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Annual Report

2017-18



Critical Action
Centre In Movement

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CACIM (the India Institute for Critical Action Centre in Movement) is an initiative towards cultivating and nurturing a culture of critical reflexivity and action in individual and public work. The work of CACIM aims to build and maintain real and virtual spaces for fundamental research and critical reflection, exploration, action and creation in the field of movement.

CACIM grew out of an experimental informal association named Critical Action (CA) that existed during 2001-05 between scholar-activists in different parts of the world; and of several years prior to that, of research into and direct involvement in the history and dynamics of social and political movement, by several CA members.

CACIM was formally established in 2005 as a transnational, intercultural, and interdisciplinary organisation.

Mission

Our mission is to stimulate multiple learning centres across disciplines and cultures, and support and encourage all those involved in different ways with movements- activists, researchers and teachers, professionals, artists and composers, and thinkers, both mature and young, and both from the civil and in civil worlds. CACIM's work is about promoting criticality in socio-political action and movement. It sees critical thinking and reflection, and critical engagement, and through this critical action, as contributing to broader and more effective transformational social power.

CACIM works to strengthen the capacities and effectiveness of movements, and of activists in movements and of their supporters, through helping them develop a deeper than usual analysis of broader political, social, and economic structures and dynamics that underline the problems.

A related goal is to help movements to build mutually supportive alliances instead of operating alone on single issues.

Areas of focus

The current focus of CACIM is on the following areas:

- Strategies and Cultures of Movement: movement dynamics, social transformation processes and the role of alliances and networks
- Rights, Resources and Accountability: community rights over natural resources, access to rights, accountability of state and non-state actors
- Marginalities, Democracy and Power

Tools

To cultivate and nurture a culture of critical engagement, action and reflection is the broader objective of CACIM; for which it uses different tools.

CACIM does its work through aligning with the movements and community group as well as through workshops, seminars, and other meetings; through networking; through publications directed to (and in the languages of) both the leaders and the members of relevant socio-political movements; through the use of listserves, websites, and other new media; through educational initiatives such as courses; and in the course of all of this, learning from other experiences and movements. It attempts to be critically reflective in all its own work and processes, as well as all times, promote critical thought, engagement, and action within and among the CACIM community.



STRATEGIES AND CULTURES OF MOVEMENT

Reaching the Real India (RRI)

RRI seeks to provide young people with an opportunity to connect with and contribute directly to the socio-political processes of India. Young people can observe and understand India and its issues through a different lens. This initiative aims at filling the gap between the academic community and the mass organisations that work on human rights, equality and sustainable development. The programme provides short term internships with community organisations as well as long term fellowships. Through their engagement with organisations and issues impacting people on the ground, the RRI interns and fellows develop a perspective on social policy and processes, and understand how communities access their rights and entitlements through collective action.

I. Internship Programme

The Reaching the Real India (RRI) internships are a valuable platform for young people to get an insight on the realities of India and the dynamics of social change. The participating students are sent to different movements for closer interaction with their leaders, activists and affected communities.

In the year 2017-18, four students from different universities interned with us during their summer break. Two students interned with the ongoing activities in the Narmada valley where they understood issues impacting villages impacted by the dam and related projects. Two students interned with the NAPM. During December 2017-January 2018, we again launched the internship programme under the 'Reaching the Real India' project, where we invited applications to do the internships with people's

movements and rights based organisations. Two students were selected and successfully completed their internship.

II. RRI Fellowships on Housing Rights in Delhi and Mumbai

RRI fellows engage with the communities in unauthorised colonies in an effort to understand the role played by various implementing agencies and private builders. In continuation of our commitment to increase community awareness on housing rights, this year too RRI fellows worked in bastis where urban redevelopment programmes are being implemented. Fellows assisted in conducting workshops, held community empowerment meetings to develop community leadership and created awareness of their rights through public awareness campaigns.

Outcomes: The primary outcomes were the increased awareness of community members which enabled them to take matters to court, approach officials to clearly state their demands and the ability to bring issues before the media and focus attention on injustice meted out to those living in slums.



The new housing policy Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Housing For all, replaces the previous Rajiv Awas Yojana. We had earlier contributed to the formulation of Rajiv Awas Yojana which had provided for land titles, provisions for self-development etc. The new policy overlooks the needs of those most in need of housing and instead services those with a certain level of income. We are in

the process of consulting communities on a wider scale and making them understand the government policies so as to empower them to voice their opinion, if any. We also aim to analyse the issues and demands of

communities to work out a better policy to ensure their housing as well as livelihood concerns.

Mumbai

The housing project in Mumbai is functioning efficiently. Increased initiatives have led to an expansion of the project in 20 slums communities in Mumbai where many are under constant threat of eviction or facing other crises. To ensure proper coordination, mobilization and communication, and to establish a sense of solidarity, we ensure that representatives of all the 20 communities meet regularly. A weekly meeting of all the representatives ensures that there is a centralised database with information of all the communities, supporters, media contacts. This helps us to call meetings during crisis, help in translation, mobilizing and maintaining the literature. Apart from our major engagement to stop evictions, we are also connected with children and women in the slum communities. Along with this we are also engaged with government and media. We are also working at ensuring basic amenities in the slums. We are also able to write op-eds in major dailies and web portals. We are maintaining a website to put every possible detail of all our activities. Some details of our outcomes are as below:

Engagement with women in slum: On this women's day, we mobilized a slum community for a public hearing in order to highlight the difficulties and challenges women face during eviction. The program



was attended by a large number of women and many came forward to speak of their challenges and difficulties. The program was well covered by the media. We plan to take this process ahead and engage with the authorities to bring policy changes.

Children Centre: In an effort to make education accessible to the most marginalized children, we have recently started a children's centre. Majority of the children at the centre have never attended school. The age group is quite diverse. We are putting efforts to make them familiar with the mainstream education and encourage them to go to school. The success of this initiative can be seen by the large number of children who are coming to the centre. It is free of charge service including basic computer education.

Water supply: A large slum community with a population of around 8,000 households, which is in existence since more than two decades, has started getting water supply through water tankers from the municipal corporation due to the continuous efforts of the community mobilizers. We are making efforts to ensure water availability in each household through piped connection.

Intervention in state budgetary allocation: Every year large sums of money are allocated towards construction of housing for poor. However, the fund remain largely unutilized due to the faulty approach in addressing housing issues. During the budget session of the state government, we made a presentation in the presence of the lawmakers about suitable approaches to address the housing problems.

Workers Registration: 93% Indian workers are employed informally with irregular wages. They lack social security such as housing, pension, healthcare and so on. Effort are being made to get workers living in slums registered with the workers welfare board so that they may be eligible to get benefits of various social security schemes. We are engaged with the government to make the board functional and encourage workers to get registered with the board.

Policy Booklet: Through exhaustive research and feedback from the

group, we are in the process of formulating a small booklet critiquing the current housing policy of the central government. The booklet will also assess the implementation of the policy as well as put out recommendations in order to fix the loopholes in the policy so as to positively impact the maximum number of people.

III. Kosi Jeevanshala

Kosi Jeevanshala is a CACIM initiative supported by local community organisations since 2016 and the project offers support in the villages of Supaul district, Bihar. Jeevanshala, is an enterprise started with an aim to fill in the opportunity gap as well as achievement gap in education for impecunious families residing within or near the Kosi embankments.

Presently, four Jeevanshalas have been set up in the Kosi region and around 300 children attend school on regular basis.

In January 2017, a Nayi Basti Jeevanshala was started in Khokhnaha village. There are 42 students attending the Jeevenshala. A local youth, Pramod Ram is in charge of teaching in this Jeevanshala.

Another Jeevanshala was also set up in Khokhanha in January 2018. Initially, 47 students were studying here but the number increased after this winter and has gone up to 76 - 41 boys and 35 girls. This slum was settled by people after 2011-12 erosion in which only a few houses and schools survived.

Sokela Jeevanshala was also started on 4th January 2018 in a hut provided by community local, Dukhan Mukhiya, as these people had also lost their homes and schools to the floods. In 2016, victims from Khankhola and Lakshminiya started rehabilitating here. The government school here is very far and they have to cover a distance of 2.5 km covered in silt which includes crossing a river. Suresh has taken up the charge of teaching. Currently there are 30 children and their number is increasing day by day.

Dialogue with Youth of India:

In the year 2017, we were critically engaged with around 150 young leaders from across India. It was aimed to build an understanding on the questions of development, identity, as well as socio-political and cultural movements. The process is going into next phase and will continue to build an understanding at a state and regional level. It is critical that we build the second-generation leaders who can take up the critical discussions among communities to impact the development process of the country. It is also important to address the widespread discrimination in a country with so much diversity and society entrapped in the circle of caste, class and gender based violence.

Hard and eBook versions of the US edition:

During the previous year, 2016-17, OpenWord, CACIM's publications unit worked in collaboration with PM Press in the US to finalise and bring out the hard copy and eBook versions of the first two volumes edited by CACIM Advisor Jai Sen, *The Movements of Movements, Part 1 : What Makes Us Move ?*, as the fourth book in OpenWord's *Challenging Empires* series has finally came out in December 2017.

The US edition of the second volume:

The Movements of Movements, Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance, is due out from PM Press in September 2018. To bring out these two volumes, Jai Sen was helped by friends and colleagues from around the world, including Adityan M, the conceptualiser and designer of a concept for the covers of the *Challenging Empires* series; Christina Sanchez, for generating the Wordle diagrams that we have used in our books for the first time; Giulio Maffini, for nudging us into the use of diagrams to unpack and open up the meanings of the sometimes dense content of such books; Jim Coflin, for extensive technical help in the preparation of the manuscript; Lee Cormie, for companionship in thinking through the books; Madhuresh, for his contributions to the conceptualisation of this book and its predecessors; Nishant, former colleague at OpenWord; and Yih Lerh Huang, for infusing fresh energy and professionalism into our work at

OpenWord. My thanks to all of them!

During the year, and among many other things, we in the Challenging Empires team suffered a huge loss during the year, when Peter Waterman, Co-Series Editor and co-editor with Jai of earlier volumes (and also an Advisor to CACIM) passed away during June 2017.

As a part of a purely voluntary project that we have nicknamed

‘MOMBOP’ (the Movements of Movements Book Organising Project), Jai Sen is now in the process of planning book release events for both books in the US and Canada during 2018, in collaboration with Matt Meyer, one of the contributors to the books and a veteran pacifist and event organiser in the US, and with the different organisations that will be hosting them.

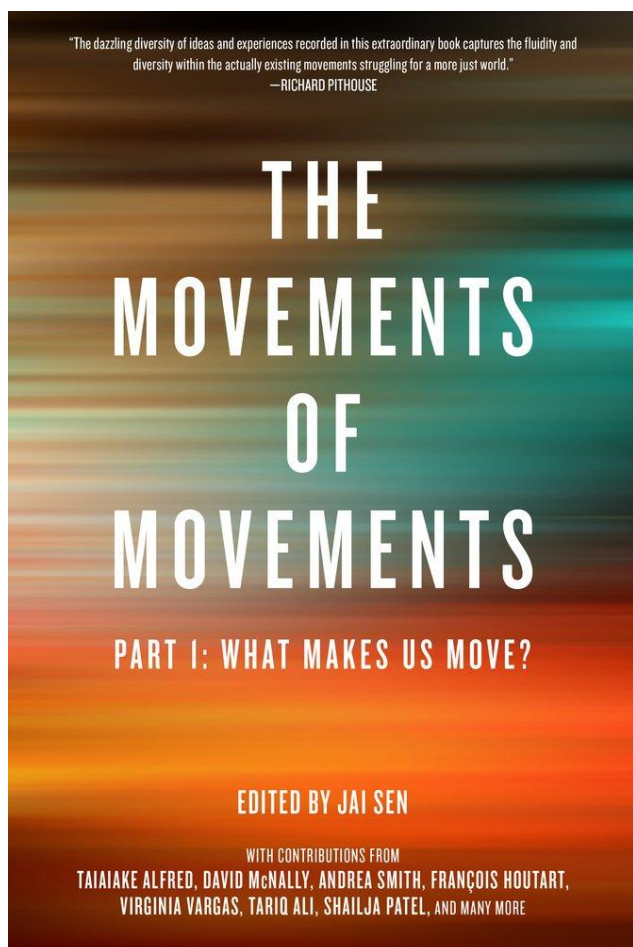
Indian edition:

In addition to the US edition, Authors Upfront, a new independent publisher in India, bought the Indian rights for the first volume The Movements of Movements, Part 1: What Makes Us Move? From PM Press in January 2018 and successfully brought out an Indian edition of the book very fast, in early April 2018, published in collaboration with PM Press and OpenWord. This was followed by several successful book release events during April and May 2018, in Bangalore, Bombay, and by CACIM in New Delhi. We will accordingly therefore report on all this in the

subsequent Annual Report.

An Advance Pre-final Movement Online Edition:

As reported in the last Annual Report, in addition to the hard copy and the ebook versions of the book, and with the enormous help of T B Dinesh and his colleagues at Servalots, and of Jim Coflin for help in creating the



raw material that we posted, during 2017 we also created and posted an 'Advance Pre-final Movement Edition' online, for free and open viewing – by activists, students, etc - of all the pre-final material for both the volumes, on CACIM's website, at www.cacim.net : Some fifty extraordinary essays, and other related material including a compiled comprehensive bibliography for each volume. These continue to be available on our website. Our thanks to Jim and to Dinesh and his colleagues!

World Social Movement Discuss

During 2017, we transformed a major earlier list serve that CACIM created back in 2005 named WSF Discuss (World Social Forum Discuss) into a new list serve named WSM Discuss (World Social Movement Discuss).

The list continues to be active, with new members constantly joining. All the posts on the new WSM Discuss are available at <https://lists.openspaceforum.net/pipermail/wsm-discuss/>.

During the year, and among many other things, we at WSM Discuss too suffered a great loss during the year, when Peter Waterman, one of our most active and provocative list members (and also an Advisor to CACIM) passed away during June 2017.



Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA)

CACIM began the new project named 'Centre for Financial Accountability' from January 2017. The objective of the project is to ensure transparency and accountability in financial institutions both national and international through research, networking and capacity building for strengthening ongoing efforts of local communities. It focuses on developing analysis, disseminate information and network at local, national and International levels on development finance to make these institutions transparent and accountable. It aims to engage with multiple stakeholders including people's representatives, affected communities, general public etc to facilitate a conversation on transparency and accountability of finance institutions.

Work With International Finance Institutions

CFA team participated in the CSO space at the AIIB meetings held on 25th and 26th June, 2017. The concerns put forward were mainly regarding AIIB's proposed involvement in the Amravati Capital City Project and National Infrastructure Fund Investment that is a financial intermediary category project. These issues were discussed with the UK and German Executive Directors of AIIB.

The communities affected by the new capital city of Amravati approached the World Bank Inspection Panel (IP) and the IP members met CFA colleagues in their primary visit. CFA had brought out a case study on the impacts of the said project supported by World Bank and its concerns. A model complaint was drafted based on the Bank's environmental and social policies which helped the local organisations submit their memorandum in a systematic way.

A two day Workshop on Understanding IFIs – Investments, intelligence and Trends with over 50 participants from across the country was organised at YUVA Centre, Navi Mumbai in March 2018 to discuss the changing landscape of International Financial Institutions particularly in the context of emergence of AIIB. The workshop looked at AIIB and its funding, changing geopolitical shifts and looking at ways of strategizing

and collaborating. It was attended by major social movements in the country and held discussions on policies, impacts of investments through data compiled by CFA on each of the development finance institutions. The workshop also discussed major investments coming into India and their implications from WB, ADB, AIIB, China, Japan, Germany, US, France, Korea, NDB along with the overlaps of these finances in few sectors like Industrial corridors, Smart cities, Energy, Transport, Urbanization, and Immunity & towards a legal treaty for IFI accountability.

A one day workshop and strategy meeting was also held on 'Understanding Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Exploring Strategies for Engagement' on 03 March 2018 at Sarvodaya Capacity Building Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai. The workshop with 46 members from people's movements and civil society largely discussed on understanding AIIB as a multilateral bank and its role in the global context of IFIs, East-West Geo-political tensions, differences and similarities with the other giant lenders, environmental and social safeguard concerns, issues surrounding the accountability mechanisms, information disclosure, investments approved and proposed in India and especially on financial intermediary lending which makes the banks get away with 'hands off lending' and not being held responsible for due diligence. All the participants voiced their concerns, strategy and possible avenues for intervention.

CFA project team is engaged with the CRP of ADB after the compliance review panel came out with the second monitoring report of the thermal power plant in Mundra. CFA is also engaging with the petition filed by the communities in the US court against impunity of IFC. The case was dismissed with a fractured verdict with one judge suggesting an appeal in the higher court which will be taken up by the Earth Rights International. The audit report of the complaint given to CAO by communities affected by GMR power project has also come out. CFA supports communities to prepare for these meetings.

Work With National Finance Institutions

Two development finance workshops were conducted - one in Palampur,

Himachal in June, 2017 and another one in Bhopal in November, 2017. The Palampur workshop was attended by 32 participants from civil society organisations, lawyers, teachers, students, NGOs etc. The Bhopal workshop was attended by 35 people from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh who are activists and CSO leaders. The presentations revolved around the role of national and international financial institutions in financing energy projects and other development projects. The development finance workshops organised by CFA has initiated the much necessary discussions on the need to look into the financing aspects of the projects and the institutions that back them. These workshops are generating interests to work on finances apart from looking into other aspects.

CFA has attempted to brief media and policy makers on various aspects of the financial policies especially relating to Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Financial Resolution bill. CFA has also facilitated community engagements with policy makers over the FRDI bill which resulted in more than 10 groups filing their comments on the bill when it came for public comments. Our policy brief on FRDI was used by many groups to understand and evolve their views.

Energy Finance

Three energy finance workshops held in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Nagpur in Maharashtra and Bhubaneswar in Orissa. These are held in local area mostly with communities affected by development projects and their organisations. These workshops are intended to deepen knowledge, understand linkages and facilitate cross learning. More than 50 people attended each workshop. The workshops built perspectives on the political economy of energy and finance.

This year we did not have dedicated community exchange programs. However, this was facilitated through providing space and time for groups to interact and exchange the work they do in all the energy finance workshops.

Peoples' groups representatives from Singrauli travelled to Unchahar

along with the CFA team when the thermal power plant had an explosion and workers died. CFA has prepared and released one preliminary fact finding report on the case in November, 2017.

Capacity Building

As planned earlier, workshop courses were offered to MSW students in College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Gujrat Vidyapith MBA Rural Administration, and Masters Students in Azim Premji University. We are being invited again next year to undertake the course. The courses opened a new window into the functioning of development institutions and how projects get financed. Course materials were prepared and shared with students well in advance and this helped them get an idea of the role of finance. Various lectures were organised across the country some of them in partnership on various issues facing the banking sector in the country. Much of this was on Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance bill (FRDI Bill) which was introduced and referred to a joint committee of the parliament. CFA facilitated / co organised meetings in Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai with associations of bank officers. These Seminars discussed 'What is threatening Public Sector Banks in India'. A minimum of 150 people attended the seminars. Eminent academicians, social activists and civil society leaders addressed these meetings. These include Ms.Aruna Roy, C.P Chandrasekhar, Jayathi Gosh, Thomas Franco, Gautam Mody, Madhuresh Kumar etc. Apart from these, CFA organised public lectures on various topics including Good and Service Tax (GST), New Banking Legislations, Crisis in Financial Sector, Privacy Judgment of the Supreme Court, and citizens engagement with democratic institutions.

The workshop courses have gained traction with colleges calling CFA again to conduct the workshops as they find the discussion on finance as a good learning for students and students getting an opportunity to interact with key activists and their perspectives.

The first program for the year 2018 was conducted along with Humanities department of India Institute of Technology (IIT Guwahati) on February 10th and 11th, 2018. There were about 18 participants from various

departments being part of this course. The resource persons included staff from CFA, experts on environment, finance, North East region, and faculty of IIT. There was an open lecture by Executive Director of CFA on February 12 which was open for all the students and was attended by faculty from HSS department and the Institute.

Publications

CFA brought out five different publications on specific policies and issues this year with three of them translated into Hindi as well. The policy briefs were disseminated to various civil society groups, trade unions, community organisations, students and policy makers. These are also made available to public through our website and publicised through social media.

CFA has created its website as a repository of information and analysis. It contains all the publications, policy briefs, and work related with energy, finance etc. We have also facilitated creation of different sites like Working Group on IFIs, Peoples BRICS etc where specific information related to those institutions are kept. CFA has active presence in social media particularly in Facebook, twitter, YouTube channel etc. Our total impression on twitter crossed 1,15,081 by December. Regular blogs by staff on energy, coal, financial institutions, and financial policies are carried in these blogs.

CFA has been monitoring and following discussions on National and International Finance Institutions and responding / demystifying them to civil society. The main vehicle for this exercise is Finance Matters, a weekly news bulletin carrying articles written by CFA staff, colleagues and external experts. There have been 28 Finance Matters bulletin, now publishing articles on impact of development finance in the energy sector, influence of IFIs, Non performing assets of public sector banks, financial resolutions, etc. CFA also releases 'Urja Samvaad', a bi-monthly Hindi newsletter for local communities with critical news related to the energy sector, land acquisition, displacement and impacts on affected communities. Since January 2017, we have published two editions of this

newsletter.

Community Support for Environment Conservation in the Himalayas

Our work with community groups in the Himalayan states arose from the perspective of the concerns unique to the region and those arising out of climate change. These changes are also a consequence of rampant infrastructure development like highways, dams, tourism etc. These developments have social and environmental impacts on the communities there. Our work has used the tools of capacity building, awareness, data collection and documentation around these issues.

Uttarakhand

This year we were engaged in ongoing work and also faced new challenges. Tehri Dam rehabilitation took much energy even for a single small rehabilitation site like Roshanabadin, Haridwar District, Uttarakhand. Access to rightful resettlement and rehabilitation remains an issue for the



displaced population. Local communities with the support of administration managed to access areas allocated for them such as space for their community centre, schools and water facility.

We are currently documenting developments in the Tous River where a massive 315 M high dam is being planned. Local people are being made aware of the developments and their rights in relation to the EIA process and related outcomes.

In Pinder Valley, a village level public hearing was held concerning rehabilitation since even after 8 years of environment public hearing, people have not received information about the proposed Devasari Hydroelectric Project. Constant efforts are being made for better environmental policies and information about the projects.

Meetings were held about the Srinagar HEPs on the issues of Alakananda river, power channel, compensation for the affected people, for clean water to the city and other promises made by the company which remain unfulfilled. In Alaknanda Valley, village level meetings has been organised



for affected people's rights. The area covered by dams included Vishnuprayag, under construction Tapovan-Vishnugad, Vishnu Gad-Pipalkoti and proposed Bovala -Nandprayag and Nandprayag-Langasu. Meetings were organised to raise awareness about the consequences and impact of dams, the process of dam construction, the current status and manner in which they could access their rights.

Apart from this, we also worked on Forest Rights, held workshops and educated people about Forest Rights Act 2006. We also met government officials in Uttarakhand and Ministries in Delhi on various issues.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh being a mountain state, 2/3rd of its area is under the direct ownership of the Forest Department and the local communities are dependent on these lands for their livelihood. Due to the state government's stand that the forest rights have been already settled in pre-colonial period civil society groups started building regular dialogue with the State Government to implement the rights of the forest dwelling communities. Concerted efforts under the Himachal state forum resulted in some success in both tribal and non-tribal regions. We work with the local community based organisations in many villages and districts and as and when required. Primarily, focusing on documentation, capacity building, training and workshops. .

The key activities involved:

1. Building regular dialogue and communication with the government

List of some of the key meetings held with government officials:

- A meeting of all associated organizations with Himachal village rights forum held in Shimla and met and submitted a memorandum to the Secretary, Tribal Department.
- With Deputy Commissioner cum Chairperson of District Level Committees (DLCs) of Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti.
- With SDM cum Chairperson, Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs) of Baijnath, Palampur and Dharamshala of district Kangra; Chamba, Salooni, Tissa, Bhatiyat and Bharmour of Chamba district; Kullu and Manali of Kullu district; and Lahul and Spiti of Lahul&Spiti district and Pooh and Nichar of Kinnaur district.
- With Divisional Forest Officers and Forest Range officers of concerned Forest divisions and Forest Ranges.
- With Chief Secretary cum Chairperson of SLMC and Commissioner, Tribal development for issuing of certain guidelines for the rights of the forest dwelling communities.

- With members of SLMC- the State Level Monitoring Community (SLMC) seems to have finally recognized the importance of community claims.

2. Raising awareness and providing training and support - We are extending support to different groups in Sirmour, Chamba, Lahaul and Spiti, Kullu, Mandi and Kinnaur. We have generated two videos and broadcasted through the social media and cable channels, and documented success stories to raise awareness.

Orientation and trainings were conducted for the following:

- 50 village committees at Gram Sabha level.
 - DLCs of Kangra, Chamba, Kull and Lahul & Spiti districts.
 - SDLCs at each sub-division level of Baijnath, Palampur, Dharamshala sub-division of Kangra district and Chamba. Bhatiyat and Bharmour of Chamba district and Lahul and Spiti sub- division of district Lahul & Spiti.
4. Assistance in Claim Filing: Before 2016, not a single community claim had been given. In 2016 after the formation of the forum and the consistent efforts, 7 community and 53 individual claims were recognized and titles distributed in Chamba district of Himachal. After this 76 families got titles in Lahaul and Spiti district.

Individual Claims

§ Provided help in filling individual claims by twelve committees of Gram Sabhas of Sissu, Urinath, Khangshar, Gondla, Kolang, Stingri, Kaza, Mane Kogma, Mane Gogma and Darchaetc.

§ Follow-up of these claims at the SDLC and DLC level of respective Gram Sabhas.

§ 76 individuals claims in Lahaul and Spiti have got title

Community Rights and Resource Claims

§ Provided help in filling of community rights and resources by the 45 Gram Sabhas. Grand Total is 136599.13 hectare. (One lakh thirty six thousand five hundred ninety nine hectare).

Claims Filled by Nomadic Pastoralists

§ Provided help to file 250 claims of nomadic pastoralists by the respected gram sabhas in the Baijnath, Palampur and Dharamshala sub-division of district Kangra.

Research on Infrastructure, Changing Cities and Land Legislations:

In depth research continues on the dominant development paradigm, changes in legislation and the continued emphasis on large infrastructure projects. Emerging issues include the creation of waterways as an economical ways of transport while disturbing the natural course of rivers in India, water privatisation at large restricting community accesses to the water bodies, creation of different types of cities which makes space for certain communities and structurally discriminate with others, opaque land acquisition processes depriving communities of their livelihood, keeping aside the central legislation for land acquisition which has provisions for public consent and social and environmental impact assessment, changing and diluting land acquisition legislations at state level throughout the country in the name of ease of doing business. While there is extensive research on these lines, we are able to develop the capacity to carry these research ideas ahead with deeper understanding in a constantly changing political and economic landscape. We are able to engage with many researchers and create a space where we can work collectively and engage with a wide spectrum of ideas.

An Initiative towards Gender Rights & Equality

The vision of this project is to help organisations, groups and individuals to be sensitive and recognize the issues of LGBTQIA people and thereby address them in their work discourse and to create an environment, which is inclusive safe and affirmative for all.

Capacity Building:

Gender and sexuality workshop with media (April 2017):

At the workshop, we took the participants through basic gender-sexuality terms and concepts. Further, through the case studies from English mainstream media (print and digital publications), we illustrated inaccurate

and insensitive representation of gender and sexuality issues and by using best practices from alternative news media, we explored how to improve skills to report on issues of diverse gender people in a sensitive and accurate manner and looked into ways to visually represent stories on gender and sexuality.

Stress management and burnout prevention workshops in partnership with TARSHI (September to November 2017): Self-care, stress management, and burnout prevention has risen as a feminist issue in the last seven years, but access to resources and spaces to be able to talk about such issues remains an overwhelming need for many. It was in response to this need that we have hosted a series of free, bilingual workshops on stress management and burnout prevention for diverse gender individuals. Three workshop series were held over a period of three months. The workshops functioned on a non-medical model with an emphasis on simple stress management techniques that can be practiced individually without any additional equipment or resources necessary. One of the principle techniques taught in these workshops was Energy Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), "a non-invasive meridian therapy, involving individuals tapping on specific points of the body, using their fingers in place of the needles used in acupuncture." All the workshops were conducted by Prabha Nagaraja, an EFT trainer, and Dipika Srivastava and Ramya Anand, EFT practitioners, from TARSHI.

The first workshop was held in New Delhi on the 2nd, 3rd, and 9th of September 2017 and was followed up with an optional foundation course in EFT on the 16th of September. The second workshop was conducted almost entirely in Hindi for human rights defenders, activists, and caseworkers working with issues of violence against women, gender based issues, and incarcerated women. The workshop was held in Global Arts Village in New Delhi on October 3rd and 4th, 2017. The third was held in New Delhi on the 4th of November 2017.

Engaging with diversity: A two-and-a-half-day residential workshop was conducted at the Sambhavana Institute in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, for activists and individuals within the development sector. This workshop aimed to increase awareness on different gender issues as well as facilitate a more holistic understanding of gender and sexuality issues, outside of just the LGBT*QIA+ spectrum, to use as a lens to view diversity in general and in the workplace. Over the course of the workshop, 20 participants from a variety of activist backgrounds, including gender issues, sexuality and reproductive health and rights issues, violence against women issues,

and farmers' and people's movements, engaged with the topics of gender and sexuality. Through informative slides, extensive discussions, question/answer sessions, group work and activities, and a documentary, the workshop covered a range of topics. These broadly included law, gender within and without the binary, gender identity, expression, attribution, and norms, cisgender privileges, trans* identities, various terminology relevant to the LGBT*QIA+ spectrum, sexual identities, and sexual norms and expectations, not only for LGBT*QIA+ people, but for other marginalized individuals such as single women or divorced or widowed women. All participants shared their feedback through an anonymous post-workshop assessment provided at the workshop's conclusion.

Exploring the self with the lens of gender and sexuality: (December 2017): A four-day residential workshop was conducted, for students from a range of colleges, academic disciplines, and degrees of study on exploring the self through the lens of gender and sexuality. Over the course of the workshop, 14 participants from a variety of colleges and universities in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Pune engaged through theatre exercises, extensive discussions, and group work and activities. Participants shared their feedback through an anonymous post-workshop assessment provided at the workshop's conclusion.

Archiving – Our Lives Our Tales

As a part of the series:

Queer journalism (January 2017): We organized a conversation with queer journalists on their lives: How their careers in journalism impacted and was impacted by the rest of their lives as queer-identified persons, how their work and work life was affected by their sexual/gender identities, their experiences and thoughts on working with and witnessing journalism about queer issues, and more. We invited Dhrubojyot - a Dalit queer rights activist and journalist, Georgina Maddox - a writer/curator who works with art and gender. She has been involved with journalism and activism for the last 15 years.

Our work with queer community: The centre at Dakshinpuri has been set up in a way to host meetings and to provide shelter to couples and individuals who are trying escaping their abusive families.

Law: We also organized a session on intersections of laws and the

LBT*(FAB) lives. This session was facilitated by our legal consultant, Amritananda Chakravorty, a lawyer involved with the Section 377 case in the Supreme Court. The session mentioned how in various ways we as a group should do engage with ministers and local governments urging them to comply with the NALSA judgement which allows gender change without surgical intervention. Apart from this, Amritananda discussed about property laws, Criminal Amendment Act and Protection of Women against Domestic Violence and their linkages with transgender people.

Case work: We have followed up on a close to 10 cases but not been able to take any concrete action. This is an area where we will focus on in our next phase.

Exposure visit: The idea behind this exposure visit was to understand the work and culture of another organization that works on similar issues. The members from our community stayed with group members of Vikalp-Parma giving them insights into their lives.

Work around the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 (November 2017): One of the most important developments in our work has been the focus on advocacy around NALSA Judgement and subsequent Transgender Bills. With this context in mind, Transmen Collective, Delhi organized a day-long reading and discussion on the revised version of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, and its impact on the lives of transmen. The session, organized especially for transmen from Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, and Uttar Pradesh.

Urban Resources Centre for Migrant Domestic Workers

This project functions as an open and democratic space for domestic workers. It orients and builds the capacities of domestic workers by harnessing their skills. Through training domestic workers on their rights, this project also empowers them to confront their vulnerabilities emanating out of harassment or physical abuse by their employers.

Some of the work taken by the Urban Resource Centre for migrant domestic workers in last year:

- The Centre provides an open and democratic space for domestic

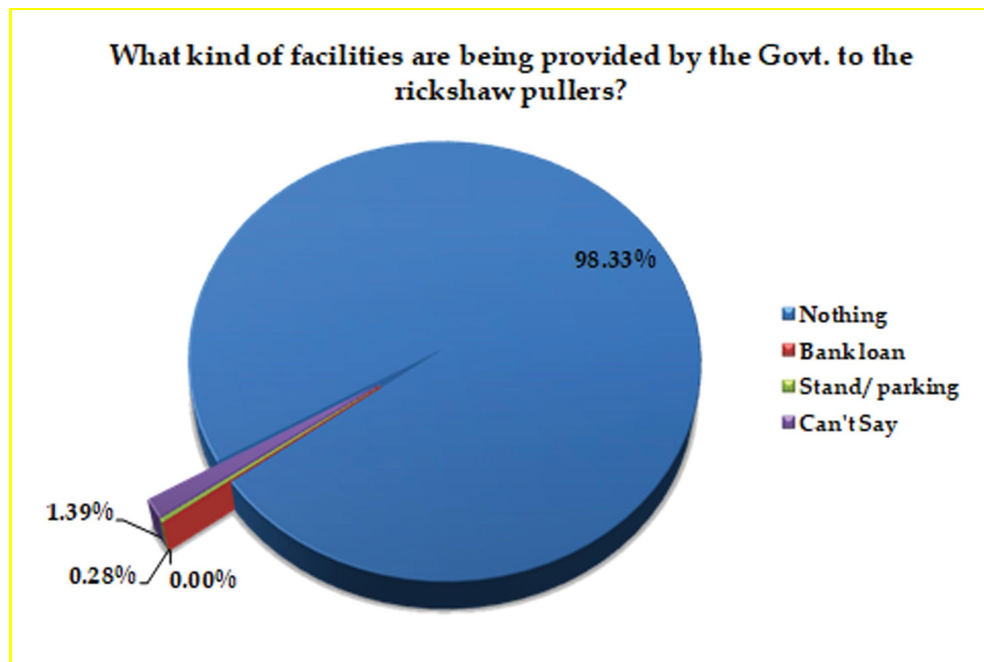
workers for dialogue and sharing of ideas, knowledge and experience

- We worked towards building the capacities of domestic workers by harnessing their skills required for enhancing their bargaining capacity.
- We conducted training sessions for domestic workers on their rights and empowered them to confront the vulnerability emanating out of harassment or physical abuse by their employers.
- We also advocated with Central and State Governments for proper wages, safe and secure working conditions for domestic workers.
- We organised a dialogue with fraternal organizations and advocated with the Central Government for formulating National Domestic Workers Policy.
- Our centre serves as a short stay home for domestic workers.
- We facilitated legal aid and medical assistance to domestic workers during their distress period.
- We also interacted with the media for breaking the biased and preconceived notions about domestic workers.

Research on Rickshaw Pullers

This year CACIM facilitated a study on the people who are engaged with non-motorized vehicles, especially cycle rickshaws by identifying the issues and drawbacks related with this particular group of the population so that their overall standard of living can be uplifted. The purpose of the research was to protect and safeguard the rights of the people who are engaged in the occupation of the cycle rickshaw. Through the implementation of the project, we conducted interviews with a large number of people and we collected primary data, and by analysing the data we were able to draw a scenario of present cycle rickshaw occupation in Delhi. The study was conducted with keeping the following objectives in mind:

1. To understand the socio-economic condition



, travel characteristics, barriers, challenges and the regulatory structure of cycle rickshaw in Delhi.

2. To develop a policy structure for the cycle rickshaw puller is the ultimate goal of the study.

Beneficiary of the Project

Through the implementation of this project, the cycle rickshaw pullers are benefited in the following manner.

1. Increase the level of awareness: Through this project, the awareness level regarding the particular issues of cycle rickshaw occupation was developed among the rickshaw pullers. And at the same time changes took place in their thinking pattern. Prior to this project they were not optimistic in regards to mitigation of the problems related to them and they were not hopeful about the upliftment of their living standards.
2. Empowered: After the implementation of the project, rickshaw pullers are empowered to deal with their problem facing in day to day life,

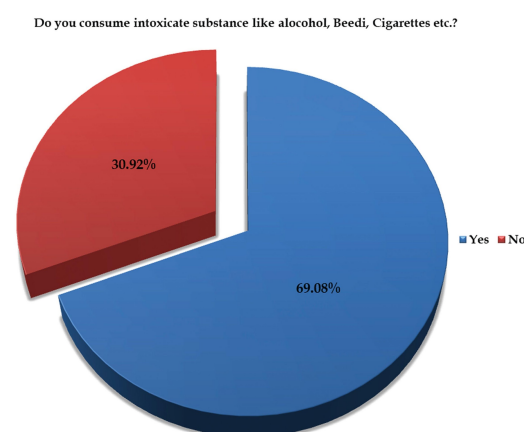


as they become organised to deal with their problem.

3. Capacity Build up: Regular meetings and discussions took place regarding the issues and problems and at the same time we tried to identify the individuals who can lead them to many issues so that we could provide training to build up their capacity.

4. Socio-economic upliftment: A major change took place among the rickshaw pullers. Due to ignorance and illiteracy, the majority of the rickshaw pullers were not aware of the various existing social security schemes which in turn deprived them of the various Govt. facilities. During the project implementation period, they became aware of the various policies and programs and as a result of this, they enrolled their name in various social security schemes.

Majority of the rickshaw pullers consume intoxicant substances likely alcohol, Beedi, Cigarette, Tobacco, Ghutka by knowing or unknowingly their ill effects. The rickshaw pullers who take intoxicant substances are unable to bear their family expenditure and as a result family disturbances take place. We conduct discussions and counselling sessions with them to get relief from their habit of taking intoxicants and as a result of this few of them are able to continue an intoxicant free life.



Outcomes of the Project

a. Significant change: The most significant change which took place due to the project implementation is that the rickshaw pullers have become organised and empowered about their rights and issues. They are able to build up an organised effort to deal with their problems and at the same time, they can raise their voice regarding the day to day problems faced by them. By the implementation of the project, the cycle rickshaw pullers are empowered, organised, confident and self-dependent to deal with their issues and concerns.

- b. Environmental impact: The project basically deals with the promotion of cycle rickshaw as a mode of public transport. Non-motorized transport, especially cycle rickshaws, provides several benefits to users and the rest of society by improving public fitness and health, reducing traffic congestion, reducing the risk of accidents, energy consumption and pollution emission. The promotion of cycle rickshaw plays a vital role to mitigate the challenges of climate change. By implementation of the project, people have become aware of the benefits of cycle rickshaws in relation to individual and environment.
- c. Organisational strength: By the implementation of the project, the organisation is able to understand the features, barriers, drawbacks and regulatory structure of cycle rickshaw in Delhi which will be helpful to draw policy and programmes on the cycle rickshaw in a broad perspective.
- d. Community involvement: This project is accomplished with the collaborative help of the involvement of rickshaw pullers community. Because without their involvement the project can't be completed. The involvement of the rickshaw pullers community helps them to be aware about their rights and issues and they become organised and empowered to deal with their issues.
- e. Additional changes: Through the implementation of this project, the thinking pattern cycle rickshaw pullers community is changed in relation to their profession. Before the project implementation, rickshaw pullers community was not organised to deal with any issue or problems but nowadays the community is empowered to produce organised effort to deal with their ease. Their leadership potential is also realised and visible now.