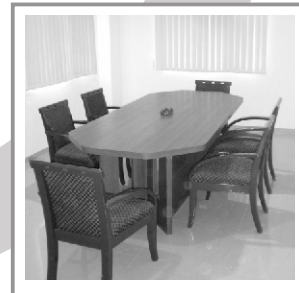


# Centre for Culture and Development



## Centre for Culture and Development

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Nineteenth Annual Report 2019-20



### **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 the interface between culture and economic development, and social discrimination and violation of human rights. The Centre's field of activities includes research, evaluation, training, and relevant interventions. It undertakes research projects and publications with an intellectual activist orientation.

### **Infrastructure**

CCD is located on the XTI campus at Sevasi village two kilometers from the periphery of Vadodara city. 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. The digitized library houses more than 8,500 volumes in social sciences, and a large collection of articles and reprints, making a total of about 10,000 entries, besides newspaper clippings. 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 15 guests with moderate comforts. CCD has a dynamic website: [www.ccdgujarat.org](http://www.ccdgujarat.org).

### **Board of Trustees**

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### **Director**

Prof. Lancy Lobo, Ph.D



### Faculty and Research Staff

Prof. Biswaroop Das	Affiliate Professor
Prof. Priyavadan Patel	Affiliate Professor
Dr. Kanchan Bharati	Assistant Professor
Dr. Dhananjay Kumar	Assistant Professor
Dr. Jayesh Shah	Research Consultant

### Administrative Staff

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

### Publications

#### Books by the Faculty of CCD

1. Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah. 2019. *How People Vote? Civic Literacy and Political Participation*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
2. Lobo, Lancy and Dhananjay Kumar (eds.). 2019. *Legacy of Ambedkar: Analysis and Appraisal*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
3. Shah, Jayesh and Lancy Lobo. 2019. *Gujaratna Shalakiya Shikshanno Xray* (in Gujarati), Ahmedabad: Book Shelf.
4. Shah, Jayesh and Lancy Lobo. 2020. *Changing Character of Religiosity in Gujarat: Sacred Space, Time and Persona*, Anand: Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.
5. Shah, A. M. and Lancy Lobo (eds.). 2020. *Anthropological Explorations in East and South-East Asia*, Delhi: Primus Books (in the Press).
6. Lobo, Lancy and Kanchan Bharati (eds.). *Contextualizing Suicides and Mental Health in India: Perspectives and Issues*, New Delhi: Concept Publications (in the Press).
7. Bharati, Kanchan, Lancy Lobo and Jayesh Shah, *Revisiting Suicide: From Socio-Psychological Lens*, New Delhi: Routledge (in the Press).

#### Books under Preparation

1. Ethnography of the Parsees.

#### Articles by the Faculty of CCD

- Bharati, Kanchan and Dhananjay Kumar. 2020. 'A Report on National Seminar, 'Ecology, Environment and Religions: Key Issues and Challenges'', *Ecology, Economy and Society*, Vol. 3(1), January-March, pp. 161-164.
- Kumar, Dhananjay. 2020. 'Health and Well-Being among the Jats of Western Uttar Pradesh: An Anthropological Life Cycle Approach', in Srinivasan Padmanaban and Chittarajanjan Subudhi (eds.), *Psycho-Social Perspectives on Mental Health and Well-being*, Hershey PA, USA: IGI Global, pp.-136-160.
- Lobo, Lancy. 2019. 'Need for More Social Scientists among Jesuits and in the Catholic Church', *JIVAN*, February, pp. 16-17.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2019. 'Ingenuous People of Gujarat: Tribals of Gujarat on the Margins of Faith', in *Brill's Encyclopaedia of the Religions of the Indigenous People of South Asia* (First published online), Vol. I, Leiden: Koninklijke Brill NV, pp. 1-10.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2019.1. 'Spiritual and Political Elections', *Ignis*, Vol. XLIX, No. 1, pp. 70-80.
- Lobo, Lancy and Jayesh Shah, 2020. 'Innovative Approaches to Regenerate Forests in India', *Economic and Political Weekly* (forthcoming).



## Current Projects

### 1. Structure and Behaviour of Daily Labour Markets in Gujarat.

This research study will be a micro-empirical study on the labourers of daily labour markets in the state of Gujarat. The study will cover three million-plus cities and one town having population of more than one lakh of the whole state of Gujarat. Though there are considerable studies on informal sector labourers, including casual labourers and contract labourers, there is hardly any study exclusively on daily labour markets and their labourers.

In this proposed research study, we will examine migrant labour, including those from within the state of Gujarat as well as from other states. Such daily labour markets in many cities and towns have a pool of marginalized labour, responding to a variety of jobs that a city may throw up for them on a daily basis. Experiences of these daily labour markets in different cities and towns seemingly converge towards indicating similarities in patterns (Biswaroop 1990).

Broadly, this study will be an analysis of the structure and behaviour of daily labour markets in the state of Gujarat. Gujarat is economically the most dynamic state with a strong agricultural and agro-processing base, combined with heavy investments in industrial sectors such as petro-chemicals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, diamond processing, engineering and logistics. The state is also emerging as a potential hub for IT/ITeS and bio-technology industry. Consequently, there is a huge demand for informal labour which cannot be met locally. Thus, the cities and towns act like a magnet drawing in labour both skilled and unskilled in large numbers from parts of Gujarat and other states who work as informal labourers without any of the statutory benefits that are their rights (Biswaroop and Sahu 2008).

#### Rationale

The rationale for undertaking this research study is two-fold. First, by focusing on an otherwise less documented daily labour markets in Gujarat, we intend to contribute to a better understanding of their working and living conditions in a burgeoning urban setting. Second, understanding the plight of daily labourers hired through daily labour market is an important part of the larger goal of understanding the informal sector in the economy. Our analysis will rely on some supply side factors, mainly employment, wage and income, and inter-generation occupational transition, among others. We will also rely on some demand side factors, mainly opportunities available for specific skills from the formal sectors as well as informal sectors in the urban areas. We will also try to analyse inter-sectoral transition of labourers of daily labour markets. There are no reliable estimates based on detailed sample surveys of the number of daily labourers hired through daily labour markets. The estimates based on the decennial census and National Sample Surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Organization are flawed because of definitional problems. A different calculation based on Statistical Organization are flawed because of definitional problems. A different calculation based on statistics of informal labour collated by the departments of industries of various states gives a figure as high as 100 million for the whole of India (Deshingkar, Sharma, Kumar, Akter and Farrington, 2008).



In Gujarat, we have identified 189 daily labour markets at several squares or junctions in urban centers where more than 250 daily labourers gathered to get employment. Hence, there is a need to do more in-depth studies of the daily labour markets in the urban areas and especially in the state of Gujarat where they form a large part of the workforce. Given the near total neglect of the rights and entitlements of these labourers by the government and employers, such studies will help to build up an authentic data base for bringing about a change in the policy domain.

### 1. Series on 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, *Anthropological Explorations in East and South-Eastern Asia* is in the press.

We are now working on the third volume on Parsees, their religion, traditional culture and society. 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.

### 2. Study of 2019 Vadodara Flood

While events like floods, earthquakes, cyclones, *tsunami* etc. are generally identified as natural events, their impact on human society make them *inclusive* with people and their environments. Capacity of human systems to deal with such events depends upon a variety of factors that include the nature of public institutions, ideological positions, quality of human resources and available technology within specific social systems at a given point in time. In addition, geomorphological characteristics of areas affected by such events add to variations in coping abilities of people across areas. However, in spite of a similar magnitude even within a small area, differentials in impact of a hazardous phenomenon also vary across groups by their locations in terms of access and negotiable entitlements in a society. Therefore, an understanding of the causes and impact of such disasters calls for analyzing these through their placement within different socio-political systems and the manner they get articulated through the limits of a set of corresponding mechanics within such systems in terms of a temporal and spatial perspective. And within this context, such disasters become ‘natural’ as well as ‘human’ simultaneously. The framework of understanding an event like the recent floods in Vadodara too, thus, needs to be ‘inclusive’, for seeing it only as an event caused and aggravated by either a *natural* or a *human* intervention would be to shy away from emphasizing upon and employing a holistic framework to its analysis.





Over the years of its course within the city of Vadodara, the river Vishwamitri has been subject to severe abuse as a consequence of rapid urbanization and neglect towards water systems within the city and its outskirts. It has also suffered relentless ecological damage by way of sewage, contaminated storm water outfalls, industrial effluents drained in the river and several other point and non-point sources of pollution.

Urban governance decisions have time and again sanctioned dumping within and encroachment of the river floodplains, resulting in the disappearance of several wetlands and water systems associated with the river. As a result of the destruction of several of these natural sponges and the reduction in the river flood carrying capacity the city has become prone to flooding problems.

The city has earlier witnessed major floods of varying intensity in 1878, 1919, 1927, 1941, 1970, 1974, 1976, 1983, 1996, 2005 and the recent flood of 2019. Flood waters inundating low lying parts of city have resulted not only in despair for people living in these areas but also created situations of human-animal conflicts as they endanger the habitats for crocodiles within the river as well.

Like many urban rivers, the Vishwamitri exhibits symptoms of the “urban stream syndrome”, a condition defined by challenges such as floodplain encroachment, poor water quality, habitat degradation, increase of tolerant species, and bank erosion. There is a definite nexus between the builders–cum-political leaders and the executive authorities. The civic sense of the citizens of the city can also be the other reason for water logging in the residential areas and on the main streets of the city roads.

Reoccurrence of flooding of Vadodara city due to the river, citizens of the city face lot of adversaries and problems for at least five to seven days. Middle class and poor class are the worst sufferers from the flooding. Small traders and the big business houses from low lying areas also suffer heavy losses due to the entry of flood water in their business premises. We need to investigate the impact of the nexus between the builders-political leaders and the executive authorities and the civic sense of the citizens on the flooding in Vadodara city.

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

1. Kanchan Bharati presented a paper on ‘Dynamics of Productive Ageing: A Study of Old Widows in Rural Haryana’ at National Seminar on Quality of Life of Senior Citizens, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, on 5-7 Feb. 2020.
2. Dhananjay Kumar presented papers on ‘Household and Family in Five Tribal Societies of South Gujarat’ and ‘Kinship System of Five Tribal Societies of South Gujarat’ (jointly written paper with Lancy Lobo), National Seminar on Social Structure of Tribal India: Concepts, Debates and Empirical Realities, at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara, Gujarat, on November 22-23, 2019.
3. Lancy Lobo gave a talk on ‘General Elections 2019: Perspectives from Western India’ in JCSA Core Team Summer Session on 14, 15 & 16 June, 2019 at Kathmandu, Nepal.
4. Lancy Lobo participated the Bahujan Morcha Kranti Sammelan in Vadodara on 18 August 2019.
5. Lancy Lobo conducted a one day workshop on the “Way Forward” Keeping in Mind the Evaluation it had Undergone Previously’ on 24 August 2019 for the Diocese of Rajkot.
6. Lancy Lobo participated in Jesuit Social Sciences Research Institutions in South Asian Assisntancy, on 27 and 28 August 2019, in Satya Nilayam, Chennai.



7. Lancy Lobo gave a talk for 20 delegates for Tarumitra (Patna) on 'Environmental Advocacy through Research and Publication' on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
8. Lancy Lobo gave a talk on 'Socio-Political Scenario of our Country', Western Regional Catholic Council (WRCC), Koshimbi-Bhiwandi on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
9. Lancy Lobo presented a paper on 'Tribal Marriage Networks and Social Space' (jointly written paper with Dhananjay Kumar), National Seminar on Social Structure of Tribal India: Concepts, Debates and Empirical Realities, at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara, Gujarat, on November 22-23, 2019.
10. Lancy Lobo attended a Jesuit Faculty Forum of South Asia (JFFSA) meeting in JDV Pune on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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

1. National Seminar on "Social Structure of Tribal India: Theories, Concepts and Empirical Realities", on November 22-23, 2019 at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara. Partially funded by Nirman Foundation, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Mumbai and Province Development Office, Ahmedabad.
2. Third Foundation Lecture, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 by Dr. Rudolf Heredia, entitled, "The Paradox: Nationalism and Pluralism", presided over by Professor Bhikhu Parekh, and Guest of Honour, Fr. Durai Fernand. This was followed by launch of book. *Changing Character of Religiosity in Gujarat: Sacred Space, Time and Persona*, by Jayesh Shah and Lancy Lobo. Dr. Joseph Mattam, Professor of Theology, Gujarat Vidyadeep, Sevasi introduced the book.

### **Completed Projects**

#### **1. Study of Social Structure of Gujarat Tribals: Vasava, Kukna, Chaudhry and Warli.**

This research project aims to study social structure of four tribes in south Gujarat. By and large, Indian anthropologists have studied mainly the culture of the tribes but not their social structure: their culture (*sanskriti*), rather than their society (*samaj*). The present study sought to fill this lacunae. It covered the internal social organization of tribes, such as household, family, lineage, clan, kinship and marriage networks.

This research took a household census, and drew genealogical charts of household, family, lineage, clan and kinship networks of the people of selected villages of these tribes. It traced the spread of kinship network both consanguinal and affinal. It 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. Having completed the study, CCD has attempted a comparative study of these tribes, with reference to their social structure. Drs. Lancy Lobo and Dhananjay Kumar are engaged in these studies under Professor A.M. Shah's guidance. This study has been funded by Province Development Office, Ahmedabad.

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

1. Fr. Freddy D'Souza and Fr. Vincent Moonnu (Xavier Technical Residence) for facilitating a contribution to the study of 'Vadodara Floods: 2019', and to CCD Staff Welfare fund from a gift from Mr. Patrick de Souza, USA.



# YEAR IN PICTURES

## Structure and Behaviour of Daily Labour Markets in Gujarat.



## National Seminar on Social Structure of Tribal India



## Third Foundation Lecture

