



RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

Annual Report

2013-2014

RGICS's Profile: Vision and Mission

Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS) was set up in 1991 as an independent policy think tank. The institute has evolved in the last three years significantly contributing to the domain of public policy. The building stones and heart of RGICS reflects the vision of our late Prime Minister Sri Rajiv Gandhi.

In the last two years RGICS's focus was mainly towards addressing the challenge faced by the nation, that is, the undemocratic processes of public policy decision making. But gradually the vision of the institute broadened reflecting on the relationship between politics and social change towards a just society.

RGICS's Vision: A Society based on Constitutional Values

RGICS's Mission: Social Change and Politics

RGICS implements this vision through four channels:

- (1) Enhancing policy capacity of political leaders – current and future;
- (2) Developing next generation systems, protocols and institutions for democratic policy development and implementation, integrating four inputs essential for “good” quality policy: (i) democratic voice; (ii) data; (iii) domain expertise; and (iv) consistency with non-negotiable principles/values (e.g., Constitutional principles).
- (3) On the demand side, enhancing public awareness of policy issues; and
- (4) Reducing the “voice imbalance” in the policy space by enhancing the capacity of representatives of marginalized sections to participate in the policy space.

Organisational Structure

The year 2013 saw expansion of RGICS also in terms of new recruits. Employees with good academic record and valuable experience have been employed as Fellows, Associate Fellows, Knowledge Management Coordinator, Senior Research Associates and Research Associates. Six young scholars have been selected as Rajiv Gandhi -Research Assistants to Legislators (RG-RALs), the second batch.

Along with the size, the Institute's organisational structure has been systematically clubbed under three broad groups namely, **the Governance cluster, the Economics Cluster and the Social Cluster**, each headed by a domain expert and consisting of researchers qualified in the subject. Whereas each team has exclusive research projects to take care of, they also work together on cross cutting topics of social, economic and political significance.

During the period (April 2013-March 2014) RGICS successfully produced and delivered its standard knowledge products and services, and also completed few research projects, organised several seminars, workshops, study visits to slums and villages and organised visits to various constituencies in and outside Delhi during the 16th Lok Sabha Elections.

Open Manifesto Consultation

- **Manifesto Consultations:** Between December 2013 and March 2014, RGICS organised a series of meetings with various vulnerable groups like ex-servicemen, farmers, children, women and other socially excluded groups for the Indian National Congress Lok Sabha Election Manifesto, 2014. RGICS helped facilitate this historic attempt to write a manifesto which reflects the real voices and concerns of citizens. RGICS also conducted issue based consultations on Governance, Environment, Jobs and Employment, Transport and Energy, Commerce and Industry, External Affairs and North Eastern Region.

- **Preparation of Sub-Manifesto:** A team of researchers from RGICS was rigorously engaged in the preparation of the draft sub-manifesto. In the preparation, in-depth study and analysis of various academic reports, journals, articles, draft legislations, committee reports were done to identify key issues for the manifesto.



- **Comparative analysis:** The manifesto team of RGICS also did a detailed comparative study of the manifestoes of leading political parties of India for internal use.

Please find the detailed list of Manifesto Consultations in the Annexure attached.

Advisory Services for Political Leaders

- **Policy Briefs:** More than 100 policy briefs have been prepared for the Members of Parliament on challenging issues of social, economic and political significance.

Please find the detailed list of Briefs in the Annexure attached.

- **Seminars for youth organisations:** Series of monthly seminars were organised for members of political youth organisations on significant socio-economic issues such as Food Security Bill, the National Food Security Ordinance, Women’s Rights held in Gauhati and Assam, to name a few.

Knowledge Products

- **Report on “Socio-Economic Status of Two Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Rae Bareli and Amethi: An Empirical Overview’ prepared:** This report is an outcome of the compilation and estimation of the vast set of secondary information on these two districts of Uttar Pradesh. It covers the dimensions of demography, economy, infrastructure and political set-up of these two districts of UP. The report has made a trend study for Rae Bareli since 1990s, whereas for Amethi, the study is only for post 2010 period, as the district was created in 2010. The report has been prepared by a team from Economics Cluster.

- **Three project reports prepared and submitted by Dr. Rakhee Bhattacharya:** Three project reports have been completed and submitted , now under the review and publication process , are

- Regional Development & Policy Challenges in India, June 2013
- Economic Opportunities for the Marginalised Communities in India: A case of *Koli fisher folk* community in Maharashtra, October 2013
- Regionalism: Issues & Concerns on India, December 2013

- **Policy Watch:** In the period April 2013 –March 2014, 39 Policy Watch Issues have been published and disseminated to political representatives. A special edition of the **50th Issue** was also published during the period.



- **Policy Database:** A compilation of over 3000 policies of all the Ministries of the Central Government critically analysed according to RGICS’ ‘six pillar frame’, to test their strengths and weaknesses.

- **Blog:** Acknowledging the importance of social media in dissemination of information and knowledge, RGICS has created English and a Hindi Blog. Interesting articles on policy issues written by the RGICS researchers are uploaded regularly, targeting wide audience including academicians, political representatives, students, civil society organisations, NGOs. Visit blog: <http://rgics.blogspot.in/>



- **Website:** RGICS has revamped its old website, and a new website has taken shape, to be launched soon.

- **RGICS Bulletin:** First of its kinds, RGICS has prepared a bulletin containing articles, case studies, reports, book reviews written by RGICS scholars . It is soon to be printed and distributed as both hard and soft copy.

Research Projects and Seminars

- **Conference on “Regional and Regionalism: Issues & Challenges” :** In this conference, papers on issues related to Telengana, Uttar Pradesh , North East and Jammu and Kashmir were discussed by academicians on 26th June 2013. Authors have submitted their papers and final report is also submitted.



- **Seminar on “Social Movements in Contemporary India”:** The social movement project completed its first phase of discussion of the papers at the seminar held in October 2013. Post the conference the authors have been sent the revised papers. The papers are now being edited to be made ready for publication.

- **“Rights-Based Approach to Human Development: Issues and Challenges of Policy-Making” :** The Rights Based Approach (RBA) project concluded in September , was a culmination of a year long project where authors were identified to write on several aspects of the RBA and post their submission of the first draft the conference was held. The second phase of the project was decided in a meeting held in May 2014- a publication has been planned.

- **Project on “Declining Sex Ratio”:** Concept note has been developed, followed by a seminar that was held in April 2014 on the Declining Sex Ratio. The concept note is gradually taking shape in the form of a research project.

- **“Theoretical Understanding of Democratising Public Policy Decision Making Processes”:** A Round Table discussion was organised, where views of distinguished professors were presented on the subject.

Study Visits and Research

- **Slum visits:** Researchers visited slums including Nithari, Rohini, Seemapuri (Indra Nehru Camp and Sarhadpuri Camp) to understand existing governance issues in those areas like availability of civic amenities, public education and health care, property rights, women's issues and their safety net, access to information and social benefits and the extent of corruption.



- **SHG model study visits:** RG-RALs were sent to Rae Bareilly, UP and Bhagalpur, Bihar to study the Self Help Group (SHG) Models being operated in these areas by RGMVP and SEWA. RALs have made presentations on these two field trips at RGICS.

- **Constituency Observation Studies:** During the pre- Election period, the RG-RALs were sent to various constituencies in Delhi, Jabalpur, Kasargode, Imphal, Mandasaur and Bangalore to understand how policy issues emerge and are addressed in an electoral campaign, and whether these policy issues reflect the voices and needs of those areas and local people. RALs have made presentations on their field trips at RGICS. All six reports are submitted to the director, RGICS.



Internal trainings and brainstorming sessions

- **Training Programmes for RG-RALs:** Training programme for the second batch of RG-RALs was organised to give them an overview of the vision and mission of the organisation and direction on their roles and responsibilities.
- **Meeting with the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET):** The Institute was represented by INET President Robert Johnson also a Senior Fellow and Director of the Global Finance Project, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, New York and Dr. Berglof, Chief Economist, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Institute supports a fundamental shift in economic thinking through research funding, community building, spreading awareness about the need for change, and encouraging free and open economic discussions.
- **Brainstorming Sessions:** In the spirit of engaging into discussions and policy debates, the Institute has invited distinguished guests like Mr. Trideep Shaurya, Mr. Murli Neelakanthan, Global General Counsel of Cipla, Ms. Anchal, a representative from an NGO, to share their perspectives and discuss significant policy issues with the researchers at RGICS.

Way Forward

RGICS is committed to continue its work in the same direction based on its mission for social change and politics. It will continue to emphasise studies on several marginalised communities in India and with the goal for equality, liberty and freedom for all.

Annexure

Annual Calendar April 2013- March 2014

23-May- 2013	Monthly Seminar on Women Rights for Youth leaders	
25-June- 2013	Monthly Seminar on Women Rights held in Gauhati, Assam, attended by representatives of youth organisations	
09-July-2013	Seminar on Food Security Bill for political representatives	
11-July- 2013	Monthly Seminar-The National Food Security Ordinance, participated by political leaders.	
16-29 July- 2013	Training Program for RG-RALs 2nd Batch	
26-July- 2013	Conference on Region and Regionalism: Issues & Concerns Papers on following issues were discussed: 1. Telangana Issue 2. Uttar Pradesh Issue 3. North East Issue 4. Jammu & Kashmir	Prof. B.S. Butola, Prof. Harjit Singh, Prof. Srinivasulu, Prof. Bhupinder Zutshi Prof. Jagpal Singh
13-Aug-2013	Seminar on Women Rights held in Cuttack for youth organisations	
5-Sept- 2013	Conference on Rights Based Approach to Human Development: Issues and challenges of policy-making	
10 October 2013	Slum Visits by RGICS researchers	
16-18 October 2014	SHG Field Visits by RG-RALs	
30 October 2013	Conference on “Social Movement in Contemporary Studies Five Authors presented their paper with following titles: 1. The Gulabi Gang’s Struggle for Justice: Vigilante Group or a Social Movement? 2. The Changing Contours of the Politics in Kashmiri	Attended by: Dr. Jens Rudbeck Ms. Sarbani Sharma Dr. Sushree Panigrahi Dr. Shilp Shikha Singh Dr. Shoma Choudhury Lahiri Approx 65 People participated in the conference including Political

	<p>Movement: Ideas, Practices & Responses</p> <p>3. RTI Movement: A Sociological Analysis</p> <p>4. Resistance, Articulation and Politics: Social Movement among the Musahar Community</p> <p>5. Politicizing Nature: Role of Scientists in Environment Movements :</p>	leaders
28-Jan-2014	Policy Watch 50 th Issue released	
3 rd March 2014	Round Table Discussion - Theoretical Understanding of Democratizing Public Policy Decision Making Process	
Between March-April 2014	Constituency Observation Studies	

List of Open Manifesto Consultations

Manifesto Consultation on Social Exclusion	7-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on External Affairs	10-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Transportation and Energy	12-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Children's Issues	4 -Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Ex-servicemen	12-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Commerce and Industry	30-Jan-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Jobs and Employment	26 -Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on North East	19-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Environment	21-Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Democracy	3-Mar-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Governance	5 - Feb-2014
Manifesto Consultation on Farmers	11-Feb-2014
Mahila Congress Meeting	4-5 March-2014

Briefs Prepared: Brief analysis, background papers (issue briefs/ legislative briefs/ policy briefs) were prepared for MP's on various issues /topics as listed below:

	Title
1.	Women's Rights
2.	Kerosene Allocation to TN
3.	PRI in TN, Kerala, AP, Karnataka
4.	Women's Rights in NE
5.	The National Food Security Bill
6.	Time Series Analysis of key Economic, Social and Governance indicators of West Bengal
7.	Drug Abuse in Arunachal Pradesh
8.	1998 Election Age Analysis
9.	Food Security Bill for Uttarakhand
10.	Comparison b/w Food Security Act & Annapurna Scheme
11.	Registration of Births & Deaths Amendment Bills
12.	Food security - benefits to citizens (Uttar Pradesh)
13.	Schemes of Panchayati Raj Ministry
14.	Emergency Response Service System (HRHM)
15.	Comparative analysis of MGNREGA
16.	NREGA in TN, Kerala, AP, Karnataka
17.	Multi-Sectoral Development Programme
18.	Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Amendment Bill
19.	Non Performing Assets in Banking Sector
20.	Asset Analysis -2009 Election
21.	Rupee Depreciation: Macroeconomic Instability in India

22.	Need of Reservation for Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians
23.	Youth and Social Media in India
24.	NDA vs. UPA: Performers of Key Factors of Social and Economic Development
25.	Key Facts Comparisons: NDA vs. UPA Governments
26.	Water Contamination in Malwa Region (Punjab)
27.	Parliamentary Questions
28.	Piracy Bill, 2012
29.	Forest Rights Act
30.	Vocational Training and Skill Development Policy Transformation in India
31.	Urban Street Vendors Bill 2012
32.	Urban Street Vendors Bill 2012
33.	Multi-state Cooperative societies Bill
34.	Marriage Laws(Amendment) Bill 2010
35.	Key Messages: NDA vs. UPA Performances
36.	Role of PRIs
37.	Concept note on Democratising Public Policy Decision Making
38.	Judicial Appointments Commission
39.	JNNURM
40.	MGNREGA IN TAMIL NADU, KERALA, KARNATAKA AND ANDHRA PRADESH
41.	MGNREGA IN IDUKKI AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
42.	EDUCATIONAL TRIBUNALS BILL, 2010
43.	Women's Rights in Orissa
44.	Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012
45.	Centre- state financial relation for BIMARU states in India: Case of Bihar
46.	Centre-State Financial Relations in West Bengal
47.	Kasthurirangan report Western Ghats

48.	Land Acquisition
49.	Registration of Births and Deaths Amendment Act
50.	Comparison of scholarships for SC/ST community during NDA period and UPA period
51.	UIDAI
52.	External affair ministry, parliamentary questions
53.	Revival and modernisation of the Bell metal and Brass-work industry (component of small scale industry) in Assam
54.	Parliamentary Questions
55.	Non Performing Assets
56.	Summary : Marriage laws amendment bill-2013
57.	Summary of observations and recommendation-Supreme court commission on extra judicial killings in Manipur (Jan-2013)
58.	Drug Abuse in Arunachal Pradesh
59.	Unemployment in Arunachal Pradesh
60.	Corruption in Arunachal Pradesh
61.	Students / Youth interaction
62.	Political participation of Women in Assam
63.	National waterway-(Lakhipur –Bhanga stretch of the Barak river) Bill, 2013
64.	Rectification /Inclusion of communities in ST category in India
65.	Mid day meal scheme: Assam
66.	National Food Security Act: Status of implementation -Assam
67.	National Food Security Act: Status of implementation –Arunachal Pradesh
68.	Doubling of Railway tracks-Assam
69.	Implementation of Railway Projects-NE
70.	Inter-state border dispute-NE
71.	Whistle blowers protection bill
72.	NER Background paper –IYC and NSUI-NE conference
73.	Discussed parliamentary questions: NE, Assam

74.	Discussed parliamentary Assam, Railways
75.	Discussed issues –Challenging NE and Arunanchal Pradesh
76.	Discussed issues –Challenging –NE and Manipur
77.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , Assam
78.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , and Mizoram
79.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , and Arunanchal Pradesh
80.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , and Assam
81.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , and Assam
82.	Discussed issues challenging –NE , and Manipur
83.	Street Vendors bill
84.	Administrative Tribunals Amendment Bill'
85.	Brief on Pre-Budget analysis
86.	The Right Of Citizens For Time Bound Delivery Of Goods And Services And Redressal Of Their Grievances Bill, 2011
87.	Key socio-economic development indicators of Gujarat
88.	Women's Reservation Bill
89.	Issues facing North Mumbai and the probable solutions for them
90.	Prevention of briefing of foreign public officials Bill, 2011
91.	Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill' 2010
92.	Unemployment allowance in India
93.	Policy Recommendation on Forest Rights Act
94.	Prevention of Corruption Amendment Bill, 2013
95.	National Water Way Bill, 2013
96.	Warehousing, Corporation Amendment Bill, 2011
97.	The Controversy over BPL
98.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme : Current Status
99.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme : UPA-II
100.	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2013

101.	UPA-NDA comparison on selected social indicators
102.	Sex Ratio Analysis 1991 to 2011
103.	Literature review on Conditional Cash Transfer schemes for Girl Child in India
104.	Citizenship Amendment Bill' 2011
105.	Performance of PGMSY in Nagaland
106.	Performance of Critically Sponsored Scheme- in Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram