

# Centre for Culture and Development



## **Centre for Culture and Development**

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**Visit us at - [www.ccdgujarat.org](http://www.ccdgujarat.org)**

**Sixteenth Annual Report 2016-17**



## 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, reprints, making a total of about 10,000 entries, and newspaper clippings. **Professor Y. A. Parmar of South Gujarat University, donated around 50 books, articles, reports and documents in English and Gujarati to CCD library during this year.**

**‘Maganbhai and Usha Desai Collection’ in CCD Library:** 2000 books and 500 hundred documents have been donated to CCD library by Mr. Maganbhai Desai's daughter. Desai, a Barodian, who was a committed Marxist-Leninist had passionately collected all his life these volumes on secular ideologies, viz., communism, socialism, Marxism, fascism, capitalism and also other literary classics. The donor has also donated cupboards to house this collection which is known now as ‘Maganbhai and Usha Desai Collection’. With this the CCD library has now nearly ten thousand volumes mostly related to social sciences.

The Library subscribes to 30 journals. The Centre has laser printers 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 8 guests with moderate comforts. CCD has a dynamic website: [www.ccdgujarat.org](http://www.ccdgujarat.org).

## Board of Trustees

Fr. Francis Parmar S.J., Provincial of Gujarat Jesuit Province (President).

Prof. A.M. Shah (Retired Professor of Sociology, Delhi University, Residing in Vadodara).

Dr. J.S. Bandukwala (Retired Professor, M.S. University, Baroda).

Dr. Stany Pinto (Sociologist, Bhiloda) (Treasurer).

Vakil Thomas Parmar (Advocate, Vadodara).

Dr. Robert Arokiasamy (Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad).

Prof. Lancy Lobo (Director and Secretary).

After 15 years of CCD's existence, its Board appointed a two men committee consisting of Professors Ghanshyam Shah and Ambrose Pinto for evaluation of CCD. The Board of Trustees held an Extraordinary meeting for discussing the CCD Evaluation Report on June 27, 2016 at CCD. The resolutions were as follows:

The Board decided to accept the report. The Board welcomed the appreciation, in the report, of the strengths of CCD, especially the quality and quantity of CCD's output, including books and the national seminars held at regular intervals in the last 15 years, despite the paucity of financial and personnel resources.



The Board asked the Director to try to implement the following recommendations of the report.

1. Explore the possibilities of enhancing the financial support to CCD.
2. Explore the measures to strengthen CCD's relations with Jesuit and Church organisations.
3. Reformulate suitably the document of vision and mission of CCD, based on its experience of the last fifteen years.
4. Reformulate the role of Research Advisory Committee, and increase its membership.
5. Expand the Board of Trustees by having another Jesuit and a well known female social scientist.
6. Add competent academic staff with appropriate remuneration.

The Board also met on March 4, 2017 and approved of the proposed budget for 2017-18.

#### **Research Advisory Committee**

Prof. Priyavadan Patel (Retired, Political Science Department, M.S. University, Baroda).

Prof. Biswaroop Das (Retired, Centre for Social Studies, Surat).

Dr. Stany Pinto (Social Activist and Trainer, Bhiloda).

Dr. Nandini Manjrekar (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai).

Dr. Lancy Lobo (Centre for Culture and Development).

#### **Director**

Prof. (Dr.) Lancy Lobo

#### **Faculty and Research Staff**

Affiliate Professors:	Prof. Biswaroop Das Prof. Priyavadan Patel
Research Associate:	Dr. Kanchan Bharati
Research Associate:	Mr. Dhananjay Kumar
Consultant:	Dr. Jayesh Shah

#### **Administrative Staff**

Office Superintendent:	Ms. Amba Gamit
Office Assistant:	Mr. Champak Vasava
Research Assistant cum Driver:	Mr. Soma Vartha
Library Assistant:	Mrs. Priyanka Gamit
Attendant:	Mrs. Sayna Vasava

#### **Seminars/symposia/workshops arranged at CCD**

1. National Seminar on "Moving Towards Equitable Health System in India: Key Issues and Challenges" at Centre for Culture and Development on May 6-7, 2016. Funded by ICSSR, New Delhi.

This two-day seminar on the above topic took place with 45 participants. There were 16 papers presented, with an inaugural address by Prof. Ghanshyam Shah (retired Professor, JNU), and panel discussions with well known medical doctors and social scientists.

2. National Seminar on "Legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Analysis and Appraisal" was held on December 1-2-3, 2016. It was funded by Nirman Foundation and ONGC, Vadodara.

This three-day national seminar on the above topic took place with 50 participants. There were 24 paper presentations, with an inaugural address by Lord Bhikhu Parekh (an eminent political theorist in Britain). Preparation for an edited volume of select papers is underway.



### **Lectures and Participation in Workshops and Seminars by Faculty**

1. Lancy Lobo gave a talk at the workshop on “Who are the Poor?” at Nadiad on 19.11.2016.
2. Lancy Lobo gave a talk on “Character of Hinduism in India” at Ahmedabad on 01.11.2016 for foreign students.
3. Lancy Lobo gave a course of 15 lectures on “Socio-Religious Canvas of Gujarat” for the first year theology students at Gujarat Vidya Deep, Sevasi on 05.12.2016 to 10.12. 2016.
4. Lancy Lobo moderated a session during the Province Sammelan for Jesuits on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Rosary School, Vadodara, on “Collaboration with Sisters”.

### **Publications**

#### **Books**

1. Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah. 2017. *Forests and Tribals' Livelihood: Their Changing Character in Gujarat (1947-2007)*, Delhi: Concept Publishing Company Ltd.
2. Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah (eds.). 2017. *Democracy in India: Current Debates and Emerging Challenges*, Delhi: Primus Publications (in Press).
3. Shah, A.M. and Lancy Lobo (eds.). *ESSAYS on SUICIDE and SELF-IMMOLATION. Indian Anthropology, 1886-1936*, Vol. 1. Delhi: Primus Publications (in Press).
4. Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah (eds.), *Legacy of Nehru: Analysis and Appraisal*, Delhi: Manohar Publications (in Press).
5. Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah (eds.), *Religious Demography of India: Myths and Realities*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications (in Press).
6. Lobo, Lancy and Kanchan Bharati, *Marriage and Divorce in India: Shifting Concepts and Changing Practices*, Delhi: Manohar Publications (forthcoming).

**A Coffee Table Book was artfully designed and brought out covering the activities and achievements of CCD during the last fifteen years of CCD.**

#### **Books under Preparation**

1. Changing Icons and Icons of Change in the Religions in Gujarat: An Outline for a Kaleidoscopic Presentation of Gods, Goddesses and Shrines in Gujarat
2. Visual Panorama of Religions in Gujarat
3. Explorations in East and South-East Asia
4. The Parsees: Their Traditional Culture and Society

#### **Articles by the Faculty of CCD**

1. Kumar, Dhananjay & Mishra, Niharranjan. 2016. “Traditional Technology and Cultural Adaptation to Mountain Ecosystem: A Case Study in Himalayan Village”, *The Oriental Anthropologist*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 37–49.
2. Kumar, Dhananjay. 2016. “New Agrotechnology and Traditional Agricultural Knowledge: Some Anthropological Reflections from Tribal India”, *Asian Journal of Social Science and Humanities*, Vol. 6, (iii & iv), pp. 1–7.
3. Kumar, Dhananjay and Dhiraj Kumar. 2016. "Dalit Children Dropout in Schools: Need for Inclusive Curriculum", *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, Vol. 8, No. 2. SAGE Publications: 124–35. doi:10.1177/2455328X16631053.
4. Kumar, Dhananjay. 2016. "Exploring Linkages between Agrotechnology and Public Health, with Emphasis on Health Risks", in *Public Health: Different Dimensions*, Bhavna Verma and Anil Kumar Chaudhary (eds.), Varanasi: Kala Prakashan, pp. 172–86.
5. Kumar, Dhananjay, & Mishra, Niharranjan. 2017. "Caste Hierarchy and New Agrotechnological Practices: Some Anthropological Thoughts on Western Uttar Pradesh", *Man in India*, Vol. 97, No. 2 (forthcoming).



6. Lobo, Lancy. 2016. "Sacred Cows vs Unholy Politics: Terrorising Dalits in Gandhi's Gujarat", *Indian Currents*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 31, 01-07 Aug., pp. 19-21.
7. \_\_\_\_\_. 2016. "Maturing of Democracy at the Grass Roots: Evangelization and Democracy", *Third Millennium*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, July-Sep., pp. 51-56.
8. Shah, A.M., Lancy Lobo and Shashikant Kumar. 2017. "Population, Ethnicity and Locality: A Study of *Dehzado* Records of the 1881 Census of Baroda State", *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol. 66, No. 1, January-April, pp. 1-21.

## Current Projects

### 1. Suicidal Trends and their Socio-economic and Psychological Determinants in Gujarat: A Pilot Study of Vadodara District.

The rising trend of suicides in recent times is making it a major cause of concern for the society as well as for policy makers. Though Suicide is a personal act, there are internal and external factors that determine the suicidal behaviour. It is a multi-factorial phenomenon, influenced by several mutually interacting psychological, social, economic, biological/psychiatric, cultural, and environmental factors. Suicidal deaths and their patterns are thus a reflection of the prevailing social set up and of mental health status of the individual. Since causes of suicide are found in the social set up itself, increased incidence of suicide shows that something has gone wrong with the society. Moreover the phenomenon of suicide is not confined to a particular region or community or to any given period, but its appearance varies from region to region and from time to time. In such circumstances, there is a necessity to look at the magnitude and pattern of suicidal deaths as well as to understand the ways that shape the options available to people in different contexts to end their lives.

Unlike research studies on suicide for different states of India, there exist no specific study on the state of Gujarat based on social demography and mental health of the citizen of the state. This is of concern as in 2015, Gujarat reported 7,246 suicides, with the suicide rate of 11.6 per one-lakh population against the national average of 10.6 per one-lakh population. Considering that by and large, suicide as an area of research has remained aloof from the purview of intellectuals, the present study is undertaken to look at the trends and tendencies of suicidal deaths with their socio-psycho-economic determinants in the state and specifically in Vadodara District.

The study includes both secondary and primary data. The details of suicidal deaths were gathered from different secondary sources, that include National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB), and Crime Analysis Unit, CID, Gandhinagar. These secondary sources provided details of suicidal deaths in the country, the state, and the district (police station wise). For the primary case studies, data is collected from the hospital records (SSG, Vadodara) as well as from the police stations of Vadodara rural and city.

The study report comprises of five chapters, of which two chapters are already written. Presently, we are working on Chapter III, which looks at the suicidal scenario in Gujarat state. For the fourth chapter, 50 case studies of suicide from Vadodara rural and urban are being conducted simultaneously, with the help of interview guide/checklist. Of these 50, 30 are successful suicide cases and 20 are attempted ones. Newspaper documentation on suicides has been going on. Moreover, the work is reviewed through peer review meetings with Prof. Biswaroop Das and the project team comprising Prof. Lancy Lobo, Dr. Jayesh Shah and Dr. Kanchan Bharati, from time to time. Every meeting is centered around the discussion on the work done, course correction, and identifying pending tasks. This study is funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi.



## 2. Indian Anthropology, 1886–1936.

*Indian Anthropology, 1886–1936*, is a series of volumes based on articles published in the *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay* over a period of fifty years. About 750 articles have been classified volume-wise, according to certain broad themes, for this series. The various volumes of the *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay* contain a valuable record of the formative period of anthropology in India, almost forgotten today. Published by a learned society formed by the English-educated literati of Bombay, the journal provided a view of anthropology that was different from the one provided by the colonial government institution, Ethnographic Survey of India (later renamed as Anthropological Survey of India). While the latter was concerned mainly with tribal communities in India, the former covered a variety of societies and cultures, primitive and civilized, all over the world. About 130 authors, from India as well as several other countries in the world, contributed to the *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay*. By re-issuing them in this series, we hope to help craft a more comprehensive view of Indian anthropology.

Of the several volumes we have planned, the first volume is, *Essays on Suicide and Self-Immolation*. It includes essays on suicides in Bombay, written even before Emile Durkhiem, the eminent French sociologist wrote his famous book on Suicide. Professors A.M. Shah and Lancy Lobo have written the Introduction, and Professor Ashis Nandy has contributed a Foreword to this volume. The second volume is *Explorations in East and South-Eastern Asia*, for which Professor Patricia Uberoi, a distinguished scholar of Chinese society and culture, is writing a Foreword.

We are now working on two more volumes on Parsees, their religion, traditional culture and society. In all there are about 34 papers on this subject in the journal. We have classified them into two parts: (1) papers concerned with society and culture in relatively modern times, i.e. around 1886-1936, and (2) papers based on ancient texts of Parsee religion and culture. Professors A.M. Shah and Lancy Lobo are the Series Editors for Primus publication, Delhi. Dr. Ragini Shah has been helping in the editorial process.

## 3. Longitudinal Ethnography of Elections in Vadodara District of Gujarat.

The research study on “*Longitudinal Ethnography of Elections in Vadodara District of Gujarat*” has three levels, viz., local, assembly and parliamentary elections. Our team studied 2010 local body elections, 2012 assembly elections for the state of Gujarat, and 2014 parliamentary elections. The study included booth-wise analysis of votes polled, 2012 assembly elections for the state of Gujarat, and 2014 parliamentary elections. In 2015 local body elections, we studied civic awareness and political participation and ethnography of elections. For every election the sites remain the same, viz., Vadu, a multi-caste village in Padra taluka; Jabugam, a tribal village in Bodeli taluka; Dabhoi, a medium town; and two areas of Vadodara city (old and second). This is to find out the variations among rural and urban; caste and tribal; town and city.

A Research Associate and a Research Assistant each had been employed during the year. Field investigators were hired and trained for the period of twenty days for primary data collection, using a questionnaire for local elections. We had done data analysis based on gender, caste, religion, literacy level and economic class. We had prepared a detailed polling booth wise analysis based on different levels and variables.



Data processing and data analysis for the last local body elections are under process. Analysis of ethnography of elections is also under process. We will compare the results of the three levels of elections once data analysis work is over, and come out with findings of this study.

Jayesh Shah is carrying out this study under the guidance of Professors P.M. Patel and Lancy Lobo. Alboan has financially supported this study.

### Completed Projects

#### 1. Study of Social and Political Structure of a Gujarat Tribe.

There is a serious lacunae in the study of the tribal social structure, i.e., family, kinship marriage, lineage and political organization. By and large Indian anthropologists have studied the culture of the tribes but not their social structure. The present study may prove significant in filling the lacunae in the studies on tribals, thereby highlighting their *Samaj*, rather than their *Sanskriti*. The main objectives of this study are to give insights into the internal social organization of the tribe, such as household, family, lineage, clan, kinship networks, and marriage rules.

CCD took two adjacent villages of Gamit tribe of Tapi district of south Gujarat, and collected primary data in three phases of field work extended over four months. To begin with, a household census of each village was taken. Later the genealogical charts of household, family, lineage, clan and kinship networks were drawn. And then spread of consanguinal and affinal kinship networks were traced. Finally, we constructed the patterns of kinship and affinity that link up individuals and groups in different neighbouring villages in an extensive network of mutual rights and obligations. A few overarching findings are:

In both the villages, the medium sized, simple households predominate over large, complex households. There are very few single member households. There is less chance of two married brothers with children sharing the same household.

1. Eight clans name exist in the two villages which are: Deh/Desai, Gavli, Kunwar, Malavi, Rawut, Salavi, Chawadhari, and Sinh. The Kunwar Kul has highest 69 percent of households. While at the same time, 26.4 per cent of households are not able to recall their clan name. All the clans seem to rank equally, as there is not hierarchy. Clan exogamy is not strictly adhered, to and clans are merely notional.
2. The Gamits acquire mates mostly in three ways: (i) marriage by negotiations (*Vorad/lagn*); (ii) Marriage by service of Ghar Jamai (*Khandadiya*); and (iii) Marriage by elopement. The elopement marriages are socially recognized after the return of the couple and resolution of conflict by the village elders.
3. Nearly 70 per cent of bride movement, including incoming and outgoing, has been within the range of 0-20 kms from the two villages. After that, one finds decreasing bridal travel as the distance increases. Further the majority of the bride movements, 82 per cent, occur mainly in Songadh and Vyara Talukas.
4. If we plot the movement of bride and *Khandadiya* (uxorilocal marriage) in concentric circle, making these two villages as epicentre, then we find that farther from the centre we move the fewer the marital networks found.
5. Three categories of kinship found among the Gamits, viz., consanguinity (blood relative), affinal relationship (relationship by marriage), and fictive kinship (societal kinship).



7. The rule of cross-cousin marriages (*Mama* and *Fuchi*) seems to have been previously widespread, as observed in the genealogies, with a preference for the matrilineal cross-cousin marriage. The relationship of mother's brother with his sister's children is different to that of his brother's children. They use the single term for all male children - *Janvaha* (which is used in the case of daughter's husband) and for all female children - *Vovlihi* (which is also the case of son's wife).
8. The Gamits do not strictly follow village exogamy rule.

This is the first empirical study planned by CCD in the series of studies of 30 tribes of Gujarat, by taking a village which has a majority of the people belonging to a specific tribe. When our studies on most of the tribes are done, we would like to tease out the underlying principles, rules, norms, values and structures on which the tribal society is based, as well as the changes creeping therein.

Lancy Lobo and Dhananjay Kumar carried out this exercise with guidance by Professor A. M. Shah. ICSSR-Mumbai has partially supported this study financially.

#### **Evaluation done by Lancy Lobo**

1. Status of Shantiniketan School, Zankhvav

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

Prof. Y.A. Parmar  
Prof. Biswaroop Das  
Prof. P.M. Patel

## **YEAR IN PICTURES**

### **‘Maganbhai and Usha Desai Collection’ in CCD Library**



**Shri Maganbhai & Shrimati Usha Desai**



# YEAR IN PICTURES

## Group Photos of Seminars

*Moving Towards Equitable Health System in India:  
Key Issues and Challenges*



*Legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Analysis and Appraisal*





# YEAR IN PICTURES

## National Seminars

### *Moving Towards Equitable Health System in India: Key Issues and Challenges*



### *Legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Analysis and Appraisal*



### CCD's Coffee Table Book Launched by Professors Bhikhu Parekh, Ghansyam Shah, Lancy Lobo & Mr. Rohit Kumar

