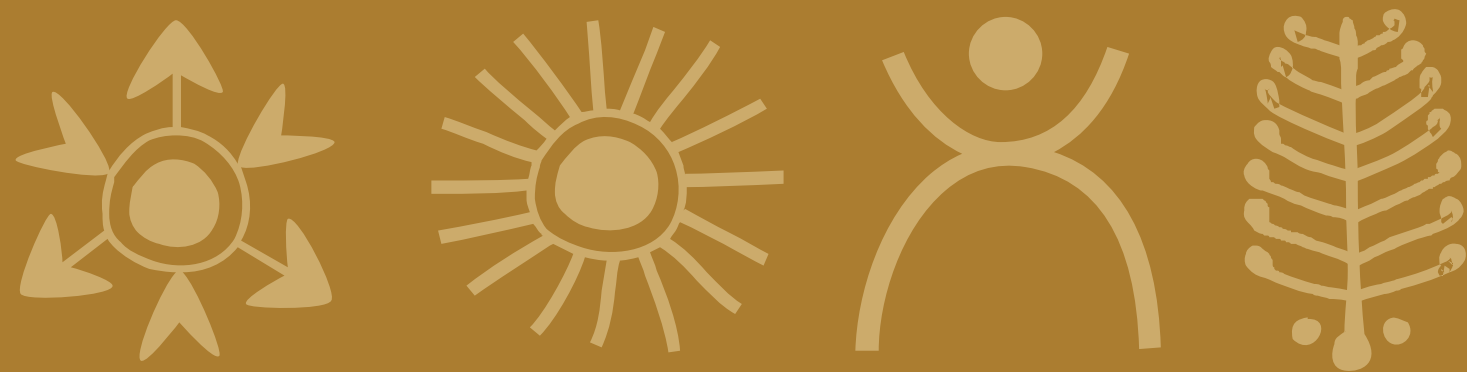




Centre for Communication and Development Studies



2008 - 09 Annual Report

Centre for
Communication
and Development
Studies

ccds



C/12, Gera Greens, NIBM Road, Kondhwa, Pune 411 048
Tel: 91 20 26852845/25457371
Email: infochangeindia@dishnetdsl.net
Web: www.ccds.in/www.infochangeindia.org
/www.openspaceindia.org

INFOCHANGE
NEWS & FEATURES

OPENSOURCE

AGENDA

Centre for
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Studies

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Annual Report 2008-09

The Centre for Communication and Development Studies (CCDS) is a social change resource centre working to build knowledge on social justice and development issues and promote open spaces for discussion, dialogue and citizens' action on these issues.

CCDS is an innovator in communications for the development sector. Our strength is the innovative use of media and communications to make social justice and equitable development central to public policy and to create inclusive public spaces for dissemination, dialogue and action on these issues.

CCDS has pioneered the civil society and youth outreach process called Open Space, which is now active in six Indian cities. Open Space engages the urban middle class – youth in particular – in intercultural dialogue and exploration/understanding/action on governance, rights and development issues through films, theatre, workshops, campaigns, etc.

CCDS has built and manages India's leading online resource base on social justice and development issues, www.infochangeindia.org. This portal has been built by a network of over 300 of India's most credible researchers and development journalists. CCDS also publishes a quarterly journal titled *InfoChange Agenda*, and other action-research works and publications.

All of these programmes play a crucial role in advocating issues related to sustainable development, social justice and accountable governance at the national and international levels.

2008-09 has been an important year for CCDS. We took the Open Space outreach processes which have worked so well in Pune for several years, to other cities including Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Bangalore and Ranchi through the Open Space Fellowship Programme. And we relaunched www.infochangeindia.org with a state-of-the-art content management system and many more interactive features.

As a result of these two developments, CCDS's outreach amongst India's urban middle class has multiplied in the course of this year. At a conservative estimate of 150 citizens reached every month in each OS city including Pune, we are engaging with/training at least 900 citizens every month across six cities.

www.infochangeindia.org now receives approximately 2.5 million hits and 400,000 pageviews every month – almost double the numbers logged before the relaunch. The portal is also far more interactive now, with a sharp increase in the feedback messages/comments, making infochangeindia a really vibrant public forum. Our content continues to be widely linked, cited and reprinted, including in mainstream media in different languages and by educational and training institutions.

In this year we also launched www.hivaidsonline.in, India's first independent HIV/AIDS information gateway, catering to the informational needs of citizens, HIV-positive people, people working within the development/AIDS sector and policymakers.

Highlights of civil society outreach Open Space Fellowships

The Open Space Fellowships are awarded to young individuals to employ OS processes to build public forums for dialogue and citizens engagement on rights, justice and governance issues in their own cities.

Programmes under the Open Space Fellowships in the cities of Lucknow and Kolkata, awarded in 2007-08, intensified in this year. In December '08-January '09 five additional fellowships were awarded to individuals representing Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Panjim, Ranchi and Hyderabad, bringing the number of OS cities to eight.

Human rights lawyer Debolina Dutta, fellow from Kolkata, is working on issues related to gender, sexuality, media, human rights and cultural diversity. Dr Navras Jaat Aafreedi, the OS Fellow in Lucknow and a scholar on Indo-Judaic cultures, has been working to promote intercultural dialogue, particularly with students from different countries and communities studying in departments of Lucknow University. Joe Demsy, the fellow in Hyderabad, explored the theme of participatory democracy through public lectures and discussion forums. Praveer Peter, social worker and fellow from Ranchi, is working with youth from the Sarna tribe in Ranchi, whose aspirations are changing as a result of the fast emerging 'metro culture' in Ranchi.

Jason Fernandes, a young academic and lawyer and fellow from Panjim, Goa, proposes to mobilise middle class Goans around environmental and civic issues. Raheel Dhattiwalla, a journalist who has specialised in reporting on communalism and fellow from Ahmedabad, is working on intercultural dialogue between youth from different parts and communities of her divided city. In Bangalore, Prayas Abhinav, artist and OS fellow, is exploring access to urban cultures and working to create/use mobile and unconventional spaces where civic and community needs can be articulated.

Transcending borders: Intercultural dialogue

■ Concert for Peace at Kala Ghoda Festival: This year, like last year, OS introduced the theme of intercultural dialogue at Mumbai's most popular cultural festival held every February. Shye Ben-Tzur, Jewish-Israeli musician, performed Sufi music and quawwalis in Hebrew, Urdu and Hindi along with his troupe of eight Rajasthani (Muslim) musicians. The concert was held at Horniman Circle Gardens, in the precincts that were targeted in the 26/11 attacks, not far from Chabad House, the Jewish cultural centre in Colaba that was also targeted. Around 400 people attended the concert.

■ Screening of Shabnam Virmani's film *Had-Anhad*: OS organised a public screening of this film at Kala Ghoda Festival. The film is an attempt to understand Kabir's Ram through poetry and song in India and Pakistan. It delves into the heart of divisive Hindu-Muslim politics of religion and nationalism.

■ Art project on bridging cultures: Eight students of Pune's leading art college Abhinav Kalamandir collaborated on a 7'X7'canvas to create a work that explored cultural diversity. A similar workshop has been held with NID and other art students in Ahmedabad. The paintings will be exhibited on campuses including IIM-Ahmedabad.

■ Theatre for Diversity: Twenty students from different parts of India and from Somalia, Iran, Mauritius, came together for a theatre workshop by third theatre exponent Parnab Mukherjee. The weeklong workshop culminated in a performance exploring multiculturalism at Max Mueller Bhavan, Pune.

■ OS-HarperCollins poetry contest on the theme of borders: The contest aimed to encourage young poets to explore borders between people, cultures, ideologies, nations etc. Leading Indian poets Keki Daruwalla, Priya Sarukkai Chabria, CP Surendran and VK Karthika collaborated with

OS to judge this contest. Around 180 entries were received. Cash prizes were awarded and the winning and shortlisted poems will be published by OS.

■ Film festival on identity and displacement: In collaboration with Symbiosis Law College, Pune.

■ Sacred/secular: Discussion on religious conversions: Panellists included Father Cyril Debruslais, teacher of religion and philosophy, Murzban Jal, scholar in philosophy, culture and history, and Bobby Kunhu, human rights lawyer and writer.

■ Public lecture on Shared Religious Traditions in India: Yoginder Sikand, noted scholar and author, spoke on the religiously plural societies of South Asia and how these shared religious traditions of the subcontinent came to be divided into "compartmentalised religions".

■ Intercultural dialogue in other OS cities: The Open Space fellow in Lucknow has been working on this theme consistently for the last year, using poetry, public lectures and dialogue. Lectures on intercultural dialogue have been delivered by sociologist N Hasnain and historian SD Singh. Author and filmmaker Sadia Shepard read from her new book *The Girl from Foreign*, about growing up with an American Christian father, a Pakistani Muslim mother and an Indian Jewish grandmother. *Mushairas* have been held with 12 leading dalit poets and 10 leading women poets and writers from UP and Lucknow. A very different (student) audience attended these *mushairas*. Several sessions of Diversity Dialogues have been held between students from 13 different nations studying at different departments of Lucknow University and at the Heritage Institute of Languages, Lucknow.

■ The Positive Spaces Campaign by the OS Fellow in Kolkata has gathered momentum. An intensive 7-day training was held for 27 students on rights, globalisation, intercultural dialogue, peace and conflict-resolution etc. These students are working to create Positive Spaces in their colleges and neighbourhoods, generating a culture of critical inquiry and diversity amongst youth and equipping them with tools to dialogue and debate within their campuses and beyond.

■ In Bangalore, 13 Tibetan students participated in a media training workshop conducted by the OS-Bangalore Fellow, designed to help them communicate on issues related to identity, integration, dialogue and stereotypes. Participants recorded an audio programme.

National seminar on gaps in public policy and approaches to HIV

On June 21, CCDS partnered with Lawyers Collective to organise a seminar in Mumbai questioning the attention given to HIV/AIDS in the overall public health context, and approaches to HIV prevention and treatment. The seminar aimed to get these questions discussed more widely in mainstream media. The seminar was attended by representatives of mainstream publications including Doordarshan, NDTV, *Sakal*, *The Hindu* and *Frontline*, besides several independent journalists who report on public health, and representatives of different organisations working with HIV/AIDS issues.

Presentations were made by Dr Kamakshi Bhate, Associate Professor, department of preventive and social medicine, KEM Hospital, Mumbai, Dr R Gangakhedkar, deputy director of NARI, Dr Ramesh Bhatt, dean, School of Business Management, NMIMS University, Prof Brinelle D'Souza, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Jaya Nair, project manager of Udaan Trust, KK Abraham, president of the Indian Network of Positive People, Anand Grover and Kalpana Gaikwad of Lawyers Collective, KM Gopakumar of the Centre for Trade and Development, Delhi, Dr Alaka Deshpande of the department of medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Eldred Tellis, director, Sankalp, and Ashok Row Kavi of Humsafar Trust and UNAIDS.



Gender & Sexuality

Theatre Performance: *My Mother, The Gharwali, Her Maalak, His Wife*. This production by sex workers and their kin depicts the lives of women in prostitution, and portrays them not just as victims but as individuals who have control over their own lives and choices. A large audience consisting of students, middle class citizens, sex workers and their families attended. For many in the audience it was their first opportunity to dialogue with sex workers and understand their lives, compulsions and choices.

Lets Talk: Monthly workshop series on gender, identity and sexuality: Through talks, lectures, discussions, interactive games, film screenings, campaigns and field visits, these workshops helped youth understand gender, sexuality, masculinities, rights and associated issues. Supported by field visits and a campaign around Sec 377, each of these six workshops was attended by 25-40 people.

Violence against women campaign

Various activities were organised by Open Space as part of the fortnight-long global campaign on violence against women in November-December. These included the White Ribbon Campaign, managed by OS's student volunteers in seven different college campuses and select public places, and an Open Forum on domestic violence. A theatre performance by noted theatreperson Pritham Chakravarthy from Chennai was organised on 10th December, International Human Rights Day and the culmination of the fortnight-long campaign.

'Be Positive' Film Festival for urban middle class youth audiences

In November-December '08, Open Space curated a travelling HIV/AIDS film festival titled 'Be Positive'. The festival has travelled to multiple locations in four cities across India where CCDS works through its outreach programme – Pune, Lucknow, Kolkata and Ranchi. The screenings were held at various educational institutions and college campuses as well as popular youth hang-outs including book and music stores. The festival was curated and presented Bollywood-style, playing up the big stars and directors of these films. The festival drew large audiences everywhere.

Made by women film festival

In October, Open Space-Pune hosted the annual IAWRT (International Association of Women in Radio and Television) film festival titled, 'Insights and Aspirations' in collaboration with the Dept of Sociology, University of Pune.

Trainings and capacity-building

Trainings on Right to Information

Two trainings have been held in Pune for citizens in effective use of the RTI Act. 50 citizens have taken the training so far. The OS RTI course is designed to educate people in the history and rationale of the legislation, the limitations and possibilities of RTI, and the procedures of drafting and filing an RTI application.

Pune First workshops

The Pune First series of workshops from June to November 2008 led participants on a journey to discover the socio-cultural and ecological environment of the city they inhabit, through guided lectures by subject experts. Each workshop drew an audience of 30 to 40 members from various age-groups and professions, but with a concentration of students. The workshops were followed by student projects comprising of research surveys, field trips and reports. Some of these reports were published in a local daily.



The Talking Camera

OS equips citizens to use media creatively, particularly to communicate on social justice issues. We hold regular workshops – intensive and short – on digital filmmaking every year. This year the intensive workshop was organised in July-August '08. Twenty participants from varied backgrounds were trained in film appreciation, script development, shooting, sound, editing and post-production. The workshop was facilitated by NID-trained documentary filmmaker Junuka Deshpande.

Digital filmmaking workshop

In January 2009, Open Space organised a shorter, 10-day digital filmmaking workshop, facilitated by independent filmmaker Nitin Das. The workshop culminated in the making of two shorts in the OS VoxPop series.

VoxPop: OS developed a short film format entitled VoxPop, made by youth, for online viewing on popular social networking sites such as Youtube. The first film in the series explored the borders between classes in a city like Mumbai. Uploaded on Youtube, it registered over 234,100 viewings and generated over 200 comments on giving, sustainable consumption etc. Two more films have been made in the VoxPop series this year by young people participating in OS workshops – on global warming and youth aspirations.

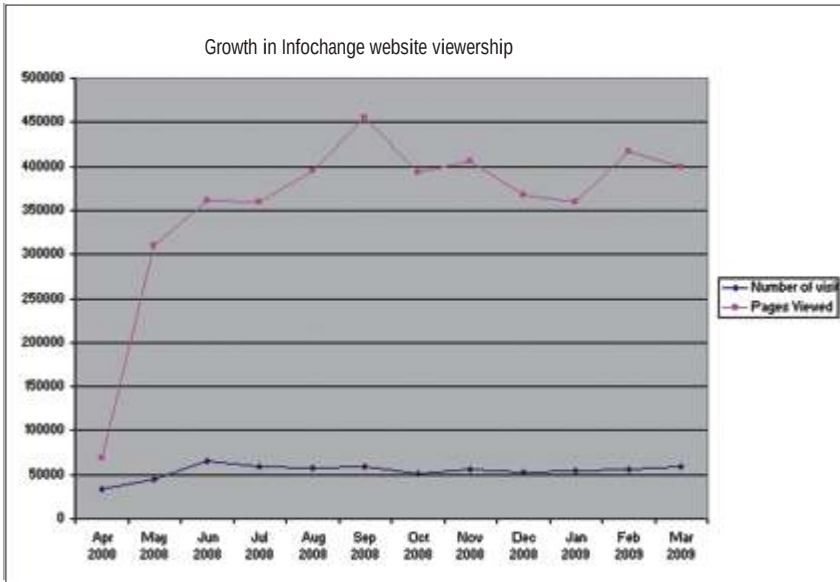
Radio documentary workshop

This workshop aimed to enable citizens to make their own podcasts for upload or for campus radio. The workshop was facilitated by radio journalist Chhavi Sachdev.

Building media capacity to report on AIDS

A residential media training workshop was organised in June in Pune. The focus was on journalists from cities other than Bombay and Pune, and on journalists writing mainly in Marathi. The training was attended by working journalists and independent journalists from *Sakal*, *Tarun Bharat*, *Lokmat*, *Indian Express* and *Pudhar* in Nagpur, Kolhapur, Sholapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra. The resourcepersons who facilitated the training included Dr R Gangakhedkar, deputy director, National AIDS Research Institute [NARI], Sandhya Srinivasan, independent journalist writing on public health, Neha Madhivala, coordinator of the Centre of Studies for Ethics and Rights, Dr Bobby John, president of Global Health Advocates, Switzerland, senior journalists and media watchers such as Ammu Joseph and Sandhya Taksale, medical professionals with decades of practice in HIV/AIDS medicine including Drs Vinay and Sanjivini Kulkarni of Prayas, and Dr Kamakshi Bhate of KEM Hospital, Mumbai, as well as positive people and human rights lawyers from Lawyers Collective dealing specifically with stigma and discrimination against the HIV-positive. The training provided a history of the epidemic and the response to the epidemic in India, but focused on media coverage on HIV, representation of positive people in media and the way they would like to be represented, and legal and ethical guidelines for reporting on AIDS.

Media advocacy



Increased reach of www.infochangeindia.org

Following the relaunch of infochangeindia.org in April 2008 with a new content-management system, enhanced navigation experience, greater interactivity and brighter and clearer design, the number of pageviews on the portal has doubled. Between April 08 and March 09 we logged over 600,000 visitors to the site, who read/downloaded a total of over 42,00,000 pages of content. Visitors are also spending more time on the website now, reading more content on each visit, posting comments on articles read etc.

70% of our visitors are now coming to the site from a direct address, an indication that Infochange has clear brand recall. Around 17% of visits are coming from links, references and citations, an indication of the ripple effect of our content in cyberspace. It appears that the bulk of the readers who spend time on our site today are regular Infochange readers who keep coming back to us as a credible, independent and up-to-date source of news and analysis on the social sector.

More than 30 original and unpublished articles are posted on the website every month, many of these from underrepresented areas such as the northeast, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa.

Our articles continue to be of high quality, and contributed by recognised subject specialists. With over 350 writers and researchers in India and abroad, Infochange arguably has the most extensive and credible network of researchers and journalists reporting on the social sector. Our content also continues to be reprinted and linked by hundreds of websites worldwide and by mainstream/ niche media and educational institutions. It is also widely used as training/discussion material at workshops and seminars.

More important than the numbers is the qualitative feedback received from readers. Dozens of reader comments are received every week. While earlier, the majority of comments were from researchers, development workers or journalists, we now notice much more feedback from diverse readers from different parts of India, proving that ours is truly an inclusive public forum now. The messages received also prove the myriad ways in which www.infochangeindia.org informs, inspires and initiates social change and citizens' participation in sustainable development and accountable governance.

Our readers include doctors researching the law on medical negligence or organ donation, a lonely advocate from Hyderabad looking to network with like-minded people in her fight for justice, students researching their school/college assignments here, farmers looking to go organic, individual citizens from underdeveloped areas like Jharkhand wanting to volunteer to promote change in their state, dalits, a reader inspired to action to remedy “the partition of hearts”, families of HIV-positive people looking for aid, disabled people, spouses in broken marriages finding out their rights, a young person inspired to set up a community radio station in a small town in Haryana, a disability rights activist from Ghana drawing hope from an Infochange article on an initiative for the hearing-impaired when she had almost given up the fight, a 64-year-old citizen whose husband uses a walker inspired to go out and vote by an Infochange article on disabled-friendly voting booths in the 2009 general elections, a Muslim woman raising her voice for the status of women in Islam, a citizen abroad boycotting Indian sandstone after reading an Infochange article on child labour in India's stone quarries, etc.

Infochange Media Fellowships 2008

Given the quality of the applications to the Infochange Media Fellowships this year, we awarded not three but six fellowships – three for documentary films and three for article series. The output of all six media fellows has been good. The CCDS documentary films made as part of the fellowships are:

Sanga Majhya Bapala (Tell My Father) by Soumitra Bhattacharya. The film looks at the emerging child rights movement in 60+ villages in Latur district of Maharashtra, where dalit children are asking why they must work in the fields instead of going to school, why they are being denied scholarships, why they cannot eat the midday meal with the other children, why PDS supplies are not available at the government-stipulated rate etc. This is a well-made 15-min film on the beginnings of change in the rural heartland of Maharashtra.

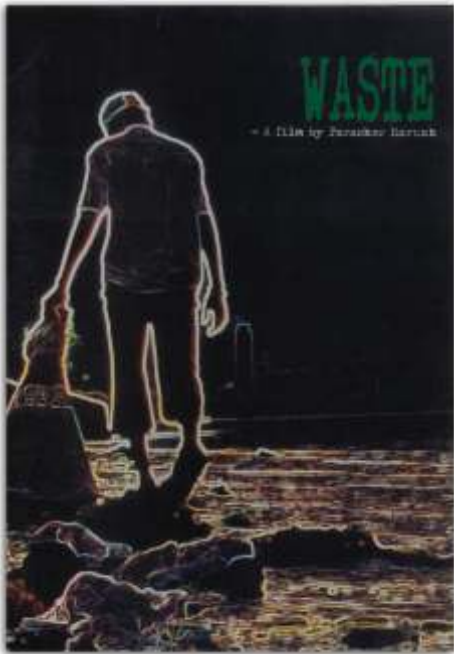
Waste, by Parasher Baruah, looks at the recycling industry in Dharavi, which recycles 80% of Mumbai's garbage. The film follows a day in the life of three young wastepickers in and around Dharavi. The film was selected for the 24th Munich International Documentary Film Festival.

Rebuilding Lives and Hopes, by Jeeva Jayadas, takes viewers through coastal Kerala and Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district, the worst-hit district in India during the 2004 tsunami. This film records the reconstruction of lives and livelihoods four years after the tsunami. It talks to affected communities, takes note of innovative, community-led initiatives for rehabilitation, and also points to the rehabilitation work still undone.

The article series included Geetashree's 5-part series on the tribals caught between the Naxalites and the state-sponsored Salwa Judum in Bastar. A timely series, this is one of the few journalistic records of the circumstances that displaced these tribals from their villages and forests and sent them into camps or urban slums.

Michelle Chawla's series of articles focuses on the perils of a top-down environmentalism that does not carry local communities with it and ends up alienating not just the industrial and trader lobby but also small farmers, orchard-owners, fisherfolk etc. This series holds important lessons for other environmental movements in other parts of India.

Amina Khatoon's series titled 'See the City from Here' is an account of urban poverty in one particular settlement in Howrah, Kolkata, as seen through the eyes of someone who has grown up and lives there. The articles record the urban history of the settlement going back to the early-1900s, the migration that led to the growth of this settlement, the closure of the jute mills that supported the community, and the beginning of their descent into poverty. It also looks at public services including education, intercultural relations, crime and the conditions that spawn it, etc. The series has been well-translated from the Urdu.



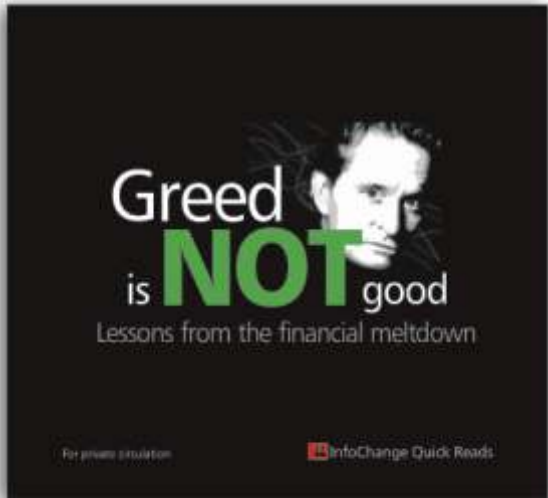
The third issue is titled 'Reporting Conflict', and looks at the role of the media in situations such as war, riot, terrorism. This volume asks whether the media has only the responsibility of reporting objectively or also in a way that builds peace. What is peace journalism? Articles have been contributed by leading journalists and commentators including Sukumar Muralidharan, Sevanti Ninan, Sadanand Menon, Kalpana Sharma, Muzamil Jaleel and S Anand. This issue was very timely, as it came out weeks after the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, for which the media was severely criticised. This issue has been used as resource/training material by several media organisations and colleges.

The fourth volume is entitled 'Collateral Damage'. This is the first comprehensive collection of articles to appear in India on a completely neglected topic the occupational health and safety of millions of workers in India, particularly those in the unorganised sector. It records the actual experiences of affected workers, reviews the legislative and judicial response to workplace safety, quizzes leading trade unions on the importance given to workplace safety, exposes the rot within the ESI scheme, and takes a detailed look at the myth of safe use of pesticides.

Other publications

Three booklets in the Infochange Quick Reads series have been released this year. These are designed as accessible and readable pocketbooks. The first is on RTI, the right to know. The second is on women and the morality debate, following the Mangalore pub attacks. The third is on lessons of the financial meltdown, analysing the implications of the crisis for unbridled capitalism and globalisation.

We have also released a pamphlet on violence against women, which was timed to coincide with our fortnight-long Violence Against Women campaign early-November.



Launch of www.hivaidsonline.in

In January 2009 CCDS launched www.hivaidsonline.in, India's first independent website on HIV/AIDS in India. It is designed to fulfil the informational needs of positive people and their families, public health specialists and others working in the HIV sector, policymakers and general readers looking for information on prevention, testing, treatment, and care.

This website has 20 different sections, providing

- Information on the history, origins, transmission, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS
- Features and human interest stories on vulnerable groups and people living with HIV/AIDS
- Updates on policy and interventions related to HIV/AIDS in India
- Backgrounders, analysis, independent comment and diverse perspectives from leading public health specialists in India, medical professionals who have spent decades working with HIV/AIDS, activists and human rights lawyers working with affected communities
- Articles on the human rights of positive people
- Reviews of HIV/AIDS in the media and popular culture
- Useful resources, including links to treatment, testing and counselling centres,
- FAQs on HIV/AIDS, PSAs on HIV/AIDS etc.
- An HIV helpline which takes questions on HIV medicine, counselling and sexuality issues



Infochange Agenda

Four volumes of Agenda have been released in this financial year. All four have been extremely well received, and readers have pointed to the constant improvement in the standard of the journal. The first issue is titled 'On the Move' and focuses on migration and displacement. The issue presents special reports on those displaced by cross-border conflict, ethnic and religious conflict, by natural disasters and by development. Our correspondents have reported from several corners of South Asia -- the Tibetans in Dharamshala, Tamils in Sri Lanka, Lhotshampas in Bhutan, refugees in Pak-Occupied Kashmir, the Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu, the Biharis thrown out of Maharashtra, the oldest development-displaced community in India, those displaced by the Mulshi dam in Maharashtra a century ago. The volume examined the rights of the displaced, the laws and covenants governing rehabilitation, the links between migration and human trafficking, and much more.

The second volume is titled 'Against Exclusion'. It looks at initiatives and campaigns to redress the social exclusion of dalits, the disabled, adivasis, widows and girl-children, religious minorities, sex workers, transgenders, and others. It provides a brief history and perspective on the social exclusion of these groups. Articles have been submitted by some of India's foremost writers on these themes, including GN Devy, Gail Omvedt, and JS Bandukwala.



**CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
PUNE.**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2009

Liabilities	Sch No	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.	Assets	Sch No	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.
Trust Fund & Corpus				Fixed Assets	F		
Other Earmarked Funds				I) FORD FOUNDATION GRANT		115252.00	438090.00
(Capital Expenditure) Utilized A/c				II) ICICI TDC GRANT		322838.00	
FORD FOUNDATION	A	477022.50		Current Assets, Loans & Advances	C		
ICICI TDC GRANT		481264.50	958287.00	Cash & Bank Balances			3866590.92
Liabilities				Loans & Advances	C-1		52972.00
Grant in AID	B		2187318.90				
Other Liabilities			25000.00				
Income & Expenditure A/c							
Opening Balance(P&L A/c)		711293.46					
Add. : Surplus for the year		475753.56	1187047.02				
Total			4357652.92	Total			4357652.92

As per our report of even date

For Raghunathan D. Aiyar & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Raghunathan D. Aiyar
Raghunathan D. Aiyar
Proprietor

Place : Pune

Date: **12th JUN 2009**



For Centre for Communication And Development Studies

[Signature]
Trustee

Trustee

CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

PUNE.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2009

EXPENDITURE	Sch No	Amount Rs.	INCOME	Sch No	Amount Rs.
To Project Expenses	D	9108181.69	By Grant in Aid	B	9108181.69
To Depreciation	F	99191.44	By Income From other Sources	E	252553.00
To Other Expenses		6229.00	By Bank Interest	G	328621.00
To Surplus for the year Trf to B/S		475753.56			
Total		9689355.69	Total		9689355.69

As per our report of even date

For Raghunathan D. Aiyar & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Raghunathan D. Aiyar
Raghunathan D. Aiyar
Proprietor

Place : Pune

Date:



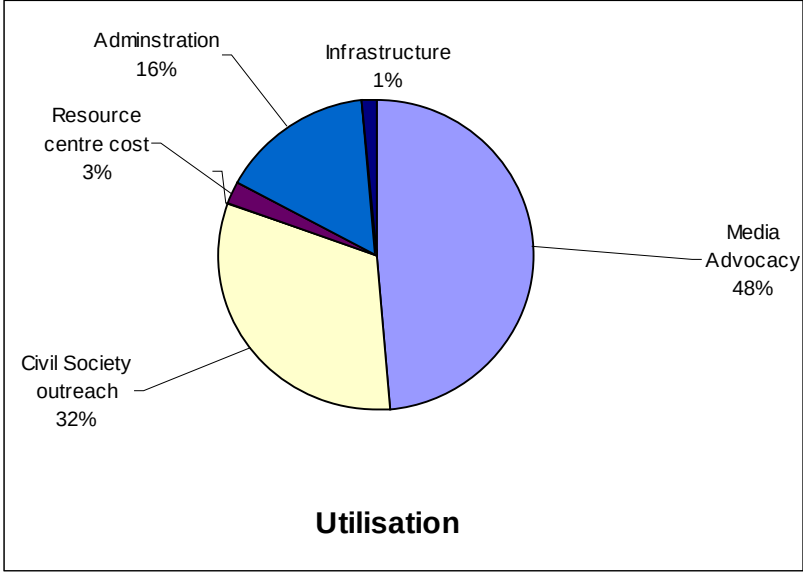
For Centre for Communication And Development Studies

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Trustee

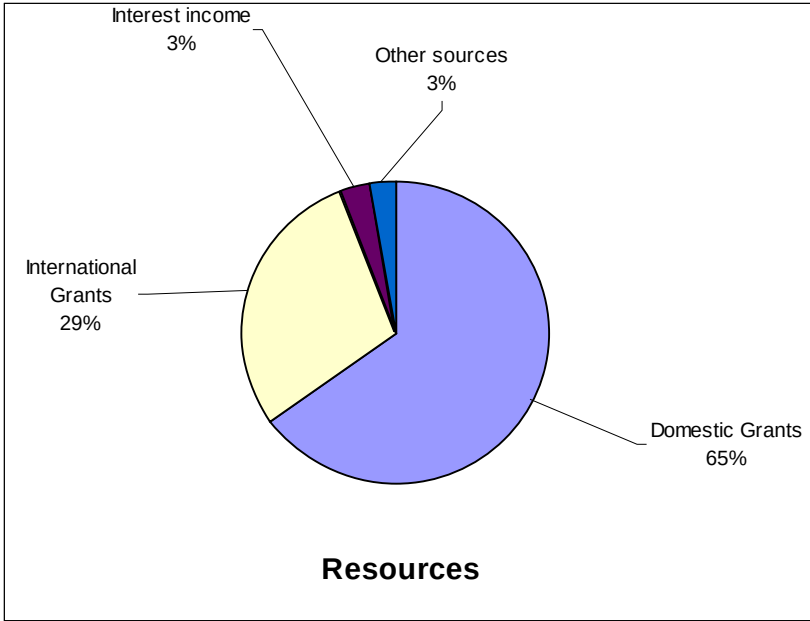
Trustee

**Centre for Communication & Development Studies
2008-2009**

Expenses	Rs
Media advocacy	4535339
Civil society outreach/capacity-building	2948126
Resource centre cost	242810
Adminstration	1487328
Infrastructure	122234
	9335836



Resources	Rs
Domestic grants	6368124
International grants	2862292
Interest income	328621
Other sources	252553
	9811590



About CCDS

The Centre for Communication and Development Studies (CCDS) is a social change resource centre working at the grassroots level to strengthen civil society and citizens' action for social justice, human rights, sustainable development and accountable governance.

CCDS's primary mandate is to empower civil society with information, analysis, diverse perspectives and alternative messages, enabling citizens to: 1) assert, exercise and claim their rights, 2) participate in meaningful discussion and citizens' action, and 3) advocate change in public policy and social attitudes.

The core competence of CCDS is the use of innovative communication strategies and media advocacy. Our civil society discussion forums, the Open Space civil society and youth outreach programme, our online resource base on social justice and development issues, www.infochangeindia.org, the quarterly journal InfoChange Agenda, and a number of other action-research projects play a crucial role in advocating issues related to sustainable development, governance, human rights and social justice at the national and international levels.