

CRG Annual Report, 2013-14

1. Programmes

Programmes Completed

1.1 CORE

The three year research programme on role of governance in the resolution of socioeconomic and political conflict in Europe and India, funded by the EU, ended in December 2013. Research undertaken in this programme was reported in details in the last Annual Report (2012-2013). It produced eight research papers and a Bengali book. There was one report and eight online publications. CRG's role was appreciated by all partners. CRG's work was helped by the guidance of Peter Burgess, the coordinator of the programme, and his team at PRIO, and the intellectual stewardship by Oliver Richmond and the University of Manchester team. In the final year, CRG prepared a book length manuscript, provisionally titled as *The Government of Peace*, and based on its collective research. Ashgate will be the publisher. It is being edited by Ranabir Samaddar and will come out in 2015. Ranabir Samaddar was the overall coordinator of the 3 year programme. Paula Banerjee, Samir Das, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, and Atig Ghosh helped managing the desk in these three years. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury authored a Bengali account based on the collective research. The researchers were Samir Das, Paula Banerjee, Mithilesh Kumar, Manish Jha and Pushpendra, Subir Bhaumik, Sajal Nag, and Ranabir Samaddar. Besides, the project will result in a volume based on the entire research. It is being edited by Oliver Richmond, Peter Burgess, and Ranabir Samaddar. Manchester University Press will publish the volume.

1.2 The Eleventh Annual Orientation Programme on Forced Migration, 2013

The focus of the Eleventh Annual Orientation Programme on Forced Migration was on research methodology. It was an eight-day programme held from 7 December to 14 December, 2013 at Kolkata, India and held in collaboration with the UNHCR, New Delhi; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata; Indian Council of Social Science Research, Eastern Region and the British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India. The workshop was preceded a three months long online discussion. There were six modules of this programme. The Programme had 26 participants from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The participants were from background of social work, human rights, research and academia, legal profession, etc. They presented research papers as course assignments and there were other activities of the Programme such as film screenings, field trips, public lectures and roundtables. The presented research papers are now under consideration for publication in the *Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal of Forced Migration*, published biannually by CRG. There is also a plan to bring out a set of papers on research methodology based on some of the presentations in the workshops, to be edited by Prasanta Ray. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury coordinated the programme. Shuvro Prasun Sarker helped the coordinator.

In this connection it will be important to mention that CRG President Paula Banerjee was re-elected as the President of IASFM (International Association of Studies of Forced Migration) at the Bogota conference and Nasreen Chowdhury re-elected as treasurer. Paula Banerjee also got the highest grade fellowship under the Fulbright programme for the year 2013-14. In this connection members will be happy to know that CRG presented

a panel on “Camp as State of Exception” in the IASFM conference held in Bogota (15-18 July 2014).

1.3 The Media Workshop

In the previous year (2013), MCRG in collaboration with the British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India, organized a four-day Media workshop in Kolkata, India, from December 11 to December 14 on the same ‘Humanitarian Disasters, Human Rights Violations and Social Media Journalism’. The Workshop was a modular segment of the eight-day Eleventh Orientation Programme on Forced Migration, organized by the CRG in Kolkata from December 7 to December 14, 2013. The workshop saw social media activists, human rights activists and journalists from the mainstream media, critically engage in discussions on the uses of social media to sensitize the masses to important human-rights issues as well as how to spread awareness in the event of humanitarian disasters. Participants debated and discussed the possibilities of organizing popular protests over such issues on the social media. There were also segments that sought to elaborate in a hands-on manner on how to use the social media in its various forms. While many admitted that this technological innovation is an inescapable destiny and accepted the democratization of public opinion that its emergence has brought about, they remained chary - if not cagey - of unthinkingly endorsing the benefits of social media without concomitant critical comment. There are also plans of collating some of the many of the papers presented in the course of the four-day discussions, into a media reader to be edited by Atig Ghosh just as CRG has succeeded in bringing out a Reader titled *Forced Migration and Media Mirrors* (Kolkata: Frontpage, 2014) This book was released on 21 March 2014 in Kolkata. The Media Workshop was coordinated by Atig Ghosh.

1.4 Mapping the Stateless in India

The three-year long research project commissioned by the UNHCR, New Delhi, namely “*Mapping the Stateless in India*” is now in its final stage of preparation for publication in form of a book. The three years from 2010-2012 were divided into three phases and several research studies were undertaken on different communities and groups of people to analyze the unique situation of stateless persons in India. The research studies were named as: Legal Brief on Statelessness: Law in the Indian Context Reducing Statelessness: A New Call for India, Words of Law, Worlds of Loss: The Stateless People of the Indo-Bangladeshi enclaves, The Remains of Partition? The Citizenship Question of Stateless Hindus in India, Ordeal of Citizenship: The Up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka and India, The Chinese of Calcutta: A case of statelessness, The Stateless Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh, Elusive Home-thoughts: The unstable World of the Lhotsampas in South Asia, Ambiguous Identities: statelessness of Gorkhas in North-East India. The publication plan took time to be finalised as discussions continued between UNHCR and CRG on the framework of the introduction to the book. Paula Banerjee, Atig Ghosh and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury are editors of the proposed volume.

1.5 Dalits and Partition

The project came to an end in February 2014. The researchers associated with this project have submitted the collected documents to the CRG library. At the final stage, the main emphasis of data collection was on collecting the newspaper clippings and gathering oral interviews. The relevant reports and the news on the theme of the project have been collected from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and *Jugantar* in the main. The researchers have visited Bagjola and Panchannagram to talk to the respondents. Interviews collected during these repeated visits, have already been submitted to the CRG library in CDs. A research

paper has also been published entitled '*In search for Space: Scheduled Caste Movement in West Bengal* (jointly authored by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Policies and Practices, Issue No. 59, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, 2014). A concluding workshop on the theme was held at the Victoria University of Wellington on 16-17 June 2014. Ranabir Samaddar and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury presented their findings in the workshop. The research was led by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay of the Victoria University of Wellington and funded by the Research Trust of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury was the CRG researcher.

Current Research Programmes

1.6 Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor - Issues of Violence and Social Justice

The Ford Foundation funded project on "Cities, Rural Migrants and Urban Poor" commenced in November 2013. The research is being carried out in three big cities - Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata - and a medium size town, Siliguri and the Kosi river basin in North Bihar. Four researchers in Delhi, six in Mumbai and three in Kolkata are associated with this project. The Kolkata segment of the study was initiated after the appointment of the researchers at CRG in February 2014. During the last few months, three consultative and advisory meetings were held in Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai to discuss respective work plans with the participants and seek advice from scholars involved in similar areas of research. Iman Mitra, Research and Programme Associate at CRG, presented a paper on the Kolkata research at the National Seminar on Migration, Poverty, and Social Justice at Tata Institute Social Sciences, Mumbai (TISS) on March 24 and 25. The project involves a study on urban planning and policies, migrant settlements and work practices in urban areas where the new development and construction activities are taking place, with special emphasis on the age, caste, gender, and language configurations of the migrant workforce. By interrogating the concept of 'migrant worker', the project aims to revisit notions of rights and social justice from a new perspective. The first research workshop was held in Kolkata on 1-2 August 2014. Iman Mitra is the coordinator of the programme. Debarati Bagchi helps the coordinator.

1.7 Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative

This research endeavour focuses on Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin with an aim to promote insights into trans-boundary issues across these three major river systems. The research is funded by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Project ref: 771900010) and it has come into effect from December 27, 2013. Media in this region has a huge impact on society in shaping the public opinion of the masses. They can form or modify the public as well as policymakers' opinion in different ways depending on what the objective is. For instance, issues of trans-boundary water sharing and management should be addressed objectively, yet sensitively. In the absence of transparency and accountability with regard to river-water planning, the media has to play an important role in disseminating the right information to the people at large. Media should not fall prey to jingoism or politics between the Centre and the States. Further, media, in order to rightly address issues of ecology, sustainable livelihood, trans-border resource sharing should go beyond socio-economic-national needs. Since there is a dearth of responsible, sensitive and accurate reporting, CRG aims at bridging this gap by making a media package for helping media activists report sensitively and objectively. The project aims to cover five thematic areas: food security, water productivity and poverty, impacts of climate change; convergence of inland navigation and integrated water resources management goals; and environmental security and biodiversity conservation. The programme is almost complete. Three workshops were held in Kolkata,

Guwahati and Dhaka. The final workshop will be held in Kathmandu. The draft report is ready and has been handed over to the IUCN. Selected parts of the report have been uploaded on the website. Rajat Roy coordinated the programme. Madhurilata Basu played an important role in piloting the entire research. There is also a publication plan.

1.8 Women Count for Peace: Gender Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia

The project is a collaborative effort by PRIO and six partner institutions in India and Nepal. It commenced in July 2012 and will span until mid-2015. Funded by the Research Council of Norway's INDNOR and NORGLOBAL programs, the project addresses the role of women in local governance, politics and peace and security processes, particularly in context of North East India and Nepal. During the last few months, two papers have been prepared based on the research findings under this project. Paula Banerjee, one of the principal researchers of this project, has prepared a paper entitled "Women, Conflict and Security: A Case Study of Tripura". She presented the paper at a Friday Lecture organized by MCRG. Ranabir Samaddar and Anjuman Ara Begum's jointly authored paper is titled "A New Fault line in Conflict: Society, Politics and women's Participation in Peace-building in North East India". MCRG and the Peace Research Institute Oslo are jointly organizing the final conference for this project during 6-8 November 2014. The International Conference is on "Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia". Select papers presented at the conference will be included in an edited volume with the aim of contributing new insights to the debate on gender and political change in conflict-ridden societies. Paula Banerjee is coordinating the programme. Debarati Bagchi is helping the work. The EPW will bring out a special issue on this theme. It will be guest edited by Paula Banerjee.

1.9 New Research Programmes

Two small research programmes will be launched soon on the themes of

- (a) The Rohingya Refugees and
- (b) The victims of violence on the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border.

These will be funded respectively by the Taft Grant, USA, us and the ICRC. Besides these two, a research initiative on the theme of 'Popular Movements & Politics in West Bengal (1951-2011)' has been undertaken on the basis of a proposal at the CRG Meeting of Kolkata-based Members held on December 20, 2013. The meeting was convened on the basis of some of the recommendations of the CRG members given last year. Sibaji Pratim Basu was the responsibility for developing the concept note. He developed it duly and the note was subsequently placed in another meeting of Kolkata based CRG members. A working group has been formed with Sibaji Pratim Basu as the coordinator of the group to take the proposal forward. The revised note will act as the basis of a series of workshops and a publication.

The CRG Governing Body has also decided to institute a certificate course on political economy in view of its increasing importance. The details will be worked out in due course.

Publications and Other Activities

1.10 Work on the CRG Resource Centre and Digitization of CRG's Research Material

CRG aims at digitization of its rich archival material and primary documents, compiled either in hardcopies or soft, right from its inception along with online cataloguing of its resources. CRG plans to procure further material, compile them, catalogue them online and digitize them under (1) Displacement, conflict, migration; (2) Environment, resource

crisis; (3) Labour. These three heads will cover online cataloguing, collection, compilation and digitization of CRG's rich material circulated during the last eleven annual orientation programs on *Forced Migration*, digitization of CRG's printed documents collected during research on *Partition and Displacement*, with emphasis on resources collected on Partition and Dalits in West Bengal, digitization of primary documents collected during CRG's work on *Statelessness* and digitization of newspaper clippings on *News of Northeast India*. (Files on Dalit and Partition, Statelessness and compilation of Winter Course material are to be completed within 6 months). Digitization of primary material collected on the on-going project on *Ecology, sustainability and resourcesharing* and digitization of primary documents collected during CRG's past work on *Right to Food*, and finally digitization of primary documents collected during CRG's project on *Transit Labour*, Rajarhat and digitization of primary material on the on-going project on *Rail Strike*. Besides this, the work of online cataloguing of CRG's books and documents has to be continued, along with collection and compilation of the above mentioned material. Sucharita Sengupta with the help of RajatKanti Sur is coordinating the work, which is funded by the ICSSR (Eastern Region), and to be completed it by March 2015.

1.11 Fifth Critical Studies Conference

The Fifth Critical Studies Conference supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation will take place in Kolkata from August 21 to 23, 2014 (Thursday to Saturday). This year the theme is "Accumulation under Post-colonial Capitalism". The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation has shown interest in collaborating with Calcutta Research Group in organizing it. The broad sub-themes for the conference are : (1) Extraction, Finance Capital and State; (2) Biocapital: Associated Issues and Implications; (3) Caste, Race and Gender; (4) Accumulation and Law; (5) City and Migration; and (6) Resistance. Papers on these themes are invited from scholars across the world. Two (or three at maximum) papers for each sub-theme will be selected from the submitted papers. There will also be a book reading session with the participants in the conference. The two books which are selected tentatively for this session are Vinay Gidwani's *Capital, Interrupted* (2008) and Ishita Dey, Ranabir Samaddar and Suhit Sen's *Beyond Kolkata: Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination* (2013). Like every year this year's conference too will have a theme lecture delivered by a distinguished scholar. The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion by a select group of academics from India and abroad. The conference organising committee is being steered by Atig Ghosh.

1.12 CRG Research Paper Series: *Policies and Practices*

Six issues of *Policies and Practices* have been published during this period. In November 2013 two issues were brought out (1) Ranabir Samaddar, 'The Religious Nature of our Political Rites' *Policies and Practices* 57 (November 2013); and (2) Sanam Roohi, 'Social Impact of the City Planning Machinery: Case Study of Road-Widening in Bangalore', *Policies and Practices* 58 (November 2013). The February issue (*Policies and Practices* 59) has an essay by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury ('In Search of Space: The Scheduled Caste Movement in West Bengal after Partition'). Three issues were brought out in March: (i) *Policies and Practices* 60 contains two articles by Charlotte-Anne Malischewski ('Legal brief on Statelessness: Law in the Indian Context') and Shuvro Prosun Sarker (Reducing Statelessness: A new Call for India'); (ii) *Policies and Practices* 61 (Failed by Design? The Limitations of State building' by Oliver Richmond (COREProject); (iii) *Policies and Practices* 62 ('Contesting Ideas on Peace: A Report & Some Reflections') containing Biswajit Roy's a report on CORE Project. Policy and Practices series has been registered and assigned an ISSN Number "ISSN 2348 - 0297"

1.13 Refugee Watch Online:

A new editorial board for the blog was formed in December 2013. The editorial board comprises of 6 scholars from various academic backgrounds such as political science, sociology, journalism and law. It was planned that in the year 2014 six issues will be published. Following the plan, the first issue of the year was uploaded in February 2014, and the second issue was uploaded in April 2014.

1.14 Refugee Watch Journal

CRG brought out two issues - Number 41 in December 2013 and another Number 42 in June 2014. Refugee Watch Journal has also been registered and assigned an ISSN Number: 'ISSN 2347-405X '.

1.15 Third Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture

The Third Jayanta Dasgupta Memorial Lecture was delivered on 20 August 2013 by the noted labour activist of the city, Naba Dutta, on the theme of Economic Crisis and Informal Work Conditions in the City.

The Fourth Jayanta Dasgupta memorial lecture will be delivered by the eminent labour activist Prafulla Chakabarty. In the event of his inability, Ananya Bhattacharya, a labour activist in Delhi, will be requested to deliver the lecture.

1.16 Second SAGE-CRG Lecture

The 2nd SAGE-CRG Lecture was held on April 25, 2014 at the AJC Bose Auditorium of Presidency University, Department of Sociology, Presidency University collaborated with CRG for this lecture. Dr. Itty Abraham from National University of Singapore delivered the lecture on a topic "Technology, Body and Law: The Antinomies of Rights and Governmentality". The lecture was subsequently published as a *Policies and Practices* paper.

1.17 Friday Lectures at CRG

CRG has initiated a new lecture series, to be held on the third Friday of every month. The aim of this lecture series is to provide a platform for scholar, students and activists to present part/whole of their new research/work. Till now eight lectures have been organised under this programme. The list is given below:

Sr. No.	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	21.06.2013	Subir Bhaumik	China, India and Future of Asia
2	12.07.13	Paula Banerjee And Sita Venkateswar	Women, Conflict and Security: A case study of Tripura" "Expanding the margins: toward 'an anthropology of life' in the Anthropocene
3			
4	19.07.2013	Charlotte-Anne Malischewski	Statelessness Law in India: Production, Prevention and Protection

5	23.08.2013	Shyamalendu Majumdar	Homelessness in Mizoram
6	15.11.2013	Byasdeb Dasgupta	Some Thoughts on India under Neo-liberal Transition
7	10.01.2014	Anindya Ray Chaudhuri	“My other mother”: Narratives of the 1947 Indian/Pakistani partition, Separated Families and Mourning as Agency
8	21.02.2014	Faisal Fasih	Social security of unorganised workers in India

Besides there were other public lectures. In collaboration with Krishna Trust CRG organized the first Krishna Memorial Lecture on 14 March 2014 delivered by eminent historian Geraldine Forbes, on the theme of “I could live like a boy in every other respect: Misperceptions about Education for Women”. On this occasion the first Krishna Memorial Awards for Women educationists and caregivers were given to to Noor Jahan Shakil and Amina Khatton for their exemplary services to Muslim girls’ education. Professor Md. Suleiman Khurshid gave the awards.

1.18 Book Publications and Public Outreach

CRG published four books in the period under consideration: *Beyond Kolkata: Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination* by Ishita Dey, Ranabir Samaddar, and Suhit Sen (Routledge, 2013); *Media Mirrors*, edited by Sibaji Pratim Basu (Frontpage, 2014), and *Sanghat O Sashan*(in Bengali), compiled, edited, and authored by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury (Gangchil, 2013). The contents of all the three publications were brought to the notice of media and the general intellectual and activist public. Book release functions were organised towards that aim. The fourth book is titled as *Bio Politics of Development: Reading Michel Foucault in the Post-Colonial Present*, co-edited by Ranabir Samaddar, Julian Reid, and Sandro Mezzadra (Springer, 2014). We are yet to organize a discussion around the book.

Two more public discussions were organised in the year under consideration: (a) On 26 July 2013, a public discussion was organized around a lecture hosted by CRG on “Resurgence and Evolution of the Latin American Left and the Prospects of New Democracy There” and delivered by Harry Vanden, of the University of South Florida (the audio text of the lecture is on the *Frontier* website); (b) A book discussion on *Those Years of Sixties and Seventies*. The second event was planned and coordinated by V. Ramaswamy.

A discussion on Ranabis Samaddar’s *Passive Revolution West Bengal* (Sage, 2013) was also organised by CRG on 15 July 2013. CRG website has an audio link to the discussion.

2. Website and Library

2.1 Website

The CRG website (www.mcrgh.ac.in) is designed as a site of information, publicity, resource center, training, and interaction. The number of users is around 80,000. It is a significant worksite for researchers, teachers, students, media persons, scholars, and human right activists. The website works as an interactive site during the distance

education phase of the Orientation Course on Forced Migration. It has provided the information for presenting papers, abstracts, relevant documents, online registrations, notifications, and links while organizing conferences, dialogues, workshops and seminars of the different programmes. It has an Online Resource Centre with basic and advance search engine. The Resource Centre has online catalogue for books, documents, journals, research papers, working papers, reports, and theses, and census reports. It contains catalogues of audio, video, and data CD. Some of audio lectures and documents relating to forced migration studies, book discussions, etc, are there. It has a special section called "Refugee Watch Online". Ishita Dey, Sahana Basavapatna, Priyanca Mathur Velath, Anuradha Gunarathne and Shuvro Prosun Sarkar have as in the last year put in efforts towards improving "Refugee Watch Online". Samaresh Guchhait looks after the design, development, and regular update of the website with the help of CRG research & programme staff. He also works as system administrator to maintain the windows 2003 server, mailing system, and provides technical support. Rajat Kanti Sur is honorary research and programme assistant for managing the resource center. The library and archival work is specially supervised by Sucharita Sengpta.

2.2 Library

The Calcutta Research Group has in its holdings books, documents, journals, manuscripts, research papers, working papers, thesis, census reports, audio, video and data CDs. It supports various research scholars, students, faculty members of colleges, universities, research institutes, and NGOs. It contains 2610 books mainly in the areas of migration, human rights law, gender studies, food security, environment, urbanization, justice, autonomy, displacement, globalisation, literary works, minority rights, media, child rights, and other human rights, plus various forms of advocacy material,. Some of the books are gifts from institutions and individuals. We have an exclusive collection of newspaper clippings on Northeast India. CRG has various reports of the Brookings Institution and copies of the Forced Migration Review and Economic and Political Weekly. The document section has gained from contributions by researchers in CRG research work. CRG subscribes to JSTOR, Project MUSE and EPW service. It has 62 Video CD/DVD, 83 data CD/DVD and 12 Audio CD/DVD on human trafficking, gender, violence, migration, displacement, ethnic conflicts, and human rights. Some of the notable CDs are on Educational Material on Sustaining Rights, Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2006, 2008, World Investment Report 2005, World Refugee Survey 2003, Brookings material on IDP, UN Human Rights System 1999, 2000, 2002, Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2004, Ensuring Food Secure Future, Right to Land, and Report on Human Trafficking etc. Digitisation of select material is now under way.

3. Staff pattern and Other Administrative Matters

Staff Pattern

3.1 Research Staff

The fast turnover of researchers continued. Atig Ghosh resigned on 25 November 2013 (but continuing as honorary researcher of our institution), Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury resigned on 28 February 2014, and Subhro Prasun Sarkar resigned on 30 June 2014.

Iman Mitra joined as research associate in February 2014. Debarati Bagchi joined as research assistant in February 2014. Madhurilata Basu continued as research assistant. Sucharita Sengupta joined as research assistant in April 2014. Rajatkanti Sur joined the

UGC Non-NET (JRF) Fellowship offered by Calcutta University, and left CRG though he is continuing his work for the Resource Centre and library on honorary basis.

Currently thus CRG has one research associate and three research assistants.

Besides, CRG had 3 bright interns in the year under consideration. They all proved equal to CRG's demanding standard of research and work ethic. Their research assignments have been published or under publication process.

The individual reports of the research associates and assistants are enclosed as Annexure 1. In this connection, the Governing Body wishes to inform the members that henceforth researchers will be encouraged to publish independently in journals to mentor young researchers in this direction. Publications in journals will be considered positively in extending and renewing contracts.

3.2 Administrative and Finance Staff

As in previous years the services of Ratan Chakraborty, M. Chatterji, Asok Kumar Giri and Samaresh Guchhait were reconfirmed. The part-time service of R. K. Mahato as typist was retained. Last year CRG announced a fifteen percent pay rise as one time decision in place of the usual policy of annual ten percent rise in pay. Other social security provisions continue. Some staff members were given extra honorarium as recognition of their special contribution to CRG's work.

Other Office Matters

3.3 Finance Sub-Committee

Under the direction of the Governing Body the Finance Sub-Committee was reconstituted for 2014-15. It includes the Treasurer (convener), the Secretary, the Director, Samir Kumar Das, V. Ramaswamy, Anita Sengupta, and Shyamalendu Majumdar.

3.4 Stock Review

During the year under consideration a new computer and a new hard disk were purchased. An old computer was replaced. Also this year CRG had to buy a new photocopier (of Xerox India Limited) as the previous one was totally out of order and could not be serviced anymore. The present machine is fully equipped to provide printing, copying, and scanning services, at the same time it reduces paper costs as it has both-sides printing capacity. The purchase was done on the basis of the order of the Finance Committee. The register is open to members' inspection.

3.5 Sexual Harassment Complaint Cell

A Sexual Harassment Complaint Cell was formed on the basis of a proposal of the Governing Body. The following persons are members of the Cell: Ms. M. Chatterji (Convener, with a casting vote), Ms. Debarati Bagchi, Mr. Samaresh Guchhait, Ms. Paula Banerjee, Ms. Samita Sen, Ms. Krishna Banerji and Mr. Subhas Ranjan Chakrabarty with Ms. Sreeradha Dutta as the external member. The Cell has prepared the modality of functioning.

3.6 Proposal for New System Honorary Researchers

The Governing Body decided to do away with the old system of "Honorary Researchers", It has decided that CRG instead should have "Research Fellows", elected by the Society members in the Annual General Meeting. Appropriate Rules will be in place from September 2014 regarding this. Priority will be given to persons (a) bringing in research grants; (b) track record, and known for research contributions/capabilities. The fellowship

should not be confined to applicants from Kolkata. The new proposal is attached here with (Annexure 2). The existing system of visiting scholars (junior, called interns, and senior both) will continue. In this connection the Governing Body appreciated the visits of several scholars to CRG in the past.

4. Other Important Issues

Members will find in Annexure 3 a summary of their views and recommendations made last year towards improvement and strengthening of CRG's work. Based on some of these views and following informal consultations with several members, the Governing Body has identified few steps, placed below, some of which are already in the process of implementation.

4.1 Membership and More Active Role of Members

- Regarding restructuring and strengthening of CRG organisation, Governing Body proposes that each member should identify promising young people for membership and bring these names to the attention of the Governing Body.
- While CRG is located in Kolkata, its membership is spread throughout the country. Therefore while CRG has to work on issues of West Bengal, potential members who can enrich CRG from other parts of the country should be identified with priority.
- Members have to follow CRG website announcements and material posted there closely, because many important things may miss their attention. To facilitate this CRG has to regularly send e-alerts on events.
- Members from outside Kolkata should take initiative in publicising research work done by CRG.

4.2 Research

- Research themes pertinent to other areas of the country should be identified and members should be encouraged to involve CRG in the work on these themes. Appropriate mechanism has to be worked out to facilitate the process.
- New research proposals and grant applications have to be framed and made.
- Also new ideas and themes (both macro and micro) have to be encouraged. Otherwise CRG research will become completely project-centric and dependent on grants.
- The research staff pattern is also a problem. The present staff consisting of a Director, one research associate and three research assistants present pattern that does not evoke confidence in grant institutions. CRG needs balance in this.

4.3 Financial Situation

- CRG has failed in the last two years in securing grants - from the ICSSR, Finnish Foreign Ministry, IDRC, and Prince Claus Fund. At the same time CRG secured several small grants, which helped diversify CRG's work. Appropriate lessons have to be drawn.
- CRG has built up a corpus fund from whose interest half of regular office expenditure can be maintained. Proper financial planning for the next two three years is needed.

- CRG staff due to the precarious financial situation of the institution cannot be expanded.

4.4 Need for a New Director

Besides, as part of restructuring and strengthening strategy for CRG, the Governing Body and the Director both feel that CRG should have a new Director. However the new Director should be from within CRG. The present Director, Ranabir Samaddar, has expressed his wish of not continuing as Director, after the expiry of the present tenure, as he has served already three previous (three year) terms. But he would like to serve the institution as a researcher or as a member or in any other capacity CRG wishes or requires of him. Once relieved from the responsibilities of running the office as Director, the Director feels that he would be able to contribute more to CRG as a researcher and as a member, which would ultimately benefit the institution. Governing Body members agree that without the infusion of new blood for responsible positions no organisation can grow and take up new initiatives. A new Director can bring new ideas, new style of functioning, and new networks. Governing Body members have discussed the name of Paula Banerjee, current President as the next Director in honorary capacity, as she holds a full time position in the University. She can function as the in-charge of the institution for one year (2014-2015), which will be also the last year of the current year's tenure. During this period the present Director will be able to help the next incumbent, who will get one year to take up fully the new responsibility of Directorship. The Governing Body can arrange the details of a satisfactory transition.

Annexure 1

Work Reports of Research Staff

(Note: The reports of the research interns are on the website)

Iman Kumar Mitra

Iman Kumar Mitra has joined Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) on February 3, 2014 on the project titled 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor - Issues of Violence and Social Justice.' He is assigned with two main responsibilities: (1) doing research for the project and (2) managing its desk.

Primarily, he has proposed to work on two interrelated areas within the scope of the project. His first research topic is the connections between urban planning, migration settlements, and issues of social justice in contemporary Kolkata. His second research topic is the relationship between the changing forms of labour and patterns of migration practices in the city.

Since February, Iman has continued to explore various library and archival sources including Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC). He has also started to contact some people for his ethnographic research.

Iman has presented a paper titled 'The Permanent Outsiders: Towards a Study of Migration Practices and Social Justice in Contemporary Kolkata' (jointly written with Debarati Bagchi) at the *National Seminar on Migration, Poverty and Social Justice: Perspectives, Policies and Experiences* at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai on March 24, 2014. He has organized with help from his colleagues at MCRG the *First Researchers' Workshop* for the project 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor - Issues of Violence and Social Justice' on August 1 and 2, 2014. He has presented two abstracts at the workshop based on his preliminary research. The papers are titled as: (1) 'Urban Planning, Settlement Practices, and Issues of Justice in Contemporary Kolkata' and (2) 'Migrant Workers and Informality in Contemporary Kolkata.' He is also going to present a paper at the *Fifth Critical Studies Conference: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism* to be held on 21-23 August, 2014. The tentative title of his paper is 'Urban Planning, Settlement Practices and the Question of Labour in Contemporary Kolkata.'

Apart from participating in various activities and programmes at the office, Iman helps editing the working paper series called 'Policies and Practices.' He has also supervised Ashwin V. S. from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, who has worked on the ideas and mechanisms of the Unique Identity Project (UID) implemented by the Government of India.

Debarati Bagchi

Debarati Bagchi joined CRG on February 17, 2014. She has been entrusted with the following responsibilities.

- Research for the project on 'Cities, Rural Migrants and Urban Poor - Issues of Violence and Social Justice.' She is researching on a chapter on women and children migrants and the urban workforce in Kolkata.
- Co-organising the Conference on 'Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia', to be held in Kolkata on 7-8 November, with Dr. Paula Banerjee.
- She has been given the task to monitor the website and ensure that it is regularly updated.

- Debarati has begun her archival and field research for the chapter on women and children migrants.
- She co-organised the First Researchers' Workshop for the project 'Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor - Issues of Violence and Social Justice' on August 1 and 2, 2014 with Iman Kumar Mitra.
- She presented an abstract of her chapter on women and children migrants.
- She will also be discussing three papers at the *Fifth Critical Studies Conference: Accumulation under Post-Colonial Capitalism* to be held on 21-23 August, 2014 for the panel 'Cities and Migrants 2'.
- She has been in regular touch with Dr. Paula Banerjee for organizing the November conference on 'Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia'.
 - a) The abstracts have been selected.
 - b) The list of participants has been prepared and arrangements have been made for accommodation and local hospitality.
 - c) Two meetings were convened at CRG to discuss the themes of the panels and to decide the chairs and discussants.
- She has suggested some changes for the website for easier accessibility.

Sucharita Sengupta

joined Calcutta Research Group from April 2014 on a thrice weekly basis mainly to help in the organization of CRG's online archive and help in the digitization process of CRG's resources. This is a project supported by ICSSR. Along with this, Sucharita has helped in some other works as CRG has deemed fit time and again. Her work details in the period between April-July follow:

As part of her work on the Resource Centre, she has been doing online cataloguing, along with other work like uploading, updating resources, correcting existing ones etc. This was a collaborative work and we had planned to make consolidated lists under each head, with just one call number on each subject (IDP/Autonomy/Human Rights etc) which would comprise both archival data and web based material of CRG (except books), including links of uploaded material. She has already done lists of the digitized material, and lists of CRG's web based material on various subjects- especially the ones that have been digitized already. One or two specimens have also been uploaded for reference - like lists of Statelessness and Dalits and Partition. She has also tried to narrow down the search for resources in the online library section, so that it becomes more specific, by connecting two words with a + sign. This has been updated in the login page of the Library. Till now, we have only uploaded new resources in this manner, the old uploads would be edited duly. We are also trying to search for better ways in which the online Library and Resource Centre could work in future.

In the following month after she joined, In July, she worked for four days in the West Bengal State Archives, mainly to collect material on Kolkata Riots, as per the directive of the Director. We have decided to keep the material in CRG's library for assistance to interested persons.

As per the Director's advice, she has also helped him in the wrapping up process of a book which is being published by Ashgate Publishing Ltd and is the result of a collective research programme of CRG, supported by the European Commission, on a study of governance.

Presently, besides work on the Resource Centre, she is helping the Institution in organizing the Fifth Critical Studies Conference, in logistics and so on.

Madhurilata Basu

Currently, she is working on a research endeavour, done jointly by the Calcutta Research Group and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), New Delhi. The work has been successfully completed and a report from our end has been submitted to IUCN, New Delhi. The research work titled, *Ecosystems for Life: a Bangladesh India Initiative* dealing with the issues of Ecology, Politics and Survival in India's Northeast and Deltaic Bengal, also involves the participation of IUCN, Bangladesh and Development Media, Bangladesh. For this work, she has written two reports, one on Murshidabad and the other one on brick kiln and the handloom industry in Nadia. She has also helped in the work of compiling the report which comprised articles /reports by various journalists, academics, activists and researchers.

She is also providing editorial assistance for the Refugee Watch Journal, edited by Dr Paula Banerjee. She has assisted in the editing of the book, *Forced Migration and Media Mirrors* and has also contributed an article, titled, 'Of Spaces, Places and Identities: Gorkhas and Tibetan Refugees in Darjeeling'. She has helped in the Eleventh Orientation Programme on Forced Migration, 2013 and has helped Dr Atig Ghosh to organise Media Workshop, 2013. She is also in charge of Friday Lectures@ CRG.

Annexure 2

Rules of CRG Fellowships

1. All existing designations of honour (like Honorary Senior Researcher and Honorary Researcher) will end with effect from September 2014.
2. In place of the earlier system a new system with such designations as Honorary Professorial Fellow and Honorary Research Fellow will be introduced in the year 2014-2015.
 - 2.1 Honorary Professorial Fellowship will be offered for a period of 2 years to persons (a) with outstanding contribution to the mandated fields of CRG and/or in recognition of her/his exceptional contribution to CRG or human rights community.
 - 2.2 The number and modalities of election of such Fellows will be determined by the Governing Body in consultation with the Academic Advisory Body. The names of such Fellows will be reported to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
 - 2.3 The extent of secretarial and research support to the Professorial Fellows will be also determined by the Governing Body in consultation with the Finance Committee.
 - 2.4 Honorary Professorial Fellows may be invited to address seminars, present papers, take classes, conduct academic sessions, raise funds, and involve themselves in CRG's ongoing projects in advisory capacity.
- 3.1 Honorary Research Fellows will be elected for a period of one (1) year from among the CRG members on the basis of recommendations by any two (2) CRG members and such recommendation along with the proposed fellow's CV, research proposal, and specimen publication(s) will have to be submitted to the Governing Body 30 April each year. On the basis of the proposals received the Governing Body will refer the names of the candidates to the Annual General Meeting for final decision.
- 3.2 Such Fellowships will be offered to members (a) who have made significant contributions to CRG and whose service - academic or otherwise - will be regarded as extremely fruitful for the organization and (b) will submit a plan of work and publication for the period of their fellowship.

- 3.3 Honorary Research Fellows will be provided research assistance for pursuing their work laid down in the plan, the quantum being decided by Governing Body in consultation with the Finance Committee.
- 3.4 Each Fellow will submit an interim annual report and a final report of her/his activities to the Director who will place it before the Governing Body for review along with his or her remarks in confidence. The Members of the Academic Advisory Body may also be referred if the Director or the Governing Body deems fit to seek their opinion(s).
- 3.5 The number of such Fellows will be determined by the Governing Body in consultation with the Finance Committee and the number will be intimated to the Society members by 31 January of each year.
- 3.6 CRG may publish the works of the Fellows produced as part of their Fellowship subject to peer review. In case, CRG does not publish them within a reasonable time, the Fellows will be free to publish them with due acknowledgement to CRG.
- 3.7 Honorary Fellowships are considered as honour to be conferred by CRG in a manner described above and not as a matter of right. The Fellows will not do anything that goes against CRG's interest or may be detrimental to it. Fellowships may be terminated on the recommendation of the Director subject to investigation in a manner to be decided by the Governing Body.

Annexure 3

Summary of the Views and Recommendations of Members towards the Improvement and Strengthening of CRG's Work

GROUP - A (Media)

- Issue regular press notes and invite the Press to programmes
- Media exposure in Delhi
- A CRG member in overall charge of media activities
- More media exposure in Kolkata

GROUP - B (Other forms of publicity)

- A well written brochure on CRG's activities with names of partners and pictures of current and past activities may be posted in web-site.
- Mailing list may be broadened to include non-members to widen the access to CRG publications like Policies and Practices series
- A monthly/quarterly newsletter listing publications and briefs of research programmes could widen visibility
- Publicity through Facebook
- CRG journals ISSN and books ISBN
- Publication of RW may be entrusted to reputed professional publishers e.g. Sage/Routledge.
- Publication of CRG papers and reports of some activities like Winter Course in EPW and similar journals.

GROUP - C (Website and in-house publications)

- More user friendly web-site and making it participatory
- Making it consistent in style and updating it regularly
- Regular e-briefs on web-material and other publications

- Online payment system for subscription and registration charges
- Improve quality of printing and in-house publications (Refugee Watch, Policies and Practices, Reports, etc.)
- Increasing visibility of Refugee Watch and other publications and involvement of members in this effort, same with RWonline, and Same with the CRG resource center

GROUP - D (Themes of research)

- Greater emphasis on field of social movements, as little emphasis has been given on writing and theorizing from the perspective of people's movements
- Periodic dialogues on grassroots struggles from ethnographic and theoretical perspectives
- Pursue research in areas like Social Exclusion
- Forming research clusters
- Bengal Studies
- Classes on different topics for students/academics/outside where people could participate in Bangla
- Some papers may be translated into Bangla, Bangla publication required, journals in Bangla
- Programmes to reach out to local students of social sciences
- Short courses or seminar series for local scholars and researchers

GROUP - E (Visibility)

- Greater visibility in Delhi: a Chapter in Delhi or a group of Delhi-based members working on CRG issues
- Mentor Group for mentoring young scholars
- Some programmes in vernacular
- CRG may consider inviting activists at the local level for giving talk.

GROUP - F (Collaboration)

- Can act as Observer in UNFCCC
- More outreach programmes and CRG panels in annual conferences of academic bodies/organizations such as International Studies Association, Association of Borderland Studies, International Political Science Association.
- Can join the project on Indian Ocean as Observer
- Collaboration with other institutions
- Collaboration with Universities

GROUP - G (Membership)

- The issue of having a few 'categories' or CRG Members based on various criteria deserves some debate
- More membership from N.E
- Inclusion of staff member in Governing Body

GROUP - H (Fund-raising)

- While 14 respondents professed their ignorance about CRG's fund-raising dynamics, 13 expressed their willingness to be involved.
- Formation of a fund raising team

- Provide assessment of GOI projects like MNREGA etc
- Provide independent assessment/research on projects of selected state governments
- Corporate funding
- Funding agencies to be invited to CRG events
- Employing a Consultant on fund-raising

Some of the recommendations have been already taken up by the Governing Body and the Director has started implementing its advice. CRG can form a small group to study the recommendations in details and decide what can be implemented in a phase wise manner.

The Governing Body has decided to invite the following persons to membership of CRG:

1. Professor Pushpendra Kumar
2. Dr. Atig Ghosh
3. Uttam Kr. Roy
4. Sanam Roohi
5. Jishnu Dasgupta
6. Sanjay Barbora
7. Sutirtha Bedajna
8. Simpreet Singh