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Roots and Routes

Monthly Newsletter of Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism



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Roots and Routes Disseminates the latest information on research and policy developments in Diaspora and Transnationalism

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Editorial Information

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Editor: Arsala Nizami and Monika Bisht

Editorial Board:

M. Mahalingam, Monika Bisht, Rakesh Ranjan, Smita Tiwari, Rajiv Mishra, Rahul Kumar, Diksha Jha, G. Srinivas, Sadananda Sahoo

Email: editor@grfdt.com
Website: www.grfdt.org

Editors' Message



Dear Readers,

This edition of *Roots and Routes* consists of two articles, one book-review and a movie-review. It's our privilege that this edition of our newsletter consists of an article entitled as 'Malaysian Indian Blueprint, Some Reflections' by Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria. The article is a reflection on the blueprint of the Malaysian Indian Diaspora which was announced in the parliamentary speech of the Hon. Prime Minister, Malaysia. Under the Eleventh Malaysian Plan, the Prime Minister's Office was tasked to undertake this exercise with the support of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), relevant agencies and community stakeholders including academic institutions. Based on his reflections, the Malaysian Indian Diaspora blueprint needs to have proper implementation mechanism, coordination among various stakeholders, active participation of civil society and requirement continuous public dialogue.

Another article entitled 'H-1B Visa Imbrogio' by Dr. M. Mahalingam discusses the draft executive order regarding immigration policy by Donald Trump and its implications on the labour-market. The article highlights the retrospect and prospects of immigration reforms under Trump regime in line with the IT-professionals, skilled migration and GDP growth. It also focuses on the pros and cons of the draft immigration order for Indian emigration system.

This issue also contains a review of the book 'The Media of Diaspora' by Vijay Soni. He Successfully brings out important insights from the book and analyses the diasporic relationship with communication technologies explained in the book, The book deals with film, radio, television and computer-mediated communication technologies.

A review of a movie titled 'Lion' based on the psychological trauma of a child who gets lost in India and circumstances move him away from his original homeland to Australia. It shows that how a person becomes isolated and fragmented without his original family and homeland. Basically, it draws attention towards the psychological issues of the immigrants in case of estrangement from the family.

We are delighted to inform you about an International Conference and a National Seminar which will be held in the month of March in Delhi. An international Conference on 'Migration and Diasporas: Emerging Diversities and Development Challenges' is going to be held on 22nd-23rd March, 2017 which will be organized by School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS) at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi. A National Seminar on 'Migration and Diaspora: Theory, Culture and Literature' is going to be held on 24th-25th, March 2017 which will be organised by Bharati College, Delhi University in collaboration with Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) at Bharati College Campus, Delhi. The programme schedules for both the events are being attached in this newsletter.

We hope this edition enriches your thoughts in the area of Migration and Diaspora studies. Happy Reading!

Arsala

Monika

Malaysian Indian Blueprint, Some Reflections

Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria

Prime Minister Najib in tabling the Eleventh Malaysia Plan on May 21, 2015 announced in his parliamentary speech –“*for the Indian community, as a way forward, a Blueprint will be formulated to outline their socio-economic development*”. The Prime Minister’s office was tasked to undertake this exercise with the support of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), all the relevant agencies and community stakeholders including academic institutions.

The Prime Minister repeated this promise when he spoke at the Malaysian Indian Congress General Assembly on October 16, 2016 as a year has passed and no separate blue print has been issued. PM promised by Jan 2017 and we have passed this dateline too and there is an indication that PM might launch the new blueprint by April 2017. He openly recognised in this speech that there was a need for a blueprint as the decisions made were not implemented and therefore the government is now resolved to have a secretariat to execute the blueprint effectively.

Policy promises- just political or serious

This blue print is one of the major positive breakthroughs in Malaysian policy development. Malaysia has a very good development planning record through the five years Malaysia plan developments. I have been personally involved since 1999 when I was then appointed as a member of the Second Economic Consultative Council. Over and over again Malaysian Indians have been submitting recommendations and suggestions with little positive results. Some have been this Blueprint drafting seriously but others are sceptical, thinking that this might be another political campaign and exercise to win votes. Those of us from the academic institutions are seeing this as a good opportunity for engagement with the public and political structure which is different previously for a number of reasons.

First, I recollect the speech made by Dato Seri Najib on Feb 3, 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. Here he was addressing the Malaysian Indian community and he spoke on the theme “Future of the Indian Community: outside the BN or within the BN”. He went on in this speech to say what the BN government would do if the community voted for the BN. However we can remember that since the 2008 and 2013 General Elections, the Indian voters have turned their votes towards opposition politics parties especially from among urban voters. After the 2008 General Elections, Dato Seri Najib as Deputy Prime Minister chaired the newly established Cabinet Committee on Indian Concerns. This is the first time such an inter-ministerial cabinet level committee has been established

for a minority community. In 2009 when Najib become prime minister he continued as the Chair of this committee. There was clearly a shift in public policy thrust and implementation which now ensures Indians are part of the development process.

Second, since the Tenth Malaysia Plan, the Malaysian government began establishing dedicated special implementation units. One of the criticism of the Ninth Malaysia plan was the lack of a dedicated team and government in the Tenth Malaysia Plan established the Special Implementation Taskforce (SITF) in 2010. Subsequently three other special units were established focused on Tamil schools, micro credit and funds from Indian social organisations. By the time of the Eleventh Malaysia plan (2016-2020) we now have four special units and a Cabinet Committee. This is a major achievement as compared to the pre 2008 situation. There is now a clear understanding that sections of the Malaysian Indian community especially at the Bottom 40% are facing major issues and that Federal government must intervene to resolve them. Critics have said this is just an exercise to win Indian voters back to the BN. Whatever the motives, there is now some special measures with an institutional structure, funds and personal to address them as compared to previously which was undertaken by a foundation associated with a political party.

Third, the public policies of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan has brought out some new thrust which enables greater inclusion for marginal groups. Now the public policy thrust is towards Social inclusion which is based on the theory of inclusive development with as emphasis on social cohesion as well as social mobility. Furthermore it is clear now that all Malaysians must have access to the services so that they can attain a better quality of life. In this context too the Eleventh Malaysia plan widen the poverty definition and indicators. Here the focus now is on relative poverty and the Bottom 40% of the population. It is not just of the very rural poor.

Therefore there is now some attention on the urban poor and ensuring they too experience social mobility and a better quality of life. In this context poverty is refined broader from the concept of the basket of goods and the poverty line income to a multi-dimensional definition. There is now a wider use of indicators moving beyond income to also include education, housing & living

conditions and health indicators.

Furthermore the Malaysian government has also adopted the United Nations 2030 Agenda of Transformation through the Sustainable Development Goals with the theme “leaving no one behind”. The 17 goals, 169 targets and the 230 indicators provide a human development approach to socio-economic development they by ensuring no one is left behind in any society.

Therefore the Malaysian Indian Socio-economic Blueprint must be set within this context of policy developments in the Najib administration and therefore we can undertake public policy advocacy for socio-economic mobility not just of Malaysian Indians but all B40 communities in Malaysian Society. This Blueprint is being formulated and tabled at a right political time for the Malaysian Indian community. However, there are also challenges we need to recognise and address in due time.

Development Policy Formulation

The Prime Minister’s office has been busy calling for views and suggestions from civil society, government agencies, special units and academics. A number of us were in to the PM office on April 19, 2016 to share our views and findings. This was the first formal discussion I participated in and organised by the PMO. Two other public consultations with the Indian community was hosted on Nov 27, 2016 and more recently on Feb 26, 2017 both hosted by the Minister of Health who is also MIC President.

The public consultations with Indian based organisations served as a feedback process to the government formulators. This was an open process where participants were given opportunities to speak and share their views. I participated in all three events and provided my views. Feedback from community leaders as well as academic is very necessary. However the drawback is often the discussions are very emotive and many statements and views are perception based lacking solid empirical evidence. This is where academic and objective research is needed. This is however lacking and there needs to be more studies undertaken on contemporary situation including impact assessment of the work already undertaken.

I do not have the liberty to disclose the content of the Blueprint nor its targets and specific programs for the future however I can comment on the comprehensive nature of the document. The blueprint covers the major aspects on human, socio and economic development including religious concerns. A major focus is on education namely preschool, primary, secondary and post-secondary including higher educational opportunities and skills training. There is a brief assessment of the contemporary situation, what is being currently done and projected targets and programs for the future. This is well written and while there are some gaps its is comprehensive encourage and if implemented well we could see major changes over the next 5 to 10 years.

One area left out was health concerns and I alerted this matter as health both physical and mental health issues are major concerns in the Indian community especially heart attacks, obesity, diabetes as well as mental health issues pertaining to stress and suicides

Earlier in 2015, KITA-UKM hosted two discussions on the Eleventh Malaysia Plan at the PWTC, KL on April 16, 2015 and on May 31, 2015. We also hosted two further discussions as input to the Blueprint on March 3, 2016 entitled “Charting an action plan for community Malaysian Indians” and later on Sept 20, 2016 we hosted a discussion on “Malaysian Indians and socio-economic mobility” with Dr Muhammad Khalid. These served as inputs into the developing planning process as representatives of the PMO were also present.

The government side especially officials from the PMO are open to receive more feedback and this consultative process is in the right direction which will enhance community ownership. There is another parallel work being undertaken by Prof Datuk Dr NS Rajendran who is developing the Tamil School Action Plan. This is a very comprehensive work based on empirical work and extensive grassroots consultation with stakeholders nationwide.

Challenges for the Malaysian Indian community

Malaysian are well known for good planning. We are however a little weak on implementation. This is our major problem. There seems to be some good coordinating units at Putrajaya however there is no structures or mechanism at the agency level nor at the district level. The current structure is too centralised and we need some decentralisation. Efforts to organise teams at the district level especially at the 38 districts where 95% of Malaysian Indians live will be the next step. It is also noted that 70% live in 15 districts. The blueprint could enlarge the team to establish operations centres at the district level.

In this context too another major hurdle is the civil service at the district level and their appreciation of the multi ethnic dimension including the demographic trends. There needs to be an increase of Indian civil servants in critical agencies such as health, education, welfare, youth, Police, women related agencies especially in densely populated districts. There also needs to be an orientation course enabling all civil servants to understand the Eleventh Malaysia Plan’s thrust on inclusive development as well as a stronger cultural appreciation of diversity. Ultimately effective delivery cannot be achieved through special units it must be target of the total civil service to address disadvantaged groups irrespective of ethnicity and religion.

The Blueprint must have a stronger link and connection with both the Global Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators which is the 2030 agenda, as well as the national development planning process such as the Eleventh Malaysia Plan. Not just conceptual thrust but also the time frame.

Another challenge in the consultation process is not sufficiently consultative with all sections of the Indian community as predominant leaders from opposition and component BN friendly political parties were not part of this process. At the dimension of public perception there will be some negative comments. This blueprint could have been a by-partisan effort and a bridge building process in the community especially among other elected officials in parliament and state governments. 'Winning hearts and minds' is imperative and rising above party politics is essential in community transformation and social mobility.

Some reflections for the way forward

One major consideration in the way forward is the implementation mechanism and structure. The coordinating committee must comprise of members from a cross section of society namely politicians, civil society leaders and representatives from the private sector and academic community. At the full time secretariat staff level, appointments must not be political appointees but professionally recruited and employed based on clear terms of reference, job descriptions and transparent interview process. A very good computerised data based system needs to be developed especially on urban poor families, stateless and undocumented people, and youth in crime. This monitoring must be over a period of time to ascertain the progress made through the socio-economic interventions

It is also important to note that at the delivery level we need to strengthen the 'hand holding process' of the B40 communities. This the social preparation and support including mind set and values formation. This aspect can be undertaken by voluntary organisations at the grassroots but we need to organise funds not on an ad hoc basis but over a number of years with stronger capacity building program

There must be a declared commitment to continuous public dialogue as well as full disclosure of information especially grants received and dispensed. This effort must win back confidence of the community. In this context too there must be effective monitoring and evaluation including social impact assessment carried out by independent parties. Therefore social audit and financial audit is imperative. These information must be publicly disclosed and accessible to all.

Malaysia has not been active in this aspect of by-partisan parliamentary teams. This is a very useful strategy for community solidarity. While there might be differences politically, however on socio-economic matters all sides of the political divide must stop pointing fingers and start

working together to resolve community issues especially joint cooperation of politicians in public positions at the federal, state and local government levels.

We must set a new political culture of openness and networking will all for the better of the community and society. This is a challenge but we must set a new agenda for all in Malaysian society.

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H-1B Visa Imbroglio

Dr. M. Mahalingam, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Analysis, New Delhi

As part of larger immigration reforms, the newly elected Republican government being led by Donald Trump had recently issued a draft executive order to review or overhaul of H1B work visa, because of this visa programme encourages cheap labour force from abroad leading to job cuts for the American workers. In this regard, a team has been constituted by Trump administration to prepare a detailed report within nine months on various existing work visa categories and its implications on the job prospects of US citizens. Besides, the team is working on the modalities by which 'the best and the brightest' to be issued H1B visas as the existing model has fault lines, that need to be plugged in. In fact, the protectionist and populist measures of Donald Trump would have a backlash on the globalized US economy. Though H1B visas are mainly related to scientific or technical jobs, it is much sought after one among the Indian IT professionals.

In Retrospect and Prospect

H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows American firms to employ foreign workers in special occupations that require theoretical and technical expertise. H1B visa scheme came into existence after the enactment of the Immigration Reforms and Control Act in the year 1990 for the immigration of high skilled people like scientists and engineers only at the beginning. Under the H1B visa programme, the US government provides a maximum of 85,000 visas --- out of which 65,000 from abroad and the remaining 20,000 for the foreign students studying in the US. In 1998, it was amended by the US Congress during the Y2K issue to permit IT professionals. The Senate passed an immigration reform bill in 2013 which was aimed at raising the cap from 85,000 to 1,35,000 but was stalled in the House of Representatives by the Republicans as it has a provision leading to get citizenship finally. In the year 2015, the fee for H1B visa and L1 visa was hiked from \$2000 and \$2,500 respectively to \$4000 and \$4500 respectively. Though H1B visas are related to high skilled workers immigration like scientists and engineers, but more than seventy percent are being used by IT companies at present. H1B visa is quite popular among the foreign high skilled immigrants especially Indians, because, it is a long visa which permits to work for three years initially and a possible extension of three more years, that eventually leads to obtaining green card or permanent citizenship in the US.

H-1B Visa Issued in the year 2014

S.No	Receiving Country	%
01.	India	69.7
02.	China	8.4
03.	Canada	2.2
04.	Philippines	1.6
05.	South Korea	1.4
06.	United Kingdom	1
07.	Mexico	0.9
08.	Taiwan	0.8
09.	France	0.7
10.	Japan	0.6

Source: Adapted by Author from US Department of Homeland Security

Gleaned from the above table, India is the top most recipient country and the demand has been on the rise. As PTI reported recently, the US government had already received about 2,50,000 H1B visa applications for the financial year 2017, which is significantly more than the cap of 65,000. It seems that H1B visa has fostered the growing number of the high-skilled migration of Indians to the United States. The proliferation of Indians to the United States has resulted in the transformation of Indian community from 'insignificant other' to 'significant other' in the US public sphere now.

Pros and Cons

The proposed restriction for issuing H1B has more negative implications than positive ones for the US economy. The tightening of H1B may pave a way for an increasing intake of local talents, but the US has still skill shortage to fill in vacant technical tasks. To attribute this point, the US Labour department has predicted itself a shortage of 2.4 million STEM or science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates till 2018. Under this circumstance, the protectionist measure would stragulate the growth of the US economy.

Further, US based fortune 500 companies are highly dependent on the IT service providers who recruit the Indian IT professionals directly or being sourced by the Indian IT outsourcing companies through H1B visa scheme. In fact, the technology giants like Facebook, Google, Intel and Cisco systems among the firms lobbied Congress to increase the number of H1B visas. Moreover, the limitation on H1B would surge the onshore or near shore work contracts given the cost and skill advantages leading to economic growth benefits for other countries and thus will impede the growth of US economy.

The critics argue that the H1B visas are substituting the US workers, they may sound right in a sense, at the same time, no one can deny the fact that as H1B workers often bring their families along, they would fuel the local economy like transport, real estate, banking and hospitality industries as well. Further, to dispel the myth that Indians are grabbing the high skilled jobs from the locals, the NASSCOM reported that the Indian IT industry in the US has provided 4, 11,000 direct and indirect jobs and has been paying taxes around \$5 billion annually. Moreover, while twenty percent of the H1B visas are allocated for start-ups and smaller firms employing around fifty people, resulting in growing innovation and entrepreneurship in the US. Those who came to the US for higher studies from abroad through H1B visa are heading the giant US based companies and contributing to the GDP growth of US. The proposed move would definitely hamper the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. In general, the tightening of H1B visa scheme will impinge of the burgeoning India-US trade relations in the recent years.

Brain Gain for India?

The interesting fact is that the restriction for the emigration of Indians to the United States is not a new phenomenon. As history reveals, the Immigration of Law of 1917 and the US Supreme Court ruling of 1923 were the anti-Indian immigrant measures. The proposed Immigration reform is one such latest development to contain the inflow of Indian immigrants to the US. After the advent of H1B visa scheme, the Indian high skilled migration gained momentum especially IT professionals. Even though the Indian IT professionals are the modern day indentured labourers under the mechanism of H1B visa, they preferred to move in large numbers as they had enjoyed better living conditions than India coupled with a conducive atmosphere for the development of innovative culture in the US. The recent announcement for the capping of H1B visa would be a much advantage for India as it would resist the emigration of the best and brightest from India. In other words, the 'brain drain' would significantly be reduced instead brain gain for India. At present, the Indian government is pushing for 'start-up culture'. The return migrants and others can actively take part in it for making India as a global technology hub in near

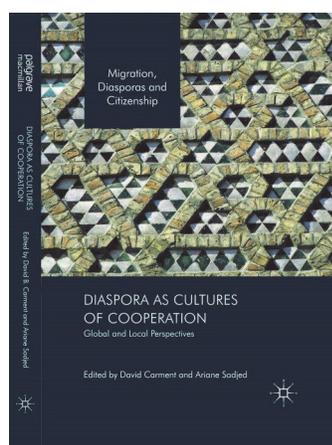
future.

In Lieu of Conclusion

In the era of globalization, the world economy is more interconnected or interdependent and overlapping than ever before in various ways and means. America cannot be immune to the phenomenon or influence of globalization. The isolationist measure like 'America First', 'Buy American and Hire American' by the Donald Trump administration is not on the basis of economic rationale of any kind, it is nothing but populist measures for political mileage.

New Arrival

Diaspora as Cultures of Cooperation: Global and Local Perspectives, Edited by **David Carment**, **Ariane Sadjed**, Springer International Publishing.



About the Book

This book examines the dynamic processes by which communities establish distinct notions of 'home' and 'belonging'. Focusing on the agency of diasporic groups, rather than (forced or voluntary) dispersion and a continued longing for the country of origin, it analyses how a diaspora presence impacts relations between 'home' and host countries. Its central concern is the

specific role that diasporas play in global cooperation, including cases without a successful outcome. Bridging the divide between diaspora studies and international relations, it will appeal to sociologists, scholars of migration, anthropologists and policy-makers.

Editors:

David Carment is Professor of International Affairs at Carleton University, Canada, and Fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs institute and **Ariane Sadjed** is Lecturer in the Department of European Ethnology at the University of Vienna, Austria.

Diaspora Media: Reimagined

The Media of Diaspora, Edited by Karim H. Karim, Routledge, Pages: 236

ISBN-13: 978-0415406758

There was a time when primitive societies and purity of evolutionary lineages held special interest for anthropologists and sociologists. Since then, human progression or regression, as the purists may like to call it, has taken a much faster stride. What was true of the primitive societies at one point of time has now been replaced with the progressive tribe of the diasporic population. As a consequence, the diaspora now occupies a much higher status in the social chain.

The cumulative knowledge of cultures, geography and the ability to adapt to new environments has made the diaspora a resilient social group. They provide a fascinating study of human nature as they climb up or climb down the social ladder. In fact, the diaspora communities share the same existential angst of survival as the primitive man, as they migrate from one part of the globe to another in search of food and sustenance. In the process, the accumulated knowledge of the social group is often passed on to the next generation or other members of the communities through interpersonal or group communication. With the emergence of modern age print, audio-visual and digital media, diasporic communities have created their own media space to fulfill their communicative needs

It is these interesting episodes of diasporic relationship with communication technologies that Karim H. Karim and other scholars have set out to explore in their transnationalism research 'The Media of Diaspora' - an anthology of twelve collected works of eminent scholars. Karim, to begin with, has divided the book in two parts. While Part I deals with film, radio, television and radio as mediums of the diaspora, Part II focuses on computer-mediated communication technologies.

At the first glimpse, the anthology looks much like a dispersed mediation on disparate diaspora communities stretching from Middle Easterns, Spaniards, Chinese, Greeks, Tibetans, Ghanaians to double-displaced Indian Fijians in Australia. While providing a microscopic glimpse into the mediascapes of these diaspora communities, Karim has beautifully interlaced it with facts and empirical researches of the scholars who have contributed to the research. In the true spirit of positivists like Auguste Comte and John Stuart Mill, the research compilation gives an integrated understanding of the diaspora mediascapes by delving into the individual studies.

The research work takes an interesting viewpoint while drawing a parallel between the direction of human migra-

tion and that of the media-content flow. Historically, people have migrated from the geographical peripheral regions to the central focal points in search of resources and opportunities. In a way, migrants move from rural to urban areas, from less developed part of the globe to the more developed, progressive geographical regions. The media, including the technology and content, on the other hand, takes an opposite direction and moves from the central to the peripheral - from media-rich societies to media-deprived societies and geographical regions. This is true not only of the intra-national, but also the transnational movement of media content, which has traditionally flowed from the North to the South. It is the North-centric media hegemony that narrates the media usage of the diasporic population.

Karim has divided the Diaspora media into three broad categories, which include ethnic television, transnational media and the diaspora programmes. Ethnic television programs cater to the small group of diaspora that has local relevance to meet their needs of information, education and entertainment. In the Indian context, it could be a program on Bangladeshi migrants, while in the US it could showcase the influence of non-resident Indians. The relevance of the content largely depends on the issues being faced by the diaspora communities, either of their wellbeing or that, which threatens or affects their identity as a community.

Transnational media as the name suggests, crosses the geographical boundaries and is often imported from home countries of the diaspora and may include content related to politics, culture, cuisine or entertainment. A good example of this, as Manas Ray says, is Bollywood nostalgia that finds equal appeal amongst the Indian Diaspora living in the Middle East, America, Canada, Australia or any other part of the globe. The diaspora programmes on the other hand, are the ones, which are locally produced for local consumption of the diasporic population.

A subject that falls under the preview of the book and the one which needs further elaboration is the impact of diaspora media in the processes of acculturation and assimilation. Does the usage of diaspora media lead to further ghettoization and alienation of the diaspora community from the host societies? How far is the Diaspora media accommodative of the cultures of the host countries? These are some of the questions that need further discussion on diaspora mediascape.

As Peter Mandaville in 'Communication and diasporic Islam' says, "Media are the spaces in which the identity, meaning and boundaries of diasporic community are continually constructed, debated and reimagined." It should however, be noted that while the diasporic media is a place of self-evaluation, it is also the place where the societies of the host countries are evaluated and their relationship with the diaspora community ascertained and established. It is the latter, which holds immense potential for cultural confluence instead of cultural segregation of the diaspora and the host communities.

Diaspora media plays an important cohesive role in binding the immigrant communities together. It is an important tool for asserting their identity and to safeguard their interest as an individual and as a community. For this to be possible, communication becomes an integral part in forming, sustaining and maintaining a social order within the diaspora community. It has been seen that diaspora media often takes its responsibility to the next logical level by forming new social and interest groups, thereby bestowing a sense of power to the diaspora community.

The emergence of computer-mediated communication has accelerated the formation of transnational communities. Hong Qiu in his research on Chinese expatriate students calls such a group 'knowledge diaspora'. The members of knowledge diaspora are the next generation professionals who, well equipped with technological knowledge of telecom, information technology and computer science, have created a niche for themselves.

Like the traditional media, the diaspora media has also, over the period, traversed the path of evolutionary growth from print, audio-visual to the present age digital communication. But what makes the diaspora media different from the traditional media is the magnitude, scale and the audience it caters to. The genesis of such a media was based on communication need of the diaspora as is evident in the popularity of online magazines amongst expatriate Chinese students that helps them form virtual communities.

Drawing support from the 'mobilization theory' of mass communication, Qiu in his research quotes Arthur Berger saying, "The theory holds that if a large number of people are exposed to the same mass media, they can be mobilized to foster certain ideologies and belief." The diaspora media however, needs to be differentiated from mass media because its audience/readers are well defined and inhabit a specific region of geographical location, quite unlike that of the mass media.

Majority of diasporic media, in one way or the other, tries

to retain its relevance with the country of their origin. In fact, there is always an interplay of interest and counter-interest between the three components of diaspora population, the host country and the country of diaspora's origin. Rather than being mutually exclusive, the diaspora media tends to play an inclusive role over the period. Consequently, the gap between these three components decreases resulting in diaspora media assuming the role of mass media.

New technological evolutions like Internet, World Wide Web and social interactive media have added new dimension to social communication of the diaspora masses. An interesting aspect of the usage of Internet by the Diaspora, as Karim points out, is in mobilizing public opinion and generating support for a cause. To cite an example, the Burmese exiles have been on the forefront of strengthening oppositional movement against the incumbent regime and creating pressure in the United States for economic sanction.

There have been incidences when media becomes an 'instrument of survival for endangered cultures; when their presence ensures the maintenance of links within geographically dispersed groups' as Michael Santianni illustrates in his research 'The movement for a free Tibet: Cyberspace and the ambivalence for cultural translation'. Depending on its alliance with political ideologies, diaspora media either plays a unifying or a separatist role as in the homeland causes of Tibet and Kurds. The role of newly emerging Syrian diaspora media, especially the Internet and telecom-based, of the refugee migrants is likely to offer interesting aspects that may throw new light on its utility in future studies.

When it comes to the growth and expansion of diaspora media, there are enough empirical evidences to show that it is the diaspora's initiative rather than the outside support of either the home or the host countries. Diaspora media has to often face an uphill task, as the host countries least prefer them. In fact, the countries, which give refuge to migrants, fear strengthening of ethnic groups as a possible threat to their national integration. This is true not only for the print and electronic media but also for the digital media as Karim says, "Government strive to control such traffic and the activities of foreign nationals within their borders: they generally tend to discourage the links of immigrants with their homelands or with other parts of diaspora."

Karim's observations are further vindicated with the recent happenings in America, France, Britain, and Australia where immigrants are being forced to assimilate with the local culture, language and cultural artifacts of the host countries. This, beyond doubt, exerts a pressure on the ethnic identity of the diaspora population, who already feel intimidated in an alien country.

It is here that the diaspora media has to play a constructive role in creating awareness and bringing both the diaspora and the host countries together for a harmonious co-existence dialogue.

Review by Vijay Soni, Journalist,
Email: veejay.soni@gmail.com

Film Review

Psychological trauma of an estranged Indian child in Australia in the movie *Lion*

The most painful and throbbing dimension of a child's separation from his homeland has been depicted in the movie, 'Lion'. It is highly acclaimed, appraised by international cinema and BAFTA award winning movie of 2016. It was directed by Garth Davis and screenplay was written by Luke Davies. The movie is based on a sensitive issue of the psychological trauma of a child who gets lost in India and circumstances move him away from his homeland to Australia. It shows that how a person feels isolated and fragmented without his original family and motherland. The Oscar nominated movie – Lion, is basically a story of an estranged child named *Saroo* who gets separated from his brother on a railway track nearby his native place, *Ganeistaly*, Khandwa (Uttar Pradesh, India). While searching his brother *Guddu* inside the train, *Saroo* got trapped in one of the compartments of a passenger train. Eventually, the train got started which took him thousands of miles across India, away from his family.

After several days in the train, he arrived in Bengal far from his home and survived roaming here and there on the roads of Kolkata. He tried his best to find out his family but he couldn't do so. He used to shout on roads and stations for his *Ammy* and *Guddu* for so many days. Meanwhile, he experienced various incidents in the roadside, temple, with unknown people and in orphanage for the lost children before ultimately being adopted by an Australian couple. He faced severe depression and mental stress while living without his mother, brother and native place. The movie depicts the feeling of loneliness and pain of a person who lost his family in childhood and lived with new parents, people and country. While living a privileged life, *Saroo Breirley* always remembers his childhood, his native place *Ginestaly*, his *Ammi* and *Guddu* and he wanted to come back to his home. *Saroo* remembered his life's truth and thus challenged himself to face the reality of his childhood which was earlier covered under the poverty, hunger and vulnerability. The purpose of his life is to search out his home which shows his deep belongingness with his *original*

homeland and family.

One of the critical dimensions of the movie is *assimilation vs. separation*. *Saroo* acquired an Australian identity and managed to live with that identity but lost his previous identity of an Indian fellow who was brought from a very poor and vulnerable state. In Australia, he had to get integrated with his Australian family and friends. He learnt English language, life-style and culture but was isolated by heart and decided that one day he would return back to his home. He didn't forget his past and those memories did not allow him to enjoy his own lavish life. His adopted mother has given him everything to make him her 'own' child but she failed to do so. He was physically there with them but his heart was somewhere else in India. This movie also presents critical problems of depression and mental diseases of lost children in the state of loneliness with the character of *Mantosh*, another adopted child by the same Australian couple.

The movie apparently touched every characteristic of the Diaspora which were defined by William Safran. *Saroo* was dispersed from his native place and always remains separated in host-land. He had a memory and known history of his past and had firm faith that whenever he would find out his village, he will return back to his family. In order to return back to his home, he tried to do every possible attempt to find out his family in *Google Earth* application. These are all traits of a Diasporic person which have been argued by many scholars and thinkers in the area of migration and Diaspora.

In the global scenario, the issue of identity is debatable which are associated with national boundaries and cultural practices. One of the critical perspectives is that identities are created and recreated in a social structure which is considered as *achieved status* of an individual.

Saroo was compelled to go to Australia because he did not have any other option left but to go away. He became an Australian citizen because he was an adopted child of an Australian couple. On other hand, his roots belong to India which reflects in his physical appearance, tastes and preferences. It has been shown in one of the scenes where he likes *jalebi*, his interest towards *cricket* and he understands *Hindi* language.

During the phase of massive exile, this movie poses a question that how can such tensions, issues and problems be resolved by the state and international bodies? It also sensitizes the issues under the underpinnings of the mi-

gration, exile, human rights and identity formation in home-land and host-land. The movie did a satire on lethargic system of India and how it deals with this sensitive issue of 'Lost children'. It depicts how the system fails to meet the lost children with their original parents, to provide facilities and shelter to the orphans, to do justice with their human rights, to safeguard them against sexual violence, and thus make them estranged from their original family and motherland out of compulsion.

Reviewed by Monika Bisht, PhD Scholar, NUEPA.

Email address: monika4bisht@gmail.com

Conference Report

National Conference Migration and Diaspora: Theory, Cultures and Literatures

National Conference titled “**Migration and Diaspora: Theory, Cultures and Literatures**”, jointly organized by Bharati College, Delhi University and GRFDT, sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Department of English, Delhi University.

Two Day National Conference was jointly organized by Bharati College, Delhi University and GRFDT during 24-25 March 2017. The conference was sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Department of English, Delhi University.

The welcome address began with Dr. Mukti Sanyal, Acting Principal, Bharati college. Dr. Nandini C. Sen, convener of the seminar gave a brief introduction regarding the scope of the conference. She also introduced chief guest Prof. Anil Joshi, noted environmentalist and Padmashri awardee. Our guest of honour was Prof. Niranjana Kumar, Dept of Hindi (DU) and also a member of governing body, Bharati College. The keynote address was given by Prof. Christel Devadawson who addressed the notion of 'Diaspora' in the classical studies biblical time through her paper on *Homeland: Hostland and the story of the Ruth*. She focused on diaspora and its roots in the Middle East through slides and pictorial representations. She focused on the complications associated with the word 'Diaspora'.

The plenary address was given by Prof. G.J.V. Prasad, Centre for English Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU. He spoke about classical diaspora, within India, giving examples of Parsi and Sindhi communities. He spoke about the complications associated with the diasporic subjectivity, that is, what it means to be a diasporic within one's own country and

abroad. The session was chaired by Mr. Ankur Gupta, Dept of sociology, South Asian University who concluded that diaspora has multiple facets.

Parallel Session-1 titled “Question of Identity in Diaspora Literature” was chaired by Prof. G.J.V. Prasad. The paper presenters had a range of themes dealing with identity and its relation to home and abroad movies like “Bend it Like Beckham”. One of the most interesting paper was by Dr. Rekha Gupta, Associate Professor, Bharati College who had discussed on the topic of psychological development in migrant children. The chair concluded that identity and homeland are the major influences behind the diasporic subjectivity.

Parallel session-2 was titled “Memory, Oral History and Language”. Dr. Mukti Sanyal was the chair. The main focus of this session was the case studies of Migrant communities such as the Tibetans, residing in Delhi. The notion of assimilation and marginalization were the key areas where all the paper presenters focused upon.

The lunch session was titled “Migration, Diaspora and Literature”. Dr. Nandini Sen was the chair. Ms. Nabanita Chakravarty's paper was on cultural identity and memory within the Bangladeshi Diaspora with influence Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*. Some of the other presenters focused on the notion of nostalgia and identity and also customs and its assertion.

The next session was titled “Migration and Diaspora: Emerging perceptions and challenges”. Dr. Hina Nandrajog was the chair.

The session focused on the various areas of conflict relation to the perception of Diaspora. Nirajan Marjani's paper focused on India's foreign policy, Non-alignment movement and its effect on the diasporic community. Migration from Bangladesh to Assam, Kashmir conflict and the legal institutions of colonial Australia were discussed within their session.

The last session of the day was "Culture, cinema and Diaspora". It was chaired by Dr. Suresh Kumar, HOD, African Studies, DU. The session discussed the representation of the migrant subjects in films and music. "Bride and Prejudice", "The Mistress of Spices" were some of the movies which were discussed.

The notion of culture, marriage, 1st generation diaspora and 2nd, 3rd generation of diasporic subjectivity were the key areas of discussion in this session. Dr. Gitanjali Chawla's paper was particularly interesting because it looked at the Punjabi Pop-folk culture and the various contentions within it.

The second day began with an equally illuminating note with a Plenary session. Prof. Narang presented the world view of a migrant who went on to form the diasporic Indian community across the globe. The migrants of the earlier generation were forcefully taken as indentured labourers in different parts of the world as part of colonial policy. Most of them, over the years, became the backbone of the



modernization projects of North America, Europe, South East Asia and the Africas (especially South Africa). However, the acknowledgement of this contribution has never been forthcoming. The literary efforts of diasporic writers like VS Naipaul, Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri form the absent world of the diasporic community in the developed nations. These literary works provided the emotional space for the diaspora to relate within homeland.

The next session titled "Migration and Diaspora: Emerging Perceptions and Challenges" was chaired by Dr. Hina Nandrajog. The session focused on the various areas of conflict with relation to the perception of Diaspora. The session had papers focusing on Indian foreign policy and diaspora, Non-alignment movement and its effect on

the diasporic community, migration from Bangladesh and Assam, Kashmir conflict and diaspora, migration, crime and legal institutions in colonial Australia.

The theme for the next session was the study of diaspora through cinema and literature. Dr. Anuradha Ghosh presented a paper on diaspora and transnationalism in cinematic frames from the melancholic representation of the migrant in early cinema to the current optimism predicted on the new liberalized order. Dr. Ghosh sought to recover the agency of the migrant subject. Zakaria Bouhmal's paper on Tourism and Terrorism was based on Laila Lalami's *Hope and other dangerous pursuits*. The paper tried to situate the experience of a different category of subject. The experience of the illegal immigrant in the developed world. Mahmud Al Zayad's paper was a close reading of Edward Said's *Out of place*. The paper argued that the 'other' is situated only within the self in a dialectical relationship. Other speakers also contributed equally valuable insights from Amitav Ghosh and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The parallel session on global diaspora also produced an interesting discussion. Dr. Abhay Chawla's

examination of the condition of the Meo diaspora in Pakistan and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta's paper on the Indian Diaspora in East Africa brought out the key issue of globalization as a driving force behind their many experiences. In a different take on the topic, Matt Kramer talked about predatory leadership as a theoretical framework for understanding migration.

Session eight on weaker sections, resistance and Diaspora Literature examined the experiences of those migrant communities who find themselves on the margins and therefore are doubly disadvantaged. In this context, Nithya Gopi's presentation on Benjamin's *Goat days*—a recent sensation in Kerala literary circles—depicted the marginality of the once prosperous Gulf Malayalis. Raqeeb Raza's paper entitled "Invisible Migrancy: The Politics of Sexual Migration" was a sociological and historical analysis of the migration trends of the sexual minorities.

The plenary session two was chaired by Dr. Nandini C. Sen. She introduced the speaker Dr. Baidik Bhattacharya. His talk addressed a particular contradiction in Naipaul's works—his mostly reductionist reading of postcolonial histories (especially of the New World), and his strikingly original insights into the histories of the indentured communities in the Caribbean. To address this, the talk suggested, one needs to identify two different strands in Naipaul's writing: the canonical, that often finds expression in the received traditions of English literature; and the anthropological, that attempts to capture the immediately local. In his writing, these two remain forever separate, and his fiction makes a special attempt to inhabit the gap between the two. The talk concluded with the suggestion that Naipaul's circulation in the Anglophone world literature is facilitated by this almost schizophrenic structure of his fiction.

Parallel session nine on Diaspora: various Views was chaired by Dr. Abhay Chawla. It brought together different disciplinary perspectives on the migrant subject across the world. For example, Monika Bisht's paper on the In-

dian students in the US located the mobility factor of highly skilled Indian students against the backdrop of the current knowledge economy.

Parallel session ten titled 'Diaspora, post colonial and Ideology' was chaired by Dr. Rekha Sapra. The discussion focused on the ideological moorings of the post-colonial subject and its relation to diaspora studies. The session had five papers discussing the various nuances of the theme.

The valedictory address was given by Prof. Brij Maharaj, from Kwa Zulu Natal University, Durban, South Africa. His talk addressed the challenges and issues of Hindu Diaspora in South Africa. Dr. M. Mahalingam, president of GRFDT summed up the seminar by giving the main highlights of the seminar. The seminar was drawn to a close with the vote of thanks by Dr. Shivani Jha from Bharati College. It was followed by cultural program being performed by the students of the college.

Report by Dr. M. Mahalingam, GRFDT

Conference Report

International Conference

Migration and Diasporas: Emerging Diversities and Development Challenges 22-23 March 2017, IGNOU, New Delhi

An international conference on the theme "Migration and Diasporas: Emerging Diversities and Challenges" was organized by IGNOU during 22-23 March 2017. Participants from more than 20 different countries namely Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA participated. More than 250 papers were presented covering many important and diverse issues on the theme. Here are some highlights of the both day conference.

The International Conference began with the inaugural address which consisted of introductory remarks by the various dignitaries who graced the stage. After the conclusion of the introductory address, the gathering broke for a tea break and after that began the parallel sessions.

Inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Secretary (CPV & OIA), MEA. He has spoken various initiatives taken by the Government to reach out to the diaspora. He said that diaspora issues are on priority of the Government. Prof. R. K. Jain, JNU, New Delhi who was the Guest of Honour has highlighted the issue of diversity in the today's global context. He said 'diversity in this context is produced by the ecological, politico-economic and geo-political parameters of diasporic devel-

opment. The ecological dimension resonates with global environmental concerns (cf. for example, Amitav Ghosh's recent writing); the politico-economic dimension relates to nation-building and "transformist hegemony" (Gramsci) concerning majority-minority ethnic relations in the emergent nation-states; the geo-political constraints refer to the location of arenas and investigators as moving targets in a globalized world'.

Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, who was the keynote speaker has talked about the experiences of United States of America. Since migration is much talked about issue after Donald Trump came into power, he emphasized that USA is primarily a country of immigrants and its strength lies there. Banning immigrants does not go well with American spirit and prosperity.

Here are some highlights of sessions that followed Inauguration.

Migration and Diasporic Dynamics

This session was chaired by Prof. Shobhita Jain of IG-NOU and consisted of a total of nine papers presented by presenters from (2/3?) countries. The various papers looked at a variety of issues dealing with diasporic conceptualization, diasporic identities and transnationalism and how they interplay within the modern nation and also the globalized world as a whole. Looking at these issues through the lens of subject based theories based in Sociology and International Relations as well as literature produced a fascinating look at how these issues presented themselves at both the national level and the international level, as well as the “glocal” level with a look at modern, globalized cities as the site of diasporic contentions. The session raised interesting issues on how to approach diasporic studies in a fluid and increasingly connected world.

Identity and Citizenship: The session was chaired by Prof. Debal K. Singharoy and consisted of nine papers presented by participants from 3 countries. The papers covered various issues regarding diasporic identities and the ideas of rootlessness, sub national identities contesting with citizenship within modern nation states and how they contest their identities in these contexts. These issues were covered over a wide variety of geographical contexts, looking at the issues for example, of, Yemeni diaspora in Hyderabad (India), Indian diaspora in the US and Balochi identity at the Afghanistan- Pakistan border. The geographical breadth of the session made this session an engaging one and provided an engaging insight into how these issues present similar challenges and are dealt with various strategies.

Reimagining Development: Migration and Diaspora: The session was chaired by Prof. B.K. Pattnaik and consisted of nine papers with a varied international perspective from countries like Ghana, the GCC countries, New Zealand and Ethiopia. The session looked at topics relating the development process as a whole and how they affect various diasporic communities in different countries. The papers highlighted the issues of inclusive development and how they need to include various diasporic communities towards a more sustainable development process and how exclusionary processes affect diasporic communities in particular. The intersection with various social structures such as caste also gave another important insight, which needs to be addressed when discussing about development as well.

Mobility, Skills and Knowledge: The session was chaired by Dr. Ute Rösenthaler and consisted of

nine papers which reviewed concepts related to mobility of various classes of workers and students and their contribution to the diasporic formation process in various countries. The session looked at papers which dealt with the oft debated issues of the migration of high and semi skilled workers and students and how they affected the economies and development of destination and host countries. Topics like Brain Drain and mobility barriers as well as development strategies of various countries were discussed in this session.

Plenary Session titled “International Migration: Policy Challenges” was Chaired by Dr. Vinayshil Gautam. Five speakers namely Prof. Brij Maharaj, Dr. Pushkar Jha, Dr. Serena Hussain, Ute , Prof. Ute Rösenthaler, Dr. TLS Bhaskar have covered the issues related to the International Migration. Country specific issues were shared by various panelists.

Business/Trade and Technology: This session was chaired by Prof. Brij Maharaj and consisted of nine papers from perspectives of different countries like Malaysia, the US and various African and Asian countries. The papers in the session discussed the various implications diasporic communities had on the development of business and trade in the world economy, especially in bilateral relations between host and destination countries. The papers touched on concepts like using diasporic networks as a platform for propagating “soft power” as a tool of foreign policy and the use of various forms of new technology to achieve this objective.

Migration and Diasporic Policy: The session was chaired by Dr. TLS Bhaskar and consisted of nine papers which covered issues relating to policies adopted by various countries to address the issues posed by increasing migrant communities in various contexts. The session presented ideas relating to migration governance, the accommodation of migrant communities in global cities around the world and how host countries respond to ever increasing migrant communities- either accommodative or in an exclusive manner. The session also covered specific policy decisions of countries and how they evolved in approach over time.

Diaspora Remittances and Development: The Session was chaired by Prof. P.C. Jain and consisted of nine papers which addressed the critical issue of remittance sending to host countries and its contribution to the development of their economies and the its deployment in economies at the national level as well as the local level. While

it also presented perspectives from countries such as Egypt and China. The papers in the session provided a rich background of evidence based research into the role of remittances in the development strategies in various states in India such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala and juxtaposed with strategies presented in Egypt and China provided an insightful comparison into this issue.

Migration and Refugees: The session was chaired by Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur and consisted of nine papers on the increasingly critical topic of refugee governance around the world, a topic which has gained worldwide importance over the past few years. The session did well to highlight refugee development and inclusion strategies and allied issues from countries such as those in Europe, Bangladesh and the Rohingya refugee crisis. The issues of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, Burmese refugees and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India. The session also consisted of an important paper on the plight of “climate refugees” the how climate change presents a challenge to refugee governance which must be taken seriously in the future. The large breadth of countries covered provided an adequate insight into the scope of the issues concerning the welfare and well being of refugees around the world and was a very insightful session indeed.

Education, Skill and Capacity Building: The session was chaired by Dr. Pushkar Jha and consisted of ten papers that looked at the important issue of the migration of students for studies abroad and the various developmental and skills transfer that takes place with the dynamic movement of students, a trend which has gained importance in India over the past few decades. With a look at issues presented by the migration of Indian students, comparative reflections from countries such as Vietnam, Algeria and Pakistan provided an insightful look into educational strategies. Concepts such as capacity building, diasporic philanthropy towards institution building and skills transfer were discussed.

Issues, Challenges and Diversities: The session was chaired by Prof. Kamala Ganesh and featured 11 presentations on varied topics related to the intersection of culture and diasporic identity and the related issues and anxieties related to maintaining those very identities. The session included reflections from outside India, but focused majorly on sub national identities of groups within India itself such as the anxieties of Kashmiri youth and Pandit community in Delhi, the Kondha tribe in Odisha as well as the formation of an “Assamese” identity in the context of increasing cross-border migration. The large volume of papers presented include varied and often conflicting reflections, which provided lively debate and discussion on the topic of migration, diaspora and diversity.

Migration and Diasporic Literature: The session was chaired by Dr. Nandini. C. Sen and featured 10 presentations on migration and diaspora reflected in the rich catalogue of literature that has been assimilated over time. Considering the entire scope of the topic at hand, the session did well to encompass the various thoughts that one comes across in the works of noted writers such as V.S. Naipaul and Jhumpa Lahiri as well as famous novels by Bharti Mukherjee and Shani Mootoo and Premchand were also discussed. Concepts inherent in these novels- ones of diasporic memory, cultural and sexual oppression, conformity in the post 9/11 world were encapsulated in this lively session.

Multiculturalism and Hybridity: Chaired by Dr. Kiranmayi Bhushi, this session dealt with a very important discussion on multiculturalism, a topic which has been debated and discussed in detail over the past year and the rise of anti-immigration movements seen recently in the West. Issues relating to multiculturalism were presented from many different geographical and cultural contexts- from the linguistic and cultural hybridization at the Chinese-Russian border to cases of cultural miscegenation in a wide variety of countries such as Kenya, the US, the GCC countries and Oman and how they shape and influence the host and destination cultures in separate and unique ways. This important session raised important issues of what exactly multiculturalism is and how it helps societies grow, which is all the more important in today’s increasingly globalized yet fragmented society.

Day 2 had many interesting papers as well. Here are some highlights of the papers.

Impact of migration on Indigenous Communities: Issues and challenges

This paper highlighted the complexities that surround migration and the fact that migration is a very old phenomenon that has been happening since ancient times. This paper looked at the pseudo real stories of migration of older persons which creates migrations within nations and foster the development of a homeless ‘diaspora’ away from their ‘homeland’. Paper used findings from case studies in the North Eastern and Eastern parts of India and elaborated on the politics of ‘ageing’, ageism and social exclusion.

Impact of the economic crisis on migration in Spain, focus on south Asian Diaspora. This paper talks about the impact of global economic crisis in 2008 on south Asian Diaspora in Spain.



Through this paper, the researcher had tried to show that South Asian diaspora which is engaged mainly in ethnic business were not that badly effected due to the economic crisis. In fact they have been able to benefit from the crisis as they offer more competitive rates, flexible timings etc. This paper basically tries to understand the relevant skills and strategies of south Asian diaspora for facing the adverse socio economic conditions.

Discourses of Migration among Older Persons: Social Exclusion and Homelessness in India

This paper highlights the discourses of migration among older persons in west Bengal and tries to understand their state of homelessness and social exclusion. This paper aims to look at such pseudo-real stories of migration of older persons which create migrations within nations and foster the development of a homeless 'diaspora' away from their 'homeland' and in 'care homes' and 'street homes' in their 'homeland.'

Socio-Economic Dimensions of International migration: A Case study of Gaggupalli village in Nizamabad District, Telangana. This paper aims to understand the process, consequences and socio-economic changes brought

in by the migration to Gulf countries from Gaggupalli village in Nizamabad District of Telangana over the last three decades. The paper also examines the psychological impact of this migration on the family members back home in the study village. Researcher tries to prove that migration can be viewed not only as a simple process for seeking livelihood, but also as a key to the socio-economic development of individual households with which several processes are associated.

Migration and Livelihood Opportunities: Push and Pull Factors with Special Reference to Bastar Region of Chhattisgarh. This paper tries to understand the push and pull factors of migration and how are they interrelated to livelihood opportunities with special reference to Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Therefore, this study enumerates the push and pulls factors of migration in rural areas of Bastar district and suggests some social intervention methods for their overall development. This study attempts to explain how international migration affects the left behind elderly in Kerala. In addition the paper evaluates the government policies for the elderly in the state. The data are derived largely from various rounds of NSSO (38th, 43rd, 50th, 55th, 61st and 68th), various reports of Kerala Migration Survey.

There are studies on elderly and international migration independently. But none of these studies has attempted to study the issues of the left behind elderly in the household of international migrants. On this account, this paper made an attempt of exploration of the issue of migration and the left-behind elderly in Kerala.

The Study of Adolescent Peer Victimization and Psychosocial Maladjustment of Tribal Santhal Children of West Bengal. This paper tries to understand adolescent peer victimization and psychosocial maladjustment of tribal santhal children of west Bengal. The present study builds upon previous research (e.g., Hodges and Perry, 1999) that suggests that longitudinal relations between victimization and negative psychosocial outcomes, as well as between psychosocial maladjustment and the consequential experience of peer victimization, may be moderated by social or interpersonal factors.

Forced Eviction and the Indian Cities: Issues and Challenges

The paper seeks to address the processes of forced eviction of slum people around the major urban redevelopment initiatives in India in general and specifically focuses on Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It examines the socio-economic impact of the urban development policy and practice on displaced slum households, and provides recommendations that authorities should consider to minimize development-induced livelihood disruptions.

Understanding the dynamics of Forced Displacement in the Coal Mining Region of Eastern India. The present study constitutes an attempt to systematically analyse the dynamics of forced displacement in the study area and the consequences of it. There found geographical variations within the region regarding the consequences of forced displacement as it is depend largely on how resettlement and rehabilitation is planned, negotiated, and carried out.

Forced Migration: A study on Hindu Bangladeshi Immigrants in Assam. This study tries to focus on the extent of Hindu Bangladeshi immigration and the present citizenship controversy in Assam. It is also an attempt to develop an argument for considering Hindu Bangladeshis as forced migrants. The paper is based on available secondary data with both qualitative and quantitative approach.

Forced Migration: Flight of the Hindu Minority of Bangladesh and Present Crisis in Assam. The present study falls on the conflict induced forced migration. In this situation people are forced to leave their ancestral home for fear of life and property. Such people usually flee across the international borders in search of refuge or seek asylum under international law.

So this paper is an attempt to highlights the problem of

forced migration in India with primary focus on how the Central Government's decision creating a conflict like situation in Assam.

European Perspective on Multiculturalism: A Case Study of Indian Diaspora. This paper tries to study the factors and reasons for assimilation easy acceptance of Indian Diaspora in European civil and political society. The study will also try to analyze if there is any relation between the home-grown experiences of Indians that helped them in assimilation in EU. It is also imperative to see if the political attitude and behaviour of Indian Diaspora has any role in their easy assimilation and integration in Europe.

Regional Diaspora/Diasporas in India

Punjabi-Sikh Immigration in Italy: a case-study. This paper deals with Indian immigration in Italy, in particular the case-study of Punjabi-Sikh immigrants in northern Italy, near Reggio Emilia. Researcher tries to understand migration phenomena in the contemporary world, never losing sight of country of origin. Moreover, it lets me contextualize similarities and differences of social behaviour in motherland and in host country.

Malayali Diaspora in the Gulf: Trends and Threats. This paper addresses the actual and potential threat of return migration from the Gulf by analyzing the recent trends in Malayali migration to the gulf. The paper tries to understand the very socio economic development of Kerala.

Bengali Migrants in NCT of Delhi: Selected Social Attributes. This paper tries to understand the social attributes of Bengali migrants in NCT Delhi. the present paper intends to highlight not only the patterns of social identity of Bengali migrants through language, dress, food, religion, festivals etc. but also how over the years these Bengali migrants have retained their identity in the cosmopolitan culture of NCT of Delhi. In the present paper both qualitative and quantitative methods has been analyzed with the help of data from Census of India and through field survey.

A Sociological Study of Tamil Moguls Diaspora with special reference to those in Sri Lanka. This study attempts to construct a broad discourse on particular characteristics of Tamil Moguls Diaspora with special reference to those in Sri Lanka. It illustrates the nature of the interior Sri Lanka Tamil business identity within the broader framework of Tamil ethnic Moguls by providing a review of literature about the legacy of Tamil free enterprise, and using primary data collected from field research in the central highlands of Sri Lanka. This research work demonstrates, the interior Sri Lanka Tamils are significant as creators of the empire-building "little tradition" among other Tamil market makers such as the Nattukottai Chettiars and the Tamil Muslims.

The Tibetan Diaspora in India and their Emerging Issues for Sustainable Livelihood and Development

This study has a deep humanitarian concern in regard to the uprooted Tibetan people, who have been deprived of opportunities to their continued existence as a distinctive culture. It further reveals that Tibetans in India are struggling for life and their cultural adaptation to a geographically alien environment for their livelihood and development without losing their identity which is often a complex one, with religious, political, educational, social and economic factors involved.

Migrant Network and Economic Behaviour: The Case of Persian Gulf Migrants from a Malabar Locality

The present paper would critically engage with the concept of meditational migrant social networks. It is based on a field-work exploration of different forms of social ties, of pre and post-migration provenance, which in fact vary locally. This paper will take up the case of large scale labour migration from Malabar (South Western India) to the Persian-Gulf since circa 1970. It would analyze a sample survey among the Persian Gulf migrants of a traditional Muslim locality in North Malabar. The findings suggest that the Mappila Muslim migrants have developed a locally specific and contemporary form of networking skills and strategies that go well beyond the so called 'historically rooted' meditational paradigm.

Tides of Changes: Partition, Environment- Bangladesh West Bengal Border Migration

This present study attempts to investigate firstly, the historic trajectories and partition that link to forced and legal migration process across the region of West Bengal, and secondly, accentuated by the modern day dynamics of irregular and undocumented migration, have given rise to multiple forms of population movement. The second division is connected to displacement related forced migration to the adverse effects of climate change.

Sidis of Gujarat: an African diaspora in India and the future of their heritage, Dr. RenuModi, Senior Lecturer, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai

This paper aims to share notes from the field- from Ratanpur in Gujarat where the presenter conducted research for a documentary film project on the diversity of oral traditions of the Sidis-- Indian Muslims of African descent who came mainly through the slave route from the 13- 17 centuries, A.D and became an integral part of the Indian society. This study looks into how the Sidis are at crossroads; with their recent awareness as part of the African diaspora and the future of their African heritage. The presentation will be premised on visual representations to share the voices of the Sidis and thus understand their culture, tradition and identity and their ongoing

struggles to preserve them.

Understanding Telugu Dalit Diaspora. This study will analyze the historical context of Telugu Dalit Diaspora, the forms of caste mobility and discrimination both destination and origin places of Telugu Dalit Diaspora and the cultural and economic relationship between the Indian state and Telugu Dalit Diaspora community.

Chinese community in India :Continuity and change,

The paper shall attempt to take insights into the present disposition of Chinese community in India with focus on the post-liberalisation and post-ICT era challenges and development of a small community which has in its own way contributed to the multicultural Indian panorama.

Jewish Diaspora in Contemporary Indian Society: Hybridity, Creolisation, Culture and the Present

The present paper aims to study the cultural impact that the insignificant number of Jewish population has left on the Indian society right from its origin to the present day. It would attempt to analyze the manner in which the minority community has embraced and in turn, has been embraced by the native populace and also, how it has received growing attention in the literature, cinema and other forms of representation in contemporary India.

International Migration, Dalit Diaspora, Remittances and Empowerment in Punjab: Some Critical Reflections

The research paper is based on the fieldwork conducted by the researcher in 5 districts of Punjab and secondary sources. It tries to examine the linkage between emigration, dalit diaspora, remittances and their overall empowerment. The exclusion of women, other dalit castes, other regions of Punjab from international emigration shall also be critically analysed.

The conference ended with a valedictory session in which speakers such as Prof. Kamala Ganesh, Prof. Chandrashekhara Bhat and Prof. Brij Maharaj shared their views on the migration challenges in general and challenges to Indian Diaspora in particular.

A Report by Ashwin Kumar and Anuja Tripathy, SOITS, IGNOU

