

Research Methodology and Universe of Location for Study of Refugees

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Abstract

Almost 70 years have elapsed since the Erstwhile refugees crossed over to India. So much has been changed for them in terms of socio-economic and political circumstances. That the younger generation today which are born in post independence India seems to be totally unaware of the holocaust their parents went through. So the most pertinent question before the researcher was to interview those people who had actually migrated. Because its only through them that one could ascertain as to how the erstwhile refugees structured their life style in a new environment. Sociologically speaking, this style structural patterning of the refugees' life in terms of socio-economic problem faced by them subsequently at various stages could not have been ascertained in piece-meal and abstract responses. Thus it become rather imperative for the researcher to probe into complete life history of refugees divided mainly into three phases viz. past-that is life in West Pakistan, migration and post migration so as to have a comprehensive understanding of the problem in its entirety.

Keywords: Community, Host, Jats, Punjabies, Refugees.

Introduction

Design of Research

While reviewing the literature on the refugees and their relations with non-refugees. We have gathered new ideas and insight into the refugees milieu and came to the conclusion that an exploratory type of research design would help us to analyse the basic issues raised in the study. The changing pattern of the agrarian relations, caste relations, occupational structure amongst refugees constitute an important dimension of research in question.

Purposive Sampling

An attempt has been made in this paper to analyse the interactional matrix prevailing amongst Jats, i.e. the dominant community and the Punjabies the migrants who came in the wake of partition in 1947. Due to economic and time factor limitations, purposive sampling suited us the most. Further, "purpose sampling emphasizes the method of selecting a number of groups of units, in such a way that the selected groups together yield as nearly as possible the same average or proportions as the totality in respect to those characteristics which are also a matter of statistical knowledge".

The sample which I have selected is purposive-cum-random because I have to divide the whole population into two parts firstly (person who migrated and their wards) and secondly the members of the host society.

Techniques of the data collection

For the present study the following technique was used for collecting data. The preliminary data was collected by taking a census of all the heads of the households in the village. This data included relationship between refugee or non refugees occupation, types of house and the family composition.

Interview Schedule

Interview schedule was prepared to collect data from the agricultural households. The interview schedule had three parts. Part one was structured and it was mainly for collecting information regarding the head of the household, sex, age type of occupation, working pattern etc.

The second part was only for the landed peasantry. It was both structured and unstructured. In this part the information's regarding landholdings, earnings, land management, labour employment, agricultural implements, education of the household members were gathered. The third part of the interview schedule was design to gather data from the members of the host society. The questions mainly pertained to the interactional matrix prevailing amongst various castes in the village.

While interviewing the respondents, stress was laid on gathering information regarding the nature of the social relations prevailing amongst the migrants and the members of the host society.

Aims and Significance

This study is in the realm of the inter-group relations. Sociologically speaking it is important to probe into the socio-cultural milieus of the people who were displaced forcibly from their abodes 64 years ago. Another important dimension emerges as to how the uprooted people have adjusted and adapted themselves not only in the contiguous state, but in the adjoining areas too where the cultural matrix was rather different from their own. Another important dimension of the problem which requires critical evaluation and which has been amply substantiated by several studies is the progressive march of refugees in their post partition period.

Keller is one of the social scientists who says in his book “uprooting and social change” that the development of Punjab and Haryana is purely due to entrepreneurial spirit which is born out of their migration and post migration phases of life. The other important issues he takes up in his book are given as below:

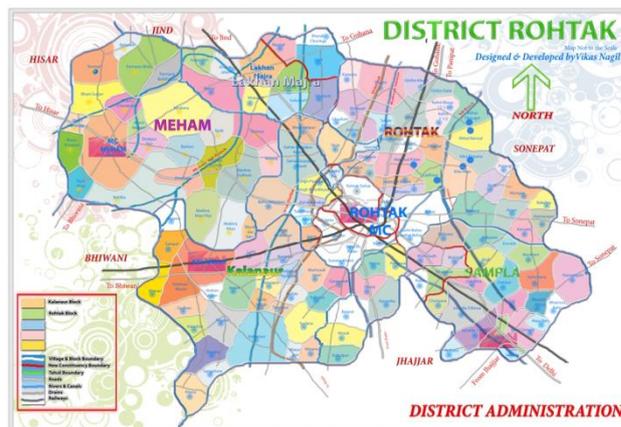
- 1) The refugees suffering from survival syndrome feel invulnerable (Keller) and his trait induces into them a spirit of competition.
- 2) What are the reasons for the majority of the erstwhile refugees coming up better in life, economically speaking vis-à-vis other communities. In what way they have contribute towards the socio-economic development of the regions where they have been resettled.
- 3) To what extent the erstwhile refugees have made compromises with their core cultural elements and to what extent the new sub-cultural patterns have emerged.
- 4) What has been the attitude of the host community that is non-refugees towards the refugees” In what way they have reacted to the holocaust of uprootment and its aftermath as a whole.

Universe of Study, Rohtak

Rohtak is the most important and the biggest city in Haryana. Geographically speaking it lies at 28°-19' and 29°-06'-30" north latitude and 76°-12' -45" and 76°-58'-15" East longitude. It has a municipal committee of class one. Rohtak derives its name from Raja Rhotas and was known as Rhotasgarh earlier. The city has a cooperative Sugar Mills, a cotton spinning mill and a roller flour mills. For data regarding population the census of 1981 is chosen keeping in mind the relationship study for more than 20 years. Rohtak is lying on the Delhi-Fazilka highway, it is 72 kilometers away from the national capital. The city is linked through metalled roads with Delhi, Sonapat, Hissar, Panipat, Jind, Bhiwani, Dadri and Rewari. It is an important Junction on the Rohtak-Delhi-Ferozepur railway line.

Rohtak has a radio station. The only one in Haryana State. The number of colleges in Rohtak in 1980 was 13 and the number of high schools 21. The city also has University of health Sciences, M.D. University and IIM. The city has two polytechnic institutes one Industrial Training Institute for boys and one for girls.¹ Two camps

were established at Rohtak in November 1947, with a capacity of 50,000.¹ All available buildings, including educational Institutions were utilized for sheltering refugees and large tented colonies were also set up in addition. In these camps free rations, multivitamin tablets fruits and medicines were also provided which reduced mortality in the camp very substantially. Following are three villages of Kalanaur Block of Distt. Rohtak which were selected for study.



Patwapur

Patwapur is a village of district Rohtak. It lies on South of Rohtak – Bhiwani road. The village is at a height of 221.58 meters from the ocean floor. Geographically speaking it lies at 28°-49'-20" latitude and 76°-29'-0" longitude. The village covers an area of 664 hectares with 277 households. The 1981 census placed its population at 1767 of them 978 males and 789 females. The village is connected by a pucca road to Rohtak-Bhiwani road and there is regular bus service between Rohtak and Patwapur. It has a High School and Primary Health Centre with adequate provision of drinking water through water supply.

Baniyani

Baniyani is a village of Distt. Rohtak. It lies on South of Rohtak-Bhiwani road. The village is at a height of 221.59 meters from the floor of ocean. Geographically it is at 28°-51'-25" latitudes and 76°-29'-9" longitude. The village covers an area of 1544 hectares with 603 households. According to 1981 census its population is 3794 out of which 2098 males and 1696 females. The village is connected by a pucca road with Rohtak-Bhiwani road. It has a High School and Primary Health Centre with adequate facility of drinking water.

Nigana

Nigana is a village of Distt. Rohtak. It lies on Rohtak Bhiwani road. The village is at a height of 216.66 meters from the floor of ocean. Geographically it is at 28°-47'-0"

latitude and 70°–26′–20″ longitude. The village covers an area of 1932 hectares with 755 households. According to 1981 census its population is 4766 out of which 861 males 711 females. The village is connected by a pucca road with Rohtak-Bhiwani road. It is a high school and Primary Health Centre with adequate facility of drinking water. There is regular bus service from Rohtak.

References

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