



CHRONICLE 25

Quarterly

Newsletter

2011

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CDS
CHRONICLE

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to be writing this short introduction to this issue of the Chronicle. I find that we have had quite a packed quarter with seminars, training programmes and academic papers written by our faculty and students. We have had visitors from overseas and within the country. Among the former was Professor Tom Weisskopf an old Indian hand,

having been a visitor to this country from the 1960s on. He presented his research on “affirmative action” in India, known to us as reservations in the public sector. Our own faculty and students have been travelling in India and elsewhere to present their work. Altogether we’ve had a busy quarter.

Pulapra Balakrishnan

SEMINARS

Yasuhiko Saito

(Faculty of Advanced Research Institute for the Sciences and Humanities, Nihon University)

“Pin Pin Korori”

Ultimate Goal for Aging Societies

5 January

John M. Bryden

(Research Professor at the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Oslo, Norway, and Emeritus Professor at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. Also affiliated to CDS between October 2010 and January 2011)

&

Karen Refsgaard

(Senior Researcher at the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Oslo, and associated with CDS between October 2010 and January 2011)

Equity, Equality and Territorial Equivalence and their significance for Rural development and Inclusion: Reflections on the Nordic Case

7 January

Joysankar Bhattacharya

(Centre for Development Studies)

Group-participation and Women Empowerment: Matching as an Evaluation Estimator A District-level Study in West Bengal, India

21 January

Lakshmi K. Raut

(Economist, Social Security Administration, Office of Policy, Division of Economic Research, USA.)

Intergenerational Long Term Effects of Preschool - Structural Estimates from a Discrete Dynamic Programming Model

4 February

Amitava Bose

(Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta)

Structural Macroeconomics and Contemporary Inflation

7 March

Thomas E. Weisskopf

(Professor Emeritus of Economics University of Michigan)

Does Affirmative Action Affect Productivity in the Indian Railways?

10 March

N. Vijayamohanam Pillai
(Centre for Development Studies)

Modeling Optimal Peak-load Pricing of Electricity under Uncertainty

25 March

Sunil Mani

(Centre for Development Studies)

The Growth of Mobile Communication Services in India, 1991-2010, has it

Led to India becoming a Manufacturing Hub for Telecommunication Equipments?

18 March

Gender Sensitisation Workshop

The Committee against Sexual harassment organised the annual gender sensitisation workshop for the community on 7 February, 2011. The workshop was conducted by Ms Sonia George, SEWA, Thiruvananthapuram. Faculty, staff and students attended the workshop.

C O N F E R E N C E S / W O R K S H O P S

International Labour Migration from India State Level Perspectives

(Financed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India)

28-29 March

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

The latest labour migration flow data released by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs indicated that states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are emerging as gainers and some of the historically predominant states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu as losers in the arena of international migration. To explore this issue further, the Centre for Development Studies organised a consultative meeting during 28-29 March 2011 with the financial support from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India.

About 40 researchers participated in the workshop. There were state level presentations by experts for the following states– Kerala, Goa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. Researchers from several research institutions such as Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh participated in the workshop. The two-day meeting was inaugurated by Professor Pulapre



Balakrishnan, Director, CDS and the inaugural address was given by Mr Krishna Kumar, former Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government India.

S. Irudaya Rajan

Achievements

Neethi. P, Doctoral scholar, has been selected as one of the recipients of the Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral and Professional Research Fellowships 2011-12. She has been invited to the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia, USA, as "Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher", for the period mid-August 2011 to mid-May 2012. This fellowship, offered through the USIEF (New Delhi) and the IIE (New York), provides for nine months of research in the US, in connection with her PhD thesis under the mentorship of Prof. Andrew Herod, Distinguished Research Professor at this university.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Universalizing Socio-Economic Security for the Poor

5-25 March

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan



The tenth year of the three month diploma programme on 'Universalising Socio-economic Security for the Poor' was held at the Centre for Development Studies during 5-25 March, 2011, a joint venture of CDS with the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS), Hague, Netherlands and the Self Employed Women's Association, (SEWA) Ahmadabad. Three scholars participated in the programme – one each from Hungary, India and Kenya. One of the objectives to coordinate the programme at CDS is to examine the "Kerala Model" of social development where the state has been active in universalising the delivery of socio-economic security. The potentialities and the limitations of such an approach was examined as was other initiatives such as decentralisation was discussed. Moreover, how village-based institutions have been used to yield further coverage in this field was also debated.

During their three week stay at CDS, they have been provided with lectures and field visits not only by the faculty members at CDS, but also other administrators in the Government of Kerala

who handle various socio-economic security programmes. Arjan de Haan of the ISS visited the CDS and finalised their project reports and participated in the graduation ceremony at CDS. K.P.Kannan was the chief guest to distribute the diplomas to the students.

S. Irudaya Rajan

Short-Term Training on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues

(Financed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India)

21-25 March



This is the sixth training programme organised by the Centre for Development Studies with the financial support from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India during March 21-25, 2011. Thirty students from several universities and research institutions in India such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, Manipur University, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Technology, International Institute for Population Sciences and Gujarat Institute of Development Research, most of them working on linkages between migration and development, participated in the training programme.

Like in earlier programmes, the one-week training covered various facets of migration issues, migration data and governance, India's foreign policy, gender dimensions, historical perspectives, the linkage between migration and health, trade, poverty, inequality and diasporas and development. In addition, The students were also exposed to the migration research undertaken during the last decade at the CDS and the ongoing research

projects and M.Phil and Ph.D dissertations of migration issues.

Three-fourth of the lectures were handled by the CDS faculty members and the remaining modules were taken by the following guest faculty – T.P. Sreenivasan, Sreelekha Nair, K. Srinivasan, Ajith Kumar, R. B. Bhagat, Amita Shah and Arjan de Haan.

S. Irudaya Rajan

THE CDS M PHIL : A TOUR

An Overview of the M.Phil Course Module by the Faculty

The Course 303, Regional Perspectives in Indian Economy, is intended to provide an introduction of the issues relating to regional development in India. This is a compulsory course in the second semester. We focus on familiarising students with the theories of regional development, quantitative tools for analysing regional problems and issues of regional development in India.

The first three to four lectures expose students to the various theoretical traditions in regional development. We start off with the three broad schools of thought on regional disparities, viz; the neo-classicals, the dependency theories and the balanced /unbalanced growth theories. This is followed by the literature on international evidences on regional disparities that include inter-country comparisons done by Paul Bairoch, Barro and Martin, and Jeffrey Williamson in an effort to bring out certain stylised facts on regional disparities.

The next set of lectures would focus on interstate disparities in income within India covered in an evolutionary manner. Further we analyse the sectoral contributions to the observed patterns. This is followed by an analysis of the regional structure of employment and human development. Then after comparing the regional structure of output with employment and human development we come to the question of infrastructure and investment as

possible explanations for the divergence in regional patterns of employment and output.

Further, two lectures are set apart for the role of the governments, both at the centre and states, in bringing in balanced regional development. Here we instruct the students on the plans and policies, and the direct interventions in attempts to bring about regional development. We also further delve on power shifts with the centre and states after liberalisation and how regional problems are taking new shapes after liberalisation. Here we take up the issue of trade and investment liberalisation.

This apart, we also open up the issues of intra-regional disparities. We focus on city growth patterns, drawing on literature from global production chains, neo-colonialism and new economic geography. We throw some light on theories on world systems argument, spatial division of labour and their role in the India's regional economy. Further, we analyse the implications of urbanisation in India, urban bias and the plight of the rural regional economies.

The evaluation consists of critically reviewing journal papers and making presentations on the economics of contemporary regional issues such as demand for smaller states.

K. J. Joseph and Vinoj Abraham

Outreach

- Sunil Mani participated and presented two papers (Paper 1: 'TRIPS Compliance of National Patent Regimes in Developing Countries, An Analysis of its Potential and actual Effects'; Paper 2: 'On the Emergence of New and Large Firms in India' at the *Catch up-DIME workshop*, United Nations University-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands during 25-26 January, 2011. He also presented a paper, 'The Mobile Communications Services Industry in India, has it Led to India becoming a Manufacturing Hub for Telecommunications Equipments?' at the international workshop, *Calling South Asia: The Mobile Phone's Impact on a Region*, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 17-18 February, 2011. Another paper presented was on 'Innovations in the Indian Automotive Industry, Enhancing Innovation Capability through Internal and External Sources,' at the *International Workshop on How to Enhance Innovation Capability with Internal and External Resources*, Institute of Developing Economies-Bangkok Research Centre, Bangkok, Thailand during 24-25 February, 2011.
- V.J. Varghese presented a paper 'Assets Far Away: Transnational Properties and its Discontents in Indian Punjab,' at the IMI Brown Bag Seminar Series, at the International Migration Institute, University of Oxford on 9 February, 2011. He also presented 'Transnational Discontents: Marriage, Property and Migrant Transnationalism in Indian Punjab,' at the Social Science Seminar, at the University of Bielefeld, Germany on 7 February, 2011. Another paper 'Transnationalism, Informality and Social Licitness: Migrations from Eastern Punjab,' was delivered at Sussex Migration Research Seminars, at the Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex, on, 3 February, 2011. Another paper 'Reclaiming Civilization and Building the "Canaan": Agricultural Migration and its Conflicting Rationalities in South India, 1920-1970,' was presented at the South Asian Seminar Series, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge on 2 February, 2011.
- Varghese presented the paper 'Ruptures of Nostalgia: Migration, Marriage and the Punjabi Transnational Public,' at the Open Symposium on Transnational Relations in the Contemporary World, at the University of Tampere, Finland on 31 January, 2011. A paper 'From the Pristine to the Peccant: Agricultural Expansion, Migration and the Production of New Subjects in South India, 1920-70,' was presented at Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies Seminar Series, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, on 26 January, 2011. He also presented the following papers : a) 'Modernity in Translation: Land Labour and Migrations in Kerala, South India, 1900-70, at CWEH Seminar Series, at the Centre for World Environmental History, University of Sussex on 28 January 2011; b) 'Moving Across Borders: Migrations from Eastern Punjab and its Social Licitness,' at Seminar Programme, at the School of Social Sciences, University of Northumbria, Newcastle , UK, 19 January 2011, and c) 'He Selected Me: Migration, Marriage and Desertion of Wives in Indian Punjab,' at CSAS Seminar Series, the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh, UK on 13 January, 2011.
- Vinoj Abraham along with K.J. Joseph presented a paper, 'Innovations, Policies and Systems in Globalisation of Innovation: The Case of India's IT Industry,' in the *Workshop of the INGINEUS project* held at Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark during 24-26 February, 2011.

Intouch

- Krishna Reddy Chiteddi presented a paper titled 'Study of Common Stochastic Trend and Co-Integration in the Emerging Stock Markets: With Special Reference to India,' in "Doctoral Colloquium" during 3-4 January, 2011, organised by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad (IIM- A), Gujarat, and he presented the same at the 47th Annual The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) conference during 6-8 January, 2011 held at School of Future Studies and Planning, Devi Ahilya University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He also presented a paper titled 'The Performance and Prospects of Microfinance in India' in 'X Development Convention on "Millennium Development Goals: Performance, Prospects and Challenges for South India"' organised by Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad during 3-4 March, 2011.
- Vinoj Abraham presented the paper 'Labour Market and Crime in India,' in the *International Conference on Peace Security and Economic Development in South Asia*, held at Punjab University, Patiala on 4-6 March, 2011.
- Sunil Mani delivered the 2011 *Professor K.K Francis Memorial Lecture*, on 'India and the Global Economy,' at St. Berchman's College, Changanacherry on 18 January, 2011. He also delivered the keynote address, 'On Mainstreaming the Growth Performance of the Indian Information and Communications Technology Industry,' at the National Seminar on *Digital Economy*, at Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy on 10 February, 2011.

LIBRARY NEWS

A new blog was launched by the Library for providing subject based information service. This information service is available to all users through the internet domain cbs.ac.in/lib and lib.cbs.ac.in. The blog provides links to prominent web-sites, RSS feeds of journals, news papers, statistical databases etc. Current information relevant to the users are harvested from internet and provided as posts in the blog with URL of full-text of the resource. The students and staff can browse the blog, can read items in their subject area and download the resource if interested. The blog also has the feature to be bookmarked. A demo of how to use the blog was provided to the faculty on 02 February, 2011 and for students on 09 February, 2011. Google Analytics based tracking of the blog has been provided to monitor the usage. During the period from 23 February, to 31 March, 2011 the blog has received 2826 visits,

out of which 1899 is from India and the rest is from other countries in the world. All are requested to make use of the blog and provide constant feedback.

V. Sriram participated in the *National Workshop on Digital Objects and Metadata: Preservation, Harvesting, and Migration* jointly organised by IGIDR, Mumbai and Economic and Political Weekly held during 17-20 January, 2011 at IGIDR, Mumbai.

The participants of the short-term training programme on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues conducted during 21 to 25 March, were given a briefing about the library collection and the services, on the first day of their programme. This included, a power point presentation and live demo, and visit to the library to familiarise the library collection and services.

During the past quarter, 12 external/ internal borrowing memberships, and 167 reference

memberships were granted. Also during the same period 422 books, 150 working papers, and 27 CD-ROMs were added to our collection.

The re-organisation of the library is progressing. The repainting of the shelves in the old building is complete. Now action is being taken to start the work on the civil maintenance and rewiring of the old building.

The assessment of the Library Staff was conducted on 14, February, 2011. Dr H. Anilkumar, Librarian of IIM-Ahmadabad was the external subject expert. Assessment Committee felt that overall performance of the staff is satisfactory. The Assessment Committee has recommended appointing Smt. Anitha G.P and Smt. Ansamma Joseph as Senior Assistant Librarians.

V. Sriram

CAMPUS NEWS

Holi Celebrations



Holi, the Indian festival of joy and colours was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm in the campus on 19th March, 2011. The most beautiful part of Holi is the joyous play with colour; we began early, at 10:30, with students enjoying the game of smearing colour on each others' faces. This was amidst exchanging warm Holi wishes. Students wished each other a bright and colourful year ahead. Sweets were also distributed to all on campus.

Holi at CDS was truly a national celebration, with students from Kerala, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Meghalaya, joining enthusiastically!

Atish Kumar Dash

On The Persistence and Implication of Food Inflation in India

Double-digit food inflation in India has been one of the most highlighted issues in the newspaper since the last two years. It attracted a serious discussion among policy makers, researchers. Since lower income class who spend a large share of their income on food are argued to be more severely affected, the government is often blamed for not curbing food inflation and protecting the welfare of the poor. In order to have a better understanding of causes and consequence of food inflation in India, CDS STUDENT DISCUSSION FORUM organised a discussion on the issue titled "*On The Persistence and Implication of Food Inflation in India*" on February 03, 2011. The discussion was initiated with a short presentation by Gurpreet Singh (M.Phil Scholar) and Rajeev Sharma (PhD Scholar). Gurpreet highlighted the main causes of food inflation, while Rajeev focused on various monetary and fiscal measures being adopted to curb the food inflation. After the presentation an open discussion took place that brought out many interesting facts.

It came out from the discussion that the food inflation has a persistent nature since nearly half a decade. Some of the main causes highlighted were slow agriculture growth, increasing demand of food due to population growth, market imperfection, lack of storage facilities and increasing cost of cultivation. Some highlighted the role of political economy also. It was argued that though the production of milk, fish, meat and other animal product has increased, same times these items also show high increase in their prices.

Prices of edible oil and pulses are supposed to be much affected with international market as India has a very large share of imported edible oil and pulses. Increase in supply of money in the economy through various government schemes like MNREGA also contributed to increase in food inflation. However, the argument was not found to be strong since the demand for food from any person is not unlimited. From the policy point of view it was unanimously suggested that government should adopt various policies to enhance the agriculture growth and provide better storage facilities as monetary measure adopted by the RBI was

unable to curb the food inflation. It should be one of the most prioritised areas for the government otherwise if it continues at the same pace it may bring a mass of population below the poverty line.

The discussion went on for one and half hour (from 4.30 p.m. to 6.0 p.m.). It would have continued further but for the lack of time. Apart from students, presence of Director Prof. Balakrishnan, Prof. K.J. Joseph and Dr. Vinoy Abraham made it more interesting and fruitful than was expected.

Vachaspati Shukla

STUDENT SPEAK

Speech for Republic Day

26 January, 2011

It is a matter of great pride for us to celebrate the 62 republic day as it is marked with many successes that we have achieved in economic, social and political development. However, the celebration does not mean only to look at our achievements with justifiable pride but also to focus on our shortcomings with a spirit to resolve these issues. It is a manner in which the way we address these challenges will determine the destiny towards which our nation is steered. Though India is functioning well as a democratic country, she is unable to protect the rights and welfare of its citizen. The continuous bomb blasts, increasing Maoist, Naxalite and other terrorist activities have threatened the freedom and rights of the people of India. The sustainability of a democracy depends on the faith of public in the government. The recent scams, indiscriminate walkouts of the leaders from the parliament, vote for cash, and failure of government to control food inflation has created discontent among the public in the government, which is well reflected by the declining willingness of public to vote.

No doubt we have attained a great deal in the field of economic, business and scientific development but our performance in many economic and social indicators are very poor relative to other emerging economies like China, Brazil and Russia. We still have a very long march ahead. We need long hours of hard work and of sustained growth to realise our dreams. One of the most important areas where we need more attention is improvement of educational system in order to build up a knowledge based society. Since today's world is very competitive and dynamic, only a country with a strong knowledge base can survive in present world. Thus being a part of country's knowledge creating system we have to bear a great responsibility in development of the country and have to work hard for fulfilling our dream of an India, where the creativity and enterprises of every citizen can find its full and free expression, where the weak and downtrodden are empowered, where every individual is touched by the hand of progress and development, where every citizen can live a life of dignity and self-respect.

Vachaspati Shukla (PhD Scholar)

P U B L I C A T I O N S

Articles

Abraham, Vinoj and S.K.Sasikumar. 2011. 'Labour Costs and Export Behaviour: The Case of Textile and Garments Industry in India,' *Economics, Management, & Financial Markets (EMFM)* Volume 6(1), pp. 258–282.

Bhandari, Anup Kumar. 2010. 'Concentration, Entry Barriers and Profitability in the Indian Industries: An Empirical Analysis', *Journal of Quantitative Economics, New Series*, 8 (2), 61-80.

Devendar, Dommati and Chittedi, Krishna Reddy. 2011. 'Socio-Economic Conditions of Agricultural Women Labour In Andhra Pradesh: A Case Study of Karimnagar District,' *International Journal of Business Economics & Management Research*, Vol. 2, Issue 3, March.

Devika, J and V.J. Varghese. 2011. 'To Survive or To Flourish? Minority Rights and Syrian Christian Community Assertions in 20th Century Travancore/Kerala', *History and Sociology of South Asia* 5, 2, pp. 103-28.

Devika, J., A.K. Rajashree and P.R. Nisha. 2011. 'A Tactful Union': Domestic Workers' Unionism, Politics, and Citizenship in Kerala, India,' *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 18, 2, pp.185-215.

Korra, Vijay. 2011. 'Labour Migration in Mahabubnagar: Nature and Characteristics,' *Economic & Political Weekly*, January 8, Vol. XLVI, No. 2, pp.67-70.

Mani, Sunil and V. Santhakumar. 2011. 'Diffusion of New Technologies and Productivity Growth in India Agriculture, Natural Rubber vs Coconuts', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLVI, No: 6, 2011, pp. 58-63.

Mohan Pillai, P and N. Shanta .2011. 'ICT and Employment Promotion among Poor Women: How Can we make it Happen? Some Reflections

on Kerala Experience,' *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, February.

Chapter(s) in books

Devika, J. 2011. 'Introduction: The Namboodiris', in Devaki Nilayamgode, Antharjanam: *Memoirs of a Namboodiri Woman*, trans. Indira Menon, Radhika Menon, New Delhi: OUP.

Devika, J. 2011. 'Politics, Political Decentralization and Women in Kerala, India: What Historical Hindsight Reveals,' in M. Tsujimura and J. Steele (eds), *Gender Equality in Asia: Policies and Political Participation*, Sendai: Tohoku University Press.

Irudaya, S. Rajan, Vijay Korra and Rikil Chyrmang. 2011. 'Politics of Conflict and Migration,' in S. Irudaya Rajan (eds), *Migration, Identity and Conflict: India Migration Report 2011*, pp. No. 95-101, Routledge, New Delhi.

Korra, Vijay. 2011. 'Short-duration Migration in India,' in S. Irudaya Rajan (eds), *Migration, Identity and Conflict: India Migration Report 2011*, pp. 52-71, Routledge, New Delhi.

Mani, Sunil. 2011. 'Industrial Sector In India and Economic Liberalization', in B A Prakash (ed), *The Indian Economy since 1991, Economic Reforms and Performance*, Delhi: Pearson Education, pp. 416-431.

Mani, Sunil. 2011. 'High Skilled Migration from India, An Analysis of its Economic Implications,' in S. Irudaya Rajan (ed), *Migration, Identity and Conflict, India Migration Report 2011*, Routledge, pp. 309-330.

Mythri, Prasad-Aleyamma. 2011. 'Caste, Ethnicity and Migration: Linking Recruitment and Labour Process,' in S. Irudaya Rajan (ed), *Migration, Identity and Conflict: India Migration Report 2011*. Routledge, India.

Mythri, Prasad-Aleyamma. 2011. 'A Market Place for Migrants: Mobility, Settlement and Social Protection in Kerala,' in Sabates-Wheeler, Rachel, and Rayah Feldman, *Migration and Social Protection: Vulnerability, Mobility and Access*, Rethinking International Development series. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Working Papers

Zachariah, K. C. and S. Irudaya Rajan. 2011. 'From Kerala to Kerala *Via* the Gulf: Emigration Experiences of Return Emigrants. *Working Paper*

No. 443, March.

Korra, Vijay. 2011. 'Short Duration Migration in India: An Appraisal from Census 2001, *Working Paper No. 442*, March.

Parameswaran, M. 2011. 'Financial Crisis and Kerala Economy,' *Working Paper No. 441*, January.

Beena, P.L. 2011. 'Financing Pattern of Indian Corporate Sector under Liberalisation: With Focus on Acquiring Firms Abroad,' *Working Paper No. 440*, January.

BOOK TALK



Migration, Identity and Conflict: India Migration Report 2011

As India prepares to count its citizens for the 2011 Census with a proposal for a national population register and a unique identity card for every Indian citizen, the debate

on internal migration and cross-border international migration is highly appropriate. This, the second volume in the annual series, *India Migration Report*, focuses on the implications of internal migration, livelihood strategies, recruitment processes and development and policy concerns in critically reviewing the existing institutional framework.

The essays provide a district-level analysis of the various facets of migration with a focus on employment networks, gender dimensions and migration-development linkages, with concrete policy suggestions to improve living and working conditions of vulnerable migrant workers who are a life-line to the growth of the Indian economy.

The book will serve as a resource for those in the fields of demography, economics, sociology, public policy and administration.

The volume is edited by S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair Professor, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Research Unit on International Migration, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

From the Administrator's Desk

Retirement

N. Suresh Chandran, Senior Assistant Administrative Officer and R. Sobhana, Office Assistant retired from the services of the Centre on 28 February, 2011 and 31 March, 2011 respectively. Shri Suresh joined in 1976 and during his thirty four years of service, handled various assignments in administration. Prior to his retirement he was in-charge of personnel section. He is planning to stay in Trivandrum for some more time. Ms. Sobhana joined in 1988 and since then, worked in Programme Office, Typing Pool, K.N. Raj Library and Faculty Support services section. She plans to settle down at her native place in Palakkadu.

Soman Nair

POLICY POINTERS

In her paper '**Financing Pattern of Indian Corporate Sector under Liberalisation: With Focus on Acquiring Firms Abroad,**' (Working Paper No. 440, January) P.L. Beena, observes that the Indian corporate sector has experienced a paradigm shift over the last two decades with the initiation of certain measures of financial liberalisation. This paper argues that although stock market development is expected to lower the cost of capital for Indian corporate sector, it has not played a major role as far as the actual resource mobilisation of the Indian manufacturing sector was concerned. 'Revenue foregone' through various tax concessions is found to be one of the main sources of corporate growth during liberalisation. Borrowings constituted the major component of external financing for the manufacturing sector as well as for the Indian acquiring firms abroad throughout liberalisation period. We have further observed that it is not primarily their financial muscles which enabled firms to engage in acquisitions abroad. Finally, we argue that regulation by the State through measures of corporate governance is important in order to create conditions for a desirable path of growth and development.

In his paper titled '**Financial Crisis and Kerala Economy,**' (Working Paper No. 441, January) M. Parameswaran examines the impact of the global financial crisis and subsequent global recession on export, foreign remittances, credit availability and tourism in the context of Kerala economy. Kerala is considered to be highly vulnerable to a crisis like this because of its greater integration with the rest of the world. The study shows that there are some reasons to believe that the financial crisis affected Kerala economy adversely by slowing down export and tourism in the year 2008-09 which witnessed the worst impact of the crisis.

In his paper, '**Short Duration Migration in India: An Appraisal from Census 2001,**' (Working Paper No. 442, March) Vijay Korra observes that since there is dearth of data on seasonal migrants in Census of India, the collection of information on such movements could become vital in understanding the patterns, magnitude, dynamics and economic implications of seasonal or short-term migration flows in our country. This could help law makers to frame suitable policies to deal with seasonal or circular labour movements. Secondly, there should be a call for government's intervention to tackle issues pertaining to seasonal and temporary labour migrants. Here, safe and secure working and living conditions of migrants at destinations must be the priority of the governments both State and federal.

(contd. next page)

Any such intervention should allow labour migrants free from various practices of labour exploitations from multiple agents at multiple stages. The current Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 does not help migrants because of poor implementation and monitoring. Thus it requires amendments and strengthening to ensure that migrant's basic rights are protected. Then only the safe passage of migrants between regions or States can be assured. Besides, migrants should be allowed to access government's schemes and benefits wherever they move on, otherwise they continue to be excluded from government's welfare initiatives thus remaining poor and mobile.

K. C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan in their paper '**From Kerala to Kerala Via the Gulf: Emigration Experiences of Return Emigrants,**' (Working Paper No. 443, March) suggest a few policy measures as remedies to the problems faced by return emigrants. They suggest that firstly the development of a more comprehensive pre-emigration counselling and skills up-gradation programme for prospective emigrants could prevent many of the problems which they face at home and abroad. Pre-departure counselling should include familiarising the prospective emigrants with living and working conditions abroad, acquainting them with the problems that they are likely to face when abroad and the ways and means of dealing with such issues.

Secondly, the cost of emigration is very high and increasing in Kerala in relation to the annual income of prospective emigrants before emigration. The Government should intervene wherever possible to check the spiralling increase in the cost of emigration and take measures to prevent recruiting agents and other intermediaries from exploiting the poorly educated and financially deprived prospective emigrants of Kerala. Financial support by way of loans could be very helpful for some of the aspirants.

Thirdly, with some intervention by Government, the resources that the return emigrants bring in could be used more effectively for the development of the state. In the absence of the top layer managers and entrepreneurs among the return emigrants, leadership and direction from within the state – by Government and business leaders – could help to fully unleash the potential of the return emigrants in the state. Alternately or simultaneously, top layer managers and entrepreneurs from among the migrants abroad should be persuaded through adequate incentives to establish development projects within the state, utilising the resources brought in by them and other return emigrants.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF CDS

Books

Population Transitions: Studies in Demographic Variety

N. Krishnaji,
CDS Monograph Series, 2010, pp 86,
Paperback, Rs. 90, US\$10

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