

Proposal for establishment
Of
“ Research Wing for Immigration Research”

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1. Background:

The recent influx of Asian migrants in New Zealand has created a unique environment in this country. Since early 1990s the Asians started to choose this country as a popular destination for immigration. Now more or less 50 percent of the total immigrants were from the Asian countries. Where as only 31 percent were from traditional sources like Europe, North American and South Pacific. Various settlement issues have arisen due to this new immigration trends. A need for research in this particular field is being realized. In alignment with the mission statement of *Bangladesh New Zealand Friendship Society (BNZFS)* this proposal is being made to start a research wing under the name of “*Center for Migration Research (CMR)*” to investigate various immigration and settlement issues in New Zealand. The center will collaborate and coordinate research on key immigration issues arising over the recent years and work towards identifying various settlement solutions for the migrants deciding to settle in New Zealand.

2. Mission Statement:

“ To realize the diversification of New Zealand community and accommodate research to develop solutions to adopt to the change.”

3.Operational plan:

3.1 Management issues:

The center will act as a coordinating body to collaborate research. It shall fund various researches in immigration issues and collaborate to publish research findings for the benefit of public living in New Zealand. The Center shall work for research in the following key fields;

- Migrant settlement issues.
- Immigration trends in New Zealand.
- Effects of cultural diversity.
- Migrant health issues.
- Investment trends in business migrants in New Zealand.

A Director who will be appointed by the EC committee of BNZFS shall lead the center. He shall lead a group of researchers known as *Research Associates*. One of the research associates will be appointed as the *Research Coordinator* by the director of the center, who will be responsible for collaborating research both intra and inter organization.

The following persons have shown their interest in collaborating their research;

i) Dr. Ekramul Hoque

PhD, MPH_{Auckland}

Currently working as a research fellow at the University of Auckland. He is interested in immigration issues and is actively involved in various activities related to migrant communities.

ii) Rubaiyet Hasan Khan

GradDipSci in Biological Sciences^{Auckland} BSc(Hons)^{India}

Currently working at the University of Auckland and pursuing a MBA degree he is involved with research in settlement needs and investment behavior of the immigrant community in New Zealand.

iii) Mrs Aloka Maitra

Currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Auckland. Her area of interest includes the field of Asian Health. By profession she is a statistician and she is also involved in various migrant community organizations.

3.2 Finance:

The center shall work as a research wing of *BNZFS* and will report all financial transactions to the elected treasurer through its director. The director shall also pursue funding from various sources like the Central government, local government, academic institutions and private organizations having interest in key immigration issues.

3.3 Quality Control:

The center will deem for excellence in its work. Various quality control mechanisms such as *Editorial body, Ethics approval committee etc* will be put into place. Only the able and persons with common research interest will be invited to join the research group.

4. Marketing and advertisement issues:

The Center shall heavily depend on the peer communications to market itself. The center will advertise itself on the *BNZFS* web site and publish online articles on the web site.

The center will publish occasional papers based on the research that they accommodate and a yearly report will be published and circulated among the interested parties to market the achievements of the center.

5. Critical issues:

- The researches carried out from this center will be dependent on the funding from various resources. So funding is a critical issue for this center.
- Also maintaining quality is another critical factor for the success of the center.
- Maintaining a good pool of researchers consistently.
- Maintaining good coordination between the collaborating researchers.

6. Conclusion:

The paradigm shift in the immigration behaviors is a very recent phenomenon for New Zealand. A literature survey indicates very little research has been done up till now. An institutional body like *CMR* will provide the appropriate platform to develop a strong understanding of these issues. Since *BNZFS* aspires for sound settlement of the Bangladeshi immigrants in New Zealand a research wing like *CMR* will help *BNZFS* in achieving their mission successfully.