

## **Abstract**

### **Enduring Epidemic in Exile: A Study of Tibetan Refugees**

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The global spread of novel coronavirus has left nothing untouched. It doesn't respect the borders of states, religions, races, or gender. In that sense, COVID-19 has earned itself the epithet of the great equalizer. To accept this proposition is to fall prey to the trap of convenience induced blindness. For no matter how many lives get touched with this global catastrophe, yet the basic premise is that the lived reality of every single individual is different. In that regard, it would be prudent to even suggest that the way refugees experience the pandemic is likely to be different from that of the mainstream citizens. If the life of an average citizen in India has gone for a full toss then, the life in exile would comprise its twists and turns. Often hailed as the most successful and resilient refugee community, Tibetan refugees in exile have come a long way in terms of their livelihood options, educational opportunities, and rehabilitation structure. One of the major factors that make them stand apart from the other refugee groups in India is their economic self-sufficiency. At the same time, this is the keystone upon which other pillars of their refugee life lean on. If the COVID-19 pandemic has hit us all hard, it has hit the refugees and other vulnerable groups harder. This paper is an attempt to delve deeper into the impact of the pandemic induced social conditions thematically. At the same time, it asks the pertinent question as to how they have been enduring the pandemic in exile.

**Keywords:** Exile; Pandemic; Refugees; Tibetans