

Vangujjar-Hindi Musalman Transhumance of Uttranchal

Shibani Roy

*Anthropological Survey of India, C. G. O. complex, 'A' Block, 1st Floor, Seminary Hills,
Nagpur 440 006, Maharashtra, India*

E-mail: shibanirizvii@yahoo.com; shibani02@sify.com

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ABSTRACT Hindi Musalman are not homogenous population and are divided on the basis of religious denominations, affiliations with schools of legal jurisprudence. Research among these sociobiologically distinct and divergent entities is still conducted within the framework bequeathed by the British who considered it as a population aggregate from across the frontiers of Bharatvarsh. The present paper is a case study of a transhumance small group referred to as Vangujjar since its abode is Sivalik and Garhwal hill ranges. A Musalman group often projected by the media as a Vegetarian Musalman. The pre-change cultural practices indicate their faith in gotra system and their occupation of rearing buffalos in the higher reaches of Himalayas is being threatened since their traditional rights and customary practices of utilizing the forests for fodder, fuel and temporary shelter are being abrogated with the promulgation of the forest area as wild life sanctuary or reserved forest by the concerned state governments.