

## THE FORD FOUNDATION Grant Reporting Instructions

The Ford Foundation requires narrative and financial reports from all grantees based on a schedule specified in the Grant Notification Letter. The Foundation recommends that the narrative portion of the report be **between 3-8 pages** long. The Foundation prefers to receive reports by e-mail to [secretary@fordfound.org](mailto:secretary@fordfound.org), whenever possible. If you do not have access to e-mail, you may submit the reports in hard copy by mail or fax. Please note that if you submit reports by e-mail, you should not also submit a hard copy.

Grantee Name: Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) Grant Number: 10900358-0  
Reporting Period: 04/01/2009 to 03/31/2010

### Narrative Report

#### ☐ **Reflections**

Please reflect on lessons learned, events that have been significant to your work, changes that you believe may result within the next year or so as a result of the work conducted under the grant, ways in which you believe that the work performed will help the organization achieve its long-term goals, and/or challenges or surprises you have encountered during the most recent reporting period.

The research and dialogue program on “Development, Democracy, and Governance - Lessons and Policy Implications” has now completed its first year. This is a three year program whose components are the research segment itself, dialogues, workshops, public lectures, web based discussion, and publications. This is evidently a complex and multi faceted program where the main challenge is to coordinate the activities and bring out the desired results. From this angle the first year of the program has laid a solid basis for the next two years’ activities. The first year of the program concentrated on identifying and finalizing the research agenda, clarifying the research issues involved, building up the research collective, and anticipating new themes and areas that might prove relevant for the program. The first research workshop was a good beginning in this sense. On the basis of this CRG was able to firm up the research collective, which includes others besides the researchers.

From this point of view it was only natural that web based discussion would take some time to begin in a substantive way. However, CRG has been able to build up a web based segment, relevant to this program, and the second year of the research should see proper uploading of material, different resources, updating them, posting of the reports, and laying down a format of discussion. Reflecting on last year’s activities, it can be said that the public lectures which have already started have to acquire focus. However this is not easy given the fact that in the overall budget nature and nature of the program the public lectures do not have priority. But in order to reach the local audience (teachers, students and civil society members) CRG wants to give importance to these lectures. It will now plan these lectures better. David Ludden’s public lecture on ‘territory reorganizing’ was of course exceptional. It was attended by a large number of teachers and students from several social science disciplines interested in the theme of governance. It was a success. It was also the high point of the Third Critical Studies Conference, Titled as the Conference on “Empires, States, and Migration” (11 – 12 September 2009).

Most important is the fact that the interaction on the theme of development and governance has deepened our ideas on the theme and given us new insight as to how to pursue this research program. We are hoping that the second year of the program will witness the fruits of first year’s activities. We shall hold the dialogue on governance scheduled to be held in the first year now in the second year. This will be apart from holding the second research workshop to be held in Gangtok on 14-15 May 2010.

☐ **Activities/Issues Addressed**

For project support grants, please comment on the work done in regard to the proposed activities in the grant proposal. For general support grants, please comment on developments on the issues addressed in the grant proposal.

**Activities/Issues Addressed in Proposal**

- Research
- Organization of dialogues, conference, workshops, public forums, and public lectures (these are mainly in the nature of outreach and dissemination activities, though they combine input gathering purpose as well)
- Organization of web based material for wider circulation, interaction, and web-based and print publications (these will be mainly dissemination activities)

**Activities/Issues Addressed**

**Issues**

● **Research**

The whole research program has finally been modified and divided into four clusters:

1. Law, Legality, Legitimacy, and Issues of Governance
2. Science, Technology, and the New Style of Governance
3. Governance and Production of Subjectivities
4. Identity Needs, Developmental Needs, and the Securitized Response

Details of the clusters are given below -

**Cluster 1: "Law, Legality, Legitimacy, and Issues of Governance"**

- Ashutosh Kumar on *"Ideals of Developmental Governance – Imaginations and Manifestos of the Political Parties"*
- Benjamin Zachariah on *"The Indian State, Nehruvian (Anti-) Nationalism, and the Question of Belonging"*
- Kalpana Kannabiran on *"Citizenship, Popular Constitutionalism and Social Transformation: A Preliminary Exploration"*

**Cluster 2: "Science, Technology, and the New Style of Governance"**

- Dipankar Sinha on *"Development and E-Governance: Reflections on India's Democratic Experience"*
- Manish Kumar Jha on *"Whose Breach was it? Disaster and Development Experience through Embankment Years"*
- Parthasarathi Banerjee on *"Science and Technology for Governance and Coordination"*
- Sutirtha Bedajna on *"Between Growth and Sustainability – The Illusions of Environmental Governance in India"*

**Cluster 3: "Governance and Production of Subjectivities"**

- Anup Dhar on *"'Developmental Democracy' through Education: Production of New-fangled Subjectivities and Corpulent Psychic Economies"*
- Badri Narayan Tiwari on *"Culture, State and Governance: A Study of North Zone Cultural Centre, NCZCC, Allahabad"*
- Rajarshi Dasgupta on *"Governing a Democracy and Guiding Development - Recent Policy Explosion in India and Ethics in Governance"*
- Ranabir Samaddar on *"Governing the Minorities"*

#### **Cluster 4: "Identity Needs, Developmental Needs, and the Securitise Response"**

- Amit Prakash on *"Identity Needs, Developmental Needs, and Governmental Responses Reflections on India's Democratic Experience"*
- Ratan Khasnabis on *"Governing the Economy of Rural India"*
- Sujata Dutta Hazarika on *"Conflict and Development – Implications for Democracy and Governance"*
- Swarna Rajagopalan on *"Security and Development – Implications for Democracy and Governance in India"*

Most of the draft research papers have been received by 31 March 2010. With these CRG will now hold the Second Research Workshop at Hotel Takshang Residency, Gangtok on 14 – 15 May 2010 to discuss the papers. Eminent experts from various parts of India have been invited to attend the research workshop and to comment on the draft research papers. The received draft research papers have been sent to the concerned experts for their comments. It is to be noted that discussants form an important segment in the research collective, and are instrumental in promoting dialogues on the theme.

#### **• Organization of Dialogues, Conference, Workshops, Public Forums, and Public Lectures**

▫ **Two – day Research Workshop** was organized on the theme, "Development, Democracy, and Governance – Lessons and Policy Implications" on 17 -18 July 2009 at Sabhaghar I, Swabhami, Kolkata to design the research segment under the program. There were six sessions stretched over two days apart from the introductory and concluding sessions. Several research proposals were presented by notable scholars from various parts of India. Eminent experts were invited to comment on the research proposals.

The workshop recalled the meeting in Bhubaneswar- where CRG had placed the idea of studying the evolution of governmental practices in India. Studying government as part of postcolonial democracy is the main theme of this research and dialogue program. How to govern a democracy? How does a democracy come to be governed has not been addressed in the history of political ideas; whereas this has been addressed in political economy / economics in the form of studying governmental practices regarding markets. It has been expected to situate the entire issue in the context of the last 20 years of development – a theme that has in a way substituted nationalist imagination. The importance of developing a network of scholars working on the theme of Development, Democracy and Governance was mentioned considering the work is dialogic.

The proposal, *'Ideals of Developmental Governance - Imaginations and Manifestoes of the Political Parties'* initiated a discourse on the democratic transformation and raised the question whether or not it is able to reconcile the various areas within the rubric of 'new democracy'. The disaster management process of the state was highlighted in the proposal *'Disaster and Developmental Experience'* which shows that the response of the government came from its understanding of the possible electoral outcome. Ethnographic and anthropological literature shows how disaster produces subjectivities. Three questions that set the backdrop of the study, *'Developmental Democracy' through Education: Production of New-fangled Subjectivities and Corpulent Psychic Economies'*, are

- 1) For governance related questions; education is the site.
- 2) At other times; education is the conduit of producing subjectivities.
- 3) Governance of higher education system; state's obsession with the higher educational institution.

The proposal, *'Identity Needs, Developmental Needs, and Governmental Responses- Reflections on India's Democratic Experience'* hinted to explore the complex dynamics of the politics of identity and development that seems to anchor much of India's democratic experience. One breed of nationalist politics is development and another aspect is identity and how they intersect. The proposal, *'Governance and Development in Northeast in a Conflict-ridden state - Reflections on India's*



*Experience in Manipur* seek to explore the development and governance debate through the NE Vision 2020 pushed by the North Eastern Council (NEC). Something which is missing in the study of governance is the amount of violence that is used. The continuity of violence from colonial to post colonial societies was traced through a reading of Hunter and Sachar Commission Report in the proposal, *'Discipline and Development – Governmental Policy on the Minority Subject from Hunter to Sachar'*. Suggestion was there to look at how minorities are produced as democratic subjects; formation of democratic subjectivities. The proposal on *'Governing Rural India'* resorted to a Gramscian framework in which one defines state as 'force plus consent on hegemony armoured by coercion in which political society organizes force and civil society provides consent'. *'Development and E- Governance - Reflections on India's Democratic Experience'* proposed to address the extent of the thesis of Digital divide is tenable in facilitating the emergence of developmental democracy and how to strike a balance between the development – orientation and facilitation of democracy. The main emphasis of the research proposal *'Governing a Democracy and Guiding Development - Recent Policy Explosion in India and Ethics in Governance'* was to comprehend how the restructuring of the government in the dawn of liberalisation tries to translate the notion of good governance into practice, and what is its impact on the composition of the government through a detailed study of three institutions (the office of Ethics Commissioner, Rashtriya Lokayukta and the Ethics Committee) in neo-liberal governmentality. Discontinuities in the story within *'Representation of Dalits in Rural Governance'* were detected. It was asked if it is possible to re-read Ambedkar against the new context. The proposal *'Culture and Governance: A study of Zonal Cultural Centres in India'* centred on the questions like how Indian state formulates its preference to support cultures of the communities? How do they create its units, categories to govern and administer cultural support? Participants felt that critiquing the idea of constitutionalism with the idea of popular constitutionalism was the strength of the proposal, *'Citizenship, Popular Constitutionalism and Social Transformation'*.

**Following decisions were taken in the two - day research workshop:**

- The research workshop would become a collective.
- Three Clusters based on three sets of materials and comments were decided. They are:
  1. Law, Legality, Legitimacy and Issues of Governance
  2. Developmental Imperatives and New Style of Governance
  3. Governance and Production of Subjectivities
- It was decided that the revised research proposals should reach CRG by 20 August 2009.
- First draft of papers were to be submitted by 6 months.
- Three workshops would be organised in Delhi, Northeast India, and Hyderabad to discuss the first drafts in the following year.
- In 2011 the papers would be discussed in the conference.
- **Publication plan:** *EPW* special issue; *Seminar*, plus book (monographs and edited volumes) publications.
- **Website:** There would be an interactive section on the CRG website related to this research and dialogue program. Clusters would be represented there properly; likewise researchers (along with their profiles) would be listed there; web-based resources would be built up; appropriate links would be provided; along with relevant reports, publications, etc. Likewise, the resource material that researchers would have made use of would be placed there. The membership would however remain limited initially to the people now involved in the research and dialogue program.



#### □ Public Lectures

■ 'Spatial Reorganization of North Eastern Parts of British India, 1905 to Present' by David Ludden, Department of History, New York University at Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata on 12 September 2009 at Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata 12 September 2009

■ A Public Lecture Series on 'Globalization: Issues and Rights' at CRG Seminar Room on 14 November 2009. Following working papers were discussed:

- 'Negotiating Rights: Case Study of the Falta Special Economic Zone'

by Ishita Dey, Calcutta Research Group

Discussant: Byasdeb Dasgupta, Department of Economics, Kalyani University

- 'Voices from Jadugora: Understanding the Changing Dynamics of Managing Common Property in the Wake of Uranium Mining and Associated Risks in a Globalising Economy'

by Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty, Calcutta Research Group

Discussant: Manabi Majumdar, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)

- 'The Background of National Environmental Policy in India – Exploring Influences'

by Sutirtha Bedajna, Calcutta Research Group

Discussant: Sujay Basu, Jadavpur University

Chair: Samir Kumar Das, Calcutta Research Group

■ 'Development, Government, and Nehru Era' by Benjamin Zachariah, Reader in South Asian History, University of Sheffield, and Visiting Scholar to Calcutta research Group at CRG Seminar Room on 04 January 2010

Chair: Dipankar Sinha, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, and Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK)

■ 'The *Devas* and the *Asuras*: Interpretative Adventures of Indian Nationalism' by Sanjay Palshikar, Department of political Science, University of Hyderabad, and Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study at CRG Seminar Room on 05 February 2010

#### ● Organization of Web Segment

The special web segment for this program has been created on CRG website and launched on 29 March 2010. This is a secured section, limited initially to the people now involved in the research and dialogue program. Only the registered users (who are involved in the programme) can have the access of this section with particular user id and password. The section consists of the following sub-sections:

■ **Program:** It provides brief concept note on the research and dialogue program to the researchers, discussants, and associates.

■ **Researchers:** It shows concise profile of the researchers under the program with profile photo, short bio, contact details, select publication list pertinent to the program, and one or two pertinent writings in pdf format (previously published or unpublished).

■ **Discussants and Associates:** It will show concise profile of the discussants and associates under the program with profile photo, short bio, contact details, select publication list pertinent to the program. This page is now under construction.

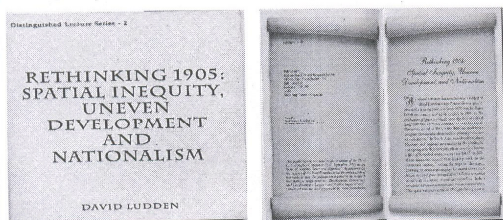
■ **Research Clusters:** This section provides four defined research clusters of the research and dialogue program with uploaded research proposals and draft research papers. There is also provision available to upload discussion comments for each research paper. All are in pdf format.

■ **Events and Announcements:** This page will provide the details of forthcoming and previous events (i.e. workshops, public lectures, public forums dialogues and conferences as well as announcements of publications) under the research and dialogue program.

■ **Links:** This page will provide web-based resources, appropriate links, relevant reports, publications, etc. Likewise, the resource material that researchers would have made use of will be placed there.

#### ● Publication

CRG has published the public lecture of David Ludden, Department of History, New York University, as *Distinguished Lecture Series – 2*, titled, *Rethinking 1905: Spatial Inequity, Uneven Development and Nationalism*. The e-copy of the cover page of the publication is enclosed here.



#### ☐ Indicators of Success

Please compare the original proposed indicators of success with the results achieved to date. Comment on any variances you feel require explanation.

##### *Indicators of Success Identified in Proposal*

- The quality, particularity, and the cogency of the work produced – and this can be understood only through public recognition of the impact of the work.
- Finding out if and how many new and competent researchers and participants in the dialogues have entered the program, and the quality of the diversity in dialogues and workshops.
- Attaining diversity of the locations and participants of the interactive programs
- Maintenance of the time schedule through 3 years
- The number of people accessing resources generated by program – web, print, library, and human resources, etc.
- Success in coming into contact with new networks working on similar issues and concerns
- Finally, and significantly, it will be a great test of the program as to whether CRG will be able to create through this work an impact on the terms of the discourse on developmental governance in West Bengal, where conflicts have become acute and violent over claims and counter claims.

##### *Actual Results to Date*

- As has been said already the research theme has developed into four clusters. The cluster approach has made the work more cogent and it has been able to attract public interest because the issues grouped under clusters can now be easily identified. In this way researchers are able to have the plurality of the issues in mind and at the same time can retain the focus on governance.
- A number of new and competent researchers and participants have joined the program. Participants including researchers and discussants who have already entered in the program are from various parts (e.g. from New Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra) of India.
- CRG is doing its best to maintain the time schedule of the program. The first research workshop was held in due time to initiate the research program. Based on the decisions taken in the first research workshop, the researchers were asked to send revised proposals by 20

August 2009. On the receipt of the revised research proposals contract letters with the details of honorarium and research allowances were issued. The first draft research papers were asked from the researchers within 31 March 2010. Most of the draft papers have already reached CRG and were sent to the concerned discussants accordingly. The discussant comment of about 1000 words for each draft research paper is expected to reach CRG by 05 May 2010. In this way, CRG is going to organize second research workshop in Gangtok on 14 – 15 May 2010, which is as per time schedule of the program. CRG has already organized four public lectures in Kolkata in previous year.

- Now that the special web segment has been created the second year of the program will see greater number of people accessing resources generated by the program. Already the print publication of the program has started with the publication of two research papers.

[1. ***Distinguished Lecture Series – 2***, titled, *Rethinking 1905: Spatial Inequity, Uneven Development and Nationalism* by David Ludden;

2. ***Policies and Practices – 31***, titled, *Local Dynamics, Universal Context: Border Trading Through Moreh, Manipur* by Dulali Nag (in press)]

We have also more visitors to our library.

- Finally, the impact of CRG's research on the discourse of development governance can already be seen. CRG's work on 'Social Justice' is now widely known and is the basis on which further work and dialogue on developmental governance is now being carried out. However, only in the second year we can see the results of the work done in first year.

## Goals

Please help us understand what you achieved with this grant in relationship to the larger goals you hoped to achieve.

### **Expected Goals to be Achieved**

#### **Long-term goals**

- Developing the knowledge base on some of the most critical issues facing India and other post-colonial countries, namely, conflicts over development, challenges for developmental governance, new types of mass response to developmental disorders, impact on democracy and current modes of representation and response;
- Developing the policy fund by concretizing the scattered experiences of both governmental responses to public views, and public dialogues on the development programs;
- Finally foregrounding the issue of a dialogic democracy in the conflict-prone context of development, globalization, and governance.

#### **Short term and Concrete Goals**

- Publishing seven to nine research papers in this period, and subsequently publish research monographs and volumes;
- Bringing the decade long research and discussion on some of the critical aspects of post-colonial democracy to a focused conclusion;
- Strengthening the network of development and rights activists in select areas through the program of dialogues, public forums, and public lectures;
- Bringing in new researchers and involving new interlocutors from diverse backgrounds;
- Strengthening the CRG website as an important tool for discussion, archiving, and interaction. This will work in consonance with print based literature circulation and face to face discussion – all these taken together resulting in diffusion of the policy knowledge exercise on development and democracy;
- Dissemination of the outputs of the exercise among the community of scholars and activists in select areas through popular distribution of reports of the dialogues, workshops, and other exchanges;
- Making effective policy interventions through the program.



### **Goals Achieved to Date**

#### **Long-term goals**

- CRG has kept in mind its task of expanding the knowledge base on some of the most critical issues facing India, namely, conflicts over development, challenges for developmental governance, new types of mass response to developmental disorders, impact on democracy and current modes of representation and response. The research themes, finalized in the first research workshop, reflect such attempt.
- Nothing new to be added on this. The program has been devised keeping in mind the goal to be achieved.
- This is the most important goal. In the second and third year we shall see greater emphasis on this.

#### **Short term and Concrete Goals**

- One research paper has been published and another is in print. The manuscripts for research monographs and volumes are now being prepared.
- With the publication of our earlier work on 'Autonomy' and 'Social Justice' there is now a deeper and critical dimension added to the study of post colonial democracy.
- The network of development and rights activists is now stronger.
- CRG has brought in new researchers and involved new interlocutors from diverse backgrounds under this research and dialogue program. The list of participants in the first and second research workshop support this achievement.
- CRG is strengthening the website as an important tool for discussion, archiving, and interaction
- Dissemination of the outputs of the exercise among the community of scholars and Activists will begin in the second year.

### ☐ **Organizational/Environmental Changes**

Please describe any significant organizational or environmental changes that have had an impact on your work during the most recent reporting period. Include a description of how you have responded to those changes and how your plans may change as a result.

There was no significant organizational or environmental change during the period under review.

### ☐ **Organizational or Management Challenges**

Please review any significant organizational or management issues you have experienced during the most recent reporting period (such as significant changes in your staff or board composition or other factors that could hinder the organization's ability to gather and interpret financial or program-related data). Please also highlight any outstanding needs for organizational strengthening.

The research collective needs to be strengthened more and the web site usage has to develop further.

### ☐ **Diversity**

Please describe any changes in the forms of diversity (e.g., gender, racial, cultural, religious, immigrant/refugee background, linguistic, etc.) to the Board or staff composition over the reporting period. If your organization has had any recent diversity challenges, please comment on these as well.

The diversity is retained. Details of this have been mentioned previously.

### **Financial Report**