

Book Review

Valerie M. Inchley (2014). **The Nepali Diaspora (Migrants, Ministry and Mission)**, Ekta Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, p 587, price NRs 550.00 ISBN 978-9937-1-0331-2.

The term 'Diaspora' has always been the object of bitter denunciation and enthusiastic endorsement. The word has been extracted from Greek roots. Its etymological meaning is dispersal of the word from diaspeirein, which means disperse. During the regime of Alexander the Great, people, especially Jews from the Middle East, would move west, especially into Greece. They would become naturalized in the new lands, but would long for and love their fatherland (not necessarily motherland). It is to be noted that, two millennia before the inception of Israel, the Jewish Diaspora was in existence attesting to the fact that for someone to become a Diaspora, it is necessary to have a fatherland that was left a long time back, and survives merely in the layers of frayed and fragmented memories. So far as Nepalese are concerned, they immigrated to countries in the Asiatic region. Their traditional destinations were India, Hong Kong, Japan and other areas in the Asiatic mainland. This pattern of migration began to change since the 1970's, and the Nepalese began to opt for the gulf countries like Kuwait and Qatar.

The book is aimed at raising awareness of their plight and provides information about the vulnerable groups, so as to be a contributory means of improving the status of Nepali migrants. This is Inchley's intellectual journey since 2006 when she had pioneered a diaspora program in partnership with Nepalese Migrant Unity Network, whose vision was to link together and to assist needy Nepali migrants.

The book consists of four sections and 12 chapters covering different outline and information of migration in the Nepali context with various case studies. Writer has concluded each chapter with remarks and a way forward.

The first section of the book titled *Diaspora and Migration* and the second section titled *Migration and Nepal* have three chapters. The writer has discussed about the socio-economic factors that affects migration and has discussed the issues of legal frame work and existing policies for the migrant workers. The section concludes that though Government of Nepal has promulgated Laws and Act related to migrant workers but lack sufficient effort in addressing the welfare of the migrant workers. The third section looks in more detail at Diaspora destinations for Nepali migrant workers. The author briefly discusses the features of diaspora destination and its impact to the Nepali migrant workers. And the fourth section of the book titled *Migrants, Ministry and Mission* summaries how Nepali migrants selects their migration destination, factor affecting it and how it is changing diaspora paradigm, new strategies like global partnership, multi-culturalism, ethnicity, inter racial relationship, hospitality are needed to improve welfare of the migration.

On the whole, this book provides in depth insight on socio-economic challenges including legal frame work of migrant workers. This book is not a scholarly treatise but rather an attempt to explore existing situation of migrant workers and way of solving that situation through mission. But the author has written this book from a Christian perspective. In the final chapter, the author claims that migration is always safe for those migrants and their family members who believe in the way of god and follows his path.

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