

# Centre for Culture and Development



## Centre for Culture and Development

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**ISO 9001: 2015**

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Twenty First Annual Report 2021-22



### **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 Centre's field of activities includes research, evaluation, training, and relevant interventions. It undertakes research projects and publications with an orientation to intellectual activism.

### **Infrastructure**

CCD is located on the Xavier Technical Institute (XTI) campus at Sevasi village in 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. 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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Prof. Lancy Lobo (Research Scholar, Indian Social Institute, Delhi).

### **Director**

Dr. James C. Dabhi

### **Faculty and Research Staff**

Prof. Biswaroop Das	Affiliate Professor
Prof. Priyavadan Patel	Affiliate Professor
Dr. Kanchan Bharati	Assistant Professor
Dr. Dhananjay Kumar	Assistant Professor

### **Administrative Staff**

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

### **Publications**

#### **Books by the Faculty of CCD**

1. Shah, A. M. and Lancy Lobo (eds.). 2021. *An Ethnography of the Parsees of India: 1886-1936*, New Delhi: Routledge.

2. Lobo, Lancy and A. M. Shah (eds.). 2021. *India Anthropology: Anthropological Discourse in Bombay, 1886-1936*, New Delhi: Routledge.

**Books in the Press**

1. Bharati, Kanchan, Dhananjay Kumar and Lancy Lobo. *Urban Daily Labour Markets in Gujarat, Western India*, New Delhi: Routledge.
2. Kumar, Dhananjay and Lancy Lobo. *Tribes of Western India: A Comparative Study of their Social Structure*, New Delhi: Routledge.

**Books under Preparation**

1. Seasonal Migration in Search of Livelihood: Choice or Fate

**Articles by the Faculty of CCD**

1. Dabhi, James C. 2021. 'Humility and Simplicity - Ingredients for a Trainer', EKAM-BHEL monthly Newsletter, October, pp. 53-54.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. 2022. 'Subverting Democracy', Indian Currents, Vol. XXXIV, No. 14, 28 March – 3 April, pp. 36-38.
3. Kumar, Dhananjay and Kumar, Dhiraj. 2022. 'Gender Matters: Reappraising the Issues of Equity, Participation and Ownership in Watershed Management', Contemporary Voice of Dalit, January 30, (Sage Publication)  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X211063068>.

**Current Projects****1. Socio-economic Status of Valmiki Community in Bhal Region of Gujarat.**

In Gujarat, Dalit community constitutes approximately 3.6 million persons. Within the Dalit umbrella, there are several sub-castes based divisions basically based on their occupations such as leather workers, street sweepers, cobblers and agricultural workers. The Valmiki are considered the lowest of the low among the Dalits; they are ex-untouchables traditionally associated with cleaning, sweeping and scavenging work. Officially, the community is estimated to have one million persons. After seven decades of independence, this community has been largely deprived of the development, freedom and equality enshrined in the Constitution of India. They are marginalized socially, economically and politically even today after the abolition of Varna-caste discrimination legally.

Though there are considerable studies on different aspects of Dalits in India, there is hardly any study exclusively on the Valmiki community in the region. To fill this vacuum in Sociological knowledge, the Centre for Culture and Development (CCD) has taken the initiative to study the socio-economic status of the Valmiki community in the Bhal region of Gujarat. This research study will be an empirical study located in a geographical district of Anand in Gujarat.



This study is important considering that Valmiki are poorer among the poor and Dalits among the Dalits. They are discriminated not only by the so called upper, exploitative castes but also by the other Dalit groups. They have faced discrimination by other communities in both rural, urban areas; private and public sectors; educational institutions; Panchayats, Administrative offices, places of worship, places of recreation and entertainment in India. By focusing on some of the selective aspects of this community, the study will give an adequate understanding of the community and their 'lived' life. It will highlight the community along with its socio-economic status, neighbourhoods, occupation pattern, mobility and so on. It would also focus on understanding the experience of the community through the spectrum of change and continuity over the years in terms of their socio-economic status.

The research team consists of Drs. Kanchan Bharati and Mr. Soma Vartha. The project is coordinated by Dr. James C. Dabhi.

## **2. A Socio-Economic Study of Daily Labour Market Workers in the Selected Towns of Gujarat.**

There is a huge demand for informal labour in every state of the country, which cannot be met locally, hence its cities and towns act like a magnet drawing in skilled and unskilled labour in large numbers. The daily labour markets (DLMs) as informal/unorganized employment sector, received less attention both by academia and by the government despite its significant contribution in providing employment to a large workforce and contributing to the country's economic growth. Such labour markets are a worldwide phenomenon known by different names in different countries and places, but unlike India in developed countries, they are highly regulated in terms of the hiring process, wages and better accountability.

Centre for Culture and Development (CCD) had recently completed a study on migrant workers at 15 daily labour markets in three metro cities of Gujarat. The study revealed that a majority of DLM workers were tribal migrants within the states and from neighbouring states namely Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. These workers provide their labour chiefly in the construction and allied industries.



In Gujarat, few major urban centres are linked with several small towns surrounded by villages. These urban centres are by and large evenly distributed so that a village has several towns in its vicinity. For these villagers, these towns are market centres having their specific economic structure and have close linkages in several aspects. The most important linkage is that they provide work for surplus unemployed rural labour in different sectors. They offered opportunities for informal sector employment, mostly in the form of informal and seasonal occupations. Jobs are created to accommodate off-season workers who come from surrounding villages seeking employment either to sustain their families or diversify their income. These works consist of agricultural labourers in sugarcane plantations and allied sugar industries or providing industrial labour in small industries providing readymade semiskilled labour. It is believed that various labour markets in many towns have a pool of marginalized labour, responding to a variety of jobs that town people may throw upon them daily. Experiences of these daily labour markets in different towns may be different regarding their work and life but they may converge towards indicating similarities in patterns.

As these markets and the workers rarely studied in small towns or suburbs, hence, it was felt to study them. This research study is an empirical study of the workers of DLM at the selected smaller towns in the state of Gujarat. The study examines the nature, character and dynamics of the workers, their work, life and issues at DLMs. Besides it attempts to understand in what ways they differ or show similarity to their counterparts in the major metro cities.

The research team consisted of Dr. Kanchan Bharati and Mr. Soma Vartha. The project is coordinated by Dr. James C. Dabhi.

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

1. James C. Dabhi presented a paper (online) on 'Pigmentocracy' at the India Society of Applied Behavioural Science, New Delhi on 13th August 2021.
2. James C. Dabhi took a course on 'Potential for Performance' - Senior Executive - IIMA, Ahmedabad on 13th September 2021 to 18th September 2021.
3. James C. Dabhi took a course on 'Role and Identity' - Second Year Students - IIMA, Ahmedabad on 21st September 2021 to 26th September 2021.
4. James C. Dabhi did evaluation for the Xavier Research Foundation, Ahmedabad on 4 - 9 October 2021.



5. James C. Dabhi participated the Jesuit in Higher Education Conference at Xavier Institute of Management (XIM) University, Bhubneshwar on 26 - 28 November 2021.
6. Kanchan Bharati gave a talk on 'Key Issues Affecting Girls and Women Worldwide', workshop on 'Perspective Building cum Consultation' for a group of 10 women working in social action in Gujarat and Maharashtra (Church group of Vedruna Sisters) on 17-18th December 2021.
7. James C. Dabhi gave a talk on *Vanchit Rakhvama Aavel Samudayo, Jutho ane Sanshodhan Sanstha – Jarur ane Bhumika*, at MSU in one day seminar on Hansyano Samaj (in Gujarati) on 26th March 2022.

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

1. Workshop on 'Perspective Building cum Consultation' for a group of 10 women working in social action in Gujarat and Maharashtra (Church group of Vedruna Sisters) on 17-18th December 2021.
2. Half day Workshop on 'Seasonal Migration among Adivasi Families of Five Catholic Parishes of Valsad and Dangs Districts of South Gujarat' at Pimpri on 10th January 2022, arranged by CCD.
3. Fifth Foundation Day Lecture, on 29th March 2022 by Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, entitled, 'Equity and Inclusiveness in Higher Education and How to Address Inequalities in Context of new Education Policy?', presided over by Professor Lajwanti Chatani, and the Guest of Honour, Fr. Durai Fernand.

### **Completed Projects**

#### **1. Migration Study of Families from 5 (Five) Clusters of South Gujarat: Gujarat Jesuit Province by James C. Dabhi.**

The research was part of the priority thrust of engagement of the Jesuits in South Asia. The study of seasonal migration of Adivasi families from south Gujarat was taken up by CCD at the request of the Provincial of Gujarat Jesuits. The objective of the research was to study the process of migration of Adivasis from two districts of south Gujarat, the Dangs and Valsad. The objective was also to critically analyze the seasonal migration, understand the nuances of migration, reasons for migration and the difficulties the people face.





A total of 4533 households in 34 villages of Valsad and the Dangs districts were studied through field visits, interviews and by survey questionnaire.

Hopefully the research findings will help the stakeholders and others such as government and NGOs to help develop strategies to address these issues.

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

This research study was an empirical study on the labourers of daily labour markets in the state of Gujarat. The study covered million-plus population cities (Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat) and one town (Mehsana) having population of more than one lakh. 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.

In Gujarat, we identified 189 daily labour markets at several squares or junctions in urban centers where more than 250 daily labourers gather to get wage labour. Hence, there was 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 at the policy level.

The rationale for undertaking this research study was 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 was an important part of the larger goal of understanding the informal sector in the economy. Our analysis relied on some supply side factors, mainly employment, wage and income, and inter-generation occupational transition, among others. We also relied on some demand side factors, mainly opportunities available for specific skills from the formal sectors as well as informal sectors in the urban areas.

The study was initially planned in two stages first, a survey of DLM and DLM-workers in the four cities, and second, conducting a more qualitative and in-depth study by visiting worker's villages of origin. The tenure of the first stage was over in March 2019, and the second stage was to start from April to June 2020. Due to COVID-19 outbreak and lockdowns it became impossible to complete the second stage. Thus, the report was prepared on the basis of the first stage.

The research team consisted of Drs. Shashikant Kumar, Kanchan Bharati, Dhananjay Kumar and Jayesh Shah, and the advisory team consisted of Drs. Biswaroop Das and James C. Dabhi. The project was coordinated by Dr. Lancy Lobo.





**Persons to be especially thanked:**

1. Professor Lancy Lobo, Founder Director of the Centre for Culture and Development (2001 to 2021). He is now in Indian Social Institute, New Delhi working as a Research Scholar.
2. Professor S. Thorat for his Lecture on Centre's Fifth Foundation Day on 29th March 2022.
3. Fr. Durai Fernand S.J. for honouring our request to be the Guest of Honour and Prof. Lajwanti Chatani, to be the Chief Guest at the Centre's Fifth Foundation Day Lecture on 29th March 2022.

## YEAR IN PICTURES

### Socio-economic Status of Valmiki Community in Bhal Region of Gujarat



### Fifth Foundation Day Lecture on 29th March 2022





## A Socio-Economic Study of Daily Labour Market Workers in the Selected Towns of Gujarat



## Published Books



### AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE PARSEES OF INDIA

1886-1936

Edited by  
A. M. Shah and Lancy Lobo



### INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DISCOURSE IN BOMBAY,  
1886-1936

Edited by  
Lancy Lobo and A. M. Shah

