

# KASHMIR

It has been said that a visit to the land of Kashmir divide a person's life into two halves – before and after Kashmir.

# The Place of Dreams

Kashmir the  
place of dreams,  
nestling in the  
lap of the  
dazzling snow-  
capped  
Himalayas, A  
land of mystery  
magic and  
spiritual legend  
lies to the far  
north of India,



**Kashmir** the  
jewel in the  
crown of India  
the rose in the  
bouquet, once so  
celebrated that  
the Mogul  
emperors  
traveled for six  
months of the  
year by elephant  
to reach  
Kashmir.

# The Jewel

# Turmoil / Conflict

Now it is most unfortunate to see that she suffers from decades of turmoil, which unfortunately contributed to:

- **Poverty**
- **Hardship**
- **Mass migration**
- **High unemployment**
- **Lack of opportunities**
- **Collapse of a once vibrant tourism industry**
- **High occurrence of social repression**
- **Environmental damage**

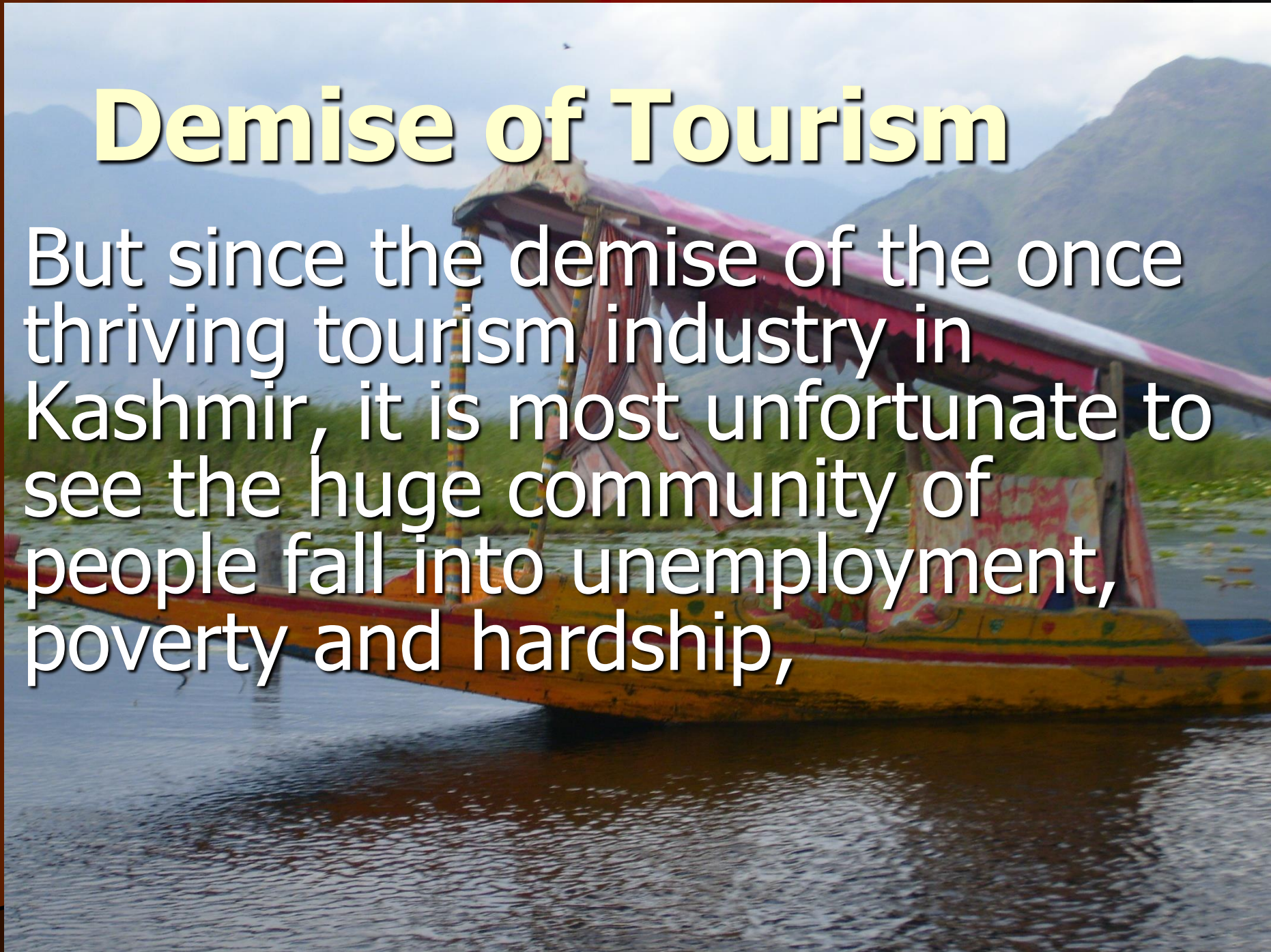


# MAJOR ECONOMY

The two major backbone of Kashmir economy were tourism and the handicrafts, the large community of people in Kashmir were solely dependent economically on those two sectors.

# Demise of Tourism

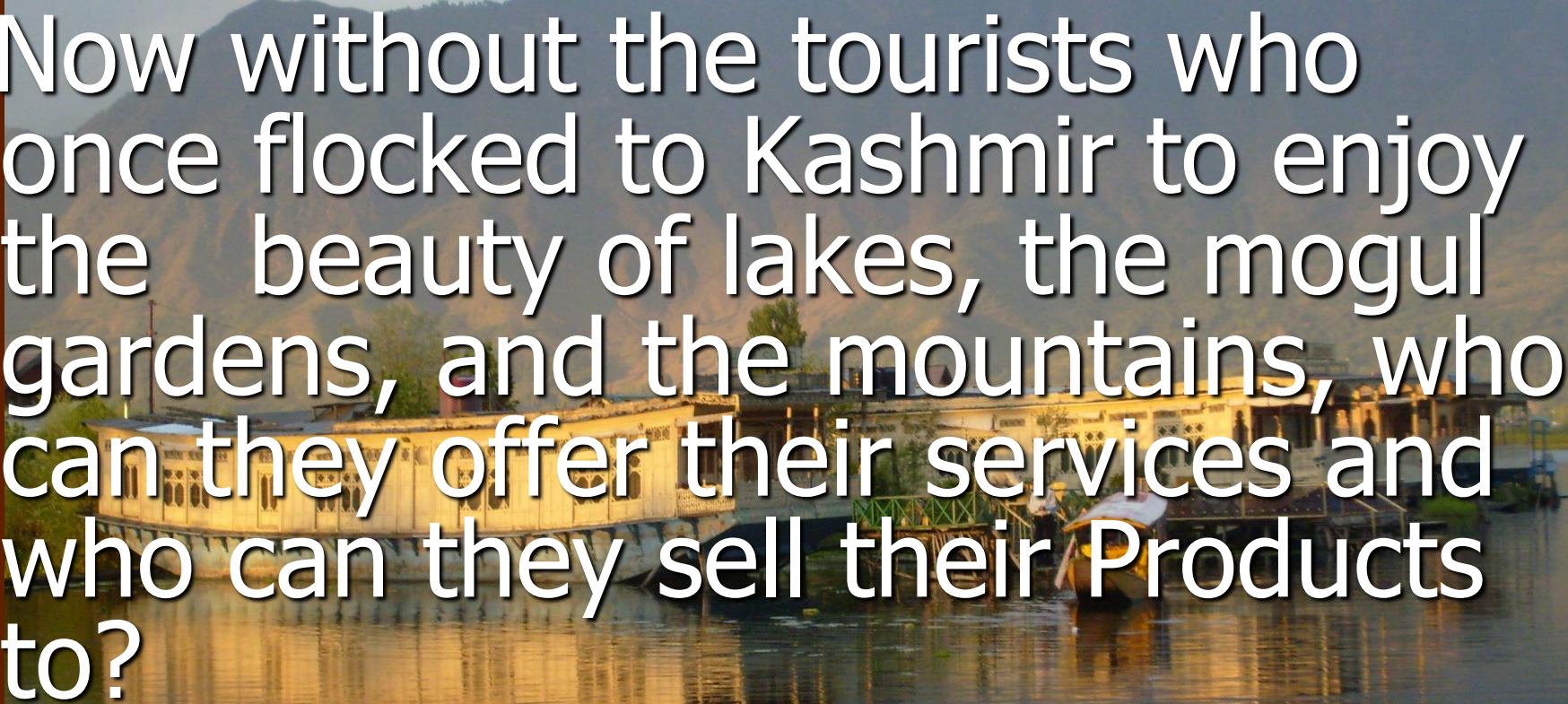
But since the demise of the once thriving tourism industry in Kashmir, it is most unfortunate to see the huge community of people fall into unemployment, poverty and hardship,





# Without Tourists

Now without the tourists who once flocked to Kashmir to enjoy the beauty of lakes, the mogul gardens, and the mountains, who can they offer their services and who can they sell their Products to?

A scenic view of a lake in Kashmir. In the foreground, a long, low, light-colored building with many windows is situated on the water's edge. A small boat is visible near the building. The water is calm, reflecting the building and the surrounding landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

# **CHILDREN IN KASHMIR**

More than 50 percent children in Kashmir are directly or indirectly involved in one or other form of child labour.



# **CHILD LABOUR**

About 47 percent of total number of children works outside their homes regularly for earning and supporting their families.

# **SMALL CHILDREN**

A significant number of children in the age groups of six - eleven and eleven above are being used as domestic help, mainly from rural areas,

# **CHILDREN WORK IN**

Children work in the house of businessmen, bureaucrats, politicians, neo-rich groups and middle class families in the cities and towns.

# WAGES

Their wages are determined solely by the heads of the households according to their own wishes and preferences.



# **CHILD RIGHTS**

Fundamental rights of these children are robbed by the individuals and groups which claim to be their protectors.

# **LATEST RESEARCH**

The latest research done by a Sociologist says that last twenty five years of conflict worsened the situation. The continuous political instability in the valley has extreme negative impact on child labours.

# **WOMEN IN KASHMIR**

The women in Kashmir has suffered by being victims of physical, psychological, cultural and economic violence during the turmoil.

# **THE IMPACT ON WOMEN**

The impact of the conflict on women in Kashmir during two decades has deeply affected the living standard of women, their access to education, health and so on.



# **THE NEGATIVE IMPACT**

When there is violence in society, women feel its impact first. The challenges faced by the women in Kashmir during the turmoil are extremely painful.

# DISCRIMINATION

**Many people in Kashmir still believe that there should be at least one male-child who can bring comfort in the old age.**

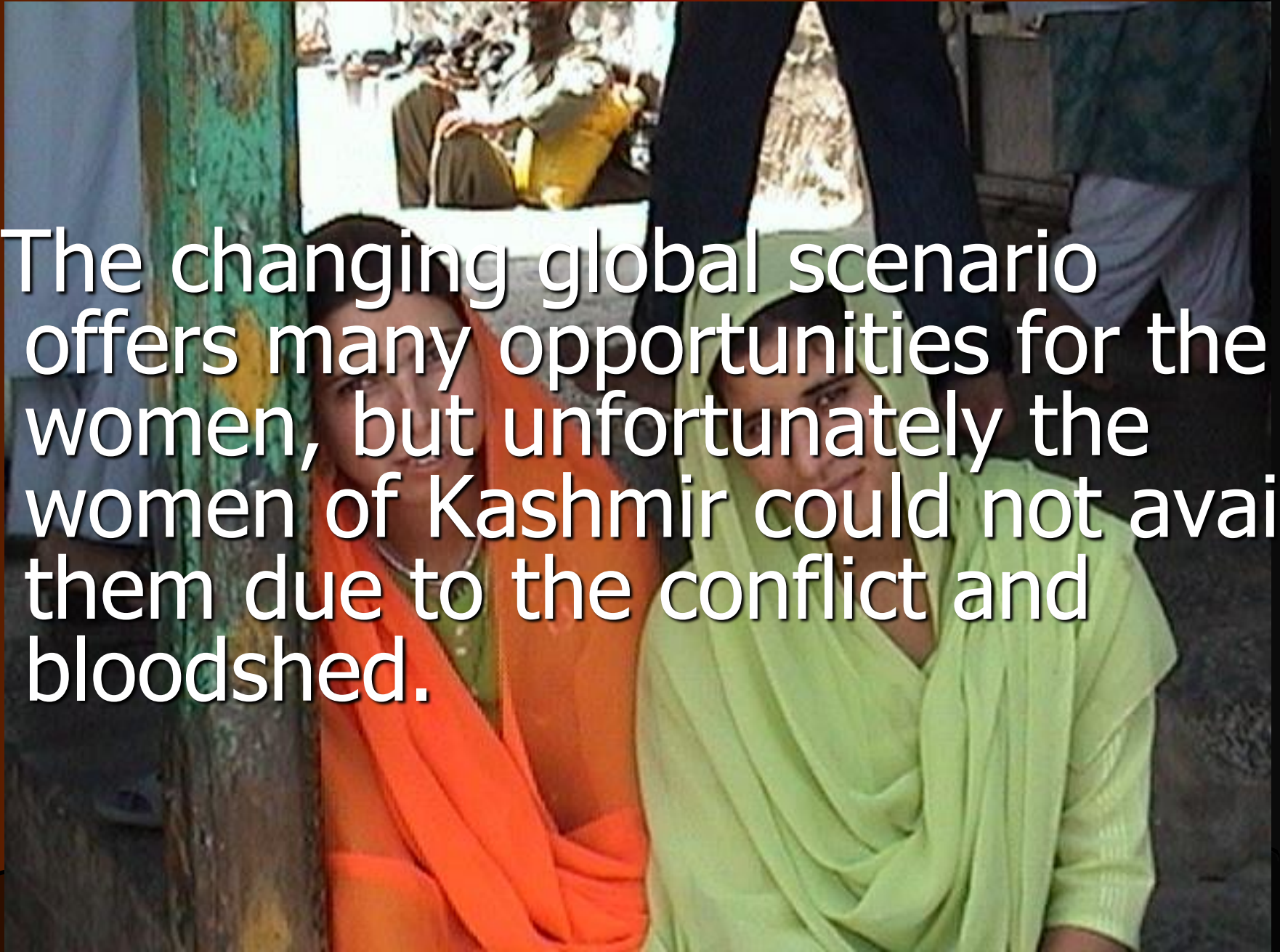


**The parents discriminate between male and female child, the boys are educated at ease and girls are trained to do the domestic drudgery.**



# LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES

The changing global scenario offers many opportunities for the women, but unfortunately the women of Kashmir could not avail them due to the conflict and bloodshed.



# **KASHMIR HAS 97000 ORPHANS, 32000 WIDOWS**

The two decade conflict in Kashmir has rendered more than 32000 women as widows and more than 97000 children as orphans, reveals a research study.



# **WIDOWS / ORPHANS**

There were 32400  
widows and 97200  
orphans in 2008 in  
Kashmir and the number  
is growing.

# **WIDOWS, ORPHANS & CONTINUITY OF CONFLICT**

With the continuity and intensification of armed conflict, their life conditions have deteriorated to the miserable subhuman level, says 'A Sociological Study of Widows and Orphans', conducted by a Sociologist, Prof Bashir Dabla

# **GROWING WIDOWS & ORPHANS**

The number of widows grew up from 16000 in 2000 to 32400 in 2008, says the study. It says sudden death of male members has shattered thousands of families leaving behind impoverished and emotionally traumatized widows and orphans.

# THE TRAGIC

Neither state nor NGOs have been able to help them in an organized and systematic manners. The tragic aspect of the situation is that the state has not adopted any specific social policy and program in this regard. Their problems accumulate and intensify day by day, study reveals.

# **STUDY SUGGESTS, HOW WE CAN IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS**

The study suggests: “for the welfare of children & women in Kashmir, widows and orphans,

a 3-tier effort system is necessary.

Individuals, society/ community and the state must share responsibilities in terms of coordination, organization and effective implementation of relevant programs.

# **THE ROLE OF NGOs**

## **IMPORTANT**

The problems of child labour, violence and discrimination against women, widows and orphans can't be solved effectively and in totality without taking help of broader society. The efforts of NGOs are highly needed, as their efforts are very small here. Immediate need is to take the help of NGOs in purposeful and effective implementation of governmental programs and schemes, it is suggested.