Date: 26.12.2014

To

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group,

GC-45, SectorIII, First Floor,

Salt Lake, Kolkata 700106

Phone:91 -33-2337-1523

Subject: Submission of Abstract in for the Research Workshop on Forced Migration Studies.

Dear Sir,

We are undersigning persons drawing your kind attention to the fact that, we have created an abstract titled **“A Conceptual Analysis on Environmental Forced Migration in Bangladesh: Human Rights Perspective”** which is related to the workshop theme **‘Conceptual issues in Forced Migration studies’.**

We hope your kind consideration for the acceptance of the abstract which will encourage us in advancing our academic and research oriented activities.

Best,

Asma Al Amin, Advocate and Lecturer of Law, BGC Trust University Bangladesh.

Faruqul Islam, Lecturer of Law, BGC Trust University Bangladesh and Full Member, Commonwealth Youth Council.

**Title:**

**A Conceptual Analysis on Environmental Forced Migration in Bangladesh: Human Rights Perspective**

**Theme:**

**Conceptual issues in Forced Migration studies**

**A Conceptual Analysis on Environmental Forced Migration in Bangladesh: Human Rights Perspective**

*Asma Al Amin\**

*Faruqul Islam\*\**

 *“Climate affects us all, but does not affects us all equally”*

*Ban ki –moon, Secretary General of the United Nations*

*Traditionally, the concept of forced migration refers to the coerced movement of a person or persons away from their home on fear of persecution due to war, conflict, repression etc. But there may be situations when environmental degradation and natural disasters forced people to migrate from their home to other place for livelihood.Migration due to environmental degradation is called environmental forced migration popularly known as environmental refugee.The concept of environmental migration within a state which is known as internally displaced person is not a new one. Movement of population due to climate disasters like droughts, floods,riverbank erosion, coastal cyclones and tornadoes is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh.Every year a huge portion of the population is displaced, both temporarily and permanently because of these natural disasters. As Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries of climate change, it faces increasing environmental forced migration within and outside its territory. Because of high growth of population and climate change the poor populated areas are most at risk of environmental destruction. Climate change is itself a threat to the livelihood and security of life of the poor peoples. The International Organization for Migration estimated in 2010 that Bangladesh alone would produce 26 million climate refugees in the future. When peoples are displaced from their home due to climate change and environmental degradation their right to livelihood, right to adequate housing, and right of equal access to education and right to development are severely affected.There are a number of legal instruments and frameworks at the international level such as International refugee laws, Human rights laws, environmental laws and international humanitarian laws, but, the status, treatment and protection of people displaced by climate change are uncertain under the current international laws. This issue is not addressed by the policy makers in most of the case both nationally and internationally. There is no clear and general definition of environmental displaced person. Neither the rights of the environmental displaced person are guaranteed by specific laws. There is a need to recognize the displacement of people within the country so that proper action can be taken to address their problems.In the context of Bangladesh it has signed, ratified and acceded most of the international conventions, treaties and protocols related to environment but still the supreme law of the land does not guaranteed environmental rights as a fundamental right. Although Art.18A of the Bangladesh Constitution tells about protection and improvement of environment and biodiversity but Article 31 and 32 together incorporate the rights to life which extended to the right to a healthy environment. But unfortunately it remains silent about the rights of the environmentally displaced persons and about their rights which is a clear and straight ignorance of their fundamental right to life. In this context we would like to show the harmony between environment and human rights. The paper will focus on the forced migration of people within Bangladesh due to climate change and environmental degradation. The paper will discuss the legal and human rights status of environmental forced migrants under national and international law frameworks.It will also make recommendations for the protections of right of the environmental forced migrants.*

***Key Words****: Bangladesh, Environmental Forced Migration, Fundamental Rights, Environmental Refugee, International Human Rights Laws.*

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