

# Power, Subjugation and Identity

Tracing the Marginalised



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## Issues of Marginality, Forced Migration and Trauma: A Reading of the Dalai Lama's *Freedom in Exile*

Prof. Roshan Lal Sharma and Rohitashv Yadav

Literally, the term 'marginality' signifies being located on the edge/margin. It has a spatial, socio-cultural as well as political dimensions. Stanco Pelc views marginality as being "on the margin of something. That something may be spatial, social, economic, political, etc." (13). Expanding the implications of marginality, Pelc further identifies it as a forced and an "involuntary position and condition of an individual or group at the margins of social, political, economic, ecological and biophysical systems, preventing them from access to resources, assets, services, restraining freedom of choice, preventing the development of capabilities, and eventually causing extreme poverty" (22). Marginality, in fact, originates the moment an individual (or a group of people) migrates from one cultural space to another.

The structural functioning of marginality hinges on the politics of assimilation and exclusion. The root cause of exclusion can be traced back to migration as Robert Park observes in his essay "Migration and the Marginal Man". Park views "marginality as a state of limbo between at least two