

Centre for Culture and Development



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XTI Campus, Sevasi Post, Vadodara 391 101 (India)

Telephone: +91-265 2372001 Tele Fax: +91-265-2371354

E-mail: drlancylobo@yahoo.com • centreforculture@gmail.com

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Thirteenth Annual Report 2013-14



About CCD

CCD is an institution established in 2001 with the main aim of doing research in social sciences on issues of social, cultural and political significance, with particular reference to Gujarat. It is an academic centre meant to harness the knowledge of social sciences to the service of Gujarat society, particularly its disadvantaged sections, and more specifically, minorities, tribals, dalits, and women. The specific focus of CCD is on conflict resolution, the interface between culture and economic development, and social discrimination violating human rights. The Centre's field of activities includes research, evaluation, training, and relevant interventions. It undertakes research projects and publishes literature, with an activist orientation when required.

Infrastructure

CCD is located on the XTI campus, two kilometers from the periphery of Vadodara city, in a rural area surrounded by greenery. Baroda (now Vadodara) is geographically central in Gujarat, well connected by road, rail and air. The campus is lined by huge trees and is somewhat cooler than the city. CCD is housed in its own building. The digitized library houses more than 6,500 volumes in social sciences, and a large collection of articles and reprints, making a total of about 10,000 entries and newspaper clippings. The library subscribes to 30 journals. The Centre has a laser printer and copier, seven computer systems, and a K-yan projector with computer for training courses and workshops. It also has a modest guest house which can house ten guests with moderate comforts. CCD has a dynamic website: www.ccdgujarat.org.

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The Board of Trustees met on November 15, 2013 at CCD. They appreciated the activities mentioned in the annual report of 2012-13.

Research Advisory Committee

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Lectures, Symposia, Workshops arranged at CCD

1. International Seminar on “**Tracking the Growth of India’s Middle Class**” on November 27-28-29, 2013 at Centre for Culture and Development. Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi.

A three day international seminar on "Tracking the Growth of India's Middle Class" was held on November 27-29, 2013. There were 28 paper presentations with a key note address by Dr. Ashok Lahiri, former Director, Asia Development Bank, New Delhi. Prof. M. N. Panini (retired) Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi, delivered the Valedictory address. An edited volume of select papers in underway. A brief summary of the seminar is posted on CCD's website, www.ccdgujarat.org as also a 15 minute video.

2. National Seminar on “**Religion, Secularism and the Shifting Goalposts of Democracy in India**” on March 8, 2014 at Centre for Culture and Development. Sponsored by ICSSR, Western Regional Centre, Mumbai.

The one-day seminar on the above topic took place with 55 participants from Western India consisting of scholars, activists, and students of theology and multiculturalism on 8th March 2014 at CCD. Heads of several different religious groups invoked blessings at the inaugural session, and then Dr. Rudolf Heredia kick-started the seminar with an erudite keynote address. Papers and discussions covered how different religions have coped with secularism and democracy and the kind of challenges they have faced. A brief summary of the seminar is posted on CCD's website, www.ccdgujarat.org as also a 15 minute video.

Lectures and Participation in Workshops and Seminars by Dr. Lancy Lobo

1. Gave a course of 15 lectures on “Socio-Religious Canvas of Gujarat” for the third year Theology Students at Gujarat Vidya Deep, Sevasi, Vadodara on October 21-25, 2013.
2. Presented a Paper on ‘False Images of Tribals: A Challenge for New Evangelization’, on October 29, 2013 at Silvassa.
3. Made a presentation, “Understanding Collaboration in Lay Collaboration” at an international conference at St. Xavier’s college, Ahmedabad on 25-27th Feb. 2014



Publications

Books

1. Lancy Lobo, Mrutujanaya Sahu and Jayesh Shah (eds.), *Federalism in India: Emerging Issues*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur (in press).
2. Lancy Lobo and Jayesh Shah (eds.), *Democracy in India: Current Debates, Institutions and Emerging Challenges*, Primus Publications (forthcoming).
3. Lancy Lobo and Jayesh Shah (eds.), *The Trajectory of India's Middle Class: Economy, Ethics and Etiquette*, London: Cambridge Scholars Publications (forthcoming).

Books under Preparation

1. Changing Character of Religion in Gujarat
2. Visual Panorama of Religions in Gujarat
3. Forests and Tribals' Livelihood: Their Changing Character in Gujarat (1947-2007)

Articles by the Faculty of CCD

- Bharati, Kanchan, 2014, "Tracking the Middle Class", *Indian Currents*, Vol. XXVI, No. 2, 6-12, January, pp. 34-35.
-, 2014, "Religion, Secularism and Democracy: The Shifting Goalposts" *Indian Currents*, Vol. XXVI, No. 13, 24-30 March, pp.8-9.
- Lobo, Lancy, 2013, "Treading a Different Path", *Indian Currents*, Silver Jubilee Special Issue, October, pp. 51-52.
- , 2013, "Democracy: Strengths and Flaws", *Indian Currents*, Vol. XXV, No. 14 & 15, 1-7 & 8-14 April, pp. 22.
- , 2014, "Land Acquisition and Displacement among Tribals, 1947-2004", in Shah, Amita and Jharna, Pathak (Eds.), *Tribal Development in Western India*, New Delhi: Routledge, pp.285-309.
- Shah, Jayesh, 2013, "Udarikaran ane Vaishvikikaranna Vayrama Bharatno Madhyam Varg" (in Gujarati), *Neerikshak*, No. 2, 16th January, 2014, pp. 9-11.

Completed Projects

Changing Family and Marriage among Hindu and Christian Wankars of Central Gujarat

This study deals broadly with the family and marriage among the Catholic Christians of rural and urban central Gujarat, with a special focus on the problem of divorce. Family is the seat of emotional, relational, ritual, legal and property owning unit. It is also the production and reproduction unit. Catholic leaders, elders, and religious heads have shown much concern over the rise of divorce rates among the Catholics. Moreover, duration of marriage itself has become short. The social situation of the Catholics is complex because they were converts from the Hindu Vankar caste which was lower in the caste hierarchy.

CCD took four villages and four urban sites in central Gujarat, collected primary as well as secondary data, and has analysed the problem and arrived at a few overarching conclusions as well as specific findings and recommendations.



Three overarching observations emerge from our study:

1. The Catholics have a higher number of structural continuities with Hindu Vankars than discontinuities. The grammar of their society remains greatly intact though more in rural than in urban areas. Marriage rules of the *paragana*, (endogamous unit) and obligations to kinship network remain somewhat intact, especially in rural areas.
2. One notices that greater cultural changes have crept among Catholics though more in urban areas. Their dress, diet, and demeanour have changed and are more westernized, especially among the middle classes.
3. Increasing individualism may be a by-product of the conversion to Christianity. Caste and kinship rules are no longer as binding; higher literacy, phenomenon of economic status differentiation, late age at marriage, employment and economic independence of women, and communication/entertainment technology have all contributed to the higher incidence of divorce.
4. Causal explanations of divorce among Catholics have been tabulated.

Recommendations are made for parents, couples, and religious organizations and suggested that workshops may be arranged to raise awareness among different stakeholders.

Current Projects

1. Longitudinal Election Studies in Vadodara District of Gujarat

CCD has decided to carry out empirical studies on elections in a few rural and urban sites in Vadodara district at various levels, viz., Village Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Taluka and District, Assembly and Parliament.

The objective of these longitudinal studies is to provide the relative strength of individual and group behaviour and orientations in Gujarat politics which may have long lasting impact on regional as well as national politics. More specifically, they attempt to throw light on the nature, extent and limits of different caste and community voting, as well as individual voting as an effective factor in electoral behaviour. The other factors considered are character of party organization, effective booth management, ideological appeal, and issue of development, and personal incentives to the voters. Are primordial ties, e.g., religion and caste, still influencing the pattern of voting behaviour of the individual voter? To what extent individuals are voting as individuals transcending caste and creed? To what extent Indian democracy has matured as far as electoral behaviour is concerned? These are some of the questions which we would like to investigate in this study by getting down to the booth level voting analysis.

We have studied the following sites:

- a. Five election wards comprising part of Vadodara (East) of Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) (Ward No. 5, 6, 7, 17 and 19) out of total 25 election wards in VMC
- b. All twelve election wards of Dabhoi Municipality
- c. All election booths of Taluka Panchayat Seat of Jetpur-Pavi Taluka for Jabugam Village
- d. All election booths of District Panchayat Seat of Vadodara District for Jabugam Village
- e. All election booths of Taluka Panchayat Seat of Padra Taluka for Vadu Village
- f. All election booths of District Panchayat Seat of Vadodara District for Vadu Village



The first study was begun with the “Booth Level Voting Pattern in Vadodara Rural and Urban Sites in the Taluka Panchayat Elections of 2010”.

The second study engaged with the “Assembly elections held in Gujarat state in 2012”.

Now the third study viz., CCD has planned to carry out the study in the same sites after elections for the Lok Sabha.

Drs. Jayesh Shah, Kanchan Bharati and Lancy Lobo are conducting this study. It is funded by ALBOAN.

1. Urban Transformation and Social Change in Gujarat: A Study of Villages on the Periphery of Vadodara City (1961-2011).

The urban areas in India have been experiencing demographic, environmental, economic and social changes since the last two decades. Given that the changes in the fringe areas have been complex and multifaceted, an analysis of more than just demography and land use is required. Its impact on local culture, social relations and religion is only fuzzily understood. The processes of change are most vicious in the vicinity of urban fringes.

The main aim of this project is to study intensively the fringe villages as well as the villages that have become part of the city boundaries, with particular reference to the city of Vadodara in Gujarat. We would like to have a detailed study on the growth of fringe settlements, nature of housing, land use pattern, occupational structure, traditional social structure, fringe village's governance, and continuity and change in old settlements, to capture the overarching impact of urbanization. This study will be conducted in selected villages in and outside Vadodara city for the period between the years 1961 and 2011.

We plan to concentrate on social structural as well as cultural changes in the select villages, and the nature of transformation from one category to the other. We shall also study inclusive rural-urban development policies. What policy and programme interventions are needed to facilitate or strengthen various institutions to forge dynamic rural-urban links between different communities and sectors will also be investigated.

Drs. Kanchan Bharati, Jayesh Shah and Lancy Lobo are carrying out this project. It is funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi.

2. Journal of Anthropological Society of Bombay 1886-1936

As part of our interest in the history of sociology and social anthropology in India, the Centre for Culture and Development has undertaken a project to study *The Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay* established in 1886. We have acquired photocopies of all issues of the journal from 1886 to 1936--a total of about 120 issues from 15 volumes. We got them from many different libraries in India and abroad.

Our next job is to carry out an intensive analysis of these issues and to study the contribution made by the Anthropological Society of Bombay and its journal to anthropology and sociology. In fact, our aim is to show how India contributed significantly to world anthropology and sociology since at least 1886.

The journal includes articles on all branches of anthropology: theory and method, physical anthropology, prehistoric archaeology, linguistics, social and cultural anthropology. They cover ethnography of a number of structures and institutions, such as religion, kinship, marriage, folklore, customs, etc. Interestingly, there is a series of articles on suicide in Bombay for a number of years. The journal covers not only different parts of South Asia (i.e., India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) but also many other parts of the world. They also cover various religions: Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Parsi religion, Tribal religion, and so on.



Our plan is to go through all the articles, classify them according to dominant themes, and then place the articles of every particular dominant theme into a volume, along with an Introduction. We then make these volumes available to scholars. But, for the present we wish to focus on analysis, classification, and documentation. We aim to produce manuscripts of five or six volumes on different themes with publication of these volumes in our plan as mentioned below:

- Book 1 - Theory Concepts
- Book 2 - Physical Anthropology
- Book 3 - Archeology and History
- Book 4 - Suicide
- Book 5 - West Asia and North East Africa
- Book 6 - Far East and South East
- Book 7 - Indian Society and Culture
- Book 8 - Parsi Society and Culture
- Book 9 - Residual
- Book 10 - Islam in India

Professors A.M. Shah and Lancy Lobo are carrying out this project assisted by Dr. Ragini Shah.

Persons to be especially thanked:

1. Mr. Harsit Sinha, Vadodara, who has donated a few back volumes of two journals to CCD library, viz., 1) Journal of Social Science and Medicine, and 2) Studies in Family Planning.
2. Mr. Alfred D'Souza from Mangalore donated Rs. 10,000/- to CCD.



YEAR IN PICTURE

International Seminar on “Tracking the Growth of India's Middle Class” on November 27-28-29, 2013



National Seminar on “Religion, Secularism and the Shifting Goalposts of Democracy in India” on March 8, 2014

