The present study is an attempt to study the process of adaptation of the three refugee communities viz., Tibetans Panjabis and Bengalis in the socio-cultural milieu of the host country. It tries to explore those important societal factors which either promote or hinder the process of adaptation.

In this study, my endeavour was to verify whether the adaptation of the refugees in the social and cultural milieu of the host country is an on going process or an once-for-all process. The hypothesis has been tested with reference to three refugee communities in India and the results accrued confirms that the adaptation is a continuous process rather than a one step process.

A pertinent question might be asked as to the selection of the problem. In my opinion, the refugee problem being one of the major problem faced by most of the countries has drawn little attention of social scientists. Thus, in order to explore various dimensions of the problems, venturing into such an area did not seem to be a futile exercise.
I faced various problems in collecting data and tapping other sources. There is an acute paucity of literature on the topic. Secondly, the government officials' reluctance to let me have an access to the classified material further added to the problem, since the section (Tibetan refugees) considered as a secret and sensitive issue by Ministry of Rehabilitation and hence did not encourage investigation of the problem. Even the information that was available from the Ministry, especially statistics regarding the number of refugees, the expenditure on each refugee camp and the like did not always conform with information available from other sources.

It should be emphasised here that this study is exploratory in nature. Based upon the findings of this study, it is hoped that further research can be undertaken in the area of outsiders versus insiders in our country subsequently.

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