

Department of Development Studies

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Economics**

Thematic Focus: Communities and Ethnographies

Victims of Social Exclusion- The Case of Gypsies in Potwar – Syed Jamshid Ahmad Bukhari (2012-2014)

This research, conducted on the social exclusion of gypsies in Districts, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, and Chakwal, explored the social, economic, political and cultural lives of the gypsies while its essence resides in the analysis based on the context of social exclusion.

Key Findings

1. Economic participation of the gypsies is limited and indirectly restricted by depriving them by inequalities in education and skill development. Lack of provision in basic rights, landlessness and issues regarding citizenship make gypsies incapable of entering into job market.
2. This research also highlights that gypsies are excluded from the social, economic and political domains and the selected parameters along which they are excluded include the violation of basic rights, labour force participation, limited societal interaction and integration.
3. Gypsies migrate in deprivation and at their own risk unlike other migrants who are hosted and settled by the government and provided with basic food and shelter needs in case of emergency displacement. It raises the question of their citizenship rights. They are neither counted in population nor reported and the institutions consider it as a normal way of life of the gypsies.
4. Gypsies are kept away from participating in social events which take place in mainstream society and they face resistance whenever they intend to interact with the surrounding community. Their interaction with the urban population is limited around their *juggies* (thatched huts) where they are involved in masonry and carpentry for livelihood.

Policy Recommendations

1. Gypsies are not targeted in policy formulation due to lack of entitlement to citizenship. It also deprives them to avail off the public facilities. Policies should include this population for their recognition and development.
2. Gypsies are landless, although landless are much in number in Pakistan but the gypsies among them are more vulnerable due to the absence of their affiliations with strong local groups of landlords and wealthy people. Land reforms are a key to entitle land and making them able to benefit from publicly provided facilities, and inclusion in education and employment systems.
3. Private sector and charity organisations need to support these communities for basic living needs as well. They can be provided with shelter, technical trainings, and similar incentives to encourage for participation in education and economic activities for changing their lives.