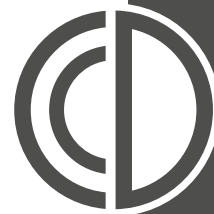


Centre for Culture and Development



Centre for Culture and Development

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

Telephones: 91-265-2962001 and 2961354

Email: jimmydabhi@gmail.com & centreforculture@gmail.com

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Twenty Third Annual Report 2023-24



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 a particular reference to Gujarat. It is an academic centre meant to harness the knowledge of social sciences to the service of the people of Gujarat, 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 as well as an intention of generating research finding for civil society organizations to enhance their advocacy and empowerment work.

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.

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Assistant Professor

Mr. Soma Vartha

Research Assistant



Administrative Staff

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

Publications

Books by the Faculty of CCD

1. Bharati, Kanchan, Dhananjay Kumar and Lancy Lobo, 2024. *Urban Daily Labour Markets in Gujarat, Western India*, New Delhi: Routledge.

Books under Preparation

1. Dabhi, James C. and Kanchan Bharati, *Socio-economic Status of the Valmiki Community of Gujarat*.
2. Dabhi, James C. and Kanchan Bharati, *Outcastes among the Outcastes: The Valmiki Community in India*.

Articles by the Faculty of CCD

1. Dabhi, James C. 2023. 'Empathy isn't Straightforward and Yet Necessary', *Pax Lumina*, 4(6), PP. 44-48

Current Projects

1. Interventionist Study of the Status of Widows in Selected Villages of Gujarat, India

The proposal emerged from some interaction with people in the field working with communities and their interest and utility of the project. This research is a study of the status of widows in 74 villages of two centres (Modasa and Narukot) located in Sabarkantha and Panch Mahals Districts in view of possible interventions in the lives of these widows to improve their situation.

The study aims to find out status of the widows of these villages and options to improve their situation by the community and the centres working with and in these villages. The study is action research study, taking into consideration sociological methodology for data collection and analysis and providing the data to local groups working in these villages.

The research team of CCD and investigators are from the local centres with some help from Vidhyadeep Community College of Bharuch. The study has been initiated and filling of the survey forms have been completed in Modasa villages and yet to be completed in Narukot villages.

The study is undertaken in collaboration with the following centres.

- 1) Centre for Social Knowledge, Action and Development – Modasa, Sabarkantha District, Gujarat.
- 2) Jeevan Vikas Kendra, Narukot, Panch Mahals District, Gujarat.

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



Completed Projects

1. Socio-economic Status of the Valmiki Community in the Bhal Region of Gujarat.

In Gujarat, the 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 Valmikis 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 of 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 the Valmiki community is poorest among the poor and most marginalised 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 the rural and 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 the 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 sector, received less attention both by the 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.

The 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, a 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 structures 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 offer 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 are rarely studied in small towns or suburbs, hence, it was felt that it was urgent 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 a 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.

3. Functioning of Tribal Political Structures: A Study of Tribal Self-Governance and Panchayats in Selected Villages of South Gujarat.

A large amount of research literature on tribals in India deals with tribal ecology, economy, arts and crafts, magic, witchcraft, religion, and culture (narrowly defined to include dress, music, dance, drama, festivals, ceremonies, and so on) (Shah 2010: 21). However, there is very little literature on tribal political life and engagement in the political sphere at the community, local, regional and state level. Only after Surajit Sinha's (1962, 1965 and 1987) exploratory works, some enquiries on this dimension, by

anthropologists and historians became available (Kulke 1976, Thusu 1980, Hardiman 1994, Guha 1996, Sundar 1997, Skaria 1999 and Panda 2005). However, most of these studies remain limited to either the central or eastern part of India. So far, in western India, there is very little information about the tribal political structure and understanding of how the traditional system of self-governance interacts with the constitutional system of governance (after the 73rd Amendment Act). In this context, the present study proposes to examine the interaction of the traditional tribal self-governance institutions in relation to the constitutional panchayats in a few selected tribal villages in south Gujarat. It tries to throw some light on the structure, process and functioning of these institutions and their socio-political impacts on the people in these villages.

4. Participatory Action Research for Fishing Communities in Coastal Gujarat: Understanding Policy Impact, Socio-Economic and Livelihood Changes Gujarat (India).

This action research study addresses the problems of socio-ecological changes and its impact on communities of fishers in the coastal region (Gir-Somanth) of Gujarat. The study takes into account various categories of people engaged in fishing activities. The study is undertaken in collaboration with two organizations, the Human Development and Research Centre, Ahmedabad (<https://hdrc-sxnfes.org/>) and the Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara (www.ccdgujarat.com).

Traditional fishing communities are socially and economically marginalized communities in Gujarat. From the varna-caste perspective some of them fall within the social category of OBC or Scheduled Castes. Some of these communities fall within the category of religious minorities. These communities are pushed to the margins in a number of ways and a few of them are growing into consumer market economies, including mechanization of fishery and industrial pollution of the sea.

These coastal communities are engaged in small-scale fisheries but make an important contribution to nutrition, food security, sustainable livelihood, and poverty alleviation, in developing countries. Despite this significant contribution, there is a neglect of the small-scale fisheries in the fishery policy globally (Johnson, 2018). There is no universal definition of small-scale fisheries because of their universality and diversity (Alfaro-Shigueto et al., 2010).

The study is located in the Junagadh and Gir-Somnath coastal districts of Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It focusses on a community residing in a coastal socio-ecology zone for years and engaged in traditional fishing activities. This area is also facing a socio-ecological transition. The villages included in the study are from Kodinar, Sutrapada, Veraval, and Una talukas of the Gir Somnath District.

Lectures and Participation in Workshops and Seminars by the Faculty Members

1. James C. Dabhi took a 6 days course on 'Potential to Performance' for Senior Executive - IIMA, Ahmedabad in December 2023.
2. James C. Dabhi conducted a 6 days laboratory training on 'Human Process Work' – for an international participants of Pinkmist, Hyderabad in September 2023.
3. James C. Dabhi participated in the South Asian Conference of Jesuits in Higher Education and Research at Kathmandu, Nepal, January 2024.
4. James C. Dabhi participated in the international conference on 'Connecting beyond Boundaries' organized by NTL, USA, 22-23 March 2024.
5. James C. Dabhi conducted a 4 course on Personal Growth Laboratory for the students of NIRMA University, Ahmedabad, 27 to 30 March 2024.
6. James C. Dabhi completed the course on 'Enhancing Capabilities for A More Effective Mission' for a group of 20 Sisters across Gujarat from Various Congregation organized by Province Development Organization (PDO), Sisters Human Rights Forum and CCD, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Seminars/Workshops/Lectures Arranged at CCD

1. National Seminar on 'Tradition and Modernity: Complementary or Takeover of Governance in Tribal Areas – *Issues of Socio-Economic-Political Structures and Processes in India*' on December 01-02, 2023 at Centre for Culture and Development. Partially funded by Azim Premji University, Research Wing, Bengaluru.
2. Seventh Foundation Day Lecture, on 24th February 2024 by Prof. Zoya Hasan, entitled, 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women's Reservation and the Politics of Representation in India'.

Persons to be especially thanked:

1. We thank Prof. Varginious Xaxa for presiding over the two days seminar on Tribal Governance from 1-2 December 2024 and delivering a validatory lecture.
2. We thank Prof. Zoya Hasan for her lecture on Centre's foundation Day on 24th February 2024.
3. We thank Ms. Sara Gutiérrez and Mr. Ignazio from Isabel Martin Foundation, Spain for their visit to CCD.



YEAR IN PICTURES

Seventh Foundation Day Lecture on 24th February



Tradition and Modernity: Complementary or Takeover of Governance in Tribal Areas – *Issues of Socio-Economic-Political Structures and Processes in India*' on December 01-02, 2023

