

CONSTRAINTS AND IMPACTS OF TIBETIAN REFUGEES IN NEPAL

(A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu)

A Thesis Submitted to  
Tribhuvan University  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus  
Exhibition Road, Kathmandu

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Course of  
Thesis Writing (SA 560) of Master of Arts in Sociology

Submitted by  
Saurabh Karki  
Roll No: 400904  
T.U. Reg. No: 6-2-235-47-2008  
2021

Tribhuvan University

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus

Exhibition Road, Kathmandu

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Saurabh Karki has prepared this dissertation entitled "Constraints and Impacts of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal (A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu)" under my guidance and supervision in the partial fulfillment of the requirements of the course of the thesis writing SA-560 of Master of Arts in Sociology. Therefore, this dissertation report is recommended for its final evaluation and approval.

.....

Mr. Bala Ram Acharya

(Dissertation Supervisor)

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Ranta Rajya Laxmi Campus

2021/02/11

LETTER OF APPROVAL

The evaluation committee has approved this thesis entitled "Constraints and Impacts of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal: (A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu)" submitted by Mr. Saurabh Karki for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the master of arts degree in sociology.

Evaluation Committee

Mr. Balaram Acharya

.....

(Supervisor)

Mr. Yogesh Prasad Joshi

.....

(External)

Mr. Narendra Mishra

.....

(Head of the Department)

I understand that my dissertation will become a part of the permanent collection of Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus Library. My signature below authorizes the release of my dissertation to any reader upon request for any scholarly purposes

.....

Saurabh Karki

2021/02/18

## DECLARATION

I, hereby, declare that this "Constraints and Impacts of Tibetan Refugee in Nepal", (A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu) is my original work and that it has fully and specially acknowledged wherever adopted from other sources. I also understand that if at any time it is shown that I have significantly misrepresented material presented to the Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, any credits awarded to me based on that material may be revoked.

I hereby declare that this dissertation has been not submitted for candidature for any other degree.

.....

Saurabh Karki

Date: 2021/02/18

## DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this dissertation to all refugees out there in the world.

.....

Saurabh Karki

Date: 2021/02/18

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

People around are always important to fulfill any task undertaken by any person. As such many people have helped me in preparing this report over time, to whom I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mr. Bala Ram Acharya, Ranta Rajya Laxmi Campus, Kathmandu for his regular and valuable guidance, encouragement, comments, and suggestion during the preparation of this thesis for making it effective and conclusive despite a busy schedule and normal routine responsibilities of Tribhuvan University. Similarly, I am grateful to the Head of the Department of Sociology, Mr. Narendra Mishra for his guidance and encouragement. I am also grateful to my thesis external examiner Mr. Yogesh Prasah Joshi for his continued guidance and support in this report.

I would like to thank my all friends and teachers of the Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus family who helped me directly or indirectly to prepare this thesis which would not be possible in the absence of proper help and support of them in this form.

Saurabh Karki

2021/02/18

## ABSTRACT

An abstract of the dissertation of Mr. Saurabh Karki for the Master of Arts in sociology, submitted on March 20, 2020.

Title: Constraints and Impacts of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal (A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu)

Abstract Approved By

.....

(Bala Ram Acharya)

(Dissertation Supervisor)

This research, entitled “Constraints and Impacts of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal: A Case Study of Bouddha Area, Kathmandu” basically depicts the current situation of Tibetan refugees and their adjustment problems in a new location. The study aims to find out the constraints faced by Tibetan Refugees in their daily living after they run for their lives from their homeland to Nepal, and also the study aims to analyze the major impacts on Nepalese people's social, cultural, and economic status due to Refugee settlement. Since it is, qualitative and quantitative research, the study applied a survey method to analyze constraints of refugees as well as socio-economic impacts on Nepalese people. This study uses an explorative and descriptive research design. Bouddha Area is a universe of the study and is also used for the purposive sample. For this purpose, this research includes a total of 60 respondents.

The majority of the respondents 52 (86.66%) have focused on all obstacles including lack of occupational opportunities, children's education, documentation, and traveling abroad from Nepal due to the lack of proper refugee identity cards. These refugees even face threats of challenges from the Nepalese administration and public officials. They face harassment during the event of their nationalist movement including Free Tibet issues, and issues related to the Nepal-China relationship.

The majority told that they are somehow connected with their nationalist moment and the rest 24 (40%) are not affiliated with any moment. They are deprived of basic human rights so they are affiliated with the moment.

Most of the respondents do not have a bank account. Only 12 (20%) have bank accounts. These 12 respondents have refugee identity cards. Other 48 (80%) respondents do not have identity cards. Due to the lack of Tibetan refugee identity cards, they have been deprived of their bank accounts. Similarly, most of the respondents do not have their own business. Only 24 (40%) have their own business and property too. 48 (80%) have faced problems related to employment since they lack identity. Only 12 (20%) revealed they do not have problems.

Most of the respondents have been facing problems with their children's education. 48 (80%) who haveno refugee identity cards have faced problems with their children's formal education. Since the school needs the identity and registration of birth, lack of legal documentation has been hampering their children to admit at school. Few revealed that they do not have problems with children's education. But, even for them, it is hard to get higher education. The majority of respondents regard locals as unfriendly. Tibetan refugees have been facing negative as well as positive behaviors by the locals where they have been same social space together.

However, Tibetan refugees who have been living in the Bouddha area have been gradually assimilating with Nepalese people, culture, and society. Though their lives are full of hardships due to the lack of identity and non-belonging-ness, they are habitual to survive as refugees who have very few expectations like refugees identity cards that would help them to survive. For their better lives, there must be proper implementation of refugee identity cards so they would not be deprived of basic facilities and rights.

.....

Saurabh Karki

2021/02/18



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	Page No.
Abstract	i
Copyright	iii
Dedication	iv
Declaration	v
Letter Of Recommendation	vi
Letter of Approval	vii
Acknowledgment	viii
Table of Contents	ix-xi
List of Tables	xii
List of Figures	xiii
Abbreviations	xiv
CHAPTER – ONE (INTRODUCTION)	1-5
1.1. Background of Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Research Questions	4
1.4. Purpose of Study	5
1.5. Significance of Study	5
1.6. Limitations of study	5
CHAPTER – TWO(REVIEW OF LITERATURE)	7-24
2.1 Theoretical Review	7
2.2 Empirical Review	11
2.3 Policy Review	17
2.4 Gap Analysis	19
2.5 Conceptual Framework of Study	23
CHAPTER – THREE (RESEARCH METHODOLOGY)	25-27

3.1 Research Design	25
3.2 Nature and Source of Data	26
3.3 Universe and Sampling	26
3.4 Techniques of Data Collection	26
3.4.1 Observation	26
3.4.2 Interview Schedule	27
3.5 Data Presentation and Analysis	27
CHAPTER - FOUR (DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF RESPONDENTS)	28-31
4.1 Physical Location of the Study Area	28
4.2 Demographic Setting of the Respondents	28
4.2.1 Family Structure of Respondents	28
4.2.2 Age Group of Respondents	29
4.2.3 Gender Ratio of Respondents	29
4.2.4 Religion of Respondents	30
4.2.5 Occupation of Respondent	30
4.2.6 Respondents Living Period in Nepal	31
4.2.7 Respondents Having Refugee Cards	31
CHAPTER - FIVE (CURRENT SITUATION OF TIBETIAN REFUGEES LIVING AROUND BOUDDHA)	32-52
5.1 Reason Behind Not Having Refugee Card	32
5.2 Problems of Not Having Refugee Card	33
5.3 Threats Faced by Refugee From Nepalese Public Officials	34
5.4 Lack of Freedom Of Speech Among The Respondents	35
5.5 Refugees Affiliation with Various Movement	37
5.6 Tibetan Refugees and Existing Nepal - China Factors	39
5.7 Deportation and Attempted Deportation of Tibetan Refugees	41
5.8 Chinese Concern over Tibetians In Nepal	42
5.9 Increasing Restriction Of Tibetians in Nepal	43
5.10 Nepal's Foreign Policy Commitment Towards China	44
5.11 Respondents Having Bank Account	46

5.12 Respondents Having Business and Property in Nepal	46
5.13 Respondents Problems Related to Employment	47
5.14 Respondents Problems Related to Child Education	48
5.15 Treatment of Locals Towards The Refugee	49
5.16 Some Impacts of Tibetan Refugees among Locals	50
CHAPTER SIX (SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION)	53-57
6.1 Summary	53
6.2 Conclusion	55
References	
Appendix	
Interview Schedule	

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page No.
Table No. 1	Age Group of Respondents	29
Table No. 2	Gender Ratio of Respondents	30
Table No. 3	Occupation of Respondents	30
Table No. 4	Respondents Living Period in Nepal	31
Table No. 5	Respondents Having Refugee Cards	31
Table No. 5.1	Reason Behind Not Having Identity Card	32
Table No. 5.2	Problems of Not Having Refugee Cards	33
Table No. 5.3	Reason Behind Involvement on Movement	38
Table No. 5.4	Respondents Having Bank Account	46
Table No. 5.5	Respondents Having Business and Property	46
Table No. 5.6	Respondents Having Problems of Employment	47
Table No. 5.7	Respondents Problems Related to Child Education	48
Table No. 5.8	Treatment of Locals Towards Refugees	49
Table No. 5.9	Respondents Choice of Country to Stay	51

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Title	PageNo.
Figure 2.1	Conceptual Framework	23
Figure 4.1	Family Structure	29

## ABBREVIATIONS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
CBS	:	Central Bureau Statistics
DLGSP	:	Decentralized Local Governance Support Programme
HDI	:	Human Development Index
HH	:	Household
ID	:	Identification
IMR	:	Infant Mortality Rate
MA	:	Masters in Arts
MoPE	:	Ministry of Population and Environment
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	:	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID-PRB	:	United States Aid for International Development-Population Bureau
WHO	:	World Health Organization

