

Editors' Note

Migration and diasporic formation have been important aspects of history, but in modern times it is being followed and understood from different perspectives. The large-scale transportation of slaves, the Indenture migration, the economic migration, refugees, and the internal migration represent a complex process with many distinctive aspects, covering a vast realm of human psychology, sociology, economy and polity. Migration and diasporic formations influence the sending and the receiving countries in different ways, both positively and negatively. How migration transforms the economy of the receiving country, and in what conditions it doesn't. Why in some countries migration disturbs social cohesion, how do different factors motivate people to migrate, how the current human mobility can be quantified and data generated, how the borders can be managed, and how the migrants are governed and several such aspects pose a great challenge to the scholars of migration and diasporic studies.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war further exposed the vulnerability of migration governance. The bilateral agreements were undermined, which made the condition of refugees and migrants precarious. Overall, many factors must be considered and studied to comprehend the migration process. This issue of *Migration and Diasporas: An Interdisciplinary Journal* rightly reflects this vast coverage area by including papers on different themes.

The first paper *Apartheid, Immigration and Exclusion: The "Indian Question" in South Africa* by Prof. Prakash C. Jain attempts to analyze the "Indian Question" in South Africa from the 1860s to the late 1980s. The period between which Indian immigration and the downfall of apartheid started. As

the author describes, 'the "Indian Question" in South Africa can be defined as the "problematic" status of Indians in terms of their right to immigration and socio-political equality with the British or Dutch White settlers'. This issue was raised by Mahatma Gandhi and was closely related to race and racial politics in South Africa. The general perception propounded by the British was that 'the progress of Indians would have a bad influence on the natives', which led to Indians being subjected to segregation, subjugation, and denial of basic rights. This paper analytically digs into these issues.

The second paper, *Legitimately Married? Regulating the Marriages among the Indian Labour Diaspora in Mauritius during the Colonial Period* by Dr Amit Kumar Mishra again deals with colonial migration but takes a social context to discuss immigration. It is based on the Indian indentured labourers in Mauritius. The Indian immigrants were governed on the basis of regulations created on colonial notions, perceptions, and impressions. As the author points out, 'regulated by the colonial authorities implying their own notions of morality, racial prejudices and impressions which were often very dismissive and contemptuous about the traditions, social order and family values'. This paper specifically deals with the marriage regulations which governed the Indian indentured labourers and tries to evaluate how these biased laws and mandatory registration practices, which involved expenses, left many marriages invalid, and their children were technically illegitimate. Thus, regulations, instead of creating order in society, actually created disorder.

The third paper, *Cross-border Migration and Governance at the Borders*, by Leïna Khelladi and Antonio Alejo deals with the hostilities that a migrant

faces while crossing the borders in the present day. This article mainly tries to establish that the participation of migrants is essential in the formulation of regulations related to cross-border migration management. This paper, while taking an interdisciplinary approach and qualitative methodology, tries to understand how cross-border migration is managed.

The fourth paper, *Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Pakistan's erstwhile FATA: Issues and Challenges*, by Abhishek Yadav, brings a completely different dimension of migration which is internal migration in the context of Pakistan. As the country got into the Global war on terror due to sharing its borders with Afghanistan, it faced large-scale displacement of people from the FATA region. This paper explains the issues and challenges faced by the IDPs in Pakistan and how the country has reacted to this crisis. This paper adopts a qualitative methodology and also comes out with relevant policy suggestions 'to ensure the human security of IDPs, thereby contributing to the regional peace in South Asia'.

The fifth paper, *Ukrainian Refugee Problem in Russia: Pre and Post War Scenario* by Lolita Gogokhia provides a critical view of the current refugee crisis in Russia due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Based on a descriptive statistical analysis of various official sources and a review of the literature, the paper provides both legal and political aspects of the Ukrainian refugees and gives insights into better refugee and migration governance.

The sixth paper, *Response strategies of Filipino nursing organizations in the US and UK under the VUCA conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic* by

Patricia Eunice Cantada Miraflores, examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the healthcare systems globally, including those of highly developed countries like the United States and the United Kingdom and how the immigrant Filipinos nurses from are facing those challenges. During the pandemic, professional nursing organisations were the first to call attention to the disproportionate pandemic-related deaths among Filipino nurses. These organisations played a central role in addressing the various crises Filipino nurses faced due to their vulnerabilities as front liners, ethnic minorities, and migrants in their host countries.

The issue also covers five book reviews covering some of the recent studies on critical issues of migration and diaspora.

Amba Pande and Sadananda Sahoo