



Annual Report

2018-19



Critical Action
Centre In Movement

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About CACIM

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 scholars and organisers 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 social organisations – organisers, 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 processes. 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 social organisations and their members 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 social organisations 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

Methodology

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 in collaboration with the community groups and organisations across the country through organising workshops, seminars, and other meetings; through networking; through research and documentation resulting in publications in different languages; through the use of list serves, websites, and other new media; through educational initiatives such as courses for young people inside and outside the colleges and universities; and in the course of all of this, learning from other initiatives and processes. 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.

Introduction

In continuation with the previous years this year too CACIM managed to develop new programmes and consolidate some of its existing programmes. The programmes under thematic ‘rights, resources and accountability’ received a boost with the start of our new initiative ‘People’s Resource Centre’, together with the Centre for Financial Accountability we are now able to generate resources for our partners on development processes and accountability mechanisms within. We have also started new collaborations with the universities and colleges and have conducted several workshops with the young students and researchers and ensured dissemination of our research and publications. This has evinced interests for collaboration and they are at various stages at the moment. Youth and citizenship development has emerged as one of the key messages in all our programmes, given the large young population of the country.

Our other programme thematic ‘marginalities, democracy and power’ saw expansion of our work in new geographies and bringing in new partner community organisations. Along with the youth the other major category of work has been with the women and other gender categories. Women are a significant contributor to the economy but they also remain concentrated in informal invisible sectors. Our effort has been to reach out to them be it the domestic workers, fish workers, or those communities dependent on the natural resources.

Our programme with the youth ‘reaching the real India’ not only continues to help expose young students and youth to the ongoing social and development processes but also provides technical and resource support to their efforts and contribute towards development of the new generation of youth leaders.

Our work has also focused on incubating new initiatives led by young people, finding resource support and providing technical help and mentorship. Once successful they develop as an independent initiative on their own while continuing to undertake collaborative programmes. This year we have finally managed to find adequate resources and support for two of our projects – work with the basti dwellers in Mumbai and the resources for gender justice – and feel confident that both the projects can now stand on their own as independent initiatives.

Even though we have continued to work with many social and development processes and collaborate with the community organisations and networks, our efforts at building independent projects within the thematic ‘strategies and cultures of movements’ has not met with success. However, we have continued to run the widely impactful and appreciated listserve on the world social movements and also completed the publication of two more books in the series ‘movement of movements’. The books have been received well by the

academic and researcher community and those interested in the movement dynamics and social transformation processes.

We look forward to building our work with the continued support of the collaborating organisations and foundations who have supported our work and lastly the staff who make it all possible.

STRATEGIES AND CULTURES OF MOVEMENT

As part of our project in studying the global movements for social transformation, during this year, OpenWord, CACIM's publications unit worked in collaboration with PM Press in the US and brought out the hard copy and eBook versions of the second two volumes edited by CACIM Advisor Jai Sen, *The Movements of Movements*, Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance as the fifth book in OpenWord's *Challenging Empires* series.

To bring out this volume, Jai Sen was helped by friends and colleagues from around the world, including *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;; and *Yih Lerh Huang*, for infusing fresh energy and professionalism into our work at OpenWord. Our thanks to all of them!

The volume is available in both hard copy and ebook editions from PM Press at <http://www.pmpress.org/>.

The Movements of Movements, Indian Edition and Book Launch

During the year, Jai Sen, editor of the two-volume series *The Movements of Movements* approached and then worked with Authors Upfront (<http://www.authorsupfront.com/>), a publisher based in Delhi, to bring out an Indian edition of the series titled *The Movements of Movements*, Part 1 : What Makes Us Move ?. The book was successfully brought out in time by Authors Upfront in collaboration with PM Press and OpenWord. It was launched in several successful book release events in Bangalore, Bombay, and Delhi. Authors Upfront purchased the rights from PM Press.

Book Launch of First Volume in India

To launch the first volume of 'The Movements of Movements', Part 1: What Makes Us Move?, the following book launch events were organised in India during the year of 2018:

1. **Bangalore:** The first launch was on 20th April, 2018 in Bangalore, India. It was organised by Environment Support Group (ESG) at Ashirwad on St Mark's Road, Bangalore. Leo Saldanha, the coordinator of ESG introduced and moderated session. Jai Sen the editor of the volume introduced the book and responded to the discussions which took place afterwards. The names of few discussants present were:
 - **Madhu Bhushan**, Independent activist, writer, and researcher
 - **Benny Kuruvilla**, researcher on trade policy, corporate power, and new politics, at the Transnational Institute
 - **Dr Swetha Rao Dhananka**, Urban sociologist associated with the Environment Support Group

2. **Mumbai:** The second release was on 24th April, 2018 in Mumbai, India. This was organised by the School of Habitat Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Malti and Jal A D Naoroji Campus (New Campus), Deonar Farm Road, Mumbai, India. *Ratoola Kundu*, Associate Professor at the Centre for Urban Policy and Governance in the School of Habitat Studies in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences introduced the event and moderated session. Jai Sen, editor of the volume, introduced the book and responded to the discussions. Some discussants present there were :
 - **Anand Teltumbde**, senior professor with the Goa Institute of Management, is a management professional, writer, civil rights activist, and political analyst; author of many books on various issues related to people's movements, with particular emphasis on the Left and on Dalits; contributor to the book *The Movements of Movements*, Part 1 : What Makes us Move ?.
 - **Amita Bhide**, Professor and Dean of School of Habitat Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India; teacher and researcher on urban poverty alleviation, housing, urban governance, land management, city planning and development and slum rehabilitation.
3. **New Delhi:** The third release was on 01st May, 2018 in New Delhi, India. This was organised by CACIM at the Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Dr Vasundhara Jairath, academic-activist, teaching development studies at IIT Guwahati introduced and moderated the event. Jai Sen, editor of the volume, introduced the book and responded to the discussion took place later. Some of the discussants present were:
 - **Kamla Bhasin** - poet, author and feminist activist
 - **Prof Apoorvanand** - writer, political commentator and teaches Hindi Literature at Delhi University

Book Launch of Both the Volumes in US & Canada

Following the launch of the Indian edition of Book 1 in India, similar events were also organised in Canada and the US during September-December 2018 to launch both the volumes of 'The Movements of Movements', Part 1: What Makes Us Move?' and 'Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance'. The places where book launch events were organized are listed below:

1. **Boston, USA:** 'The Movements of Movements', Part 1: What Makes Us Move?' was launched in Boston on 07th June, 2018. It was organised by encuentro5, Boston, USA, at encuentro5, Dorotea Manuela of encuentro5 moderated the event. Jai Sen, editor of the volume, introduced the book and responded to discussions. Some of the discussants present were:
 - **Jeffrey Juris** - Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North-eastern University, author of *Networking Futures : The Movements against Corporate Globalization* (Duke University Press, 2008), *Global Democracy and the World Social Forums* (co-author, Paradigm Press, 2008)
 - **Matt Meyer**, New York-based educator-activist, contributor to the companion volume *The Movements of Movements*, Part 2 : *Rethinking Our Dance*, and author most recently of *White Lives Matter Most* (And Other "Little" White

Lies) and co-editor with déqui kioni-sadiki of *Look for Me in the Whirlwind : From the Panther 21 to 21st Century Revolutions*

2. **Ottawa, Canada:** Here both the volumes of ‘The Movements of Movements’, Part 1: What Makes Us Move?’ and ‘Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance’ was launched in Ottawa on 25th September, 2018. This was organised by the School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, on unceded Anishinaabe territory in Canada on Turtle Island. Lauchlan Munro, Associate Professor at School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa introduced the speakers and moderated the event. Jai Sen, editor of the two books, introduced the book and responded to the discussions. The speakers were:

- **Lee Cormie**, researcher, teacher, and writer of articles on Christian liberation theologies and social movements and a participant/observer in church-based social justice initiatives in the US and Canada, and in the World Social Forum and the World Forum on Theology and Liberation; and contributor of an essay in the first book and of the Afterword in the second book
- **André Drainville**, Professor of Transnational Sociology at Laval University in Québec City; author of over thirty articles on forms of resistance to capitalist globalisation; and contributor to the first book

The following discussants were present:

- **Nadia Abu-Zahra** an Associate Professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies in the University of Ottawa and co-author of *Unfree in Palestine : Registration, Documentation, and Movement Restriction* and other books.
- **Marie-Josée Massicotte** an Associate Professor and Chair, Institute for Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, and co-editor with Pierre Beaudet and Raul Canet of *L’Altermondialisme : Forums sociaux, résistances et nouvelle culture politique* and author of other publications.

3. **Boston, USA:** Both the volumes of ‘The Movements of Movement was released in Boston book party around on 11th October, 2018. It was organised by encuentro5, Boston, MA, USA, at encuentro5. Alex Papali, water activist in Boston, introduced the speakers and moderated the event.

The speakers were:

- **Jai Sen**, editor of the two books
- **Matt Meyer**, New York-based educator-activist, contributor to the companion volume *The Movements of Movements, Part 2 : Rethinking Our Dance*, and author most recently of *White Lives Matter Most (And Other “Little” White Lies)* and co-editor with déqui kioni-sadiki of *Look for Me in the Whirlwind : From the Panther 21 to 21st Century Revolutions*

The discussants were:

- **Jeff Crosby**, long-time labour and socialist organiser in Boston

4. **Boston USA:** At Boston book event around both the volumes of book were released on 12th October, 2018 in Boston. It was organized at Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA, USA. The speakers present were:

- **Jai Sen**, editor of the two books

- **Jeffrey Juris** - Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North-eastern University, author of *Networking Futures : The Movements against Corporate Globalization* (Duke University Press, 2008), *Global Democracy and the World Social Forums* (co-author, Paradigm Press, 2008)
5. Santa Cruz, USA: At Santa Cruz Book Event around, both the volumes of book were launched at Santa Cruz on 27th November, 2018. This was organized by Guillermo Delgado-P and Robert Cavoors, University of California at the University of Santa Cruz, History of Consciousness Department, UC Santa Cruz. The speaker was **Jai Sen**, editor of the two books and the discussants present were:
- **Michelle Glowa** (California Institute of Integral Studies, School of Consciousness and Transformation)
 - **Deborah Gould** (UC Santa Cruz, Sociology Department)
 - **Patrick King** (UC Santa Cruz, History of Consciousness Department)

A Workshop on ‘The Movements of Movements’

A workshop on ‘The Movements of Movements’ in Times of Climate Change: Rethinking Our Dance’ was also organized at the **Howard Zinn Book Fair** on 02nd December 2018 in San Francisco. It was co- organized by Jai Sen and Chris Carlsson at the City College Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia Street, San Francisco. It had the following speakers /panellists:

- **Chris Carlsson** is a writer, publisher, editor, and community organiser, co-directs the multimedia history project Shaping San Francisco (shapingsf.org), and has written two books (*After the Deluge*, *Nowtopia*) and edited six books.
- **Jai Sen** is editor of the two books *The Movements of Movements*, Part 1: *What Makes Us Move?* And Part 2: *Rethinking Our Dance*.

An Open Discussion on ‘The Movements of Movements’

On 05th December, 2018, an open discussion on ‘The Movements of Movements’ was also co organized by Shaping San Francisco and PM Press at the **Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics, 518 Valencia Street (near 16th), in San Francisco**. The speaker was Jai Sen, editor of the two books *The Movements of Movements*, Part 1: *What Makes Us Move?* and *The Movements of Movements*, Part 2: *Rethinking Our Dance*.

Advance Pre-final Movement Online Edition of all the material in ‘The Movements of Movements’ books:

With the enormous help of *T B Dinesh and his colleagues at Servalots* in Bangalore, and of *Jim Coflin* in Ottawa, Canada for help in creating the raw material that we posted, we 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. Our thanks to Jim and to Dinesh and his colleagues! These essays continued to be available to the worldwide public throughout the year.

World Social Movement Discuss

During 2017, we transformed a major earlier list serve named WSF Discuss (World Social Forum Discuss) that had been founded by CACIM into a new list serve named **WSM Discuss** (World Social Movement Discuss).

CACIM established the original list serve WSF Discuss in 2005 as a complement to the World Social Forum, as a parallel, non-official, virtual ‘open space’ for free and open discussion of the WSF and of related movements, and as a part of our broader project of critical engagement with the WSF. The feedback we got over those years was that the list serve played a very useful role in opening up critical discussion about and within the World Social Forum and in encouraging a culture of critical reflexivity within the Forum.

We made this change to a new list because of two important developments during more recent years, and specifically 2010-2016. On the one hand, world movements exploded during 2011 – with the occurrence of the occupation of Tahrir Square in Egypt, the Occupy movement, in North America, the indignados in Spain, the protests in Gezi Park in Turkey, and many others – and it became clear to us at CACIM that while the WSF was and remained a very significant process in world movement, even just to continue to understand the WSF we needed to constantly engage with new, emerging world movement. On the other hand, we also started experiencing severe technical problems with the WSF Discuss list.

As a consequence and after a substantial period of preparation and discussion on-list, our background whiz *Subramanya Sastry* migrated the list to a new service provider in May 2017, and also renamed the list ‘WSM Discuss’ in order to more accurately reflect the wider vision and horizon of the list. Our thanks to Subbu!

The list continued to be active through 2018-19, with new members constantly joining. All the posts on the new WSM Discuss are available at <https://lists.openspaceforum.net/pipermail/wsm-discuss/>.

RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA)

Last year was a fruitful year in terms of our reach, influence and collective action. CFA in its second year of initiation could stand on its feet leading the discussions on finance and intervene through multiple channels demanding accountability in financial institutions both at national and international sphere, spreading awareness and building capacities of local communities / civil society organisations to understand issues surrounding energy financing.

This year, we could deepen the energy finance workshops in various regions reaching both to old groups and new groups and engage in discussions and capacity building. A strong focus in central India has been achieved through multiple engagements and ground level visits. We reached out to more than 200 people from more than 50 groups in these exercise.

Work With the International Finance Institutions

The People's Convention was organised from June 21 -23, 2018 in Mumbai, prior to the AIIB annual meeting and held 19 parallel workshops with more than 1000 people from nearly 200 groups participating and coming out with a Mumbai declaration challenging Undemocratic

and Destructive Global Finance: Building Political and Economic Alternatives. Mainstream media covered the People's Convention extensively.

CFA organised a two day symposium on the occasion of 25 years of inspection panel to discuss India's experiences with Accountability Mechanism of Multi Development Banks on September 3 & 4, 2018 at New Delhi. The symposium was attended by 70 participants from civil society, people's organisations, community groups, academia, researchers, CAO and Inspection Panel attended the symposium. This was also the first time in India where any efforts to bring together the representatives of IFIs, communities and civil society happened at a single platform to discuss the imprint of Global Capital in India today. Various panels brought together community organisers, academia and accountability mechanism staff from World Bank and ADB, civil society members and affected communities. A panel from the affected communities who challenged the World Bank Investment Panel through the Inspection Panel shared their experiences on the process, status and relevance of such mechanisms. CFA brought out a publication looking at various experiences in the country on their engagement with Independent Accountability Mechanism.

CFA facilitated a visit of a team of civil society organisations at the civil society policy forum (CSPF) held as part of the Annual Meeting of the World Bank from October 9 -12, 2018 at Bali, Indonesia. The civil society members engaged with various discussions organised in the CSPF and also in the town hall with the president of the World Bank and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

Participation and facilitation at World beyond Banks: CFA also participated in the alternate civil society event 'World Beyond Banks' held parallel to the Annual Meetings of the World Bank. The parallel meeting was attended by grassroots organisations across Asia and round the world. CFA organised and facilitated a discussion on challenging immunity of International Finance organisation which was attended by delegates from about 12 countries. World Beyond Banks helped build solidarity among groups working for the interests of farmers, fishers, indigenous communities and civil society organisations.

Work With National Finance Institutions

Three regional meetings were conducted in Hyderabad, Bhopal and Patna along with the bank officers' confederation to raise awareness on the FRDI Bill and for preserving the character of public sector banks. The awareness created by the CFA project through its booklets and articles resulted in a large section of people debating the merits of such a legislation. Likewise a meeting was also organised in Delhi to discuss the crisis in the banking sector in the context of the banking scam of Punjab National Bank, the second biggest public sector bank in the country.

CFA organised joint programs with like minded organisations and bankers Association on Bank Privatisation and its impacts. A meeting was also co-organised to discuss the proposed bank merger and past experiences of mergers in the banking sector. The program was attended by banking Associations, civil society organisations and the general public. We are working on two reports one on the Financial Stability Board and second one on UBI, both of them are complete but will be released only next year. Conference on finance "Global Economic Crisis: A decade after Lehman" was organised by CFA, Focus on Global South and Economic Research Foundation on the 3rd and 4th of December. The conference had eminent economists from India and outside evaluated the current crisis. The two day

conference was attended by students, academics and civil society organizations and individuals.

CFA has been tracking financial policies and is researching into some of them like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The research on Indian exim banks was also started this year. We have completed the initial phase of data collection and are in the process of analysing the same. We hope to bring out our analysis, findings and comments this year. The research on responsible banking is also under way and a report will be produced in the coming year. The workshops will be held after the publication of the report.

CFA has worked on looking at the Bank Charges and how the banks make profit by charging from those who cannot maintain minimum balance. A booklet based on interaction with bankers, general public has been prepared and will be rolled out next year as a campaign.

Energy Finance

CFA has co-organized an energy finance workshop with PAIRVI at People Convention on AIIB on 22nd June 2018 ahead of AIIB AGM in Mumbai. This workshop was aimed to build critical perspective on multilateral financial Institutions and their historical disasters done by them in India and other countries so that newly formed financial Institutions AIIB can learn from them and not walk into their footsteps. This workshop was attended by more than 45 students, academics and several experts. The key speakers in the panel included Mr Shreedhar Ramamurthi from Environics Trust India representing NGO Forum on ADB, Mr Rajesh Kumar from CFA and Environmentalist and energy expert Mr Soumya Dutta from Pairvi.

There were two workshops in Chennai jointly organised by the Consumer Action Group and Pairavi. The first workshop was held on 3rd and 4th of June to strengthen understanding of energy, its role in society and interconnection with policies, climate change, capitalism, and the politics around energy, and understand the EIA process and its limitations. The workshop was attended by around 40 people and the resource persons included Soumya Dutta, Niyanand Jayaram. The second workshop was held on 23rd and 24th October in Chennai and was a follow up workshop where the nuts and bolts of various finance mechanisms were discussed.

Two programs were organised in Bhopal. The first one was a public symposium which was organised parallel to the Energy workshop by AIIB before their annual meeting. This program looked into the energy sector and interventions by International Financial Institutions particularly AIIB. This program was co-organised with Bhopal's Citizens Forum, Working Group on IFIs and was facilitated by CFA. This was attended by more than 50 participants including former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Ms Nirmala Buch, senior and retired journalists, current and retired IAS officers, forest department officers, academics, small and medium enterprises association. The second program was a training workshop on Energy and Infrastructure Finance and the Role of International Financial Institutions which was held on 28-29 September 2018. This workshop was organized by CFA, Pairvi and HumSab Bhopal. The workshop was attended by 40 people, half of which were young organisers who work with people on energy related issues.

CFA has also organised a national seminar bringing together selected community organisers from the regional workshops in Delhi on 1-2, September 2018 in USO House New Delhi.

The seminar brought together different experts, organisers and journalists, who are monitoring and raising issues related to power sector to understand current landscape and changes in policies, failure of the regulatory mechanisms, growing burden on Public Sector Banks due to NPAs in electricity sector, etc. and fruitless attempts to solve the deepening financial crisis by the government in this sector.

Capacity Building

Many workshops on development finance were conducted this year at:

Azim Premji University – April 21, 22 – 2018 : The workshop was attended by about 20 students. The resource persons included CFA staff and experts along with faculty from the Azim Premji University.

LSM Govt. P.G. College, Pithoragarh - April 10 – 11: The workshop at LSM College was a new initiative as the college union got interested because of the reference they got from students of Azim Premji who had attended our workshop last year. The resource persons for the workshop were all from CFA. The workshop reminded us to go to middle level cities where students do not have the opportunity to hear views which are different and to have a engage with finance and financial matters.

Workshop on Development Finance – Chennai: A workshop on demystifying finance was held along with CAG in Chennai on June 2nd. The workshop was attended by more than 60 people and discussed the role of IFIs and their influence.

Workshop on Development Finance TISS, Guwahati: August 3-4, 2018 TISS, Guwahati: About 25 students participated from the schools of Peace and conflict studies, labor studies and social protection and social anthropology. The workshop was facilitated by guest faculty of TISS , Dr. Vasundhara from IIT, Dr. Himanshu Damle of PFPAC along with CFA staff .

Sambhavana Institute in September, 2018 at Palampur : The workshop brought together 35 members from civil society. This year workshop was led by eminent economists Dr. Arun Kumara and Dr. Sunanda Sen apart from other resource person including Leo Saldhana, Soumya Dutta and Devidas Tuljapurkar apart from CFA staff.

Nirmala Niketan: November 26, 27, 28th; The College of Social work made the Finance course as a compulsory part of the learning process for the year. The last year's one day program was made into a full time 3 day course for the final year post graduate students of Masters of Social Work. The resource persons included Dr. Sanjay MG, Devidas Tuljapurkar, Sitaram Shelar, Krishnakant, and Rajni Bakshi apart from CFA staff.

Publications

Smitu Kothari Fellowship: CFA instituted Smitu Kothari Writing Fellowship to encourage/support young writers to critically look at the world of development finance beyond the lending and 'development'.

CFA also brought out more than ten publications this year too. Like a publication named 'A Missed Opportunity', NTPC, India's Experience with IAM, Trap of Doing Business, Coal Vs Renewable, etc. These are also made available to public through our website and publicised

through social media. All these publications critically look at and assess the financial flow in the energy and banking sector.

Finance Matters, the weekly magazine by CFA now reaches to over 3500 community organisers, researchers, journalists etc. During the last year, we received over 200 requests for subscription. Last year, we introduced short videos in the news magazine and introduced a new section on parliamentary questions on energy, finance and infrastructure.

Environment Conservation and Community Support in the Himalayas

We work primarily in the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh with several community led initiatives and organisations and provide them support in accessing government schemes and policies, spreading information on environment and forest conservation. We also work to spread information about the river conservation and raise awareness of adverse impacts of development in the fragile ecosystems.

Uttarakhand

In Uttarakhand, our work is focused around the different tributaries of Ganga and Yamuna - Bhagirathi, Alaknanda, Mandakini, Pinder Ganga and in the river basin of Touns and its tributary River Supin. Uttarakhand has huge potentials for the hydro power development and a number of projects are planned in the region, which could have adverse impact on the livelihood of people, cause displacement and damage forests, rivers and the associated biodiversity. We document these developments and then reach out to the communities and work with the elected representatives panchayat members to inform them and talk about the environmental laws and regulations. We also petition the government and relevant environmental authorities to follow the government's laws and regulations and propose solutions so that fragile ecology of the region can be saved.

Due to massive illiteracy and lack of awareness, our work becomes essential in reaching out the information about the forest rights act, resettlement and rehabilitation laws, environment conservation laws etc to the village communities which are not very accessible to the public in general.

In River Bhagirath Valley, the issues of Tehri Dam oustees are not solved yet and some new problems have been emerging like landslides, heavy dust, etc. We have tried to help people living around the reservoir and rehabilitation sites on some common issues and support them to seek remedies from the government.



In Srinagar HEP, River Alaknanda, District Tehri-Pouri, there was an issue of leakage on the right side of the dam's power channel. Due to this, the flooded water goes to the community areas and affects them badly. So we prepared a proper documentation on this and involved some active people for the planning and follow ups. As a result now the project proponent

has repaired the power channel to stop leakage. Moreover now they are also following all the environment and other norms and conditions.

Next year we need to follow up with all the process and documentation. We also have to pursue people and environmental issues more in Ganga valley to support affected communities and work towards protecting the environment.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh, a mountain state with two third of its geographical area under the jurisdiction of forest department and communities with a high degree of dependence on forest land, has had several problems with the implementation of the rights of the forest dwelling communities. Kinnaur a tribal district that is quite ahead in filing claims, around 35 villages have filed their community claims and more than 2600 individual claims but not a single title has been issued.

In 2018-19 our work focused essentially on the following:

- Strengthening of the community led state level platform and assisting in their expansion and streamlining of strategy and processes
- Continuing to work with the local administration and higher authorities to spread information and dispel myths and misunderstandings related to the rights of the forest dwelling communities.



Public awareness meetings at Kaza and Pin valley in Spiti

- Collecting information, documentation and research in order to build evidence about the nature of dependence of villages on forest.
- Dissemination of information and analyses through media
- Direct outreach and mobilization in existing and newer areas for awareness and trainings

Trainings and direct support to communities in filing claims

The claims which have been filed and submitted since 2014 are pending at DLC and SDLC; for example in Kangra district 24 community claims are pending at DC Dharmshala and 28 claims of 208 individuals are pending at SDLC. We have been working with the communities

and the government committees to sort out these delays and see how these can be resolved.

Meetings, trainings and awareness

- ❑ Two training cum meetings were conducted at Nainidhar and Rohanda of Sirmour district in which people from 7 panchayats participated.
- ❑ In Mandi district, a one-day training programme was conducted at Karsog.
- ❑ One week awareness and training programme on filing of claims were conducted at Pin, Kaaza, Tabo, Hal and Khuri of Spiti division.
- ❑ In May 2018, a 10 day awareness and training programme was conducted in Kinnaur district.
- ❑ In Kangra district, around 15 local meetings in Palampur, Dharmshala and Baijnath blocks were conducted.
- ❑ In Mandi district, preliminary outreach and public meetings were conducted in 23 villages

Providing Support in Filing of Claims

This year we have supported filing of claims in 23 villages of Palampur and Baijnath block of Kangra district. In Lahaul division, 135 individual claims of Churkha tailing, Koksar and Sissu villages are at final stage of submission and in Spiti division 26 IFR claims of Kaza village have been submitted to SDLC which have now moved to DLC. In Sirmour district, 9 IFR claims with community rights claim of Nainidhar Panchyat have been submitted to SDLC. This year we have initiated filing of claims in Tikkan, Darang, Karsog and Kotli thesil of Mandi district.

Research, Documentation and Information Dissemination

- A research was carried out from 1st September to 19th September, 2018 to study the status of claims across Kinnaur district and finally a report was produced out of the study. A case study of individual rights of forest dwelling communities in Kinnaur District, Himachal Pradesh.” The research collected and analyzed data from 22 villages thus studying 1351 claims. The report was released in press and for the purpose of mass circulation, dissemination and awareness, was also compiled in compressed form as brochures, pamphlets giving the major analysis. The report was also used as a communication tool and was submitted to all state officials.
- We also created and published a poster and a pamphlet giving crucial introductory information on rights of villages for mass dissemination and awareness.

People’s Resource Centre

We created a new programme this year building on some of our past work under the name People’s Resource Centre (PRC). Like all existing programmes, PRC is to work with the community organisation and create resources for the groups and individuals engaged in the work of social transformation. The programme is still evolving and has identified people’s

role in processes of development, especially urbanization, and systemic alternatives as its main focus for now.

It began with conducting an assessment of the existing initiatives by people's organisations, think tanks, academia, research collectives, NGOs or public bodies and undertook mapping of 100 organizations working on various aspects such as conservation, restoration, alternative development of commons and natural resources etc. While conducting resource mapping, we found many new organizations which are working at grassroots level towards the conservation, restoration and alternative development of common/public resources. This mapping also helped refine our programme ideas and we have integrated the learning's from other past or ongoing initiatives.

In addition, PRC undertook three pilot research studies focusing on the processes within the development projects and its impact on the society.

[Analysis of the CAG Reports on the Land Acquisition by the State Industrial Development Agencies](#)

We undertook a pilot study aimed at understanding the functioning of the industrial agencies in order to decipher the policy and performance gaps in India's land laws. As part of the research, we looked at the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's performance audit reports for various state industrial agencies. The research employs multiple methodological tools such as Right to Information applications, file inspections in government offices by using the Right to Information provisions, in-depth interviews with Land Acquisition Officers and Audit Officers from CAG of India. This research thus supplemented the existing scholarly literature on Land Acquisition, Displacement and Rehabilitation.

[Comparative Analysis of Metro Developments Delhi and Lucknow](#)

This pilot study looked at the hitherto overlooked impact of metro development in Delhi and Lucknow. Conducted in engagement with the displaced communities and commuters, these case studies helped us understand how metro rail development in Indian cities is misappropriating the urban resources. As part of the research, we conducted a total of 18 field visits and interviewed 65 individuals in various areas affected by the metro in Delhi and Lucknow. The research was conducted in collaboration with Institute for Democracy and Sustainability, Delhi. The research for this part also resulted in a book titled 'Consumed by Demand: Obsession with Metro is Threatening Our Urban Resources'.

[Preliminary Study on Waterways Development on the River Ganges](#)

This pilot study was undertaken as part of the larger objective of informed community intervention in the upcoming water-centric infrastructure megaprojects in resource-rich areas such as Jharkhand. More specifically, the aim of the project was to document the social-ecological disruption caused by a multimodal inland port being developed in Sahibganj as part of the National Waterways-1 and the thermal power plant in Godda (both in Jharkhand).

Data collection was a difficult task in the villages affected by the two projects as both regions are separated by a distance of around 50 miles and have scarce transport and accommodation facilities. Research team from Delhi managed to stay in Sahibganj during the coldest period

of winters of the year 2018 and conducted extensive field work including interviews and focus group discussions with multiple stakeholders, participant observations, analysis of secondary data sources such as published reports and papers, and so on.

The project started with considering the two projects as separate development projects but the understanding which evolved over the research period emphasized on important linkages that may impact the region. The draft report of the study will be published next year.

MARGINALITIES, DEMOCRACY AND POWER

Reaching the Real India (RRI)

Reaching the Real India (RRI) is a programme developed by CACIM for the young people to provide them with an opportunity to connect and contribute to the socio-political processes of India directly. Participation of youth in people's and social organisations is not new in India. Throughout history it has been seen that youth has contributed in bringing out important changes in existing systems; be it political, social, economic or cultural.

For the summer 2018 programme, it was decided the duration of the programme will be at least for 4 weeks unlike 2017 winter RRI programmes, given longer summer vacations in colleges.

We followed the same format as the winter 2017 programme. Orientation as well as feedback was conducted over the phone on one to one basis. Besides getting the feedback from participants, we also sought feedback from the host organisations.

This time besides advertising in the colleges/universities, we advertised the programmes on different online internship platforms and other active youth groups. Along with the brief description of RRI, its objectives and screening questions for the applicants were posted. Advertising the programme online increased our outreach.

Thirty students were finally selected based on their application and interviews. The response to the summer 2018 programme was tremendous. We got 116 applications. The advertisement of RRI started from 20th April 2018 and the programme started from 15 May 2018 – 01 June 2018. After the final submission of the report by the participants they were sent the certificates electronically as well as by post

Community Work in Bastis of Mumbai

Mumbai's 50% of population lives in slum areas and they have either inadequate or no access to housing, potable water, toilets, electricity, healthcare and education. In association with the community organisations our project managed to touch lives of people in 20 slum communities and contribute towards accessing basic amenities. Many of these slums are under constant threat of eviction or are facing other crises. To ensure proper coordination, mobilization, communication and to establish a sense of solidarity, we ensured 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, and media contacts.

We connected with children and women in the slum communities and engaged with the government and media. The issue of housing has been distorted at many levels. To be able to garner support of people, it is important to send appropriate information in the public domain. So we keep track of the policy developments, reports in the media and situation on the ground. We also conduct continuous research and active communication with all the communities.

Some details of our outcomes are as below:

Engagement with women in slum: We regularly reach out to slum communities to highlight the difficulties and challenges women face during eviction. For example last year we organized a program on Women's Day which 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 have been engaged with the authorities to take this process ahead and 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 have put efforts to make them familiar with 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.

Intervention in state budgetary allocation: Every year large sums of money are allocated towards construction of housing for the poor. However, the fund remains 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 all kinds of social security such as housing, pension, healthcare and so on. Efforts 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 have been engaged with the government to make the board functional and mobilizing the workers to get them registered with the board.

Awareness, Education, & Empowerment Programme (Gujarat)

We undertook a short term programme in collaboration with a community organisation which undertakes activities to promote holistic development through dialogue with people, awareness, non-formal public and formal education under the framework of democratic values amongst youth, adivasis, farmers and Dalits

We identified certain issues are for focusing our awareness programme :

- 1) Jobs, local self-employment alternatives
- 2) Education: privatisation, cost, quality,
- 3) Agriculture: produce-prices, irrigation, distress, suicides
- 4) Labour
- 5) Health
- 6) Environment
- 7) Corporate Power: loan waivers, NPAs, subsidies, infrastructure

During the course of the project we completed following activities

Youth workshop: We organised two cross learning exchange orientated workshops of two weeks each for 40-50 youths of Gujarat. This part of our work has developed over a period of time. During the Year 2018-19 we built on these activities throughout the year, focussing on quality of discussions, building up support systems for Youth who need guidance, hand-holding etc. The Youth Camp this year was held between the last week of May and first week of June in Gandhinagar District. The theme was *Understanding Today for better Tomorrow* (Society, Politics, Economy, Ecology, and Technology).

Awareness of government schemes for irrigation and farming: We have also focussed on the farmers being deprived of canal waters because of poor canal network, poor civil engineering, the influential cornering water resources etc. e.g. those in the Karjan Command Area in Narmada and Bharuch Districts. Other activities includes bringing access to fair agricultural prices and hold an awareness programmes to encourage organic farming, promoting sale of organic products etc.

Environmental awareness: Our group has created awareness on the issues of groundwater contamination, river pollution, illegal hazardous solid waste disposal, Common Effluent Treatment Plants not abiding by norms, litigation where regulations are violated etc.

Working with communities, conducting programmes to talk about lifestyle issues etc. will be done on an ongoing basis.

An Initiative Towards Gender Rights and 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 LGBTQ+ people.

Engaging with diversity: LGBT*QIA+ for young professionals in Social Sector at Sambhaavnaa Institute, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh (Institutional Workshop) (August 2018)

A 5 day residential workshop was held in August 2018 at the Sambhavana Institute in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, for students and individuals within the development sector. This workshop aimed to increase awareness on LGBT*QIA+ 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.

Wenlido: Feminist Self-defence Workshop (May 2018)

A two-day Wenlido workshop was organised in May for queer women (assigned gender female at birth) and trans* men. The workshop was facilitated by Dhivya, Deepti (Wenlido trainers), and Satnam (Wenlido apprentice).

Non-violent Communication: Listening with Empathy (June 2018)

This workshop was designed to share practical exercises to deepen our listening, understand each other and collectively find ways of strengthening our community of people working on development issues. The workshop was facilitated by Dhivya David and Annie Thomas (Non-violent Communication practitioners and trainers)

Gender, Sexuality and LGBTQIA issues: Workshop with young people and students (December 2018)

A non-residential workshop with college students and young emerging community organisers was held to create space for discussions about lived experiences and practices. An important method tried here was to build on the 'The Housing Exercise' where participants in different groups were asked to imagine residential complexes, the residents, and their socio-economic positions along with locating them with caste, sexuality, gender, religion, and more other intersectional locations, along with positioning them on different roles in the power distribution of the housing society. This particular method to approach intersectionality with a queer feminist perspective has been quite reflective and insightful based on the feedback shared by the participants.

Work with LBT*(FAB) community in Dakshinpuri (August 2015 to December 2018)

The work under this project so far has helped understand the lived realities of working-class LBT*(FAB) people and create linkages between class and queer issues. As a part of this work, we continue renting out a small community office in Dakshinpuri and have hired a field coordinator who facilitates meetings and liaisons with the police, lawyers, and other organizations. Specific activities in 2018-19 included:

Videography Workshop (June 2018)

A two day filmmaking workshop was conducted with 4 transmen on understanding the process of filmmaking:

- Pre-production: storyboarding, scripting, etc.
- Production: shooting the film.
- Post production: Editing and packaging.

The workshop was conducted using visual aids such as slide show and other short videos. It was a combination of learning and practice. As part of it, four short videos were also shot which is in the process of editing and packaging. Prior to training on filmmaking, a round of interaction was conducted on the challenges, journey and the need of the participants vis a vis their self-identified gender and being born in a body assigned female at birth.

Urban Resource Centre for Domestic Migrant Workers

This project functions as an open and democratic space for domestic workers in collaboration with a community organisation of 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.

The Centre covers primarily the north-west area of Delhi. Here are some of the key tasks performed in the year:

Establishing workers identity: Domestic workers often face harassment because of a lack of any work identity, one of the ways in which support is by giving them an identity card. We regularly undertook printing of information folders, ID cards and badges. These are distributed in different slum areas so that new people can get to know about our work and reach out to us and join the Centre.

Efficiency and leadership development workshop: The community organisation conducts its monthly meetings in every locality and discusses the problems faced by the members and tries to find solutions. In this time six meetings and one efficiency and leadership development workshop in each area has been conducted. During this workshop, we discussed issues related to wages of domestic workers, laws related to domestic workers, question of domestic violence and women's oppression, ration and old age pension schemes, abandonment of widows, widow pension and issues like stipend for children. We also decide who will identify such cases at the local level and then later, how and who will take the responsibility of processing that case further.

Membership campaign and ID card distribution: All new and old members participate in the efficiency and leadership development workshop. At the same time, new associates are given the membership of the organisation along with an ID and badge. All the members of the organisation carry their batch while going to work which gives them a specific identity and also helps promote the work of the organisation.

Emancipation of workers and counselling: There has been no case for the release of the workers in the last six months but many of the workers who were released earlier were feeling mentally agitated and scared. Some of their cases are going on in Delhi court and some are in nearby courts. Many of them were being counselled by law experts, social workers or affiliates and now they are leading normal lives. Some of them are working in their own homes and some have started a new journey of work in the city.

Judicial initiative and help: An important task of the Centre is to help in providing justice to the domestic worker victims through the court. There are two types of victims: the one who are harassed by their owner at the workplace and the other who are harassed by their husband and family members. Many such cases are going on in various courts of Delhi and Gurgaon. The most difficult task for the case is to get the help of a lawyer for free of charge. Somehow it is possible to get such lawyers in Delhi, but it's very difficult outside of Delhi. Three cases of workers tortured by the owner are currently filed, among them two cases are running in the Delhi court and one case is in Gurgaon court. Similarly, many cases of domestic violence are also going on in different courts of Delhi. Some of them have got verdict and some are still in the judicial process.

Preparation of a draft law for welfare of domestic workers: We have prepared a draft of a law for welfare of domestic workers. It has been formed with the initiatives taken by different groups and drawn on the experience of the domestic workers and the problems they face. We are organising workshops and outreach sessions to gather support for the law, so that it can become a reality.

Short-term accommodation: There is also provision for short term lodging and food in the Urban Resource Centre. The domestic workers and their relatives stay here till their issue gets resolved because it is not easy for them to travel every time in the city. City's new places, people, language, police stations, courts, all are new and difficult for them to travel. Generally, relatives of domestic workers or their daughter or sister come to seek help. Many women and girls have been released and some cases are still underway.

Positive impact and motivation for further initiatives: Domestic workers have a very hard life and face harassment on a daily basis but still many of our initiatives have given a new life and path to many in difficulty. There are many such cases of positive achievements, here we list few:

(i) Suhagini Tudu lives in Sahebganj of Jharkhand and works in a women's organisation named 'Shakti'. One day she got a call that her younger sister and a cousin were taken to Delhi by the placement agents on pretext of giving them jobs but the family had not heard from them since then. She contacted our Centre and soon arrived in Delhi looking for her sisters. We lodged complaints in different police stations of Delhi and after much investigation and hard work both the girls were finally located and released with much difficulty. One of the girls was minor, and so was kept in a juvenile home for some time. After a month and half of effort both the girls returned to their village. The case is still going on in Delhi's court and we are following it up with the help of our lawyers.

(ii) Another such case is of Joram Tirki of Gumla, Jharkhand, who approached the Centre and informed us that his daughter was severely beaten by her employers in Gurgaon and had left her badly injured. With the help of some other organization, she survived and filed a case against the owners. However, she was not receiving enough help in the case and the police were threatening them to withdraw the case. He was scared and had no money or any experience to come to Delhi. Somehow, he along with his daughter managed to reach Delhi. Knowing that Joram Tirki was going to Delhi with her daughter, another family of the same village came along whose son had also gone missing after being placed by some placement agent. They were all hosted at the Centre and we tried hard to look for the missing person without much success but we did manage to intervene in the Court case, which is being handled by a senior lawyer and is making good progress.

Understanding the Women Fish Vendors and their Work (Kerala)

Fishing is one of the important occupations in Kerala which has a large coastline of about 600 kms. The fishing community in Kerala is as old as itself and their livelihood is depending upon fishing and its marketing. According to a study by CMFRI, there are about 44 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram with a population of about 34,000 families. The men folk while are engaged in actual fishing, the women engage in a number of activities pre and post fishing. Women fish workers are known to be strong, entrepreneurial and hard working, they engage in marketing of fish. Women in Fisheries and their contribution to the production, distribution in the fisheries economy is a non documented fact. The role of women in the

Thiruvananthapuram coast is linked with pre and post harvesting of the fish. Historically, it was women who take fish from the fishermen once it is harvested and market the same in local and city markets. One could find three types of fish vending by type of place of sale. They are designated markets by corporations and municipalities, Street Vending and House to House head load vending. Women procure their fish either from beach landing, fish landing centers / harbours, wholesale markets in Thiruvananthapuram and even from Tutukudi in Tamil Nadu or Managlore in Karnataka. While all these categories have specific issues, they all faced issues of transportation, lack of basic services, exploitation and bullying by police and goonda elements.

The life of women fish vendors is marred by insecurity, lack of recognition, lack of basic services and lack of women spaces in markets and cities. Moreover they have to face multiple issues as an unorganized worker, women and street vendors. There has been a huge onslaught on the livelihood activities of women in the coastal communities with closure of urban spaces for vending, displacing the traditional spaces selling fish.

Our work in association with a community organization was rooted in five fishing villages in Thiruvanthapuram district who go for fish vending in various parts of the Thiruvanthapuram district. About 10 working spaces where women work were identified including 3 designated markets, 5 street vending markets, and 2 night markets. It is estimated that about 5000 women are engaged in fish vending in Thiruvananthapuram district and our project reached about 100 women fish vendors.

Some of the activities conducted under the project are following

Village Level Meetings: Till now we have conducted 5 meetings in each of the five villages to organize the women fish vendors into groups and hence total 25 meetings have been accomplished in a year. The objective of these meetings was to provide the information regarding the spaces they use for selling the fish and issues around them. A number of markets have been identified and documented as to the issues faced by women in those areas and what need to be improved.

Documentation of the life of women fish vendors: Women fish vendors face multiple burdens of household work, supporting fishing activities and marketing fish. It is estimated that a women fish vendor works up to 15-18 hours per day. There is no recognition of the women vendors as fish workers irrespective of the labor she put in. So we have documented the life of a fish worker and her hard labor to drive the point of women as fish workers and to appreciate the work she puts into the fisheries sector. This has been done with professional documentary makers who are supportive of the cause. Attempts were also made to connect with visual media journalists to seek space in the visual media.

Fish market Profiles: Based on the discussions in the villages with fish vending women, 10 vending spaces are identified and the issues faced by women in the markets and a profile is also being made on each market and the issues being faced by women in the market. To extrapolate issues into demands, the documentation was done in the regular market, five street market and two night markets.

Preparation of charter of demands: Based on the discussion in the villages, a draft has also been prepared based on the charter of demands of the women fish vendors and documentation of the issues in the fish market. Its drafting involved vending women, community organizers

and researchers. The drafting itself is a process of political education understanding the linkages between policies, issues etc. The demands which stem from these discussions are consolidated into a demand that would become the basis for negotiation with the corporation, municipality and state fisheries department for recognition and resolution of the identified issues.

Seminar on issues faced by Women Fish Vendors: we have called for a seminar to discuss the issues faced by vending women based on the studies. The discussion held among them and the charter of demands was being placed before the authorities both from the official side and people's representatives. Women have to fight to ensure their livelihood spaces and this needs a collective voice to demand. Therefore this project has resulted in giving a voice and platform for women fish vendors in order to voice their grievances and collectively demand for their issues.