

# CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003



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Registered as a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act at Vadodara.

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## Introduction: Aims and objectives

CCD is an institution established in 2000 with the main aim of doing research in social sciences as well as on current issues of social, cultural and political significance, with particular reference to Gujarat. CCD is an academic centre meant to harness the knowledge of social sciences to the service of Gujarat society, more specifically, its disadvantaged sections-the minorities, the tribals, the 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, evaluation, training, and relevant interventions. It also aims at carrying out studies and publishing literature with an activist orientation from time to time. The general objectives of CCD are the following: 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 and foster participatory action in development.

The specific focus of CCD is the following: Conflict resolution; interface between culture and economic development; and discriminations in Gujarat society that violate human rights.

This is the Second annual report of CCD's activities. A major activity during this year was completing the legal formalities to register CCD as a Public Trust with the Assistant Charity commissioner, Vadodara.

## **Infrastructure**

Baroda is geographically central In Gujarat and is connected by road, rail and air. CCD is located on the XTI campus, two K.M.s on the periphery of Baroda (now Vadodara) city in a green rural area. The campus contains huge trees and greenery and is relatively cooler than the city. CCD is housed in its own building. It was renovated and some reconstruction was done. Presently the building has the following facilities: administrative block on the ground floor, and academic block on the first floor. The administrative block contains an air-conditioned conference room with a seating arrangement for 25 persons.

It also houses the library, which contains more than 2000 volumes on social sciences and a large collection of newspaper cuttings, articles and reprints. The library also has 25 journals. The library is computerized and is easily accessible to the users. CCD is developing a comprehensive website which will make our library accessible online. Professor A.M. Shah, retired professor of Sociology, Delhi University has donated his life-long collection of books (600), reports (90), reprints (1200), back volumes of some journals, and rare books on Gujarat to CCD library. Among the donated books are classics in sociology and anthropology. This donation has greatly enhanced the worth of CCD library for its users.

The library is user-friendly and accessible on the website of CCD. Books have also been donated by others such as Professor S.P. Punalekar, and Dr. Manubhai Macwana.

CCD has a modest guesthouse with an attached kitchen for visiting scholars.

### **Trustees of the CCD**

- Provincial of Gujarat Jesuit Province (President)
- Prof. A.M. Shah, Retd. Professor of Sociology, University. Delhi, now residing in Vadodara.
- Dr. J.S. Bandukwala (M.S. University, Baroda)
- Fr. Francis Parmar (Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad)
- Dr. Ishanand Vempeny (Indologist, Ahmedabad)
- Dr. Mathew Kalathil (Sociologist, Lawyer, Chhotaudepur)
- Dr. Stany Pinto (Sociologist, Surat) (Treasurer)
- Prof. Lancy Lobo (Director and Secretary)

### **Consultants to CCD**

- Mr. Amit Mitra
- Dr. Harshit Sinha
- Mrs. Juin Dutta

### **Staff of CCD**

- Dr. Lancy Lobo (Director)
- Amba Gamit (Office Assistant)
- James Vegas (IT Documentation Officer)
- Immanuel Gohil (Attendant-cum-Driver)

### **Activities undertaken by CCD during 2002- 03**

#### **Workshops organized by *Lancy Lobo* at CCD**

1. "Status Report on the Tribals of Gujarat" (August 17, 2002). This was a preparatory workshop to chalk out details for bringing out a volume on the subject. Twelve scholars had an open discussion and then worked out a broad framework, and identified sources of information, persons, methodology, presentation, and dissemination issues.
2. "Assembly Elections and Aftermath: A Review" (December 28, 2002). Ten scholars and activists participated in a half-day discussion on what has happened during Gujarat elections, why it has happened, implications of BJP coming to power for minorities, points for research and action, and an assessment of our capability.

3. Half a day workshop for 25 M.A. Part I students of the Department of Sociology, M.S.

University of Baroda was conducted on 30.1.2003. It was part of their assignment regarding a first hand field exposure to a research institute. Apart from tracing the origin and trajectory of research institutes in India, it focused on CCD and on the importance of empirical fieldwork in social research.

#### **Workshops conducted outside CCD by *Lancy Lobo***

“Tribals under Exploitation and Terror” for village level youth activists in tribal areas, at Jeevan Darshan, Baroda. (October 3-4, 2002).

“Tribals under Exploitation and Terror” for fifty tribal youths of St. Xavier’s College, Ahmedabad. (October 15, 2002).

“Globalization and its Dimensions” for twenty Sisters of the Dominican Order, at Kawant, Baroda Dt. (15th November 2002).

#### **Lectures and Talks given by *Lancy Lobo***

“Fascism in Gujarat and the Forthcoming Assembly Elections” at Vyara on August 31, 2002.

“Fascism in Gujarat and the Forthcoming Assembly Elections” at Bhiloda on September 19, 2002.

“Fascism in India and Possible Responses by Catholic Pastors” at Jeevan Darshan, Baroda, for the National Pastoral Meeting of Jesuits, on September 24, 2002.

“Youth and Social Empowerment in the Context of Gujarat” at Rosary Cathedral, Baroda for the first convention of Indian Catholic Youth Movement, from 13 parishes of Baroda diocese, on November 24, 2002.

#### **Visiting Professor**

As visiting professor Lancy Lobo gave 30 lectures on “Social Bases of Popular Religion in Gujarat” to III Year Theology Students of Gyana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad, October 1-15, 2002.

#### **Publications by *Lancy Lobo***

##### **Books**

*Globalization, Hindu Nationalism and Christians in India, Jaipur and New Delhi: Rawat Publications.* Pages 240, Price Rs. 450/-.

Given the widespread atrocities in the past few years on Christians in India, this book seeks explanations by examining the position of the Christian minority group within the fast changing

socio-economic milieu of the subcontinent. It argues that marginalization of the minority groups through legitimization of a reductionist religio-economic model, which has been on the rise. It attempts to highlight the nexus between globalization and Hindu nationalism. It responds to anti-Christian cognitive model propagated by Hindutva ideology. Finally, it suggests ways in which Christians in India can come to terms with the situation.

**(With Jayanti Macwan), *Shoshan ane Atankni Aagma Adivasio*, (in Gujarati) Vadodara: Centre for Culture and Development.**

In Gujarat society the adivasis were the last to be communalized. The process of communalization began in the early 1990s and continued during 1997-2000 with atrocities committed on adivasi Christians. The post-Godhra riots completed the cycle of communalisation of the entire adivasi belt. This book aims at exposing the Sangh Parivar's design of diverting the adivasis, attention from their real issues to non-issues. This book is useful to trainers, NGOs, adivasi leaders at village levels, students, *mahila mandals* and adivasi organizations. Pages: 100, Price: Rs. 25.

This book went into three reprints of a thousand copies each in three months and was well received by adivasis, college and university students and teachers, Muslims, Christians and Bahujan Samaj.

### **Articles**

"Persecution of Christians in India", *DIALOG, A journal of Theology* (USA). Vol. 41, No. 2 summer 2002, pp.144-122.

"Adivasis, Hindutva and Post-Godhra Violence in Tribal Gujarat", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXVII, No.48, Nov. 30, 2002, pp. 4844-4849.

"Tolerance of Violence in Gujarat", *Oyster*, Nov. 2002, Vol.5, No.2, pp. 6-10.

"Tribal Consciousness in India", *Satyaniyam*, Journal of Intercultural Philosophy, Chennai, Vol. 2, August 2002, pp. 94-100.

"Fascism in India: A Pastoral Response," *The Third Millennium*, V (2002) 4, pp. 74-82.

### **Mimeo**

"Fascism in Gujarat", for Jesuits of Gujarat Province as well as diocese of Ahmedabad".

"What Kind of a Gujarati is He, Who is only a Political Hindu"?

With Lucy Macwan, "Violence in Vadodara: A Report. Fact- finding after Godhra carnage in Navayard" (PUCL Report).

## **Review**

T.K. Oommen and Hunter P. Marby, *The Christian Clergy in India. Vol. I: Social Structure and Social Roles*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2002. 375 pp. In *Contributions to Indian Sociology (n.s)* 36, 1&2 (2002), pp. 411-413.

## **Participation in Workshops and Seminars by Lancy Lobo**

Spoke on “Tribals and Gujarat Violence” at a workshop on “A dialogue on Present Day Political Crisis and its Impact on Democracy”, June 21, 2002, at Jeevan Darshan, Vadodara, organized by Olak.

Presented a paper, “Adivasis, Hindutva and post-Godhra Civil Society in Gujarat” at a workshop on “Character of Civil Society in Gujarat”, at Centre for Social Studies, Surat, August 29-30, 2002.

Presented a note on “Globalization and Culture: Rise of Hindu Fascism in India” at an international conference on “Globalization and Cultures: from the Perspective of Developing Countries” at Santa Clara University, California, USA, November 7-10, 2002.

Participated in a discussion on “Development and Deprivation in Gujarat”, a book release in honour of Jan Breman and a subsequent discussion on “The Problems Gujarat Faces Today” at Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad on November 30, 2002.

Submitted a paper on Tribal identity and Nationalism in Gujarat at a seminar on “ Region, Realm and Culture: The Identity of Gujarat and Identities in Gujarat” on 9-11 January 2003, at Department of History, M.S. University of Baroda.

## **Visits by scholars and PhD students**

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

## **Current projects at CCD**

### **Assessment of the Impact 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 impact assessment project has four stages. The first deals with a self-

evaluation by the missionary personnel themselves through an elaborate questionnaire. The second deals with eliciting the perceptions of beneficiaries through Focus Group Discussions. At the third stage these will be reported in a composite document. Finally, a workshop will be held for the missionary personnel. The project is in its third stage. The missionaries for close interaction with the researchers and evaluators have elected a core -group.

### **Spatial Spread Patterns of 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 the last two decades, Gujarat has 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 particularly 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., 1992 and 2002, (2) Mapping the changing patterns of the riots and their intensity in terms of damages, (3) Having ascertained the patterns, attempt will be made to work out the causatives of such varying patterns, (4) Based on the analysis carried out, some pointers will be suggested regarding the trajectory of communal conflicts in the future. The project is at the report writing stage.

### **Dehzado Records of Baroda State**

The Censuses 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, and 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 representing four different parts of Gujarat. This will therefore enable us to generalise for the whole of Gujarat. Data entry is in progress.

### **Photo Documentation**

CCD has a big collection of photographs on the tribals, which were taken by Mr. Amit Mitra and Lancy Lobo on their field tour of 45 villages of the six districts of South Gujarat. It also has a large number of slides on the tribals of Dangs district donated by Fr. Antony Maila, and a small collection of photographs on the Christian shrines of Gujarat by Jyothi Francis. These are being scanned, edited and classified thematically. These will be later uploaded on the CCD website, so that the users may have easy access.

### **Projects in the pipeline**

- Status report on the tribals of Gujarat
- Statistical compendium on the tribals of Gujarat

### **Persons to be especially thanked**

-  Fr. Valentine De' Souza
-  Fr. Cyprian Andrade