

'Sedentarization' and Multiple Living Base System: A Case Study of a Nomad Community in Northwestern India

Ayumi Nakano

This presentation explores forms and patterns of the settlement of nomadic peoples after their 'sedentarization'. Jogis, who are specifically described in this presentation, are well known as a typical nomad community in Rajasthan, India. Most of them have come to settle down for these last couple of decades because of indirect influences of modernization policies such as land reform, the Bombay Prohibition Act of Begging, and the Wildlife Protection Act. Although they would traditionally move from village to village to beg for water and food, today they generally remain around specific villages and earn money as do village people by engaging in stone cutting, housing construction, or harvesting crops as laborers. Despite the remarkable change of their lifestyle, examination of the relation between their livelihood and their living bases demonstrates that camping out is useful for Jogis and that shifting the living base according to labor or other reasons is not rare among them. To obtain official addresses, which enable them to live with little trouble from village residents, they are also eager to construct huts or houses anywhere they might have an opportunity. The author concludes that the Jogis' attempts to create and keep multiple living places function as a 'self-safety-net' for Jogis, who are often unable to get sufficient benefit from public assistance.