



Impact of Seasonal Migration on Tribals of Pir Panchal

Mohd Liakat

Kashmir University

ABSTRACT

Rising temperature is an alarm for, nomadic Gujjar and Bakerwal. The seasonal migration of such people getting started as usual towards the upper reaches of the Pirpanjal, Shivalik, Trikuta mountains in the north-western Himalayas.

KEYWORDS: - Migration Climate, Tribes, Destination, Nomads

Introduction

The custom of seasonal tribal migration is an old custom near about five centuries and nomadic tribes mainly the Gujjar and Bakerwal folks migrate to their summer termini in the late march or April every year. They reach their destinations after 50 to 55 days of travel. When it is end of the day they spend night in open sky along with their cattle. After spending night they starts again journey towards their destinations. While discussing with nomads, they claimed and argued they face harsh situations of climate and insecurity of their lives as their dhoks are not well maintained they live under the threat that there should be no cloud burst and there should be no attack of wild animals to their cattle. So they demand restoration of all restricted pastures and dhoks near the Indo-Pak border and in the area of Jammu and Kashmir. The main migration paths, counting, Gora Batta, Nanansar, RopadiDharhal Pass and Mughal Road. These routes are severely damaged due to winter season and snow.

Effect of seasonal migration on education

If we go through the education sector of tribals it is mere a dream for such people. Seasonal schools unsuccessful and futile exercise. There is poor infrastructure or staff and facilities in such schools. There is no educational atmosphere, no proper facilities available which include books and stationary items. If any community is suffering from poor policies of Govt no doubt they are tribal. During COVID Pandemic such students remained out of touch with studies because where they reside there is no internet connectivity. They are not able to afford smart phones.

Lack to get benefit from online system of education which was need of an hour. Gujjar Bakerwals face so many problems during their migration and even during the course of their stay in meadows and pastures.

Their major worry is the education of their children who seldom go to schools and lack basic education and it adds to their sufferings more. Though mobile schools were started for the education of tribal students upto a certain level and teachers have been recruited as well but due to zero accountability and less facilities, quality education cannot be given to tribal students unless a special strategy formed which aims at the overall progress of tribals. Special seats for nomadic Gujjar Bakerwal students in Gujjar Bakerwal hostels should be reserved, so they cannot suffer due to lack of education in this digital and global world.

Mentioning on the new creativity of Jammu and Kashmir administration of providing trucks to tribal people for transportation of livestock and families from Jammu to Kashmir;

Living Standards

Living standard of tribal people, especially during migration routes is very critical. They totally depends upon the cattle rearing there is no other income to avail. During the course of migration they becomes the victims of bad weather which results the death and sickness of their cattle. There is no facility for their cattle to get treatment hence they face huge loss. In 2022 the nomadic tribe was going through the road with their cattle a speedy truck killed near about 150 sheep resulting the unbearable damage to such tribes. So many times cloud burst hits their cattle badly they often stuck in the rain resulting the poor health of such people. There is no mechanism from the Government side to address their grievances and miseries.

The status of mobile schools and Dispenser's is very miserable and in pathetic conditions. Lockdown and post 370 abrogation restrictions have disrupted seasonal livestock migration.

It caused cascading effect on the lives of the nomadic communities and their traditional businesses. During the summer months, tribals live in the roughly made stone, wood and mud huts commonly called koothas' where there is no faculty of water and electricity. Still in modern era they are totally unaware about modern technology.

The tribe of Gujjars and Bakarwals in this era of development & upliftment, is still educationally, economically & socially backward. The need of the hour is to take concrete steps for their welfare & upliftment on first priority. They are vagrant & powerless wandering in the open sky. Children are having very poor health they receive unbalanced diet, Lack of necessary vitamins resulting the serious damage to their health. They cook their food on fire which releases smoke they inhale smoke which forces them to involve in bronchitis.

"Tribal leaders and organizations working for the upliftment of community said that they have requested government many a times to provide necessary logistics to tribes including dispensaries, some health facilities on migration routes so that they can live peaceful life without hardships But there is no one who can listen and solve the grievances of poor people.

During interaction one of the youth among such tribes in Pir Panchal said they in Raj Bhavan Lt Governor shriManoj sahib assures to provide transport and some important and basic necessities so that they can adjust themselves in this world. This initiative has been taken to minimize the hardships during their journey. Also it has been clearly directed that, action will be taken against the officers found guilty of any delinquency during the movement of Gujjar-Bakerwal community members.

Miseries

Tribal people of Pir Panchal region face lot of loss every year they losses thousands of cattle because of accidents and bad weather. It takes so many time to reach Kashmir valley with cattle through historic Mughal Road. Unfortunately they have to pay more than 10000 to truck drivers to take their cattle to Kashmir valley during summer seasons. It is clear that during migrations there are old aged people who are not able to walk when they gets sick they are not able to receive treatment on time resulting the loss of human lives.

Suggestions

Govt. should make mobile schools active and better staff should be provided so that they can take remedial class for tribal students.

During migration a special order should be displayed to take care of the health of tribal people

During migration transport should be provided so they can't face any kind of loss.

Govt should make electricity and water supply active for such postures.

Smart phones and internet facility should be given to students so that they can remain in touch with modern world and can take online education.

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