



Ladakh: To Study the Pastoral Changpa Nomadic Life of Changthang Region Jammu and Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Changthang region of Ladakh with the aim of studying the migration and its socio cultural impact on women and children of Changpa nomads. The sample for the study was drawn from Nyoma block of Changthang region. Total 190 households were selected for the study area. Purposive and random sampling technique was used for seven villages of Nyoma block of Leh district. The study found that Changthang is a unique part of Ladakh which has extreme climate and is at a high altitude. The average altitude of the area is around 14600 metres above sea level. The findings of the study reveal that all the (100%) respondents from seven villages (i.e. women and children of Changpa nomads) were staying in yak wool tents (rebo) which were made from traditionally yak wool without electricity till date and they wholly and solely depend on emergency solar lights during dark hours of night. Study also reveals that all the respondents of Changpa nomads use wood and animal (sheep, yak, goat etc.) excreta as fuel in their traditional chullahs for cooking as well as for heating purpose because it was easily available there as well as it was economical. The study also reveals the types of marriage among women in Changthang that 13.3% of respondents believe in polyandry form of marriage as this way the property is not divided and it remains in the same family. Polyandry was prevalent only in the age group of 35 - 50 years which clearly indicates that earlier generation believed in polyandry and these respondents had two husbands and all husbands were brothers in relation. Whereas the present generation do not believe in polyandry system of marriage.

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