

# Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group

## Annual Report 2004-2005

The report is divided into six major sections:

- Programmes
- Publications
- Website
- Scholars and other members of the staff
- Assets
- Network, partners, and collaboration
- Membership
- Tasks for 2005-2006

1. CRG in the year 2004-05 was engaged in the following programmes:

- (a) Winter Course on Forced Migration;
- (b) Research and dialogue on Autonomy;
- (c) Media and human rights on the theme of “Women in Conflict Situation”, and a creative media workshop;
- (d) Programme on the IDPs and the UN Guiding Principles
- (e) Documentation and Research work on Sustainability of Rights

1.1 **Winter Course on Forced Migration:** The Second CRG Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration built on the achievements and the positive results of the First Annual Winter Course. The course as on the first occasion was held in the same period of the year, and the direct orientation workshop was held on 1-15 December 2004 in Kolkata. Also as in the first year a two-month long distance education programme preceded the course. Twenty (20) participants from all over South Asia and beyond attended the course. The faculty members were also from various countries. The course was publicised as much as possible, and the help of the ex-participants was a great asset on this occasion. An ex-participant Aditi Bhaduri managed the desk of organising the course. A broad based advisory committee was formed, which helped in framing the perspective of the programme, the structure of the course, proposed modules, plan of field visit, preparation of the syllabus and course material, the evaluation procedure and follow up measures. The course was marked by a stronger international participation. The field visit was a significant improvement in terms of design and time management. Participants were taken to a section of Indo-Bangladesh border in the district of Nadia, West Bengal. The wider perspective of justice and rights led to discussions on racism, xenophobia, and the discussion on citizenship led to deliberations on issues linked to non-state persons. The UNHCR, the Government of Finland, and the Brookings Institution supported it. Paula Banerjee was in charge of the programme. Aditi Bhadury was the programme associate. A copy of the report is enclosed. (Enclosure 1)

1.2 **Research and dialogue on autonomy:** The research work on autonomy continued in this year. The work produced ten research papers, which were submitted to CRG and revised on the lines suggested in the Varanasi meeting (ref: last year’s AR). These papers were collectively put in the shape of a volume, which the Sage Publications has agreed to publish. Ranabir Samaddar is the editor of the proposed volume. The research also produced the text of a compendium of keywords and key texts on autonomy. This too was readied for publication to come out in July 2005 on the occasion of the proposed conference on

autonomy in Kolkata. Samir Das, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Ranabir Samaddar have edited the compendium based on the contributions and suggestions of the research collective. The research also resulted in collection of several key documents. The programme also resulted in the organisation of the third dialogue on autonomy held in Darjeeling on 8-9 November 2004. The dialogue was significant because in this meeting of activists from several autonomy movements and relevant areas deliberated frankly on the issue of violence, access to resources, gender, devolution of power, etc. The Darjeeling dialogue carried forward the conversation in which a group of academics, human rights and peace thinkers and activists had engaged for the first time in the East and the Northeast on the issue of autonomy in the context of conflicts. Samir Das and Dolly Kikon prepared the report (enclosure 2), which was published. The report has earned appreciation from conflict-torn areas and has been widely circulated. The research produced several research papers, details of which are in the section on publications. The Ford Foundation has supported the research and dialogue programme on autonomy. Samir Das and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury were the joint coordinators of the programme.

1.3 **Media and human rights:** The second media and human rights programme was a significant improvement on the first one. While the theme of the first media programme was media and displacement, the second programme related to the theme of media and women in conflict situation. It was extended to Nepal also. The programme offered six media fellowships – three in reporting segment and three in media research segment. The themes covered in the programme were of an astonishing range – female foeticide, members of the families of the victims of forced disappearance, Muslim women and the pulse polio campaign, women and public health, women, flood and disaster, and women victims of violence in Tripura. All these findings were published; several leading newspapers carried the findings. And, these became the core discussion and the instruction material of the second creative media workshop held in Bhuvaneshwar on 9-12 January 2005. The highlights of the workshop was a photography exhibition, a film analysis session, a session on the reading of the ancient classics that throw light on the situation of women in conflict situations, intense deliberations on various dimensions of the theme, and finally discussions on various techniques of writing, script writing, editing, filming, titling, investigating etc. In short the creative workshop was both a skill-enhancement programme as well as a deliberative programme as well. The programme resulted in two research publications - one on the relevant situation in West Bengal and the other on Tripura (see the section on publications) plus a comprehensive report. Nilanjan Dutta, Dulali Nag, Biswajit Ray, Meenakshi Sen, and Krishna Bandopadhyay authored the two publications and Nilanjan Dutta prepared the report (enclosure 3). WACC was the sponsor of the programme. Nilanjan Datta was the programme in-charge.

1.4 **Programme on the IDPs and the UN Guiding Principles:** The research on the IDPs in South Asia led to the publication of a much-needed volume on the topic (see Publications). Roberta Cohen of the Brookings Institution released on 15 December the volume edited by Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Samir Das. The research led also to further work on the rights of the IDPs. – a year long South Asian programme of advocacy meetings on the UN Guiding Principles and translation of the same in South Asian languages. The work ended successfully with six meetings in various South Asian cities and publications of the GPs in Nepali, Assamese, Tamil, Urdu, Sinhalese, and Bengali. The report is now available on the web - <http://mcrg.ac.in/idp.htm>. The Brookings Institution has continued to support the programme and Roberta Cohen has remained a unique inspiration. Paula Banerjee with the assistance of Aditi Bhadury coordinated the programme. The winter course, research, and the work on the IDPs form one of the strongest features of the CRG and make what has now come to be known as the forced migration desk of the Group.

1.5 **Documentation and Research on Sustainability of Rights:** The project on “Regional initiative for the sustainable livelihood and the enabling of social and political participation” developed in South Asian context takes into account the objective realities of the region and focuses on three main areas of activities:

- Evaluation of present situation of rights and the struggles for rights
- Transfer of customised knowledge on rights for civic actions
- Empowerment and support for protection of vulnerable groups

As part of the project CRG carried out an exercise of mapping of profile of sustainable livelihood and social and political participation in South Asia in the perspective of globalisation and economic reforms. The exercise led to the creation of a comprehensive database of the organizations, network and individuals including existing profiles and databases working in the region. CRG also developed a detailed policy review with critique of existing policies and guidelines of the governments for sustainable livelihood and social and political participation of the vulnerable groups across South Asia in the context of globalisation. The policy review was published in the CRG research paper series *Policies and Practices* titled “Globalization, State Policies and Sustainability of Rights” (No. 7.) At present we are engaged in developing an educational programme for orientation of community representatives, activists, students, young professionals on the issues of sustainability of socio-economic rights in the wake of globalisation.

2.1 **Publications** – The most notable part of the publications programme in this period was the commencement of the CRG research paper series, titled, “Policies and Practices” that has earned for CRG all round appreciation. Besides the series, books, reports, and the journal RW were published in this period. The details are given below:

## 2.2 **Books**

- Peace Studies – Ed. by Ranabir Samaddar, (Sage Publications, New Delhi)
- Internal Displacement in South Asia Ed.by Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Samir Kumar Das (Sage Publications, New Delhi)
- *Abiram Raktapat - Tripuranarir Sangram* by Meenakshi Sen, Jayanta Bhattacharya, and Kirishna Bandyopadhyay (Calcutta Research Group)

## **Reports**

- Fourth Civil Society Dialogue on Conflict, Autonomy and Peace: A Report - Dolly Kikon & Samir Kumar Das
- Second CRG Winter Course on Forced Migration, Racism, Immigration and Xenophobia 2004: A Report
- Report on the Second Media and Human Rights Programme

## **Refugee Watch (Issues 21, 22, 23)**

## **Research Paper Series**

- People on the Move - How Governments Manager Moving Populations / Madhuresh Kumar, Samir Kumar Das, and Paula Banerjee
- Resources for Autonomy: Financing the Local Bodies / Ratan Khasnabis
- Peace Accords as the Basis of Autonomy / Samir Kumar Das

- Debates Over Women's Autonomy / Paula Banerjee
- Unequal Communication – Health and Disasters as the Issue of Public Sphere / Biswajit Roy, Dulali Nag and Nilanjan Dutta
- Globalisation, State Policies and Sustainability of Rights / Madhuresh Kumar
- Autonomies in the North and the North East / Sanjay Chaturvedi & Sanjay Barbora

3. **Website:** CRG developed its website ([www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)) in this year. Visitors have found it comprehensive and easily navigable. Members of the office staff along with scholars have developed the site and are now working on its improvement. However the page “CRG Writings” remains under construction due to insufficient attention of our scholars. Scholars are requested to help the construction of the page. Ayan Mukherji and Madhuresh Kumar are in charge of the website.

#### 4. Scholars and other members of the staff

##### 4.1 *Scholars*

##### **Paula Banerjee**

###### 1. Publications of articles and books.

- Internal Displacement in South Asia (Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2005). Co-editors Sabyasachi Basu Raychoudhury and Samir Das.
- “Assamese Women: Victims or Actors?” in Imdad Hussain ed., The Guwahati Declaration and the Road to Peace in Assam (Akansha, New Delhi, 2005).
- “Peacekeeping and Conflict Management: South Asia,” and “Peace Movements: South Asia,” Encyclopaedia of Women in Islamic Cultures Vol. 2 (Brill Publications, Netherlands, 2005)
- “Women's Interventions for Peace in Northeast,” O. P. Mishra eds., Forced Migration in the South Asian Region (Manak, New Delhi, 2004)
- Sectional Edit. Peace Studies Reader, Vol. I (Sage Publications, 2004).
- *People on the Move: How Governments Manage Moving Populations, Policies and Practices 1* (Co-authored - Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, October 2004)

###### 2. Research activities

- Visiting Professor, International Program on Advanced Studies, MSH, Paris, April, 2004.
- Researcher, Non-Traditional Security and Gender, WISCOMP, New Delhi, 2004-2005.
- Researcher, Minority Status Report for India, ICES, Colombo, 2004.

###### 3. Reports Published

- *Report on the Status of Minorities in India* (ICES, Colombo, 2005)
- *Debates on Women's Autonomy in India* (CRG 2005)

###### 4. Meetings, seminars, and conferences (of significance and relevance) attended

- “Constitution, Law and Constitutionalism,” Maison Des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH) Paris, in collaboration with CRG, February 2005.

- “Women and Displacement,” College, de Philosophie, Paris, 2005
  - “Gender, Media and Human Rights,” WACC London, February 2005.
  - “Status of Minorities in India,” ICES. Colombo, September 2004.
  - “Migration and Non-Traditional Security,” WISCOMP, New Delhi, December 2004.
  - “Women IDPs in South Asia,” CENISEAS, Guwahati, January 2005.
5. Any other activity of relevance to CRG
- Co-ordinator of a series of workshops on the Guiding Principles in South Asia (held in Kathmandu, Dhaka, Islamabad, Guwahati, Colombo and Bangkok) 1 June 2004- 31 March 2005.
  - Co-ordinator of “Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration,” Kolkata 1 October-15 December 2004.

### **Samir Kumar Das**

Books (authored and edited) and published papers

1. *Internal Displacement in South Asia: Relevance of UN's Guiding Principles* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004), co-edited.
2. Edited the Section on ‘Defining Peace Studies’ in Ranabir Samaddar (ed.), *Peace Studies: An Introduction to the Concept, Scope, and Themes* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004), Section Editor’s Introduction, pp. 19-31.
3. *Ethnicity Nation and Security: Essays on Northeastern India* (New Delhi: South Asian, 2004), authored.
4. ‘Situating the Self: Selfhood and Ethnicity in Contemporary Northeastern India’ in C. Joshua Thomas (ed.), *Polity and Economy: Agenda for Contemporary Northeastern India* (New Delhi: Regency/Shillong: Indian Council of Social Science Research, North East Regional Centre, 2005), pp. 54-71.
5. ‘Civil Society and the Struggle for Self-Determination in Contemporary North-Eastern India’ in Monirul Hussain (ed.), *Coming out of Violence: Essays on Ethnicity, Conflict Resolution and Peace Process in North-East India* (New Delhi: Regency, 2005), pp. 23-38.
6. ‘Wars, Population Movements and the Formation of States in South Asia’ in Ranabir Samaddar (ed.), *South Asian Peace Studies: Vol. 1: Peace Studies: An Introduction to the Concept, Scope, and Themes* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004).
7. ‘India: Homelessness at Home’ in Paula Banerjee, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury & Samir Kumar Das (eds.), *Internal Security in South Asia: Relevance of UN's Guiding Principles* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004), pp. 113-143.
8. ‘Identity and Frontiers in International Relations Research’ in Anindyo J Majumdar & Shibashis Chatterjee (eds.), *Understanding Global Politics: Issues and Trends* (New Delhi: Lancer’s Books, 2004).
9. ‘Ethnic Sub-Territoriality and the Modern State: The Case of North-Eastern India’ in Kanti Bajpai & Siddharth Mallavarapu (eds.), *International relations in India: Theorising the Region and Nation* (New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2004), pp. 284-313.
10. ‘Ethnic Insurgency and Population Displacement in Northeastern India: Implications for Democracy and Citizenship’ in O. P. Mishra (ed.), *Forced Migration in the South Asian Region: Displacement, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution* (Calcutta: Centre for Refugee Studies, Jadavpur University in collaboration with Brookings Institution-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement, Washington DC/ New Delhi: Manak, 2004), Pp. 510-7

11. 'The Indian Scenario on Internal displacement' in *People on the Move: How Governments Manage Moving Populations*, Policies and Practices 1 (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, October 2004)
12. *Peace Accords as the Basis of Autonomy*, Policies and Practices 3 (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, January 2005).

#### Research Papers in Bengali:

1. 'Visvayan, Abhibasan ebang Aamader Naitikata', [Globalization, Immigration and Our Morality] in *Chaturanga*, 64 (2-3), May 2005, pp. 130-137.
2. 'Nijei nijer ghar bhengechhe bangali' (in Bengali) [The Bengalis have broken their homes themselves] in *Ekak Matra*, 5 (4), January 2005, pp. 15-20.
3. 'Atmaniyatraner Adhikar Ebang Sushil Samaj', [Right to Self-Determination and Civil Society] in Subhendu Dasgupta (ed.), *Civil Society: Adhikar Nirman* (Calcutta: Nandimukh, 2004).

#### Project Reports, Rejoinders, Research Notes, Occasional Papers, Mimeographs

1. *Fourth Civil Society Dialogue on Conflict, Autonomy and Peace: A Report* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2005) [with Dolly Kikon].
2. 'Violating Rights or Righting Violations? Notes on a Critique of Democratic Governance in Contemporary India', Papers on democratic Governance 1, UGC-DRS (Phase I) Programme, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, 2005, pp. 5-24.
3. Edited *Three Case Studies: Media Coverage on Forced Displacement in Contemporary India* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2004)
4. Edited (with Deepti Mahajan) *Report on the Creative Writers' Workshop on Forced Displacement of Population* (Kolkata: Calcutta Research Group, 2004).

#### **Madhuresh Kumar**

'Gendering Refugee Care' in *Refugee Watch*, Issue no. 23, December 2004

(Associate editor) *Talking New Politics*. Zubaan : New Delhi, 2005

"Globalisation, State Policies and Sustainability of Rights", Policies and Practices (7), CRG, 2005

#### *Research Activities*

Member of the Steering Committee for a web based "*Development Education Project: Are other worlds possible?*" hosted by MUNDI, Centre for Development Education, University of Nottingham, Nottingham (March – August 2004)

#### Seminars / Conferences Attended

'The Government Policy of Resettlement and Rehabilitation', paper presented at a CRG seminar, 2004

First 'Cultural Analysis Summer Academy', University of Amsterdam meeting on "*Acting & Spectating*", July 2-5 2004

Annual Conference of the Global Studies Association in conjunction with the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick on theme '*Southern Voices and Global Order*', 7th - 9th July 2004

Marxism 2004, July 9-16 2004, London

## Ranabir Samaddar

Ranabir Samaddar also gave a public lecture on “Terror, law, and the Colonial State” at the OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati in July 2004 and gave a talk at the same theme at a CRG seminar in August 2004. Besides directing CRG’s numerous activities, RS gave three lectures in Yale University – one at the Yale School, one on South Asia for scholars working on South Asia, and the third in Yale Law School (April 2004) He spoke on Indo-Pakistan relations and the Issues of Peace at a conference organised by the Women’s Studies Centre at the McGill University, Montreal (July 2004). He chaired a panel on autonomy in the International Conference on Autonomy in Uppsala University in Sweden (August 2004). He gave three lectures on forced migration to different audiences in Delhi (September-October 2004). On November 8 2004 he gave a paper on Nehru at a Jamia Milia conference on Jawaharlal Nehru. He gave two lectures peace audit in Thailand – one at the Thammasat University at Bangkok and the other at the Pattani University at Pattani in South Thailand (December 2004). He coordinated along with Gilles Tarabout of the MSH, Paris an international conference on Law and Constitutionalism in Paris in February 2005 and gave a paper on violence and constitutionalism. He spoke on forced migration in Sussex University in February and again he visited the Sussex University in March to give the opening address to a conference on the history of the Indigenous People in South Asia (March 2005). In March he visited Mudra Institute of Communications in Ahmedabad also to give the valedictory lecture to a conference on the theme of communication. His lecture was on the Radical Communicators. In March 2005 he visited Kairouan University in Tunisia to give a paper “Difference – What Does It Mean to Political Writing?” to the International Colloquium on Difference.

Besides he participated in the ICES research programme on minority rights and the RCSS the research programme on terror and violence.

### Publications:

#### A. Books

- (i) Politics of Dialogue – Living Under the Geopolitical Histories of War and Peace (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2004)

#### B. Edited Volumes

- (i) South Asian Peace Studies I - An Introduction to Concept, Scope and Themes (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2004)

#### C. Published Papers

- (i) “Empire and Globalisation” – Comments on Partha Chatterjee’s “Empire in the Age of Globalisation” – Economic and Political Weekly, 8 November 2004
- (ii) “Terror, Law, and the Colonial State”, published public lecture at the OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, 2004
- (iii) “The Juridical Political Claims of Minority Protection in India” in Nanda P. Wanasundera (ed.), Protection of Minority Rights and Diversity (Colombo: International centre for Ethnic Studies, 2004)
- (iv) “The Life of Boundaries and Their Impact on the Nation” in The Life Between, a collection of papers presented on the occasion of an exhibition of “Borders and Beyond” (Calcutta: Seagull Limited Edition, 2004)

- (v) “The Futures of the Colonised”, Futures, 36, 2004
- (vi) “Deaths, Responsibility, and Justice”, translated and published in French and Arabic, Naqd, (Algiers), 2004
- (vii) “Five Hypotheses on War and Humanitarianism”, Cultures et Societes – Cahiers du CEMRIC, Nos. 18-19 (2004)

### **Aditi Bhaduri and Nilanjan Dutta**

Aditi Bhaduri was selected and appointed to the post of Programme Associate to work for the Winter Course on Forced Migration and Training Workshop on UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. She resumed her work at the CRG on 1 June 2004 and handled her responsibilities efficiently and discharged her duties satisfactorily. Her tenure expired on 15 May 2005.

Nilanjan Dutta was appointed to the post of Programme Associate to help the work on ‘Gender, Media and Human Rights in South Asia: A Programme of Reporting, Research and Intervention’. He joined the CRG on 1 August 2004. He was then awarded Media Fellowship in the Research Segment category. Mr. Dutta handled his work efficiently including his research under Media Fellowship. He satisfactorily organized the Creative Media Workshop held in Bhubaneswar and edited the Report on ‘Gender, Media and Human Rights’. His tenure expired on 28 February 2005.

#### **4.2 Office Members:**

The services of Ratan Chakrabarty, M. Chatterji, Mohan Kumar Giri, and Ayan Mukherjee were reconfirmed in October 2004 with a revision of their salaries. The part-time service of R.K. Mahato was also continued with an increase of honorarium.

### **5. Assets**

5.1 Library: Books: 449 / Non-Book Materials: 275. Planning is on as to how to put relevant information on the website.

5.2 The Office has acquired LCD projector, projection screen, a photocopying machine (5816), computers and accessories, furniture (almirahs, book shelves, tables, and chairs etc.) scanner, and pedestal fans. An Asset Register is now available with the Office.

6. Network, partners, and collaboration: The list of collaborators has grown. Besides the existing institutions CRG collaborated with OKD Institute, Guwahati, MSH Paris, Nepal Institute of Peace, Kathmandu, Aurat Foundation, Lahore, Ain O Salish Kendra, Dhaka, and National Peace Council, Colombo.

### **7. Membership**

#### **8. Tasks for 2005-2006:**

- Improvement of Website
- Strengthening of research faculty
- Securing long term grant and foundational assistance
- Improvement of library and archival facilities