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## **Findings**

### **Status of Tibetan Refugees in India: A Socio-Legal Study**

#### *Abstract*

The Ph.D Thesis, titled ‘**Status of Tibetan Refugees in India: A Socio-Legal Study**’ is an attempt to understand India’s broader policy and practice for the treatment and protection of refugee groups. The study closely examines the existing legal framework in India for the protection of refugees, the broader policies adopted by the government for dealing with major refugee groups since 1947, and the circumstances that led to a ‘differential or favourable treatment’ for some of the refugee groups. The study lays particular emphasis on the Tibetan refugees who have been living in the Indian Territory since 1959. In addition to examining the legal status of Tibetans in India and the role of the Tibetan-Government-in-Exile, the study highlights the old and the new challenges faced by the community owing to the legal, administrative, social, economic and other day-to-day hurdles. Further, it discusses the opinions and perceptions of Tibetans on the issues concerning them.

Tibetans, as well as several other refugee settlements, are often seen and studied as a homogenous community. The present study attempts to take an important leap in this regard, and attempts to explore the differences within the community in terms of gender, age, class, place of birth, and so on. It tries to achieve this majorly through primary and original data collected in the form of ‘face-to-face interviews’ conducted among 586 Tibetans with the help of a standardised interview schedule across the settlements located in Dharamshala and Mcleodganj in the state of Himachal Pradesh, and Dehradun in the state of Uttarakhand.