

ABSTRACT

It is more than sixty years now that Tibetan refugees have fled their homeland 'Tibet' in 1959 following the occupation of Tibet by China. They have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of India, Nepal and Bhutan. Even though they have spread out to different countries of the world now, India and Nepal hold the largest number of Tibetan refugees than elsewhere in the world. Soon after the flight, Dalai Lama established the Central Tibetan Administration and restructured his Government in Exile on democratic values. It continues to function from Dharamsala in North India from where it coordinates with all the refugees and claims to be the voice of all Tibetans who do not accept the legitimacy of Chinese control of their motherland.

Both Nepal and India share borders with China at many junctions. These three countries of India, Nepal and China are interdependent upon each other for their sustainability and security. India and China in spite of their historic relations and economic interactions have many border conflicts and have engaged in a war in 1962. Even today the border disputes between the two erupt time to time. Nepal on the other hand, is an immediate neighbour of India and being so, is dependent on it for its economy and security. After the Chinese occupation of Tibet, Nepal has become immediate neighbor of China and of late the proximity between the two countries is on the rise. In fact, China has started visualizing its imperialist ambition by influencing Nepal with many development projects. Nepal being a poor landlocked country has been caught in between the power struggle of India and China.

As for the Tibetan Refugees, they, with the help of the host countries, have successfully rehabilitated in the foreign soil. They have undergone through various hardships and struggles to become a successful refugee community at present. Changes have set in the Tibetan diaspora in terms of their society and economic activities but their religious and cultural traditions continue to remain consistent. In fact, it has become even more rigid with time in the process of maintaining their 'Tibetan identity'. The Dalai Lama has emerged as an international icon of Buddhism, compassion and a highly acclaimed leader of the Tibetans throughout the world. With this recognition, He has been able to integrate his citizens and bring the Tibetan support groups closer. Even though China has transformed Tibet through developmental activities and huge investments it still has not been able to assimilate the Tibetans inside. There are protest movements from time to time against the human rights violations, environmental destructions and cultural extermination. China has become more

apprehensive with the Tibetan issues than before. Dalai Lama is also getting old and China is apprehensive about the turn of events in case of his demise. Therefore it has been trying to bring Nepal into confidence so that no anti-Chinese activities would be carried out in Nepal. Nepalese authorities have reformed all their policies in handling Tibetans under the Chinese influences. It is India that poses the real challenge to China. The Dalai Lama's diplomatic activities from India and the functioning of CTA in India plus India's immense favoritism towards Tibetans worry China. These three countries being immediate neighbours have been engaged into many ties and treaties. Moreover, their securities are also co-dependent upon each other. Therefore, any kind of mistrust or misapprehension between India, China and Nepal will definitely impact the political status of Tibetan Refugees.

The dissertation makes an attempt to study the issue of Tibetan refugees in this context. The socio economic condition of the refugees in both India and Nepal are discussed in the backdrop of the respective country's relation with China to understand how the state policies are dependent on their security issues with relation to China and how their policies towards the Tibetans are also determined by the China factor.