

GRFDT Virtual Panel Discussion Series **1**

COVID-19: Issues and Challenges of Migrant and Diaspora Communities

On 'International Labour Day'

Friday 1 May 2020, at 5:30 pm (IST)

Panellists	
Nandini C. Sen <i>Moderator</i>	University of Delhi, India
Brij Maharaj	University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Denison Jayasooria	Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies, UKM, Malaysia
Ashook Ramsaran	President, Indian Diaspora Council International (former President, GOPIO) New York, USA
Sadananda Sahoo	Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
Rakesh Ranjan	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
Feroz Khan	Institute for Research and Development in School Education, India
Monika Bisht	Institute for Research and Development in School Education, India



GRFDT
Global Research Forum on
Diaspora and Transnationalism

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Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

COVID 19: Issues and challenges of migrant and diaspora communities



Concept Note

On 'International Labour Day'

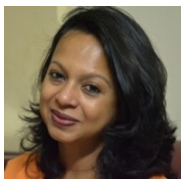
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COVID 19 and the movement of people have a very close relation. In fact the Pandemic became global as a result of the movement of the people. As of 26 April 2020, 2.9 million infected, 200,000 deaths and 837,000 recovered cases of COVID-19 were reported from worldwide. In such a high concentration rate, the pathogenic disease has become a serious and unprecedented challenge for every aspects of life, including the migrant and diaspora issues. Argument regarding the migrants and diaspora are mostly reflected in relation to their condition of survival. The increase in cases of COVID 19 has brought a halt to major part of the economy. According the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) global economy growth is seen falling to 2.4 percent whole year compared to an already weak 2.9 percent in 2019. It noted that the global economy is estimated to rise to a modest 3.3 percent in the year 2021. However, in its report the WTO mentioned the expected recovery in 2021 is equally uncertain. All these have resulted in creating deep anxiety for millions who have lost their job.

The COVID 19 has not only changed the course of migration drastically but also it have made the migration experience more vulnerable in the future. Many countries now have substantial number of Migrants and diasporas who not only contribute to their national economy but global economy as well. Against this backdrop this panel discussion will explore the followings:

1. How is the experience of immigrant or diaspora communities in various countries since the outbreak of COVID 19?
 2. What are the best policy measures in any country relating to the immigrant and diaspora communities?
 3. What are the future options for global migration?
 4. What is the experience of Indian diaspora in major destination countries such as Gulf, USA etc.
 5. What ways this entire change affect the migration and diaspora research?
 6. When we talk about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030), what are the possible roadmaps for it? COVID 19 has adversely affected the migration experience in a great way.
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Brief Biography of Panel Speakers



Nandini C Sen is an Associate Professor of English at the Bharati College, University of Delhi. She was Post-Doctoral Fellow at IAS Shimla and also served at the Cluster Innovation Centre at the University of Delhi. She has been the recipient of the Charles Wallace Fellowship to London in 2001 and 2009, respectively. She has also been the Asia Representative at the African Literature Conference in 2003 and 2009, respectively.



Brij Maharaj is a Senior Professor of geography at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. He has received widespread recognition for his research on urban politics, segregation, local economic development, xenophobia and human rights, migration and diasporas, religion, philanthropy and development, and has published over 140 scholarly papers in renowned journals.



Denison Jayasooriya is Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies, UKM, Malaysia. In March 2018 he was confirmed Practice Professor in Public Advocacy by the National University of Malaysia (UKM). He was honoured by the Yang Di Pertuan Agong with the conferment of the Darjah Panglima Jasa Negara (PJN) in 2006. In Oct 2017, the United Nations Office in Malaysia awarded him the UN Award for exceptional contributions in the promotions of SDGs.



Ashook Ramsaran, Guyanese-born, was former President of GOPIO Int'l and currently President of Indian Diaspora Council International. President and CEO of Ramex, Inc., an electronics manufacturing enterprise in New York. He has been named among the top 100 Indian Businessperson in the USA and recipient of India's Pravasi Samman Award and Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award among his many recognition.



Sadananda Sahoo is Faculty at the School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). He is working on International Migration and Diaspora and jointly editing the peer-reviewed journal "Migration and Diasporas: An Interdisciplinary Journal". He is a life member of GRFDT.



Rakesh Ranjan is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Development Practice and Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. He is also an Assistant Editor of Journal of Migration Affairs, the organizational journal of the TISS Patna Centre. He is working on the issues relating to international labour migration and Diaspora with the specific focus on West Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.



Feroz Khan is currently associated with the Institute for Research and Development in School Education (IRDSE), Modern School. He did his Master and PhD on labour issues from Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). He is an active member of GRFDT.



Monika Bisht is working with the Institute for Research and Development in School Education, New Delhi. She has completed her M. Phil and PhD from National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, India. She has been working on various issues relating to education, labour, Diaspora, international migration, exile, and diaspora philanthropy.

For detail profile of speakers, please visit www.grfdt.com

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