

Vol.7, No. 1-2, Jan-Feb 2018

Roots and Routes

Monthly Newsletter of the
Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism



GRFDT
Global Research Forum on
Diaspora and Transnationalism



Roots and Routes disseminates latest information on research
and policy development in Diaspora and transnationalism

www.grfdt.org

CONTENTS

GRFDT Event

Report of the Book Launch: "Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora" Report by **Monika Bisht**

Article

Indian Poor as Political Tools

Datuk Datuk **Dr Denison Jayasooria**

Global Update

Indians in USA: **Dr. Anjali Sahay** Appointed to Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

International conference on Transnationalism, Culture and Diaspora in the Era of Globalisation"

Book Review

International Migration and Development in South Asia

Monika Bisht

Editorial Information

©GRFDT. Roots and Routes is Printed, designed & circulated by GRFDT

Editors: **Arsala Nizami & Monika Bisht**

Editorial Board: **M. Mahalingam, Rakesh Ranjan, Smita Tiwari, Rajiv Mishra, Rahul Kumar, Diksha Jha, G. Srinivas, Sadananda Sahoo, Feroz Khan, Tasha Agrawal**

Design and Production: **Monika Bisht and Rakesh Ranjan**

Email: editor@grfdt.com

Website: www.grfdt.org

Editor's Message

Dear Readers

Wishing you a very happy and prosperous 2018!

This issue brings to you a report of the launch of Prof. Ravindra K Jain's book, 'Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora' organised by GRFDT in collaboration with Routledge. Prof. Deepak Nayyar, former VC, Delhi University released the book. This was followed by panel discussion, which included panellists such as Prof. A.C. Sinha, Prof. Vivek Kumar and Mr. Shirish Jain.

Diasporas and migrants, being transnational actors, impact and influence their homeland and host-land in several ways. Similarly, the home/host nations also have channels of influence on diasporas and migrants. This issue, through a commentary and book review, highlights the channels of influences and its impact that both diaspora/migrants and home/host-land have on each other.

Dr. Jayasooria's commentary, 'Indian Poor as Political Tools' analyses the Malaysian government's agenda for poor Indian community residing in Malaysia. It discusses structural weaknesses in the governmental machinery to successful and practical implementation of the inclusive development of the Indian community especially the urban poor. It is further stressed by Dr. Jayasooria that to address the problem of urban poverty and inequality, a multi-dimensional intervention strategy and orientation of civil servants as well as NGOs is required.

This issue consists of a book-review titled 'International Migration and Development in South Asia' by **Monika Bisht**. The book describes and analyses international migration of South Asians and its contribution to the overall development of the region. It further examines the migration experiences of South Asians in terms of political, social and economic dimensions. This issue also features the report of three-day International Conference on "Transnationalism, Culture and Diaspora in the Era of Globalisation" during 21-23 February 2018 organized by Centre for Study of Diaspora at Central University of Gujarat, Sector-29, Gandhinagar.

In addition, this issue consists of a news section on Dr. Sahay's appointment to Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in the US. Finally, this issue comprises of a report of the book-launch, a commentary, a book review, a report of the international conference and a news section. We hope that this will be an interesting and a thought-provoking read. We wish you a happy reading and look forward to your comments and suggestions for a meaningful engagement on the subject.

Thanking You,

Monika Bisht and Arsala Nizami



GRFDT Event

Report of the Book Launch

Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora

GRFDT in collaboration with Routledge organized a launch of Prof. Ravindra K Jain's book, 'Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora' on January 22, 2018. Professor Deepak, former VC, Delhi University released the book. This was followed by a panel discussion, which included panelists such as Prof. A.C. Sinha, Prof. Vivek Kumar and Shirish Jain. Following sections present extracts of the speeches of the Panelists.

Prof. Deepak Nayyar, former VC, Delhi University.

Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I consider it a privilege to be in your midst this evening. And I would like to thank the publisher for their invitation to release Professor Ravindra Jain's new book, Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora. It is, indeed, an honour to do so. I have known Ravi for more than 45 years. I moved to JNU perhaps a decade after he did, which was to become the intellectual home for both of us.

Professor Jain is one of the India's most distinguished sociologists and anthropologists. This book builds on his deep understanding of social and cultural anthropology, and a lifetime of research on the Indian diaspora, fo focus on globalization in our times, through the lens of what he characterizes as diasporic migrations. The word 'diaspora'

was first used to describe "Jews in Exile". Its metaphorical use now extends far beyond its original meaning. Ravindra Jain's narrative and analysis sketches a picture with bold strokes on a wide canvas. There are comparisons across the world. There is a multidisciplinary method. There are detailed case studies of multicultural societies. Complex issues of ethnicity and identity, or modernity and tradition, are situated in the wider transnational and geopolitical context.

I am an economist with an interest across social science disciplines. Yet, I do not have the knowledge and understanding to provide you with an introduction to, let alone an evaluation of, the rich texture and multiple layers of the discussion in this book. I leave that task to the panelists.

There are, however, three propositions that emerge which I would like to highlight. First, it is simply not possible to separate theory from methodology or from empirical work in the social sciences. This book weaves theory, ethnography and field work together in a seamless manner. Second, international comparisons always require description and analysis as successive logical steps that need integration in the social sciences, just as diagnosis and prescription are part of the same process in medicine Third; it is meaningless to distinguish between anthropology as the study of other societies or cultures and sociology as the study



of one's own society or culture. The distinction is essentially a colonial construct that began life in the West to understand the Rest (much like Indology as a subject). In my view, sociology and anthropology, even if different, are one discipline. So are economics and political economy. It is not possible to study one without the other.

There are two points related to the book that I would like to mention briefly to this audience, Both arise from my own work, as an economist, on international migration and on globalization.

For understanding the link between countries of origin and destination in international labour migration, it is necessary to think across social science disciplines rather than just economics, history, geography or even sociology There are links between countries in the migration process in each of these spheres Post-colonial ties, a common language, or cultural similarities have often shaped the direction of cross-border movements of people: from the Indian sub-continent and the Caribbean islands to the UK, from Algeria to France, or from Indonesia to the Netherlands. Existing diasporas are often embedded in history: the origins of the Indian and Chinese diasporas across the world can be traced to their movement as indentured labour following the abolition of slavery in the British empire. Geographical proximity is often another determinant: from Mexico to the United States, from Eastern Europe to Western Europe, or from Indonesia to Singapore. There is, of course,

a sociological dimension. Migrants follow trails charted by pioneers. The existence of an immigrant community, with which the migrant shares a language, nationality or culture, in the country-of-destination, becomes a source of cumulative causation that continues to shape the direction of labour movements: from Turkey to Germany, from India to the United States, or from China to Canada. The same sociological nexus of migrant networks explains why such migrants come from a particular region (rather than anywhere else or everywhere) in the country-of-origin and move to a particular region, sometimes even specific cities in specific activities (instead of a more uniform geographical distribution) in the country-of-destination. It is worthy citing one example of this phenomenon at a macro-level. A significant proportion of taxi drivers in New Yorks are migrants from a few district in the state of Punjab in India. Different disciplines in the social sciences- economics, sociology, history or geography- also ask different analytical questions, which makes them complements rather than substitute in any understanding of international labour migration in any understanding of international labour migration or diasporas.

In thinking about the globalization during twenty-first century, it is interesting to juxtapose the past and the present to understand the temporal dimensions, or the age, of diasporas attributable to migration at different points of time. There is a connection that is attributable to the



diaspora from the past and to globalization in the present. The diaspora from India and China, beyond its traditional meaning of Jews in exile, has its historical origin in indentured labour. There is a significant presence of this diaspora from the two Asian giants across the world not only in industrialized countries but also in developing countries. This is associated with entrepreneurial capitalism, Indian and Chinese, across the world. Migrants from other developing countries are entrepreneurs too but, for historical reasons, the number of people whose origin lie in India or China is so much larger. The advent of globalization has also made it easier to move people across borders, whether guest workers or illegal immigrants, most of who come from developing countries and many of them stay on in industrialized countries often in an incarnation of small entrepreneurs. On a smaller scale, there is a movement of professionals from developing countries who can migrate permanently, live abroad temporarily, or stay at home and travel frequently for business. Those people are almost as mobile as capital. This phenomenon is associated with their rise as managers to the top echelons of the corporate world in the age of shareholder capitalism. The most striking example is the substantial presence of professionals from India in the United States and the United Kingdom. Of course, these are similar professionals from other developing countries, such as Brazil, Mexico or South Korea, in the industrialized world. The juxtaposition of different vintages of diasporas from the same home-country and in the same host-country, also raises an interesting set of questions about the ageing of migration streams shapes social and cultural aspects of diasporas.

The book by Ravindra Jain is an engaging read. It would interest not only those interested in social and cultural

anthropology, or diaspora and migration studies, but also those with an interest in multicultural societies with large immigrant communities, that are a reality in the contemporary world. I commend it to all of you.

Prof Vivek Kumar, CSSS, JNU

Speaking on the occasion of release of R.K. Jain's book "Innovative Departures: Anthropology and the Indian Diaspora," Prof Vivek Kumar of CSSS, JNU said that the book was a scholarly work of Dr Jain condensing six decades of his academic life. The 169-page book has 18 pages of bibliography and lists 35 publications of Dr Jain, which speaks about the rich scholarship that has gone in the making of the book. The book provides analytical insight from anthropological sense on the methods and methodologies on the subject while making comparative analysis of Diaspora. The book, Prof Vivek said, includes a detailed analysis of old and new Diaspora. While empirical data has been borrowed from the old Diaspora, the context of analysis relates to the New Diaspora. It also offers empirical explanation of multicultural societies of Malaysia and South Africa.

While talking about who will benefit from this rich scholarly work, Prof Vivek said that the book highlights 10 disciplines including, social sciences, cultural studies, Diaspora, migration, ethnic, foreign affairs, public policies and govt think tanks among others who would benefit from the book which contains rich experience of an academican. The book is also a rich compendium of definitions and has conceptual explanation on issues like community, culture and ethnicity, which have been, defined and analyzed in contemporariety.

It is erroneous to think, Prof Vivek pointed out; that the western scholars are predominantly concerned with theorizing while eastern scholars mainly look into empirical reality. The scholarship lies in cross breeding of concepts and interdisciplinary which is not merely an outgrowth, but an integral part of knowledge system and foundational aspect of vocation. Prof Vivek said that interdisciplinarity and reflexivity are the twin pillars of anthropological studies.

Prof Vivek said that he found a very cogent definition of anthropology in Dr Jain's book where he calls it a "human science" which explains the methodological understanding of the subject and also relates to transformation in the objective of the subject. He said that Diaspora studies now studies 'the self in the other and the others in the self.' The book engages and problematizes the very meaning of Diaspora and the transnational settlement of communities. He said that departures are the most prominent features of diasporic community, which is a certainty while their destinations keeps on changing. Also the fact that Indian diaspora is not a monolithic community as its history has seen multiple departure and settlement.

Caste is another distinctive feature of Indian Diaspora, Dr Jain mentions in his book. People do not migrate as merely a biological soul but they also carry cultural baggage with them. Dr Jain provides data from longitudinal anthropological research of 50 years on caste as names and associated behavioral stereotype. The book also introduces the concept of 'culturalisation of politics' while mentioning the hierarchy and inequality among the Indian diaspora.

The book also laments the fact that the Indian Gulf migrants, who include working class, lower class and Muslims and contribute most in terms of remittances, have not been offered any special privileges by the Indian government.

Professor R.K. Jain

Professor Jain could not attend the book launch on account of illness; therefore, his address was delivered by his son Shirish Jain. Shirish Jain conveyed the message of his father by reading out a passage from the conclusion of the current book. He stated that this passage has relevance in this junction and time where diaspora issues and diaspora studies are gaining significance as Prof. Nayyar stated in his address. He read the following passage from the book- "an anthropologist like the present author would squarely be on the side of those who are called a thin version of scientific rationality and democracy rather than a thick one. If it is clear that those scientists and historians to speak nothing of the literatures who rebel against the silence if not complicity of the ruling establishment in the face of instances of fundamentalist intolerances are pro-

testing against voices and activists who seem to distort the India civilizational heritage politically in an anti-democratic fascist direction. This allegation is no less denied by the latter. But, unfortunately no stout defense of their position that they are not acting in a bad face as being articulated thus far. Perhaps, an honest effort to garner, preserve and augment our pluralistic cultural heritage in sync with the changing times would provide an answer to this crisis". After having read the passage, Shirish Jain stated that this passage emphasizes and contemporizes the content of this book.

Professor A. C. Sinha

I have been deliberately asked to talk about the book and the person. Professor Jain is among very few anthropologists of this country who got a chance to work on all the continents as a student, as a researcher, as a scholar and even as a visitor for example South Africa. He is a very rare person with a very wide complex. I found the book very intense. A dense book written by an intense personality. Professor Jain is known as a man of very few words. If you ask him something, he starts with humming. But, his humming has many meanings. This thin book that we have just released is hardly 150 pages but contains 23 pages of bibliography. Just imagine how much work he must have digested to produce this book. Prof. Jain is a very well read person. The amount of ethnography he had got, he digested and made relevant statements, for example what Shirish Jain had read out how much text it had, but how many meanings it had, how many messages it had and how deep it is.

It takes time to read and understand it. I read the conclusion again and again, but didn't follow many things. Not because of the language, because of the intensity of the debated contents, the idea it has and observed trends, debates and general statements he has made. If you put all together, you will have to scratch your head many times. So, I take it as a complement for ethnologists are known to describe things. They give information and rarely make statements. Here is an anthropologist who has produced a number of works which are very significant.

With this, I come to the book part. I repeat it is a dense book, written by an intense scholar. A work of anthropology. Some of you are aware how anthropology classical started. Classical evolutionary anthropologists were more concerned with origin of family, origin of marriage, origin of property and state. Today, the anthropologists are looking at the roots in diaspora. They look to the roots originating in a different way, so origin is not lost. This concern of looking for roots is a living reality of the people and at the same time, this is the concern of scholars. So, there is a meeting point of ethnography and scholarship.

Article

Indian Poor as Political Tools

BN government agenda for Indian community

I have been involved in policy advocacy since 1997 when I joined the MIC Social Strategic Foundation. While many recommendations and proposals were submitted through the 1st national economic consultative council and the 2nd very little strategic and focus intervention was undertaken. Poverty was measured and priorities set which did not directly benefit plantation workers or the displaced plantation workers who migrated from estates to urban squatters and now reside in high rise low cost flats in urban centres in 38 districts in Malaysia.

During my time at YSS (1997 to 2008) there was however the start of many new initiatives by providing access to minority Indian community directly into government programs which was originally targeting Bumiputras such as GiatMara and opportunities for skills training, MRSM and also at Tekun & AIM micro loans. In addition, there were direct grants via YSS for social development especially among the urban poor and intervention to improved Tamil schools both education and infrastructure. The coordination and implementation was directly undertaken by the MIC as a party and its social arms. The MIC as a party stabled educational institutions as well as provided scholarship. However, these were not enough to address the complex community and urban poverty issues.

In the post Hindraf events of late 2007 and early 2008 and the impact of the 2008 and 2013 elections we saw a major shift in government approach for the Indian community. This was largely due to the inclusive development policy adopted by the Federal govt in the 10 Malaysia plan and the setting up of special implementation units under the PM office & dept. Much of these more structured interventions emerged in the Najib administration. Now there is a Blue print as well as a dedicated department in the PM dept to coordinate the implementation & delivery of socio-economic development of Malaysian Indians. There was a gradual development from a party focus intervention to government administration intervention.

While these are good there are currently some major structural weaknesses, as a special department on Indian concerns cannot replace the fully arm of the government but it can complement and coordinate it. The total government machinery is not well oriented toward the practical implementation of the inclusive development policy. It would require both mind-set orientation ie paradigm shift in delivery as well as structural changes such as higher recruitment of non-Malay staff in critical agencies such as social welfare, education, police, economic development, local council staff, youth department etc is urgently needed

Why Indians left behind?

The early Alliance and BN approach was that each of the community leaders who are in the cabinet take care of their



community. It was in the NEP period that special programs and institutions set up to address poverty in the Malay community. However now via the Eleventh Malaysia Plan and Malaysia adopting the sustainable development goals – the UN 2030 agenda it is "leaving no one behind". However there are many delivery and implementation issues so as to ensure that no community or section of Malaysian society feels alienated from prosperity and well-being.

There are sections of Malaysian Indians especially former plantation workers who were displaced and who migrated to urban squatters and who now live in high rise flats. Urban poverty is not just the absence of income but there is the cycle of poverty and development issues linked with low income, low educational qualifications and skills, under employment, mind-set, past experience of injustice and exploitation, loss of confidence in political leadership whom they feel did not fight for their rights, family related issues, alcohol abuse, crime, violence and gang related associations. It is complex web of urban poverty which is very different from rural poverty.

This is related to the understanding of urban poverty and inequality - it must be viewed from a multi-dimensional aspect. This also requires a multi-dimensional intervention strategy and the orientation of both civil servants and NGOs in undertaking this. Much of the approach is today still a single focused approach ie education or economic development. We must adopt a multi-dimensional approach and intervention strategy with various agencies in partnership.

Specific targeting as well as effective monitoring and impact assessment is most essential

We must stop the idea of a BN or PR government at federal or state i.e. in the use of this term as there are serious

negative implications. Prior to elections yes a party can use the democratic system for contest but once elected they are the Federal govt for all or state govt for all. It's not to be then still linked to the political party as the role now is as a public official. Direct association of government to political party draws negative aspects as tax payers money is now used not political party funds. What about all those who did not vote for the political party or the person finally elected. Do these people have no rights to the service.

The line is very thin and in Malaysia politicians continue to act as politicians and not at public officials. In other counties there is a clear separation of party role and that of govt. most heads of state like in the UK or USA are not head of their political parties.

One major problem in addressing Indian poverty issues they have become tools in the political struggle for political power. One major danger here is the hand out which has now killed the self-help and self-reliance now it's for handouts and who will give more of the goodies. For many politicians it's also self-interest rather than community interest. There must be check and balance so that the poor especially in this case Indians become a political tool or object.

Addressing urban poverty and inequality requires long term strategy and not just quick fixes. Handouts are quick fixes but it is not sustainable. Education, character development, capability development, neighbourhood building requires long-term social work and community intervention. This is currently lacking as a majority of Indian based NGOs are volunteer base and they are not trained social and community workers.

There are many similar issues being faced by the poor in Sabah and Sarawak or among the poorer Malays especially in urban flats and the orang asli community too. Community empowerment and accountability with strengthening political consciousness on a rights based approach to development will restore the dignity of the community. It can bring lasting change with people's participation especially of the poor themselves.

=====

By

Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria

Principal research fellow, Institute of ethnic studies UKM

Indians in USA

Sahay Appointed to Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Governor. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, USA, has appointed Gannon University Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies Anjali Sahay, Ph.D., to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Sahay was sworn in during a ceremony on Dec. 13 in Harrisburg. Her appointment runs from 2018 through 2020. Dr. Sahay is a member of Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism and also member of its international advisory and editorial committee.



"I am really honored to be selected for this position and work with other commissioners to advance the issues important to the local Asian Pacific American communities," Sahay said. As commissioner, Sahay will act as a liaison between the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and legislators and other decision-makers, working to ensure that the government is responsive to the communities' needs. She will focus particularly on Erie's Asian American and Pacific Islander population, serving as a goodwill ambassador and a spokesperson for the Commission.

"As commissioner I hope to serve on several sub-committees on the commission such as 'Schools that Teach' and promote awareness of the challenges that face the AAPI communities in Pennsylvania, as well as work towards organizing town halls for a better understanding of the incredible diversity within our community and the needs of the AAPI communities as they write to recommend policy to the state government," Sahay said. She is currently serving on 3 sub-committees on the Commission: (a) Schools that Teach; (b) Arts Collective Mission; and (c) Communications Working Group.

About the Commission:

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by Executive Order and consists of Commissioners that have been appointed by Governor Tom Wolf. GACAPAA is responsible for advising Governor Wolf on policies, procedures, and legislation that have an impact on the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in Pennsylvania. The Commission also serves as a liaison to federal, state and local agencies to ensure that services affecting AAPIs are effectively utilized and promoted. It is a resource for community groups and provides forums for developing strategies and programs that expand and enhance the civic, social, education, cultural and economic status of the AAPI communities.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-names-seven-new-members-commission-asian-pacific-american-affairs/>

Global Events

Transnationalism, Culture and Diaspora in the Era of Globalisation



Centre for Study of Diaspora, Central University of Gujarat has recently organised an International conference on Transnationalism, Culture and Diaspora in the Era of Globalisation", 21-23 Feb 2018. Dr. Atanu Mohapatra, Chairperson, Centre for Study of Diaspora, Central University of Gujarat and convenor of the conference in his welcome Address highlighted the importance of diaspora and the theme of the conference and also gave a brief overview of the centre.

Several eminent scholars have participated in the conference that includes Prof. Makarand R. Paranjape, JNU, Prof. Pankaj L. Jani, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Dr. Manoj Mohapatra, Guest of Honour, Joint Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Amb. Mr. Dave Persad, Chief Guest, High Commissioner, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Prof. M.K. Gautam, Key Note speaker, Former Chancellor, European University of West and East, The Netherlands, Prof. Vivek Kumar, JNU, Prof. Irudaya Rajan S, CFS, Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan, Prof. Chandra Mohan, Prof. Mohammed Badrul Alam, Prof. Sanjeev K. Sharma, Prof. C.S Bhat, University of Hyderabad, Prof. Panchanan Mohanty, University of Hyderabad.

There are several Round Table and Plenary Sessions such as Diaspora, Politics and Transnational Networks, Diaspora, Globalisation and Transnationalism: Literary and Cultural Representations, Migration and Diaspora: Struggles, Survivals and Success Stories, Diaspora Studies: Issues and Research Prospects.

Today's diasporas are doubly privileged

Prof. Makarand R. Paranjape mentioned that diaspora writers are the leading writers today. What was this phenomenon? He said "narratives" or softpower is more important than the so called hard power. Touching upon the origin, narratives and the spread of diaspora as a concept, Prof. Paranjape said that narratives are very important to understand diaspora. For diaspora, "homeland" is "sacred". Though traditionally diaspora is not a happy conditions, today's diasporas are doubly privileged. They get the

best from both home and host.

Nation Creates diaspora and Diasporas create nation

Prof. Paranjape further said that Nation Creates diaspora and Diasporas create nation. Zionist diaspora is born in Europe.

Prof. Pankaj Jani, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University highlighted the demographic size of the diaspora and its support to India. Dr. Mahapatra, MEA highlighted several government initiatives and proactive steps to engage diaspora. Engaging diaspora at the highest level is the main priority of the Government of India.

Diversities in Diaspora is important

Ambassador Devi Prasad emphasised the diversities in the diaspora. He said Hindu, Muslim, Christian all co-exist side by side in Trinidad and Tobago, Caste system that divides people is no more prevalent in Trinidad Tobago. Though people have origin in India the people of Indian origin are equally owe their own country.

Differential treatment of Indian Government towards PIOs

Prof. Mohan K Gautam, who is a noted Cultural Anthropologist emphasised that cultural retention is very important for the existence of diaspora. India need much more proactive engagement with the old diaspora. He also lamented that there is differential treatment of Government of India towards PIO and NRI. While NRIs are preferred, PIOs are neglected.

Prof. S.A. Bari, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, gave the presidential address in which he highlighted the importance of diaspora studies in the present time. He mentioned that almost all countries have diaspora as migration affects every country. United State of America is the best example of country made by diasporas.

Rahman, Md Mizanur and Yong, Tan Tai (ed.) (2015). International Migration and Development in South Asia. Routledge Publication. ©2015 Md Mizanur Rahman and Tan Tai Yong. ISBN: 978-0-415-72423-4.

Migration is now a global phenomenon. No country in this world remains untouched from the effects and consequences of migration. The international migration has become a reality for every country, henceforth, raises research questions over the impact of migration in the emigrant countries. In migration studies, the nexus between migration and development has been meticulously debated over the times. It is evident that the emigration of people has been significant from South Asia to the rest of the world, which is characterized as dynamic and complex in terms of their size, composition and nature from country wise. Subsequently, it is interesting to examine the relationship between migration and development with the change in international migration, theoretical approaches and research methodologies.

The book titled "International Migration and development in South Asia" is an edited volume by Md. Mizanur Rahman and Tan Tai Yong in the year 2015. This book is the outcome of the South Asian Diaspora Convention in July 2011 which was organized by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) to understand the role of South Asian contemporary migrants and Diaspora communities in the development of home-land. The chapters, in this book, presented vivid South Asian experiences, which analyzed the implications of international migration on the social, economic and political dimensions of this broader context. The book employs the term 'development' in its title to elaborate the multiplicity of the socio-economic, political and human dimensions of the South Asian states. This ranges from economic growth to democratic changes including the increase in income level, accumulation of non-economic assets (health, education, skills, infrastructural capital etc), institutional building and all other human assets which can help to bring personal to social welfare in the context of South Asia.

The book encompasses thirteen inter-connected chapters dealing with the theoretical underpinnings and empirical evidences of migration trend from South Asia and the impact of international migration on domestic region. The first chapter, International Migration and Development in South Asia, by Rahman and Yong has given the theoretical and conceptual approaches to understand the linkages between migration and development in both sending and receiving countries over the decades. Rahman and Yong have articulated the vivid description of the profile of migration, composition of migrants, impact of remittances for the welfare of household to native land and issues and challenges before left behind families in South Asian context. Furthermore, they have discussed the robust theoretical-ideological approaches to outline the phases of international migration.

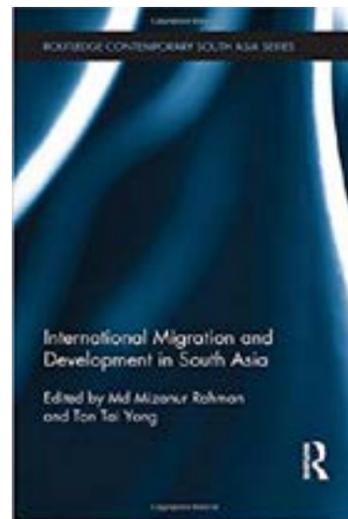
In order to provide the holistic understanding of the nexus

between migration and development, the three conventional phases of migration can be understood as: (i) Migration and Development (1950s and 1960s) mainly presumes the 'virtuous process' by labour migration from developing to developed countries (ii) Underdevelopment and migration (1970s and 1980s) mainly encapsulate the brain drain argument and (iii) migration and (co)development (since the 1990s) confer the brain gain theory. The broader overview of these migration-phases provided insight about the South-North migration-flow and economic development over the decades. However, the chapter could have also discussed the conceptual debate over diaspora engagement with homeland.

The second chapter, Innovative incorporation: Diasporic representation and political rights in India by Constantino Xavier has discussed the institutional innovations created by India to address and incorporate the Indian Diaspora communities in formal political and public institutions. Xavier attempted to address the significance of policy framework, Diaspora institutions, institutional mechanisms and political rights for the overseas Indians. This chapter outlined the developments in the process of institutional mechanisms for Overseas Indians by Indian government over the period. However, it did not critically scrutinize the action-oriented approach of implementing Diaspora policy as well as functions of Indian government to incorporate overseas Indians in development area.

The third chapter, The Diaspora meets the development industry: Engaging Norwegian-Pakistanis in development back home by Marta Bivand Erdal has focused on the vital role of Diaspora development industry in the development of the home-land with the support from Norway and Pakistan. Erdal explored the experiences of Diaspora development organisations while engaging in a co-development funding scheme, particularly through their interactions with the development industry. This co-development funding scheme was launched as part of the Norwegian government's migration-development efforts which targeted to offer cheaper, legal and more competitive remittance services in Pakistan. The complex interactions between diaspora and 'development industry' was also discussed in the context of Pakistan. The chapter could not contemplate the critical role of various actors, agencies and policies involved in the diaspora development industry.

The fourth chapter, British-Bangladeshi immigrants and the local political landscape in Bangladesh, by Kazi Numohammad Hossainul Haque and Sanjay Krishno Biswas examined



the determinants and dynamics of diaspora engagement in the domestic politics of Bangladesh through empirical case studies of local politics. Based on the semi-structured qualitative interviews, focused group discussions and key informant interviews, the study was conducted at Jagannathpur Upazila, Sylhet region of Bangladesh. The research found that the economic gains made in the United Kingdom are invested upon to make political gains in the origin communities. It further reported that the diaspora engagement has not necessarily brought about qualitative changes in local politics. This chapter has given holistic picture of the diasporic political engagement in the local politics but it could also talk about the instinctive purpose of the involvement in local politics in homeland by British-Bangladeshi immigrants.

The fifth chapter, Indian professional immigrants and healthcare sector in India by Rakesh Ranjan has discussed the role of Diaspora entrepreneurs in the transfer of knowledge and economic development in India. This chapter investigated the growing immigrant entrepreneurship in the healthcare sector in India and how culture mediates between the individual traits and the institutional environment in home land. Some of these cultural factors are: affiliation with particular region, traditions and language, influence the behavior of the investment and entrepreneurial activities. The study conceptualized the diaspora entrepreneurship, developments in the financial instruments and the gradual usage of finance for the homeland's development. Based on four major healthcare institutions of Delhi/NCR, the research analyzed the significance of diaspora engagement in the healthcare sector. It also discussed the role of Indian government's rule influence the Diaspora engagement to the homeland. This chapter explored the entrepreneurial activities in health-care sector of India, which could be accounted among the pioneer works in this field; however, it could have deliberated upon the lethargic approach by system and absolute policy gap that exists in India towards this area.

The sixth chapter, A troublesome home? Transnational property and its discontents in Indian Punjab by V. J. Varghese and Vivek Thakur discussed the growing troubles and difficulty of migrant transnationalism by looking at the property and economic assets owned by non-resident Punjabis in their home state of Punjab, India. Based on the ethnographic study in the Doaba region, the study found that the management of properties being owned by Non-resident Punjabis at destination country is becoming tougher and troublesome for them, which affects their homeland's ties. The chapter discussed that due to problematic negotiations between home and destination countries, the Non-resident Punjabis mainly face the problem of nostalgia and demotic love for their motherland while residing in destination country. It would have been a more interesting read had the chapter covered the other psychological dimensions of discontent immigrants such as deprivation of local people, emotions, sharing pain and distress with own people, nostalgia of native land.

The seventh chapter, Bangladeshi migration to Southern Europe: Implications on migrant families by Md. Mizanur Rahman and Mohammad Alamgir Kabir discussed the Bangladeshi migration to Italy and its implications for the

families left behind in Bangladesh. It examined the immigrant reception, characteristics of Bangladeshi emigrants, their channels of migration, role of intermediaries in the migration process, inflows of remittances and its implications on the family dynamics in Bangladesh. This study, based on the Bangladesh Household Remittance Survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)- Dhaka in 2009 analyzed the impact of Bangladeshi labour migration on migrant families left behind in Bangladesh. Although this chapter provided a new area of study, it could bring out issues through brief comparative discussion between Bangladeshi labour migration to Italy and Gulf countries.

The eighth chapter, Indian migration to the Gulf and development challenges in India by Ajay Kumar Sahoo discussed that the trajectories of international migration and the personal experiences of migrant workers in the host-society, reasons for their return migration and their involvement of same economic activities after return. Based on the experiences of return migrants from Gulf countries in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the study examined that reasons of unemployment and poverty back home influenced their decision to migrate to the Gulf-countries. Furthermore, the migrant workers faced many issues and challenges in Gulf countries such as low wages, poor working conditions, lack of social security and informal job arrangements etc. These problems affected the decision to return back and thus, resulted their victimization at home-land. Due to the severe economic crisis, the return workers face many socio-economic and psychological consequences of this trajectory and many of them end up with committing suicide. It, further, suggested for the serious need of government intervention and to provide help to poor migrant families facing serious debt issues and suicidal accidents. This chapter shall encompass the severe need of management of the international migrants by Indian government.

The ninth chapter, International migration and economic changes in South Asia: The emergence of the middle class by Shahid Javed Burki has argued that the impact of the international migration in the economic changes in South Asia. The chapter dealt with the discussion on the quantum and structure of financial resources that flow from the expatriate communities to the countries of origin. It also highlighted the rise of the middle class, its size, structure and pattern of the South Asian countries which is being influenced by the growth in the national incomes of the region. This chapter should look at the emerging issues of student-mobility for higher education, transnational marriages and re-arrangement of caste issues in transnational spaces due to rise of middle class.

The tenth chapter, Punjabi immigrants and rural development in the Doaba region of Indian Punjab by Jaswinder Sigh Brar outlined the various types, structures and dimensions of diasporic engagement in the rural Doaba region of Indian Punjab. Doaba region represents the hub of the immigrants and diaspora community, with about every third household having at least one member settled in Western country. The diaspora engagement occurs with the regular flow of remittances mainly. The other sources of diaspora engagement are: philanthropy, sports, associated infrastructure, public infrastructure, health camps,

cultural events, educational institutions, weddings of girls from poor families, investment in agricultural machinery, religious places, old age homes, incentives to village players, special training programmes for village youth, de-addiction camps etc. There are cases of employment provision of village labour through work permits on NRI farms abroad. The chapter, further, argued for need of the policy framework which can cater the facilities and amenities to the rural villages focusing people-centric rural transformations. It should also put forth arguments on women left behind, estranged wives by male migrant etc.

The eleventh chapter, International migration and development: Prospects and challenges for Nepal by Thakur Subedi provided the overview of the prospects and challenges for diaspora-led development practices in Nepal. Due to lack of employment opportunities in home land, the Nepalese migrated abroad for better prospects. The amount of the remittance that they send back is almost a quarter of Nepal's GDP. However, the remittances have been spent on unproductive sector and useless purpose. This resulted that the economy of Nepal did not gain any productive benefits out of the remittance gain, especially in the field of trade, investments, knowledge and technology transfer. Due to these experiences, the nexus between 'migration and development' is very weak in Nepal. This chapter should also discuss the impact of remittances on the household unit with different cases and issues.

The twelfth chapter, Pakistani migration to the Gulf and development in the Miranzai valley in Pakistan by Syed Minhaj Ul Hassan discussed the socio-economic impacts of Gulf migration on the Miranzai valley in Pakistan. The Gulf-migration has changed the socio-economic dimensions of this valley which was in very poorest state earlier. The change could be noticed through the reconfiguration of social hierarchy, changes in dress, art, culture, educational sphere, upliftment in their life-style, use of natural gas in cooking, furniture and better houses, involvement in the business activities, changes in the political sphere etc. The chapter further highlighted the drawbacks of the emigration due to the absence of migration policy which can guide uneducated emigrants for careful survival in host land. Also, the chapter discussed the issues and challenges due to lack of proper schemes and programmes for the welfare of emigrants and their families left behind. It also argued for the need of state's policy for the poverty abolition, employment generation and re-employment opportunities back home. The chapter should look at other dimensions of the usage of remittances such as future prospects of the remittances etc.

The thirteenth chapter, The other side of the migration and development nexus: Human Trafficking in Sri Lanka by Kopalapillai Amirthalingam, Danesh Jayatilaka and Rajith W.D. Lakshman discussed the experiences of the migrants who have been victimized and exploited in the migration process due to the problem of human trafficking. The chapter outlined that there has been a risk factor in the

migration process which should be included in the debate of 'diaspora and development nexus'. The uneducated and untrained migrants might get trapped into the chain of human trafficking while seeking the prosper chances abroad. The chapter has given the reasons of human trafficking under which the labour migrants exposed to the human trafficking due to the issues related to poverty, disempowerment, social dislocation, unawareness about state's policies and lack of knowledge about the registered recruitment agencies etc. The chapter should also discuss the brief cases of other major countries of labour migrants to the gulf and how do they tackle the human trafficking practices.

The book is a detailed and useful reading to understand the international migration and its subsequent gains mainly knowledge transfer, skill-formation, social and economic capital formation, investment in education and health sectors etc. With the interdisciplinary approach, the book has provided wide spectrum of the international migration and its implications on South Asia. It also provided the detailed contours and patterns of international migration, timeline of migration and the geographical coverage with country-specific examples including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and up to the extent of region-wise such as Punjab (India), Jagannathpur (Bangladesh), Delhi/NCR (India), Miranzai Valley (Pakistan). Every chapter of this book not only discussed the issues, problems and impact of international migration on the home-land but also criticized the on-going policies and practices of migration. The chapters further, suggested the serious need of the dynamic development policies and strategies in country-specific cases.

The book, however, restricted the selected case studies which can be more in terms of analyzing the impact of international migration in South Asia. The book did not provide chapter on governance and management of international migration, specifically, in case of South Asia. Secondly, the book is limited with the impact of remittances while discussing the Diaspora engagement with home-land, however, there are several aspects of Diaspora engagement such as philanthropy, investment, diaspora associations and political rights etc. Thirdly, the book did not provide the case specific studies of migrant workers' categories and their issues mainly wages and working conditions of migrant constructions workers, women domestic workers, domestic workers' condition in Gulf region and the aftermath of return migration after long duration of employment.

Monika Bisht, PhD Research Scholar, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, India.

Email address: monika4bisht@gmail.com

We invite Students, Researchers and Faculty Members to submit a small write up of their achievements and awards to the editor. It will provide the scholars a platform to connect with peer groups working on themes related to Diaspora and Transnationalism. Information related to seminar/con- ferences/events can be sent to the Editor at: editor@grfdt.com