THE FORD FOUNDATION
Grant Reporting Instructions

The Ford Foundation requires narrative and financial reports from all grantees based on a schedule specified in the Grant Notification Letter. The Foundation recommends that the narrative portion of the report be **between 3-8 pages** long. The Foundation prefers to receive reports by e-mail to *secretary@fordfound.org*, whenever possible. If you do not have access to e-mail, you may submit the reports in hard copy by mail or fax. Please note that if you submit reports by e-mail, you should <u>not</u> also submit a hard copy.

Grantee Name: Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group   Grant Number: 10900358

Reporting Period: 1 April 2010   to   31 March 2011

Narrative Report

☐ **Reflections**

Please reflect on lessons learned, events that have been significant to your work, changes that you believe may result within the next year or so as a result of the work conducted under the grant, ways in which you believe that the work performed will help the organization achieve its long-term goals, and/or challenges or surprises you have encountered during the most recent reporting period.

In its second year, the research and dialogue programme on **"Development, Democracy, and Governance- Lessons and Policy Implications"** carried its agenda forward through sustained research work, publications and workshops. While in the first year research clusters were finalized and researchers set out to give their ideas a concrete shape, the second year marked the writing of the research papers by the researchers involved. Researchers also came across newer dimensions in the process and now are relooking their work and are in the process of extending their field work and re-analyses of the material at hand. The idea is to produce two companion volumes which will be published by Routledge. These companion volumes are titled as *Political Transition in India and the Imperatives of Development* and *New Subjects, New Governance*. The volumes are each divided in two sections. The first volume is divided into 'The Juridical-Political Route to Norms of Governance' and 'Paradigms of Inequality, Pathways to Entitlement'. The second volume in 'A Second Transition? Sources of Legitimacy and 'Scientific' Governance' and 'The Production of Appropriate Subjects'. Altogether, there are 15 chapters in the two volumes covering aspects as wide as elections, economic governance, culture, gender, as well as law.

Through the second year, we also realized that the theme of this program penetrates a wide area that transcends various boundaries and forces us to think about governance at the international arena as well as across different fields of experiences. This was evident to us as we participated in the two-day workshop on "Women and Peace: Moving Towards UNSCR (1325) and National Action Plan (India)" in Bhubaneswar on March 13-14, 2011 organized by Sansristi and PIPFPD (Odisha). The workshop was held to discuss the modalities of making India a signatory to the UN resolution that allows women to participate in governance in conflict areas. Our programs helped us in making meaningful intervention in the discussion as well as enrich ourselves in the understanding of related work that is going on in different parts of the world. Delegates from across India and Nepal came to discuss the possibilities of implementing UNSCR (1325) in India and work out a plan to convince the government of

India to become a signatory of the resolution. The resolution deals with the rights of women in conflict zones and is directly related to the issues of governance.

Likewise, CRG's other research programs on forced migration, the Right to Food, conflict and governance, are interconnected with this work on development, democracy and governance.

Research on forced migration, and governance initiative in relocation and rehabilitation has been enriched and many critical aspects of the issues of governance and democracy have been analysed with the help of the programme. It has thus become a useful tool for other research and dialogue programmes of CRG.

One of the major areas where this programme has become inextricably linked is CRG's Right to Food programme. Right to Food in India became the most talked about rights in recent times. CRG produced a series of research papers in *Policies and Practices* on the issue as well as produced a book *Politics in Hunger Regime* (Frontpage publication, 2011). The Right to Food programme involved civil rights activists, journalists and researchers who collaborated in the project and now are also the part of the research collective of the programme on Development, Democracy and Governance.

These have helped us in diversifying our understanding. CRG's other research interests have been well served by the program and vice-versa. One of the major lessons we have learnt in the second year of the program is the expanse of the issues which we want to cover in the program. Most of the time we found that issues of conflict, social justice forced, or security boil down to the issues of democracy and governance.

In the final year of the program, we want to publish, strengthen the dissemination of our work, and carry findings of our work among students, teachers, activists, widely through dialogues and orientation programmes. The material published under *Policies and Practices* need to have a wider readership and we are taking proactive steps to address the issue. Some of these published materials have been used as study materials in workshops and a new readership has emerged. This is a positive step and we want to build on that.

Learning from our experiences last year, we organized public lectures more frequently involving national and international researchers which were attended by a good number of students, rights activists, and scholars.

One of the most important achievements this year is the collaborative work which we have been able to do with various institutions. We have been given representation at seminars to discuss our work in this program.

Activities/Issues Addressed

For project support grants, please comment on the work done in regard to the proposed activities in the grant proposal. For general support grants, please comment on developments on the issues addressed in the grant proposal.

Activities/Issues Addressed in Proposal

- Research
- Organization of dialogues, conference, workshops, public forums, and public lectures.
- Organization of web based material for wider circulation, interaction, and web based print publications.

Activities/Issues Addressed

- **Research**

  The research work is now taking a concrete shape in form of two companion volumes which will be published by Routledge. The companion volumes are titled *Political Transition in India and the Imperatives of Development* and *New Subjects, New Governance*. The companion volumes will be based on the study clusters decided in the first year. The work as a whole is in quite an advanced stage, the researchers involved in the program are now revisiting and relooking at various aspects of their research, in some cases revisiting fields and the earlier field notes and in some cases going back to the archive. New challenges and issues came across as the research began to take a concrete shape and on the basis of discussants' comments some of the researchers have felt the need to take a look at their works in a fresh perspective. It should be mentioned here that all the suggestions were uploaded on the CRG website and discussions went on for nearly a year. In the process of research, the researchers involved donated the materials used which have now resulted in the building of a comprehensive archive of the programme. The materials have now been uploaded on the website and can be accessed at –
  http://mcrg.ac.in/Development/development_links.asp

  Two issues of *Policies and Practices* numbers 37 and 39 were published. Number 37 was titled *Between Ecology and Economy: Environmental Governance in India by* Sutirtha Bedajna. Number 39 was titled *Place of Poor in Urban Space* by Manish Jha.

- **Organization of Dialogues, Conference, Workshops, Public Forums, and Public Lectures**

  1. **Two- Day Research workshop** was organized on the theme, "Development, Democracy and Governance- Lessons and Policy Implications" on 14-15 May 2010. This was the second in the series of the workshop on the same theme; the first was organized on 17-18 July 2009. There were four sessions spread across two days. Each session was based on the theme were participants discussed their ideas.
     The first session was on "Law, Legality, Legitimacy and issues of Governance." The issues covered by the three discussants included the election manifestos of political parties, nationalism, developmentalism, and popular constitutionalism. The second session was on "Science, Technology and the New Style of Governance". The issues covered included E-Governance, disaster management and development and the use of science and technology for governance and environmental governance.
     The third session was on "Governance and Production of Subjectivities". The issues covered included education, culture, state and governance, ethics and policies, and issues involved in governance and minorities.
     The fourth session was on "Identity needs, Developmental needs and the Securitized Response." The issues discussed were identity, development, economic governance in rural India, conflict and security.

     Following decisions were taken in the two-day research workshop:

- The revised papers will be discussed in the Fourth Critical Studies Conference in September 2011.
- **Publication Plan:** It was decided that, due to research papers of different kind and different intensity, CRG would go for co-authored books, monographs, essays, and special volume of EPW with six to eight select articles instead of single edited volume on the theme.
- It was decided that the 'links' section in the secured segment of the website would incorporate theme wise documentation of the primary resources as far as possible.

Report of the workshop can be accessed at -

http://mcrg.ac.in/Development/development_announcements.asp.

2. **One and half day Symposium** was organized on the theme, "The Biopolitics of Development: Life, Welfare, and Unruly Populations" on 9-10 September 2010 in collaboration with University of Lapland and the Finnish Academy. The symposium was divided into six sections and scholars both from India and abroad participated in the symposium. The symposium sought to address the issue of development and security in underdeveloped countries and the responses of people.

   The sessions were divided in the following manner:

   Session 1: Development as Freedom" and "Development as Security" – The Common Language of Development – I

   Session 2: Bio-political Governance

   Session 3: "Development as Freedom" and "Development as Security" – The Common Language of Development – II

   Session 4: New Governmental Technologies in Orienting Lives

   Session 5: Roundtable Discussion on "Biopolitics and Marginalisation in the Context of Urban Lives"

   Session 6: Unruly Populations and the Problematic of Resilience

   The papers presented in the symposium were subsequently put up on the web as part of dissemination efforts. The report of the symposium can be accessed at http://mcrg.ac.in/Development/development_announcements.asp.

3. **Two Day Workshop** on the theme, "Understanding Collective Action, Violence, and Post-Colonial Democracy" on 19-20 March 2011 in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. The workshop sought to engage with following issues:

(i) Why are electoral changes – actual or possible – seen to be accompanied by growing degree of violence? Does this have only to do with the logistics and management of elections? Or is violence systemic to elections in a post-colonial polity?

(ii) In what way, are democratic institutions, otherwise supposedly organized as a chain with a strong centre, losing control over areas, regions, localities and neighbor hoods so much so that the State seems to act only as one of the many contending parties in this 'turf war'? Are states becoming increasingly unable to 'internally pacify' their territories? How does the plea for constructing a high-capacity state affect its democratic claim?

(iii) Does violence have to be subjected to gender audit? If violence is necessarily associated with democratic politics, does it also contribute to the reproduction of patriarchy?

(iv) And, are there noticeable changes in the collective claim making process/es impacting on the structure of democracy?

The workshop was divided into five sessions around a definite theme. The themes were:

a) Session 1: Introduction to the theme of the workshop
b) Session 2: Elections, Social Inequalities and Violence
c) Session 3: Shrinking Capacity of Democratic Institutions to Contain Violence
d) Session 4: Patriarchy, Gender, Democracy and Violence
e) Session 5: Contentious process of Collective Claim-Making and Impact on Democracy.

Following decisions were taken in the workshop:
An extended workshop will be held later in the year in collaboration with the IIAS and the proceedings will be published in the form of a book.

The report of the workshop can be accessed at -
http://mcrg.ac.in/Development/development_announcements.asp.

4. **Two-Day workshop** on "Women and Peace: Moving Towards UNSCR (1325) and National Action Plan (India)" on 13-14 March 2011 organized by Sansrsiti and PIPFPD (Odisha). Details of the workshop has been provided above and can be accessed at http://mcrg.ac.in/dg_workshops.htm.

5. **Seminar on "**Social Exclusion: Meanings and Perspectives" organized by Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion Policy, University of Hyderabad on 23-25 March 2011. One of the panels was dedicated to presentations by representatives of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), which was jointly organized by the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion Policy, University of Hyderabad, and CRG. It was scheduled for the afternoon of 25 May, the penultimate session, under the rubric 'Development and Structures of Exclusion'. Dr Benjamin Zachariah, Reader in South Asian History, Sheffield University, made the first presentation on 'Three Approaches to Development and their Exclusions'. He was followed by Dr Suhit K. Sen, Senior Researcher, CRG, whose presentation was entitled 'Bizarre Urbanity: The Unmaking of Rajarhat'. Professor Samir K. Das, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, made the final presentation, which was entitled 'Development and Democracy: Democratizing Development or Developing without Democracy'.

The report of the workshop can be accessed at -
http://mcrg.ac.in/Development/development_announcements.asp.

One of the mandates of the program for us was that we would form through the work a research collective interested in issues of governance. Through the organization of seminars, symposiums, workshops and public lectures now the program can boast of a robust research collective formed by scholars and activists from various parts of India as well as abroad.

- **Public Lectures**

  1. **Ranabir Samaddar,** "Michel Foucault and our Post Colonial Time", May 4, 2010.
  2. **Suhit K. Sen,** "Party and Government: Sources of Legitimacy", November 10, 2010.
  3. **Sekhar Bandyopadhyay**, "Decolonisation and Indian Experience in the First Decade of Independence", January 5, 2010.

Reports of all these activities have been sent to the Ford Foundation as well as to larger audience from time to time. Plus they are on CRG website.

- **Organization of web segment**

  The web segment of the program has been updated to include the primary sources used by the researchers, links to other institutions working around the same theme and the draft research papers have been put up in the resource centre. The web segment has also been opened for public use. Work is under way to prepare a comprehensive research references for the use of researchers.
  The CRG website is a rich and popular source of not only information but dialogue as well. Till date, we have received almost 50,000 visits on our website. We constantly update it and provide the relevant reports and the details of the progress of the program through our web segment. The details of the program are available on http://mcrg.ac.in/ddg.htm. These reports are sent (both electronically as well as in the form of hard copy) to the researchers involved with the program as well as the almost 50-strong research collective that has now been formed. The materials used by the researchers are now available on the website. Also, the draft papers of the programme have been uploaded on the resource centre which can be accessed by interested scholars by going through an online registration process.

- **Publications**

  Right to Food – Two research papers have been published under *Policies and Practices. Policies and Practices* number 24 was titled *Whither Right to Food?: Rights, Institutions and Hungry Labour in Tea Plantations of North Bengal* and number 25 was titled *Hunger, Food Scarcity and Popular Protests in West Bengal.*

  A book *Politics in Hunger Regime* was also published in 2010.

  Two issues of *Policies and Practices* numbers 37 and 39 were published. Number 37 was titled *Between Ecology and Economy: Environmental Governance in India by* Sutirtha Bedajna. Number 39 was titled *Place of Poor in Urban Space* by Manish Jha.

Indicators of Success

Please compare the original proposed indicators of success with the results achieved to date. Comment on any variances you feel require explanation.

Indicators of Success Identified in Proposal

- The quality, particularity, and the cogency of the work produced- and this can be understood only through public recognition of the impact of the work.
- Finding out if and how many new and competent researchers and participants in the dialogues have entered the program, and the quality of the diversity in dialogues and workshops.
- Attaining diversity of the locations and participants of the interactive programs.

- Maintenance of the time schedule through 3 years.
- The number of people accessing resources generated by program- web, print, library, and human resources etc.
- Success in coming into contact with new networks working on similar issues and concerns.
- Finally, and significantly, it will be a great test of the program as to whether CRG will be able to create through this work an impact on the terms of the discourse on developmental governance in West Bengal, where conflicts have become acute and violent over claims and counter claims.

Actual Results to Date

- A substantial body of knowledge has been produced through participatory process that has included rights activists and researchers. We plan to extend the dissemination of our work by involving college teachers through a dialogue programme. Regarding this, a plan for a workshop in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai is in process. The idea is to incorporate the issues of development, democracy and governance in the academic syllabi. This will greatly help in both the recognition of our work as well as its extension in the larger academic circle.
- The workshops mentioned above have brought into fold numerous scholars and activists of the country as well as from outside and has allowed us to exchange ideas vis-à-vis the program. As mentioned above there is now a strong research collective involving almost 50 researchers.
- CRG is particular in ensuring that the program involves people with diverse backgrounds and the results are disseminated to wide variety of audience. The researchers involved with the program come from different backgrounds in terms of gender, location, ethnicity and caste. Also, the research collective involves scholars and activists from the Northeast of India as well.
- CRG is mindful of the time schedule and the second year of the program has allowed us to learn several lessons regarding it. In the first year and better part of the second, our emphasis was more on research and as a result the dialogue aspect of the program could not be achieved in the way it was planned. However, we realized that in order to have a comprehensive and fruitful dialogue on the issues involved in the program it is essential that we prepare a firm ground of research material. In the third year, we plan to take the dialogue aspect more vigorously. A workshop with college teachers is on the anvil in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. In the second year though we did conduct seminars and workshops involving wide range of scholars.
- The dissemination of published material especially *Policies and Practices* can be improved and we are trying to extend our reach.
- The web resources are being used extensively by researchers as is evident by the number of visits to the site.
- Through various dialogues, workshops, seminars and through the web and publications, the program is now well known.

☐ **Goals**

Please help us understand what you achieved with this grant in relationship to the larger goals you hoped to achieve.

Expected Goals to be Achieved

> **Long-term goals**
> - Developing the knowledge base on some of the most critical issues facing India and other post-colonial countries, namely, conflicts over development, challenges for developmental governance, new types of mass response to developmental disorders, impact on democracy and current modes of representation and response.
> - Developing the policy fund by concretizing the scattered experiences of both governmental responses to public views, and public dialogues on the development programs.
> - Finally foregrounding the issue of a dialogic democracy in the conflict-prone context of development, globalization, and governance.
>
> **Short term and Concrete Goals**
> - Publishing seven to nine research papers in this period, and subsequently publish research monographs and volumes.
> - Bringing the decade long research and discussion on some of the critical aspects of post-colonial democracy to a focused conclusion.
> - Strengthening the network of development and rights activists in select areas through the program of dialogues, public forums, and public lectures.
> - Bringing in new researchers and involving new interlocutors from diverse backgrounds.
> - Strengthening the CRG website as an important tool for discussion, archiving, and interaction. This will work in consonance with print based literature circulation and face to face discussion- all these taken together resulting in diffusion of the policy knowledge exercise on development and democracy.
> - Dissemination of the outputs of the exercise among the community of scholars and activists in select areas through distribution of reports of the dialogues, workshops, and other exchanges.
> - Making effective policy interventions through the program.

Goals Achieved to Date

> **Long-term goals**
> - The proposed two volume companion being prepared by the researchers is a collection of studies that brings to focus critical issues of violence, collective action, development, elections, gender issues, governance etc, in post-colonial democracies. It is a comprehensive survey of these issues and will throw a new light on problems plaguing post-colonial democracies. The corpus is now substantial enough to start a rigorous discussion on the issue and come up with policy recommendations.
> - Research materials, dialogues and conferences based on the program bring together works of various scholars together and are an attempt to bring to the table together all the diverse views regarding democracy, development and governance. The discussions in these activities as well as the ongoing research have policy implications. The participation of activists in the dialogues ensures that these

discussions do not only have academic value but is taken up by people to propagate necessary policy discourse. The entire programme has been designed in a manner that it addresses concrete policies questions.

- CRG's research interests have always included the issues of governance and development in the perspective of conflict. Even in this program, the involvement of scholars and activists form Northeast India and scholars working on the issues relating to democratic institutions, governance and development has fore grounded the issue of dialogic democracy.

Short-term and Concrete Goals

- The details of publications have been mentioned above.
- The research work and dialogues are an attempt to bring in relief the fragmented works on the issues and come up with concrete policy recommendations and research results.
- CRG in its dialogue program makes it a point to involve activists in the program. Human rights activists have participated in all the dialogue programs.
- The network involving scholars has expanded, as mentioned above.
- The list of participants in the various dialogues and workshops are a testimony that the CRG has achieved to bring into fold new scholars and interlocutors from diverse backgrounds.
- The web segment has been updated and new materials are being added regularly.
- Dissemination of published material requires sustained efforts and those are being made in earnest.

Organizational/Environmental Changes

Please describe any significant organizational or environmental changes that have had an impact on your work during the most recent reporting period. Include a description of how you have responded to those changes and how your plans may change as a result.

In the second year of the program, the research associate involved in the programme left CRG as he took up a government job. Another research associate left for USA to pursue higher studies. New personnel had to be recruited and it took some time. However the work rhythm has come back and the program is running on line.

☐ **Organizational or Management Challenges**

Please review any significant organizational or management issues you have experienced during the most recent reporting period (such as significant changes in your staff or board composition or other factors that could hinder the organization's ability to gather and interpret financial or program-related data). Please also highlight any outstanding needs for organizational strengthening.

> - One of the biggest challenges that CRG faced was the organization of the research collective. Researchers were drawn from various parts of India cutting across several disciplines. It was a challenge to ensure quality as well as form a strong research collective which now consists of almost 50 scholars.
> - The second challenge has been performing according to time schedule. The schedule was planned before we had actually embarked on research, etc. However we found that like money time too has to be adjusted in a collective research and dialogue exercise. Thus in the second year we concentrated on research to complete it and ensure that the tempo of work is not lost. In the process we delayed our other activities, such as orientation exercises, more public lectures and other activities. These will be however completed in the third year. We have re-planned the time schedule and accordingly our expenditure schedule.

☐ **Diversity**

Please describe any changes in the forms of diversity (e.g., gender, racial, cultural, religious, immigrant/refugee background, linguistic, etc.) to the Board or staff composition over the reporting period. If your organization has had any recent diversity challenges, please comment on these as well.
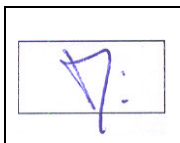
> CRG is acutely aware of the need to have people from diverse backgrounds to work in the program. Although, CRG being a small group with limited personnel is unable to give representation to diverse groups beyond a point it has ensured that the research collective is representative of social diversity. As already mentioned, we have scholars from Northeast India, also a substantial number of women scholars associated with the program. Serious attempts are being made to include more women in the board of CRG. Regional diversity is also maintained.

Financial Report

Please use the separate Grant Financial Report worksheet to report expenditures of grant funds in each of the budget categories.

Certification

Please type your initials in the box next to the following certification if it is accurate. If you are unable to do so, please contact your Grants Administrator before submitting this report.

By submission of this report we hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit it on behalf of the organization and that we are in compliance with the requirements of the grant letter and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the purposes of the grant.

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