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Militarization and Misery? A Study of High Military Expenditure and Minimal Development in India

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Oral Presentation 1.5

**MILITARIZATION AND MISERY? A STUDY OF HIGH MILITARY
EXPENDITURE AND MINIMAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

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India has been noted to be a predominant military power in the region after large and consistent allocations to defense over time. Indian military expenditure has been a top priority of the government consistently, as seen by looking at Indian history.

Concurrently, India can not claim to have reached notable levels of economic and social development. Apart from India's high level of institutional development and its ability to sustain a consistent democracy, the level of development is stereotypical of a less-developed country. Despite a half-century push towards modernization and development, India fits quantitatively into the mold of a typically backward less-developed country in terms of "urbanization, industrialization, secularization, education, media consumption, and welfare."¹

The question at hand therefore is, has India, in the words of the Secretary of State, "divert[ed] resources at the expense of the needy, or through the indifference to the plight of the poor"? To answer this question sheds light on the goal of this paper, examining the effect of militarization on development in India. Therefore, by examining economic and social variables over the 1974 to 1995 period, this paper will determine the relationship between military expenditure on economic and social development in India.

¹ Hardgrave, Robert and Kochanek, Stanley. *India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation*. Harcourt College Publishers. New York: 2000. Pg. 3.