

Internal Migration of Nomadic communities: A Study of Varanasi City

Nomadic communities have always been regarded with suspicion by sedentary population in the city. Majority of our population have settled while there are certain communities who have no choice but to remain itinerant for their livelihood. Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and Denotified Tribes are one such community. These communities played significant role in village economy. With the modern means of transportation, globalization and liberalization their livelihood became redundant. As a response to the changing times, Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and Denotified Tribes have migrated to the cities. Many of the Nomadic communities settle in the urban and peri-urban areas in search of livelihood opportunities. Nomadic communities are contributors to the economy of cities but they themselves remained landless and homeless. They have to face evictions and displacement in the city. The current study aims to understand the dialectics of visibility-invisibility of migrant Nomadic communities in the urban, their visibility in the domain of economy and absence in the domain of politics. Migrant nomadic communities are not seen as political citizens of the country. The paper will try to look into the experiences of internal migration of nomadic communities in Varanasi. It aims to understand the response of major urban development schemes for the homeless communities in the city. Nomadic communities depend on public spaces for their life and livelihood in the city but their inclusion in the planning and implementation of the beautification of the spaces is absent. The paper will dwell into the position and condition of Nomadic migrant communities in the neoliberal city.

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