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## ***Shahri Jat and Pahari Jatni: Gendered Ethnicity in an Urbanizing Jat Village in North India***

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**ABSTRACT** This paper discusses women's changing roles in Shahargaon- a rapidly urbanizing Jat village in New Delhi, India. The paper traces the change in women's identity and roles in the context of shift in subsistence strategy from agriculture to an urban economy and examines how Jat women maintain rural- urban network ties and traditional Jat identity in an urban context. As the Shahargaon Jat community experiences social change brought about by urban expansion and assimilation, cultural practices associated with the traditional peasant Jat identity are now idealized as a means of maintaining ethnic boundaries between the Jats and the surrounding multiethnic urban population. Recent changes in Shahargaon have created new sets of conditions that further marginalize women by excluding them from public income-generating activities. In Shahargaon, like in several other urbanizing communities, women's economic roles as agricultural laborers have been replaced by their roles within the household and as carriers of traditions, customs, and practices associated with the community's agrarian past.