

Minutes of the CORE Consultative Meeting of Indian Partners
Malviya Peace Research Institute, BHU
6 August 2011

1. Amit Prakash (JNU)
2. Anju Saran Upadhyay (BHU)
3. Devika (DU)
4. Imran (JNU)
5. Navneeta Chadha Behera (DU)
6. Priyankar Upadhyay (BHU)
7. Ranabir Samaddar (MCRG)
8. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (MCRG)
9. Sumona Dasgupta (PRIA)

1. The Centre for Law and Governance, JNU, will conduct field visit in Bihar and Jharkhand to study the dynamics of governmentality in conflict situation obtaining there. They will concentrate on the Maoist-dominated districts in Jharkhand and Bihar. The survey will attempt to capture as much diversity of viewpoints as possible through cross-sectional interviews. Two blocks would be studied closely for understanding government initiatives (including rehabilitation packages) to cope with the Maoists. The study will be in the nature of addressing the 'democratic deficit'. The ideas of social justice will be given priority over operation of governmentality. It was suggested that here was a need to look into patterns of caste conflict, caste-class overlap, political economy of the conflicts, and the role of the panchayats. It was pointed out that the governing logics get reproduced in different ways. Justice after all may not lead to peace and the Rawlsian idea leading to redistribution has to be assessed. It was pointed out that, semi-structured interviews might be crucial. It is also necessary to examine whether security and welfare were two separate policy clusters. Were they binary categories or did they overlap? It was also indicated that the task of perception-mapping might be too dependent on interviews, and sometimes a more critical edge was needed to address relevant research questions. For understanding the perceptions of the government officials, social workers, NGOs, structured and semi-structured interviews both might be necessary.
2. MCRG as part of its proposed study on Mizoram will conduct a pilot survey of the relocation of villages. It will examine whether this was purely an economic exercise or a security exercise and whether this could be considered as a 'successful case' or not. MCRG will also study if the same model has been reproduced in Tripura. In Tripura, large tracts of highlands have been brought under rubber plantation through several measures, consequently leading to relocation of villages. The

- role of the local volunteer force which may not be exactly of the *Salwa Judum* type has to be discussed. Likewise it will study the role of the lumpen elements, of women, and the phenomenon of gender-budgeting in India's Northeast. In case of Bihar, MCRG would study flood prone tracts of North Bihar in order to examine the governance of caste conflicts there, for instance the grouping of castes. It will also conduct a literature review on this theme from the 1950s. The field visit would also cover the material at A.N. Sinha Institute and ADRI. It was pointed out during discussion that, justice often began with some recognition of injustice. Therefore responses to injustices have to be examined closely. There should be study of the governmentalized version of justice and self-rule as well. The entire study needs to be contextualized in terms of citizenship, it was felt.
3. PRIA would be applying a participatory methodology to understand people's perceptions of security and development, including both elite and mass perceptions. PRIA would study perceptions on elections and electoral politics in Jammu and Kashmir. In this context it was pointed out that, the constitutional parameters of Jammu and Kashmir Constitution might show that the real power was concentrated in the valley and, therefore the need to study autonomy movements like the one for movement for Ladakh Hill Council.
 4. The Department of Political Science, Delhi University, will study the civic institutions of peace building in Jammu and Kashmir. They will possibly take up the Gujjar issue and their migration pattern. It was indicated that, any Kashmiri viewpoint cutting across class etc. should be studied closely. It was pointed out during discussion that, nothing called civil society works in times of acute crisis. No middle space is left between the warring groups during such period. Some indicated, however, that, there may be a continuum as the acute conflict situations do not last long. In any case, this study has to be linked with the overall post-colonial scenario of conflict and governance. It was decided that significant theoretical questions evolving out of the study would be discussed in future meetings.
 5. BHU proposed to work on Meghalaya. The work will be in consultation with CRG. BHU will work on gender related aspects of conflict and governance in Meghalaya.

Ranabir Samaddar chaired the discussion. The discussion was held around short notes prepared for the occasion. Samaddar requested each of the partners in India to prepare a 2-3 page note within 15 days. The following timeline was proposed:

December 2011 – meeting in Delhi
 April 2012 – another meeting
 June 2012 – first draft

Initial draft revised by 31 August 2012

Publication possibilities: EPW Special Issue with 4 or 5 articles, Diogenes / Security Dialogue / International Social Science Journal (Paris) / RS; Alternatives / Millennium / Global Society / Navneeta

Each article should be of 5000 words each; for this publication note was required

Book volume – possible publisher - Westview Press; Michigan University Press