

Research Output of the Course

Research papers produced out of the programme are published in the Journal *Refugee Watch* and CRG research paper series, *Policies and Practices*, both of which are distributed widely to all significant educational institutions and United Nations institutions. The orientation programme is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG's ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG's original research work.

The research papers published in CRG publication series and also referred by the module coordinators during the course are:-

Two research articles were published together in Policies and Practices No 41 titled *Finding a Point of Return: Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka*. Decades of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka are said to have left around 800,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Some estimates put the figure at more than one million people. On an average one in every 18 Sri Lankan is displaced; in the Northern Province it is one in every three persons. Apparently, the majority of displaced people are mainly from the northern and eastern provinces. S. Y. Surendra Kumar's article 'Conflict and Internal Displacement In Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable Solutions' delved into this issue, locating the causes of displacement (from military campaigns to developmental projects, from majoritarianism to uneven political development); it also brought out the details of an ongoing process of finding a solution for and rehabilitating the displaced people.

Fathima Azmiya Badurdeen in her article, *Conflict, Displacement and the Conditions for Sustainable Return: A Study from the District of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka*, did a thorough local-level study to understand the larger ramifications of the problems of IDPs and finding durable solutions for them. Trincomalee was chosen because most of the returnees settled there in 2007. This article showed how any administrative attempt to hastily resettle displaced people often failed to stabilize the situation. It needed a more sensitive overhaul of property relations, infrastructure, education and the condition of political participation.

Policies and Practices No 42, titled *Colonialism, Resource Crisis and Forced Migration*, written by Subhash Ranjan Chakraborty, studied the patterns of forced migration initiated by colonial rule. During the colonial regime, India became a part of the capitalist 'world system', but India's increasing integration with world trade produced, in effect, increasing pauperization. The resource crisis led to massive migration of people, often as casual, intermittent and poorly paid labour. Massive movements of people were more often than not the product of denial of entitlement to livelihood in the rural areas to the majority of the people.

- **Refugee Watch**

The theme of *Refugee Watch* issue No. 37 was *Development, Displacement and Dignity*. The following articles were published in this issue, which directly dealt with the problems of displacement and forced migration:

- *Security among the Refugees and Quality of Life: Case of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Living in Camp in Tamil Nadu* by Gladston Xavier and Florina Benoit

- *Practising the 'Guiding Principles' for Development's Displaced: Problems and Prospects* by Sudeep Basu
- *Rethinking 'Women' in Forced Migration* by Anita Ghimire
- *Recognizing the Dignity of Migrants* by Francois Crepeau and Ranabir Samaddar
- *States' Obligation to Protect: A Perspective from Global North* by Anne Claire Gayet

Apart from the abovementioned articles, three reports were published which dealt with various issues of conflict induced displacement and the memories of the displaced.

The theme of *Refugee Watch* issue No. 38 was *Disaster and Displacement: Gaps in Protection*. The following articles were published in this issue:

- *Women and Population Flows in India* by Paula Banerjee
- *Most fatal malady": Media, Migration and Identity in Assam* by Ksenia Glebova
- *Life after Empires: Comparing Trajectories of Workers in Plantations (Assam) and Kolkhozes (Kyrgyzstan)* by Sanjay Barbora
- *Erasing Residence Rights in Slovenia* by Maja Breznik & Rastko Mocnik
- *Disasters and Displacement: Gaps in Protection* by Roberta Cohen & Megan Bradley
- *Patterns of Internal Displacement in Nepal* by Monika Mandal

All these contributed to the reading repository of the Ninth Winter Course on Forced Migration.

• **Refugee Watch Online (RWO)**

RWO is a co-publication of *Refugee Watch* on the flow of refugees, other victims of forced migration, and the internally displaced persons in South Asia. It presents news and views, critiques and analyses of policies of states and international humanitarian institutions with regard to forced migration and forced population flows across the borders in this region. The Refugee Watch Online has an editorial board comprising some of the alumni of the past six courses and editorial board members are responsible for coordinating the edition of every month. Details are available on <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.com>. This year again, we are planning to redraw the editorial board of the RWO to include the participants of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration.

Short-Term Field Visit Grant

Two young researchers, Anwesha Sengupta, Research Assistant, CRG, and Anindita Ghoshal, Assistant Professor, Rishi Bankim College, Naihati, West Bengal were awarded short-term field visit grants under the orientation course programme.

Anwesha Sengupta in her research deals with the migration of Muslims from India to Pakistan, especially from eastern India to East Pakistan, which is a less worked area in partition studies. There are obvious reasons. The Indian archives are largely silent about this as the trek of the Muslims towards Pakistan reveals, at one level, the limitations of 'secular' India, and at another, the failure of the government to protect the citizens. In Bangladesh, too, scholars have very rarely spoken about the refugee flow from India after 1947, though the national archives of Bangladesh have rich, but fragmented, material on this. In the nationalist frame of thought, the history of India ends in 1947 with the collapse of British

Empire in South Asia. The history text books seldom explore the post-colonial times. Similarly, in the nationalist frame of Bangladesh academia, the language movement and the liberation war loom large. The ‘second’ partition’ (1947) is almost forgotten by the people. However, the materials that were consulted during this short field trip to the Dhaka archives provided important insights about the experiences of ‘Indian’ Muslims during partition and after. The major questions that guided this archival research were about the nature of violence on Muslims in West Bengal and eastern India, their migrations to East Bengal and their rehabilitation there. During this short trip, files under the Confidential Report Branch within Political Department between 1947 and 1952 were consulted.

Anindita Ghoshal indicates that after Partition the story of the refugee influx in Tripura was one of gradual dominance of migrants over original inhabitants and was, therefore, unique. Tripura is the only tribal state in the bordering areas of North-Eastern part of India that received a large number of Hindu Bengali-speaking refugees from East Pakistan and experienced a total demographic upheaval. Tripura saw several waves of refugee influx, as the borderlands remained open till the 1980s. Yet, the last phase of immense forced migration through the Akhaura border was at the time of Liberation War (1971), when the central and state governments had to provide them temporary relief and rehabilitation. After the emergence of Bangladesh, many stayed back, often as illegal immigrants who later managed to get their citizenship. This project made an attempt to assess why the refugees who came in the 1950s got easily absorbed in a different, predominantly tribal, society. However, from the 1960s, the tribals became vocal about their rights in their land and protested against the state’s initiative to rehabilitate a large number of Chakma refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The first generation of Bengali refugees also showed no sympathy towards the refugees who came later. This project explored various efforts of the refugees for survival in an unfavourable situation and how it altered the psychological nature of a community.

Both the reports will be published very soon.

Ongoing Areas of Research

The course is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG’s ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG’s original research work. This year the broad research theme that has been explored with special emphasis is ‘Statelessness in India’. CRG is working in a group comprising Atig Ghosh, Suhit Sen, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Gladston Xavier, Anup Sekhar Chakraborty, and Subhash Chakraborty. The main objectives of this research are fivefold: (a) To map with a broad brush various groups of stateless persons and take stock of their conditions in India; (b) To review the relevant literature and upgrade our knowledge bank on statelessness and update the baseline by way of gathering insights from various reports, accounts, memoirs, government documents, etc, available to us; (c) To study from a comparative perspective, the general condition of statelessness in India and prepare a state-of-the art report on various categories of stateless people listed out in our study; (d) To explore and suggest policy alternatives in order to address the problem of statelessness in India; and (e) To disseminate knowledge thus acquired into the larger civil society by way of conducting dialogues and workshops with various sections of the societies under review and institute CRG as a node of coordination amongst them. Keeping these objectives under consideration, our researchers are working on four case studies: ‘Migrations and the Problem of Citizenship/Statelessness of Gorkhas in North-East India’, ‘The Chinese

of Calcutta', 'The Stateless People of the Indo-Bangladeshi Enclaves' and 'Statelessness of Up-country Tamil in Sri Lanka and India'.

Follow-up Programme

- Two-day workshop on **“Forced Migration, Statelessness, and Issues of Citizenship in South Asia”** in collaboration with Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi held on 22-23 March 2012 at the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia.

There were twenty-four participants from diverse backgrounds and various institutions. The workshop had three segments: theme lecture, special lecture and a roundtable discussion. The special lectures were delivered by Sanjay Chaturvedi, Panjab University, Chandigarh; Atig Ghosh, Ranabir Samaddar and Nilanjan Dutta. Chaturvedi talked about the politics of scientific discourse that has developed in the U.S.A., and the West broadly, regarding climate change and its effects on the Global South, with particular reference to Bangladesh. Ghosh talked about the social difficulties of everyday life in the *chhitmahals* (Indo-Bangladesh enclaves), the political tussle over the *chhitmahal* between India and Pakistan and after 1971 between India and Bangladesh and the issues of identity for the people living in these areas. Samaddar discussed the concepts of citizenship in the contemporary world. He argued that though traditionally the figure of the migrant is the 'other' that defines the 'core', i.e., the citizen, it is possible today to see migration and citizenship as a part of a continuum. In today's world, where mobility of labour is extremely high, the domain of citizenship practices is no longer an autonomous site. A migrant may also very well be part of this domain without having all the rights that a citizen enjoys. Samaddar stressed the need to study the practices first and then develop conceptual notions of citizenship and migration, instead of going the other way round, i.e., making an attempt to understand practices through theoretical frames. Dutta talked about the role of media in depicting the problems of forced migration. He argued that the media, both within India and elsewhere, is market-oriented. Therefore, they are reluctant to talk about the forced migration which necessarily leads to forced occupation which is detrimental to the development of market forces.

The theme lectures were delivered by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Paula Banerjee. Basu Ray Chaudhury focused on the problems of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The issues regarding the definition of IDPs, difference between an IDP and a refugee, the reasons behind internal displacement, the vulnerability of these people, the legal regime regarding internal displacement and its loopholes were highlighted in the course of this lecture. He specially focused on the problem of internal displacement and the problems of the IDPs in India's northeast. He also touched on the problem of statelessness in South Asia. Banerjee emphasized the need to analyse forced migration through the lens of gender. Her paper demonstrated how the experiences of men and women vary in every stage of forced migration, like the conflict stage that pushes people out of their homes, the actual phase of migration and the rehabilitation phase. Though her paper particularly focused on the trauma of women in South Asia, she discussed the difficulties faced by the men who are forcefully uprooted. She concluded her lecture with a power-point presentation on 'Women and Dam in North East India'.

Two roundtable discussions were held. The first was on 'Politics of Protection in South Asia'. In this session, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Sudeep Basu, GIDR, Ahmedabad and Mukesh Bagoria, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce participated. This session was

moderated by Nasreen Chowdhory (D.U.). The next roundtable session, moderated by Sanjoy Hazarika, was on 'Resource Crisis, Environmental Displacement and Forced Migration'. The participants were Ishita Dey, Quaisar Alam, Kalindi College, Delhi and Sushree Panigrahi, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies. In the valedictory session, Montserrat Feixas Vihe, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, New Delhi, and the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia, S.M. Rashid, were present. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury.