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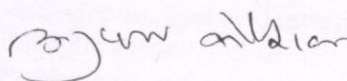
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Tibetans in Exile: An Overview

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Abstract

Tibetans are living in exile in many countries but majority of them reside in India as other countries come under pressure of china and do not welcome them. They have been able to preserve their identity only in India and Nepal. In other countries they lose their Tibetan identity and are unable to preserve their culture due to their small numbers as well as because of the policies of these countries.

Keywords: Tibetans; Dalai Lama; Central Tibetan Administration; exile, refugee.

Introduction

The estimated number of Tibetans living in exile or outside China is 150,000. The emigration happened in three waves. The first wave started in 1959 following the 14th Dalai Lama's self exile in India; the second wave started in 1980s when Tibet was opened to trade and tourism and the third wave continues from 1996 to today. During the 1959 Tibetan uprising, the 14th Dalai Lama and some of his government officials fled to India. From 1959 to 1960 about 80,000 Tibetans followed the Dalai Lama to India through the Himalayas. Continued flights, estimated in numbers of 1000 to 2500 a year increased these numbers to 100,000. The movement of refugees during this time is sometimes referred to as an exodus and as evidence of human rights abuses in Tibet. The second exodus happened in 1980s due to increasing political repression. From 1986 to 1996 about 25000 Tibetans fled Tibet and their numbers in India increased by 18 percent. Now about 3000 to 4500 Tibetans arrive at Dharamsala every year. Many new immigrants are children who are sent to Tibetan cultural schools sometimes with the tacit approval of the Chinese government. Many political activists also cross over through Nepal to India [1]. Although in recent years

they have encountered difficulties in Nepal due to unsympathetic attitude of Nepal's government due to pressure from China.

Tibetans In India

Following the Lhasa uprising and Dalai Lama's flight from Tibet in 1959, the government of India accepted a large number of Tibetan refugees. There are fluctuating claims regarding numbers of Tibetans living in India. The 2009 census registered about 128,000 Tibetans in exile, with the most numerous part of the community living in India, Nepal and Bhutan [2]. However, their number is estimated at up to 150,000 by the 14th Dalai Lama in 2009 [3].

The government of India has provided land for Tibetan refugee settlements in various states especially in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. The Dalai Lama resides in Dharamsala in the state of Himachal Pradesh however largest numbers of Tibetan refugees are in the state of Karnataka. The government of India extends financial help to the Dalai Lama and has built special schools and educational institutions for Tibetans that provide free education, health care and scholarships. Few