



Department of Anthropology University of Delhi

presents a Special Talk on

Issues in Migration Studies



Dr. M.A. Kalam

Visiting Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad
Visiting Professor, International Institute of Migration and
Development (IIMAD), Thiruvananthapuram

23 August 2024 | 3:30 PM | Seminar Hall



anthro.du.ac.in

Issues in Migration Studies

Abstract

Though today human beings are found all over the world, and in outer Space too at times, we do not, in general, think much about their origin and spread. The aspect of spread, which principally means migration, gets explained by the Out of Africa theory. Migrations ensue due to different reasons and the triggers are diverse in different cases and in varied geographical and socio-cultural contexts. Along with spatial mobility, aspired upward economic mobility is a concomitant and, more often than not, a dominant factor in migrations. Though, at times, a perceptible economic gain may not seem to be present in spatial mobility, there definitely cannot be, at least in terms of expectations, any sort of downward economic mobility. Migrations involve moving from one place to another, be the place a village or town or city, or in some cases even another country, and entails a degree of residence over a period of time in the place moved to. Also, permanent residence in the migrated to place cannot be ruled out in migrations.

Kin, caste, religion and village ties, play significant roles in facilitating migrations. “Networking” plays a big role in migrations and the aspect of “Jump Factor” comes into play due to this. Once a group of people has lived and settled down in the place migrated to, for a period of time and has reached a significant level of reproduction, that is, when it has touched a “Critical Demographic Scale”, structures, ideas, and institutions prevalent, or which prevailed at the time of a group’s migration, in its erstwhile home get established in the new place.



Professor M.A. Kalam

Dr. M.A. Kalam is Visiting Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. He was the founding Dean (Administration and Regulatory Affairs) and Professor of Anthropology, at Krea University. Before that, he was Professor of Eminence at Tezpur Central University, Assam, and Professor and Head of Department of Anthropology, and Chairperson (Dean) at the School of Social Sciences, University of Madras. He was Rockefeller Resident Fellow at Duke University, Human Rights Fellow at Harvard University, and Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow at the London School of Economics. Besides, he was a Visiting Professor at Universities in France and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

Dr. Kalam’s doctoral research was on Family and Land Tenure among the Coorgs (Kodavas) in Karnataka. He has undertaken anthropological fieldwork among South Asians in England, the USA and France. He has been a consultant to ministries of the government of India, DANIDA, and NACO. Currently he is on the Board of Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation. He was a Governing Council Member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). He also served as a Member of the Expert Group on Diversity Index, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

Dr. Kalam continues to publish extensively, not just academically, but also in newspapers/news portals and periodicals. He has been a keen sportsman and has represented his college, university and state in Football, Hockey, Cricket and Athletics. He has also served as a qualified cricket umpire for the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA). was President of the Gwyer Hall Students Union in Delhi University. He has participated in the TV rounds of the BBC Mastermind Quiz. He has won the UNESCO Photography Prize for Asia and the Pacific.