

# CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



## Centre for Culture and Development

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

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

E-mail: [drlancylobo@yahoo.com](mailto:drlancylobo@yahoo.com) • [centreforculture@gmail.com](mailto:centreforculture@gmail.com)

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CBRD/AA1/Mukhya/47(3)(407)/2006-2007 for the period 01/04/2006 to 31/03/2009.

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Ninth Annual Report 2009-10



### **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. Presently the building has the administrative block on the ground floor and the academic block on the first floor. It also houses a digitised library with more than 4500 volumes in social sciences, and a large collection of articles, reprints, making a total of about 9000 entries, and newspaper clippings. The Library subscribes to 30 journals. The Centre has a laser printer and copier, seven computer systems, and a multimedia projector for training courses and workshops. It also has a modest guest house with an attached kitchen for visiting scholars.

A building with ground floor for library and first floor for conference hall was constructed during this year. The state of the art conference room (fifty seats) and a modern library and renovated guest houses have made CCD complete in its infrastructure.

### **Board of Trustees**

Fr. Keith Abranches S.J., Provincial of Gujarat, Jesuit Province (President)  
Prof. A.M. Shah (Retired Professor of Sociology, Delhi University, residing in Vadodara)  
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Dr. Stany Pinto (Sociologist, Bhiloda) (Treasurer)  
Prof. Lancy Lobo (Director and Secretary)

The Board of Trustees met on October 16, 2009 at CCD. They appreciated the activities mentioned in the annual report of 2008-09.

### **Research Advisory Committee**

Prof. Priyavadan M. Patel (Political Science Department, M.S. University, Baroda)  
Prof. Biswaroop Das (Centre for Social Studies, Surat)  
Dr. Nandini Majrekar (Tata Institute of Social Science, Education Department, Mumbai)  
Dr. Bindu Bhatt (Geography Department, M. S. University, Baroda)  
Dr. Stany Pinto (Bhiloda)

### **Director**

Dr. Lancy Lobo

### **Administrative Staff**

Ms. Amba Gamit (Office Superintendent)

### **Research Staff**

Research Associates: Dr. Jayesh H. Shah  
: Dr. Mary Bachaspatimayum  
Research Assistant : Mr. Soma Vartha  
Data Entry Operators: Ms. Priyanka Gamit, Snehal Gamit, Ranjeeta Vasava,  
Mr. Mahervan Gavitt



### Lectures/symposiums/workshops arranged by CCD

1. Sage Publishers in collaboration with CCD arranged a panel discussion and symposium on Dr. Lancy Lobo and Shashikant Kumar's book, *Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat: 1947-2004* on Tuesday, 14th April 2009 at Skylark Hall, Rosary School campus, Baroda, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

#### **Chairperson and Moderator:**

**Shri Sanat Mehta** (former finance minister, developmentlist, and erudite person, Vadodara)

#### **Panelists:**

**Shri Indukumar Jani** (editor, *Nayamarg* and eminent social activist, Ahmedabad)

**Professor Priyavadan Patel** (Deptt. of Political Science, M.S. University, Vadodara.)

**Professor Amita Shah** (Developmental Economist, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad)

The book came in for much praise and was hailed as a watershed in the discourse on development with reference to Gujarat.

2. Workshop on "Degradation of Forests and its Impact on the Livelihood of Tribals in Eastern Gujarat: 1947-2008" was held on October 15, 2009 for the Jesuit Social Activists (JESA) at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara.
3. National Workshop on "Degradation of Forests and its Impact on the Livelihood of Tribals in Eastern Gujarat: 1947-2008" was held on January 9, 2010 at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara.
4. Workshop on "Tribal Economy and Society in ex-Princely States of Mainland Gujarat during Pre- and Post-Independence Period was held on March 11, 2010 at Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara.

### Lectures by CCD Faculty

#### **Lancy Lobo**

1. Delivered a lecture to faculty and students of IRMA, Anand on "Post Godhra Riots and their Impacts on Gujarat Society" on September 11, 2009.
2. 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 16-20 November 2009.
3. Gave a lecture to M.Phil students of Sociology Department, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad on "Thakors of North Gujarat: A Caste in the Village and the Region" on 19 January, 2010.

#### **Participation in Workshops and Seminars by Dr. Lancy Lobo**

1. Read a paper "*Vikasno Atankvad ane Vikasni Hinsra*" at Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad on June 9, 2009 at a seminar on "*Lokshahithi Lok Swarajyani Yatra Ange Samuh Chintan*" organized by Janpath, Nagarik Swatantry Sanghtan, All India Secular Forum, People's Movement of India, Delhi and Agariya Hitchintak Manch.
2. Made a presentation on "Developmental Violence in Gujarat" at a seminar on "Imperialism and Marginalisation" organized by Jamayate Islami of India at Bhailal Amin Medical Hall, Vadodara on 19 December, 2009.
3. Made a presentation on "Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat" at XSSS, Ahmadabad on 6.2.2010 for the Ahmadabad Study Group.
4. Presented a paper on "Development-Induced Displacement among Tribals in Gujarat 1947-2004" at a Seminar on "Development of Tribal Communities in Gujarat and Maharashtra" on 8-9 February, 2010 at Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad.



1. Sent a paper on “Inequalities of Development: Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat: 1947-2004” on 26-27 February to the seminar organized by the Departments of Political Science and Sociology, of Gujarat University.

#### **Other Activities**

1. Lancy Lobo conducted an evaluation of Christian Brother’s rural educational institutions in western and central India, and provided a report as well as presented the findings in their Assembly in Goregaon, Mumbai on 31.12.2009.
2. Delivered a lecture on “Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat: 1947-2004” to the members of Gujarat Vidya Deep on August 27, 2009 at the new conference hall of Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara.

#### **Publications**

##### **Books**

Malaria in the Social Context: A Study in Western India. New Delhi: Routledge, 2010. Forthcoming in July 2010.

##### **Articles by Dr. Lancy Lobo**

1. “Religious Fundamentalism: A Challenge to Democracy in India,” *Social Action*, Vol. 59, No. 2, April-June 2009, pp. 143-158.
2. “Sonia, Politics and Christian-bashing,” *Indian Currents*, Vol. XXI, No. 42, October 18, 2009, pp. 33-34.
3. “Dalit Christians and Church Personnel in India,” in *Dalits and Tribals: the Plight and Path Ahead*, (eds.) Gregory Karotemprel and Mark Barco. Rajkot: Deepti Publications, 2009, pp. 127-154.
4. with Amit Mitra, “Globalisation, Hindu Nationalism and Adivasis of India,” in *Dalits and Tribals: the Plight and Path Ahead*, (eds.) Gregory Karotemprel and Mark Barco. Rajkot: Deepti Publications, 2009, pp. 155-174.
5. With Biswaroop Das, “Religious Cover for Political Power: Narratives from People and the Vernacular Press on the 2002 Riots in Gujarat”, in *Understanding Indian Society: Past and Present* (eds.) Baviskar B.S. and Patel Tulsi. Delhi: Orient Blackswan.
6. “Christianization, Hinduization and Indigenous Revivalism among the Tribals of Gujarat,” in *Margins of faith: Dalit and Tribal Christianity in India*, (eds.) Rowena Robinson and Joseph Marianus Kujur. Delhi: Sage Publications (forthcoming).

#### **Completed Project**

The CCD has completed a major project on “Changing Character of Forests and its Impact on Tribal Livelihood in Gujarat (1947-2008).” This study was conducted in 18 districts of mainland Gujarat where forests and tribal communities are located. The study has reconstructed the history, including legal history, of forests in Gujarat. It has mapped the changes in the forest cover in Gujarat State since 1947- 2007 by using Satellite imagery, census data, and Working Plans of the Forest Government. It studied the impact of deforestation and reforestation on the life and livelihood of tribal population in the area. It also studied the impact of the schemes of the government, the Forest Department, the Joint Forest Management, and the Forest Co-operatives on livelihood of the tribals in the area. It has identified the number of tribal families and people displaced and deprived by the development projects in the area. It has also investigated the nature and background of the tribal conflicts and struggles in the area. Further, it has mapped the progress and problems of the implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2006 in Gujarat. Some key findings are as follows:



1. There is a belief that forests are only degrading and never regenerating. However, it can be seen from our study that nearly 22% of the forests have witnessed regeneration, while almost 41% show degradation or destruction of forests. The rest 37% has remained unchanged, i.e., neither degraded and nor experienced any regeneration.
2. It is significant to note that the forest areas have shown regeneration and an increasing tendency of the same since 1990. If we compare the satellite imageries for the period 1990 and 2007, the results are encouraging. Often such regenerations have been monocultural for their commercial exploitation, and thereby lacking in any potential to benefit a larger section of tribals.
3. Prima facie it appears that links between changes in the forests and changes among the tribals are not as strong, even with increase in the forest area, i.e., regeneration of forests. The migration of tribals for their livelihood is found all across the study area. This observation becomes much clearer when we relate increase and decrease in the forest area with the migratory pattern of the tribal communities. Their migration does not appear to be as much dependent on forests and their coverage any more. Even where there is no change in the forest area, the migration has been observed to be more than double (37.69%) than where forests have increased (16.43%) or decreased (20.21%). It appears that in recent times, the tribals are not as dependent for their livelihood entirely on the forests or forest products but on alternative sources of livelihood such as dairy farming, horticulture, and agriculture applying modern techniques in agriculture like drip irrigation and better seeds. This observation has to be seen in the light of continued alienation of tribals from the forests who had no way out except migrating seasonally, temporarily and permanently in search of livelihood. Many are living in the periphery of urban spaces and are engaged with jobs in informal sector, such as construction, power looms etc.
4. A section of the tribal youth over the time has reduced their dependence on forest for their livelihood. Most of the tribal youths are not ready to work in the village they came from after getting educated. They want to leave village and get jobs in the towns and cities. Even regenerated forests are not holding them back.
5. During our field study we had observed process, progress and issues pertaining to the implementation of the Forests Rights Act of 2006. There is no clear cut direction in FRA of 2006 regarding the security of land to be allotted under FRA of 2006. For instance, even after giving the title deed to the eligible individual tribals, the land may fall in the hands of land mafia or money lenders working in the tribal villages.

The report is now revised for publication after necessary feedback from workshops and experts in the field.

**Persons to be especially thanked**

1. Donors for development of CCD: Sharon Wilkinson, John Saldanha, Lucy Faife, Alfred and Judith Rayer.
2. Dr. Bindu Bhatt and Mr. Nirzar Lakhia for supports in processing Satellite imagery.



## YEAR IN PICTURE



Jesa Workshop at CCD at 15th October 2009



National Workshop on Forests and Tribal at CCD at 9th January 2010



**Tribal Economy and Society in ex-Princely States of Mainland Gujarat during Pre and Post Independence Period at CCD at March 11, 2010**