

Programme

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) cordially invites to the formal release of a
Report

on

A Study of the Housing and Livelihood Issues of Migrant Labourers in Delhi and Kolkata

(in collaboration with Knowledge Democracy Collective, KDC)

by

Kaveri

&

Imran Philip

(eds., Arup Kumar Sen, Samata Biswas, Debashree Chakraborty)

at

Press Club, Kolkata

18 October 2024, 5 pm

Schedule:

5 pm – 5.05 pm: Introducing the Programme

5.05 pm – 6.30 pm: Formal Release of the Report by Naba Dutta, *Nagarik Mancha*

&

Discussion on the Report

Chair: Arup Kumar Sen (*CRG*)

Discussants: Debashree Chakraborty (*CRG*)

Imran Philip (*Bankura University*)

Samata Biswas (*Sanskrit College and University & CRG*)

Naba Dutta (*Nagarik Mancha*)

6.30 pm: Vote of Thanks

**** *The schedule is tentative and subject to change.***

Press Note

The report titled *A Study of the Housing and Livelihood Issues of Migrant Labourers in Delhi and Kolkata* is an outcome of a survey done in Kolkata and Delhi in 2022. This study is a part of the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group's (CRG) ongoing research on Migration and Forced Migration Studies and it has been supported by the Knowledge Democracy Collective (KDC). The report focuses on the plight and experiences of India's internal migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath and examines the challenges they faced with regard to housing and employment in the urban areas of Delhi and Kolkata.

The report delves into the complexities of migration by challenging the 'homogeneity' of labour as a category. It takes into account the variables of 'gender', 'sector of work' and 'place of work' while assessing the nature of migration, the kind of exploitation the labourers face, the economic motivations that push them to migrate and the aspirations they harbour. It discusses the diversity in migration practices among the respondents in the two cities and focuses on the points of divergence and convergences in the patterns as well.

It underscores the multifaceted challenges faced by migrant workers like income insecurity, inadequate living conditions, lack of access to healthcare, irregular working hours, uncertain payment schedules, lack of formal employment contracts, unsanitary workplace conditions and several other social vulnerabilities. It calls for comprehensive policy interventions to address these issues by focusing on safe housing, financial support during crises, universal healthcare and protection against discrimination and hostility.

The study from which the report culminated involved an exploratory research design using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. The study has been conducted on the informal labour sector and has inputs from garment workers, construction workers and domestic workers and medical workers from Delhi and Kolkata.

The study has been undertaken by Kaveri and Imran Philip (both formerly associated with CRG) who worked extensively in their respective fields at Delhi and Kolkata. The report has been edited by Arup Kumar Sen, Samata Biswas and Debashree Chakraborty and published by Frontpage Publications, Kolkata.

The report will be formally released by Naba Dutta (*Nagarik Mancha*) and will be followed by a discussion. The discussants will be Naba Dutta, Debashree Chakraborty (*Calcutta Research Group*) Imran Philip (*Bankura University*), Arup Kumar Sen (*Calcutta Research Group*) and Samata Biswas (*The Sanskrit College and University & Calcutta Research Group*).