

Annual Report  
2011-2012

# Centre for Communication and Development Studies



## Introduction

Introducing a concert of Songs of Protest that Open Space had organised for the Kala Ghoda Festival in February 2008, Shubha Mudgal told an audience of 3,000 packed on the steps of the Asiatic Library in Mumbai and spilling onto the streets, that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find open spaces/platforms that would allow, and in fact encourage, dissent and diversity in thought and opinion. In the four years since, we have seen how rapidly India's tradition of diversity and openness — including in a free and vigorous media and in culture and the arts — has been shackled by rising conservatism, fundamentalisms, cultural nationalisms and censorship. Artists have been hounded out of the country or prevented from entering, books banned, people's movements ruthlessly scotched, civil society penalised for questioning state policy, activists slapped with charges of sedition, sexual minorities persecuted...

Never was CCDS's mandate — to create and promote open spaces that advocate pluralism, social/environmental/gender justice and sustainable development through the strategic use of communications and cultural expression — more relevant than it is in India today.

Not surprisingly then, diversity and inclusion, peace-building and conflict-transformation and upholding free speech have been the major focuses of CCDS's work this year, both in our youth and civil society outreach as well as communications and media advocacy.

In our ongoing Keeping the Peace lecture series, we organised lectures including by Dileep Padgaonkar, Dipankar Gupta, Sumona DasGupta and Teesta Setalvad. We brought out a volume of *Infochange Agenda* titled Keeping the Peace in this reporting period. We also hosted a panel discussion on Freedom of Speech at the Lekhana Literary Festival in Bangalore in February 2012. Another volume of *Agenda*, on the Limits of Freedom of Expression, was also published. An exclusive exhibition of the original drawings of the late legendary cartoonist Abu Abraham, on censorship, the Emergency, peace-building and corruption, was mounted in August, as civil society campaigns against corruption intensified following the Anna Hazare campaign. Roughly 300 visitors viewed them, pointing out their relevance to present times.



This year, CCDS also began work on a unique cultural diversity project titled Kiski Kahani. This project documents, reclaims and celebrates the diverse traditions of the *Ramayana* and challenges the view that any one *Ramayana* is the authentic one. The project is supported by Hivos, and includes the retelling of Many Ramayanas on our multimedia website <http://kiskikahani.openspaceindia.org>, performances and readings, seminars and journeys with young people to destinations associated with the *Ramayana*. Interestingly, we began work on the project the month before the controversial exclusion of A K Ramanujan's essay on 300 Ramayanas from Delhi University's history syllabus underlined once again the need to challenge the closure of our minds.

## Programme Highlights

# 1. Civil society and youth outreach

### Peace-building and conflict-transformation



In April, in continuation of the Keeping the Peace lecture-series begun in the previous year, we organised a lecture by Sumona DasGupta, political scientist and conflict transformation practitioner, at the MIT School of Governance, on the complexity of contemporary conflicts and the response to them. Roughly 40 students attended. Also in April, Teesta Setalvad, human rights campaigner, delivered a talk entitled Us and Them:

Tracing the contours of the historical divide, demonstrating how public opinion is manipulated and communalism manufactured. She also outlined efforts in peace education. Audience: 130.

In May, cultural activist Shabnam Virmani performed and spoke to around 100 people on Identity and her own search for the interstices between sacred and secular, modern and traditional, left and right, male and female. Dileep Padgaonkar, noted journalist and member of the group of interlocutors appointed by the state in J&K, spoke about the gaps in peace-building efforts in Kashmir and outlined the ways to a lasting peace. Audience: 100.

*A Doctor to Defend: The Binayak Sen Story*, Minnie Vaid's new documentary, was screened at the Symbiosis Law College auditorium for an audience of about 80 students, activists, journalists and interested citizens. The screening was followed by an interaction with the director and members of the Binayak Sen support group.

In March 2012, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Gujarat riots, we organised a public lecture by noted sociologist Dipankar Gupta titled Justice Before Reconciliation. More than 120 people attended the lecture, mainly youth.



### Freedom of expression/censorship

Private View, a week-long exclusive exhibition of original artworks by the legendary late cartoonist Abu Abraham, was held on the occasion of Independence Day. Open Space partnered with Either/Or, an alternative arts and crafts store, which housed the exhibition. The cartoons were on the themes of Free Speech, Censorship, Emergency and Corruption, all very relevant today. 300 visitors.

CCDS supported a panel discussion titled What Stops Us from Saying What We Want to Say at the Lekhana Literary Festival, Bangalore. Panelists were: Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Sushma Veerappa, Ashutosh Potdar and Kiran Subbiah. The event was held at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

### Gender and sexuality

The Q Fest was held for the second year running in December, bringing together a weekend of film screenings, music, performance, stalls and products of LGBT businesses. An interesting discussion was held with lawyer Alok Gupta, co-editor of the new book *Law Like Love — A Queer Perspective*

on Law on demystifying issues surrounding Article 377. Humsafar Trust Mumbai presented a reading of the seminal play on queer issues *Ek Madhavbaug*. 500 persons participated in the Q Fest.

Right through the year OS has provided a safe space for LGBT support groups and meetings, many of which have emerged out of OS's activities with the queer community over the last two years. QUEST Prayatna and Queer Campus, for example, hold their monthly meetings here.

Dr Raj Rao, playwright, gay rights spokesperson and professor at the University of Pune did a dramatised play reading of his two plays: *The Wisest Fool On Earth* and *Vanaprastha Ashram* at Open Space for a student audience in April.

A screening of *I Am* by Sonali Gulati on July 31 was attended by 70 people, most of whom took part in the discussion later on questions of identity, sexuality and coming out.

Shilpa Phadke and Sameera Khan, of TISS, authors of the recent book *Why Loiter? Women and Space in Mumbai*, conducted a day-long workshop for a group of 35 students, many from the Fergusson College Sociology Club. The resourcepersons led the students through a process of map making, discussion and group activities that explored gendered understandings of space/safety/threat etc. The session was hosted by the Institute for Management Development and Research.

A screening of a film on sex-selective abortion, *It's a Boy*, was held for 30 students of the Department of Journalism, University of Pune.

Shadow Liberation, an interactive theatre performance about gender-based violence by students from Sriшти School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, was presented at Symbiosis University, in collaboration with Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts. About 200 students attended.

### Sustainable and equitable development

The Anubhav Journeys, a series of 4 field trips that seek to explore social justice issues experientially, were conducted on April 2, 9, 17, 23. Each field trip was to a place where there was a perceived 'problem' and where there had been a locally evolved solution. The learning happens in the discussions that participants have prior to the visit, along the way and at the site. There were between 10-15 participants for each journey, some joining in for all 4 journeys and some for one.

- Sakhar Shala near Baramati — visiting the schools set up for the children of migrant sugarcane labourers, and interaction with members of Janarth, the NGO that facilitates these schools.
- Vigyan Ashram, Pabal — understanding the appropriate technology work done with rural communities.
- Dharavi — Prof Amita Bhide at TISS provided an overview of issues linked to Dharavi, followed by visits to Dharavi and interactions with activist Raju Korde and community members.
- Trek to Bhimashankar, a sacred grove and biodiversity hotspot, where participants stayed with tribal families that have launched an eco-tourism effort.

As part of the Open Space campus outreach, a screening and discussion of *Goa, Goa, Gone*, a CCDS film on the devastation of Goa by mining was held at the University of Pune's Department of Journalism for a class of 35.

Creatures of the Earth, a three-person theatre performance by anti-mining activists from Pune, was staged for interns and volunteers at OS.

Architect and activist Neera Adarkar discussed the impact of





globalisation on the mill areas of Mumbai. 25 students attended. As a follow-up, two young researchers from PUKAR, a Mumbai-based NGO, presented their participatory research and mapping the changing mill area of Girangaon where they live to an audience of students from the Fergusson College Sociology Club.

## Cultural expression and diversity

**Women on record:** Vikram Sampath presented an AV lecture on Gauhar Jaan and other women recording artistes in India, intrepid women who defied convention to perform their art in the early-1900s. 30 people attended.

Arshia Sattar read from her new book on Rama and the *Ramayana*, *Lost Loves*, and discussed its themes with a group of about 20 book lovers.

**Writing workshops:** In December, writer Anil Menon conducted a writing workshop over two weekends. This was an intensive workshop for 11 writers who wanted to refine their craft. In September author Annie Zaidi conducted a one-day intensive writing seminar for a group of 18 young people, students and working professionals, using her latest book *The Bad Boy's Guide to the Good Indian Girl* as a platform. The focus of the workshop was on using the 'personal' to write about larger issues.

Performance of Iranian music by Sasan Bazgir, who also discussed the dilemmas faced by artists in Iran today. 25 attended.

In January, filmmaker Shikha Sen presented and discussed her

film *Anek Ramayana* at Open Space and at the Sahyadri School, as part of the Kiski Kahani project. The film documents how a group of parents come to terms with diverse versions and understandings of the *Ramayana* as they work towards a school play with their children.

UK-based Vayu Naidu Theatre and Storytelling Company presented *Sunte Ho!*, a story-telling performance on the *Ramayana*, as part of the Kiski Kahani project. The performances were at two public venues and about 100 people attended on each day.

Sutradhar, a storytelling workshop with Craig Jenkins creatively addressed questions of identity and belonging, exclusion and inclusion, and stereotypes and prejudices regarding the Other. Using the motif of the *rakshasa*, the participants, a mix of working professionals and students, those comfortable on a stage and those who had never spoken in public, presented a small public performance on the final evening.

## OS resource centre and internships

We now have more regular visitors than ever before at OS; 7-8 young students and researchers come in every day to read, work, watch and discuss films or chat over coffee. OS staff consciously takes time out to interact with them. Many of these young people volunteer with us. This year we also formally mentored 6 student interns for 4-6-week internships (1 from Women's Study Centre, University of Pune, 3 from Symbiosis Media School, 2 American exchange students from the Global Alliance Partnership). We are now an NGO partner for the Global Alliance student exchange programme, and 3 more international students are interning with us this summer as well.

Word about OS has spread amongst senior researchers and the centre is regularly used by them as a work- and meeting-space. These researchers share their research at small group discussions with graduate and undergraduate students who frequent OS.



## 2. Youth fellowships

Three OS Fellowships were awarded in this reporting period. A 6-month fellowship was awarded to Shirin Juwaley, for discussions with young people on normative ideas of beauty and social acceptability and how these are being moulded by markets and advertising. Shirin is an acid attack survivor who has undergone over a dozen surgeries. In the course of this fellowship, many discussions were held with students at Wilson and other colleges in Mumbai and also at an upscale bar. Shirin also registered a non-profit to support victims of acid attacks and other forms of violence against women, and addressed a large gathering of corporate leaders and opinion-makers (televised on a national news channel at primetime) when she won a Mahindra Rise award. However, Shirin left the last part of her fellowship incomplete — she was to conduct and disseminate her research on the pressures faced by young people in conforming to impossible ideals of beauty and acceptability.

A 12-month fellowship has been awarded to Gaurang Raval, a young social activist who has been working closely with Drishti Media Collective and other CSOs in Ahmedabad. His project is about bringing together young Hindus and Muslims in appreciating films, learning the craft of filmmaking and then helping his participants make films on communal harmony and other issues of concern to them. 28 film screenings have been held in this reporting period at various colleges and public venues, and 25 young people have been trained and now form a core group of filmmakers. Four films have been completed so far by these young filmmakers.

A 12-month fellowship was awarded to Aditya Pant for outreach work with young residents of a resettlement colony in Delhi. The idea was to help them identify development issues in their community and come up with innovative solutions.

### 3. Knowledge-building for social change: Research, communications and media advocacy



The major achievement of this project period was the transition of our 10-year-old open-content and open-source web portal on social justice and development issues, [www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org), into Joomla 2.5, the most updated Joomla Content Management System available at present. This CMS makes it easy for our content to be shared and posted on social media networks, and we hope to see a substantial increase in reader involvement thanks to these tools. We already have over 400 friends on FB. Particular Infochange articles that were shared by individuals

on FB last year brought in as many as 3,500 visitors to a single page on a single day, bringing home to us the importance of expediting the new CMS and sharing plugins.

Over 230 original articles were uploaded on [www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org) in the course of this year.

Two volumes of *Infochange Agenda* were researched and published. The first was on the Limits to Freedom of Expression, and featured several quality articles by noted writers, activists and scholars including Dilip Simeon, Maseeh Rahman, Siddharth Narrain, Lawrence Liang, Shohini Ghosh, Ajai Sahni, Gita Sahgal, Jyoti Punwani and Mangesh Kulkarni. Sualeh Keen reported on the status of freedom of expression in Kashmir, Arup Banerji on Putin's Russia, Tenzing Sonam on Tibet, Rohini Hensman on Sri Lanka, Javed Iqbal from Dantewada, the Maoist heartland.

The second volume explored the processes of conflict-

resolution and conflict-transformation, and asked what it takes to build a lasting peace, and whether peace can be taught. We featured articles by Dileep Padgaonkar, Sumona DasGupta, Teesta Setalvad, Nivedita Menon, K S Subramanian, Rita Manchanda, Edward Rodrigues, Ashok Vajpeyi, Shabnam Virmani, Linda Hess, Rajni Bakshi, Swarna Rajagopalan and others.

The next volume we are researching is on malnutrition in India, mapping the reality of millions of Indians who, as Binayak Sen has said, live with famine by their side. The volume will be published by May.

#### Impact

**Reach of our media advocacy work:** Between April 2011 and March 2012 Infochangeindia logged over 600,000 visits. Over 30 lakh pageviews were logged between January and December 2011. The number of regular Infochange readers is constantly growing. With Internet penetration at roughly 100 million in India today, it is heartening to see the diversity of readers on our site: 117 visits in one month from Durg, 95 from Vijayawada, 62 from Sivakasi... Barely had we uploaded an article on the protests against a hydropower project in Dzongu, Sikkim, when two members of the Lepcha community, designated a 'primitive tribe', had logged on and posted comments! Barely had we posted an article on the Sindhol power struggle in Orissa when locals from the region began posting comments.

**Reach of our civil society work:** OS Pune organised roughly 40 programmes this year; participation for each large outreach programme at a public/campus venue (such as public lectures, Q Fest, performances, exhibition) ranges from 80-500. At a very conservative estimate OS has reached out to 1,500 citizens through its public programmes at large venues this year. In addition, OS discussion forums, inhouse talks and workshops ranging from two hours to several days, draw 15-35 participants each for intensive interaction. We have reached out to over 400 people through these workshops, including those held on college campuses. A core group of around 50 students from local colleges in Pune consistently participates in OS programmes, and an equal number of young people from the queer community regularly meet for discussions at OS. In this manner, cumulatively, OS reached out to over 2,000 citizens in Pune this year. The OS Fellows in Mumbai and Ahmedabad each reached out to at least 250 more.

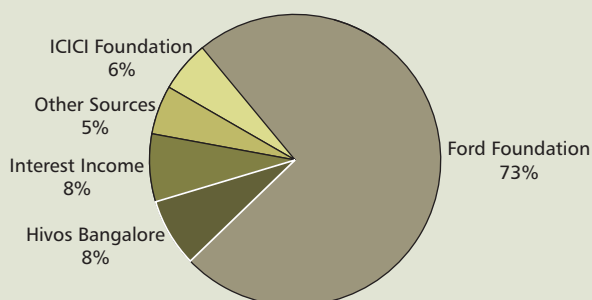




# Centre for Communication and Development Studies

Total resources ₹ 53.39 lakh (2011-2012)

Resources	₹
<b>Domestic Grants</b>	
ICICI Foundation	314,443
<b>International Grants</b>	
Ford Foundation	3,925,302
Hivos Bangalore	408,488
<b>Interest Income</b>	404511
<b>Other Sources</b>	286563
	<b>5339307</b>



THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST, ACT, 1950

REG.NO . E - 3657 [PUNE]

SCHEDULE VIII (VIDE RULE 17 (1))

Name of the Public Trust : CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.3.2012

EXPENDITURE	Sch.	AMOUNT (Rs)	INCOME	Sch.	AMOUNT (Rs)
To Expenditure in respect of properties		NIL	By Rents Accrued / Realised *		NIL
Rates, Taxes, Cesses			By Interest Accrued / Realised *		
Repairs and Maintenance			On Securities		NIL
Salaries			On Loans		NIL
Insurance			On Bank Account	I	404,511.00
Depreciation ( By way of provision of adjustment )			By Dividend		NIL
Other Expenses			By Donations in cash or kind		NIL
To Establishment Expenses		NIL	By Grants ( Transfer )	B	4,648,233.00
To Remuneration to Trustees		NIL	By Income from other sources ( In details as far as possible )	H	286,563.00
To Remuneration ( in the case of math) to the head of the math, including his houses - hold expenditure, if any		NIL	By Transfer from Reserve		NIL
To Legal Expenses		NIL			
To Audit Fees		NIL			
To Contribution and Fees		NIL			
To Amount Written of		NIL			
a) Bad Debts					
b) Loan Scholarship					
c) Irrecoverable Rents					
d) Other Items					
To Miscellaneous Expenses	G	95,489.00			
To Depreciation	D	40,708.00			
To Amounts transferred to Reserve or Specific Funds		NIL			
To Expenditure on objects of the Trust					
a) Religious					
b) Educational	F	4,648,233.00			
c) Medical Relief					
d) Relief of poverty					
e) Other charitable objects					
<b>To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet</b>		<b>554,877.00</b>	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,339,307.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,339,307.00</b>

As per our report of even date  
For Raghunathan D. Aiyar & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Raghunathan D. Aiyar  
Proprietor / M.No. 034018

Auditors  
Date 30 JUN 2012

30 JUN 2012  
Date

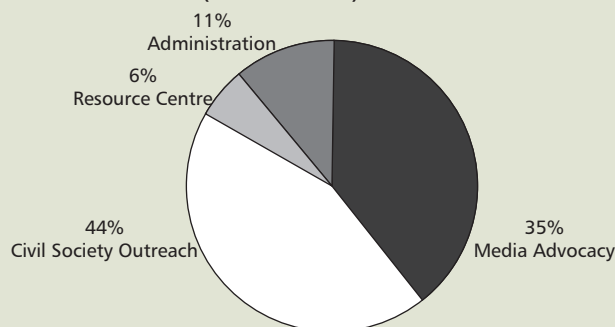
Trustees



# Centre for Communication and Development Studies

Total utilisation ₹ 47.84 lakh (2011-2012)

Utilisation	₹
Media Advocacy	1870276
Civil Society Outreach	2111905
Resource Centre Cost	270974
Administration	531275
	4784430



THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST, ACT, 1950  
SCHEDULE VIII (VIDE RULE 17 (1))  
Name of the Public Trust : CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2012

FUND & LIABILITIES	Sch.	AMOUNT (Rs)	PROPERTY & ASSETS	Sch.	AMOUNT (Rs)
<b>Trust Funds or Corpus -</b> Balance as per last Balance Sheet Adjustment during the year ( give Details )		NIL	<b>Immovable Properties - ( At cost ) -</b> Balance as per last Balance Sheet Additions during year Less:- Sales during the year Depreciation up to date Capital Work in Progress Investment -		NIL
<b>Other Earmarked Funds -</b> ( Created under the provisions of the trust deed ) or scheme out of the income (Capital Expenditure) Utilised A/c Ford Foundation ICICI TDC grant Depreciation Funds Sinking Funds Reserve Funds Any Other Funds	A A	477,022.50 481,264.50	Note :- the market value of the above investment is Rs. <b>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</b> Balance as per last B/S Addition during the year Less:-Sales during the year Depreciation Loans ( Secured or Unsecured Good/ Doubtful.)	D	NIL 3,12,783 10,174 NIL 40,708 282,249.00 NIL
<b>Loans ( Secured or Unsecured )</b> From Trustees From Others		NIL	Loans Scholarship Other Loans <b>Advances -</b> To Trustees To Employees To Contractors To Lawyers To Other		NIL NIL NIL 43,000.00 NIL
<b>Liabilities -</b> Unutilized Grant in aid For Expenses For Advances For Rent and other deposits For Sundry Credit Balances	B C	2,766,739.86 140,558.00	<b>* Income Outstanding -</b> Rent Interest Other Income Interest Other Income	E-2	NIL
<b>Income and Expenditure Accounts -</b> Balance as per last B / S Less :- Appropriation if any Add :- Surplus as per I & E.A/c. Less:- Deficit as per I & E.A/c.		2,092,773.34 554,877.00 2,647,650.34	<b>Cash and Bank Balance -</b> Cash in Hand a) In Current Account In Fixed Deposit Account With BOM b) With the Trustees c) With the Manager <b>Income and Expenditure Account -</b> Less :-Appropriation if any Less :- Surplus as per I & E A/c. Add:- Deficit as per I & E A/c.	E-1	6,187,986.20 NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,513,235.20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,513,235.20</b>

As per our report of even date  
For Raghunathan D. Aiyar & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Raghunathan D. Aiyar  
Proprietor  
Chartered Accountants  
Auditors  
Date: 30 JUN 2012

\*Income Outstanding  
(if accounts are kept on cash basis)  
rent +interest +other income =Total Rs.

30 JUN 2012  
Date

Trustee

The above Balance sheet to the best of my  
our belief contains a true account of the  
Funds and Liabilities and of the property &  
Assets of the trust.





Studies

ccds



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