ABSTRACT

Tibetans have been living in exile for more than five decades since 1959 failed uprising against People’s Republic of China. There are 38 major and minor settlements in India. The settlements are primarily assisted by the Government of India and other voluntary aid organizations. The settlements are administered directly by the representative officer/welfare officer appointed by Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration.

The primary goal of Central Tibetan Administration is to cater to the socio-economic needs of Tibetan refugees. Such goals are highlighted under the five year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).

There are few studies either at India/Karnataka level that have focused on socioeconomic status of Tibetan refugees. No studies are found which compare socioeconomic status of Tibetan refugee’s settlements in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. In this background an attempt is made in the present study to examine the socioeconomic status of Tibetan settlements in the study area. The study provides a socioeconomic profile of Tibetan settlements in Karnataka with special reference to Bylakuppe and Mundgod.

The study is based on both secondary and primary data. In the process of fulfilling the study objectives and testing the hypotheses, statistical and econometrics techniques like chi-square test of independence, Karl Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation, Independent samples ‘t’ test, one-way ANOVA and Scheffe’s Post Hoc test, Dummy variable regression model and Multiple regression analysis have been employed.

The head of the household is the unit of analysis for the study. The random sampling method was used to select the respondents for the primary study. The study has used Slovin’s formula with error margin of 0.05 to determine the sample size. Hence, the sample size was 200 households from each settlement. The total sample selected was 400.

One-way ANOVA results revealed that there is a significant difference in the population among the five Tibetan settlements in Karnataka. The F-value is significant at 1% level with p=0.000. Mundgod has the highest number of Tibetan
population in Karnataka. Similarly, there is a significant difference in the school enrolment of the Tibetan students into Central School for Tibetans in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. The F-value is significant at 1% level with p=0.000 implying significant difference in student enrolment into Central School for Tibetans in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. CST Mundgod has more number of students with mean difference of 333.16667 with CST Bylakuppe and mean difference of 586.16667 with CST, CVP in Bylakuppe.

Independent sample ‘t’ test reveals significant difference in the availing of the primary healthcare services among Tibetans in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. The df 10 with the mean difference of -206.83333 implies that Tibetans in Mundgod avail more primary healthcare services when compared with Tibetans in Bylakuppe. Similarly, independent sample ‘t’ test reveals significant difference in the facilities accorded at Tibetan old-age home in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. The mean number of old-age people in Mundgod with 115.67 is higher than the mean number of old-age people in Bylakuppe with 46.00.

Multiple regression results revealed that agricultural expenditure among Tibetans in Karnataka is significantly influenced by the income earned from agriculture and crop cultivated. The $R^2$ value of 0.803 indicates that, the income earned from agriculture and crop cultivated explains 80 percent of the variability in agricultural expenditure made by the Tibetans in Karnataka.

The Karl Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation result shows that there is a statistically significant positive correlation relationship between the income and the expenditure of Tibetan households in Karnataka. The Pearson’s r value of 0.643 is positive; meaning an increase in the income of the households will lead to an increase in expenditure and vice-versa.

Multiple regression results revealed that consumption expenditure of the Tibetan households in Karnataka is significantly influenced by the income and the saving of the household. The $R^2$ of 0.503 indicates that 50.3 per cent of the variance in consumption expenditure among Tibetan households can be explained by average monthly income and saving made by the household.
Pearson Chi-square statistic revealed significant difference between the income with $\chi^2=61.62$, expenditure with $\chi^2=30.82$ and saving with $\chi^2=38.54$ of the Tibetan households in Bylakuppe and Mundgod. Indicating, Tibetan households in Bylakuppe are in better state when compared with households in Mundgod in terms of income, expenditure and saving.

Thus, the study points out the need to increase the birthrate among Tibetan women, to upgrade the primary healthcare services within community with better equipped manpower, to retain student enrolment in schools, to generate better facilities towards old-age home, to encourage farming practice among Tibetan farmers to generate more income among Tibetan households and so on.