



## DEMOGRAPHIC STATUS OF TIBETAN SETTLEMENTS IN KARNATAKA

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**Abstract:** *Tibetans have been resettled in India since from 1959 onwards. India has remained the host country for Tibetans for more than 50 years. The Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959 in the name of liberation has led to taking refuge of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalia Lama along with few Tibetans in India as a political refugee. With this, influx of Tibetans into India has continued till 2008 unrest in Tibet with less number of Tibetans coming out from Tibet. At present, the estimated population of Tibetans living in India was 94,203 as per (Demographic Survey of Tibetans in Exile-2009). Out of this, a major portion of Tibetans have resettled in southern part of India, i.e., in Karnataka state (with 44523 as per a 2009 demographic report). Moreover, there are five Tibetan settlements in Karnataka state. The main objective of this paper is, to analyze the demographic status of Tibetans in Karnataka and to analyze the age-wise composition of Tibetans in Karnataka state. This paper is purely based on the secondary data. Statistical tools like bar graph, annual growth rate, pie charts and trends are used to measure the demographic changes in the Tibetan settlements. The results of the study reveal that there exists a difference in population among the settlements and gender differences also known as the gender ratio is unfavorable that is the male outnumber females in all the settlements, which is a demographic condition that needs immediate attention.*

**Keywords:** *Demographic status, Tibetan Settlements, Age-wise distribution, Gender-wise distribution, Karnataka State.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

India has remained the host country for Tibetans for more than 50 years. Tibetans along with its leader His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has taken refuge in India after Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959. It was then, the prime minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who agreed to provide all kind of assistance to Tibetans people until their return back to Tibet. As a result of this, the head quarter of the Central Tibetan Administration is based in Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh and Tibetans were settled throughout India. At present, as per Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration, there are 39 Tibetan Settlements across India. These settlements were further classified by Central Tibetan Administration on three major bases: 1. Agricultural based Settlements, 2. Handicraft/Industrial-based Settlements, and 3. Scattered Settlements. As per Demographic Survey in Exile-2009, it found out that the total population of Tibetans outside of Tibet as on 12 April 2009 stood at 127,935, comprising of 70,556 males and 57,379 females, as compared to 111,020 recorded during the 1998 survey. From the total population recorded, 94,203 Tibetans are living in India, 13,514 in Nepal, 1,298 in Bhutan and 18,920 elsewhere around the world.

In 1960, with the allotment of land by Government of Mysore (presently known as Karnataka State) has allotted nearly 3,000 acres of land for Tibetan to resettle. Because of this, the very first kind of Tibetan Settlement was established in 1961 in Bylakuppe as (Lugsung Samdupling). Successively other four settlements have come into existence. The names of these settlements are as follows: 1. Bylakuppe Old (Lugsung Samdupling). 2. Bylakuppe New (Dickyi Larsoe). 3. Hunsur (Rabgayling). 4. Kollegal (Dhondenling) and 5. Mundgod (Doeguling). With this, largest numbers of Tibetan population were found in the state of Karnataka. In addition to this, major Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries were also established in Karnataka.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Bhatia Shushum *et al.* (2002)** highlight on "A social and demographic study of Tibetan refugees in India". The study periods were from 1994 to 1996. The data were collected by the trained Community Health Workers and separate data were collected for monk populations by community health workers on monthly interviewed basis at monasteries. It has found out that there was little immigration out of settlements in past 10 years with



incoming of new monks into monasteries. It also shows that major population lies in age group 15-25 range. It has also made a distinction between Tibetan population on the basis of India born Tibetan and Tibet born in terms on literacy attainment. It found that Indian born were more literate while most of the Tibet born were illiterates. Most of these people rely in farming as their main source of earning followed by sweater selling. The overall crude birth rate was 16:/1000. Infant mortality varied from 20 to 35/1000 live births in the different regions. Child vaccination programs cover less than 50% of the population. The burden of illness in this society was mainly characterized by diarrhoea, skin infections, respiratory infections, fevers, and, among the elderly, joint pains and cardiovascular problems. Overall, the study has concluded that the socio demographic and health characteristics of this population appear to be in transition from those typical of the least developed countries to those typical of middle income and more affluent societies.

**Magnusson *et al.* (2008)** highlight on an ongoing sociological study of the first Tibetan refugee settlement established in India, Lugs zung bsam grub gling located in Bylakuppe near Mysore. Data were collected from camp registers and the old files of the settlement office and they used an exploratory analysis that focuses on two interconnected issues: resource competition between the Tibetan refugees and the local Indian community, and high population growth during the first decade of the settlement's existence. The result of demographic analysis shows that women in the settlement experienced a high fertility rate from 1962 to 1976. Population growth was further intensified by in-migration resulting from the creation of more camps, and from the in-migration of unregistered Tibetans including deserters from the army. The study further discussed on how these and other factors created friction between the camp's administrators and Indian government officials, conflicts between camp residents and the surrounding Indian communities, and may have countered some of the positive effects on local development resulting from the creation of the settlements.

**Marbanlang E.K *et al.* (2013)** highlight on demographic characteristics of Tibetan rehabilitants and their livelihood activities from Mundgod taluk of Uttar Kannada district during 2009-10. One hundred and thirty five respondents were selected by adopting simple random sampling. Results revealed that 47.40 per cent of the Tibetan rehabilitants studied up to primary school and majority (92.60 %) of them were married. Majority of the



respondents (55.56%) belonged to medium level of family size and 39.25 per cent of them had semi-medium level of annual income (17,001-34,000). Majority of the respondents (66.67%) had medium extension contact, 51.12% had medium economic motivation and 54.07 per cent of them had medium risk orientation. Majority of the respondents (62.96%) had no livestock possession, 55.56% had no training and 64.45 per cent of them had high level of social participation. Majority of the respondents (75.56%) regularly participated in the marriage programmes. A considerable per cent of the Tibetan rehabilitants (31.12%) had preferred agriculture + dairy as their livelihood practice and majority of them (52.38%) had been in the agriculture + dairy for more than 20 years and more than 71.00 per cent of the respondents with agriculture + dairy had been involved in these activities throughout the year.

**Basu (2008)** studied on “Interpreting the Tibetan Diaspora: Cultural preservation and the pragmatics of identity”. The objective of the study was to find out the relationship between pre-exilic Tibetan Bhutias migrant and the exilic Tibetan refugees who came to India after 1959 in Darjeeling town. Methodology adopted were combination of “Convenience” and “snowball sampling” methods to interview the respondents. The study found out that Tibetans were able to preserve their old culture and the relationship between Bhutias and Tibetan refugees were healthy. And Tibetans were found out that they have aspiration that one day they will return back to their homeland “Tibet”.

### **III. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES**

**Demography:** Demography is the statistical and mathematical study of the size, composition, and spatial distribution of human populations and how these features change over time. Demographic data were collected from population census data and from registries. It gives the detail account on distribution, changes, composition of population in more detail manner.

**Tibetans:** Tibetans are the people who hail from Tibet. They speak Tibetan as a common language. Religiously majority of the people follow Buddhism with few Muslim Tibetans.

**Tibetan Settlements:** Tibetan settlements were created in India after 1959 failed uprising against Chinese illegal occupation of Tibet in the name of liberation by people republic of Chinese troop.



**Age – wise distribution of Population:** Age-wise distribution of population divide the whole population based on specific age range starting from 0 to the maximum age limit.

**Gender – wise distribution:** Gender-wise distribution of population distributes the population on the basis of gender into Male and Female population.

#### IV. OBJECTIVES

The following are the objectives of the paper;

- To analyze the demographic status of Tibetans in Karnataka.
- To analyze the age-wise composition of Tibetans in Karnataka state.

#### V. HYPOTHESES

The following are the hypotheses of the study;

- The demographic status of Tibetan settlements does not differ among the Settlements in Karnataka.
- Gender-wise variation in population does not exist.

#### VI. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This paper is purely based on the secondary data. Statistical tools like Bar graph, Annual growth rate, pie charts and trends are used to measure the demographic changes in the Tibetan settlements. The data were collected from Tibetan Representative Zonal Office in Bangalore. Those data were gathered from each settlement.

#### VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

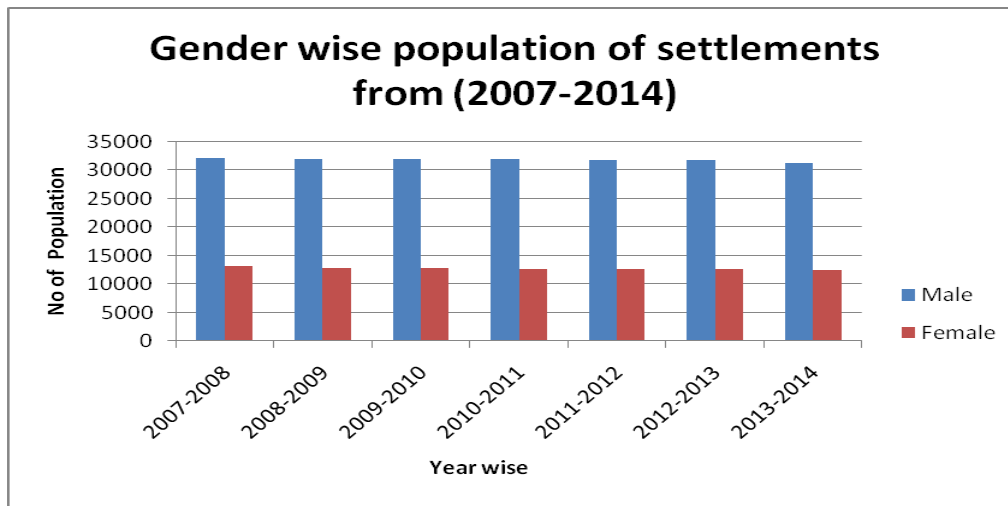
The simple statistical tools like bar chart, annual growth rate, trend line has been used to present the Demographic pictures of Tibetan Settlements in Karnataka over a period of seven years starting from (2007-2008) to (2013-2014).

**Table-1: Total population of Tibetans in Karnataka from 2007-2014**

Year	Male	Growth rate	Female	Growth rate	Total
2007-2008	31995	-	13103	-	45098
2008-2009	31785	-0.66	12707	-3.02	44492
2009-2010	31787	0.01	12736	0.23	44523
2010-2011	31822	0.11	12664	-0.57	44486
2011-2012	31667	-0.49	12641	-0.18	44308
2012-2013	31618	-0.15	12655	0.11	44273
2013-2014	31204	-1.31	12345	-2.45	43549



**Graph-1: Gender wise population of settlements from 2007-2014**



The above table clearly shows the information about total tibetan population in Karnataka with gender-wise distinction from years 2007-2008 to 2013-2014. Growth rate has been used seperately for both male and female population over a period of time. Here, we can note that values of growth rate are negative in most of the years indicating the declines in the population for both male and females. One can also note that over that period of times, the total number of population has declined. Initially in the years 2007-2008, the total number of population was 45,098. Whereas, in year 2013-2014 the number of population has decreased to 43,549. Also, the above table clearly shows that both male and females population has decreased over the period of time. But through out the years, one may note that total number of population was more in male incomparison to female counterpart. The very reason being is that, tibetan being a buddhist which follow monastic education. There are more numbers of monk population specially in Bylakuppa and Mundgod Tibetan settlement as there are three important big monastery in these settlements.

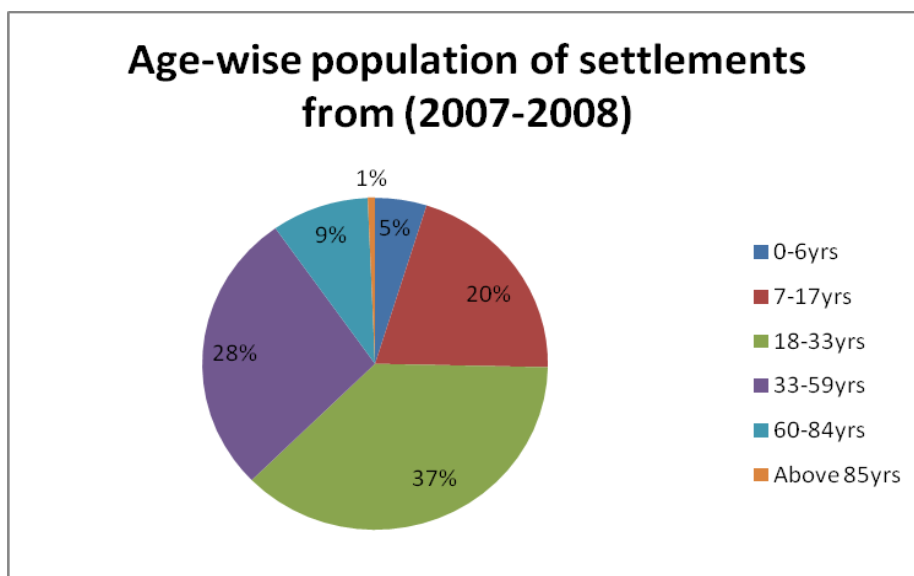
**Table -2: Age-wise distribution of Tibetan population in Karnataka from 2007-2014**

Year	Age-wise population					
	0-6yrs	7-17yrs	18-33yrs	33-59yrs	60-84yrs	Above 85yrs
2007-08	2185	9234	16849	12406	4118	306
2008-09	2127	10026	17775	10074	4119	271
2009-10	2063	7914	17826	12348	4067	305
2010-11	2103	7852	17885	12306	4002	338
2011-12	1558	6556	14226	15766	5264	935
2012-13	2173	5239	14263	16045	5094	310
2013-14	2132	6117	14092	15681	5161	366

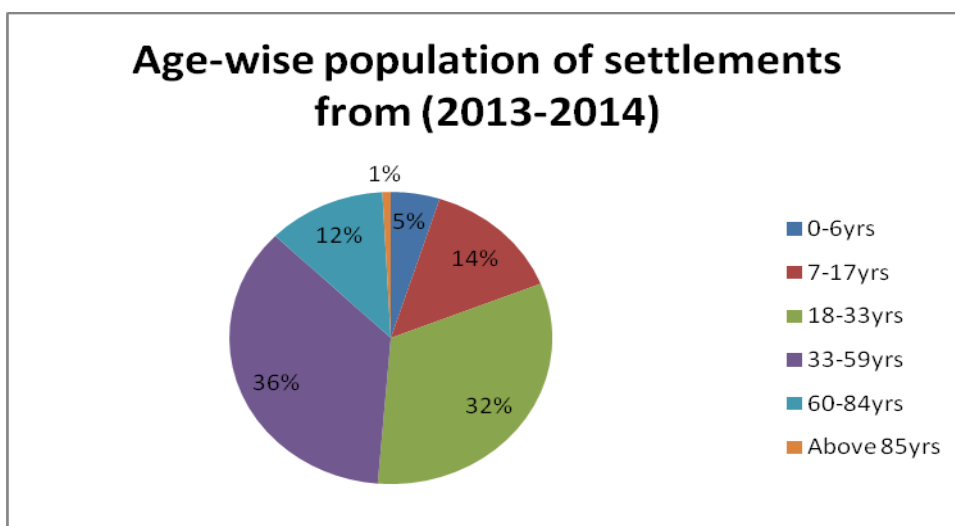
Source: Compile data from south-zone Tibetan representative office, Bangalore



**Graph-2 (i): Age-wise population of settlements from 2007-2008**



**Graph-2(ii): Age-wise population of settlements from 2013-2014**



The Table-2 exhibits the information about the Age-wise distribution of Tibetan Population from 2007-2014. Below the table two set of pie diagram has been used to make comparison between Age-wise distributions of population between the years 2007-2008 to 2013-2014. From the above absolute value we can note that maximum number of population falls in the age group 18-33 in the initial years followed by shift in maximum population to fall into age-group 33-59 in the recent few years. The first pie diagram shows that 37% of population falls into age-group 18-33 followed by 28% from age 33-59, 20% of population falls into age-group 7-17, 9% falls into age-group 60-84, 5% into age-group 0-06 and 1% of population falls into above 85 years. This percentage indicates that old-age dependent population is less in



numbers. While it can be noted that major chunks of population falls into productive age-group.

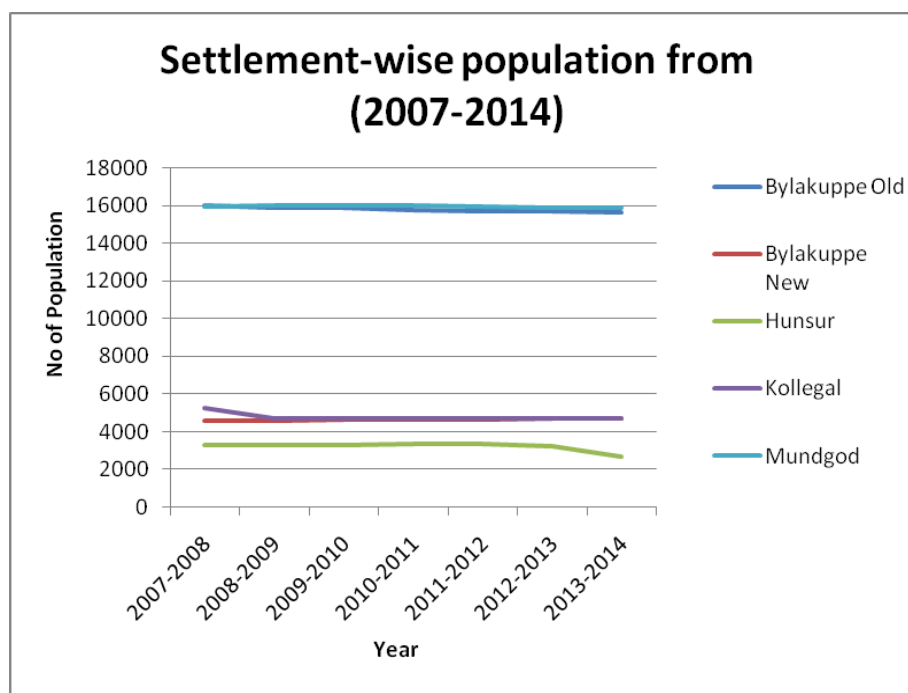
In the second pie diagram, we can note that between years 2013-2014, number of populations in age-group 18-33 has drop down from 37% to 32%, while there is an increased in population falls into age-group 33-59 from 28% to 36%. Indicating that middle age Tibetan population in Karnataka has increased almost by 10times. There is also a decline in population in population from the age-group 7-17 from 20% to 14%. Indicating that school going population has decreased. Whereas, old age dependent population has increased from 9% to 12%. But there is no changed in percentage of population in the age-groups 0-06 and above 85 years of population.

**Table -3: Settlement-wise total population from year 2007-2008 to 2013-2014**

Year-wise	Bylakuppe-Old	Bylakuppe-New	Hunsur	Kollegal	Mundgod
2007-2008	16017	4555	3333	5246	15947
2008-2009	15903	4581	3337	4682	15989
2009-2010	15881	4618	3327	4690	16007
2010-2011	15713	4636	3354	4683	15973
2011-2012	15681	4664	3369	4680	15914
2012-2013	15652	4681	3224	4679	15888
2013-2014	15611	4705	2698	4681	15854

Source: Compile data from south-zone Tibetan representative office, Bangalore

**Graph-3: Settlement-wise population from 2007-2009**







The above table shows the settlement wise population from year 2007-2008 to 2013-2014. Among the five Tibetan settlements in Karnataka, Doeguling settlement in Mundgod has maximum number of population next followed by Lungsam Samdrupling settlement in Bylakuppe which is as the first ever Tibetan Settlement in Karnatak as Old Bylakuppe Camp. Third populated settlement followed by Dhondenling settlement in Kollegal followed by Dekyi losarling in Bylakuppe is a New Settlement and Rabgayling settlement in Hunsur with lowest number of population. From the trend line, one can note the high differences in population with the first two populated settlement in comparison with three other settlements. The reason being is that the three major monastery of Tibetan Buddhism were placed in Bylakuppe and Mundgod area. Mundgod settlement has two major monasteries namely, Gaden and Drepung. While in Bylakuppe, Sere monastery is established. Sere monasteries monk's population will be counted into Bylakuppe Old Settlement list. In addition to these one can find small monasteries and nunnery in all five settlements.

#### **VIII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

In this paper, the demographic status of Tibetan Settlements in Karnataka has been shown through simple statistical methodologies.

The findings of the study show that there are more numbers of male population than that of female through out the years. It was mainly because of more number of monks into monasteries in settlements. Moreover, Mundgod Settlements has recorded highest number of population among all four other settlements. Though, the differences in population between Mundgod and Bylakuppe Old Settlements are very minimal. The lowest number of population can be seen in Hunsur Tibetan Settlement.

Age-wise distribution pattern of population depicts that most of the age group falls into working class with less number of old age dependent population. It also shows that schools going age group are more in numbers, indicating a positive factor on per with societal growth and development with more productive age group population with less number of ageing population.

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