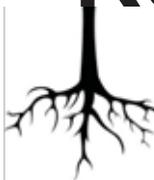
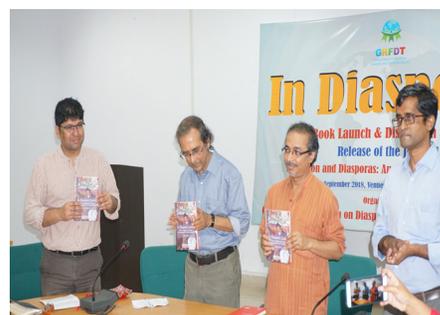


Roots and Routes



Vol 8, No. 9-10, September - October, 2018



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Editors' Note



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Dear Readers
Greetings from GRFDT!

Diaspora and migration are emerging as crucial terminologies in the 21st century that, in addition to being associated with the concept of human mobility, are gaining deeper meaning and connotations linked to notions of culture, nationalism, transnationalism, history as well as geo-politics. The ever expanding boundaries of these terms need to be captured through in-depth and extensive interdisciplinary lenses. To comprehend diaspora and migration studies, GRFDT has launched its bi-annual journal 'Migration and Diasporas: an interdisciplinary journal'. The journal was launched on September 22, 2018 along with 4 book launches in the event "In Diasporas: Book Launch, discussion series and the release of the journal".

The event witnessed the launch of *Women in the Indian Diaspora: Historical Narratives and Contemporary Challenges*, edited by Dr Amba Pande; *Through the Diasporic Lens*, edited by Dr Nandini C Sen, *In Diasporic Lands: Tibetan Refugees and their Transformation Since the Exodus*, authored by Dr Sudeep Basu and *Identity, Diaspora and Literature: Theorising New Diasporic Consciousness*, edited by Nitesh Narnolia and Ms Mousam. The launch was attended by eminent academicians which included Prof RK Jain, former professor of JNU, who chaired the plenary session, Prof Harish Narang, Prof Binod Khadria, Ambassador Anup Mudgal (former High Commissioner to Mauritius), research scholars and students.

Additionally, the current issue includes a book review of 'India Migration Reader' by Tasha Aggarwal. The reviewer stresses that the book, being a rich collection of papers, deals with social, political and economic aspects of migration, which is very useful for the researchers in the field of migration studies.

Furthermore, the issue includes a commentary titled 'Hate crimes against migrants: xenophobia or intended crimes?' by Monika Bisht. The commentary discusses the increasing incidents of hate crimes against migrants in destination countries. The paper concludes that such problems can be addressed through clear and transparent policy mechanism for increased security of migrants. We hope this edition instigates your thoughts about migration as well as enrich your knowledge in the area of Migration and Diaspora studies.
Happy Reading!

Arsala Nizami and Monika Bisht

In Diasporas

Book Launch & Discussion Series

Release of the Journal

Migration and Diasporas An Interdisciplinary Journal

By Vijay K Soni, Kalyani and Sadananda Sahoo



Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) on September 22, 2018 launched its inaugural issue of biannual journal - Migration and Diasporas: An Interdisciplinary Journal amid eminent academicians, experts and research scholars. The function was marked by three book launches and discussions on various subjects related to migration and diaspora. The launch of the inaugural issue of the Journal was attended by eminent academicians which included Prof RK Jain, former professor of JNU, who chaired the plenary session, Prof Harish Narang, Prof BinodKhadria, Ambassador AnupMudgal (former High Commissioner to Mauritius), research scholars and students.

Titled 'In Diaspora', the plenary session of the function witnessed some of the interesting observation in contemporary diasporic studies. The editors of the journal, Dr

AmbaPande and Dr SadanandaSahoo, in their introductory speech highlighted the theme of the journal and its need in the contemporary diasporic and migration studies. GRFDT is a new non-profit, academic research organization which has been organizing international conferences and conducting studies and publishing monographs on issues related to Diaspora and migration.

Speaking at the plenary session, Prof Jain said that interdisciplinarity was at the heart of the Journal, which would enable to 'see' rather than 'look' at the various issues related to diasporic and migration studies. Highlighting the history of the GRFDT and the need of a journal, which was discussed in the earlier meeting, he applauded the GRFDT for making it a reality today. He said that the Journal was a natural progression in the working of the organization at

the macro-level. He quoted Bertrand Russell saying that the endeavour of academics is to create a dust and then settle it for better understanding of the discourse.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof Harish Narang problematized the very definition of 'diaspora' and said that it was the new buzzword of the 21st century. He equated it with humans' exemplary transnational movement. He said that in diasporic studies, Jews are considered to be the first Diasporic community but if one looks at the history of civilization like

Indus Valley and Mesopotamians and at the South East Asian movement of people, one would come across pre-Jews communities who were diasporic in their movement. While talking about imaginary homeland and cultural distances between the home and host countries, he said that the concept of nation and homeland are new form of treaty between the two entities. While talking about the phenomenon of people movement from Sitamarhi to Scotland and about the Kolkata Coolie and Indians migrating to Pakistan during partition and still called 'Mujahirs' were the diverse manifestation of the concepts of migration and diasporas.

Ambassador AnupMudgal (former High Commissioner to Mauritius) relived his global experience while narrating his 'sojourn' in various European countries and emphasized that we all are diasporas - be it through internal or external migration. To decide it, it depends where we put the dateline and from where we begin. He highlighted the conflict between identity and integration and said that identity was a self-defence mechanism for the self-preservation for communities. He said that the strength of the diaspora lies in its ability to accommodate, which decides their success. The reason, according to him, for the success of Indian Diaspora was its ability to accommodate. He said that Indian Ocean from millennium has been a natural engine of growth for the movement of people as it provided natural wind for the movement of ships along the Indian coast and that the monsoon currents were most predictable and dependable for people to move along the coast.

Mudgal further added that pluralism was India's strength, which provides an opportunity for the positive integration of

people both with the host and home country. He said the role of Indian IT professionals in fixing the Y2K Millennium bug was the hallmark and turning point in the recognition of Indian knowledge industry. Underlining the other hallmark of Indian diaspora, he said that Indians are not seen as a threat and an

intimidating force and are globally seen as the most accommodative. This perception of English-speaking people who are good at math, science and engineering subjects has gone a long way in carving a niche for the Indian community overseas, he said.



Prof. BinodKhadria,

an eminent scholar in the area of migration, delved upon various issues plaguing the migration and diaspora studies. He highlighted the contentious issues and politics behind the Global Commission for International Migration. He said that according to 2017 UN Report, some 215 million people, forming 3 per cent of the global population are migrants. Earlier it was the Europe, which was home to the largest number of the migrants, now it's the Asia, which for the first time has become home for largest number of migrants, in India alone there is 5 million migrants. He said that while diaspora is not a benign term, the term migration has become a hot potato and dangerous term in international politics. He highlighted the issues of Syrian refugees, the Brexit, Catalonia referendum, raising of a wall on the US-Mexico border, Rohingya issue, travel ban by the US to some of the Muslim countries, the NRC in Assam, which are migration related and have assumed political significance. He said that while migration is a flow concept, diaspora is a stop concept.

The plenary session of lively interaction between academia and scholars was followed by a four sessions of book releases and discussion during the daylong workshop. On the occasion, GRFDT also announced its next international conference, which would be held in November 2020.

The function also witnessed the launch of Women in the Indian Diaspora: Historical Narratives and Contemporary Challenges, edited by Dr AmbaPande; Through the Diasporic Lens, edited by Dr Nandini C Sen, In Diasporic Lands: Tibetan Refugees and their Transformation Since the Exodus, authored by Dr SudeepBasu and Identity, Diaspora and Literature: Theorising New Diasporic Consciousness,

edited by NiteshNarnolia and Ms Mousam.

The second session was the book launch of *Women in the Indian Diaspora: Historical Narratives and Contemporary Challenges* (Springer 2018) edited by Dr. AmbaPande. The session was chaired by Prof. Shobhita Jain, IGNOU, New Delhi and the discussants included Dr. Manju Seth, former, Ambassador to French Reunion and Dr. Renu Modi, University of Mumbai, Mumbai.

In the beginning Prof. Shobhita Jain who chaired the session asked the Editor Dr. AmbaPande to give a brief overview of her book. Dr. Pande shared her idea of bringing out the book on gender and selection of its content.

Dr. Manju Seth, former, Ambassador to French Reunion brought out a range of issues related to gender, many of those stories were lived experiences from diaspora itself. Thus, she provided a very insightful and dynamic view of the diaspora and how patriarchy operated through both male and female.

Dr. Renu Modi made various comparisons between the present book with some of the other books on gender in the diaspora. She also spoke at length on the issues of gender that is prevalent in old diasporas such as in Uganda.

The session ended with question and answer session.

The third session was the launch of Nandni C. Sen book "Through the diasporic lens". The session was chaired by Prof. Harish Narang, who is the visiting professor at the Ambedkar University of Delhi and former UGC Emeritus fellow at JNU. The speakers in the session were Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Anuradha Ghosh and Dr. AbhayChawala. Dr. Amit Kumar has done his Ph.D. from Centre for Historical Studies JNU in the area of Indian Labour diaspora in Mauritius. Dr. AbhayChawala is visiting faculty at Delhi University, he works in the area of social development and has been engaged as National consultant for UNDP for Green City Project in Gurgaon. Dr. Anuradha Ghosh is associate Professor at JamiaMiliaIslamia.

The book investigates the ways in which the new diasporic consciousness is being represented on the world stage and explores the literary works that reproduce the identity of new as well as the old diaspora. It seeks to open new horizon in

the field of diaspora and introduces the new consciousness among new diaspora communities. The book tries to engage with new diasporic consciousness by looking into issues of development of technology, making up of transnational communities and new identities.



The session saw some of the significant insights from Dr. Narang, who discussed the very category of 'Transnational communities' and argued about the porosity of identities that exists within nation as well. He thus highlighted the diversity of identities that exists within the

nation and the need for academia to engage with them, rather than getting constrained through categories of nation and state. Further he argued that a watertight compartmentalization might undermine the very essence of what transnationalism truly stands for. Dr. Anuradha Ghosh presented some of the insights into the text and engaged critically into some of the dimensions that needed a more critical insight. Dr. Amit Kumar and Dr. AbhayChawala discussed on the question of identity and the complex ways in which it is constantly formed and transformed.

Overall the discussion was fruitful insight into the lived stories of gendered reality that exists in the diaspora. It enhanced our understanding into the textual readings on the diasporic literature. Further through a critical engagement of some these literary readings it unveiled the layers of gendered meaning that are captured within these literary artifacts.

The fourth Session was on the book 'In Diasporic Lands: Tibetan Refugees and their Transformation since the Exodus' authored by Dr. Sudeep Basu. The session was chaired by Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi and the Speaker included Prof. AnupDhar, AUD, New Delhi and Dr. Ankur Dutta, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, South Asian University, New Delhi.

The Chair person Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta highlighted the importance of growing number of studies on refugees and diaspora today. The concepts such as "identity", "diaspora" cannot be understood by economist only, rather they are more useful when they cut across disciplines.

Prof. AnupDhar mentioned that there are several metaphysics

of “identity”. Sometimes it is caste, sometimes it is class, sometimes it is race and so on and so forth. Tibetan community in Darjeeling are an unsettled community, simultaneously they are negotiating with the host in one hand and longing for the home on the other.

Identity, Diaspora and Literature: Theorising New Diasporic Consciousness (2018) edited by Nitesh Narnolia (Author), Mousam (Author). The session was chaired by Dr. Raj Sekhar Basu, University of Calcutta, Kolkata and the speakers includes:

Dr. Nandini Sen, Delhi University, New Delhi and Dr. Nabanita Chakraborty, University of Delhi, New Delhi

This book investigates the ways in which the new diasporic consciousness is being represented on the world stage and explore the literary works that reproduce the identity of the new as well as the old diaspora. It seeks to open new horizons in the field of diaspora and introduces the new consciousness among the new diaspora communities. It includes the chapters on various writers of diaspora literature such as V. S. Naipaul, Chitra Banerjee, Amitav Ghosh, Shashi Deshpande, Kamala Markandaya etc. as well as deals with the cinema representing diaspora communities. It explores the potential areas of new diasporic consciousness by engaging with the issues such as development of technology, making transnational communities and developing new identities, so that the present book might lead to future developments in the field of new diasporic consciousness.

The Chair of the session Prof. Raj Sekhar Basu highlighted the various contents of the book and explained the complexity of “identity” while discussing on diaspora.



The next speaker Dr. Nandini Sen mentioned that the book needs more nuanced understanding of the identity and diaspora literature. She also mentioned that there is so much diversity and differences within the diaspora film. The film that are made within the diaspora, the film that

are based on novel or fiction and the film that are made by the directors within and outside diaspora.

At the end of the plenary session, Dr M Mahalingam proposed a vote of thanks and send out invitation for the international conference to be held in November 2020.

Vijay Kumar Soni, Ph.D. Scholar, SOITS, IGNOU

Kalyani, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems School Of Social Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Assistant Professor, School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

Migration, Diaspora and Development: An Indian Perspective

7-8th March, 2019

Centre for Diaspora Studies (Independent Centre) Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar

Call for Paper

The twenty first century immigrants' experiences are quite different from the previous immigrant generation. The International Migration Report (2017) states that 3.4 percent of the world's inhabitant population today are international migrants. It is constituted 258 million population is living in a country other than their country of birth (UN- DESA). In the southern hemisphere of globe, along with other continents, Asia has also emerged as one of the important regions that has been contributing large number of international migrants in the world. This geographical region alone, contributes approximately 61 million population in the world migration. According to latest report of the UN-DESA, India has largest Diaspora (17 Million) population in the world who are residing outside their country of origin. And, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, there are approximately 31.2 million Indian diaspora spread across the world.

Important Dates

1	Last date for receiving short abstract	31st December 2018
2	Intimation about selection of abstracts	11th January 2019
3	Last date for receiving full paper	15th February 2019
4	Dates of International Conference	7-8th March 2019
5	Venue of International Conference	Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Sector-29.

For any further information or query please contact:

Dr. Naresh Kumar (Assistant Professor & Conference Convenor) **Email:** migrationdiasporaintconf2019@gmail.com **Mob.:** (+91) 09726773239

India Migration

Review by Tasha Agarwal

Rajan, S. I. (Ed) (2017). India Migration Reader. Routledge Publication, New York

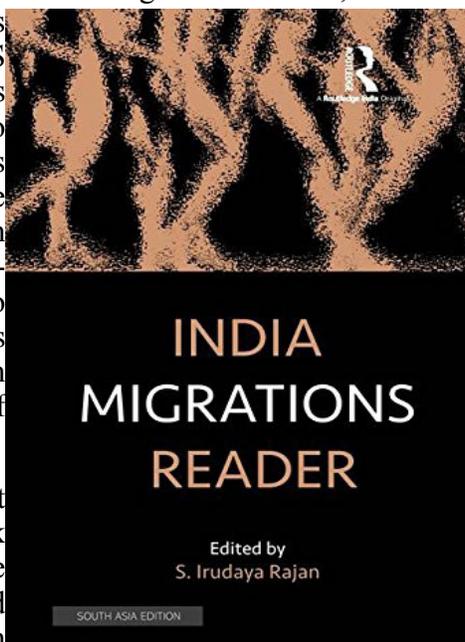
The book comes as a by-product of release of India Migration Report (IMR) and several annual reports on migration, in collaboration with CDS and Government of India. Owing to its immense popularity, it was decided to bring out the book containing chapters from IMR. These chapters cover wide range of issues concerning migration and development ranging from inter-state migration, international migration to diaspora settlements. The book contains 10 chapters on different themes from leading authors working in the area of migration studies across India.

The introductory chapter details out process and idea on how the book took its present shape from various IMRs. Five IMRs have been published till date and two chapters from each IMR has been transformed into 10 chapters of this book.

The introductory chapter also brings forth the basic migration data which may provide a gist of the existing scenario of migration from various Indian states.

The first chapter provides a brief review on the existing policies of government of India towards migration. Pointing out the loopholes, the author has suggested reforms which should be undertaken by the Government of India in order to make migration policies more inclusive and tap the opportunity for migration led growth. Considering that India is one of the largest migration sending countries in the world and having a large diversity of workforce, it is very important to have policies that are useful for better migration management.

The second chapter provides a brief on the critical issues concerning Indian diaspora communities. The author points out the grave issue of lack of effective data as well as methodology to measure the count of Diasporas in different countries. This inefficiency stems partly from the conceptual definition which has been designed to understand diaspora. The chapter has also touched upon the contribution of Diasporas via remittances, technology and knowledge



transfer, investment etc. The author concludes the stance that the policy needs massive transformation to make it migrant friendly. Some of the suggestions provided by the author includes allowing of dual citizenship, establishing networks and contacts, understanding diaspora and capturing requisite data etc.

The third chapter looks at the migration debate through gender lens and discusses the complexities associated with conceptualizing female migration. Right from leaving their home to staying in the foreign land, the chapter discusses the issue of unequal access to resources, gendered division of work, health issues, unequal union rights, lack of access to legal help and trafficking of women. The author mentions the effect which female migration have, on family and economy.

She further, draws policy recommendations in order to establish a ground for equal opportunity as well as welfare of the female migrants, both in origin and destination country.

Extending the debate further, Chapter 4 brings out how the policy treats men and women differently. The author has used the concept of social legitimacy to explain the categorization of migrant women with respect to risk involved. The chapter centers around important issues concerning female migration such as paternalistic attitude of state, sense of entitlement and negotiation at the origin country, lack of pre departure orientation, issue of visa trading by sponsor recruiter, strategies to restrict migration or nationalization of workforce etc. Having mentioned the issues, she brings out the role of civil society is promoting migration as well as keeping the migrants well informed, thereby ensuring their welfare.

The fifth chapter discusses the issues concerning migration and the importance of governing such human mobility. The author specifically focuses on the need of adoption of Common International Framework for governing migration. He brings out three major constraints with regards to adoption

of such framework, namely, lack of shared/common good, absence of reciprocity and the absence of hegemonic power to safeguard the regime. Further, he also discusses about the future of migration where he mentions that due to change in social, economic and political structure of the countries around the world, the trend of migration can be expected to be more stable by 2025.

The sixth chapter discusses about the localization policies adopted by Saudi Arabia to tackle increasing migration of low skilled labour from Kerala to Saudi Arabia, in response to the increasing youth unemployment of local population. Due to such policy, several manual jobs are left vacant since the Saudi youths are not willing to take such manual work. The chapter also sheds light on the future of immigration in the wake of such localization policies.

The next four chapters of the book deals with various aspects of internal migration. Seventh chapter is based on elaborating the trend of internal migration in India. As against common belief, the author have brought forth that internal migration of women is more than that of men. However, such migration is not dominated by labour movement, rather the increased women migration majorly accounts for post marriage migration. The author has also correlated migration and development variables to check how different variables are correlated with the aspect of migration. By doing so, the author has numerically established various push and pull factors of migration.

Eighth chapter has presented the migration led political actions which were aimed towards ethnic cleansing. By using case studies of different Indian states, the authors have elaborated on how increased internal migration has led to formation of ideas and organizations fighting towards preservation of native culture, jobs and identity. According to the authors, such actions discourage migration and calls for reform in migration policies and effective implementation of Migration Workmen Act 1979.

Chaper 9 dwells into the practices adopted by state with regards to employment of laborers. It examines the shift in the role of state in fulfilling the needs of migrant workers working in informal sector. The chapter, predominantly, focuses on informalization of formal work and the consequence of such practices.

The final chapter, chapter 10, has elaborated on different phenomenon of internal migration by comparing it with international migration simultaneously. It has detailed out on how the increased in supply of labour in different countries has led to increase in international migration, and how similar

situation of increase in demand from urban centers attracts migrants from rural areas. Similarly, the role of remittances in international migration has been used to situate the role of remittances in internal migration, thereby, the author leads towards correlating migration with poverty. Keeping inclusive development at the center of discussion, the author emphasizes the importance of policy measures to tackle vulnerability and exploitation of migrant workers.

Overall, the book contains a rich collection of papers on different aspects of both internal and international migration. The selection of chapters for the formation of book has been very apt as it touches upon social, economic and political aspects of migration. The book seems to be well designed to be included as an introductory course related to migration and development. It is useful for the researchers in the field of migration study. Formation of this book seems to have provided easy access to scholars across the world for gaining access to IMR. The book could have further been enriched had there been some chapters on international comparison of migration to different countries, role of gender in internal migration, policy response of different countries in order to manage migration, comparison of skilled and unskilled migration from India etc. However, we can hope and expect these topics to emerge in another book under same series of South Asia Edition.

Tasha Agarwal, PhD Scholar, Ambedkar University Delhi
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Hate Crimes against migrants: Xenophobia or Intended Crimes?

By Monika Bisht

In past few years, migration has become predominant global phenomenon. According to the World Migration Report 2017, 258 million people are living in the country other than their own country in the world. Today, the global movement of people have increased more than 49% since 2000 (UN DESA 2015). People are moving away from their homeland to host land for various reasons including work-opportunities, transfers in employment, seeking better livelihoods, entrepreneurial activities and so on. In this context, the migration policy plays a center stage role in assimilating and integrating international migrants in host countries respectively. Migrants related policy needs to be clear, transparent and inclusive to align with the migrants' security and legal residence in host countries.

Recently, the cases of hate crimes are increasing in many countries in the world. The deadly and horrific stories of crimes with migrants have been happening since many years. However, the recent upsurge of hate crimes is terrific and unnatural. Ironically, hate crimes are more rampant in mostly those countries that are migrant dominated countries. Saudi Arabia and USA become defamed for such crimes with migrants in last couple of days. Although, such cases are taken in as international affairs, however, these are life-taking risks which needs to be considered under the international migration. Khashoggi murder case has received a global outrage for a heinous killing of a journalist in Saudi Arabia. Turkey has demanded the extradition of 18 Saudi national accused of murdering a journalist with 'monstrous intent'. There are many cases of such crimes with foreign students, gun shots against Indian migrants, killings of people in big hotels in the USA. Such cases fingers towards the issue of intentional crimes.

In past few days, there was a case of a person who killed eight stormed out of his ideology to kill Jews in the USA. It has raised alarming situation for the Jews who are minority community in the world. Similarly, there are hate crimes taking place in Australia, Canada, UAE and so on. These case of hate crimes raises serious issues of intentional crimes with migrants. There is psychology of 'otherness' or fear about foreigners and migrants. The struggle between 'native' and 'migrant' remain constant factor while discussing hate crimes with migrants. In addition to this, there are issues of employment opportunities, studies opportunities as well as living opportunities which became debatable for state's

government. The natives are being misguided through such issues against the migrant communities by the political parties. Religion is also a critical tool for the extremist's ideologue to misguide the citizens of the countries against the migrants. Islamophobia is the consequences of such political manipulation in the USA.

In recent time, the outflow of people from West Asia to Europe has become popular trend in the world. A rapid increase in migration from Syria and Afghanistan to European countries are result of political failure, terrorism and other social factors. This trend has emerged the issue of Xenophobia in many countries of the Europe and USA. The native people are not receptive towards the migrant communities out of danger, risk and communal violence. The challenges of ideological depreciation of nationhood among migrants has become debatable issue at world level. Therefore, the rising cases of hate crimes are happening with new migrants in the European countries. They are considered as secondary citizens and ill-treated by natives in host country.

The current scenario of hate crimes against migrants puts forth the question of xenophobia or intentional crimes in context of hate crimes. It gives another perspective of addition of both xenophobia or intentional crimes against migrants in today's time. The state is the topmost responsible agency to resolve such problems in the country. They are not mere heinous crimes but serious illegal activities against migrants in any country which will give global message against migrants. There should be clear and transparent policy mechanism for migrants in relation with security of the migrants. A life shall not be gone for mere political discussion between two countries.

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

Migration and Diasporas

An Interdisciplinary Journal

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Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) is a consortium of researchers and policy makers drawn from national and international universities, institutes and organizations. GRFDT is presently based in India and is shaping as the largest such group focusing specifically on the issues related to diaspora and transnationalism.

The GRFDT works as an academic and policy think tank by engaging national and international experts from academics, practitioners and policy makers in a broad range of areas such as migration policies, transnational linkages of development, human rights, culture, gender to mention a few. In the changing global environment of academic research and policy making, the role of GRFDT will be of immense help to the various stakeholders. Many developing countries cannot afford to miss the opportunity to harness the knowledge revolution of the present era. The engagement of diaspora with various platform need to be reassessed in the present context to engage them in the best possible manner for the development human societies by providing policy in-put at the national and global context.