

Research output 2010

Research papers produced out of the programme on Forced Migration are published in the Journal *Refugee Watch* and CRG research paper series, *Policies and Practices*, both of which are distributed widely to all significant educational institutions and United Nations institutions. The winter course programme is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG's ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG's original research work.

The research papers published in CRG publication series and also referred by the module tutors during the course are:-

• Research Paper Series: Policies and Practices

The research article entitled *Environment and Migration, Purulia, West Bengal* was published in Policies and Practices No 30. The paper explores continuous labour migration streams from the forest belts of Purulia District (principally the indigenous peoples' belt in Santhal Parganas) in West Bengal (Manbhum in colonial times) to nearby industrial areas. The paper, to begin with, holds into perspective the fact that labour migration from Purulia in colonial and post-colonial times has been least discussed in contemporary academic discourses. It then unfurls that environmental degradation and factors like deforestation has exacerbated labour migration from the forest district of Purulia. People have been shorn off livelihood choices and survival became tough. This ultimately forced people to opt for the surrounding brick, coal or tea industry belts where they moved as coolies. The paper explores the process of alienation from the traditional agriculture based economic setup and the consequent uprooting of the people from the familiar arboreal ecological context, where the ecology itself was destroyed without any concern for conservation with

Policies and Practices No 32 entitled *Two Studies on Asylum Seekers and Other Immigrants in Finland* published two articles on *The Finnish Alien's Act, 2004* by Sahana Basavapatna and *Skilled Migrants in Finland* by Geetisha Dasgupta. Both the articles in this issue, looking at migration situation in Finland, are result of study visits by two Winter Course Participants to Finland in February-March 2009. Sahana Basavapatna's research studies Finland's asylum policy, especially in the context of the Finnish Alien's Act 2004. This paper further seeks to see if the Finnish asylum policy is any different from the overall attitude portrayed by the European Union, and if so, why? Geetisha Dasgupta's article researches the skilled migrants in Finland, separated from the asylum seekers by capacity of work. This study researches how Finland performs as a new destination for the skilled migrants in the traditional atlas of labour migration.

The research articles entitled *Incomplete citizenship, statelessness and human trafficking: a preliminary analysis of the current situation in West Bengal, India* by Pascale MacLean and *Place of Poor in Urban Space* by Manish K. Jha have been published as *Policies and Practices* No 38 and *Policies and Practices* No 39.

• Refugee Watch

Refugee Watch issue No. 35 published articles by Sudeep Basu on *Organizing for Exile! "Self-Help" among Tibetan refugees in an Indian Town*, by Shiva Dhungana on *Third Country Resettlement and the Bhutanese refugee Crisis: A Critical reflection*, by Giorgio Grappi on *Refugees and Partition in a Migrants' World*. Apart from Ved Bhasin's interview on Forced migration and three reports on displacements in Nepal the issue of the *Refugee Watch* No. 36 published the following articles:

- *Refugee, Memory and the State: A Review of Research in Refugee Studies* by Pradip Kumar Bose
- *Eviction, Housing and Livelihood in Chennai* by Francis Adaikalam

All these were contributory to the overall reading repository of the Eighth Winter Course on Forced Migration. Currently we are in the process of reviewing articles by participants of the Sixth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration and Seventh Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration and some of the articles will be published in Refugee Watch.

• Refugee Watch Online (RWO)

RWO is a co-publication of *Refugee Watch* on the flow of refugees, other victims of forced migration, and the internally displaced persons in South Asia. It presents news and views, critiques and analyses of policies of the States and international humanitarian institutions with regard to forced migration and forced population flows across the borders in this region. The Refugee Watch Online has an editorial board comprising of the Alumni of the past six courses and the editorial board members are responsible for coordinating the edition of every month. Details are available on <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.com/>. This year again, we are planning to redraw the editorial board of the RWO to include the participants of the Seventh Winter Course on Forced Migration.

Short-Term Writing Fellowships

Two young researchers namely, Fatima Azmiya Badurdeen of Sri Lanka and Juha Rudanko of Finland were awarded with the short-term writing fellowships under the Winter Course programme.

Being one of the participants of Eighth Winter Course Azmiya successfully utilised the opportunity to finish her research on *The Conditions for Sustainable Return: The Case of Sri Lanka in the Post-conflict Context: A Study from the District of Trincomalee* after completion of the Kolkata workshop. Against the backdrop of Sri Lanka government's plan to provide "durable solution" for the IDPs in post war situation Azmiya in her study focused on the need for the sustainability of returnees. Her research paper was divided into four major sections: i) Geography and historic context of Trincomalee District ii) Theoretical underpinning and the methodology iii) Analysis of the study and iv) conclusion and recommendation.

Juha Rudanko in his study on *What is the Finnish immigration debate really about?* aimed to sketch some of the central challenges for Finland, as it faces both rising numbers of immigrants and a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment. He intended to examine the anti-immigrant discourse that is gaining popularity in Finland through examining blog posts and discussion forum post as well as the official response to the discourse by government ministers. He highlighted the shift in the political spectrum from moderately pro-immigration to seeing immigrants as a serious problem, and the 'mainstreaming' of anti-immigrant discourse.

Both the reports will be published very soon.

Ongoing Areas of Research

The Winter Course programme is designed to provide vital inputs to CRG's ongoing research. But, more important, the course material is based on CRG's original research work. This year the research themes that have been explored with special emphasis are IDPs in Post Conflict Sri Lanka, Forced Migration in Nepal and Stateless in South Asia.

Surendra Kumar in his study on *Conflict and Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable* has attempted to explain the fact that the issue of IDPs being given the top priority in the international arena, it still remains a daunting humanitarian challenge and a long way before the problem is fully addressed. While on the other hand **Anuradha Gunarathne** in her research paper on *Post conflict and Creative Avenues of Reconciling Adolescence: Realising Protection in contemporary Sri Lanka* has tried to analyse the politics of reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.

Roopshree Joshi has attempted to portray the situation of the Tibetans those who are living in the camps of Nepal. **Anita Ghimire**, on the other hand has emphasized on the impact of forced migration on women in her study on *Rethinking "Women" in forced displacement*. All these papers will be published soon.

Besides, the CRG team has completed the initial survey on the situation of stateless Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, India and the report of this research will be published very soon.

South Asia Exchange Programme

Under the South Asia Exchange Programme, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury of CRG visited Sri Lanka (between 27 February and 6 March 2011) for her research on *States and Stateless in South Asia: The Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh, India and Plantation workers of Sri Lanka*. As she completed her field trip to Arunachal Pradesh she intended to visit Sri Lanka. Most of the stateless people in Sri Lanka are descendants of people who had been brought from India by British colonisers between 1820 and 1840 to work on coffee and tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Over the years, several Indo-Sri Lankan agreements have granted some of these people either Indian or Sri Lankan citizenship, but as of October 2003, there were still an estimated 300,000 stateless people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The 2003 Grant of Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act gave citizenship to persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka since October 1964 and their descendants to solve the problem of statelessness in Sri Lanka. With these facts under consideration Anasua in her study intends to assess the present situation of plantation labourers in Sri Lanka.

Arpita Das, a doctoral student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai visited Bangladesh (between 20 and 27 March 2011) in relation to her research on *Living with (the politics of) floods*. In her study Arpita intends to understand and analyse the history of flooding in Assam and its socio-economic implications for people. She also wants to examine the governmental policies and approaches vis-a-vis floods and people/ community affected by floods. For the sake of her study she looks at policies and practices of neighbouring South Asian nations like Bangladesh who have evolved unique approaches of living with floods.