Victims of Social Exclusion: The Case of Gypsies in Pakistan
by Jamshed Ahmad Bukhari

The research has been conducted on the social exclusion of gypsies in Districts Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Chakwal, and Rural Islamabad. It explored the social, economic, political and cultural lives of the gypsies and analysed the context of the social exclusion. Gypsies in Pakistan are institutionally the most unrecognised people in Pakistan. Although many researchers reflected their life by using anthropological approach but less focus remained on their exclusion and marginality. The poverty, landlessness, citizenship issues, and limited economic opportunities become a huge challenge for gypsies to survive. These factors force gypsies to live in miserable conditions without recognition. This study has used a qualitative research methodology. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews, focus groups discussions, and interviews of the key informants. The analysis has shown that gypsy communities are at the extreme of exclusion and living like aliens within the rural and urban communities in Pakistan. They face the issues of citizenship, fundamental rights, social acceptance, inclusion, and most of all the land entitlement. They lack basic needs provision and depend on local communities instead of state, for their survival. Somehow they have managed to maintain their forefathers’ culture as musicians, trick players as Bander Wala and Reech Wala. A number of policy recommendations based on the research findings have been suggested.

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