Without any certain destination

Ashokshya Sharma

Some half a million nomads in Jammu and Kashmir are losing the battle to maintain their way of life amid conflicts over limited resources and a changing climate.

Every year, when winter gives way to spring in the Jammu region, the nomads of this farflung region are on the move again. From the midst of Himalayan mountains, they migrate to the plains of Kashmir, where they can graze their livestock. In this way, they have struggled to settle on the plains, it found. But, after a few years, they would be forced to return to their home in the mountains. This pattern is repeated every year, without any permanent settlement.

Dr Jackal Rathi, the foundation's national secretary, said that 37 percent of nomads have abandoned their traditional lifestyle in the last 15 years. "Due to the rising costs of fuel, food, and other essentials, many nomads have found it difficult to continue their traditional way of life."

Dr. Rathi also highlighted the need for government intervention to provide alternative models that are sustainable and suited to the particular needs of nomadic communities.

In addition, nomadic tribes have also faced challenges with changes taking place, according to the foundation's study. Traditional methods of farming, grazing land, and other practices are affected as a result of changing climate conditions.

"We are working closely with the government to develop a comprehensive policy for the preservation of the nomadic way of life," Dr. Rathi said. "It is our hope that this policy will be implemented soon to help nomads adapt to the changing climate conditions."