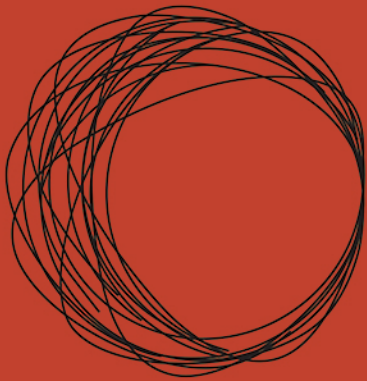


Annual Report

2019-20



Critical Action
Centre In Movement

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CACIM

CACIM (the India Institute for Critical Action - Centre in Movement) was founded in 2005 to promote a culture of critical reflexivity, thought and action in public life and activity. Our programmes are part of the larger effort to create spaces where dialogue can happen among people on the margins, academia and social groups. Through critical action, our attempts are to contribute broadly and more effectively for transformational social power.

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. Having started with a primary focus on the project of democratisation and active citizenship, we gradually expanded into the areas of environment, urbanisation, marginalities, active citizenship, and financial accountability.

MISSION

CACIM strives 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 underlie various problems. 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, teachers, professionals, artists, composers, and thinkers, both mature and young, and to promote criticality in socio-political processes and actions. A related goal is to help social organisations to build mutually supportive alliances instead of operating alone on single issues.

Focus of our work: CACIM has envisioned and planned its key areas of engagements across:

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

KEY PROCESSES

CACIM attempts to be critically reflective in all its work and processes, as well as all times, promote critical thought, engagement, and action, also learning from other initiatives and processes. Our core activities are:

- research and documentation resulting in publications in different languages
- building awareness and strengthening capacities through organising workshops, seminars, and other meetings
- networking and outreach collaborations with the community groups and organisations across the country
- educational initiatives and courses for young people inside and outside the colleges and universities
- disseminate and promote all publications through the use of list serves, websites, and other new media

A. STRATEGIES AND CULTURES OF MOVEMENT

I. REACHING THE REAL INDIA

Reaching the Real India programme (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.

i. Relief work in Kosi region

CACIM has been working with the community groups in Kosi region and helped them start small informal learning centres in villages between two embankments. The community groups continue to run those centres, and we provide occasional advice. We are happy to note that this has now been taken on by the community on its own.

The area is flooded every year and we try to help by raising relief whenever possible. floods in 2019 saw devastating consequences in 13 districts and affected 88.46 lakh people. Relief support was extended by CACIM to 230 children by providing them uniform; distributed 15 quintal of beaten rice (chura) and 8 quintal puffed rice to 1000 families; distributed medicines in the community and gave relief assistance to Para medical staff.

ii. Support to community groups in Patna

CACIM helps the functioning of a small centre in Patna where it runs as a centre for accessing information, support services and social audits. Various people have taken support from this centre to seek information from various government departments. It hosts communities and individuals regularly who come to Patna for availing social services.

The centre also provides help to coordinate meetings of various groups and social leaders in Patna and also helps them outreach to Media and government departments.

Acknowledging the issues involved with seeking medical treatment in government hospitals in Patna where people come from all over Bihar, this centre has also provided logistical support to many patients.

World Social Movement Discuss

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

During the year, WSMDiscuss also took the initiative for the first time in the list's history of organising a webinar. Co-hosted by Jai Sen, moderator and curator of the list, together with Gustave Massiah, a WSMDiscuss list member and former President of CRID (Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement, in Paris, France), the webinar - titled 'Looking ahead : Revisiting the World Social Forum' - took place on the Viral Open Space on May 23 2020. It was announced at <https://www.viralopenspace.net/en/activities/looking-ahead-revisiting-the-world-social-forum> (accessed as on 23.05.2020), as well as on WSMDiscuss and other international listserves.

Gustave Massiah and Jai Sen co-wrote a Discussion Note for the event (May 2020a – 'A Note towards opening fresh discussion on the future of the World Social Forum, at this world-historical juncture'), and then a report on the event (May 2020b – 'The Relevance of the World Social Forum to the present historical moment : The Process and the Debate'). Our report was submitted by Gustave Massiah to the International Council of the World Social Forum for its consideration, during its ongoing review of the future of the World Social Forum.

B. RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (CFA)

This project of CACIM aims 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, disseminating information and networking at local, national and International levels on development finance to make these institutions transparent and accountable. Through this initiative, CACIM 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.

i. Key Activities

The CFA project has been successful in highlighting the accountability of financiers both at national and international level as well as at the community level through a series of programs which debated policies, institutions and translating some of these understanding to community level organisations and civil society organisations.

The Energy Conference held along with IIT Chennai was another key outcome this year. The conference provided a unique platform to bring together academicians, practitioners and civil society organisations. The discussions have raised the debates on energy and have opened a space for critical discussions where policy makers, practitioners, regulators, and civil society can interact to search alternative solutions and practices in the energy sector.

The updating of the coal currency report of this project, which maps the finances of thermal power projects till March 2019, is ongoing. Once finished, this will get disseminated and will provide an analysis to communities on who are financing their projects and the nature of financing. This coupled with violations in the ground will be an effective tool for seeking remedy from state and financial institutions. Likewise, a profile of 20 power projects as to the financiers at the national level has been mapped and completed as a report. These will also be shared with key civil society groups working in the area.

This year, we have managed to make strategic relations with banking sector unions and some groups taking up issues of banking and finance. Discussions are ongoing to initiate a common front to monitor national financial institutions and their investments / policies. However the current economic scenario where there is a dip in growth and policies pushing

for a pro corporate privatization push in the banking sector is demanding a different focus from that of unions to protect the public sector banking as such. The groups have understood the need for joining hands with civil society and in integrating many demands, thus opening a space for dialogue and combined action.

ii. Major Publications during this year:

- Energy Finance Conference: <https://www.cenfa.org/energy-finance-conference-2019/ppts/>, <https://www.cenfa.org/programmes/efc-2019/>
- Report: Encroachment of Nature, People and Livelihoods: A Case of the Abusive, Greedy and Failing Amaravati Capital City Project [2014-2019]
<https://www.cenfa.org/publications/report-socio-environmental-violations-in-amaravati-capital-city-project/>
- Briefing Paper: MDBs behind IL&FS- A Case of Bloodied Hands
<https://www.cenfa.org/publications/briefing-paper-multilateral-development-banks-behind-ilfs-a-case-of-bloodied-hands/>
- Briefing Note: AIIB's Investment in the NIIF: Why is it a Risky Venture?
<https://www.cenfa.org/publications/briefing-note-aiibs-investment-in-the-niif-why-is-it-a-risky-venture/>
- AIIB's Opaque Policies Under the Garb of Green Investments
<https://www.cenfa.org/blog/aiibs-opaque-policies-under-the-garb-of-green-investments/>
- AIIB's newly wrapped ESG investments <https://www.cenfa.org/blog/aiibs-newly-wrapped-esg-investments/>
- World Bank Pulls Out of Amaravati Capital City Project <https://www.cenfa.org/press-releases/world-bank-pulls-out-of-amaravati-capital-city-project-a-major-victory-to-people-activists-say/after-world-bank-aiib-pulls-out-of-amaravati-capital-city-project/>
- Inspection Panel's Report on Amaravati Project only Validates the Issues Raised by CSOs
<https://www.cenfa.org/international-finance-institutions/inspection-panels-report-on-amaravati-project-only-validates-the-issues-raised-by-csos/>
- The dark side of NTPC (Hindi) <https://www.cenfa.org/publications/special-report-the-dark-side-of-ntpc-hindi/>

- Rubbles of an economic earthquake. <https://www.cenfa.org/publications/book-rubbles-of-an-economic-earthquake/>
- Five years of Achhe din: A quick look at the banking and financial sector <https://www.cenfa.org/publications/5-years-of-achhe-din-a-quick-look-at-banking-and-finance-sector/>

iii. Workshops/Training Programmes

1. A 100-hour course for students on Development Finance was developed and imparted to students of Janaki Devi Memorial College New Delhi during this year. The certificate course on development finance could help students navigate to the world of finance and critical discussion on development finance. The course helped students build critical perspectives on development finance and introduce them to financial institutions, their roles, relevance and critiques, according to their feedback. The course is designed in a way, it is a combination of lectures, presentations, videos, discussions, debates and assignments.

The course is divided into three parts: Understanding Development and Development Finance; International Finance and Financial Institutions; National Finance Institutions and Policy discussions

This course introduced different aspects of finance – looking at the fundamental premises on which the world of finance is systematically built, understanding the role of financial institutions beyond lending/banking, addressing the contemporary issues related to finance in India and critically looking at the gaps in governance, transparency and accountability in finance / of financial institutions. The workshop tried to make finance palatable and highlight the integral nature of finance in all walks of our lives.

2. A four-day residential workshop on Development Finance was held on 8th to 11th November, 2019 at Palampur. The workshop discussed issues of energy, climate and infrastructure to understand the financial underpinning of the same. The workshop was open to concerned citizens, students, professionals, researchers and academicians. Interactive sessions with an interdisciplinary approach were employed.

3. A public meeting was organised in Mundra, on the 31st of March, 2019 which witnessed the participation of the hundreds of the villagers. The meeting was organised to celebrate the historic verdict of the US Supreme Court that ended the absolute immunity enjoyed for long by the International Financial Institutions, to facilitate the efforts of the fishworkers of Mundra in this long battle against the might of an institution like the World bank and also to take this opportunity to re-convene and re-strategise the villagers' efforts. During the occasion, representatives from various social movements and civil society members were also present to extend their solidarity and felicitate the fishermen and villagers who have been at the forefront of this historic victory.

4. A Session at CSPF of World Bank on the “ease of doing Business” was organised on 09 April, 2019. The Doing Business Report and the ease of doing business index are among the

most influential reports by the World Bank Group. The report since its inception, influenced nations to change their regulatory frameworks, particularly those regarding labour, environment, land and taxation. The session was well attended by almost 40 people from different CSOs.

5. A conference on Infrastructure Finance to deliberate into some of the aspects of infrastructure development from socio-economic-environmental perspectives was organised on September 4, 5, 2019 at Nagpur. It discussed the role of national and international financial institutions, projects and finances as well as mechanisms used to drive investments into these projects. The conference with 60 participants also discussed the impacts of such megaprojects on issues such as agriculture, climate change, natural resources, labour and implications on the local communities.

6. 4 workshops and 1 public meeting held in Central India and Eastern India

About 150 -200 people reached with information and analysis

CACIM continued its capacity building program with civil society and affected people's organisations providing a platform to learn, share and strategize together on energy related issues. This year we organised four workshops in central India on energy finance reaching more than 200 people of which atleast 20 percent were women. They were held in Bhopal, Jabalpur, Sidhi and Bilaspur. In Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh, a public meeting was also organised after the workshop where more than 400 people from people affected by such as coal plants JP power plant (Nigrie), Singrauli, Chitrangi thermal power plant(Singrauli), Jhabua thermal power plant (Jhabua, Jabalpur), Katini thermal power plant (Katini), Aryan thermal Power Plant (Sidhi) , Anupur thermal power plant. The workshops discussed perspectives on energy, project financing etc. There was sharing on the coal finances to these projects as documented in the coal finance report.

Additionally, we conducted various workshops on development finance where climate / energy financing is a major topic of discussion. This year, we have held workshops in Palampur, Bhopal and Chennai on various aspects of development finance and to initiate people in discussing the financial aspects (policies, safeguards, accountability mechanisms) of development projects.

iv. Smitu Kothari Fellowships for Young Writers

In the memory of Smitu Kothari, a distinguished environmentalist and scholar-activist, in 2018, the Smitu Kothari Fellowship was established to encourage young writers to critically look at the world of development finance beyond lending and 'development'. The Fellowship is open to all Indian citizens below 35 years of age and is open to writers in English and Indian languages.

The three-month-long Fellowship every year entails writing comprehensive, well-researched, and investigative articles, photo essays or short documentaries on the specific area/projects

related to the themes selected for each year. Fellows are encouraged to get their articles published.

There were 5 fellows in 2018 and 10 fellows in 2019. This year's themes included: Are today's renewable energy projects a sustainable alternative for India?; What's ailing Non-Banking Financial Corporations?; Infrastructure boom in India: At what cost?; Impact of the inland waterways on the community and ecology; Ease of Doing Business and policy changes on environment, land, and labour. More details and published works can be seen at <https://www.cenfa.org/skf/>.

v. Work on National Finance and Bank Charges

In the recent past, large scale loans are not being repaid by the corporate sector and becoming non-performing assets (NPA). And to compensate for the losses incurred from bad loans, banks have started charging savings account holders including all those services which had no charges earlier. Started in 2018, No Bank Charges programme demands the removal of all charges on banking services for savings account holders to resist the financial exploitation of the public in the name of imposing arbitrary and reckless bank charges. The list of various activities undertaken by the project team under No Bank Charges programme are:

- March 15, 2019, Delhi: Public Meeting titled Rebuilding from an Economic Earthquake
- March 16, 2019, Bhopal: बैंकों द्वारा वसूले जा रहे मनमाने शुल्कों पर जनसंवाद Coverage: बैंकों द्वारा शुल्क वसूली के खिलाफ जनसंवाद
- March 18, 2019, Mumbai: National Hawker Federation (NHF's) meeting on the Bank Charges at Jogeshwari.
- April 11, 2019, Chennai: Consumer Guidance Seminar on No Bank Charges
- April 14, 2019, Delhi: Outreach programme on the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary
- April 16, 2019, Motilal Nehru Camp, Delhi: Community awareness and public orientation programme on different Bank charges within the urban poor families
- April 18, 2019, Trilokpuri, Delhi: Public Meetings for Community awareness and feedback on various Bank charges
- April 24, 2019, Lal Gumbad Basti, Delhi: Community awareness and public orientation programme on different Bank charges within the urban poor families (co-organised with Yatra on electoral rights)
- May 3, 2019, Ambedkar University, Delhi: Photo exhibition and talk on Bank Charges Penalising the Poor
- May 8, 2019, Anhad office, Delhi: Public talk on Imposing bank charges on Poor for Flourishing the Rich in India
- May 14, 2019, JNU, Delhi: Poster Exhibition titled Bank Charges; Penalising The Poor

- May 22, 2019: Yuva Samwaad, Budwani, Madhya Pradesh
- Public Meeting: PMC Bank Fraud Who Pays? Who's Accountable?, October 12, 2019 at Indian Merchants Chamber (4th floor), Churchgate, Mumbai.

PEOPLE'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Apart from conducting action-oriented research and community-level interventions, this project of CACIM publishes resource material on the mechanism of resource appropriation. PRC is also working towards republishing a series of forgotten/less-known texts of relevance. Through this project, we conduct primary research on emerging policy issues, methodological approaches and less discussed issues of systemic nature. Research work lies at the intersection of democratization of access to resources, livelihood, gender, quality of life, self-reliance, localization and decentralization- all geared towards building alternative models and imaginations of organizing society. It is uncompromisingly rooted in the community and neighbourhood-level everyday life. It is planned collectively and participatively, and it always aims to generate such research outputs that can only support people's knowledge, not appropriate it.

Designed across three verticals of urban futures, infrastructure and climate justice, the main activities undertaken during 2019-20 were:

- i. The rail-based rapid urban transport system, popularly known as Metro, has captured the imagination of planners and politicians alike. Despite that the operational metro projects are showing massive deficits from projected ridership estimates and the claimed environmental benefits are nowhere close to being realized, metro projects are already being pushed for another 30 cities. In this context, a study titled "Consumed by Demand" was undertaken to evoke an interest in examining upcoming metro projects. It is expected that the experiences presented and the knowledge shared will help the community associations, media and citizen groups in understanding the futility with respect to the utility of metro projects.
- ii. One day public meeting was organised on March 18, 2019 titled "Momentum Jharkhand: Unrestricted Plunder of Resources by the Corporate", which discussed the various issues surrounding the communities in Jharkhand, peoples' rights, natural resources, smart cities and self-reliant cities.
- iii. A conference on "Gendered Cultures and Climate Justice: Rethinking Smart Cities and Infrastructure Corridors in India" was Jointly hosted by University of East Anglia, UK, Savitribai Phule Pune University, with UNESCO C2C For World Natural Heritage Management and Training in Asia Pacific Region, India on July 26-28, 2019. Various themes explored during

the conference were Knowledge Politics of SMART, of Diversity, of Nature, of Financing Infrastructure, of Gender Justice and Climate Justice, and intervening in the Urban Knowledge Politics.

During the year 2019-20, this project of CACIM has deepened its research-oriented work on subjects ranging from urban agriculture and urban transport to national waterways and national infrastructure corridors. We explored the complex nature of issues which involve an intersection of dispossessions and gentrification, environmental contamination and ecological destruction, commodification of the commons and privatization of public spaces, gendered access to resources and livelihoods, and so on.

Studying the forms and practices of urban agriculture in and around Delhi

Our urban and alternatives program also included preliminary research on urban agriculture in the Delhi-NCR region. Extensive six month-long field research has resulted into a book, a first on urban agriculture in the capital region of India. This research has brought valuable insights on history, land relations, current forms and practices, gender and caste relations, market chains, migration and communities, energy and waste linkages, and so on. This book is currently being published in Hindi but a translation in English will follow. For wider reach of the research findings, we are publishing its summary in the form of booklets in two languages (Hindi and English).

This project also involved a significant amount of visual documentation- both photographic and video, which we have used to develop into a short video series, a photo exhibition and photo essays. A shorter version of the exhibition was put up for display during the biennial convention of social and grassroot movements held in Puri (Odisha) in November 2019.

Our team members have been regularly writing and speaking on the issue of urban agriculture and a wider range of urban issues. Writings have been published in various Hindi newspapers, magazines and web portals.

Conferences/Training/Programmes

We participated in a day-long consultation on national waterways and presented the findings of our research on multimodal ports in Sahibganj (Jharkhand) and its linkages with increasing corporate control of resources. This consultation has helped us build new collaborations to make further progress with our research on waterways infrastructure and resource grab.

We also participated in a residential workshop on regenerative agroforestry organized by Swayyam, a grassroots collective working on sustainability and self-sufficiency. This was a rich learning experience which further expanded the horizon of activities CACIM can take up in order to make the communities resilient and more self-reliant.

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.

i. Support to communities in Uttarakhand

Our previous years' support and engagement continued in helping communities for accessing their rehabilitation and rehabilitation claims from the governments. Communities struggle with reclaiming their own property, and are in constant threat of encroachment by land mafia. We extended support to the dam oustees for retaining their spaces and basic facilities such as space for their community centre, schools and water facility. Regular meetings and dialogue with concerned officials resulted in some success. In addition, we continue our work with the communities in understanding the environmental clearance, public hearing laws and processes and help them understand the development plans and projects through training and workshops.

ii. Support to communities in Himachal Pradesh

With 90% of Himachal's population being rural and dependent on farm and forest-based livelihoods, the access to forest remains a big issue and thus the implementation of the forest rights act in the State. However, it's a tricky issue, since the government feels that rights of the forest dwelling communities have already been settled during the forest settlements of the colonial period. Coupled with the lack of knowledge and hesitation of communities to claim their rights, forced evictions, looming threat of forest officials mistaking them as encroachers, there is a huge hurdle for the villagers to claim their rights.

The prioritisation of strategies changes annually as we review the impact of the work done as well as challenges/hurdles we are facing. The strategies in the year 2019- 2020 focused on:

- Awareness-building, Claim-filing and community mobilisation: Identify key geographical areas as well as communities to engage with and lend support to
- Capacity Building through dialogues/consultations, trainings and exposure visits: Engaging in deeper issues socio-political discussions around resource rights; Exchange of ideas/approaches, sharing and motivational activities with team members, fellow associates and other active participants

- Documentation, research, communication and dissemination: Simplifying; demystifying and disseminating resource materials (Audio-visual and Print); documenting ground situations; using social and mainstream media. This area is the strength of the team and remains a priority.
- Regular Dialogue and Solidarity to enable effective changes:
- Building of local, state level solidarities, submissions, meetings with nodal agencies and statutory committees; using direct action to create changes; Legal support in very critical and specific cases.

Activities and Initiatives undertaken during 2019-20 were in 6 areas, including Lahaul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Mandi, Sirmour, Chamba and Kangra. In Mandi and Sirmour, our work is more centred on awareness building and is in initial stages. In tribal areas, where the local people are active, claim filing is better and our role is more in capacity, guiding and extending help in seeking their rights. In Chamba and Kangra, we are extending support to independent associates.

- 76 forest dwelling people have got Individual rights in Lahaul & Spiti district. Here, the number of claims being sought is highest in the state, but due to lack of revenue settlement, claims of community rights have not been filed. A plantation drive being run by the forest department on the land falling under rights of Telangi villagers without consent of the village was stopped due to people challenging it by legal means.
- The main task in Lahaul involved assessing the nature of bureaucratic objections and the legality of the errors of villagers' claims. This work was conducted in Telangi, Kaja and Jispa villages and it was decided to prepare collective claims as a model in one village.
- On 22nd July a national level solidarity call was issued responding to the Supreme courts' order of evicting forest dwellers whose claims had been rejected, before the 24th July hearing where SC was to give its final decision.
- In Chamba district, we worked with the Ghumantu Pashupalak Mahasabha and All India Gujjar Mahasabha. The focus is on work with Gujjar pastoral community and community claims.
 - 53 individual claims and 6 community rights claims have been recognized till date but thereafter the administration delayed in proceeding further.
 - 3 villages in Salooni sub district have submitted their requests to SDLC. These claims are mostly of the Pastoral Gujjar Community.
- Public meeting cum dialogue was organized in Ronahat on 30th January 2020 where public representatives and members of 10 panchayats from Laadi valley participated. It was organised to generate awareness on different rights for forest dwelling communities, process, myths etc.
- From 3 February 2020, a 10-day Public dialogue and awareness programme was conducted in the valley, wherein the need for development rights were discussed along with the over-all

need to protect the natural rights of the forest dwellers.

- On 13 February, a public meeting was organized in Thunag for all the panchayats falling under of Saraj Block and in which more than 200 people participated – Submission with specific demands on restoring development rights was made at the Sub-divisional level. The two other regions where we are engaging in Mandi are impacted by two proposed dam projects – Thana Plaun (Nohli) and Luhri-II (Karsog). Both the areas are vulnerable to losing their access to forest land as a result of these projects.
- On 6th and 7th November, a public hearing was held in the Luhri-II project affected villages of Nainj and Firnu to discuss and assess the Social Impact Report. Women participated in large numbers to raise their concerns alongside men.
- In Kangra district, we worked with Ghumantu Pashupalak Mahasabha and community rights and resource rights have been recognized for 27 villages which include the claims of the pastoral communities also.
- 128 individual and community rights claims of 13 villages have been sent to SDLC and the process of filing claims in 16 villages is in progress. Claims have also been filed from Majra village of pastoral Gujjar community and nomad cattle rancher in 12 villages.
- A district level consultation was organised on July 22nd as in other districts and a fairly impactful and positive meeting was held with the DM emphasising the need to move on pending claims.



Film Screening of ' Ho Gayi Pir Parbat Si'

Discussion on ecology, development narratives and forest/water/land rights in villages of Lippa, Kullu and Lahaul were initiated via the film screening of "*ho gayi pir parbat si*". The film shot over a period of 7 to 8 years travels from village to village in the Satluj Valley capturing visuals and resident testimonies of the already deleterious impacts of many ongoing

hydropower projects on the local farm-based economies and also on their precious
Film screening at village Gemur, Lahaul. (2) Discussion on hydropower issues, development narratives and rights organized at Kullu.

water sources, causing deforestation, health hazards, landslides, flash floods, leading to desperate situations for the communities and also threatening to drive them into



dispossession and perpetual deprivation.

Development and Himalayan Socio-Political Ecology: An Engagement with the Youth

CACIM team has been constantly engaging with the students and youth on the mentioned issues. Three key programs/dialogues were organized at Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), in association with Himalayan Students Ensemble.

- An open discussion on the struggle for natural resources and ecological mass movements was held on World Environment Day
- Film screening of 'Ho Gayi Pir Parbat Si' was conducted, followed by a discussion and dialogue on the ecological collapse and struggle for resources underlying the hydropower development narrative.
- Participation in the panel discussion program organized in response to Global Investors Meet: On the occasion of Global Investors meet being held in Kangra on 7-8 November, a panel discussion was organized on 5th November to discuss the effects and impacts of development and to ideate on how the youth visualize development in Himachal. The discussion saw participation from students across disciplines and Tribal youth association.

A program that members of the collective design and organise in collaboration with the Palampur based Sambhaavnaa Institute annually is Pahar Aur Hum. This program engages on the subject of the history of the Himalayas, development politics, ecology and transformation with proactive youth especially from Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal. The 10-day program receives positive feedback from youth year after year.

A two-day consultation on land rights and tribal identity where active people and civil society

representatives from Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti regions of Himachal participated and deliberated over these ideas and issues collectively and strategized the need and call for a joint strategy on issues faced by tribal communities and on criticality of solidarity and unity.

Main publications:

- ☐ One of the main tasks of the team this year was developing the training kit and resource material for rights of forest dwelling people, which is being published by the state tribal department of the Himachal Government. We hope this training material will bring some uniformity in understanding the various provisions in the context of Himachal Pradesh and speed up the implementation work. We believe that this resource material will assist in establishing trust over this law amongst the people and allow the contextually aided legal translation of law to become more accessible and comprehensible.
- ☐ A short training booklet on community rights of forest dwelling people was prepared and published for information dissemination in public.
- ☐ Leaflets, pamphlets etc. in context of public demonstrations, meetings and public visits and awareness were also prepared for public distribution.
- ☐ A research study based on accessing information and field assessment was carried out on the implications of a Supreme Court order regulating the forest land diversion and tree felling for local development works. The report of the study was published in Hindi and English and is being disseminated across the state. This report is being used for dialogue and communication with the various members of the State Level Monitoring Committee, MoTA, political representatives, and administrative level. A copy of the report has been sent to the Supreme Court with endorsements from local representatives. The report was also given in the media and used as a resource material during awareness campaigns.

C. MARGINALITIES, DEMOCRACY AND POWER

I. AN INITIATIVE TOWARDS GENDER RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

This year too, CACIM continued to work towards the sensitisation of the work and culture of organisations from a queer perspective. This is the last year of the ongoing project on gender rights and equality and we hope that the learnings from this project will continue through other projects.

Capacity Building:

In addition to conducting several seminars, trainings, and workshops with students from a number of schools and colleges, as well as personnel from development sector organisations, we also organised self-care assessment consultations for our own organisation, held training sessions on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, held an intensive gender and sexuality workshop attended by a large number of participants and organisations, held a residential peer counselling workshop for LGBT*QIA+ persons from India, Nepal and Bangladesh, and organised a workshop to build dialogue and understanding of gender and sexuality among members of various civil society organisations.

Training and Workshops:

We conducted seminars, trainings, and workshops with students from a number of schools and colleges, as well as with personnel from development sector organisations. The sessions explored the ways in which discrimination was faced by people marginalised on the basis of their gender identity, as well as the different sites of such discrimination, from the family and school to spaces shared with friends and at the workspace. The sessions raised understanding on related themes and associated social constructions of sexuality, norms, identities, harassment, hierarchy, and the linkages of these with patriarchy.

Some of the major trainings conducted this year are mentioned below:

- a. A four-day workshop on gender and sexuality was attended by 21 participants from Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. The workshop sought to expand and inform the knowledge and practices of the participants in their relevant field from

the lens and experiences of lived realities of LGBT*QIA+ community. As such it was expected to help participants relook at the various policies, infrastructures, norms and practices that constitute and inform their workplace. The participants were individuals from partner organisations working on gender and women's rights, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, youth empowerment, women empowerment, shelter homes for women, mental health, masculinities, and allied issues.



The workshop led the participants to reflect on the policies, infrastructure and trends in their personal intimate spaces as well as at their work spaces and fuelled critical reflection. The workshop raised questions about non-conformity and making a living, where living was defined as not just a mode of earning but of carrying on with life in all its complexity and variety.

- b. Also discussed were relevant landmark judgements and notable cases, including the NALSA Judgement 2014, the IPC section 377, the Navtej Singh Johar Judgement of 6 September 2018, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2018, and allied laws and judgements on surrogacy, trafficking, sex-work, and civil unions/partnerships, among others;
- c. An interactive poetry and literature session with noted author and writer Akhil Katyal titled, 'Voices and Queerness: Thoughtful Reading, Reflection and Discussion on Queerness and/in Literature', was also organised.
- d. In August 2019, the project team conducted a 4-day workshop with the staff members of Vanangana- an organization based out of Uttar Pradesh on Gender, Sexuality and Caste. There were 30 members of their team in this workshop. The project team also tried to build linkages of Gender based violence and sexuality through real life examples and role plays.

II. ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND INTERVENTIONS FOR DALIT AND ADIVASI COMMUNITY

This year we began new and deeper engagements with communities at the margins, especially dalits. We started by learning and knowing more about the problems the community faces and developing our perspective on engagement with the theme. Our initiative remained at the level of participation in the Dalit Literature Festival, programmes around the birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, literature survey and other capacity building programmes. In addition, we started looking at the plight of the sanitation workers and their status in the society. This is the beginning of our work, so the work has evolved as events around us happened.

- 26th August 2019, Fact Finding at Ghaziabad- UP: A fact finding team went to Ghaziabad where Five Sewer Workers died on 22 August. The team made an in-depth enquiry into the incident and released a report and approached relevant authorities to seek justice for the victims.
- Public Hearing on Sewer Workers, October 19, 2019: The public hearing aimed to provide a platform where victims and their families can come together and share their experiences and life story. It brought forth several actions for follow up and work with the authorities. Death Cases to contractual workers, almost all possibilities of sewer works were discussed. More than 200 people attended the hearing. The event was also covered in mainstream newspapers.
- Fact Finding, Karkardooma New Delhi; February 7-9, 2020: A fact finding team of four went on a visit to Karkardooma, CBD Ground where one daily wage laborer died in the process of cleaning a septic tank and one was seriously injured. The aim was to investigate the victim's situation in the terms of health, family, livelihood and the state's role. The team followed up the case and helped the injured in getting medical treatment and legal aid.

In addition, we also started by documenting and looking at the union Budget and the status of allocation for the Dalits and Adivasis and how they are being utilised. We released a short preliminary study of the Budget from this perspective in the year.

III. URBAN RESOURCES CENTRE FOR 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 major works undertaken for migrant domestic workers during this year were:

- 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.
- Dialogue with Central and State Government officials for proper wages, safe and secure working conditions for domestic workers.
- Dialogue with fraternal organizations and the Central Government for formulating National Domestic Workers Policy.
- Ongoing membership campaign and issued identity cards to domestic workers
- Centre serves as a short stay home for domestic workers.
- Facilitating legal aid and medical assistance to domestic workers during their distress period.
- Regular interaction with the media for breaking the biased and preconceived notions about domestic workers.