



Conference Report

International Conference

On

Migration, Diaspora and Development

20-21 February 2016

Venue- India International Centre Annexe

New Delhi

Organised By

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

Sponsored By



ABOUT GRFDT

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 input at the national and global context.

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Introduction

Internal migration, International migration and Diasporic formations are interlinked phenomena in today's widely networked world. Trends in internal migration have shown that in certain favorable conditions, it can translate into international migration. The classic case is the migration from Kerala. In 1950s and 60s, migration from Kerala was predominantly internal. However, the oil boom in Gulf countries created new 'pull' factor and changed the direction of migration from the state to the Gulf countries. Therefore, discussions on all these interlinked areas are necessary for a meaningful policy making. Further, linking of migration and diasporic processes to the development have become a significant area of discussion in recent years.



Given the enhanced cultural capital and social capital, diasporas are perceived as 'strategic assets' and catalysts for economic growth and development of their country of origin. Diaspora capital broadly includes investments, economic and social remittances, moral and material support for political ideological, projects and so on. Global diasporas have emerged as important non-state actors for strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations in the comity of nations. Diasporas are gradually recognized as a form of soft power; in the realm of diplomacy for the home country as they retain cultural heritage of the country of origin in their adopted homes.

On the flip side, migrants also face numerous challenges like racial, ethnic, religious and cultural oppressions, xenophobia and so on. To cite examples, due to civil war or ethnic strife especially in the West and Central Asian Regions and in Myanmar, the civilians have been forced to flee from their countries. The plight of Syrian and Rohingya refugee crisis was exacerbated by the denial of their entry into some European countries in the case of Syrian refugees and to Malaysia in the case of Rohingya crisis. Media has reported about the human rights violations against Indian unskilled labourers in the Gulf regions. The purported racial attacks on the Indian students in Australia are concerning as well.

To take this forward, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) organized its first international conference on the theme 'Migration Diaspora and Development'. GRFDT from its inception has been trying to deepen the engagement among stakeholders from academia, policy makers and those who are working in the fields or at grass root level, in an interdisciplinary platform. This conference 'Migration, Diaspora and Development' was one such attempt to develop discourses that could be understandable and meaningful to all stakeholders.

Policy Stakes: India, being a large country, having both massive internal and international migration cannot ignore migration and its impact on various developmental, social and cultural factors. Today, India has a sizable diaspora, second largest in the world, only next to Chinese diaspora. In this context, it is very important to generate debate on various issues and create knowledge database that will be useful for better informed policy choices. India has also been experiencing massive internal migration which is often unsettling the other process of development such as urbanization. How do we address these issues? Of course, there are no easy answers to these complex problems. However, any attempt to engage in interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholders dialogue would be helpful for a meaningful policy formulation in a complex and diverse country like India.

Broadening the Scope: In this conference, GRFDT attempted to broaden the scope to understand migration and diaspora. Comparative studies from different countries and studies within India provided that broad canvas. GRFDT received papers from countries experiencing huge international migration such as Philippines on one hand, and on the other, countries receiving high emigration such as Gulf and Canada. These comparative papers provided better insights for futuristic direction of international migration at the global level and also the position of India, in the broad context.

Interdisciplinary engagement: The conference has provided a space for deeper inter-disciplinary engagement among participant scholars. In fact, the conference was envisioned to understand the various dynamics of chosen themes through interdisciplinary canvass. With the participation of experts from the various disciplines, the interdisciplinary nature was unraveled and deepened the perceptions.

Highlighting the under researched areas: One of the achievements of the Conference was to focus upon the less researched areas of migration and diaspora. Areas such as marriage and diaspora, fake marriages, use of remittances, law and order issues arising out of marriages and transnational movement, refugee problems etc. were widely covered in the conference.

Sustainable Dialogue: Sustainable dialogues are necessary. GRFDT has been intensifying its effort for creating a platform for more such sustainable dialogues with various stakeholders for meaningful way forward. It has been striving for creating a knowledge base with regular seminars and publications to aid the policy formulations. We hope that this report will help in providing highlights of the issues related to the migration, diaspora and its linkages to development.

Structure of the Seminar: Themes and Subthemes: Besides, inaugural, plenary and valedictory sessions, the two day conference has the following major themes: revisiting migration and diaspora; migration and development; gender and migration; nation and diaspora crisis; knowledge and skills; diaspora and migration literature; diasporas and refugees in India; remittance and investment; social, cultural issues and challenges; Indian diaspora: issues and challenges; Regional and national dynamics.

Acknowledgment

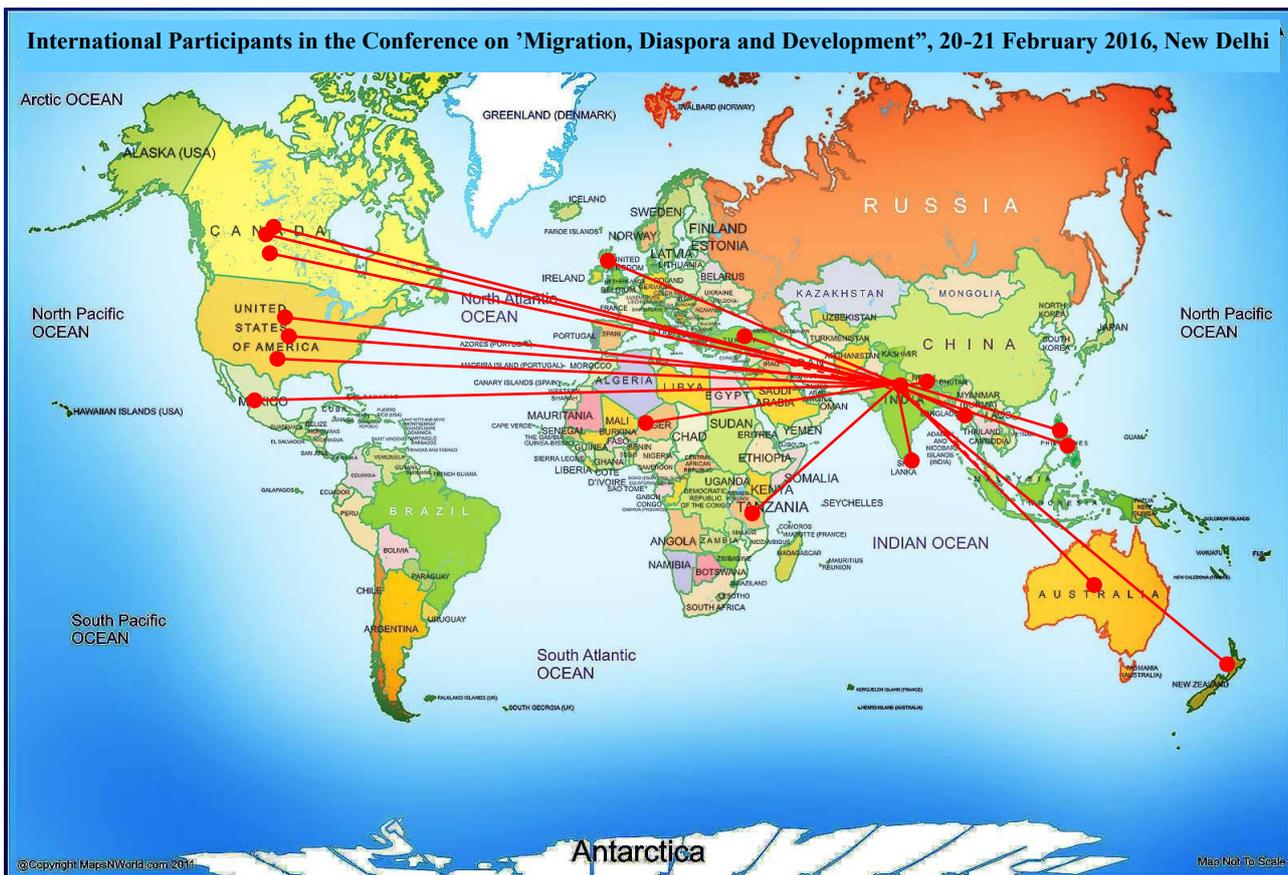
The conference was a huge success due to an overwhelming support from the various walks of life. First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the convener Dr.Sadananda Sahoo who was an inspiration and provided all kinds of support and leadership for the success of the conference. My special thanks goes to Dr.G.srinivas for offering his guidance and support. Though the list is endless, my thanks and appreciations especially go to my colleagues Rakesh Ranjan, Monica Bisht, Dr.Smita Tiwari, Dr.Rajneesh Gupta, Rajiv Mishra, Rahul Kumar, Amardeep kumar, Diksha Jha, Arsala Nizami, Jeetendra soni and others for assisting me in various ways and means. I would like to thank all the rapportuers who skillfully compiled the conference proceedings. I am thankful to all the chairs Prof.Supriya Singh, Prof.A.C.Sinha, Prof.Binod Khadria, Prof.S.Vivek Kumar, Prof. Sebnem Koser Akcapar, Prof.Renuka Singh, Dr.G.Srinivas, Dr.Margaret Walton Robert, Dr.S.Nandini Sen,Dr.Anjali Sahay and Dr.Bhaskar Teegela for moderating the various sessions. My heartfelt thanks to the esteemed guest speakers Prof. Kavita Sharma, Prof.Kamala Ganesh, Prof. Irudaya Rajan, Prof.A.C.Sinha and Dr.Didar Singh for their stimulating and thought provoking ideas in their speeches that set the tone of the conference. I acknowledge and thank the panel discussion moderator Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad and the panelists Prof.A.C.Sinha, Prof. Supriya Singh and Dr.Jayati Bhattacharya for their insightful discussion on migration policy and intersectoral challenges. I am highly indebted to the sponsorers namely National Building Constructions Compnay (NBCC), PAMS Professional Group, Routledge and Orient Black Swan for their generous financial support. Last but not the least, I am so grateful to all the presenters and the participants from the foreign countries as well as from the various parts of the country.

Way forward

Publications and creating a network of scholars are ongoing process to deepen our engagement with the migration and diaspora scholarship. GRFDT has a world wide network of about 3500 active scholars working on the areas of migration and diaspora. These research networks of diverse range of scholars, policy experts and grass root activists help us in receiving inputs and generating new ideas. As the world is getting widely inter-connected in both virtual and physical spaces, any issues and problems need coordinated response. Our Global network is one such effort to facilitate a better knowledge platform to discuss the past, present and look into the future.

M. Mahalingam

(Dr. M.Mahalingam)



Country-wise number of participants

Country	Number of Participants
Australia	1
Bangladesh	1
Canada	3
India	95
Italy	1
Mexico	1
Nepal	1
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Philippines	2
Sri Lanka	1
Tanzania	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1
United States of America	3
Total	114



Conference Report



From L-R: Prof. A C Sinha, Dr. A Didar Singh, Prof. Kavita Sharma and Prof.. Kamala Ganesh

Inauguration

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) organized an International Conference on 'Migration Diaspora and Development', on 20-21 February, 2016 at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The Conference was attended by wide range of academicians, retired diplomats and research scholars. In the Inaugural Session, Dr. M. Mahalingham, Coordinator of the Conference, welcomed the guests and briefed about the Conference. The Special Lecture was presented by Professor Kamala Ganesh, Senior Fellow of Indian Council of Social Science Research. Dr. Didar A. Singh, Secretary General, FICCI, gave the



From L-R: Prof. A C Sinha and Dr. A Didar Singh

Inaugural Address. The Keynote Address was presented by Professor Kavita Sharma, President, South Asia University, New Delhi. The Keynote Address was followed by the release of the Conference Souvenir by the dignitaries. Also a book on 'Nepali Diaspora in Globalised Era' was released which was followed by a brief talk by the author of the book Professor A.C. Sinha. The Vote of Thanks was presented by Mr. Rajiv Mishra, a member of GRFDT. There were six parallel sessions and one plenary session followed by Valedictory session.

Parallel Session-I

Revisiting Migration and Diaspora: The theme of the first parallel session of first thematic session was 'Revisiting Migration and Diaspora'. Professor Supriya Singh, a professor of Sociology of Communications at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, chaired the session. Her research interests cover money, migration & transnational family, gender & financial inclusion, communication & globalization and money. In this session, five papers were presented.

The first paper titled 'Ciao! Ciao! Analysis of signs of negotiations in the formation of Transnational identity of Filipinos in Venice, Italy' was presented by Dr Rowell D. Madula. The paper was based on



the labour migration of the Filipinos, who went overseas in search of employment. The paper aims to synthesize his experience with the Filipino community in Venice, Italy during teaching the Filipino language and culture to migrant children and youth. The study examines whether the Filipinos negotiate their identity in a foreign land.

The next paper titled 'Different shades of Diasporas: My Lived experience from East Africa' was presented by Urmila Jhaveri. Her study was focused on the movements of the Indian Diaspora to distant lands to form significant communities for more than five centuries. The study explains the harsh colonial apartheid system, sailing by Dhow during World War II, pre and post-independence period in Tanganyika, South Africa. The study also focused the struggle of the women in South Africa right from family to professional life. Also, an attempt had been to explore the environment as it existed in East Africa and is based on my observations and experiences of a life time spent in Tanzania.

The next paper titled 'The Ramayana, Emotional and Psychological Anchor of Old Diaspora, With Special Reference of Trinidad' was presented by Dr. Archana Tewari. The study examines the role of religion in the lives of indentured workers in the Trinidad. The social stigma of having crossed the seas and the alien environment of the far-off Caribbean colonies naturally had an adverse effect on the physical and the psychological health of the Indians. The aim of the paper is to examine the influence of the Ramayana on the lives of indentured Indians in those days when any form of counselling was unknown.

The last paper was presented by Dr. Muneer Illath, which was titled 'Revisiting Kafala system in the Gulf- Between migrant vulnerability and creative

mutuality'. In his paper, the scholar narrated the problems with Mappila Muslims of south India. This paper is a modest attempt to revisit the Kafala system in the Gulf in general and migrant wisdom on the elasticity and plasticity of the system over a period of time, in particular.

Parallel Session-I

Migration and Development: The theme of the second parallel session of the first session was 'Migration and Development'. It was chaired by Professor A C Sinha. This session had four papers relating to migration and development in diverse areas. Mr. M.M. Alikhan in his paper "Labour Migration and Development: Economic reintegration of Sri Lankan Return Migrants from the Middle



East', discussed how migration helped in economic enhancement of remittances and reduced unemployment levels in addition to understanding reintegration struggles for both male and female migrants. Ms. Prazy Walia in her paper "Migration and Development: An Urban Brainwave" elaborated upon the conceptual frame that integrates agency and structure perspectives and hence explaining the heterogeneous nature of migration-development interactions. Mr. Anubhav Roy and Ms. Madhulika V. Narsimhan in their paper





From L-R: Atinder Pal Kaur, Aruna Chawla, Prof. Margaret Walton Robert, Rituparna Patgiri, Anshuman Rana and Boddu Srujana

“Diaspora Politics: Trends from India, Lessons from Israel” discussed the positive (a homeward tilt) and negative (disillusionment with domestic politics) roles that the diasporic communities had played with respect to homeland politics in the context of India and Israel respectively. Mr. Jeetendra D. Soni in his paper “Migration and Development: A case study of Labour Emigration from Rajasthan to the Gulf Region” tried to investigate the level at which migration is able to provide economic, social and psychological security to the emigrants and families in select districts in Rajasthan.

Parallel Session-2

Gender and Migration: The first session of second parallel session was based on the theme ‘Gender and Migration’ and was chaired by Dr. Margaret Walton Robert. Five papers were presented in the session. The first paper was presented by Atinder Pal Kaur, titled, ‘Migration and Changing Gender Roles: Study of left behind women in Rural Punjab’. She attempted to explore how male migration brings changes and encourage other people of the region to play new roles, experiment with new ideas in the family’s decision making and adopt new organizing strategies. She found that in the Doaba region of Punjab, women feel themselves more autonomous, free and self independent with

respect to family decision. However “patriarchal norms” and male dominancy still exist among Punjabi society.

The second paper titled, “In search of survival: Examining the issues of insecurity from the lives of migrant women workers in the city of Hyderabad” was presented by Boddu Srujana. She tried to argue how women along with their families are migrated with insecurities to the land of uncertainty in search of survival. With no social capital which is present in their villages and no networks, the whole decision of migration only involves several issues and challenges. The study was carried out through primary data and analysing it in the light of present literature and reports.

The next paper titled ‘Marrying an ‘Indian’: Understanding The Indian Diaspora Though Bollywood’ was presented by Rituparna Patgiri. She tried to look at the Indian community of migrants who have settled in various parts of the world and try to understand the process through which transnational migration has helped them in maintaining their relationship with the host nation as well as in their country of origin. While the host nation may be different in each case, the country of origin remains the same, that is, India. She tried to present her research by taking the example of the Hindi

film industry, more popularly known as Bollywood.

Parallel Session-2

Nation Diaspora and Crisis- I: The theme of second session of the second thematic session was 'Nation Diaspora and Crisis- I'. This session was chaired by Dr. Anjali Sahay, which included three papers with interesting discussions on the role of marginalised, vulnerable sections amongst the migrants in negotiating their exclusions and reconstructing their own ideas of the national and the modern. Dr. Ruchira Das in her paper "Between the Native Land and the City: Negotiations and Experiences of the Santhal Migrants of Kolkata" through an ethnographic study of the Santhal tribe who migrated to different parts of West Bengal and neighbouring states, investigates the reasons, contexts and conditions that led to such move from native habitation to cities and the resultant struggles. Dr. Mollica Dastider in her paper 'Transnational Dissent and the Marginalized Indigenous in the East Himalayas' talked about the janajatis (indigenous) groups of Eastern Himalayas who as Nepali speaking subalterns make important interventions in the region's political geography and how discourses of difference or dissent



are shaped by these indigenous groups. Ms. Rachna Rai in her paper "Social Gerontological issues generated by out migration in India" discussed how the lives of old age population is impacted socially and psychologically after their children decide to migrate to other states.

Parallel Session-3

Knowledge and Skills: The theme of first session of third parallel session was 'Knowledge and Skills' and the session was chaired by Professor Binod



Khadria. The first presentation of the session was made by Professor Aparna Basu, titled 'Migration of highly skilled workers from India: What is their contribution to global scientific research?' The paper argued that every year large numbers of highly educated students migrate from India to other countries to pursue higher education or for employment. She used scientometrics method to chart the contribution of migrant Indian scientists to global scientific research in the last decade, through their publications (journal articles) listed in the Science Citation Index. She estimated that the number of papers contributed annually by the diaspora is of the same order as that by Indian scientists.

The last paper on 'Indian Diaspora Knowledge Networks: Take-off Challenges and Future Prospects' was presented by Sridhar Bhagavatula. During his presentation he emphasized that the Diasporas across the world are becoming an important group that offers influential changes in the 'home' countries' developmental agenda. Many of the countries which enjoy presence of large groups of 'their' people outside the physical boundaries provide an extended arm and offers integrative structures for a win-win situation. He told that one of the important integrative structures is through the technology enabled knowledge network. He concluded that the future prospects of the Indian Diaspora Knowledge Networks, are bright through convergence of various approaches.

Parallel Session-3

Nation, Diaspora and Crisis II: This second session of the third parallel thematic session was dedicated to the theme 'Nation, Diaspora and Crisis II'. Sociologist and well known scholar of the subject Professor Vivek Kumar chaired this session. Total four research papers were presented in the session



From L-R: Gianmaria Lenti, Bernardo López Marín, Prof. Vivek Kumar, Arsala Nizami, Dr. Munna Lal Gupta

covering a range of issues emerging as an outcome of migration and diasporic linkages. Ms. Arsala Nizami, in her paper 'Transnational dynamics and new politics of engagement: role of diasporas in South Asian conflicts' argued that the transnational links of diasporas can either be constructive or destructive depending on the orientation and interests of diaspora groups and politics adopted by homeland governments in engaging their diasporas. She took up four cases to substantiate her arguments- Ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka, Afghan crisis, Jammu and Kashmir issue and Khalistan movement. Bernardo López Marín and Gianmaria Lenti jointly presented a research paper on 'Trans-Mexican Migration: The role of agency, collectivity and solidarity within irregular journeys across Mexico'. Through pictorial evidences they explained how social factors defining the way of life of Central American migrants and displaced individuals in transit through Mexico towards the US border. Further they argued that these migrants should not be perceived solely as victims, but as independent individuals who use their agency to resist sociopolitical exclusion and institutional oppression.

P.K. Govindaprasad in his paper 'Impact of Migration on Land Use in Kerala' analysed the role of migration and remittances in the land use pattern

in the Kerala. By a thorough scrutiny of various micro-economic data he concluded that the increasing rate of emigration and the resulting inflow of large volumes of remittances have significant influence in the land market, labour market, consumption, savings, investment and income distribution. Dr. Munna Lal Gupta in his paper 'Indian Indenture Labour Migration: Historiography, Source' examined present methods to study history of Indian indenture labour migration which are largely based on colonial government's records. He stated that present interpretation of history of these migrations could be clubbed in two broad categories Nationalist and Imperialist. He emphasized on need of other sources such as oral history to understand the issue in a holistic way.

Parallel Session-4

Diaspora and Migration Literature: The first session of fourth parallel session dealt with 'Diaspora and Migration Literature'. The session was chaired by Dr. Nandini Sen. Three papers were presented in the session, which broadly built arguments on issues and challenges of diasporas and migration through the lenses of novels and poems written by Indian diasporas residing in foreign lands.



From L-R: Nitesh Narnolia , Mousam, Dr. Nandini C Sen, Sarbani Mohapatra and Debabrata Hazra

First paper titled 'Migration and its Psychological impacts: A Study of Benyamin's Novel Goat Days' was presented by Mr. Nitesh Narnolia & Ms. Mousam. The paper tried to understand the social, cultural and psychological impacts of migration through the study of Benyamin's novel Goat Days. It attempted to explore the existential crisis of the protagonist, Najeeb, in Benyamin's Aadu Jeevitham, translated in English by Joseph Koyippally under the title Goat Days.

The second paper entitled 'The Ungrateful Immigrant: A look at Australia's immigration history through the eyes of poetry' was presented by Sarbani Mohapatra. She delineated various stages in the history of Australia's immigration policy vis-a-vis the impact it has on the relationship of immigrants with Australia. In order to do so, she analysed many poems that have been discussed in the

paper, including the work of Ouyang yu, Peter Skrzynecki, Maria Lewitt and many others. The idea of multiple multiculturalism has also been dealt in the paper.

The third paper of the session was on 'Diasporic and Migrant Identities in Kamala Markandaya's novel, 'The Nowhere Man' (1972) presented by Mr. Debabrata Hazra. He dealt with the theme of alienation and loneliness after East-West conflict. The paper tried to find out the problems regarding identity in foreign lands and the notion of identity and related issues.

Parallel Session-4

Diaspora and refugees in India: The second session of the fourth parallel session of the conference was dedicated to the theme 'Diaspora and refugees in India'. Dr T.L.S. Bhaskar chaired this session. Total four research papers were presented in this session covering a range of issues emerging as an outcome of migration and Diasporic linkages. Professor Sebnem Koser Akcapar in her paper 'Afghan and Rohingya Refugees in India: Social Networks and Survival Strategies' talked about Afghani known to be Rohingya refugees in India. She argued that these refugees have strong transnational links through social networking. These Afghani Rohingya are a homogeneous group. They are engaged with their homeland. She conducted an ethnographic study in Delhi on Afghani Rohingya and



From L-R: Khatija Sana Khadr, Dr T.L.S. Bhaskar, Professor Sebnem Koser Akcapar, Rashmi Sheila and Dr Naresh Kumar

found that they have strong social ties. In her concluding remarks she highlighted that Afghani Refugees have been suffering due to scarcity of available resources; lack of transportation so and so forth. There is an urgent need to look into their economic conditions by the Indian government.

Dr Naresh Kumar presented a research paper on “African Diaspora”. According to his study India has housed a majority of African Diaspora. African Diaspora is popularly known as Sidhis Diaspora in Indian context. He highlighted identity, assimilation issues of African Sidhis. In his conclusion he drew attention to the struggling Sidhis in India for various social and economic needs. Ms. Khatija Sana Khadr in her paper “Fractures and Continuities in Understanding Diasporic, Racial and Religious identifies in India: A Study of Siddi and Hadrami Diaspora in Hyderabad” talked about Siddi and Hardami Diaspora based in Hyderabad. In her study she found that Siddis and Hadramis were allowed to stay in Hyderabad by the Nizam of Hyderabad. She highlighted gender issues and talked about race and caste system.

Parallel Session-5

Remittances and Investment: This first session of the fifth parallel session on day 2 of the international conference was themed on ‘Remittances and Investment’, chaired by Professor A.C. Sinha and had four paper presentations. Professor Supriya Singh in her paper “Migration Two way flow of Remittances and Development’ has argued that the narrative on remittances and development changes when middle-income migration from India takes for settlement in countries like Australia. Drawing



on qualitative research she notes that financial and social remittances and communication have gone two ways between Australia and India.

Dr. Gautam B. Singh in “Technology, Investment and Global Migration: Issues and Opportunities” argued that while immigrant entrepreneurs remain important to the American economy, the figures from 1995-2005 show the decline in the rate of immigrant founded start ups in Silicon valley who are returning to homeland like India, China and Korea. The paper discussed investment strategies related to high technology areas including software and information technology and the establishment of a new commercial enterprise through purchasing, partnering and re-organising the existing enterprise. Mr. Vikas Kumar in “Remittance and Development: Study of Financial Inclusion in Bihar” studied the positive impact of several state initiated banking initiatives on the manifestation of migration and remittances. Mr. Ambuj Kumar Shukla in “Impact of Indian Diaspora on Indo-US



From L-R: Diksha Jha, Prof. Supriya Singh, Dr. Gautam B. Singh, Prof. A C Sinha, Vikas Kumar, Ambuj Kumar Shukla

relations” studied the positive role of the Indian diaspora as pressure groups, lobbies on various aspects of Indo- US ties.

Parallel Session-5

Socio-Cultural Issues and Challenges: The second session of the fifth parallel session was on ‘Socio-Cultural Issues and Challenges’, and was chaired by Prof. Sebnem Koser Akcapar. There were total six presentations in the session. First paper was presented by Professor Renuka Singh on ‘Children of Cross Cultural Marriages’. Her paper attempted to look at the myriad socio-cultural patterns arising out of cross-cultural marriages and its effects on the children of said unions. It is derived from written testimonies of various case studies collected from the field spread over India, Europe and North America. Apart from the lived experiences, this paper also provides a unique perspective of Indian parentage and migratory patterns of Indians to the West in relation to the socialization of mixed cultural upbringing.

The second paper was presented by Dr. Anjali Sahay on ‘Economic and Political Impact of Syrian Refugee Crisis on Europe and America: Short and Long term Analysis’. She said that migration and refugee movements have gained unprecedented momentum in recent months with the intensification of the Syrian Refugee crisis. At the political level, countries are debating the immigration policies, border security, and caps on refugee numbers

that are allowed to enter annually. Her research paper was an attempt to analyze the immediate short and middle term impact of these refugee movements on both Europe and North America. She especially focused on the political and economic impact of the crisis. Though lack of data was a problem, she highlighted the impact on receiving countries of the refugee crisis.

In his paper, the presenters told that due to the increasing population in India and inability of the land to bear the burden, more focus is being laid on the non-agricultural sector, as a result more and more people are shifting from rural to urban areas. In the early phase of Gulf emigration from Kerala, the emigrants were mostly non-agricultural laborer with low levels of education. The emigration of the unemployed unskilled workers helped to reduce unemployment. The money they sent back accelerated the construction industry and thus helped further to reduce unemployment. After a lapse of about 60 years, Kerala is again becoming an in-migrating states. As soon as a contractor takes up a contract for any construction or road work, he appoints an agent to recruit workers not only from neighboring states but also from states as far away as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Emigration of workers from Kerala, demographic contraction of the supply of young workers brought about by the rapid demographic transition in the state. This paper, in this background, has a special focus on various inclusionary and migrant friendly policies implemented in Kerala.



Parallel Session-6

India and its Diaspora: First session of the sixth parallel session was on the theme of ‘India and its Diaspora’. Prof. Renuka Singh chaired the session. In this session, five papers were presented. The first paper titled “The Singapore Dream! Indian Diasporic mobilities and changing imageries in the Lion-city” was presented by Dr. Jayati Bhattacharya. In her paper, she focused on little researched area of the contemporary Indian Diaspora, their economic trajectories, socio-cultural diversities and global mind-set in Singapore. She deliberated on the metaphors of borders, mobility and identity for different generations in the lived-space of Singapore and compared the distinct layers of the Indian diaspora that have emerged. The second paper presentation titled ‘Indo-Caribbean Canadian Diaspora: Surviving through double migration and dis(re)



From L-R: Dr. Jayati Bhattacharya, Ramchandra Joshi, Prof. Renuka Singh, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Rai, Lal Singh and Shilpi Shikha Phukan

placement' was made by Ramchandra Joshi and Urvashi Kaushal. The study of Indo-Caribbean Canadian Diaspora represents the story of Indo-Caribbean people who are regarded as double diaspora. Their diasporic dis(re)placement and (re)location unfold the problems they face in remigration towards Canada.

The third paper titled 'Socio-Cultural Dynamics of Indian Diaspora in US: Some reflections' was presented by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Rai. The study discusses the dynamics of Indian diaspora in USA. The arrival of more than 6,000 Indians from Asia between 1904 and 1911, mainly to work as farmhands, marked the first major influx of this population into the United States. After passage of comprehensive immigration legislation in 1965, large influx of highly educated professionals from India has immigrated to the U.S. for skilled employment.

The sixth paper was on 'Bhartiya Diaspora: Sanskriti Banam Sangeet' presented by Lal Singh. The paper discusses the cultural aspects of the Indian Diaspora community abroad. It mainly deals with the role of music and songs in the lives of the diasporic community. This study reveals the change in the music choice of the next generation among the diaspora groups. The seventh paper titled 'Indian Labour migration in Mauritius' by Dhanraj Gusinge. The paper provided the historical background of Indian labour migration in Mauritius as indentured labour.

The session was followed with a discussion-session and participants have raised their doubts, questions and queries. There were questions on the chatni music, dynamics of cultural diaspora in the USA, Indian identity in Singapore etc.

Parallel Session-6

Regional and National Dynamics: The second session of the sixth parallel session was based on the theme 'Regional and National Dynamics', chaired by Dr. Gurram Srinivas. The session dealt with regional and national dynamics associated with diaspora and migration. Issues related to employment, social security measures, living and working conditions, labour unions, scheduled tribes and scheduled castes were taken under consideration and gave a holistic view to the session. Five papers were presented in the session.

First paper namely 'The emerging issues of in migrant labourer in the construction sector of Kerala'



From L-R: Amar Prakash Maske, Shamna, T.C., Dr. Gurram Srinivas and Sumesh M.N.

was presented by Shamna, T.C. This paper discussed the issues and challenges that migrants face in terms of work, income, employment, social security measures and living conditions in the state of Kerala. Kerala's labour market is full of immigrants from West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Karnataka and Bihar. However, they face many deterrents, which were discussed in the paper.

The next paper titled, 'Migrant labour in Chinese cities from job seekers to protesters' was presented by Sumesh M.N. This paper focused on examination of Chinese labour migration through the lenses of history. Along with examining historical process of Chinese labour migration, it also analysed the current situation of migrant protest in China.

The next paper, titled 'Problems and prospects of Indian emigrants to GCC countries- a case of Gorakhpur district in UP' was presented by Dr. Naresh Kumar and Rajesh Kumar. This paper discussed the socio-economic issues of labourer in GCC countries originating from Gorakhpur district of UP. It was further discussed that these workers are unskilled labourer and exploited in GCC countries.

The last paper titled ‘Indian Labour Migration in Mauritius’ was presented by Dhanraj Gusinge. This paper discussed issues of Indian labour in Mauritius. Along with providing the historical background of Indian labour migration in Mauritius as indentured labour, it also focused on socio-cultural, economic and political preservation in Mauritius through indenture labour.

Plenary Session

Migration Policy and Inter-Sectoral Challenges: Academics, Industry and Government: The Plenary session titled “Migration Policy and Inter-Sectoral Challenges: Academics, Industry and Government” was chaired by Ambassador Talmiz Ahmed, who spent about 25 years in GCC countries representing India. He evoked the question “How does India in 20th century engage with diverse range of its diaspora communities ranging from Trinidad Tobago to most recently GCC countries?”

The first speaker Prof. Supriya Singh of RMIT University, Australia talked about how the topic “Government, Community and Industry” pose challenge for Academics. She talked about the importance of “Money” in care giving in the transnational world. She mentioned that the biggest challenge for both policy and academia is to have a measurement of two way flow of money or remittances. She lamented that there is still not much work done to have quantifiable measurement of out flow of money. According to her, if the remittance is measured properly then the narratives will change. Over-

time, India’s strength has been changing. Money is a medium of relationship in Global South is not just something related to market only, but rather related to “care” in family.

Ambassador Talmiz Ahmed further added that there are large number of students from India in various U.K. University who spend more than 2 billion dollar, which could be enough to built state of an art educational institutions in India.

Professor Sinha, who was the next speaker, discussed the challenges related to illegal migration, refugee and look East policy of India. He said that these are many complex problems that need to be discussed at various policy and academic levels. He said India’s look east policy should have better contents and should not be looked through its own Northeast region.

Dr. Jayati Bhattacharya, faculty from National Singapore University talked about the importance of skill migration today and how policy, academics and industry should deal with it. She said that “skill migration” plays very important role in Foreign Direct Investment, Remittances, Human capital formation, and entrepreneurship. The role of academics at this juncture is very important.

Ambassador Talmiz Ahmed, who has worked in GCC counties for decades, said that India is a leading sending country to GCC, which is about 8 million by the end of 2015. Out of these 8 millions, 50% are from Kerala alone. 80-% of the total migrants



From L-R: Prof. A C Sinha, Ambassador Talmiz Ahmed, Prof. Supriya Singh and Dr. Jayati Bhattacharya

from India are from four Southern states. Ambassador Ahmed said that there has been better bilateral agreement and welfare response by the sending countries to the migrants. He said that most of the challenges come from India itself by the local recruitment agencies, bureaucracy, police, and politicians. Lakhs of money were spent on corruption and other malpractices in the process of getting visa to go abroad.

Ambassador Ahmed emphasized many other issues such as illegal migration, atrocities and abuse against women workers etc has become a big issue. He said that these issues need to be studied by academics. The session was followed by question answer session where questions related to challenges of migration and policies in context of India were discussed.

Valedictory session

In the Valedictory session, highlight of the Conference was presented by Mr. Rajiv K. Mishra. Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Convenor of GRFDT has highlighted the importance of collaboration and network among diaspora researchers across the world. Professor S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair Professor, MOIA, presented Keynote Address. Prof Irudaya Rajan delivered valedictory address on the theme "Problem of Database of Migration in India". He highlighted poor management of database, lack of surveys and consequent policy problems in India. The estimation of Indian Overseas population number is highly contested, therefore there is no clear direction of policy. Often one Government initiatives are disposed by

another Government ie the earlier NDA I Government's proposal to have separate Ministry was disposed by NDA II. He said, policy get affected when there are no number or data. He gave the example of Indian student issue in Australia. Indian Government had no data on how many students are there in Australia, where they study etc. They had to get the data from Australian Government.

Prof. Rajan highlighted the contribution of Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum to create database in the country. CDS also helped in conducting survey in Gujarat, Goa and now planning in Bihar and Telengana to develop database. However, the work initiated by CDS is only a small portion in comparison to the huge need of surveys and database building in a big country like India.

Prof. Rajan emphasised the increasing global connection of people in India today. Some states like Kerala have more connections with Gulf than within India. There are flights in every half an hour from Trivandrum to Gulf, but there are only two three flights to Delhi everyday. This shows the direction of the flow of people.

Prof. Rajan said different states have different dynamics. More studies will help in finding the patterns and devise policy accordingly. States like Bihar and UP and Telengana have started outmigration to Gulf recently and the problems encountered by the fresh migrants different from the old migration states like Kerala. There are systems which need to be evolved to work it out better for migration. He said there are several issues such as illegal migration,

remittances, trafficking, exploitation, fraud, human rights etc. that can be better handled through the help of database. We need more number of surveys to develop database.



From L-R: Dr. Sadananda Sahoo and Prof. S Irudaya Rajan

Outcome and Policy Suggestions

The Conference has brought out several emerging issues, trends and patterns of internal, international migration and diasporic inter-linkages that have not been the focus of the current policies of the Government. Papers were both empirical as well as conceptual in nature. Hence, they have thrown light on specific cases as well as general trends, comparative analysis at regional, national and international levels. The following major points have emerged out of the conference.

Greater collaboration between Industry, Academia and Policy urged: The conference has brought out the importance of skill migration today and how policy, academics and industry should deal with it. "Skill migration" plays very important role in Foreign Direct Investment, Remittances, Human capital formation, and entrepreneurship. The role of these three elements at this juncture is very important. Research in many advanced and industrially developed countries such as USA, OECD countries and China have shown that there are positive outcomes when the interaction between these three segments.

Interlinkages between Internal and International Migration: Various studies have shown the interlinkages between internal and international migration. For example the migration from Kerala till 1970s was mainly internal. However, the scenario had changed with the demand from Gulf countries with the oil boom. The migratory network provided an edge over others to quickly facilitate Gulf migration. Within internal migration, there are many areas which need to be taken in to account (1) proper job market study providing better guidance to manage internal migration, (2) providing high productivity jobs in rural areas to reduce heavy urban migration, (3) prepare policy support for single women migration who are vulnerable and exploited.

Transnational Social Network promotes upward mobility: Social network plays a very crucial role in upward mobility. Studies have shown that economic and social mobility is related to the strong transnational network. There should be better cultural and social linkages with migrant networks to harness the positive impact and facilitate the upward movement. Migrants and Diaspora associations are instrumental in facilitating these transnational linkages.

Active role of Diaspora in Homeland politics and its consequent challenges: Diaspora is transforming itself from passive to active player in home countries' affairs. Due to the advancement of technology, the active roles include technology transfer, investment, to and fro exchange of ideas, cultural capitals, and political engagements. The political engagement of Diaspora with the homelands has led to contested leadership, for instance,

Armenia.

Return Migration issues: Return migration poses new problem and there is need to address the issues of providing social security, employment and promote entrepreneurship for the return migrants. As the phenomenon is growing in many Asian countries there should be policy to address the challenges faced by these migrants.

Diaspora's contribution in Global Scientific Research: Increasing role of Diaspora in global scientific research is apparently evident through various studies. In the case of India, there has been a significant contribution to the knowledge as well as presence of Indian Diaspora in Global scientific research organizations as compared to their counterparts in India. This can be harnessed through collaboration and network.

Gendered Migration: Increasing presence of women in migration is an important issue for many countries. Certain countries such as Philippines handled it better by providing legal, educational and skill support and also providing better strategies to coping up with return migration. The best practices could be of immense help for countries which are experiencing more female migration. The conference also highlighted the problems of trafficking, work place harassment and other forms of exploitation of Indian female workers in Gulf countries that can be better dealt with through proper strategies. Philippines which has the high proportion of female migrants than male can provide better policy strategy for many South Asian countries including India.

Creating database of migration in India is must for sound policy: There is an urgent need to develop migration database in India. Different states within India have different dynamics. More studies will help in finding the patterns and devise policy accordingly. States like Bihar and UP and Telangana are experiencing out-migration to Gulf recently. It seems the problems of fresh migrants from these states are different from the old migrants from the state like Kerala which had long experience in handling migration. Hence, different mechanisms need to be evolved for regulating the migration. There are several issues such as illegal migration, remittances, trafficking, exploitation and human rights issues, which can be better handled through the help of database.

Wide range of studies from different countries has contributed to the rich resource of Diaspora literature and for policy formulations. Significantly, they have contributed in providing interdisciplinary platform and for comparative perspectives.

What the academics, industry and policy experts say about the Conference and GRFDT?

The concept of diaspora has travelled a long way from its origins in ancient Greece. It has arrived in India like an old and surprisingly familiar friend, giving shape to discussions about overseas business links, to governmental engagement with Indian heritage populations and to the tangled question of how migration and development are mutually imbricated. I wish the organizers and participants in this important conference all the best and only wish I could have been there with you.

- Robin Cohen, Emeritus Professor of Development Studies, University of Oxford

This indeed is an ambitious project as you are planning to have a hundred odd papers presented in the course of two days conference. Your main emphasis seems to be on issues related to migration. In today's context this would be a hot topic. It may be worthwhile for ISAS to explore adding an academic segment in our conference by collaborating with GRFDT.

- Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, Chairman, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singa-

This theme is also the buzz-word for cognitive and policy-oriented planning; we Indians as world-citizens stand and fall with the present and future internationally collaborative formulation of this theme and the implementation of its attendant processes. And this, in my view, is the outstanding significance of a conference such as the present one.. my congratulations to you, and best wishes for successful deliberations.

- Prof. Ravindra K. Jain, Retired Professor and Dean, School of Social Sciences, JNU.

The International Conference on "Migration, Diaspora and Development" offers a platform for scholars from several countries to come together with different inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral perspectives. I congratulate GRFDT for this initiative. I hope it goes a long way in building a more creative, knowledge-based platform for sustainable engagement among various stakeholders. I wish this Conference all success."

- Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

I congratulate the GRFDT for organizing the International Conference on 'Migration, Diaspora and Development' in New Delhi during 20-21st February 2016. The Conference is covering a wide range of areas which will surely help in grasping the complex dynamics of change due to migration and diasporic movement.

- Prof. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University, New Delhi.

I take this golden opportunity to congratulate the organizers, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), for conceptualizing this theme and for convening a meeting of national and international scholars and experts who will be able to shed more light on an evolving issue of growing importance and significance to national, regional and global security in the years ahead.

- Prof. K.S. Nathan, Principal Fellow, IES, National University of Malaysia

The International Conference on Migration, Diaspora and Development organized by GRFDT is indeed a timely and topical with its focus on a major development actor– the Diaspora. The GRFDT is now well established as a major player at regional and international level to initiate more such debates and promote the discourse with fresh ideas and perspectives.

- Dr. Piyasiri Wickramsekera, Vice President, Global Migration Policy Associates.

Cross-border transmigration is one major route through which knowledge has spread. This boundless international sharing of expertise and knowledge across nationalities needs to be properly channelled through proactive global policy frameworks and specific interventions .

-Dr. Francis Matambirofa, Director, African Languages Research Institute, University of Zimbabwe, Harare

Hopefully, GRFDT will directly tackle the issues related to diaspora and transnationalism and seeks to identify policy options that might contribute to the development of broad and coherent strategies to better match demand for diaspora with supply in orderly ways. I do believe that GRFDT will be shaped as the largest such group focusing specifically on the issues related to diaspora and transnationalism in the near future.

Prof. Guofu Liu, Law School, Beijing Institute of Technology, China

I congratulate the GRFDT for organizing the workshops and conferences on migration and diaspora issues regularly and thus providing a platform to scholars and policy makers in South Asia and beyond. I hope that the GRFDT will continue to inspire scholars and policy makers in South Asia to pursue research on migration, diaspora and development in the region and promote regional integration in the years to come.

- Dr. Md Mizanur Rahman, Associate Professor, Institute of Asian Studies, University of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

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International Conference

GLOBAL MIGRATION

RETHINKING SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

26 November– 27 November 2016

@ India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi

About the Conference

Globalization has brought about a new paradigm where socio-cultural, political, and economic landscapes get exposed to unexpected dynamics of challenges and change. It thus becomes a matter of both challenge and opportunity for the home and host countries. On the one hand, the economic changes over the past hundred years that includes close integration, opening of trade, ideas and information, have resulted in benefitting the industrially developed economies. On the other hand, for the developing economies, the challenges remain though of different level and kind. However, the changed circumstances globally also bring along opportunities for these states to help them overcome the challenges. The increased movement of people has resulted in the global development of new ideas, intercultural linkages, democratisation of global space etc. In this scenario, diaspora has emerged as an important player in the transnational sphere for both the home and host countries. The following are the Themes and Sub themes for the Conference.

Technology transfer, brain circulation, skill development, Virtual Diasporas and Knowledge Platforms, Diaspora investment and Entrepreneurship, migration and technology, Concepts of Migration and Diaspora (Critical appraisal of place of birth, duration), Transnationalism and Globalisation, Dual Identity, Voting right of Diaspora, Diaspora Policies, Diaspora Engagement Policies: Legal, political, economic and socio-cultural, Emigration policy for the lesser skilled temporary migrant workers: Emigration Laws around the world, Diaspora and Development, Return Migration, Migration of Health Care and IT Professionals, Diaspora and Conflict, Diaspora and Civil Society, Diaspora and Global Culture, Diaspora and Gender Relations, Diaspora, Religion and Ethnicity, Technology and Diaspora, and other related issues

Participants

The conference will bring together scholars from diverse fields such as academic, civil society, Media, Industry and policy. The conference will have more wider reach and try to represent as many as 50 countries so that both macro and micro perspectives and diversities of issues will be covered. . The conference intends to provide comparative perspectives in diaspora engagement.

Important Dates		Registration Fee* (Conference kits and food are included in the registration fee)	
Last date for receiving abstract	30 June 2016	Postgraduate Students	Rs.2000 (US \$ 30)
Communicating about selection	20 July 2016	Others	Rs. 2500 (US \$ 40)
Last date for receiving full paper	30 October 2016	Conference Coordinator Dr. M. Mahalingam, President, GRFDT. Email- president@grfdt.com	
Date of Conference	26-27 November 2016		

***GRFDT is trying its best to mobilise sponsorship to cover the cost of travel and accommodation of the participants/delegates as much as possible. However, the forum cannot assure anyone at this point about it.**

ORGANIZED BY

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

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