



Centre for Development
Practice & Research
TAKSHILA CAMPUS PATNA



Second Orientation Course on Migration



Dec. 15, 2017-Feb. 27, 2018



Hotel Buddha Inn
Boring Road,
Patna



ORGANISED BY

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patna Centre

SECOND ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON MIGRATION

Contact Period: February 17 to 27, 2018

Online Period: December 15, 2017 to February 14, 2018

We live in the 'Age of Migration'. Though migration is an old phenomenon, actively promoted by the Colonial State, it was after the advent of liberalisation and integration of markets that migration has accelerated and diversified exponentially. It involves various factors - the state, government, local actors, political economy of new forms of production and labour processes, urbanisation, climate change, displacement, violence, citizenship, welfare, gender, identities and processes of formation of subjectivity, rights and entitlements, and so on. Thus, migration has to be understood as a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon, which also requires nuanced understanding of various methods that can be applied in studying it. In this backdrop, the orientation course on migration is organised with the following objectives:

- To present an overview of various facets of contemporary migration.
- To facilitate a multi-disciplinary and integrated understanding of labour migration.
- To analyse the influence of law and policies of the State on migration patterns.
- To introduce students to theories and empirical research methods in migration studies.

Modules

1. Main Concepts and Theories in Migration Studies
2. Migration and Immigration in Modern History
3. Overview of Migration in South Asia
4. Migration and Labour
5. Migration and Urbanisation
6. Environment, Climate Change and Migration
7. Gender, Informalities and Migration
8. Statelessness Displaced Persons and Refugeehood
9. Migration Studies and its methodologies
10. Issues of Rights, Welfare and Justice in Migration
11. Policy Perspective on Migration

SESSION PLAN

Orientation Programme on Migration Contact Period: February 17 to 27, 2018

| Day | Module | Module Topic | Session Topic | Sessions | Faculty |
|----------------------|---|--|--|----------|-------------------|
| 17 th Feb | Inaugural Session (Public Event) Hetukar Jha Memorial Lecture: Prof. Ratneshwar Mishra | | | 1 | - |
| | One | Main Concepts and Theories of Migration | Critical Migration Studies | 3 | Samir Das |
| 18 th Feb | One | Continued... | Economic Theories of Migration | 2 | Iman Mitra |
| | | | Sociology of Migration | 2 | N. Jayaram |
| 19 th Feb | Two | Migration & Emigration in Modern History | Migration in South Asia | 2 | Max Tunon |
| | Two | Continued..... | Migration in Modern Indian History | 2 | Atig Ghosh |
| 20 th Feb | Three | Urbanisation and Migration | Cities, Migration and Citizenship | 2 | Amita Bhide |
| | Four | Migration & Labor | Forms of Labour in Historical Perspective | 2 | Geetisha Dasgupta |
| 21 st Feb | Four | Continued... | Rural Labour Relations and Migration | 1 | Pushpendra |
| | Four | Continued... | Migration and the New Forms of Urban Labour | 1 | Iman Mitra |
| | Four | Continued... | Migration and New Labour | 2 | Mithilesh Kumar |
| 22 nd Feb | Five | Environment and Migration | Climate Crisis and Migration | 3 | Gopal Krishna |
| | | | Development Projects, People and Environment | 1 | Shruti Jain |

| Day | Module | Module Topic | Session Topic | Sessions | Faculty |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 23 rd Feb | Six | Gender and Migration | Gender and Migration | 2 | Anamika Priyadarshini |
| | | | Women and Work | 2 | |
| 24 th Feb | Seven | Statelessness and Refugeehood | Statelessness | 2 | Anasua Basu Ray Chadhury |
| | | | Nation-State and Refugees | 2 | KM Parivelan |
| 25 th Feb | Eight | Migration Studies and its Methodologies | Overview | 2 | Mithilesh Kumar |
| | Eight | Continued... | Qualitative Methods – 1 | 2 | Parthasarthi Mondal |
| 26 th Feb | Eight | Continued... | Qualitative Methods – 2 | 1 | |
| | | | Using Archives | 1 | Rajat Kanti Sur |
| | Nine | Issues of Rights, Welfare & Justice in Migration | Migrants: Views from the Ground | 2 | Umi Daniel |
| 27 th Feb | Nine | Continued... | Continued.... | 2 | |
| | Valedictory Lecture: Trade Union Perspective on Migration by Anannya Bhattacharjee | | | 1 | - |

- One session is equivalent to one and a half hours. Normally the timing will be as follows:
9.30 am to 11 am; 11.30 am to 1.0 pm; 2.0 pm to 3.30 pm; 4 pm to 5.30 pm. Evening presentations will begin from 7 pm and continue up to 8.30 pm.
- Presentations of participants' term paper will take place in the evenings.
- Special lectures will also be held in the evening. Scheduled evening lectures:
 1. Gopal Krishna: "Hazardous Industries, Disaster and Migration"
 2. Pushendra: "Humanitarian Response and Migration: Human Rights Assessment of 2004 Tsunami Response"
 3. Mithilesh Kumar: "Border, Labour and Migration"
 4. Diksha Chaudhary: "On the Move for Healthcare: Everyday Life of Healthcare Migrants in Mumbai"
 5. Manish Jha: "Homeless Migrants in Mumbai - Life and Labour in Urban Space"
- Two more special lectures to be held.
- On two evenings, documentaries will be screened.

MODULE DESCRIPTION

SECOND ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON MIGRATION 2018 RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

February 17, 2018

Day : 1

Special Lecture: Sadan Jha

Sadan Jha captured the migrant experiences in Bhojpuri songs among Bhojpuri migrants. He made the point that popular culture is a product of cultural experiences. These experiences shape a person's attitude and beliefs. He explained how migrant experiences are portrayed in popular culture. He discussed some of the Bhojpuri songs and its implications in shaping lives of the individual. He found the songs to be patriarchal in nature.

➤ **Module 1 : Main Concepts and Theories of Migration**

Module Description

This module dealt with critical theory of migration, economic theories of migration and sociological theories of migration. Critical migration studies marks a departure by breaking the linearity of migration characteristic of conventional Migration Studies. Migration is not simply a line that connects the two points of departure and destination, but contributes to the production of a subject who is always caught in multiple locations and subject positions.

The lecture on economic theories of migration provided a critical overview of the concepts and theories of migration as represented within the disciplinary history of economics. By critically examining both the location of the concept of migration within the economic discipline and the influence it has had in the history of development economics as an expert knowledge regime, the lecture tried to draw attention to the politics of knowledge production, category formation and explored alternative frameworks.

Lecture on sociological theories of migration examined various aspects of migration and its implications and consequences for the people and the places involved. Migrants carry with them a socio-cultural baggage which among other things consists of (a) a predefined social identity, (b) a set of religious beliefs and practices, (c) framework of norms and values governing family and kinship organisation, and food habits, and (d) language. This lecture introduced definitional issues, the nature and types of migration and the reasons for migration vis-a-vis the background of the migrants.

Lectures

Samir Kumar Das introduced the concepts, theoretical perspectives and typologies of Migration and Forced Migration Studies. The second and third sessions focussed on the follow up discussion from the first by way of identifying and elaborating on two or three key themes (such as citizenship, race etc.). The final session exclusively focused on methodological issues. He explained how the phenomenon of forced migration not only calls for methodological understanding of a different kind but serious reconceptualisation of the discipline of Political Science.

➤ Module 1 – Main Concepts and Theories of Migration

Lectures

Iman Mitra explained theoretical strands such as Lewis Dual Sector Model of Economic Development, Harris-Todaro Model and New Economics of Labour Migration. He explained how these various strands have contributed to our current understanding and vocabulary of migration. He critically examined ‘dualities’ such as rural-urban and traditional-modern and emphasised the need to locate these ideas in their historical and political context. He discussed how discourses on migration have historically gone through pessimistic and optimistic stages and how these orientations differ in their orientations in theory, policy and practice. He pointed out some of the important ongoing areas of research related to migration such as in areas of diaspora, gender, and globalisation and so on.

N Jayaram suggested that migration, as we understand today in the social sciences, is different from the natural condition of nomadism. It refers to the movement of people, either individually or in groups, from one settled geographical area to another, with implications not only for the individuals or groups concerned but also for the areas involved in their movement - the area from which they have moved (the place of origin) as well as the area into which they have moved (the place of destination). Migrants always carry their socio cultural aspects, religion, values, kinship and language; therefore it is important to look into larger socio-cultural-political aspects of migration. He discussed Roben Cohen’s nine binaries on migration. According to him, for understanding of migration, it was important to look into larger socio-cultural-political aspects of migration.



➤ Module 2 – Migration and Emigration in Modern History

Module Description

South Asia has emerged as a site of major internal as well as international migration. Last two decades have witnessed exponential growth in all forms of migration in South Asia. The intra-regional migration is estimated at 9.65 million and inter-regional migration at 27.2 million in 2015 (International Migration Stock-2015, UN DESA). One of the reasons for high inter-regional migration is the emergence of Gulf countries as main destination for low-skilled blue collar workers from South Asian countries, particularly Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan. With regard to intra-regional migration, while India and Pakistan are the main recipient countries, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are the main sending countries. The migrants not only include economic migrants but also the stateless, refugees, displaced persons, and uprooted persons. At the same time, all countries of South Asia have witnessed tremendous increase in in-country migration for economic and other reasons. Remittances not only play very crucial role in survival of families but also contribute in forex earnings of South Asian countries in a significant way. All these make migration and immigration as one of the most important South Asian phenomenon in contemporary times. This module helped participants to acquaint themselves with the trends, issues and policy framework for cross-border migration in South Asia.

Lectures

Max Tunon divided the lectures on migration in South Asia into three parts – trends, issues and challenges and responses. He argued that in South Asia men migrate more than women. By giving examples of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, he asserted that countries with high level of violence experienced higher percentage of outmigration. A majority of South Asians migrate to UAE, Saudi Arabia and USA. He explained how outmigration of a particular group can be controlled. For example, In Sri Lanka, female below 5 years of age were not allowed to out-migrate. He also shared studies in India and Nepal that show skill and experience gained abroad have negligible impact on employability and wages when returning to domestic labour market.

Atig Ghosh discussed how historians understood migration process stating that for historians migration implies forced migration. He also argued that scholars tend to look at global migration from western perspectives and experiences. He explained that the study of refugee migration is only a contemporary phenomenon. It was only in the 1990s that developed countries faced the problem of refugees. He argued that there should not be question of illegality without the question of citizenship.

➤ **Module 3 – Urbanisation and Migration**

Module Description

The contemporary era is described as an age of migration. Cities have emerged as the loci of internal as well as transnational migration in this era, creating new challenges for city governance and management ranging from health issues to those of infrastructure and services. Cities respond to the inflow of migrants in variable manner. What accounts for these variations? Are migrants considered to be citizens? How does migration challenge the established notions of city authority, governance, citizenship, rights? This module created an analytical framework and engaged with questions such as these at a global and local scale. It offered critical analysis of the nuances of urbanisation and migration.

Lecture

Amita Bhide delivered two lectures on cities, migration and citizenship. She used the concept of assemblage as given by Saskia Sassen to explain the topic. She discussed borders, globalization by sub nationalism, citizenship and class and cities as key nodes of global activities. She suggested that city authorities should have inclusive approach to accommodate migrant needs.

➤ **Module 4 – Migration and Labour**

Module Description

This module discussed the political economy of labour migration, and the debates arising from Marxist premises on the same. The module examined the basics of political economy of labour migration and access to labour-power, reserve army of labour and free/unfree labour. It aimed to explain circular migration, indentured migration, and involuntary migration. This module also explored the politics of migrants' access to their own labour-power and time. It emphasised the historical instances of labour migration from the Global South and economic prosperities in the Global North.

Lectures

Geetisha Dasgupta explained how voluntary migration to the plantations in 19th century could not withstand the particular social formation in the labour market and how these immigrants were introduced to low rate work. She also explained migration historically through slavery, indentured labour and contract workers.

Mithilesh Kumar began by mapping new forms of labour, restructuring of labour and explained how this labour operates in the new production regimes. He gave example of Maruti Suzuki at Gurgaon. He concluded the session by discussing the issue of violence particularly in the context of terms of employment of migrant labour. He explained that as the production regime changes and the migrant workers' employment becomes increasingly fluid, new forms of not only violence but also rebellion and association are witnessed.

➤ Module 4 – Migration and Labour

Lectures

Prof. Pushpendra spoke on changing rural labour relations and migration. He drew attention to the fact that in the process of capitalist development in agriculture, peasant proprietorship, instead of disappearing, has displayed a remarkable capacity of survival in South and South-east Asia, China and Sub-Saharan Africa. He explained the reasons for persistence of subsistence production in the economy, both rural and urban, which results in a large reservoir of surplus population continually reproduced in the subsistence sector. Emergence of Green Revolution areas and specific urban production/service centres has resulted in different types and degrees of labour migration, often terms as external or partial proletarianisation where small peasant proprietors seek seasonal wage employment while retaining their small plots of land. In this context, he explained various concepts such as petty commodity production, footloose labour and classes of labour. He underlined ten important changes in rural society and economy that have influenced the course of migration, related to namely land, relationship between landless labourers and dominant landowners, tenancy practices, poor quality informal sector employment, circular migration, inter-sectionality of caste, class, gender, tribe and religion, remittances and consumption pattern, non-farm rural economy, petty commodity production, and, finally, role of the state. Prof. Pushpendra concluded by emphasising the need for theorisation of ongoing changes in rural labour relations with reference to migration.

Iman Mitra drew attention to the binaries existing in conceptualisation of labour: formal-informal and organised-unorganised. He pointed to the blurred boundaries of these categories and the existence of one type within the other in different settings. He traced the development of such binaries through different phases of economic history. Discussions were carried out on the issue of migration and insecurity. The question of relation between land and labour was taken up while discussing how zoning exercises in the city were used to push and limit migrant labour to certain quarters. In this context, attention was drawn to new forms of urban labour, such as, hawkers and vendors, security guards, and domestic workers. Mitra brought to notice the necessary (in terms of services), and at the same time, undesired (in terms of visual presence and making claims on the city) presence of the migrant workers in the city.

Mithilesh Kumar spoke about the relationship between migrants and resistance and violence, where he argued that migration is accompanied and followed by physical violence. He drew attention to old forms of labour that continued to exist in new forms in the contemporary economic structure. These included pirates, sea farers, workers in ship industry, and convict labourers. He also highlighted the complexities related to certain kinds of work which are not recognised. These include military work, sex work, domestic work, and voluntary workers. Further discussion looked into the emergence of gig economy, which emerges and is sustained in the grey area between legal and illegal. Issues of legal regulations and accountability were raised.

➤ Module 5 – Environment and Migration

Module Description

The module traced the journey of environmental degradation induced climate crisis in contemporary times. It demonstrated how externalisation of environmental and human cost is at the root of the crisis. The module grappled with the limitations of relevant public institutions in diagnosing the crisis in the local and global ecosystem in the existing polity. It provided an understanding of the nature of production processes that contribute to environmental crisis. The module also addressed the question of accountability and agency of the public institutions in the face of the crisis and environmental emergency. It provided a sociological understanding of development claiming that the general understanding of development is limited to economic and technocratic vision of development. Development projects undertaken with such a notion leads to devastating impact on people and environment. Using the case of hydropower projects, some impacts of this nature was discussed. These included wide-scale displacement and forced migration, creating ‘ecological refugees’.

Lectures

Gopal Krishna spoke about rise of climate crisis and role of various institutions in managing, combating and mitigating the crisis. He discussed Kyoto Protocol, United Nation Framework for a Convention on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanisms. Citing the example of failure of effective waste management and energy transfer policy of India where waste was burned to produce energy, he argued that climate crisis needs to be dealt more efficiently.

The second session by Krishna focused on vulnerability, mapping natural and social body. He discussed climate crisis in context of economic crisis. He analysed the interlinking of Himalayan and Peninsular River system and raised important questions on sustainability of this project and the efficacy of government.

In the third session, Krishna discussed the Bhopal tragedy and negligence of the government, proceedings at High Courts, Supreme Court and the amount of compensation provided to the victims.

Shruti Jain spoke about construction of hydropower in Uttarakhand and its effects on local people. She discussed nature as a resources, quantification and measurement and the notion of unilinear development.

➤ Module 6 – Gender and Migration

Module Description

The context and extent of migration differs for men and for women. Several studies have pointed out that labour migration is increasingly being feminized in developing countries. As per Census 2011, the total number of female migrants (65,405,356) is more than double from that of their male (32,896,986) counterparts between the years 2001 and 2011 in India. Although women usually migrate due to marriage, they are integral part of the migrant workforce in India. Women migrants could be seen in conventional and unconventional as well as emerging sectors, ranging from domestic labour and factory work to avenues generated through emerging fertility industry. In many cases, these emerging sectors are not adequately covered under law and migrant women are compelled to live and work in very vulnerable conditions. The conventional definition of work, which defines production as a function of marketed products, fails to recognize and remunerate far more diversified and enormous range of non-marketed production of goods and services. Such production largely depends on women's labours that are often undervalued and even unpaid. To a great extent, poor workforce participation has evolved as one of the most common obstacles for closing gender gap in the region of South Asia.

Lectures

Anamika Priyadarshini examined the intersections of gender and migration and how these intersectionalities reshape migration. She examined how feminisation of migration has influenced living and working condition of migrant workers. She emphasised over the need to revise and redesign methodological approach to examine the assumption that establishes marriage as the most prominent reason behind female migration in South Asia. Finally, she discussed how migration impacts the lives of women in families/regions with high male outmigration.

In the second session Priyadarshini defined work and production and explained how these definitions impact women's overall condition. She discussed the states' approach towards mapping, recognising and remunerating women's work. She examined how non-recognition of women's work, often reflected in poor female workforce participation, is manifested in critical gender as well as human development indicators. She explored historical roots of women's invisibilisation in the recognised workforce of South Asia.

➤ Module 7 – Statelessness and Refugeehood

Module Description

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. In fact it means without a nationality, or at least without the protection that nationality should offer. Nationality is the legal bond between a state and an individual. International Law empowers the state to determine by the operation of law who are its citizens. Against this backdrop, this module aimed to understand how certain groups and communities are rendered stateless? Does protracted refugeehood eventually result in statelessness? How do we differentiate between refugeehood and statelessness? This module also examines refugeehood. It introduces and provides conceptual clarity on refugees and related issues. It aims to familiarise the participants to causes and consequences of forced migration as a broader framework to explain refugee in South Asia and orient the participants on international law framework and nation state to address refugee issues.

Lectures

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury analysed Statelessness and the associated legal definitions, connotations and legal regime. She identified the State to be the most important agency to recognize Statelessness. She explained Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provides everyone right to nationality. In the content of India, mentions were made to certain relevant Acts like the Foreigners Act of 1946, the Citizenship Act of 1955, 1985 and the Grant of Citizenship to Stateless persons in 1986. She spoke of the Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh, their history and struggles they face in their lives as migrants.

Parivelan K.M started with the definition of Refugee as defined by Article 1 Paragraph 2 of the 1951 United Nations Convention. He discussed human rights in context with displacement, refugee status, protection and justice. He asserted that it is important to understand that though in India is not a signatory to the UNHCR Convention yet it should practice the ethics of justice and care. He traced the story of refugees through two different groups of migrants – the native Tamils and plantation Tamils settled in the second wave of migration in the Kandy region of Sri Lanka.

Special Lecture: Diksha Chaudhury

Diksha Chaudhury tried to establish a relationship with migrant workers and health care and medical facilities in the city of Mumbai. She investigated the impact of migration on health care and impact of health care on migration. She discussed health care movement around the country as well as in South East Asia. She narrated the nature of everyday life of migrants as struggling for space within the city. She also presented the scenario of migrants as fragmented families, their livelihood, social and cultural rules and limitation as well as restriction within the city. Further, she described the changing nature of health migration to labour migration on the basis of dependency of existing migration network.

➤ **Module 8 – Migration Studies and its Methodologies**

The distinction and articulation between methodologies and methods is at the heart of the practice of social sciences and knowledge production. Some of the most vibrant debates and innovations in critical thought has been as a result of labour invested in formulating the methods and methodologies of respective disciplines and, more so, when the disciplinary boundaries have been sought to be broken or overcome. This module provided a critical and theoretical introduction to several qualitative methods such as ethnography, grounded theory method, extended case method etc. It entailed the analysis of why it is necessary to think of a distinct qualitative methods and tools that takes into account the specificities of migration and migration studies. It explained how to understand the changing concept of archives and emergent forms of archival sources. It critically examined the problems of access, preservation, documentation, digitalization, and open access of archives. This module also gave an orientation into the methods of identifying archival sources in the field as well as methods of using several sources available in varied forms as archival material.

Lectures

Mithilesh Kumar traced the journey and evolution of migration studies and its location in the historical context. He discussed the global processes and events that created increasing interest in the phenomena of migration as well as Migration Studies. Emerging research areas such as Migration Theology and Mobility Studies were discussed. Mobile methodologies that challenge the notion of ‘researcher being at rest’, were posed as an alternate research methodology to traditional sedentary research methodologies. Important sources of research on Migration Studies such as handbooks and journals were discussed during the lecture.

Parthasarathi Mondal gave an overview of the nature of epistemology and ontology in natural science and social science. He traced the historical origins of scientific method and its divergence with religion and discussed nature of scientific method and knowledge. Adapting or exporting the tools of scientific method and the representational knowledge it creates to social science research has significant influence on research and knowledge creation. Mondal emphasised the importance of ‘originality of theses’. Theories and tools borrowed from outside can only be subsidiary and supporting to one’s formulation, he stressed.

➤ **Module 8 – Migration Studies and its Methodologies**

Lectures

Parathasarathi Mondal said that a thesis of social science, according to him, is necessarily a structured one written from a certain perspective; whereas natural sciences are itself epistemological ones. He explained ‘truth’, ‘third person perspective’ in relation to social sciences versus natural sciences. He prescribed that a social scientist’s ontological path for knowledge seeking can be arrived at in two ways. One, either taking social theories as a method of enquiry to arrive at certain objectives. Two, by taking the reverse path, one may intervene to the theories via his/her problems of enquiry. He argued that the division between theory and method is somewhat heuristic in social sciences; and a social scientist should necessarily treat only the theory as method of enquiry.

Rajat Kanti Sur threw light on the many facets of archive. He traced the history of the National Archive of India and explained how National Archive at different historical points of its evolution changed its policy of access to archives. He examined the nuances of the Public Records Act 1993; namely, accessing the public records and constraints of accessing public records. He also discussed the issues in getting access to those records; like labeling some records as “security classification” and making the records accessible only to “bonafide scholars.” Given the constraints of accessing public records, he suggested consulting ‘other public records’ (census reports, reports published by government departments, gazetteers etc.) and ‘alternate archival sources’ (newspapers and periodicals; pamphlets and leaflets; photographs etc.).

➤ **Module 9 – Issues of Rights, Welfare and Justice in Migration**

Module Description

Issues of Rights, Welfare and Justice are often deliberated upon when migration is discussed. This module aimed at throwing light on rights and entitlement of internal migrant workers by using audio visual presentation, participatory and group work and case studies on the subject. This module offered deliberations on vulnerability to migration and the issue of voluntary and involuntary migration. Cases of exploitation, abuse and stigma on migrants and brief introduction to modern day slavery was presented and the aspects of bondage and laws was also discussed. The module also offered reflection on various acts like International covenant on rights of workers and migrants and Inter-State Migrant Workers Act of 1979.

Lectures

Umi Daniel started the discussion by screening a documentary called *Harvest of Hunger*. The documentary threw light on the lives of landless labourers from Odisha, marred by drought, which forced them to seek loans from a moneylender and were eventually caught in a debt trap. As a consequence, these bonded labourers were taken to Hyderabad as brick-kilns labourers by paying less than stipulated by the law. Another documentary called *Kerala's Migrant Pattern* was played after which a discussion of different Acts of legal protection took place. Another documentary titled *Machine* was screened which was based on the mechanisation of the life styles of the labourers.



➤ **Module 9 – Issues of Rights, Welfare and Justice in Migration**

Lectures

Umi Daniel drew insights from the documentary *Machines*. He questioned the lack of trade unions in Surat against the backdrop of rampant child labour and lack of social protection. He examined how NGOs and CSOs are engaging with issues of migrants in various sectors like skill development, pre-departure training at international level, remittance management and promotion of safe migration. He upheld the practitioner's perspective of trying to create experimental models in education through the documentary *Migrating Childhood*. The documentary elaborated on the issue of portability of the right to education (RTE) among migrant children at brick kilns. This was interlinked with more fundamental issues of nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitary living conditions among migrant children. The question and answer session saw debates around issues like right to move, education, women's participation in labour force, and funding and corporatisation of NGOs.

➤ **Valedictory Lecture: Trade Union Perspective on Migration**

Anannya Bhattacharjee questioned the common sense perception of a trade unionist. Migrant workers in such discourses are understood from the perspective of a strong narrative of victimhood, who are in need for rescue and rehabilitation. The narratives of victimhood produce a disempowering discourse for the migrant. Instead there is a need to call for building alternate discourses and sharper frames to understand their experiences. Trade unionists encounter a number of challenges as their task caters to collectivist objectives while the dominant narratives are anti-collectivist denying the right to collectivising. Bhattacharya questioned the outsourcing of implementation of government schemes through NGOs and the disciplinary action against workers willing to join trade unions through criminalisation of dissent.



PRESENTATION BY PARTICIPANTS

Manoj Debnath presented his paper 'Identification of Destination Regions of out-migrants of West Bengal'. He studied male out migration within and from West Bengal using the 2001 census. He explained that destination of out migration is governed by a web of socio-economic and demographic factors. He argued that South Bengal Plain and East Rarh Plain were emerging as destinations due to the nature of their urbanisation and industrialisation . He further argued that distance was not a primary factor in choice to migrate by giving examples of people of West Bengal migrating to Delhi, Gujarat, and Punjab.

Moushumi Dutta Pathak presented her paper 'Restructuring Lives: Women in the Aftermath of the Partition in Assam'. She studied plight of partition refugees in different camps and colonies who came to Assam till 1971. She talked about the attitude of the host society towards the refugees. The host societies on many occasions were becoming suspicious of the refugees and the relationship between them was not cordial. She also argued that some of the camps were converted into permanent liability home. She further threw light on the differential attitude towards different refugees by highlighting that partition refugees enjoy voting rights but Bangladesh Liberation refugees do not have any voting rights or certificates.

Prakriti Priya presented her paper 'Dynamics of Outmigration from North-East India' as an attempt to study the dynamics of out-migration from eight states of North East India- Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim with the study based on data analysis of migration tables from Census of India and inferences drawn from several documentary evidences. She explained the socio-political conditions of North East India to explain the reason for migration. She examined different causes of migration from North East India. These include conflict, insurgency, employment and educational needs.

Thanggoulen Kipgen presented his paper 'Social Network and Choice of Destination: The Case of the Kuki Migrants in Delhi'. His paper explored the role of social network in making a choice for destination of migration. He highlighted the phenomenon of Kuki migration to Delhi and attempted to explain why they chose Delhi as a destination for migration. He cited examples like use of 'Facebook' and Whats App which were useful in searching for jobs as well as getting an entry into the social fabric of the migrant population of North East India in Delhi.

Upasana Devi presented her paper 'Migration and the 1947 Partition Repercussions in Assam'. Her study attempted to show how 1947 partition and its repercussions shaped present day Assam. Her paper focused on the three phases of migration that took place in Assam- i) the historical background – migration of Bengali clerks, Marwari businessmen, tea plantation labourers and Nepali migrants, ii) partition and migration, iii) Migration in the post-colonial period. She argued that the problem was not that of religion but of language. The coming of those who spoke Bengali was posing a direct threat to the people who spoke Assamese. This formed the genesis of the Assam movement against outsiders.

Vijitha Rajan presented her paper ‘Migration, Children and Education’ which attempted to study the plight of migrant children. She critically examined access to education by children of migrant labourers. She posed the question whether migrant children should be seen as a homogenous category? She brought out the complexity of migration and children’s experiences of migration through fieldwork where she interacted with migrant children in a construction site. She emphasised on the need for their access to basic education. She explained how children of migrant labourers form a critical mass of those who are educationally underprivileged.

Sanjit Das in his paper ‘Lying in the Margins: Bengali Hindu Migrants Community in Champaran District of Bihar’ attempted to understand the role of socio-economic factors on the process of identity formation of Bihari Hindu migrant community and explored the role of education in the creation of identities. He tried to trace migration from East Pakistan to Bihar, when approximately 56 colonies were established in East Champaran district. These people mostly belonged to the peasant and landless community including fisherman. He explained that the Bengali Hindu migrant community’s social and economic position remains at the lower strata of the society. They have limited right over their property. They have poor economic status and lack education.

Priyanka Nupur presented her paper ‘Migration, Poverty and Identity-exploring Social Justice in Cities’. She discussed the idea of social justice with reference to the city and cited various examples of discrimination of migrants based on identity, linguistic and religion. People from various strata like caste, ethnicity, linguistic and religious groups come to cities in order to earn livelihood. She argued that migrant groups have often been marginalised in the name of transformation of cities into global hub. She cited various examples of discrimination of migrants people based on identity, linguistic and religious. She cited example of slum dwellers who have often been blamed for spread of disease, criminal activities and obstacle of development.



Raka Banerjee presented her paper titled ‘Multiple Displacements of the Refugee Women in India’s Eastern Partition (1947)’. She described the three waves of migration in the year of 1947-48, 1950 and 1964 and how refugee women faced various displacement not only physically but also psychology. There were large number of people who came to India particularly in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar. The government of India set up three types of camps in order to maintain the influx of refugees. These included - the Women’s Camps, Worksite camps and Permanent Liability Camps. She examined various nuances of these camps and threw light on the life conditions of people staying at different refugee camps of different places in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Sebastian Crossian SJ presented his paper ‘The State of Industrial Migrants in Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram: A Survey Highlights’. He conducted a survey of migrants working in different industries of three districts of Tamil Nadu namely Kancheepuram, Chennai and Thiruvallur. In his survey, it was found that most of the workers engaged in small and medium scale industry. He presented some primary data related to migrant workers on religious groups, caste, language, origin state, and gender-wise migration, reasons of migration, work duration, labour recruitment process, salary, payment mode and labour rights. After analysis of the data, he argued that state government must take some steps to facilitate proper way of labour management.

Yahiya V U presented his paper on ‘Migration and Social Transformation among Muslims of Malabar, Kerala’. He discussed migration of Muslims from Malabar district of Kerala to Gulf countries. He attempted to explain how migration and socio-cultural impact produces changes in identity and traditions of the community. He discussed the flow of people and incoming remittances by studying data of different years. He argued that emigration flow was high from Malabar district of Kerala because of historic, ethnic and religious connections of people of Malabar to Arabs. Higher wages than home, better job opportunities, family community and other networks together played an important role to attract migrants.

Neethu Alexander presented her paper ‘Guest Workers in Kerala with special reference to the District of Ernakulam’. She explored how absence of locals due to Gulf migration has increased interstate migration from all over the country to Kerala (in reference to Ernakulam). The district of Ernakulam has industries of different kinds and has an attractive service sector. The state Government of Kerala, taking into account the contribution of the migrant workers to the growth and development of the State, is taking a number of affirmative action for the wellbeing and the protection of migrant labourers in Kerala. She concluded that the Government of Kerala should move from stand alone policies to an inclusive approach.

Nikita Chakma presented her paper ‘Partition, Migration and Refugeehood: A case study of Chakma Refugees in Arunachal Pradesh’. She discussed the turn of events which resulted in Chakmas taking refuge in India and threw light on the discrimination and hostility faced by Chakma refugees in Arunachal Pradesh. After the Partition in 1947, the Chakmas were disowned by Pakistan and Bangladesh, so they took refuge in India. There were Indian Chakmas in Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. She argued that the state and the public treat the Chakmas as second class citizens. She cited the example of Quit Chakma Movement in Arunachal Pradesh which created communal tension between minority and majority, while explaining hostile attitude towards the Chakma community.

Nur Alam presented his paper ‘Understanding Labour Migration in West Bengal: A study in Malda District’. He studied the role of geographical location and economic reasons as cause of migration. He examined the economic status of residents of Malda. He argued that 2.9 lakh people live below poverty line in Malda district which makes other places more attractive to earn livelihood. He also explained the geographical location of Malda was an important factor for the migration of people as it is flood prone. He also studied the role of natural disasters as a reason for migration.

Biswanath Saha in his paper spoke about the dynamism in Gorkha identity. He discussed how the Gorkha identity claims for Rajput and tribal identities evolved historically. He mentioned how identities are contested in contemporary times.

Francesca Flosi in her presentation screened the 2012 documentary *Mare Chiuso* directed by Andrea Segre, on the narratives of the Libyan migrants who were affected by the ‘push-back’ policy; a by-product of the attempt to control migration flows between Libya and Italy through the 2008 Treaty on Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation between Italy and Libya. With its powerful visuals, the documentary forced to question the often forgotten human aspect of migration, its context and impact, which tends to get obliterated in treaties, policy documents and classroom discussions on migration.



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