

CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002



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The annual report reflects the health of an organization. We are pleased to present to our well-wishers CCD's first annual report for your perusal and suggestions.

CCD is an academic centre meant to harness the knowledge of the social sciences to the service of the society of Gujarat, more specifically to its disadvantage sections, i.e. the minorities, tribals, Dalits and women. Knowledge is power and sharing knowledge is an effective means to empower the poor. The Centre's field of activities will limit itself to research, documentation, evaluation, training and relevant interventions.

Background

The choice of Vadodara was obvious. Major research institutes are operating at Ahmedabad and Surat but Central Gujarat does not have any such institute. Vadodara is geographically central and is connected by road, rail and air. It is also known both nationally and internationally for it is the home of the Maharaj Sayajirao Geakwad University. A large number of NGO's are active in Vadodara and CCD could provide research support to them too. Also XTI campus had a vacant building that was offered to CCD. The building was renovated and some reconstructing was done, drains were cleaned, plumbing and electrical wires were totally renewed, new furniture was bought and set up and fencing around the building was done. A separate Trust was registered for CCD with noted scholars and activists as its members.

Objectives of Centre

- Study of socio-cultural processes in Gujarat
- Strengthen civil society
- Promote religion as a progressive force in secular society
- Highlight the role of culture in poverty reduction
- Foster participatory action in development

Focus of the Centre

- Conflict resolution
- Interface between culture and economic development
- Issues related to minorities, tribals, dalits, women, children, urban and rural poor
- Discriminations in Gujarat that violate human rights

Inauguration

On May 1, 2001 the building was occupied and CCD was inaugurated with 70 persons participating in the ceremony.

On July 14, 2001 a one day inaugural seminar was organized for scholars, activists and others on “issues related to development and deprivation in Gujarat”. More than 20 scholars and activists participated. The inaugural address was give by Prof A.M.Shah (retd.) Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. A presentation was made by Mr. Achyut Yagnik a noted activist from Gujarat. The sessions were chaired by Prof Bandukwala another activist from Baroda. Prof Sujata Patel, Pune University presided over a tentative research agenda for CCD. “Arthat”, a quarterly journal in gujarati of The Centre of Social Studies, published a report on the outcome of this workshop (Vol. 20, No. 4, October – December 2001, pg 61-66).

Consultants

- Mr. Amit Mitra
- Dr. Harshit Sinha
- Ms. Rashmi Mathias
- Mrs. Juin Dutta

Activities undertaken by CCD

1. Workshops

- “Globalisation and its Impacts” (June 10, 2001) CCD, Baroda. This workshop was organized for the sisters of the Daughters of the Cross working in the state of Gujarat. 17 sisters participated in the workshop drawing out the implications for their work at the grass root.
- “Social Identity of Christian Youth in Hindutva Context” (August 5, 2001) Rosary Cathedral, Baroda. A group of 150 youth of Baroda participated in a day - long workshop. In the first session Dr. Lancy Lobo gave inputs on the above mentioned subject. In the second session Dr Lancy Lobo moderated the panel discussion on “Christian Youth and Education”.
- “Evaluation of the Community of Faith” (November 8, 2001) Bardipada, South Gujarat. 50 missionaries of South Gujarat participated.

2. Lectures and Talks

- “Globalisation and Hindu Nationalism: Challenges for Jesuits” (May 26, 2001) at Premal Jyoti, Ahmedabad.
- “Research support and social intervention among tribals of South Gujarat” (July 26, 2001) at Vyara, South Gujarat.
- “Globalisation” – a sociological perspective” (August 24, 2001) M. S. University, Baroda for the post graduate students and faculty of Sociology Department, M. S. University, Baroda.
- “Some observations on tribal issues in South Gujarat” (September 6, 2001) at Zankhvav, South Gujarat.
- “Deliberations on Dangs and its dynamics”(September 27, 2001) at Deep Darshan,Ahwa.
- Thakors of North Gujarat- some observations.”(September 29, 2001) at Unteshwari, Kadi, North Gujarat.
- “Insights from the study of Thakors of North Gujarat” (February 23, 2002) at Sanand, North Gujarat.
- “Globalisation, Hindu Nationalism and Christians in India” (March 4-15, 2002), at Gujarat Vidyadeep, Ahmedabad to the theology students.

3. Publications

Books

- Co-authored with Biswaroop Das, “**POOR IN URBAN INDIA**” – A study of slums in a city in Western India (Jaipur : Rawat Publications), 2001.
- “**GLOBALISATION, HINDU NATIONALISM AND CHRISTIANS IN INDIA**” (in press, Jaipur : Rawat Publications)
- **CONVERSIONS AND SOCIAL MOBILITY IN CENTRAL GUJARAT** (under preparation).

Articles

- “Brahminical social order and Christianity in India” (ed) S.M.Dahiwale, Sociology Dept. Pune University, Pune (forthcoming)
- “Jati ane Vansh”in Dalit Samasya Jagat Chokma, (ed.) Martin Macwan and Chandu Mehriya, Vadodara : Parivartan Trust , 2001
- “Gujaratma bhukampnu komvadikaran : ek avalokan”, Arthat, Vol.20, No. 3, July – September 2001, pg 118 – 124
- “We belong to Bharat not Hindustan”,Communalism Combat, Jan – Feb 2002, pg 40 – 42
- “Social construction of caste and race”, IIC Newsletter, Vol. 52. No.1, January 2002, pg 2-3
- “Gujaratma vikas ane vanchittane sambadit muddao”, Arthat, Vol. 20, No.4 , October – December 2001, pg 61-66
- “Persecution of Christians in India” DIALOG, A journal of Theology (U.S.A.) (forthcoming)

4. Refereeing Manuscripts

Refereed a manuscript on “CHRISTIANS IN INDIA” for Sage Publishers, Delhi.

5. Consultancy

- “Sex – determination and female foeticide in Gujarat” study by Sahiyar, Baroda.
- “Urban health sector reforms in Cambodia” (September 12-18, 2001) Cambodia.
- “Survey of village utilities” Sangath, Modasa
- “Alternative text books for 5th, 6th, 7th, standards in Gujarati”, Shishu Milap, Baroda.

6. Participating in Workshops and Seminars

- Presented a paper “Caste, race and dalits – A note” at a national seminar on Dalits, Identity and Mainstream, August 29 – 31, 2001, in Centre for Social Studies, Sutra.
- “Interdisciplinary perspectives and social science research on women’s health: WOHRAC ’s experiences” September 26, 2001, Baroda.
- “International network of Jesuit Social Centres on Global Economy and Culture”, October 1-7, 2001, Regional meeting at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore.
- “South Asian assistancy conference of Jesuits”, October 22 – 28, 2001, Goregaon Seminary, Mumbai.

7. Visits by Scholars and PhD students

A number of scholars and students from Universities visited CCD and availed its library facility as well as guidance.

Ph.d. students:

- i. Sengar Bina Kumari ,M.S.University, Baroda
- ii. Kuriakose Mananthil, CMI Provincial House, Saurashtra Univ.P.O.
- iii. Tony Dias, National School of Law, Bangalore
- iv. Maggie Alesu, Polytechnic School, Bharuch

8. Current Projects

i. Evaluation of Missionary Interventions in Tribal South Gujarat.

Catholic Missionaries have been initiating developmental activities for tribals of South Gujarat for the last forty years. These interventions are in the areas of education, health, social action, legal aid as well as faith formation. They deal with women, children, youth and migrants in six districts of South Gujarat. The evaluation project has four stages. The first deals with a self - evaluation by the missionary personnel themselves. The second deals with eliciting the perceptions of beneficiaries. At the third stage these will be reported in a composite document. Finally, a workshop will be held for the missionary personnel. The first part of this project is in progress. A core - group has been elected by the missionaries for close interaction with the researchers and evaluators. This first part consists of a comprehensive questionnaire with four parts to be filled in a month’s time. This questionnaire was finalised and pre-tested prior to giving it to the respondents. The participation and response rate to the questionnaire has been very good indeed. Data processing and analysis are underway.

ii. Spatial Spread Patterns of Communal Riots in Gujarat – A Temporal Analysis

With the rise of Hindutva and other communal forces at the macro level there have been various manifestations of such processes at several places in the country. Since last two decades, Gujarat has perhaps experienced the rise of Hindutva and the related fundamentalist forces more than other states in the country. Much of the recent developments in the state can be traced back to the 1990s and later the ascendancy of the BJP as a political party in the state. The Godhra carnage and its aftermath are seemingly manifestations of such complex processes. The present enquiry is aimed at mapping the changing patterns of communal riots within the state at two points of time especially within the larger context of the rise of Hindutva and other related fundamentalist forces in the state. Specifically the study is aimed at 1) plotting the locations of communal riots over the state in its urban and rural areas at two milestone time points viz., one, 1992 and two, 2002. 2) mapping the changing patterns of the riots and their intensity in terms of damages 3) having ascertained the patterns attempt to work out the causatives of such varying patterns. 4) based on the analysis carried out suggest some pointers regarding the trajectory of communal conflicts in the future.

iii. Ddehzado records of Baroda State.

Census of the Baroda State (Dehzado) are unique as they have listed for every village and town a classification of population according to sex, religion, caste and tribe. These records provide a unique opportunity to study the horizontal dimension of caste and tribe with their actual geographical spread. They also help in studying relations between caste/tribe and village, caste/tribe and urban centres in the regional context. Dehzado records will enable us to test various hypotheses such as jajmani system, self-sufficiency of the village, rural-urban network, dominant caste, concentrations of religious minorities and their co-existence with Hindu castes and tribes etc. An examination of the above will throw light on many theoretical issues of all India nature and help correct nations about caste, tribe, village, city, religion and region. Baroda state had four districts in different parts of Gujarat. This will enable us to generalise for the whole of Gujarat.

Projects in the pipeline

- i. Status report on the tribals of Gujarat
- ii Statistical compendium on the tribals of Gujarat
- iii Hinduisation and politicization of tribals in Gujarat
- iv Development and violence in Gujarat

Persons to be especially thanked

Mathew Kochupura
Aubrey D'Souza
Sharon Wilkinson