Centre for Communication and Development Studies

ccds

Annual Report
2013-2014

Introduction

A new decade of CCDS's work has brought with it several new opportunities, ideas and projects.

Last year, CCDS began a strategic review process and we defined independent & inclusive media, urban poverty & governance, and youth & social exclusion as important areas of focus for the institution.

Several new projects in 2013-14 have dovetailed perfectly with these focus areas.

We began a study, supported by Action Aid, of urban poverty and governance in two contrasting Indian cities – Pune, with an exploding population and 40% of the city living in slums, and Thiruvananthapuram, a smaller city in a highly urbanised state with a long history of decentralised governance, where poverty is less visible and confined to pockets of social exclusion.Our study maps the quality of public services available to the poor and the extent to which the concerns and needs of the marginalized are addressed by policymakers and governments.

Alongside these city-level studies, we mapped broad national trends in urbanisation, urban poverty and vulnerability. A comprehensive volume of *Infochange Agenda* on trends in urbanisation was published this year. A sequel to this volume, on urban poverty, will be released shortly.

We also began a major research study on digital inequality and barriers to internet access for the urban poor. Our study, located in 10 low-income settlements of Pune and twin city Pimpri-Chinchwad, examines infrastructural, economic, social and cultural barriers to internet access for poor and excluded communities in urban India.The two-year study is supported by Ford Foundation.

For the internet access study, we are combining quantitative and qualitative research methodologies with reportage and video documentation. The study will illustrate the extent of

digital inequality in a growing metropolis and point to the ways in which the digital divide is likely to deepen existing socio-economic inequalities. It will recommend changes in public policy and public initiatives for the inclusion of the marginalized in the information society.

These new projects have also taken CCDS's outreach and capacity-building in new directions and to new audiences. Our civil society and youth outreach so far has focused on the middle class. This year we have reached out to low-income urban communities, and the most vulnerable groups amongst them, including dalits, religious minorities, and women. We have created learning and campaign material on the importance of digital inclusion, and conducted internet literacy workshops and trainings in urban settlements, particularly for women.

Our interactions with these socially-excluded communities have brought home to us the extent of social exclusion in our globalizing cities, and the acute limitations of access/opportunity/learning environments/social supportfor the marginalized.

Meanwhile, our project office in Kerala, the Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG), has been working on a budget analysis and advocacy initiative at the Kerala state level. ISDG's initiatives have had an important influence on policy, institutionalising pre-budget consultations with citizens and civil society organisations in the state.

ccds
Centre for Communication and Development Studies

Annual Report:
2013-2014

Cultural diversity

Kiski Kahani, our 18-month project that documented and celebrated the diversity of the Ramayana tradition, concluded in the first quarter of this financial year, with the publication and release of a book titled *Kiski Kahani: Personal Journeys with the Ramayana.* The volume negotiates the open spaces that the Ramayana occupies in 21st century India as the epic is re-imagined and retold in literature, song and art. With essays by writers and scholars including Jyoti Punwani, Rajni Bakshi, Pam Puniyani, Ramdas Lamb and Priya Sarukkai Chabria, the volume begins with an excerpt from A K Ramanujan's essay on Three Hundred Ramayanas. The essay that was first delivered as a lecture by Ramanujan in 1985-86 was deleted more than 25 years later from the Delhi University BA history syllabus following protests from right-wing forces. The controversy over the essay underlines the way pluralism is being threatened and replaced by monolithic narratives and emphasizes the relevance of projects such as Kiski Kahani in upholding India's plural traditions.

In April, Bangalore Open Space Fellow Sunil Mohan presented his video archive of interviews with 25 individuals with trans identities at Open Space. Sunil identifies as female-to-male transgender himself. About 25 people attended the presentation and discussion.

Open Space also produced a short film on Sunil's personal and political journey as a trans activist, *The Space Between Genders.* The film is directed by Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas.

Urbanisation and urban poverty

Infochange Agenda: A volume of *Infochange Agenda* on trends in urbanization was published this year. Guest-edited by senior environmental journalist Darryl D'Monte, the issue looked at the fine print of Census 2011's revelation that the urban population had increased more than the rural. It pointed out that this increase had less to do with agrarian distress and consequent migration into cities and more to do with census activism that has tripled the number of urban centres. Demographic specialists including Amitabh Kundu and Debolina Kundu addressed misconceptions of an urban explosion and pointed to the deceleration in population of million-plus cities, possibly because of the exclusionary policies that are discouraging the inflow of the rural poor. CP Chandrasekhar pointed out that multidimensional poverty in urban India would be double the official figure of 21% for

income poverty and suggested that the wealthy enclaves of urban India are being built on the surpluses extracted from an exploited labour force. Partha Mukhopadhyay, Kalpana Sharma and others examined the state of governance in India's vibrant small towns and cities, which get none of the attention that our mega-cities get.

Two-city study of urban poverty and governance: In July we began work on a study, supported by Action Aid, of poverty and marginalization in Pune and Thiruvananthapuram, exploring access of the poor to public services, the extent to which the concerns of the poor are addressed, and the extent to which they are able to participate in governance.

As part of this project we are also working on a volume of *Infochange Agenda* that will provide perspective and analysis on urban poverty at the national level.

Digital inequality

In July we also began work on a two-year study of digital inequality in Pune. This study identifies infrastructural/social/cultural barriers to internet access among low-income and socially excluded communities in a growing Indian city, viz Pune. As the use of ICTs becomes more and more fundamental to being socially, economically, culturally and politically involved in 21st-century society, digital inequality is set to deepen existing social and economic divides.

The digital divide is not just the gap between those with and without access. New patterns of digital inequality are emerging. The digital divide is now recognized as a much more complex issue of how people use ICTs, their skill sets and digital literacy.

Our research will advocate for changes in public policy on internet inclusion and measures towards greater digital equality.

The project is supported by Ford Foundation. Prof Abdul Shaban, deputy director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur, is our research director. Shaban's areas of specialisation are social exclusion in the city, and Muslims and development. Project advisors include Nagmani Rao, Associate Professor at the Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune, and a specialist in gender issues and social movements, Sandhya Srinivasan, public health researcher and consulting editor to *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* and John Samuel, managing trustee of CCDS, Global Democratic Governance Adviser at UNDP Headquarters, New York and the UNDP Governance Centre, Oslo, and former International Director, ActionAid.

In February, CCDS organised a one-day meeting of Ford Foundation research partners in Pune to share research methodologies. The report will be released by April 2015.

As part of the internet access project, we are creating campaign and learning material for internet literacy, conducting workshops in bastis, especially for women, and documenting the struggles of the marginalised to get online and reap the benefits of the network society.

www.netpehchaan.in, the project website, features content on the growth of Pune city and simultaneous growth in poverty and slums, a section on digital divides and inequality, and articles and videos on digital technologies and the urban poor, as well as initiatives towards internet inclusion in Pune and elsewhere.

CCDS made two campaign shorts to raise awareness and knowledge of the internet amongst those residing in low-income settlements. In simple Hindi, they can be used for a pan- India audience as well as the multicultural audience in Pune's informal settlements.

We also made a music video on the benefits of internet for all ages/classes. The song has been composed and scripted by upcoming Indian musicians Ayush Shreshtha and Pinky Poonawalla, in collaboration with Dharavi Rocks, a group of singers and percussionists from Dharavi, coordinated by musician Abhijeet Jejurikar and cinematographer Parasher Baruah, who work with children and young adults from Mumbai slums. The video has been shot in our research locations in Pune.

An animated training module on internet basics is being constructed for low-income communities in urban areas. The 10-minute module explains what the internet is, how it can be accessed, and the uses to which it can be put by diverse audiences including those residing in bastis.

We are also building dialogue on internet access and the urban poor. A talk by anthropologist Nimmi Rangaswami, adjunct professor at IIT-Hyderabad and researcher on ICT adoption in urban slums, was organised at Open Space, Pune, in October. The talk focused on how Facebook in particular is changing the lives and aspirations of teenagers in urban slums.

In March, CCDS organised a talk on ways to make urban governance pro-poor, by Ramanath Jha, former municipal commissioner of Pune and urban governance specialist. The lecture was organised in partnership with Janwani, an initiative of MCCIA Pune to work towards the equitable and sustainable development of the city.

CCDS is also participating in a pilot project to provide wifi access to a slum in Bhosari. The settlement was selected on the basis of research conducted by CCDS. The pilot will be managed by technical partners selected by Ford Foundation, and is being carried out in partnership with the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. CCDS will document the impact of the project on the chosen settlement.

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

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2014

FUND & LIABILITIES	Sch.	AMOUNT Rs	PROPERTY & ASSETS		Sch.	AMOUNT Rs
Trust Funds or Corpus -		NIL	Immovable Properties - (At cost) -			NIL
Balance as per last Balance Sheet			Balance as per last Balance Sheet			
Adjustment during the year (give Details)		-	Additions during year			
			Less:- Sales during the year			
			Depreciation up to date			
Other Earmarked Funds -			Capital Work in Progress			
(Created under the provisions of the trust			Investment -			
deed) or scheme out of the income			Note :- the market value of the			
(Capital Expenditure) Utilised A/c			above investment is Rs.			
Ford Foundation	A	1,025,172	Furniture & Fixtures			
ICICI TDC grant	A	481,265	Balance as per last B/S	2,48,151	D	
NFI	A	117,400				
Depreciation Funds			Addition during the year	6,87,999		
Sinking Funds			Less:-Sales during the year	NIL		
Reserve Funds			Depreciation	1,83,791		752,359
Any Other Funds			Loans (Secured or Unsecured			NIL
			Good/ Doubtful.)			
Loans (Secured or Unsecured)		NIL	Loans Scholarship			NIL
From Trustees			Other Loans			NIL
From Others			Advances -			NIL
			To Trustees			
Liabilities -			To Employees			
Unutilized Grant in aid	B	4,064,699	To Contractors			
For Expenses			To Lawyers			
For Advances			To Other		E1	268,000
For Rent and other deposits			Income Outstanding -			NIL
For Sundry Credit Balances	C	163,408	Rent			
			Interest			
Income and Expenditure Accounts -			Other Income			
Balance as per last B / S : 3,277,472			Interest			
Less :- Appropriation if any			Other Income			
Add :- Surplus as per I & E.A/c. : 7,53,608		4,031,080				
Less:- Deficit as per I & E.A/c.			Cash and Bank Balance -			
			Cash in Hand			
			a) In Savings Account		E1	4,454,899
			In Fixed Deposit Account With BOM		E2	4,407,765
			b) With the Trustees			
			c) With the Manager			NIL
			Income and Expenditure Account -			
			Less :-Appropriation if any			
			Less :- Surplus as per I & E A/c.			
			Add:- Deficit as per I & E A/c.			
TOTAL		**9,883,023**	**TOTAL**			**9,883,023**

As per our report of even date

For S N J & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN 104447W

CA Raghunathan D Aiyar
Partner
M..No.034018
Place: Pune
Date : 0 4 JUL 2014

The above Balance sheet to the best of my/
our belief
contains a true account of the Funds ans
Liabilities
and of the property , assets of the trust

Date

0 4 JUL 2014   Trustee

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 31.3.2014

EXPENDITURE	Sch.	AMOUNT Rs	INCOME	Sch.	AMOUNT Rs
To Expenditure in respect of properties		NIL	By Rents Accrued / Realised *		NIL
Rates, Taxes, Cesses					
Repairs and Maintenance			By Interest Accrued / Realised *		
Salaries					
Insurance			On Securities		NIL
Depreciation (By way of provision			On Loans		NIL
of adjustment)			On Bank Account	I	664,684
Other Expenses					
To Establishment Expenses		NIL	By Dividend		NIL
To Remuneration to Trustees		NIL	By Donations in cash or kind		NIL
To Remuneration (in the case of math)		NIL	By Grants (Transfer)	B	6,439,092
to the head of the math, including his					
houses - hold expenditure, if any			By Income from other sources	H	570,961
To Legal Expenses		NIL	(In details as far as possible)		
To Audit Fees		NIL			
To Contribution and Fees		NIL			
To Amount Written of		NIL			
a) Bad Debts					
b) Loan Scholarship			By Transfer from Reserve		NIL
c) Irrecoverable Rents					
d) Other Items					
To Miscellaneous Expenses	G	154,446			
To Depreciation	D	183,791			
To Amounts transferred to Reserve					
or Specific Funds		NIL			
To Expenditure on objects of the Trust					
a) Religious					
b) Educational	F	6,582,892			
c) Medical Relief					
d) Relief of poverty					
e) Other charitable objects					
To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet		753,608			
TOTAL		7,674,737	TOTAL		7,674,737

As per our report of even date

For S N J & Co

Chartered Accountants

FRN 104447W

CA Raghunathan D Aiyar

Partner

M..No.034018

Place: Pune

Date : 0 4 JUL 2014

Date 0 4 JUL 2014   Trustee
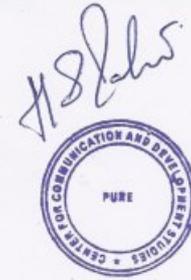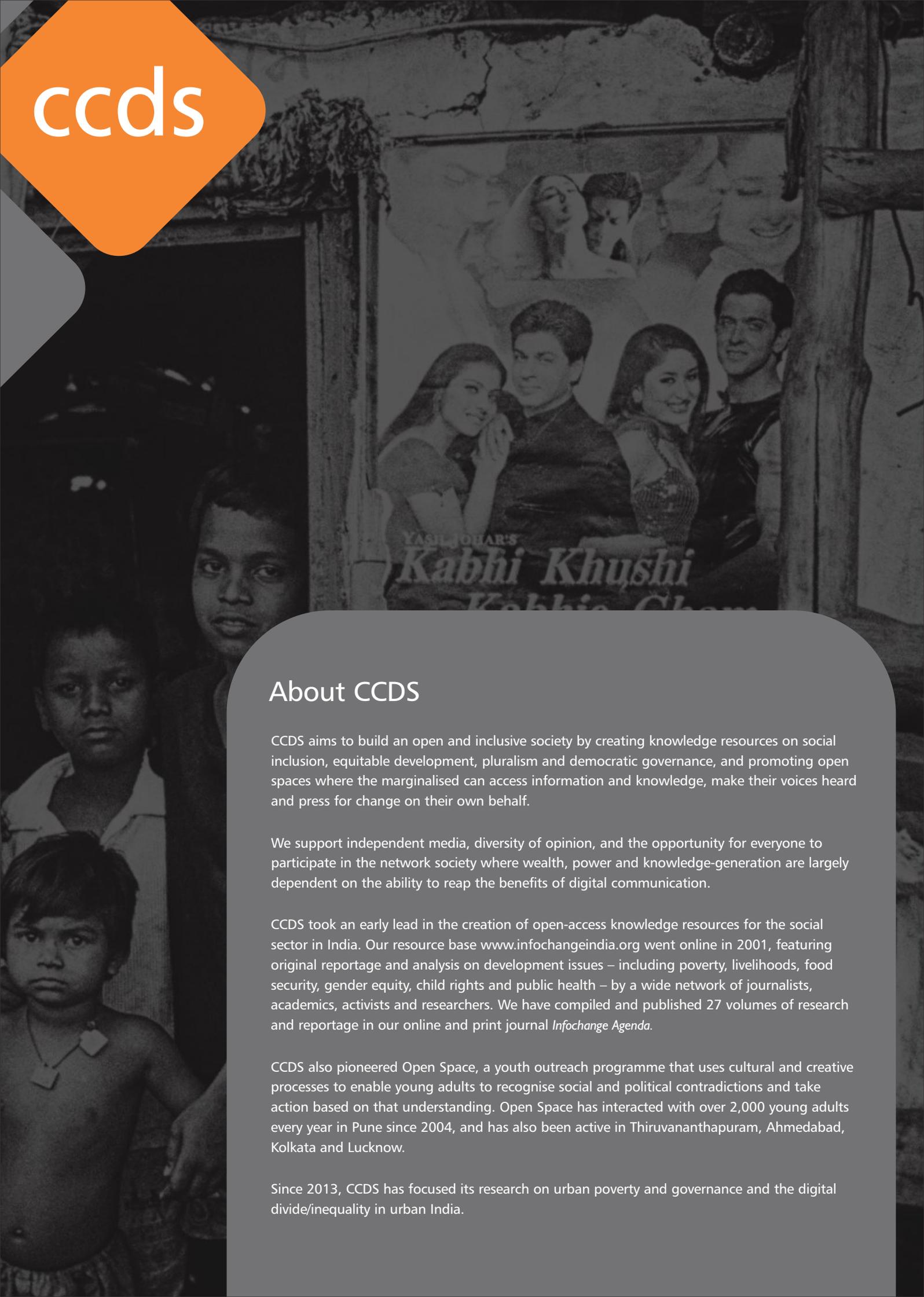
ccds

About CCDS

CCDS aims to build an open and inclusive society by creating knowledge resources on social inclusion, equitable development, pluralism and democratic governance, and promoting open spaces where the marginalised can access information and knowledge, make their voices heard and press for change on their own behalf.

We support independent media, diversity of opinion, and the opportunity for everyone to participate in the network society where wealth, power and knowledge-generation are largely dependent on the ability to reap the benefits of digital communication.

CCDS took an early lead in the creation of open-access knowledge resources for the social sector in India. Our resource base www.infochangeindia.org went online in 2001, featuring original reportage and analysis on development issues – including poverty, livelihoods, food security, gender equity, child rights and public health – by a wide network of journalists, academics, activists and researchers. We have compiled and published 27 volumes of research and reportage in our online and print journal *Infochange Agenda.*

CCDS also pioneered Open Space, a youth outreach programme that uses cultural and creative processes to enable young adults to recognise social and political contradictions and take action based on that understanding. Open Space has interacted with over 2,000 young adults every year in Pune since 2004, and has also been active in Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Lucknow.

Since 2013, CCDS has focused its research on urban poverty and governance and the digital divide/inequality in urban India.