

Two Day International Conference

On

Migration, Diaspora and Nation Building: Opportunities and Challenges

Organized by

The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JMI with the support of

India Centre for Migration, Ministry of External Affairs &

Indian Council of Social Science Research

Venue: Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

March 7 - 8, 2018

Concept Note

Nation building primarily gained momentum after the formation of nation-states across the world due to the phenomena of nationalism and colonialism. It is an ongoing process albeit with the changing nature and characteristics of the construction and reproduction of national identity. While nation state building was intense in the aftermath of the Second World War, the engagement of Diaspora communities with their homelands was limited to the state apparatus as the nation state was defined as a sovereign, self-contained and well-defined territorial political entity. In spite of these restraints, aligning with their homelands was necessary to enhance their position as well as to strengthen their national identities in light of nationalizing host nation states on the basis of shared identity and common history of its people. Moreover, in view of the assimilation model being favored by the newly emergent nation states for modernization and fostering a national consciousness, culture and identity, Diaspora communities willingly negotiated, adapted to and appropriated the cultural elements of host nation states by retaining their cultural moorings.

Though having been perceived as ‘the other’ in the host nation states, they actively contributed to the process of nation building through viable opportunities, finally becoming a part and parcel of the national fabric. Simultaneously, they played a limited role in the process of nation building of their homelands considering the mechanisms and limitations of nation state settings during the

post-colonial era. Apart from restricted socio-economic and cultural processes, they were involved in civil wars, secessionist and sub-national movements due to failure of forging national unity among the diverse ethnic groups in the post-colonial states. Notwithstanding the restraints posed by the nation-state structures, Diaspora communities have been one of the stakeholders of nation building in their respective homelands as well as host lands, given their inherent nature of dual loyalty and a sense for belonging before the advent of contemporary globalization.

In contrast, in the current global scenario, the power dynamics of nation states have been diminished by the currents of contemporary globalization aided by the cutting-edge transport, information and communication technological innovations, leading to porous borders, rapid economic and cultural integration, and a growing inter-connectedness among nation states. There is a rise of vertical and horizontal ties of migrants or Diasporas; therefore, they live across international borders in transnational social fields. The reproduction of 'national identity' in the host nation states by the Diaspora communities is possible given the fact of intense ongoing interactions between 'global' and 'local'. Diaspora capital, which includes investments, economic and social remittances, is on the rise for the projects of nation building.

However, nation states have managed to remain relevant by controlling the processes of immigration and emigration, and by establishing transnational ties with its subjects. Though the world has entered into a 'transnational moment' and is on the threshold of 'cosmopolitanism', it has not yet embraced a post-national condition. Today, there is an increase in the identification with one's own nation state and co-ethnics, in addition to promotion of long-distance nationalism or diaspora-nationalism towards homelands due to the politics of discrimination and exclusion, demand for social justice by the marginalized, xenophobia and racialization of society as a result of multiculturalism in various nation states.

Diasporization practices like lobbying and mobilization of funds for various causes have increased manifold, thus the deepening transnationalism of Diaspora communities is the reality of the globalized world today. Further, proactive Diaspora engagement measures by nation states such as the extension of citizenship and other positive measures to leverage upon its Diaspora communities has enhanced the role of these communities in the process of nation building more than ever before.

The conference addresses the following research questions:

- 1) What is the role of Diaspora communities in the process of nation building then and now?
- 2) Why do the Diaspora communities engage in the process of nation building?
- 3) How the engagement of Diaspora communities is an opportunity as well as a challenge for a nation state?
- 4) What are the ways and means for leveraging upon the Diaspora communities?
- 5) How far have nation states succeeded in leveraging their Diaspora communities?

The proposed conference will engage in deliberations with scholars as well as researchers from across the globe in order to analyze the emerging perspectives and new approaches. In a broader sense the purposed the seminar aims to bring the contours and underlying nuances to understand the phenomenon of Migration Diaspora and Nation Building. The main outcome of the conference will be epistemological theory building for academic literature and provide many rational views. Moreover fresh insight and emerging trends are subjects of interests for many of us certainly would assist in the rethinking and reorientation of policy strategies in the future. The selected papers will be published in the book form.

The following themes, sub-themes and related themes will be taken into consideration for presentation at the conference:

A. Theorizing Migration and Diaspora

1. Meaning, Definitions and Scope-Migration and Diaspora
2. Theories and their Relevance
3. Indian Transnationalism
4. Globalization and its impact on Migration
5. Migration and Socio-Economic Development

B. Regional and Indian Diaspora

1. Historical Evidences of Migration
2. Reasons for Indian Migration to the Gulf Countries
3. Indian Migration and Remittances in the Gulf Region
4. Migration and Social Welfare Measures
5. Remittances and their Contribution: Socio Economic Dimension

C. Diaspora Engagements

1. Regional Indian Diaspora
2. Diaspora Investment and Entrepreneurship
3. Diaspora, knowledge and Technological Transfers
4. Diaspora and Social Networks
5. Diaspora and Foreign Policy
6. Diaspora Philanthropy
7. Multiculturalism and Citizenship
8. Diaspora and Cyberspace
9. Diaspora and Civil Society
10. Diaspora and Social Movements
11. Diaspora and Ecology
12. Diaspora, Human Rights and Gender Issues
13. Forced Migration, Refugees and Resettlement

D. Threats to the Gulf Migrations

1. Receding Oil Incomes
2. Localization of Work Force

E. Migration, Diaspora and Future Policies Challenges

1. Contribution of Migration in National Building
2. Challenges Ahead and Policy Initiatives

OR

Any other topic concerning the main theme of the conference especially related to the Gulf Migration.

Taking the above issues into mind, the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi proposes to organize an international conference entitled “**Migration, Diaspora and Nation Building: Opportunities and Challenges**” on 7 - 8 March, 2018 at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi- 110025, India.

Important Dates

- Last date of submission of abstract **19 January 2018**
- Notification for acceptance by email **26 January 2018**
- Last date of final paper submission **16 February 2018**
- Date of International Conference **7 – 8 March 2018**

Abstract submission Guidelines

All participants are required to submit abstract of about 300 words to ascseminar@gmail.com

Note: Accommodation and local hospitality during conference will be provided to paper presenting participants.

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