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Edited by S. Irudaya Rajan , V. J. Varghese , Aswini Kumar Nanda
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Migration, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations

Punjabis in a Transnational World

Edited by
S. Irudaya Rajan
V. J. Varghese
Aswini Kumar Nanda



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Preface

As I write the preface for this book, I am reminded of the time of establishment of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) Research Unit on International Migration (RUIM) at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in June 2006. Replicating the Kerala model of migration surveys to other states in India was one of the objectives of the research unit. I organized a workshop on migration surveys at CDS on 11–12 January, 2007, inviting senior scholars from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab. Along with Aswini Kumar Nanda and Jacques Veron, I prepared a research proposal to conduct the migration survey in Punjab with financial support from the National Institute of Demographic Studies, Paris, France and the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh.

The CDS' interest in research collaboration with another ICSSR institute, namely CRRID, in conducting the Punjab Migration Survey was reinforced with the new project that CDS undertook with the European Commission (EC). The EC project on *Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis of Migrant Transnationalism* (TRANSNET) was funded by the 7th Framework Programme for Research with multidisciplinary teams participating from Africa, Asia and Europe. The project sites included the United Kingdom, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Morocco and Turkey.

In its first meeting held at the University of Tampere, Finland, under the leadership of Pirkko Pitkänen, coordinator of TRANSNET, we decided to focus on the Punjab–United Kingdom migration corridor. V. J. Varghese of CDS closely worked with Kaveri Qureshi of the University of Sussex, United

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Kingdom, for conducting collaborative research with its local coordinator, Filippo Osella.

When the project was launched, CDS organized a workshop on *Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Migrations from Punjab to UK* on 6 April, 2009 at CRRID with support from Aswini Kumar Nanda. During the meeting, I felt the need to organize a larger meeting with researchers working on Punjabi migration and diaspora on one platform to share and reflect on their findings.

After discussions with the editors of this volume, we organized an International conference on *Migrations, Mobility and Multiple Affiliations: Punjabis in a Transnational World* partly funded by the MOIA and the EC, at CDS during 22–23 March, 2010. Though the seminar was not an agenda of the EC project, as a local coordinator of the project as well as the Chair Professor of the MOIA-RUIM at CDS, I decided to organize this seminar along with the 5th International Project Meeting of TRANSNET, at CDS during 25–28 March, 2010. Some of the project partners from Finland, Estonia, France, Morocco, Germany, Turkey and the United Kingdom along with Giulia Amaducci, the Scientific Project Officer of the EC, participated in the meeting. Most of the chapters included in the volume are an outcome of the seminar. In addition, we decided to invite a few scholars to write to fill certain gaps. After almost five years, it is a proud accomplishment to see the work in print in 2015.

S. Irudaya Rajan

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the support received from S. Krishna Kumar, founding Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Professor K. N. Nair, former Director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), for establishing the Research Unit on International Migration (RUIM) at CDS, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in 2006. The EC project was initiated when Professor K. N. Nair was the Director at CDS and his unflinching support for the conduct of the international seminar is greatly acknowledged.

I would also like to thank A. Didar Singh, former Secretary, MOIA and Pulapare Balakrishnan, former Director, CDS, for facilitating the extension of the Unit from 2011 to 2016, when the RUIM completed five years in 2011. I also take this opportunity to thank the secretary of the MOIA, Prem Narain and the Director of CDS, Amit Shovon Ray for their constant support and encouragement. The financial support received from both MOIA and EC is greatly acknowledged.

I owe much as well to the contributors of this volume to complete this work in good time.

S. Irudaya Rajan