



24-25 August 2022

**CLIMATE MIGRATION,
DISASTER, DISPLACEMENT
AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA**

A Workshop

**Venue: The Velvet Lounge , Swabhumi, Kolkata
89 C, Narkeldanga Main Road, Sarani,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700054**

The programme is part of CRG's ongoing research on migration and forced migration studies supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna and several other universities and media institutes.

A Workshop on
Climate Migration, Disaster, Displacement and the Role of the Media

Calcutta Research Group

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-South Asia, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna and the
Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA)-India

at

Velvet Lounge, Swabhumi, Kolkata

24-25 August 2022

24 August (Wednesday)

9.30 am-10.00 am: Registration and Tea

10.00 am-10:30 am: Welcome Address, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Rabindra Bharati University & CRG, Kolkata); & **Self Introduction by the Participants and Resource Persons**

Chair: Byasdeb Dasgupta (University of Kalyani, Nadia and CRG, Kolkata)

10.30 am-11.30 am: Inaugural Lecture: Planet Replaced, People Displaced, Media Siloed

Speaker: Richard Mahapatra (Down to Earth, New Delhi)

Discussant: Bharat Bhushan (360 info and CRG, Kolkata)

11.30 am-1.00 pm: Panel I: Climate Change and Displacement of Indigenous People

Moderator: Rajat Roy, Senior Journalist and Member CRG.

Panellists: Pallavi Sareen (The Straight Line, Jammu & Kashmir & RLS Media Fellow, CRG);

Mukta Joshi (Land and Conflict Watch, Maharashtra);

Muhammad Ruhul Amin (Daily Bhorer Kagoj, Bangladesh)

1.00 pm-2.00 pm: Lunch

2.00 pm-3.30 pm: Panel II: Disaster, Displacement and the Role of Citizenship

Moderator: Jayanta Roy Chowdhury (PTI, Eastern Region, Kolkata)

Panellists:

Wahida Parveez, (Green Hub, Assam and RLS Media Fellow, CRG);

Amin Nozmul Islam (Ango Khabar, Assam)

Saadiq Naqvi (Down to Earth, Assam)

3.30 pm-4.00 pm: Tea Break

4.00 pm-5.30 pm: Panel III: Gender, Displacement and the Role of Climate Disaster

Moderator: Paula Banerjee (University of Calcutta & CRG, Kolkata)

Panellists:

Banhi Sarkar (Researcher and Photographer, West Bengal & RLS Media Fellow, CRG, Kolkata)

Farhana Ahamed (The Assam Tribune, Assam)

Jennifer Kishan (Independent Journalist, Odisha)

Uzmi Athar (Press Trust of India, Delhi)

25 August (Thursday)

10: 00 am-11.30 am: Special Online Lecture: Climate Change, Migration and the Role of Climate Data

Speaker: James Goldie (Monash University, Australia)

Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, CRG, Kolkata

11.30 am-12.00 pm: Tea Break

12.00 pm-1.30 pm: Panel IV: Climate Change and its Impact on Labour Migration

Moderator: Richard Mahapatra

Panellists: Fatema Abedin Nazla (Bangla Tribune, Bangladesh),

Muna Sunuwar (Republica English Daily, Nepal & IWM Media Fellow CRG)

1.30 pm-2.30 pm: Lunch

2.30 pm-4.00 pm: Panel V: Media Approach Towards Climate Refugees, Disaster and Displacement in South Asian Economy and Society

Moderator: Shyamal Datta (Daily Bhorer Kagoj, Bangladesh)

Panellists:

Shahenoor Akther Urmi (The Business Standard, Bangladesh);

Mohammed Mostafa Yousuf (The Daily Star, Bangladesh)

4.00 pm-4.30 pm: Tea Break

4:30 pm-5:30 pm: Valedictory Lecture: Reporting Climate through the Lens of Migration and Displacement in South Asia

Speaker: Ramesh Bhushal (The Third Pole, Nepal)

Chair: Nasreen Chowdhory (University of Delhi, Delhi)

5: 30 pm-5: 50 pm: Closing Remarks, Bharat Bhushan (360info & CRG)

5: 50 pm: Vote of Thanks, Debashree Chakrabarty, CRG

Summary

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna and Commonwealth Journalists Association-India (CJA-I) held a two-day international workshop in Kolkata on 24-25 August 2022 on climate change and disaster reporting directed towards binding together the perspectives on climate disaster and the importance of reflecting on mitigation with special focus on the role of media in bringing climate change into public discourse. The workshop had been organised to train young journalists on crucial issues related to climatic change and pandemic reporting and associated migrations as well as presentations of case studies and evolving ethical standards for unbiased reporting. The impacts of climate change on gender, caste, occupation, children, and varied sections of society, roles and responsibilities of government in post-evacuation phase and the influences of media in forging implications on governance will remain among the focal theme of the workshop.

The workshop will bring together 45-50 participants – from India and countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Australia (online), and resource persons, trainers and workshop leaders will be eminent journalists and leading subject experts.

The workshop discussed the problem regarding the climate change from different aspects. The two day workshop raised several socio-political issues related with climate change and how the migrant has been unnecessarily blamed for this. The workshop was divided into five panel discussions and three special lectures on the different aspects on climate change.

Introductory Session

The session began with welcome remarks by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. He explained the necessity of the workshop. He said this workshop is a part of CRG 's long relationship with the journalists and media activists and its recent focus on the climate change and the trends in migration related to the climate change.



Bharat Bhushan and Richard Mahapatra



Inaugural Lecture by Richard Mahapatra

Inaugural Lecture

Richard Mahapatra in his introductory lecture on '*Planet Replaced, People Displaced, Media Siloed*', discusses the 'glocal' role of media in reporting the planetary changes affecting migration. Climate and migration have acquired a new dimension of mobility as planetary changes have become more apparently irreversible and the added human factor has created economies of inequality creating hierarchies of vulnerability in displacement. The barometers of this interconnectivity can be witnessed for example in labour markets like in Delhi in June-July every year where the flow of labour is intermittently dependent on the climatic conditions of floods, drought spells, etc. of the hinterlands which creates a push in distress migratory tendencies of the region or in the camps in Assam during the monsoons when people been hurdled as the deltaic regions are overflooded leading to massive

and sometimes permanent displacement as the lands subside in the underbellies of the river. All these incidents of migration are stories of climate displacement. Climate change is a global story. But for the South Asian region, climate change has a peculiar impact through the class and caste operation mechanisms affecting migration. It is an interface of time where we have replaced planetary change. People are not only displaced physically but they are displaced out of the relationship with life and livelihood. Capitalism has fastened the process of climate change resulting in massive displacement. There is not a single ecosystem that remains unaffected by human intervention. What we see as nature today is not the natural but the hybrid human-nature interface. And every change in the natural ecosystems becomes an individual's story of migration. Thus, the conception of migration has moved away its focus from displacement due to war only, and now disasters and climatic changes are displacing more people. The habitus is changing and the media needs to connect these dots of the foundational moments of planetary change to the stories of migration to economy, society, and polity. The world is not just globalised, the stories are also globalised now. The temperature change in the Arctic and the rising sea levels have an indirect impact on the life and livelihood of the people in the coastal belts and islands. It is the responsibility of the journalist to bring to the fore the local dateline and geopolitical scenario. The planet was globalised climate-wise sans any political boundary. But its impact on the local population has created multiple eco-climate zones affecting the livelihood differently. Every global development has a bit of local impact. Previously, every migration was linked to the eco-political scenario and the term climate change was rarely induced as a cause and hence not reported. The migration data is looked through the human index and hence mostly remained political in nature. Now the time has come to look through the non-human factor as well. Even in digital reporting that is more dependent on keywords search, the term climate is the least used. The more commonly used terms are disasters. Disaster is not a homogenic term. It is now a requirement of media reporting to broaden the usage of the term climate reporting. Migration is reported as a coping mechanism to draughts, floods, and war, but the time has come to report it within the context of broader climate change. The axis has to change now. Development and disasters have now to be contextualised in the widening perpetuation of climatic change which is all pervasive. Environment journalism has slowly mainstreamed itself. Every development has a climate meaning attached to it.

Panel I: Climate Change and Displacement of Indigenous People

The panel on '*Climate Change and its Impact on the Displacement of Indigenous People*' had three speakers Mukta Joshi, Md. Ruhul Amin and Pallavi Sareen. The central focus of the panel was the integral connection of land relations to indigenous population and the policies of the state that

envisages creating a sedentary society and the failures that occurs hence catering to the need of the migrant. For the indigenous population, the political economy of the land encapsulates its ties with the environment. In the current times where the carbon footprints are impacting the climate change dramatically, indigenous people are the first protectors against climate change with minimal bio prints in the environment. However, it is the indigenous communities who are the most vulnerable in the face of disasters. Since the indigenous communities are dependent more on natural resources environmental change and extractionist capitalism affect the indigenous communities the most. Climate change hence at one point is also the beckoner of conflicts as well. Land conflict Watch tracks the ongoing land and natural resource conflicts in India across a range of parameters like the number of people affected demands made by the communities, the pre-existing laws etc. Opposition to environmental degradation by communities is the second most frequent issue of reporting besides the rising trends of forest rights, illegal land acquisitions etc. While looking at the displacement of the tribal communities it is important to look into the rights of ownership of land which is regulated by the 2006 Forest Regulation Act considered to be one of the most progressive acts to the benefit of the indigenous communities. However, the legislative procedures of proving the generational right and other necessary documentation renders the Act partially ineffective. But for the pastoral nomadic community, the problems of displacement are related to the changes in the habitat due to climate change. The livelihood of the pastoral nomadic communities like that of the Gujjar Bakharwals of Jammu and Kashmir depends on migration depending on the availability of the grazing lands in the plains and the higher lands in different seasons. However, in the past few years these communities are moving towards sedenterised living and giving up migration as due to the impact of climate change impacting the availability of pasture lands is decreasing. The shrinking biome for the herds threatens the livelihood of the nomadic communities depend on them. Climatic change is not homogenous and neither are its effects which are controlled primarily by the landscape of the region that affects the livelihood patterns of the population. Bangladesh for example is more prone to disasters due to its low deltaic terrain and is frequented by cyclones and the frequencies of such floods and cyclones have increased over the past decade leading to massive displacement of people rendering them homeless. River erosion in places like Satkhira, Firozpur are more frequently witnessed and other climatic factors leading to rising water levels around Sylhet or sudden instances of flooding in urban cities like Rangpur are also cumulatively adding to the increasing migration of people from these areas even if the cause does not lead to complete displacement. Although dams and embankments have been constructed as a protective measure against flooding but arrangements are not sufficient. It is this displaced population that constitutes the mobile workforce in urban cities like Dhaka and becomes a part of the informal economy. The mainstream media or the urban media is mre focused on reporting

the changing politico-economy of the nation and reporting from the periurban, rurban, and the rural relegates to the background leaving even fewer chances for climate reporting until it reaches the level of national disaster with prime economic concern.



Panel I: Rajat Roy, Pallavi Sareen, Mukta Joshi and Md Nurul Amin



Panel II: Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, Sadiq Naqvi, Wahida Parveez and Amin Nozmul Islam

Panel II: Disaster, Displacement and the Role of Citizenship

The session begins with the Wahida Parveez's presentation . Parveez begins with the D voter issue of the Election Commission which strips the victim from the right to vote and entails that they now have to provide proof-of-citizenship. She then proceeds to highlight the dilemma of people who move for work. The Border police ask for their details, providing a doubtful citizenship content as a reference case against that person, who lacks any valid reason. Citing the example of Tahmina Khan whose name appeared in the 1993 voting list-name appeared, but in 1997, D appeared against her name. Her father's name appeared in NRC 1971. On filing RTI, to ascertain the legal provision on which her name was marked as D, neither the ECI nor State Election Commission had any records about the case. When another 25 people joined to file writ petition to the SC for removing D against their name for lack of any reasons and to be well-compensated for mental trauma. SC agreed, yet more than 6 months later - there's no actions taken by the state government and other agencies as instructed by the SC. Ms Parveez encountered during her fieldwork, that the questions by the Foreigner Tribunal are repetitive and intimidating. Lawyers too, aren't well-aware about such cases, in addition to 99% of the people who fall prey to this are uneducated. Then follows the situation where even after being released from detention centres, there are no solutions.



Documentary Screening

The documentary features the life of Momiron Nessa, in Assam who is a victim of the D-voter system of the Election Commission of India. Adding to its peculiarity, the case intermingles the relationship between climate change, disaster, and how these factors have exacerbated the contestation of citizenship. Belonging to Takakata char, a river island in Barpeta district of Assam, the area is surrounded by tributaries of the Brahmaputra river that originates from the Himalayas. Possibly due to melting glaciers and other factors such as dam construction in the river's preceding terminus - its size have vastly expanded thereby inducing regular floods in low-lying areas such as those, in these chars. In addition to flooding, eroding soil continues to destroy the livelihoods of the char inhabitants; displacing Momiron and her family, and having to rebuild their livelihood. Moreover, Momiron's name appeared as a D voter despite having been eligible to vote five years earlier and that her grandfather/father's name appeared on the 1951 NRC list. However, in the latest NRC list, even their names did not appear neither did Momiron's, her brothers', her two sons except for those of her husband and her daughter.

The lawyer that her family hired to contest her de-voter label, absconded with the Rs. 5000 her father had paid him. While still unaware that the police had sent a notice to the village headman about her, the latter owing to his old-age denied any knowledge about her when asked by the police. Finally when the police caught hold of Momiron; she was tricked into thinking that she'd only need to sign a

paper at the police station and then return back. However, that was in fact her first day in the detention centre or jail.

Life in detention

She'd remain there with many other 'inmates' for the next 10 years - without any charges. To list a few ordeals during her time in detention; she lost her grandmother and her husband, served food infested with mice, insects and rats, tea made with drops of milk powder containing no sugar, and more inhumanely the lost of her unborn child during her initial months in jail which was suspiciously only three days after she was injected of what she thought was TT injection, prescribed by doctors in jail. She took part in protests along with others there, to no avail as the police would reason that all of these events took place under complete awareness of the government.

Life post detention

Following a Supreme Court order, Momiron was finally released from detention after having spent more than 10 years there. Yet she wasn't yet freed, as she'd still have to weekly report about her 'presence' to the police station which consumes money and time beyond her affordability. Also a widow now, she has to solely shoulder the responsibility for her children.

Amin Islam's presentation depicts the Miya (Muslim) community who inhabit areas along the Brahmaputra river banks and island such as the Char-Charpori. Historically, a migrant community brought into Assam from Bengal by the Colonial Government to engage in agricultural work. Flood, soil erosion, vulnerable livelihood, poverty and illiteracy are a daily reality of their life. Mr Amin's purpose is to showcase the daily life of people in river islands, through his pictures. One of the first pictures depicted a depleting river island whose land size has greatly diminished over time. The following pictures showcased the huts of Char submerged in flood, firewoods being shifted amidst flood water, residents engaged in jute production, women and men — both equally engaged in farm cultivation, girls in burqas riding their bicycles to school, people walking through water as there are no roads, children bathing by the riverbank and rearing cattles, children lounging in what looks like an old boat looking at nothingness to show their limited hopes in them, a blacksmith and chair-dwellers while at work, a man standing in a sugarcane farm, a man yanking a horse out of the water, buffaloes bathe by the river, a man casts a fishing net, fishermen men assemble their catch, and many others such.

Mr Jayanta Roy Chowdhury highlights how continuous soil erosion has whipped up these residents to abandon farming and switch to fishing. Reiterating on a topic that Mr Islam partly gave a focus to, Mr Chowdhury further expanded on how children's education gets disturbed due to migration as migrants regardless of where they move, have to continuously prove their identity and their origin, and insufficient documentation denies these migrant children the access to education.

Sadiq Naqvi begins with highlighting the fact that politics of Northeast has remained stuck ever since the 1970s because political parties continue to exploit citizenship as a major topic. Conversations on topics such as climate change, migration and displacement are not taking place as much as they should. *(Referring to Ms Parveen and Mr Islam's presentation)* This issue has been going-on ever since partition and we're still dealing with it in the same arbitrary way as we did in the past. For example, people who migrated in the 1940s or even earlier still have to run pillar and post to prove their citizenship. The state has failed to address the issue despite Assam and the neighbouring states having witnessed migration all the time. A UN report stated that the Indo-Bangladesh border is the largest corridor in Asia yet there is no system in place to look at the immigrants and avoid looking at them with suspicion. For example, for a person moving from Lower and Upper Assam - if that person contains such racial features, there'd be a local vigilante group or a cop that would accuse the person that they don't belong there without any proof. Cops make arbitrary enquiry reports that would merely state that the person is a daily-wage labourer, travelled through a 'chor rasta' without specification, that they've come from Bangladesh and they'd come to Assam after 1971. Hence, they're declared foreigners. In Assam, more than 1.5 lakh people have been declared foreigners.

The state has been unable to respond, firstly there was the Foreigners Order of 1964, then the IMDT Act where the burden of proof still lie on the state so the number was still down. In 2003 when the Act was repealed, the number jumped more than 3 times in less than two decades. Then the Government came up with the NRC exercise with the consensus of people of Assam including that of Bengali Muslims of Assam. Instead of 1.5 lakh foreigners now we have 2 million people on the verge of statelessness. At a time when we should be focusing on pressing issues such as climate change, displacement, policy to handle displacement. Similarly in Arunachal Pradesh the Chakmas who moved there and to Mizoram from Chittagong in 1960s. They have become second-class citizens in Mizoram and they're still struggling for citizenship in Arunachal even after the Supreme Court Order. Their issue of a menial resident certificate has induced conflict leading the government to retract back its decision.

Panel III: Gender, Displacement and the Role of Climate Disaster

The third panel was moderated by Prof. Paula Banerjee of Calcutta Research Group (CRG). The presenters were Jennifer Kishan, an independent journalist, Odisha; Uzmi Athar, Press Trust of India, Delhi; Farhana Ahmed, journalist, author, film critic, film maker, social activist, and environmentalist, from Assam; and Banhi Sarkar, researcher and photographer, West Bengal and Media Fellow of CRG.

Jennifer Kishan talked about how every story today is a climate story, and climate stories are also gender stories as some specific challenges of women during disasters - like menstrual health or urinary tract infection or gender based violence or the disparity between women and men getting governmental aids – all of these are both gender and climate issues. She talked in details about how, in disaster managements, the scarcity of women representatives makes it difficult for women to avail the minimum aids that are usually offered to them. For example, when she went to a remote village in Bihar after a disastrous flood, after talking with the women living in camps, she understood that no government representative mentioned about the poor camp conditions for women, and even though food packets were being given, there were no provision of sanitary pads. So in order to address gender specific issues, governments should hire more female workers. Also, during disasters, there is an increase in workload for women. For example, water filling is an additional burden on women in drought-prone regions of Orissa. As climate change is an overarching issue that affects everything, the role of media is to actually link gender to climate issues, as the effects are progressively increasing the vulnerabilities of the people who are already marginalised.

Uzmi Athar talked about the combined effects of Covid and climate change on women. The increasing rates of trafficking is alarming. She also addressed the ethical dilemmas of the people working in the field – namely the activists, journalists, academicians – about how to do something regarding the situation other than writing.

Farhana Ahmed talked about how flush floods and river bank erosion creates different forms of socioeconomic and demographic problems such as loss of livelihood, loss of education, failing health condition, loss of homestead land, etc. which ultimately force the victims to migrate. She focuses on the Muslims of East Bengali descent of Assam, who live in the greater part of the banks of the Brahmaputra at its downstream and migrate to urban areas in search of livelihood. Most of the climate migrants are engaged in various construction works of infrastructural projects in Assam and its neighbouring state Arunachal Pradesh as cheap and unorganized labour force. The climate-driven displaced migrants have no choice but to move towards the construction sites, often with their women and children. At the construction sites, they live in makeshift arrangements without any basic amenities like drinking water, proper sheds and toilets. The women at the construction site face lack

of safety and privacy. Access to healthcare services is another issue that these women face in construction sites. As they are migrants, their health documents like immunization cards, institutional deliveries, and various health cards are either lost or unusable in the new location to avail the healthcare services. Matters related to menstrual health and neo-natal and post-natal care are bigger difficulties that these women face. Similarly, these families often cannot use their PDS cards to avail food grains and other facilities in their workplaces. Apart from these, women and children, along with their menfolk, are under constant pressure of being labelled as “foreigners”, “infiltrators”, or “Bangladeshis” in their places of works, and there are regular harassments by local outfits sometimes forcing them to non-state detention and expulsion leading to reverse migration to their original places lost to flood and bank erosion. This also leads to migration outside Assam and the Northeast to other Indian states in search of livelihood.

Banhi Sarkar showed how she has tried to document how women of Kumirmari village of the Sundarbans are dealing with climate-induced migration, through the presentation of her photographs. Owing to habitat loss due to climate change, and lack of livelihood opportunities, the island dwellers are compelled to migrate to nearby towns and cities in search of a more stable life. Usually, the men of the families migrate to nearby states in search of jobs and livelihood opportunities while the women are left behind to take care of the household. This, in turn, has varying effects on the cultural geography of the region. Sarkar tried to document the varied ways in which the women of Sundarbans are grappling with climate-induced migration in terms of managing the household, working in the fields, dealing with habitat loss, and an increasing frequency of cyclones, floods and subsequent loss of livelihood opportunities within the island, with a key focus on five women from Kumirmari. She attempted to capture them in their immediate social and geographical element, as they go about their daily routine that shows a distinct pattern of the onus of added responsibilities, chores, and emergency preparedness falling on the women as a result of the men migrating elsewhere in search of better economic prospects.

Paula Banerjee pointed out that “we live in a ‘paid world’, and everything we write we write with our own political consciousness and we do not live in a political vacuum”. Linking climate change to migration, she pointed out that the women who accompany their men in the construction sites are the one who provide care work – thus women are doubly burdened and more vulnerable in the unorganized labour industries. These women are usually underpaid as they often come as an appendage to the men and, hence, they face issues at the workplaces as women workers and as women, and, even at that place, they have to do the works like cooking, looking after their children, etc. Muslim women migrant workers are labelled as “Bangladeshis” and are usually alienated. So, the police does not help them out even in their hour of need,

as Ahmed pointed out. These issues add new dimensions to the gendered vision of climate change and forced migration.



Panel III: Paula Banerjee, Farhana Ahmed, Jennifer Kishen and Banhi Sarkar



Panel IV: Richard Mahapatra, Muna Sunuwar and Fatema Abedin Nazla

In the question answer session, Debashree Chakraborty tried to problematize the notion of vulnerability and asked whether the level of vulnerability is same for everyone in the society. In reply, Prof. Banerjee explained that socio-economically well-off people will also have some vulnerabilities, but class, gender, religion, and social position create hierarchy of vulnerability or multiple vulnerabilities. Someone from the audience also pointed out the fact that there is a hierarchy of aid distribution in post-disaster management. Sarkar was asked about the returnees who were trafficked in the Sundarbans during the pandemic and whether they are accessing the aids that are supposed to be given to them by the government. She shared her experiences in the village of Kumirmari where she did not find anyone accessing these aids. Another question came from Piya Srinivasan who asked about the tiger widows of the Kumirmari village. Sarkar informed us that, because of the mistrust in the Forest Department, most of the tiger deaths are not notified to them and women usually don't go to the Department for any purpose. As a result, there is no proper representation of the tiger widows or of their situation in the media. A participant from Bangladesh pointed out that the Bangladesh government provides aids to the tiger widows, whereas in India there is no such system exists. This opened up a dialogue on the differences and similarities between the lives of women migrant workers or underprivileged women of India and Bangladesh and the need of sub-regional discussions between the above mentioned countries to better understand the overall situation of climate change

and migration. Dr. Samata Biswas asked whether the alternative media provides more space to cover news of climate change or issues regarding climate migration, and what blocks the mainstream news houses to cover these issues. The enriching panel ended with Dr. Biswas's insightful comments on how the new or emerging media can be used as a new platform to cover the stories of forced migration and climate change, and how the people who work in media can positively contribute in the process. Sarkar added that new media offers more space and freedom than the mainstream media. Hence, if journalists work out a suitable mode, then the issues of climate change and migration can also be included in the news. Also, as everyone is moving towards digital media, this way the news can reach more people.

Panel IV: Climate Change and its Impact on Labour Migration

The fourth session was moderated by Richard Mahapatra, Down to Earth, New Delhi. The presenters were Fatema Abedin Nazla, Bangla Tribune, Bangladesh, Muna Sunuwar, Republica English Daily, Nepal & Media Fellow CRG. Richard Mahapatra introduced the theme and the presenters and highlighted some important points regarding the session.

The first presentation was made by Muna Sunuwar. In her presentation, Muna Sunuwar spoke about the impact of climate change on migration from Nepal's perspective. She focused on forced migration due to unexpected flash floods. Her research area was Chanaute village located at Helambu Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchowk district. She highlighted the huge flood that occurred in the Melamchi River of Sindhupalchowk district partially or fully damaging the settlements beside the river. Over 20 people went missing in the floods which wrecked properties worth billions of rupees. More than 500 households were displaced following the incident. The new settlement located 500 meters away from Chanaute has been named 'Naya Bazaar'. The land owners and new settlers have inked an agreement to lease the land for 10 years. However, the new settlement has not been able to accommodate a whole lot of Chanaute dwellers. They were able to build 30 temporary houses and 35 shops in the new settlement.

She discussed the role of government. Locals accuse the local government of neglecting Chanaute in terms of rebuilding and relocation. The government has announced to provide NRs 500,000 to the people who lost their houses in the disaster. The government recently provided the first tranche of NRs 50,000 to the victims for building temporary houses. Nevertheless, the residents complained that the amount is not enough.

In conclusion, she suggested that the Nepal government should remain prepared to mitigate natural disasters by building the capacity of officials in agencies involved in disaster management and also the elected people's representatives regardless of their postings. Locals should also be invited to training,

drills, and discussions related to disaster management. Taking the financial and human losses caused by natural disasters into consideration, the Nepal government has no choice but to place disaster management as one of its priorities.

Fatema Abedin Nazla talked about climate changes and labour migration from Bangladesh's perspective. She highlighted the Impact of climate change on Bangladesh. She pointed out that, Rising seas, floods, and intensifying cyclones are just a few of the impacts that make Bangladesh one of the most climate change-vulnerable countries in the world. Due to the geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to sea-level rise, increasingly powerful cyclones, floods, and more. U.S. government report found that whopping 90 million Bangladeshis (56 percent of the population) live in "high climate exposure areas," with 53 million subjects to "very high" exposure. Scientific American describes how "climate change in Bangladesh has started what may become the largest mass migration in human history... Some scientists project a five-to-six foot [sea-level] rise by 2100, which would displace perhaps 50 million people."

According to her research, besides climate change, the major reasons for the migration of the labour class people from rural to urban or overseas were unemployment, lack of regular employment, low wage rates, and hope for a better livelihood. She highlighted that recently two types of voluntary international migration have been seen in Bangladesh; (1) industrialized western countries and (2) Middle Eastern and South East Asian countries. With time, international migration became part of the country's economic, social and political fabric. By the example of Noakhali, She highlighted on some impacts of overseas labour migration: 1. Women empowering 2. Participating in local politics 3. Returnee migrants and investments 4. Socio-economic development 5. Cultural and academic scenarios developed 6. Huge impact on the country's national economy.

She also focused on intra-city migration and illegal labour migration. According to her International migrations build up the nation's economy, but intra-city migration creates a social-economical hazard. To establish her argument she examples a few slums in Dhaka cities like Bholabasti, Korail, and Vashantak slums. She mentions around 2 million people moved to Dhaka due to river erosion. Besides, Ethnic Minorities are forced to leave their birthplace to survive. For Example, she pointed out that Mundas from Shatkhira left for an Increase in water salinity.

She suggested that if Bangladesh can prepare skilled labor for migration, that might change the displacement scenario. At least, the country's economy will survive strongly.

These two presentations were followed by an enriching discussion where the two paper presenters received very insightful and constructive feedback in the form of questions, clarification, and suggestions from the participants.

Prof. Ranabir Samaddar asked Muna Sunuwar to put some light on earthquakes and displacement in Nepal. She was also asked to clarify the role and the step taken by the government. Fatema Abedin Nazla received questions regarding formal and informal migration and was asked to discuss government policy on return migrant workers and women migrant workers. She was also asked to clarify women's empowerment due to migration. She was also asked to highlight the role of marginal people in politics.

Panel V: Media Approach Towards Climate Refugees, Disaster and Displacement in South Asian Economy and Society

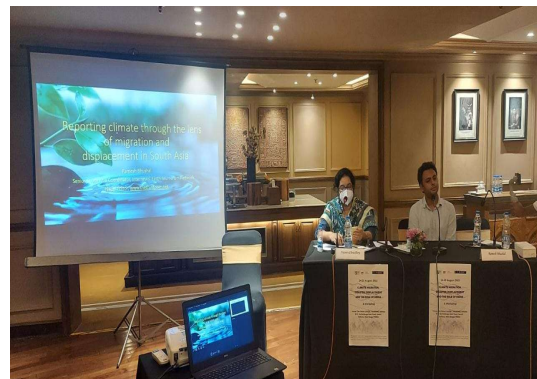
The last session of the workshop was moderated by Shyamal Datta from *The Daily Star*.

As the title suggests, the session focused on the exigencies of climate change in South Asia – Bangladesh to be precise as both the panellists talked about the ravages of climate change in Chittagong. Shahenoor Akhter Urmi discussed the impediments of climate change in Coastal Chittagong and Mustafa Yusuf focused his discussion on the Chittagong Hill Tract. Shyamal Datta initiated the discussion by stressing on the importance of the association of neighbouring states in dealing with climate related problems. He pointed out to the importance of bi-party relationship between Bangladesh and India in terms of developing riverine connectivity.

Shahenoor Akhter Urmi did a photo-presentation of the impact of climate change on women's health. It was a detailed presentation on how the rise in global sea levels has impacted the lives of people, especially women in the Chittagong coast of the Bay of Bengal. Rising sea level means that the sea, the Bay of Bengal in this case, is fast encroaching parts of the land and engulfing the coastal villages and hamlets where thousands reside. It also means that sea water has taken into its ambit the fresh water bodies and as such there is a severe water crisis as well. The brunt of the severity of the impact lies mostly on women as they have to spend considerable amount of time working with water for their household chores. Long term exposure to saline water is causing skin disease among women. Their menstrual hygiene and reproductive health is getting compromised as they suffer from saline water induced ailments. There is no proper health care system at place and the only advice they receive from doctors is that of using fresh water which is a luxury particularly because of the its unavailability. Many young girls have taken resort to using birth control pills in order to avoid menstruating at all and women remain at an increasing risk of being abandoned/ left by their husbands because of the skin

diseases they contract as a result of using saline water. Urmi's presentation thus focused on the social and health impacts of climate change.

Mustafa Yusuf spoke about the generic lack of interest in climate change reporting in Bangladesh despite the fact that there is no dearth of media houses in Bangladesh. He presented statistical data to show how climate change reporting in Bangladesh is mostly absent in spite of the fact that it is one of those countries that is most vulnerable of climate change. Yusuf also throws light on the difficulties of reporting about climate change as the concept of it is very much rooted in scientific jargons and hence it is difficult for even journalists to understand and write on it. He mentions that the task of making climate change intelligible to general readers is one of the reasons of editorial apathy which in turn makes it more difficult to do reports on climate change. He also touched on the debate between development and conservation and particularly focused on how increasing heavy downpour is making it increasingly precarious for the people of CHT to even live there. Displacements due to landslides is almost a regular feature in the area and government's increasing push for "development" is making the situation worse. However, Yusuf concluded his presentation on a positive note noting that more young journalists are now reporting on climate change in Bangladesh.



Panel V: Shyamal Dutta, Mohd Mostafa Yusuf and Sahinoor Akhter Urmi **Valedictory Address:** Ramesh Bhushal and Nasreen Chowdhory

Special Online Lecture by James Goldie

Title: Climate Change, migration, and role of Climate data

In his opening remarks, he described the context of his presentation and the key themes he would be emphasising and discussing, which include the complexity and intersections of climate impacts; interdisciplinary data sources for data-driven journalism; and tools and people that can help that can

enhance reporting. Afterward, he gave a quick introduction to 360info.org, an independent, non-profit newswire service backed by Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He highlighted that all the content delivered through the organisation is based on facts, evidence, and research that covers a variety of issues, with an emphasis on the SDGs. They are attempting to supply constructive, solution-based journalism that any media outlet can easily use. In doing so, the organisation ensures counter-alt-facts and post-truth confusion with clear claims and disclosure based on research and evidence via transparent practises and accountability. He then briefly discussed his background in data journalism and his PHD research on the effects of climate change on human health.

Moving forward with the presentation, he emphasised that climate change is pushing displacement and migration into even bigger issues in the modern world. While quoting the IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, he said climate and weather extremes are increasingly driving displacement in all regions, especially with small island states being disproportionately affected. He continued by explaining that it is their responsibility as journalists to locate pertinent subject-matter specialists to understand the situation. Illustrating the fact that many climate change problems have various factors and have different forces coming together. Thus, they need experts from interdisciplinary fields of work. He continued by describing the components of climate risk, which include hazards, exposure, and vulnerability, particularly from the displacement and climate change perspectives. Though the hazard is itself a risk, it also depends on how much exposure we have to these hazards. Also, the frequency of these hazards. However, the frequency of the hazards is not the only damaging thing. It can also include other external factors like demographic changes, behavioural changes, or changes in societal design. Additionally, some people's vulnerabilities are simply determined by how well or poorly they have adapted to that exposure. He made note of the fact that any one or all three of these risk components may keep a researcher busy for their entire career. This raises the question of whether researchers collaborate across fields to address issues such as migration and climate change. He then illustrated how research chains come in handy. It consists of researches from interdisciplinary areas of research, including demographics, economics, law, statisticians, etc., supplying different sorts of dataset. Thus, the research chain provides various layers and steps of knowledge that were developed via the intersection and cooperation of various experts.

On the final note on the interdisciplinary nature, because of different steps and different forms of knowledge coming together, he pointed that climate impact reading is really hard, especially to note and predict future trends. Thus, he stressed the importance of many analytical models that can aid in our understanding of why so many people are getting displaced and why the climate behaves as it does. Also, possible mechanisms to investigate further. Thus, there is a need for data to cut through the complexity, and that can only be done through locating the experts—researchers and journalists, etc He listed several

websites that can provide information on the climate, including Climdex, Climatedataguide, public.wmo, climate impactlab, Climatecentral, Germanwatch, and the Global Internal Displacement Database, among others.

Towards the final segment of his presentation, he discussed the tools, such as KnightLab, Datawrapper, and flourish.studio, etc., that may be used to augment reporting using visuals and data, particularly from the standpoint of a journalist who does not already have advanced data journalism analysis abilities. He did, however, mention that one may also slip in their own reporting. Data journalism, however, is not something that can be done alone; one needs the assistance and cooperation of data journalists, graphic designers, interactive designers, and knowledge brokers at research centres who may help build visuals but always pre-plan with accurate data sets and proper timelines in mind. Yet, one cannot undermine the need to scrutinise the climate data made by scientists and research organisations. Finally, he again pointed out how 360org is helping journalists work with data. It is a big part of what 360 is all about. The organisation provides graphics and data on a wide variety of topics.

During the question-and-answer round, a question was posted regarding the board themes 360org is working on. To which he responded that usually it revolves around SDGs. However, we are open to collaboration on various themes depending on the yearly work calendar and scope. Another query was whether all visuals and graphics are only in English or if there is scope to introduce content in regional languages. Upon which he responded that generally it is English, but we are open to collaboration and partnerships where we can work together to produce translations, as 360org has limited resources for the same. Adding to this, Mr. Bharat Bhushan highlighted that Mr. Uday Vani in Kerala is translating some of the 360 org reports into Malayalam and that the PTI Hindi service, i.e., PTI Bhasha, has been translating a lot of 360org reports too. Later, Mr. Ramesh Bhushan asked whether 360org also provides the dataset or just the graphics and visuals etc. In response, he explained that generally it depends on the project, but 360org does try to make the dataset available with a standardised data format. Then, Prof. Samaddar submitted a query regarding its print appropriateness. Dr. James responded by stating that the majority of usage at the moment is digital, but it also has to be case-by-case as 360org is looking forward to more such collaborations. We can then evaluate and update the needed format. However, as far as visuals and graphics are concerned, we make sure they are clear and readable even if they are printed. Finally, Anisha Shaha of Calcutta University inquired about how 360 engages with confidential survey results. Are they published? And how can they be accessed? So far, Dr. James illustrated that 360org has not published any survey reports. We have only done a few datasets based on commercial or pre-existing published survey results where we have gone back to the publisher for permission for reproducibility.

Valedictory session

The session chaired by Nasreen Chowdhory, University of Delhi.

The valedictory address was given by Ramesh Bhushal, the topic of his lecture was “Reporting climate through the lens of migration and displacement in South Asia”. While involuntary migration is on the rise and is likely to increase in future due to climate change there is much to report on how this could affect communities and what policies and instruments are needed to address this problem. As less has been reported on climate induced migration and it is still under debate on what should specifically be called as climate induced migration there is a need to have a different lens to look at migration especially by the media. As science is getting stronger to establish links for climate induced disasters and the global recognition for climate induced migrants is under serious debate, the media has a role to play to shape it up and inform policymakers and the general public on this issue. Therefore this is the high time to bring all the stories on migration and climate change. Bhushal also give some examples how the changes in climate badly affected the nature and its impact on migration. He concluded with the fact that it could be disastrous if we continuously ignored the devastating effects of climate change.

The concluding session was moderated by Bharat Bhushan. He summerized two days discussion and suggested to built a strong network of researchers, activists and media persons who will work on the pertinent issues like climate change, disaster and migration.