

Media Workshop

Migrants and Roads: Reporting in the Wake of Disasters and Migration

organised by

Calcutta Research Group

in collaboration with

Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, South Asian Women in Media (SAWM), South Asia Network for Communication, Displacement and Migration (SAN-CDM), DW Akademie and Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata

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The State of India's Environment Report 2022 (Down To Earth, 2022) predicted that nearly 143 million people, a little more than the population of Maharashtra, will be displaced due to the massive climate disasters in the next thirty years. The displacement from homeland to some other place make a deep impact on the social and psychological life of a migrant. Difference in the socio-economic status makes it more complicated. The journey from their homeland, violation of welfare policies, reaction from the host state make the situation adverse for the rural poor and increase the level of vulnerability. Reporting on these issues is a challenging task for media practitioners; additionally, journalists from marginal and border regions face technical and infrastructural challenges during reporting on migrants. It is all the more difficult to report on climate change given the fact that it becomes difficult for the general viewers and readers to understand the rigors of scientific and technical data.

Incidences of climate related disasters are on the rise and so do cases of migration and displacement which manifest in either shock displacement or form part of gradual outmigration practices. In case of the latter, people move out of their native places leaving behind their traditional occupations. Agrarian communities, fishing communities, riverine and coastal communities, people living in mountainous terrains, etc., are the worst affected in such cases. Reporting such cases becomes all the more difficult because of the chain of events that precedes the process of displacement.

The primary challenge while reporting climate change and climate induced displacements is basically 'getting the message across' to the general public. This necessitates the need to engage in conversations about reporting climate change and related migration. The Media Workshop aims to bring together practitioners from diverse areas of Media so that they can discuss and throw light on how they report on such an intense issue, the difficulties they face and the ingenious ways they adopt in order to get the reportage done. This Workshop is being organised in congruence with CRG's previous endeavours on media studies and practices and is a part of the institute's continued focus on Migration Studies.