

Follow-Up Workshop
on
Learning Migration
Organised by
Calcutta Research Group
in collaboration with
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Several Universities and Institutions
Date: 21 June 2024 | | Venue: Hotel The Sojourn, Kolkata

Concept Note

Migration is an integral aspect of human existence. It is generally quoted that human history is largely the history of migration. However, the nature of migration has changed and evolved over centuries. Today, it is a contested issue that is bound by the factors of international relations, economics, justice, rights and dignity. With the complexities of borders, citizenship laws, right to resources, etc., migration has also turned into an issue that has become the focus of both international and national politics. Incidents of unrest, civil strife, wars, and natural calamities continue to exacerbate migrant and refugee crises the world over. Subsequently, media coverage of migration, its impact on national and local politics has subsequently built a discourse around it which has also entered popular parlance now. Even though there are marked differences in terms like refugees, migrants, internally displaced people, etc., there is a strong tendency to club all of these together under the lens of 'illegal' or 'unwanted' or any such idea that conforms to otherisation and ostracisation of these people or the process. The ongoing migrant crisis in Europe, the Rohingya crisis in South and Southeast Asia, the identification of Bengalis as illegal immigrants in India's Northeast or the internal migrant crisis that occurred in India during the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020 are cues through which we can understand how the displaced are perceived by the masses. The perception is dictated by a lack in acknowledgement of their existence or a denial of their presence. There is a spectre of invisibility that shrouds the migrants and denies them the dignity which is accorded to their 'legal' counterparts, that is, the citizens.

Calcutta Research Group (CRG) has been working in the field of migration and forced migration studies for more than two decades now. Over these years, the institute has built a considerable repertoire of critical material on migration studies. CRG's flagship program, the Annual Winter Workshop has been successful in bringing together scholarship on migration studies from across the world. CRG has also organised Media Workshops with the aim to understand how migrants and migration is represented in media. The aim of this Follow-Up Workshop is to broaden the understanding of migration and forced migration studies by looking into the multiple registers that constantly interact with this field of studies. We look forward to papers, presentations and field studies which explore how migration and migrants find space across the registers of teaching, research, writing, in the mediums of films, literature, cultural studies and also the ways in which migration is understood by people and society in general.