

[Home](#)[SAM](#)[Events](#)[Contact us](#)[News](#)[Our work](#)[Gallery](#)

## *Tibetan Youth Seeks Indian Citizenship*

18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015: Bylakuppe

The biggest Tibetan settlement in Exile has witnessed a first step of a transition from being refugee to an Indian citizenship, in a panel discussion organised by Social Action Movement under their People's advocacy wing. Mr. Bhaskar, Senior Advocate, District Court, Mysore and Mr. G. Achutha Rao, Govt. & NGOs Consultant, Karnataka State, have presented keynotes of Indian Citizenship for Tibetan under the frame of Indian constitution. In the presence of about 40 residents of Bylakuppe from different backgrounds, have participated in the program.

The panel discussion was started with a welcome speech by Mr. Penpa Sangpo, Secretary of Social Action Movement and their Executive Director Mr. Namgyal Chomphel, has highlighted the reasons of such program. Followed by Mr. Phurbu Tsering, a volunteer stressed the participants about the hindrance of Tibetans procuring Indian passport.

Mr. Bhaskar stressed on why Tibetans were not able to secure passport like local Indians as Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) Dharamsala stands as bond of contention between the two parties.

Mr. G. Achutha Rao conveyed that Tibetans who hold R.C. needed amendment if they wish to be Indians. The other interesting information shared by speakers that anyone whose income is 250000 lakhs per annum and above are eligible to purchase land in Karnataka State and added that Tibetans are minority here in India, their voice is not loud enough to pressure the Central Government of India.

He also expressed that a lot of consultation with the Government of India and Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) Dharamsala, H.P is required in getting the work done.

Followed by speaker remarks, the participants raised many relevant questions related to Indian law constitution, and the problems they face as Tibetan refugees/ foreigners in India while some became emotional when they raised questions.

The organiser spoke on behalf of Tibetan youth who seek for citizenship by briefing some of the vital points mentioned below.

- a. As per Section 3(1)(a) of the citizenship Act, 1955, the children born to Tibetan Refugees in India shall be treated as India Citizens based on their birth in India, on or after 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950 and before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1987.
- b. Request the Government of India to follow the constitution of India and confer citizenship to Tibetan offspring according Citizenship Act 1955 without any unnecessary hardship.
- c. The Election Commission of India has issued notice to all the states and Union Territories on 07/ Feb/ 2014 that Tibetan offspring born during the cut-off date should not deny enrolment of their names in the Electoral list.
- d. It has been more than one year since the Election Commission of India issued the notification. We feel discriminated as we did not get any direction from the D.C. office, Mysore till date.
- e. Depriving the citizenship is a serious violation of Fundamental Rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the constitution of India.
- f. Tibetan stranded in legal limbo in India repeatedly ask why we must endure permanent refugees/ foreigner status,

when the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) officials have citizenship. Therefore, the Indian government must confer citizenship without engaging the CTA.

g. What is not widely understood is that under Indian Law, Tibetans in India are not recognized as refugees. The Indian 'RC' the official document provided to Tibetans, is a 'Registration Card' not a 'Refugee Card'. Under the Foreigners Act 1946 and the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939, Tibetans are listed as 'Foreigners'

---

## *Latest News*

[tricycle Magazine Interview: Bhutan on the Brink](#)

---

[SAM Reach out Through Social Gathering in Bodh Gaya](#)

---

[Ex-Class Mates raise fund for Social Cause](#)

---

[ASP addresses Tibetans on RC, exit permit, return visa](#)

---

[Why I vote for Amdo Warrior Penpa Tsering for 2016 Sikyong](#)

---

## *Little about us*

We are group of young Tibetan who are interested in Commerce, Political science and social information, modern education and agreed to work together to make change. SAM which means Social Action Movement.

© 2012 [www.socialactionmovement.org](http://www.socialactionmovement.org) - Social Action Movement, Bylakuppe - India