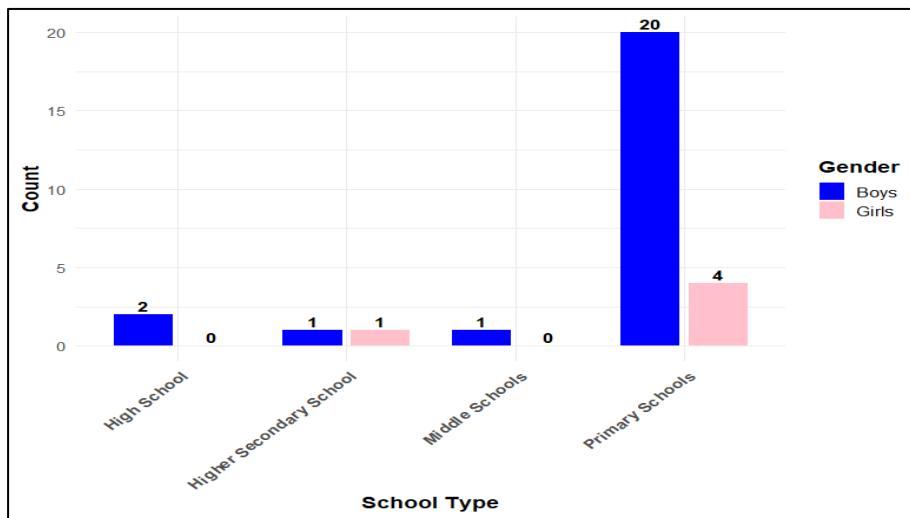
education level. Their participation declines sharply as education levels rise. Conversely, the proportion of educated males increases significantly at secondary and

higher education levels. This pattern underscores a notable gender gap in education, particularly beyond the primary level.

Female Education Support

A study of 143 households reveals overwhelming support for female education, with 95% of respondents advocating for equal educational opportunities for boys and girls. This reflects a positive societal shift towards gender equality in education. However, 5% of interviewees oppose female education, likely due to financial constraints, or gender norms favoring male education. While this opposition is minimal, addressing these barriers is essential to achieving universal support for female education

Support Female Education

5%

95%

■ Yes ■ No
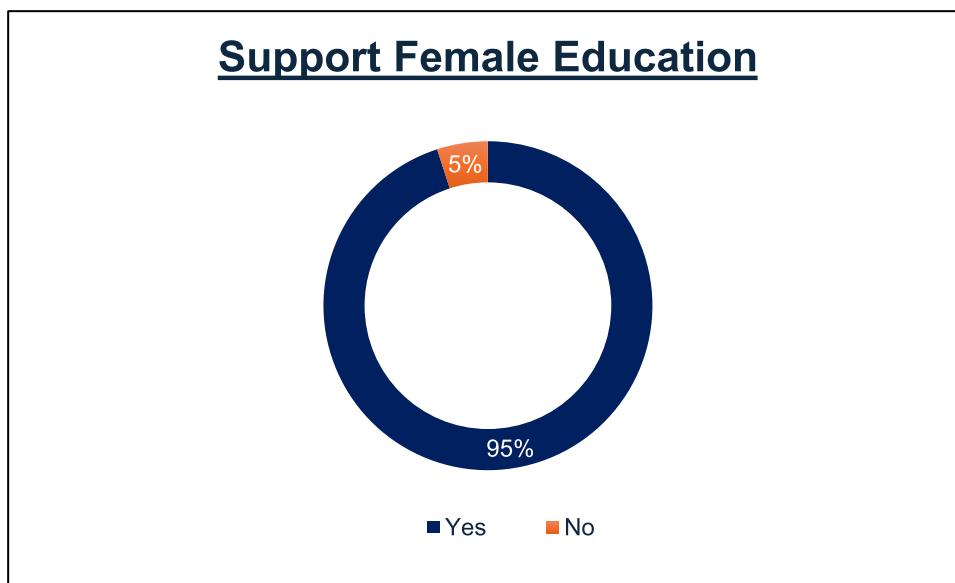
Challenges in getting an Education:

The study, based on interviews with 207 participants, identifies several key challenges to education. The most significant obstacle is the distance to schools, attributed to the geographic structure of rural villages, where households are dispersed and far from main schools. Other critical challenges include a lack of teaching staff and monetary restrictions. Additionally, issues such as insufficient supplies (e.g., stationery, textbooks) and inadequate infrastructure (e.g., classrooms) exacerbate the problem. A smaller yet notable barrier is the lack of interest and awareness toward education, though this is less prevalent. Interestingly, a small percentage of household's report facing no challenges to education.

Challenges in Education System
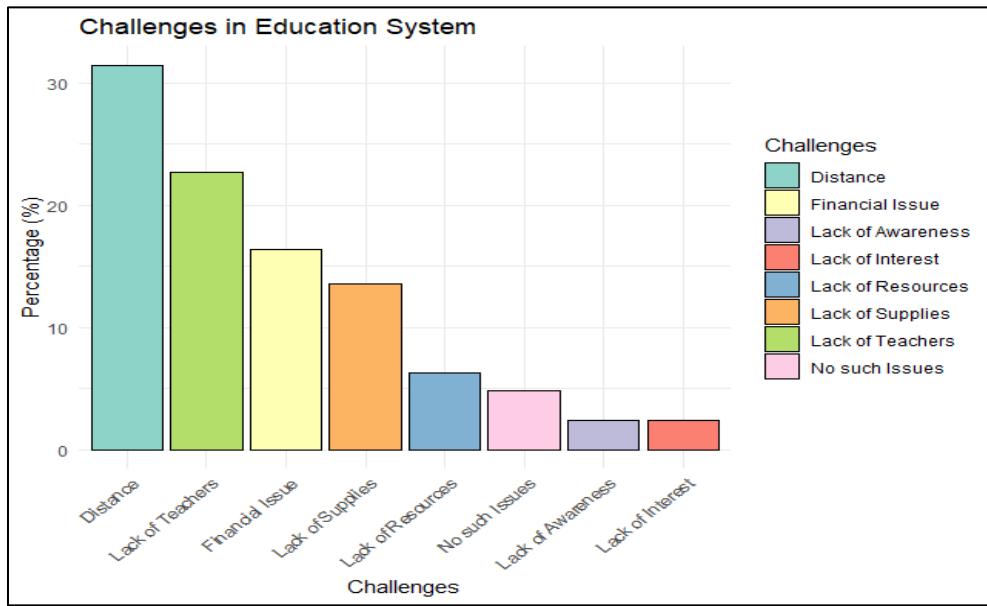
2.2.4 Income, Expenditure and Credits

A study of 142 households identified five primary sources of income in the kalash valleys. Agriculture dominates, with 55.49% of respondents relying on it as their main livelihood. Non-Timber Forest Products (NFTP), including pine nuts etc, constitute the second-largest source at 29.31%. Government employment supports 7.32% of households, while 6.2% engage in business. A small proportion, 1.57%, earn their income through teaching in private institutions. These findings underscore the region's dependence on agriculture and natural resource-based activities for economic sustenance.

Primary Occupations and Their Percentages
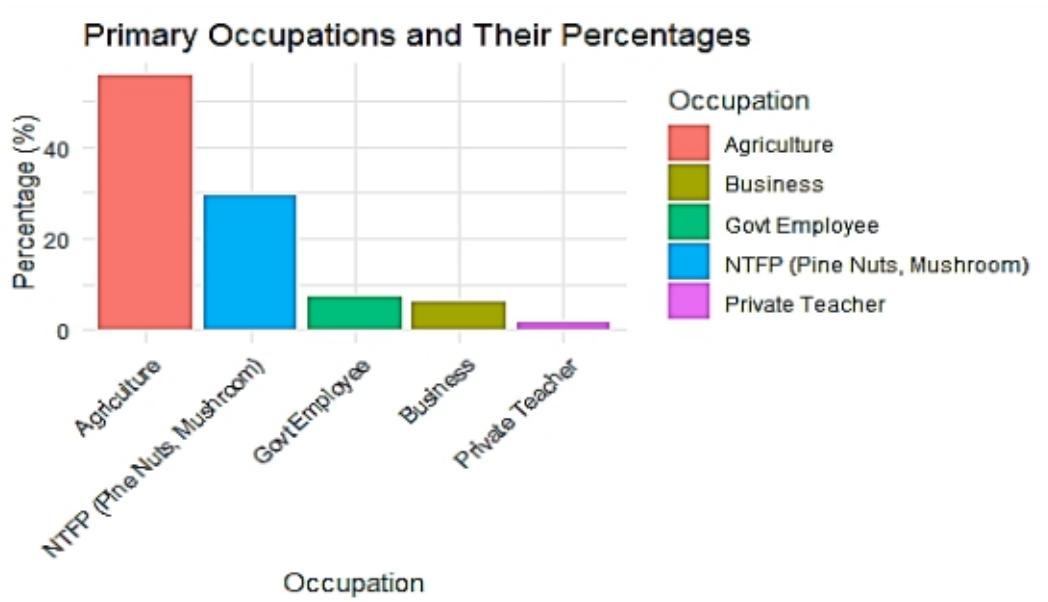
Average income:

The study reveals five main sources of income in the valleys, each with varying average earnings. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), including pine nuts and honey, yield the highest average income of Rs. 108,107 annually, though it is seasonal and tied to harvest cycles. Government employees earn the second-highest average income at Rs. 62,967. Agricultural
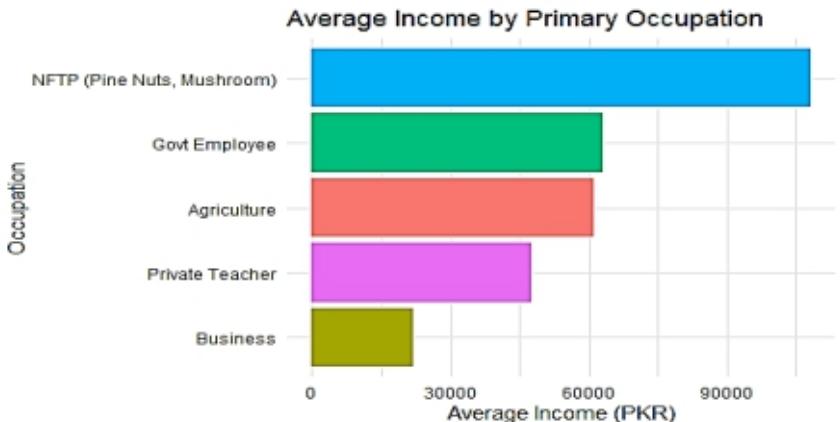
workers earn Rs. 61,134 on average, also affected by seasonal farming cycles. Private institute teachers earn an average salary of Rs. 45,500, while business owners report the lowest average income at Rs. 21,803.

The seasonal nature of NTFPs and agriculture contributes to inconsistent earnings, highlighting the region's economic vulnerability. Despite moderate incomes from private jobs, limited opportunities in the area further constrain financial stability. These findings underscore the challenges locals face in maintaining a consistent year-round income.

Crop Grown

As illustrated in the scatterplot, a correlation of r=0.23 indicates a very weak positive relationship between income and expenditure. High-income households tend to spend more on non-essential items such as entertainment and luxury products, whereas low-income households allocate a larger proportion of their income to necessities like housing, groceries, and healthcare.

Moreover, larger households generally incur higher expenditures, regardless of income, due to the increased consumption of resources by more members. Cultural and local traditions, such as religious ceremonies, marriages, or festivals, can also create significant financial pressures for households, irrespective of their income levels.

Some households, particularly those with seasonal workers, report unstable or fluctuating incomes. Despite this financial unpredictability, they manage to meet their expenses, often by relying on informal support systems or savings accumulated during periods of higher income

commonly grown crops in these regions are maize and wheat. Maize is the predominant crop, accounting for 61% of the total crop production. Wheat follows as the second major crop, contributing 24% of the total. Beans rank third, making up 11%, while potatoes are the fourth most common crop, comprising 4% of the total crop production in the region.

Percentage of Crops Grown

■ Beans ■ Maize ■ Potato ■ Wheat
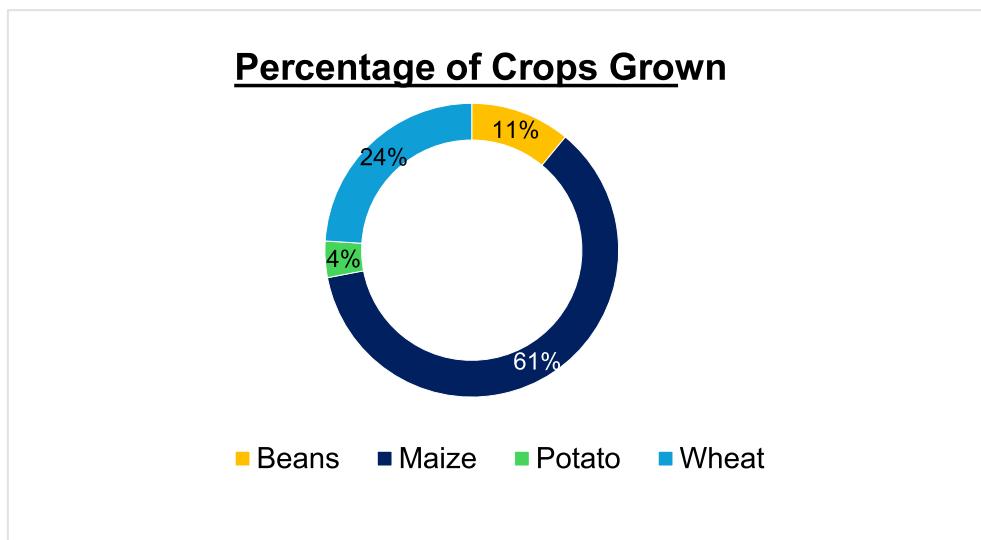
Barriers to Employment

A study of 218 respondents identified the primary barriers to employment in the region. The most significant issue, cited by 42% of respondents, is the limited availability of jobs, reflecting a lack of opportunities due to economic conditions, industry downturns, or insufficient job creation.

The second major barrier is a lack of skills, reported by 40% of respondents, indicating a need for education or vocational training to enhance employability.

Around 12% of respondents highlighted inadequate infrastructure, such as poor transportation, limited access to technology, and insufficient public services, as a challenge.

The least reported barrier is a lack of education, affecting only 6% of respondents.

Employement Barriers
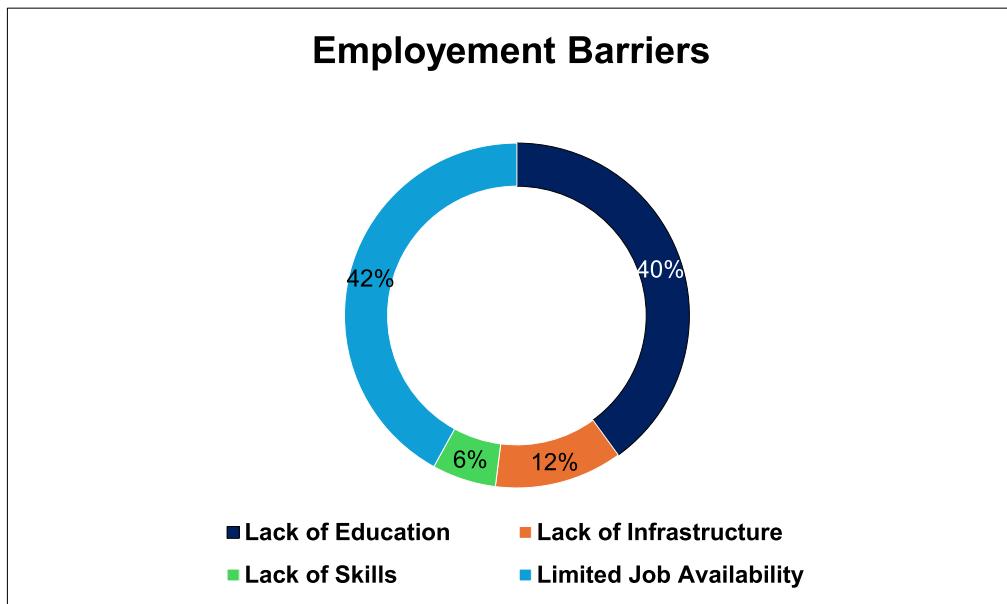
2.2.5 Tourist Impact on Culture

The pie chart highlights the effects of tourism on culture in the region.The majority of respondents (51%) view tourism as beneficial, citing its role in promoting cultural traditions, raising awareness, and creating economic opportunities. However, 21% of respondents express concerns about cultural dilution and loss of authenticity caused by tourism. Additionally, 14% acknowledge both positive and negative effects, recognizing the economic growth and cultural promotion alongside disruptions to traditional lifestyles.

TOURIST IMPACT ON CULTURE
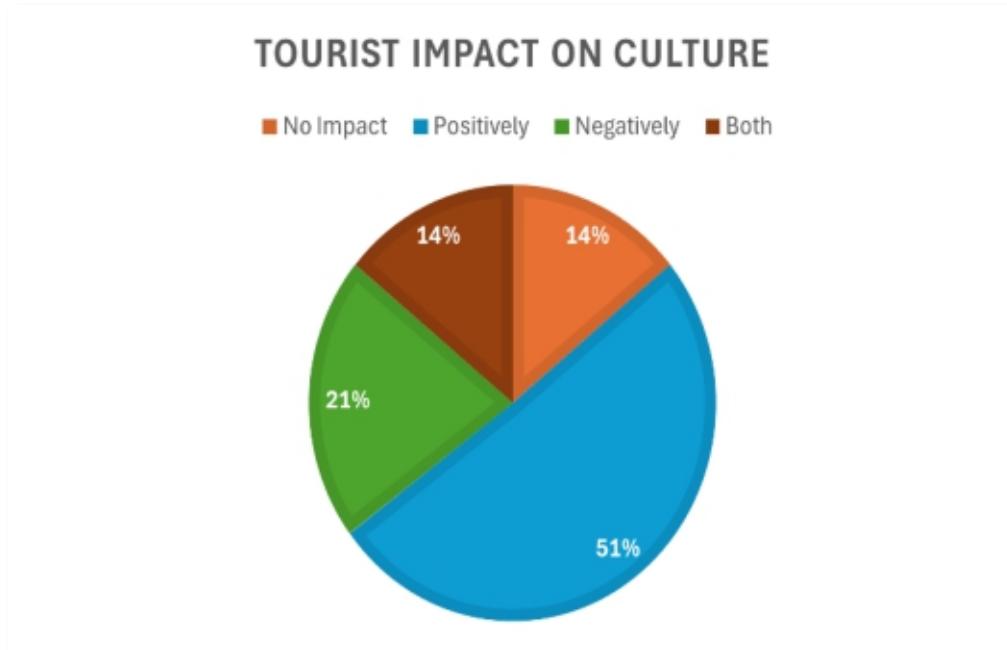
Tourism Impact on Daily Life

The bar chart categorizes the impact of tourism on daily life. The majority, with 62 respondents, reported a positive impact, highlighting benefits such as employment opportunities and improved infrastructure. Fifty respondents acknowledged both positive and negative effects, recognizing the benefits alongside the challenges tourism brings. Nineteen respondents expressed concerns about the negative impact of tourism on their daily lives, while a minimal group of 11 respondents stated that tourism has no effect on their daily lives.
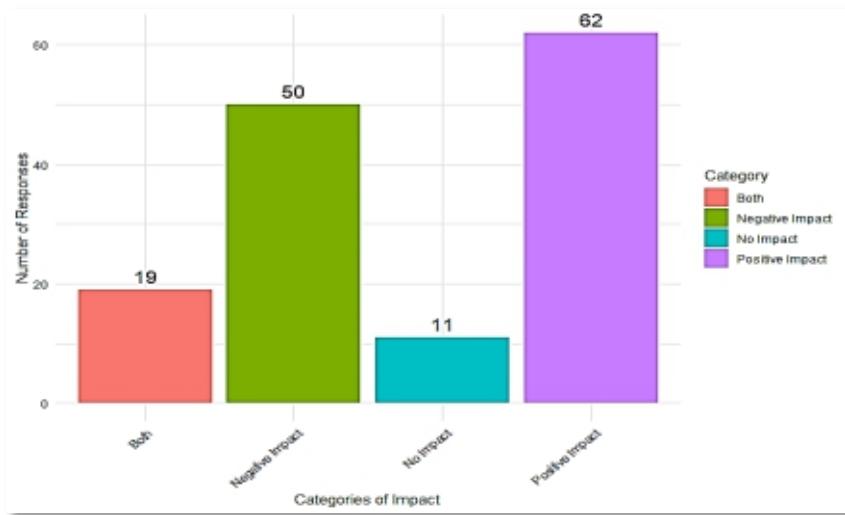
Economic Benefits from Tourism

The diagrams highlight the perceived economic benefits of tourism. The majority, with 142 respondents, believe tourism significantly boosts the local economy by generating higher revenue for service providers. A smaller group of 30 respondents recognizes tourism's role in driving infrastructure development. Additionally, 20 respondents associate tourism with job creation, viewing it as a means of supporting local employment.
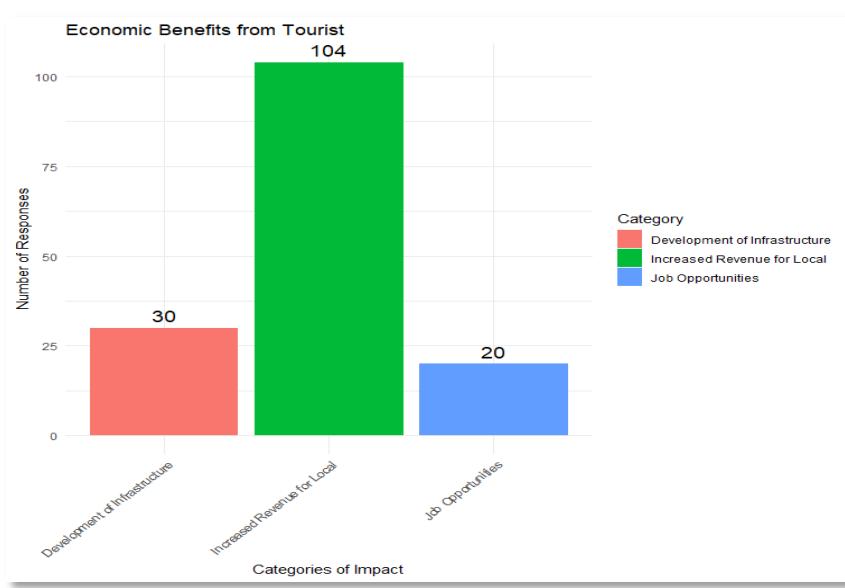
Attracting Tourists to Kalash Valleys

The survey results highlight key factors that could enhance Kalash Valleys' appeal to tourists. The majority of respondents (24%) view the unique culture and traditions of the Kalash community as the primary draw for visitors. Eco-tourism initiatives (22%) that emphasize the region's natural beauty are considered crucial for attracting eco-conscious travelers. Improved infrastructure (19%) is also seen as essential, with better roads and transportation expected to increase tourist influx. Additionally, 18% of respondents emphasize the importance of better facilities for tourists, such as accommodations, restaurants, and public amenities, while 17% see adventure tourism, including hiking and trekking, as appealing to adventure tourists.
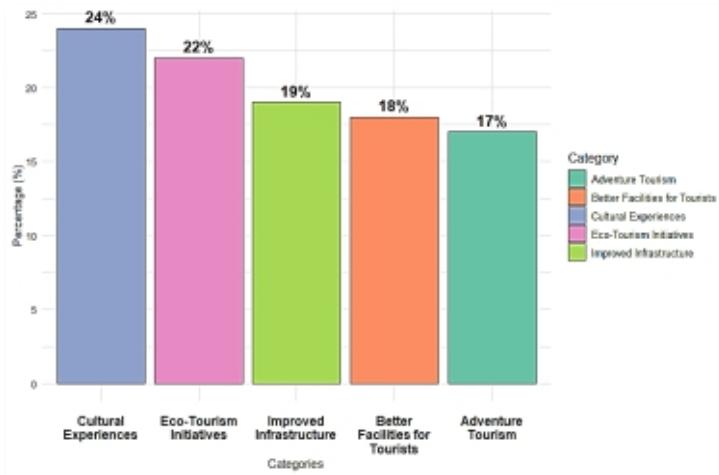
100-year-old kalasha Archaeological buildings

The Kalash Valleys offer a unique appeal to adventure tourists, showcasing living cultural heritage and ancient history. Among the remarkable features of these valleys are archaeological buildings and houses over 100 years old, which stand as testaments to the enduring traditions of the Kalash community. Birir Valley, in particular, boasts the highest concentration of these historic structures, making it a fascinating destination for those seeking to explore the architectural and cultural richness of this indigenous community.
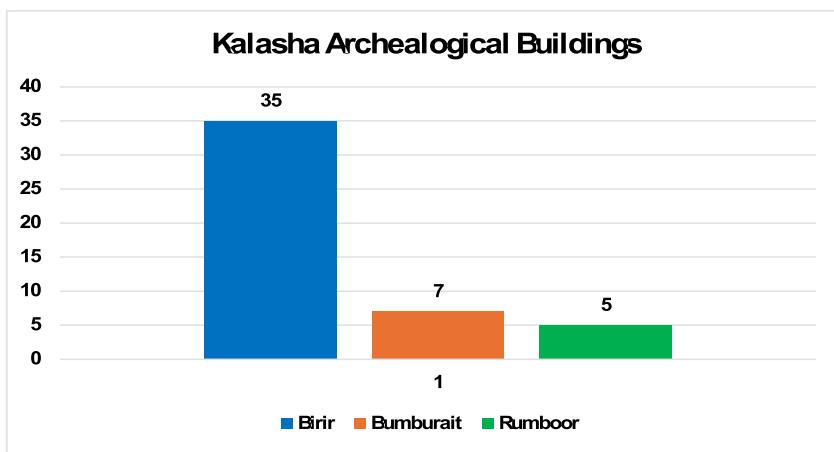
2.2.6 Rehabilitation of Kalasha Religious and Sacred Sites

The Kalash community is home to many religious and sacred sites, including Dewadur, Jastakan, graveyards, Bashali, and Charsu. According to the study, 58% of surveyed respondents believe that rehabilitation is required for these sites, emphasizing the need for restoration and maintenance to preserve their historical and

religious significance. On the other hand, 42% feel that rehabilitation is not necessary, possibly due to the belief that the sites are still in satisfactory condition or concerns about the impact of modern interventions.
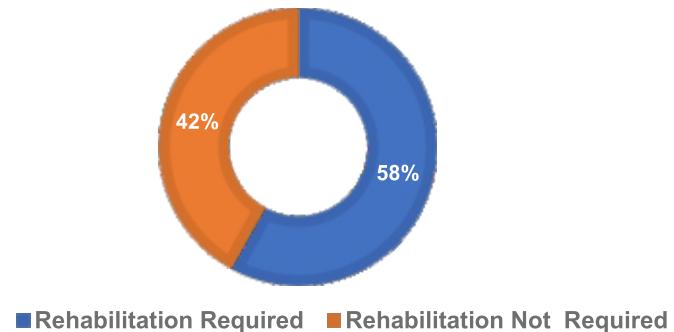
Funding for Preservation of Kalash Culture

The study on the preservation of Kalash culture revealed concerns about the availability of sufficient funding. Thirty-five percent of respondents believe that the available funds are adequate to support preservation efforts, while a majority (65%) feel that more financial support, particularly

from the government and other partners, is needed to effectively preserve the unique culture and traditions of the Kalash community
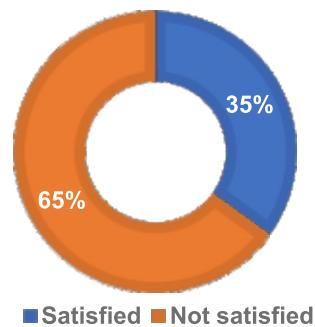
Youth Engagement in Preserving and Promoting Kalash Culture

A study of 285 respondents identified key tools for preserving and promoting Kalash culture among youth.
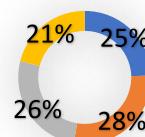
Twenty-five percent of respondents view the documentation of religious and cultural practices as an important preservation tool. Twenty-eight percent agree that Qazis (Kalash religious leaders) play a crucial role in cultural preservation. Additionally, 26% believe that community events and festivals are essential for promoting cultural traditions, while 21% highlight the importance of youth feeling ownership over their culture.

Cellular Connectivity In Kalash Valleys

In the Kalash Valleys, Telenor is the sole cellular network provider. It has 03 towers in Bumburait, 02 towers in Rumbur and 01 tower iin Birir. However, its services are highly unreliable, being weather-dependent and suffering from poor maintenance and a lack of consistent fuel supply for operation. According to survey data, 84% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with Telenor's operations, while only 16% reported satisfaction.

Additionally, the only landline PTCL exchange in Bumburait has been non-functional for an extended period. This inadequate network infrastructure severely hampers the implementation of telemedicine and e-commerce initiatives, both of which have significant potential to improve healthcare access and economic opportunities in the valleys.
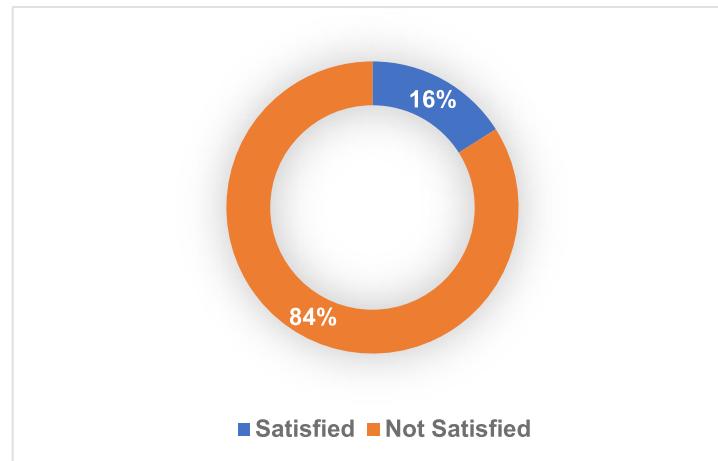
2.2.7 Livestock

The graph highlights that livestock is the primary source of livelihood for the communities in the Kalash Valleys, encompassing both the Kalash and Muslim populations. Livestock,
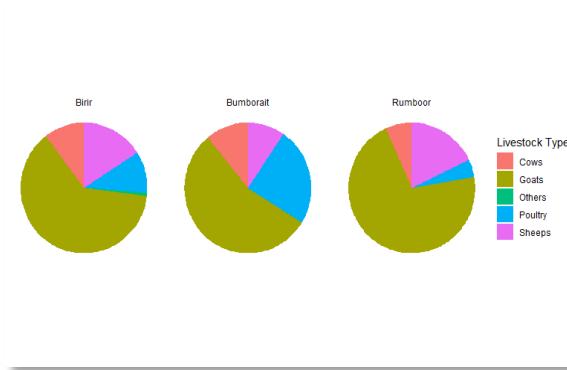
particularly goats, holds immense cultural, economic, and social significance in the region. During Kalash funerals, a large number of goats are traditionally sacrificed as part of their cultural and religious rituals.

2.2.8 Forest Coverage

The three Kalash Valleys i.e. Bumburait, Rumbur, and Birir collectively host an extensive forest cover. Bumburait has the largest forest area, spanning 77,771 sq. km, accounting for more than half of the total forest area across the three valleys. Rumbur follows with a forest area of 55,000 sq. km, showcasing significant ecological potential. Birir, while having the smallest forest cover at 24,211 sq. km, still represents an important contribution to the region's biodiversity.
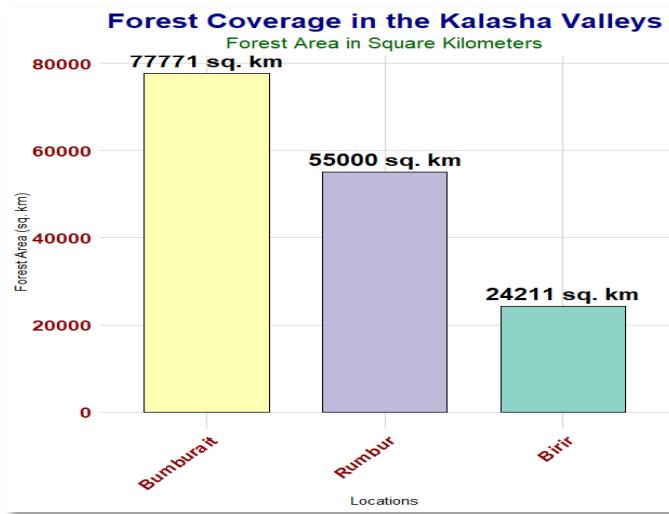
The valleys are rich in diverse flora, including conifer species such as Chilgoza Pine, Deodar, Blue Pine, Juniper, and Silver Fir, which provide critical habitats and resources for wildlife. Hardwoods and fruit trees like Oak, Walnut, Wild Almond, and Mulberry further contribute to the biodiversity and serve as food sources for both wildlife and local communities.

The fauna of the valleys is equally diverse, with large mammals like Markhor, Snow Leopard, Black Bear, and Himalayan Lynx emphasizing the region's ecological significance. Smaller mammals and birds such as Jackals, Foxes, Hares, Chakor, and Falcons contribute to the ecological web, sustaining predator-prey relationships.

2.2.9 Police Infrastructure in Valleys

The Kalash Valleys are served by specific police infrastructure to ensure law and order.

1. **Bumburait**: The valley is equipped with one fully operational police station, ensuring a direct law enforcement presence and response to the valley's security needs.

2. **Rumbur**: Like Bumburait, Rumbur has one police station that serves the community and addresses security concerns within its jurisdiction.

3. **Birir**: A check post has been established in Birir to maintain surveillance and provide initial security coverage. The valley falls under the administrative control of Police Station Ayun, indicating that major policing decisions and reinforcements are managed from Ayun.

2.2.10 Waste Management Practices

Prior to the establishment of the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA), waste management and disposal were handled by the Tehsil Municipal Officer (TMO) of Chitral. With the introduction of KVDA, it
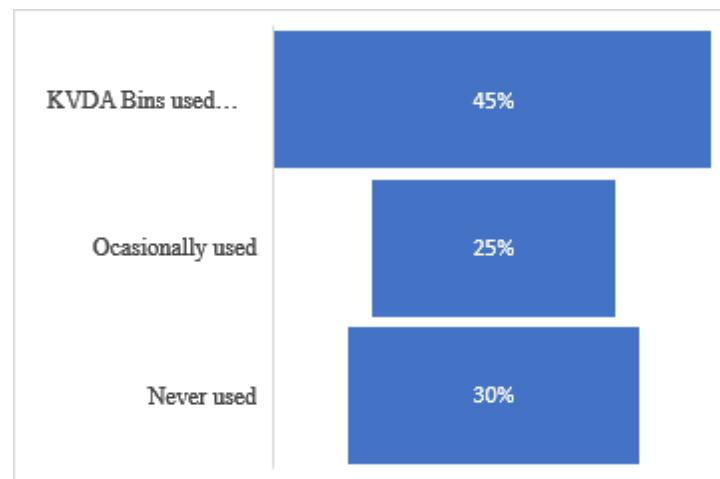
assumed full responsibility for waste management across the region. KVDA has made significant strides by installing over 50 waste bins at strategic locations across all the valleys and hiring sanitary staff for waste collection, transportation, and disposal. Waste segregation is carried out, with plastic bottles being separated for proper disposal, and the waste is transported to a dumping site located outside Bumburait valley.

Bumburait, due to its dense population, large number of hotels, and high tourist influx, generates a significant amount of waste. In contrast, Rumbur and Birir produce far smaller amounts of waste, which are typically handled locally. Despite the efforts of KVDA, the community and hotel owners play a negligible role in waste management. Most common waste types are Organic (70%), Plastic (60%) and Paper (50%). There is no proper sewerage treatment associated in hotels. The sewerage of hotels falls into streams, feeding agriculture & hydro Power in down streams.

2.2.11 The Seasonal Calendar for Kalash Valleys

The seasonal calendar for Kalash valleys is as under

Seasonal Calender

S.No	Events and Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Flash food						High	High	High				
2	Heavy RainFall				Moderate	Moderate							
3	Landslide						High	High	High				
4	Traffic Accidents (man-made)	Moderate	Moderate										
5	Heavy Snowfall	Low	Low										Low
6	Debris Flow			Moderate	Moderate				Moderate				
7	Rock Fall			Moderate	Moderate				Moderate				
8	Fire (man-made)			Moderate	Moderate	Moderate							
9	Lightning Strike												
10	Earthquake	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
11	Epidemics (human)	Moderate	Moderate				Moderate	Moderate				Moderate	
12	Pandemic (Covid-19)	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
13	Drinking- Water Shortage							Moderate	Moderate				
14	Crop Diseases			Low	Low	Low	Low						
15	Windwoms												
16	Wheat						Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting				
17	Maize									Harvesting	Harvesting		
18	Rice												
19	Potato									Harvesting	Harvesting		
20	Grean Pea												
21	Turnip							Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting			
22	Radish							Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting			
23	Apricot							Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting			
24	Sinach							Harvesting	Harvesting	Harvesting			
25	Walnut								Harvesting	Harvesting			
26	Peach								Harvesting		Harvesting		
27	Grapes								Harvesting	Harvesting			
28	Plum												
29	Tourism				Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events			
30	Marriage and Family			Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation			
31	Urs, Ijtima and Communal			Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation	Cultivation		Cultivation	Cultivation	
32	Labor Work		Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	Events	
33	Shortage of Food Items	Events											Events
34	Shortage of Money	Events											Events
35	Ramzan			Cultivation	Cultivation								
36	Eid ul Fitr and Eid Ul Azha				Cultivation		Cultivation						
37	Rabi Ul Awal			Events									
38	Moharram						Events						

*Religious events are subject to moon sight

Legend:
- Severity High (red)
- Severity-Moderate (light red)
- Severity-Low (pale yellow)
- Hervesting (dark blue)
- Cultivation (light blue)
- Events (cyan)

2.3 Development Activities

2.3.1 Developmental Initiatives Undertaken in the Kalash Valleys

The Constitution of Pakistan enshrines these principles, with specific provisions safeguarding minority rights, similarly the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa places significant emphasis on the Auqaf, Hajj, Religious, and Minority Affairs Department, recognizing the profound influence of religion on all aspects of society. The core functions of department include:

- Safeguarding minority rights.
- Promoting the welfare of minorities.
- Coordinating with the Federal Government on minority welfare initiatives.
- Addressing all other matters concerning minorities

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government had established the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA), dedicated to promoting sustainable development and safeguarding the ancient heritage of the Kalash through cultural preservation and infrastructure development. Additionally, various development partners such as the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) and the Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP) Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, (AKAH) & others, have been instrumental in advancing development initiatives.

 The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is actively working towards the development of the Kalash Valleys by undertaking a variety of projects under the Annual Development Plan (ADP) 2024-25. These projects span multiple thematic sectors, including education, road infrastructure, cultural preservation, water and sanitation, and other areas critical to improving the quality of life for the Kalash community. Below is a sector-wise breakdown of the allocations and an analysis of their potential impact:

2.3.2 Sector-Wise Allocation Summary (Kalash valleys):

Road Infrastructure: 2452.88 million

1. This sector accounts for the largest share, highlighting a strong emphasis on improving road connectivity. The cost includes Rs. 2,066 million allocated for land acquisition under the PSDP project, "Widening of Kalash Valley Road."

Cultural Preservation: 106.394 million

1. This allocation focuses on preserving the unique cultural heritage of the Kalash community. Key projects include the construction and rehabilitation of religious and sacred sites of kalash community.

Education: 160.27 million

1. Funds in this sector are directed toward the construction and upgradation of schools across the Kalash Valleys to enhance educational infrastructure and accessibility.
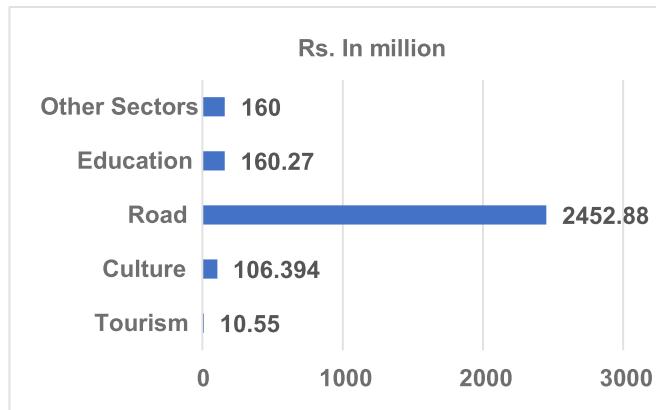
Tourism: 10.55 million

1. Although a relatively small allocation, these funds are designated for the development of hiking trails to promote eco-tourism in the Kalash Valleys.

Other Sectors: 160 million

1. This allocation addresses cross-sectoral projects, including initiatives in water and sanitation, livestock development, and agriculture.

Government Support to Kalash Qazi's

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been providing a monthly honorarium of Rs. 10,000/- to approximately 73 Kalash Religious Leaders (Qazis) since the financial year 2021-22. For this initiative, an annual allocation of Rs. 10 million is made. These Qazis play a pivotal role in the preservation of Kalash culture and religious practices, serving as custodians of their unique heritage.

In addition to this, the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA) also extends financial support to the Qazis for administrative arrangements during the four major Kalash festivals. Besides the KVDA takes on the primary responsibility for ensuring that these administrative arrangements are efficiently executed. This enables Kalash religious devotees to perform their rituals peacefully and without disruptions, further promoting the preservation of their cultural and religious identity.

The Critical Development Needs in Kalash Valley

A donut chart highlights the most pressing development needs in the Kalash Valley, emphasizing areas that require immediate attention and investment. The largest portion of the chart (38%) is allocated to infrastructure, reflecting the community's urgent need for improved roads, bridges, public transportation, and utility services, which are essential for sustainable growth and better access to critical
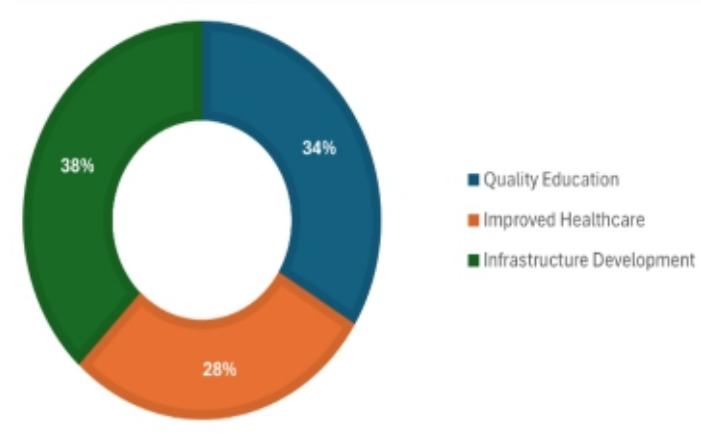
services. Education follows with 34%, focusing on the need to strengthen educational institutions, introduce advanced programs, and improve access to quality education for all community members. Health care improvement, representing 28%, is also a critical area, with a focus on upgrading medical facilities, expanding healthcare programs, and enhancing public health services to meet the needs of the population effectively.

2.3.3 Utilization of Government or Partner Funding

From the survey data, it is evident that the utilization of government or partner

funding in the Kalash Valleys faces significant challenges and gaps. Key findings highlight that funds are often inadequately allocated to critical sectors such as infrastructure, Culture and tourism. This shortfall hinders the region's development and its ability to meet the community's needs.
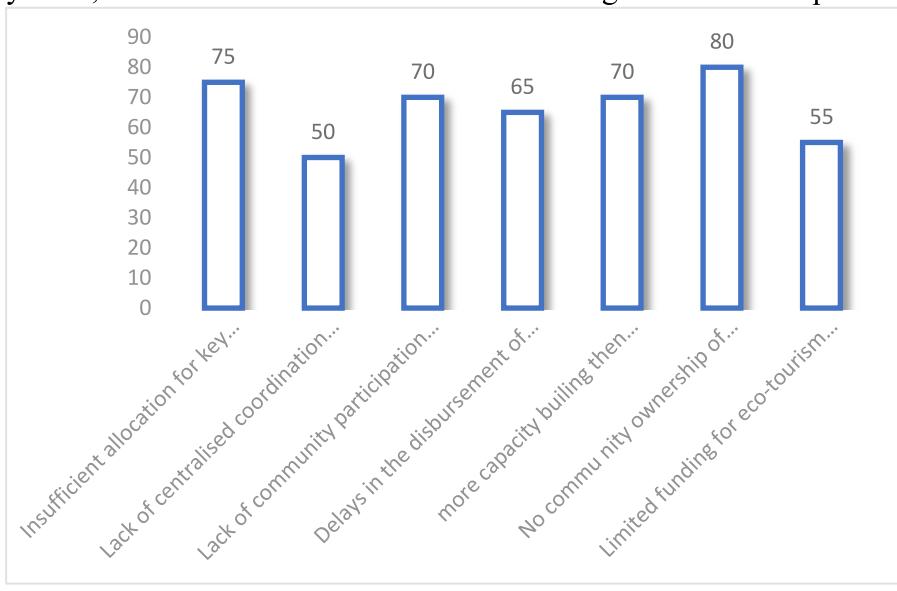
Moreover, there is a lack of centralized coordination and oversight, with delays in fund disbursement reported as a persistent issue. Transparency and coordination mechanisms are weak, contributing to inefficiencies in the execution of projects. The data also underscores the minimal involvement of the local community in decision-making processes, resulting in low community ownership of projects, which negatively impacts their sustainability.

Cultural preservation, a vital aspect of the Kalash identity, is underfunded, and eco-tourism initiatives a potential driver for sustainable development, also lack sufficient resources. Additionally, while capacity-building initiatives are appreciated, there is a disproportionate focus on these projects compared to infrastructure development, which is essential for long-term growth.
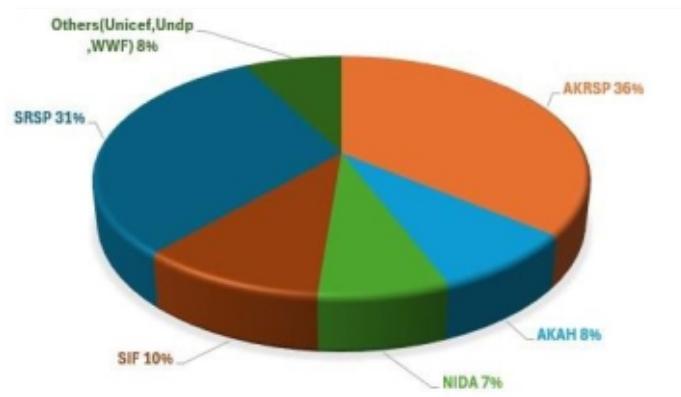
Awareness of NGOs in the Valley

The study reveals that several NGOs are actively working to improve the living conditions of the local population. The findings indicate varying levels of awareness among residents about these organizations and their contributions. Thirty-six percent of the population is aware of the activities undertaken by the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) in the Valleys, while 31% are familiar with initiatives by the Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP). Ten percent of the community knows about the activities of Secours Islamique France (SIF), and 8% of respondents are aware of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), though most recognize it by its previous names, Focus & Wasip, as AKAH was rebranded in 2023. An additional 8% are aware of other organizations like UNICEF, UNDP, WWF, and others operating in the area. This data highlights the need for enhanced communication and outreach strategies to increase public awareness and community engagement for the development of the valleys.

Public Perception of NGO Work

The study reveals that the community views development partners as equally important as the government for the region's development. Key findings include that 88% of respondents rated NGOs' contributions as "very important" for driving development initiatives, while only 8% indicated that the NGOs contribution is not so important. This highlights the community's recognition of the collaborative efforts required between NGOs and government entities to foster sustainable development in the area.
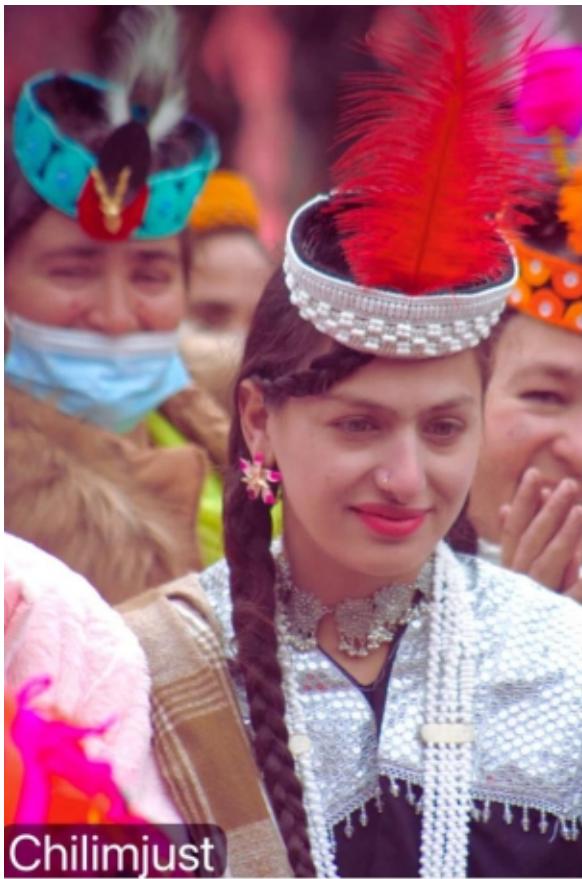
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Chapter 3

Policy Gaps & Sectoral Development Strategies

This chapter provides a comprehensive assessment of the existing gaps in the development landscape of the Kalash Valleys. Building upon the baseline data discussed in the previous chapter, spanning human, financial, social, physical, natural, and environmental indicators, along with the review of developmental portfolios undertaken by government departments and development partners, a Sectoral Deficiency Review of key following thematic sectors has been conducted.

Thereafter a Sector-Specific Strategic Plans has been designed on the basis of baseline study conducted across valleys, the developmental portfolios undertaken by the Government and other departmental partners extensive Focus Group discussions and on Gap analysis. The proposed strategies are designed in such a manner that are aligned with key provincial policies, i.e. The Sustainable Development Strategy (2019-2024), SDGs Framework (2018-2030), Social Protection Policy (2022), Livestock Policy (2018), Agriculture Policy (2015-25), Wildlife 7 Biodiversity Act (2015), Women Empowerment Policy (2018), Youth Policy (2016) and Forest Amendment Act (2022).

These plans consist of short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies across key following sectors vital to the region's growth:

- Governance & Administration
- Preservation of Culture & Heritage
- Tourism Promotion
- Infrastructure Development
- Health Sector
- Education Sector
- Agriculture & Livestock
- Environment
- Livelihood diversifications
- Women & youth Development
- Climate Resilience

The sector specific gaps and strategies designed are as under

3.1   Governance & Administration

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, related to this Sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
		Short Term
1	Weak Stakeholders Coordination	i Notify *Kalash Valleys Developmei Coordination Forum* to align efforts of all stakeholders. ii Designate a liaison officer under the KVDA to ensure effective communication with stakeholders. iii Use digital dashboards and regular inter-agency meetings to improve tracking and collaboration.
2	Limited Administrative Capacity	i Activate centralized government office (KVDA) to improve administrative support to all stakeholders. ii Active engagement of line departments for effective service delivery.
		Medium Term
1	Policy Implementation Gaps	i Conduct quarterly reviews of policy implementation with relevant line departments to identify and address bottlenecks.
2	Lack of Transparency	i Create open data platforms for all stakeholders, project budgets, progress reports, and outcomes. ii Ensure public access to financial and project reports of all stakeholders working in valleys.
3	Limited Community Engagement	i Constitute Community Advisory Boards in each valley to involve locals in decision-making. ii Involve locals in project design and monitoring.
		Long Term
1	Fund Constraints	i Organize donor conferences to secure funding. ii Enhance own-source revenue generation.
2	Short-Sighted Approaches in Donor Projects	i Emphasize infrastructure development alongside capacity-building initiatives. ii Donor projects must include measurable, long-term sustainability goals as part of

S.No.	Gaps		Strategy
			their design.
3	Lack of Ownership in Developmental Projects	i	Strengthen KVDA as the central coordinating authority in valleys.
		ii	Development partners, must handover their Projects to KVDA, on completion.

3.2 Preservation of Culture & Heritage

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, Policies, related to this Sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps		Strategy
		Short Term	
1	Lack of Cultural Documentation	i	Conduct surveys to identify unique dialects, vocabulary, and linguistic patterns.
		ii	Record native speakers, i.e. elders, to capture pronunciation, expressions, and language nuances
		iii	Conduct interviews with elders, artisans, etc. to record oral traditions and folklore.
		iv	Capture audio, video, and written documentation of language, stories, and songs.
		v	Create digital archives to store, categorize, and make accessible the collected materials.
		vi	Create a digital repository of audio files, transcriptions, and translations for easy access and preservation.
2	Lack of Cultural education programs	i	Provide training for teachers on teaching methodologies specific to the Kalash language and culture.
		ii	Create educational materials, including textbooks, storybooks, and multimedia resources in the Kalash language.
		iii	Implement cultural clubs and activities that focus on traditional crafts, music, and dance.
		iv	Provide training and capacity-building programs for the Kalash community members, focusing on skills related to cultural preservation, such as archival techniques, artifact conservation, and

			cultural documentation.
Medium Term			
1	Neglect of Cultural Education Programs	i	Develop formal and informal educational programs that incorporate the Kalash culture into the curriculum.
2	Lack of Cultural Centers and Museums	i	Identify suitable locations for cultural centers and museum in other valleys.
		ii	Collaborate with architects and cultural experts to design the centers, that reflect Kalash architectural styles.
		iii	Establish protocols for collecting and preserving Kalash artifacts, and historical items.
		iv	Curate exhibitions that highlight the history, traditions, and cultural practices of the Kalash people.
3	Neglect of Traditional Crafts	i	Encourage the revival and transmission of traditional Kalash crafts like embroidery, wood carving, and jewelry making through workshops.
4	Disregard for Cultural Practitioners	i	Provide financial and logistical support to Kalash artists, musicians, storytellers, and other cultural practitioners to continue practicing and sharing their traditions
Long Term			
1	Neglect of Cultural Heritage	i	Implementation of long-term conservation plans for protecting the physical heritage of area including historical sites and traditional architecture.
2	Lack of Cultural Policy and Legislation	i	Develop and enforce cultural policies that safeguard the rights of the Kalash community and their cultural heritage.
3	Intergenerational Knowledge Disruption	i	Encourage intergenerational knowledge transfer by creating platforms that facilitate the transmission of cultural practices, from older generations to the younger ones.
4	Poor Economic empowerment	i	Link cultural preservation efforts with economic opportunities for the Kalash community.
5	Lack of International	i	Foster international collaborations and partnerships like UN Heritage etc. to

	Collaboration	exchange best practices, expertise, and resources in cultural preservation. This can involve collaborations with academic institutions, cultural organizations, and international bodies focused on heritage conservation

3.3   Promotion of Tourism

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under of the Kalash Valleys are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
		Short Term
1	Unavailability of ecotourism guidelines	i Establish guidelines for tour operators and visitors on responsible tourism in the Kalash Valley. ii Create brochures, signage, and online resources that outlining cultural sensitivity, waste management, and interactions with local communities.
2	No proper Homestay Programs	i Design a homestay program that outlines standards, and benefits for both hosts and tourists. ii Provide training sessions for local families on hospitality, cultural exchange, and basic tourism. iii Develop promotional materials (brochures, online listings) to market, the homestay experiences to highlight unique Kalash culture. iv Involve local artisans, musicians, and storytellers in the homestay experience.
3	Training gaps for local guides	i Train local Kalash community members as tour guides to provide visitors with authentic interpretations of their culture. ii Organize opportunities for trainees to practice guiding tours with supervision.
4	Lack of Marketing and Promotion	i Develop promotional materials that highlight the Kalash Valley as a sustainable tourism destination.

		Mid-Term	
1	Non-Sustainable infrastructure	i	Invest in eco-friendly infrastructure such as eco-lodges, composting toilets, and solar-powered facilities to minimize tourism's environmental footprint.
2	No Carrying Capacity assessment	i	Conduct a carrying capacity assessment to determine the optimal number of tourists, the valley can accommodate.
3	Lack of Skill Development Program	i	Provide training programs for Kalash community members on hospitality skills, business management, and sustainable tourism practices.
4	Absence of Monitoring and evaluation	i	Establish a monitoring mechanism to track the impact of tourism on the environment, culture, and local economy.
		Long-Term	
1	Unsustainable Tourism Practices	i	Drafting & Implementation of a comprehensive Sustainable tourism policy for the Kalash Valley.
2	Ignorance and Misinformation Campaigns	i	Launch awareness campaigns within the Kalash community on the importance of sustainable tourism practices and their role in protecting their environment and culture.

3.4   Infrastructure Development

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
Short-Term		
1	Community Needs Assessment	i Conduct a detailed need assessment, to identify the most pressing infrastructure gaps and thereon prioritizing projects accordingly.
2	Rehabilitation and Repair Needed	i Prioritize repairs and maintenance of existing cultural & Religious infrastructure, roads, bridges, water supply schemes, and MHPs etc.
3	Limited Coordination with Development Partners	i Improved collaboration and coordination with development partners to ensure aligned efforts, efficient resource utilization, and sustainable outcomes for the valleys' development.
Medium-Term		
1	No Public-Private Partnerships model	i Explore PPPs model to leverage private sector expertise and financing for infrastructure development projects in valleys.
2	Need of Widening of main Valleys Road	i Widening & Carpeting of main road leading to valleys be completed
3	Duplications in projects	i Maintain detailed records of all development projects to ensure institutional repository, to avoid duplications.
Long-Term		
1	Need of Sustainable	ii Prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure development to ensure long-term

	Infrastructure Development	sustainability and adaptability.

3.5   Health Sector

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, for this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy	
Short Term			
1	Limited Public health awareness	i	Launch targeted campaigns to educate the public about preventive healthcare measures i.e. hygiene, nutrition, and disease control.
2	Need of Essential medicine provision	i	Ensure availability of essential medicines and basic medical supplies in healthcare facilities.
3	Limited Community health workers training	i	Train community health workers to provide basic healthcare services, education, and referrals within their communities.
4	Need of Enhance Maternal and Child Healthcare	i	Improve maternal and child healthcare by expanding access to prenatal and postnatal care, by ensuring availability of skilled healthcare professionals, and medicines.
Medium-Term			
1	Need of Telemedicine facilities	i	Explore the use of telemedicine etc. to provide remote consultations.
2	Need of Strengthen Emergency Services	ii	Enhance the emergency healthcare by providing ambulances and emergency response teams.
3	Limited Partnerships with Development	i	Partnerships with development partners for funding for health-related interventions.

	Partners	
	Long-Term	
1	Need for Upgradation of Health facilities in Valleys	i Develop plans for upgradation of basic health unit's & dispensaries in valleys

3.6   Education Sector

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
		Short-Term
1	Limited Resource provision	i Equip schools with essential learning materials, textbooks and basic infrastructure. ii Equip schools with computers, tablets etc. to enhance learning experiences. i Collaborate with line departments to implement necessary infrastructure improvements.
2	Need of Teacher training	i Provide training programs for teachers on effective teaching methods, technology integration etc.
3	Need of Scholarship for female students	i Provision of scholarship for female students of Kalash & sheikh Community, for education.
4	Need for Establishment of Government Kalasha Schools	i Need to establish Government-run Kalasha schools & also support to Kalasha Dur school to provide education while preserving and promoting the Kalasha culture and traditions.
5	Limited Environmental Awareness	i Targeted awareness campaigns in schools, about environmental conservation, waste management the protection of natural resources and culture preservation.

Medium Term			
1	Need of Develop Kalasha-Specific Curriculums and Textbooks	i	Design culturally relevant curriculums and textbooks focused on the Kalasha language, traditions, and heritage to preserve and promote the identity of the Kalash community.
2	Need of ECD education	i	Invest in expanding access to quality early childhood education programs, in these valleys.
3	Need of School Enrollment campaign for Girls	i	Targeted awareness campaigns to promote the Elementary & Secondary Education, particularly for girls, across the Kalash valleys.
Long Term			
1	Limited Partnerships with development partners	i	Collaborate with development partners to provide scholarships for students and secure funding for improving school infrastructure.
2	Need for functionalizing Vocational Training Centers	ii	Need to operationalize the vocational training centers to diversify educational opportunities.
3	Need of infrastructure improvements	i	Undertake long-term infrastructure improvements programs to ensure schools have safe, modern facilities that support effective learning, including proper ventilation, sanitation, and adequate space.

3.7   Agriculture & Livestock Sector

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
	Short-Term	
1	Need of Improved Farming Techniques	i Introducing and promoting modern and sustainable farming techniques such as organic farming, crop rotation, and efficient irrigation methods to enhance agricultural productivity.
2	Need for Livestock Management and Health Services	i Providing veterinary services, vaccinations, and training in livestock management to improve the health and productivity of livestock in the valley.
3	Outdated Irrigation Infrastructure	i Developing irrigation systems, such as channel lining, and water storage facilities, to ensure efficient water use and better crop yields.
	Medium-Term	
4	Need of Agricultural Diversification	i Encouraging farmers to diversify their crops and explore high-value and climate-resilient crops.
5	Need of Value-Added Agriculture	i Promoting value addition in agriculture through processing and marketing.
6	Limited Farmer Training and Extension Services	i Strengthening agricultural extension services to provide training, and technical support to farmers.
	Long-Term	
7	Need of Climate-Resilient Agriculture	i Promote climate-resilient agricultural practices by introducing drought-resistant crops, improving water management, and training.
8	Limited Market Linkages and Access	i Improving access to markets and establishing value chains for agricultural products.
9	Need of Sustainable Land Management	i Implementing sustainable land management practices i.e. Terracing, soil conservation, and watershed management.

3.8   Environment

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
	Short-Term	
1	Need of Reforestation and Afforestation	i Undertake short-term reforestation and afforestation programs to restore degraded forest areas.
2	Need of Biodiversity Surveys and Mapping	i Conduct comprehensive surveys and mapping exercises to assess the existing biodiversity in the valley.
3	Limited Community-Based Forest Management	i Encourage community engagement in forest & wildlife management through the establishment of community-based organizations.
4	Limited Awareness and Education	i Conduct awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of waste management, and sustainable resource management etc.
	Medium-Term	
1	Need of Watershed Management	i Implement watershed management plans to address issues related to soil erosion, water availability, and land degradation.
2	Limited Agroforestry and Sustainable Woodlot Plantations	i Promote agroforestry practices and establishing sustainable woodlot plantations within the agricultural landscape.

3	Poor Hotel Sewage and Waste Management Practices	i	Implement strategy for sewerage treatment & waste management practices for community & hostel industry in valleys.
Long-Term			
1	Need of Biodiversity Conservation	i	Implement long-term strategies for conserving and protecting the biodiversity of the forests.
2	Limited Renewable Energy Sources	ii	Invest in Micro hydro Power projects, for sustainable energy solutions for the Kalash valleys
3	Need of Sustainable Forest Harvesting	iii	Collaborate with Forest department to Develop sustainable forest harvesting practices to ensure responsible utilization of forest resources.
4	Non-Implementation of Climate Change Policy & Action Plan	i	implement Climate Change Policy and Action Plan that outlines strategies to mitigate climate impacts, enhance climate resilience, and promote sustainable development in the Kalash valleys.
5	Need of Conservation Partnerships	i	Establishing collaborative partnerships with development Partners to leverage expertise, funding, and technical support for adaptation & Mitigation.

3.9   Livelihood Diversification

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy	
Short-Term			
1	Need of Skills development workshops	i	Organize workshops to introduce new skills, such as digital literacy, tourism services, handicraft production, and basic business management.
2	Need of Mentorship programs	i	Connect experienced individuals with potential entrepreneurs to provide guidance and support on starting and managing small businesses.
Medium-Term			
1	Need of Microfinance programs	i	Provide access to microloans and financial services to support individuals in starting or expanding small businesses.
2	Need of Business incubation centers	i	Establish incubation centers to offer shared workspace, mentorship, and business development support for new entrepreneurs.
3	Limited Market access	i	Help to connect producers with new markets for their goods and services, such as online platforms etc.
Long-Term			
1	Lack of Sustainable resource management	i	Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry and to unlock opportunities for value-added products & NTFPs.

3.10   Women & Youth Development

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps		Strategy	
		Short Term		
1	Need of Gender-Sensitive Livelihood Support	i	Provide support and resources to women in the form of vocational training, microcredit schemes, and entrepreneurship development.	
2	Need of Women & Youth Skill Development	i	Provide training programs and workshops to enhance the skills of Women & youth in various fields, such as entrepreneurship, digital literacy, vocational skills etc.	
3	Limited Recreational and Cultural Activities	i	Organize recreational and cultural activities that cater to the interests of women & Youth i.e. sports, art, and cultural exchanges.	
4	Limited Gender Sensitization and Awareness	i	Conduct awareness campaigns to challenge discriminatory practices that hinder women's economic empowerment.	
		Medium-Term		
1	Limited Women's & youth Leadership	i	Promote women's & youth leadership and meaningful participation in decision-making processes at the community levels.	
2	Access to girls Education	i	Enhance access to quality education and skills development opportunities for girls.	
		ii	Provide scholarships, vocational training programs, and mentorship initiatives to empower women for economic advancement.	
3	Need of Rehabilitation of Bashalaynis	i	Need to rehabilitate the Bashaleaynis, & creating skillful, productive, livelihood opportunity during the stay .	
		Long-Term		
4	Limited Employment Opportunities	i	Linkage with Development partners in Facilitating entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for Women & Youth.	

3.11   Climate Resilience

On basis of data analysis, focus group discussions, and need assessments the **gaps** & thereon the relevant **strategies**, aligned with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Policies, to this sector are as under:

S.No.	Gaps	Strategy
	Short-Term	
1	Need of Early Warning Systems	i Implement and improve early warning systems for various types of disasters, such as flash floods,
2	Limited Community Awareness	i Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to educate communities about disaster risks and preparedness measures.
3	Limited Emergency Response Planning	i Develop and update emergency response plans in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
	Medium-Term	
1	Lack of Infrastructure Resilience	i Improve the resilience of critical infrastructure, such as bridges, roads, and public buildings, to withstand potential disasters.
2	Limited Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction	i Promote community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives that empower local communities to actively participate in disaster preparedness and response.
3	Limited Capacity Building and Training	i Enhancing the capacity of local authorities, emergency responders, and community members through training programs.
	Long-Term	
1	Need of Integrated Disaster Management Systems	i Establishing integrated disaster management systems that facilitate coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders.

Governance & Administration

Education Sector

Environment in Kalash in Kalash Valleys

Livelihood in Kalash Valleys

Chapter 4

Implementation Framework for Foresight Plans

The sectoral strategies have been developed based on baseline data and comprehensive community needs assessments. These strategies are categorized into short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals, addressing 11 critical thematic sectors. The pressing challenge, however, is translating these strategies into actionable outcomes to benefit the community and ensure the sustainable development of the Kalash valleys.

To tackle this, the following implementation model has been designed:

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recognizing the need for sustainable and integrated development of the Kalash valleys, has established a transformative institution: the Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA). Constituted under Section 19 of the Tourism Act 2019, the KVDA operates under the governance of the Special Purpose Kalash Valleys Development Authority Rules 2020, embodying a forward-thinking framework for the valley's advancement.

The KVDA is guided by an Authority Board, comprising 12 members, including 04 No private-sector tourism experts and 08 No senior government officials (e.g., Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral, Director Archaeology & Museum, District Forest Officer Chitral), fostering a balanced fusion of expertise and governance.

Centralized Governance Body for Kalash Valleys

KVDA serves as the primary coordinating and decision-making entity responsible for the sustainable development and management of the Kalash valleys. This body functions as the central point for collaboration and coordination among various government agencies and development partners, involved in the valley's development.

Core Objective of KVDA

1. Preservation of Culture & Heritage

KVDA is dedicated to preserving and promoting the unique cultural heritage of the Kalash and Sheikh communities, including their languages, traditions, customs, and religious practices.

2. Promotion of Sustainable Tourism

KVDA aims to position the Kalash valleys as a hub for sustainable tourism, leveraging their exceptional natural beauty, cultural richness, and unique traditions.

3. Livelihood Diversification

KVDA drives socio-economic progress by creating diverse livelihood opportunities and addressing poverty. It focuses on vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and empowering communities to achieve sustainable economic growth.

4. Infrastructure Development

KVDA implements key infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, water supply systems, and electricity, to meet community needs and foster sustainable development. These efforts aim to improve quality of life while supporting long-term economic and social growth.

Thus, the KVDA's mandate is unequivocal: to lead holistic and inclusive development in the Kalash valleys through strategic collaboration with government departments, active engagement with development partners, and effective resource mobilization.

4.2 Other Sustainable Development Partners

Development cannot proceed in isolation; for comprehensive and integrated development, the involvement of governmental agencies and development partners is indispensable. To effectively implement the Strategic Roadmap & Visionary Planning for the Kalash Valleys, the following key development partners have been identified:

Ministry of Economic Affairs Division

The Ministry plays a crucial role in coordinating national development policies and securing funding for sustainable projects, offering both guidance and financial support to KVDA.

Provincial Government

The provincial government is essential for policy formulation, resource allocation, and ensuring alignment between provincial development priorities and their downscaling to the valleys level.

Multilateral Funding Sources

International financial institutions can be approached to get technical expertise and substantial funding for development initiatives required in Kalash valleys.

Bilateral Funding Sources

Countries with development aid programs can also be approached to provide targeted funding and technical assistance for sector-specific projects in Kalash Valleys.

All Government Line Departments

A coordinated effort from various governmental departments working in the district can be approached to ensure they undertake their respective sector-specific development in Kalash valleys.

Local Development Partners

Local NGOs, civil society organizations, and community-based groups are also crucial for implementing development activities on the ground in Kalash Valleys.

Public-Private Partnership

Collaboration between public entities and private businesses can mobilize additional resources, expertise, and innovation for sustainable development in Kalash valleys.

4.3 Collaborative Mechanisms for KVDA and Development Partners

To effectively implement the Strategic Roadmap and Visionary Planning for sustainable development in the Kalash Valleys, the following collaborative mechanisms will be employed, with the aforementioned development partners:

Stakeholder Mapping and Identification

Identify and map key stakeholders, including governmental agencies, development partners, NGOs, local communities, and private sector actors, to ensure comprehensive and inclusive development.

Establish Joint Steering Committees

Joint committees with representatives from KVDA, development partners, and relevant stakeholders will be established to oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of development initiatives.

Develop a Comprehensive Implementation Framework

A collaborative design will be established that outlines roles, responsibilities, timelines, and resources needed for each project, ensuring alignment with the plan.

Funding Proposal Development

A joint funding proposal, targeting multilateral, bilateral, and local funding sources, will be developed, ensuring that funding aligns with sustainable development goals.

Signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

The partnerships will be formalized through MOUs that define the scope, expectations, roles, and responsibilities of each partner involved in the development process.

Regular Coordination and Review Meetings

Periodic coordination meetings will be held to ensure effective communication, identify challenges, and make adjustments to strategies as needed for optimal implementation.

Secure Funding Commitment

Once the proposal is approved, formal funding commitment will be secured from the donor or partner, ensuring all terms and conditions are clearly defined.

Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

A robust monitoring and evaluation system will be implemented to track progress, measure outcomes, and ensure that objectives are being met in line with the sustainable development goals.

Feedback and Adaptive Strategies

A mechanism for receiving feedback will be devised from all stakeholders, including local communities, and strategies will be adapted accordingly to address emerging needs and challenges.

4.4 Alignment of the Strategic Roadmap & Visioning Plan with Provincial Policy Ecosystems:

The mandate of the KVDA and objectives defined in the Strategic Roadmap & Visioning Plan for Kalash valleys are well aligned with the following policy ecosystem of the province:

KP-Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), 2019-24

Since 2010, the government has consistently developed mid-term development strategies to drive sustainable and integrated growth. The latest five-year strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2019-2024, focuses on nine thematic areas with clearly defined objectives. KVDA's mandate aligns directly with six of the nine thematic areas outlined in the SDS 2019-2024. Additionally, KVDA contributes indirectly to the remaining three thematic areas, demonstrating its comprehensive role in advancing the province's sustainable development goals.

KP-SDGs Framework, 2018-30

In 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the provincial government took significant steps to localize the SDGs in alignment with global commitments and national priorities. To facilitate this localization, the province developed and approved its SDGs Framework, prioritizing targets within the provincial context. Out of 169 global SDG targets, 111 were identified as relevant to the province.

The foresight plan of KVDA contributes directly to 8 priority SDGs and associated targets, identified and prioritized in the SDGs.

KP-PAMframes

In 2021-22, the province introduced and implemented the PAMframe (Purpose, Alignment, and Means Framework), also referred to as the Analytics & Measures Framework for Annual Development Program (ADP) sectors. The main objective of this analytical approach is to define purpose, align activities with purpose, and determine the means to achieve the purpose. All sectors, including Culture, Sports, Tourism, Archaeology & Youth Affairs Department, have developed their PAMframes.

The Strategic Roadmap & Visioning Plan aligns with and contributes to all Quality Performance Indicators (QPIs) outlined in the PAMframes of the Culture, Sports, Tourism, Archaeology & Youth Affairs Department. This ensures that KVDA's initiatives are not only purpose-driven but also meet the strategic performance benchmarks set for sustainable and impactful development in these sectors.

KP-Provincial Climate Change Policy

After the devolution of power in 2010, KP was the first province to formulate its Climate Change Policy. The first Climate Change Policy was developed in 2014 and revised in 2022. The main objective behind the formulation of the policy was to reduce climate change-induced risks to lives and livelihoods, thus stabilizing the fragile economy. The strategies highlighted in the Strategic Roadmap & Visioning Plan of Kalash Valleys are fully aligned with adaptation and mitigation strategies of the Climate Change Policy.

KP-Women Empowerment Policy Framework

The KP-Women Empowerment Policy Framework was formulated in 2017. This framework emphasizes empowering the women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa across all spheres of life: social, cultural, political, economic, legal, and personal. It aims to create an enabling environment that supports women in exercising their fundamental rights by addressing socio-cultural, economic, political, and legal barriers.

The KVDA Foresight Visioning Plan also emphasizes women's empowerment by enhancing their employability, access to resources, and ensuring participation in decision-making.

Sector-Specific Recommendations at a Glance

SECTOR	RECOMMENDATIONS
Governance & Administration	• Strengthen governance structures for improved coordination and decision-making.
Preservation of Culture & Heritage	• Document Kalash cultural practices and integrate into curriculum. • Establish cultural centers, Kalasha schools, and museums. • Strengthen policies for cultural conservation.
Promotion of Tourism	• Enhance cultural tourism with funding for heritage preservation. • Develop eco and cultural tourism guidelines. • Train local youth in tourism management.
Infrastructure Development	• Rehabilitate cultural and religious infrastructure, roads etc. • Promote climate-resilient infrastructure practices.
Health sector	• Strengthen health facilities and services. • Address shortages in medicines and staff.
Education Sector	• Strengthen educational institutions & promote inclusive education. • Reduce gender disparities by incentivizing girls' education.
Agriculture & Livestock	• Promote climate-smart agriculture. • Introduce improved seed varieties and livestock breeds.

SECTOR	RECOMMENDATIONS
Environment	• Promote forest rehabilitation and joint management. • Implement watershed management and soil erosion prevention. • Improve sanitation and water access.
Livelihood Diversification	• Promote entrepreneurship with a focus on women. • Build capacities in aquaculture, apiculture, tourism and homestay.
Women & Youth Development	• Improve health and education services for women. • Upgrade Bashalaynis (women's sanctuaries). • Enhance entrepreneurial skills and establish vocational training centers. • Improve sports infrastructure for youth and women's engagement.
Climate Resilience	• Develop a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plan for the valleys. • Implement climate change policy. • Enhance Early Warning Systems (EWS) and build community DRM,

Women in Kalash Valley

KALASH VALLEYS
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY