



# Towards an Ecosystem of Collaborative and Mindful Information

Annual Report 2014-15

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# CED 2014-15 in perspective

Two years ago, CED, as an Education and Documentation Centre in the social sector, decided to focus its documentation efforts on co-creating and making available transmedia resources on the State of the Art of Social Work and Sustainable Alternatives.

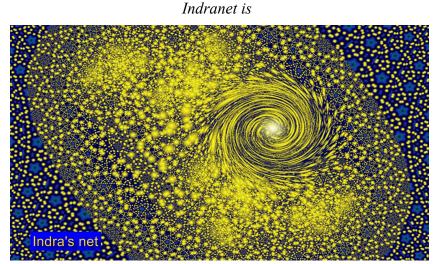
To this end, over the last eighteen months, CED has been mainly engaged in video recording oral histories and reflections of NGOs and Organisations which CED relates to. This year we have compiled and placed in the public domain the complete proceedings of major social sector events which bring together various actors in this long journey towards social justice and equity like the National Alliance for Peoples' Movements Biennial Convention, deliberations at the Southern Collective, the February Dialogues, Vikalp Sangam etc. These have been supplemented by videos of presentations and lectures on various current development and social issues.

The other aspect of our work has been to promote 'Slow Knowledge' regime. Just like the "slow food" campaign, we need to "slow" Information down, through human scale interaction and time. As a e-networked society, we are being made to believe that only the numbers matter. While this is true for the hits-led economy, today's technology also makes it viable for smaller groups of peers to come together at a human but deeper

One of the ways to do this is to move away from the "portal" mindset and the overload and dismemberment of development information and knowledge. We propose a Post-Google Indranet (see Box).

scale.

When we read a good article, or see a good film, we



where each node of knowledge network, is a nucleus in its own right, though it draws freely from glory of other nodes, and in fact leads us to them -Siddhartha, Fireflies.

Post Google will see each node, however small, going beyond aggregating the "meta data" of the other, to highlighting what it draws from the other article to make it own "jewel"

want to thank that person for any insight that we might have got from it. What better

way to do this, that to share that "insight" (and not just comments) with our peers. Google like software, including facebook and twitter, promote an easy "forward"/"like" approach, and the numbers who see this, do not benefit from, your "insight", whereas the latter is most appropriate for your peers, who may be smaller in number, but constitute a more purposeful and effective social group. In any case, you can **put share your insights in your own blog or website to make it one of the jewels of the** *Indranet.* You can also use the Content Management System and Database Backbone provided by CED where you can, in a ongoing manner edit, order and reorder your "insights" rather than surrender to a list of categories, keyword or date order in a blog. This becomes the building blocks of your story, your film, book or AV.

Over the next year, CED will be doing exactly that with all the videos that it has documented, as well as the many tweets, articles, and documents put out by various stakeholders in this Long and Winding Road of Social Change.

Our earlier offering: <u>The Long and Winding Road</u>, in the analog days, was a reader in modular magazine form linked to reading resources, to enable stakeholders to survey the period when action groups were "structurally adjusted" into NGOs, even as social movements including the environment, gender, peace movements charted new terrains of engagement and SHGs, Appropriate technology, marketing projects sought to redefine a new path for transformation of basic market institutions. This was captured in our series "Development Digest".

Long & Winding Road II seeks to capture through a range of video, the reflections and stories of a wide range of actors and what they see as the sources for Structural Change and Transformation. Alongside, the project seeks to capture state of the art through a variety of the recent important happenings which mark the state of the mind of the current generation of activist.

The Long and Winding Road II will not be a one time output, but a series of evolving content on a variety of platforms such as mailing lists, website, facebook and so on. The idea is that the research being done in this project is in the public domain right from the start. This we hope will not only give feedback and peer review, but also initiate parallel co-activity by others. After the first tweets, annotations and posts which will give access to the original documents, CED and hopefully others will make small content modules, take the shape of a Critical Concern, or a short film or a presentation, or just a lecture at a meeting, or even a small discussion at CED. This will also be incorporated into a website on a quarterly basis. In a years time we hope to make a rounded documentary and a magazine like book, with notes for usage of the resources in different forms for education.

We invite you and other to join in this effort or choose you own. You may use our back end documentation resources or create your own. All we need is for you to put it in the public domain and give us a "link".

# Partners in Knowledge Consolidation

CED has been involved in the knowledge space for four decades, when it started off as a 'doccentre' for the VISTAS group in June 1975. Its constituency then grew to include youth and students as well as other development practitioners and activists and professionals particularly media persons, lawyers.

After the rise of Google, there has been a major shift in CED's documentation efforts, as we focused on issues specifically related to our peers and on primary documentation of important conferences, lectures, interviews, projects and events. This documentation is organised at three levels:

A. We have at the backend a database and curated information with links and references to the original documents particularly public access to our video documentation in raw form. (This will soon be separated into a separate website: www.doccentre.info)

B. These links alongwith Annotations and Comments are also sent out to specific mailing lists, e groups and social media which we are engaged with on the topics concerned, and

C. Certain themes are taken up to make webpages, DOCSWEB, or Critical Concerns, which besides being pushed out through emails are valourised into a website: <a href="https://www.doccentre.net">www.doccentre.net</a>. This will represent out Net involvement as information partners with our peers. It is with this group of stakeholders and peers that seek to co-create and collaborated in the Slow Knowledge Space. Some of these networks are:

<u>Vikalp Sangam</u> CED is a core group member of the <u>Vikalp Sangam</u>, which is a series of sharing among those practicing alternatives. CED has been entrusted with video documenting the proceedings of the Sangam and placing it in the public domain.

Knowledge in Civil Society (KICS): CED is a part of Knowledge in Civil Society (KICS) is a forum for conversations amongst activists, practitioners and academics on issues relating to science and democracy. CED is very much part of the sharing sessions on Science Technology and Society learnings by peers. CED has documented several of the sharing sessions, as well as hosted some of them. CED has also made modules called Science & Society and shared them for educational use. CED also maintains and develops content for the KICS website.

<u>Indian Network for Ethics in Climate Change</u> (INECC): CED is linked to INECC and has been engaged in developing educational content on climate change. It developed and maintained the website, where the content updating has now been handed over to IN-

ECC secretariat. CED has also been video documenting several workshops at INECC and TISS and making them available to the larger network on the issue.

<u>Southern Collective</u>: The Collective is a sharing platform of action groups in South India, which was very active in the 8os and 9os. CED has been instrumental in reviving the same, and two important collective sharings have been organised in the last year and a half.

<u>Documentation Centres Meet</u> (DCM): This is a knowledge sharing platform among Documentation Centres in the Social Sector which developed barefoot systems for documentation and sharing of information. After digitization and the growth of Internet, CED has been sharing its technology, software and systems with other centres. Likewise it was also a platform for sharing and development of documentation on gender issues. Since Documentation Centres are in transition in the google age, new approaches developed by CED and other organisations and individuals will be shared shortly.

We have other partnerships for example we work in the field of alternatives and organics in collaboration with Timbaktu, MOFCA, Economic of Happiness, peoples organisations and struggles.

# Capturing the Sense of the Times

The mainstream media is no longer taking even fine print cognizance of the opposition as well as alternatives to the dominant development paradigm. In fact it has effectively participated in morphing alternatives especially issues of sustainability and production into the mainstream discourse. Even reports from the social sector have become reduced to palatable sound and pixel bytes, so as to disembody the alternatives of any confluence or over-arching significance. Given this, one will have to directly access Conventions, Workshops, Lectures to understand and learn the real State of the Art of Social Development and Change. As a documentation centre, CED has been video recording entire events and offered the footage in the public domain so that followers are able to access the original events. Some of the events captured are:

#### **Economics of Happiness Conference-II**

Lectures, Presentation and Atmospherics of this three day workshop held in March 2014, was compiled and uploaded on the Internet. These are listed in Annexure A1

#### **Vikalp Sangam**

During the year 2014-15, two Vikalp Sangams have been held. The first one was at Timbaktu Collective October 17 to 19, 2014 and second at CESCI, Madurai. Some of the presentations and discussions have been video documented in detail are shown in Annexure A2

#### **Southern Collective**

The action groups in the South recovened and took stock of the goings on, in which we listened to people like Yogendra Yadav (then of the Aam Aadmi Party) on Alternative Politics, S. P. Udaya Kumar on Peoples' resistance to loss of livelihoods have been spoke at the gathering. (Annexure A3)

# <u>Biennial Convention of the National Alliance of Peoples' Movements and 25 years of Harsud Rally.</u>

20 years after the formation of the NAPM, the national convention took stock of the struggles against displacement by development, and the impact of globalisation of the access to resources of the marginalised and the rising tide of communal and divisive forces. The photo-essay on the convention by Avinay Yadav brings out the young side view of the state of the movement.



The various speeches and discussions have been compiled and are being placed in the public domain.(See Annexure A4)

#### 25 years on the Harsud Rally:

September 28, 2015 marked 25 years of the historic Harsud Rally, where we saw a rare unity among several NGOs, Peoples' Organisations, and concerned professionals. The old video video recorded by CED in VHS was refurbished and digitised for public use.

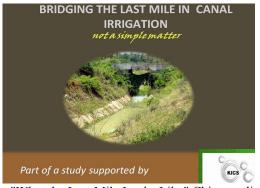


#### The Ekta Parishad is planning a major Global Action Programme Jan Jagat in 2020.

P.V.Rajgopal speaks of it as a necessary big response that is needed to demonstrate what is being touted as a "consensus" for neo-liberal development is not shared by the vast majority who are calling for big action to stop structural violence, and loot of natural resources by corporate. These four excerpts of his presentation to Punenites give a good picture of the understanding: <a href="Need for big action">Need for big action</a>; Whither One day Action - Ekta Parishad; Outlining the Global Action Programme Jan Jagat 2020; Add Macro action to Local Micro Action

#### Bridging the last mile in Canal Irrigation

Another recording we have is the work of Dr.Chitra Krishnan, the presentations at CED in early 2014 and at KICS. Chitra reflects on five different rural development schemes as experienced and written by two villagers from a semi-arid region of Southern Karnata-ka. Bridging the Last Mile in Canal Irrigation. Chitra Krishnan shares the local peoples' struggle to get canal water into their local tanks during the drought of 2012.



"What the Last Mile Looks Like" Chitra outlines what canal irrigation is like at the last mile of canal irrigation - No trickledown effect here...



In the second segment, <u>Drought of 2012</u> details the chain of events when local villagers tried to get the water to reach their tanks during the critical days.

#### **Climate Change:**

The Theme of this year's (2014) TISS Conference on Climate Change & Sustainable Development was on "Equity and the Post 2015 Challenge". Also covered are other INECC events and conferences ( See Annexure A<sub>3</sub>)

# Processing Information to Generate Knowledge

As mentioned earlier, at the third level of documentation, CED promotes re-formulating Information to Knowledge through Praxis: Action/Reflection and Review of Experiences and Social Practice using thrid media and hyperlink technology.

This year Water was the central theme around which we critiques development.

<u>Community Documentation of Water</u>: SAMUHA asked CED to undertake a community documentation of water in two villages Piligunda and B.R.Gunda in the Deodurg taluk of Raichur district in Hyderabad-Karnataka. This is part of a project titled: "Optimizing agriculture returns and Enhancing climate adaptation through water conservation as a national model for canal-irrigated paddy cultivation".

With the arrival of irrigation, the more prosperous farmers are quite happy. Some stories of farmers like <u>Thammanna</u>, <u>Khajabi</u>, <u>Ranganna</u> - who have benefitted from the canal irrigation has been captured. <u>However some have started experiencing difficulties of getting into the cash based economy of agriculture.</u>

Domestic Water: Government schemes to provide water for domestic use are constantly being rolled out. First the bore-well with hand pump, then the energising of one good well pumping daily to ferro-cement tanks, and now large common overhead tank, with piped water to individual houses at a "low fee". Yet about 70% of them

prefer to carry 10-15 pots from the public cisterns. All in all, people seem to have abdicated their responsibility for water to the Bill Collector and the Waterman. However increasing pumping of bore well water, has led to the fear of high levels of florides in the water. Now is new scheme is planned in Piligunda to create a <u>new barricaded</u>



stone lined sub-tank in the traditional tank bed, pump water from the canal a mile away, filter it and then send it to the overhead water tanks. Meanwhile the traditional tank has become dysfunctional and the recharged several wells in the area which supported dry land farming is in disarray. So also grazing activity around the tank bed.

Water in Culture: A first bath ritual to a new-born, which pays obeisance to the springs, rivers as fountainhead of life was witnessed. Now the ritual is held at the ferro cement water tank which seems culturally incongruous. An <u>old woman in the village</u> said that she has drunk water and offered pooja at over a dozen wells, most of which are now dysfunctional. About a <u>dozen songs</u> which we recorded seems to have changed flavour in tune with the times.



Nagalapura and B.R.Gunda are two neighbouring villages in Deodurga taluk. Nagalapura, today is an abandoned village but a site of hectic canal construction and quarrying. The village once upon a time had thick forest and the villagers fled for fear of wild animals and settled in B.R.Gunda. Due to reckless

destruction of the habitat, the farm lands have lost their catchment areas, the forests. Samuha here has facilitated <u>NREGA work to re-build the landscape</u>. The canal cutting through Nagalapura has devastated some farm lands leaving them water logged. From dry land farming, the farmers have been forced to practice wetland, leaving the traditional farmers at high risk as they have no knowledge of wet lands farming.

CED intends to extend this documentation which will lead to a critical analysis of impacts of irrigation on traditional agricultural systems and link these to other experiences further downstream.

#### Alternatives and Constructive Work

There is a lot of information and 'feel good' stories of alternatives in the mainstream media. All of them seem to want to "scale up". Illango a Panchayat leader speak about "scaling out". But this can happen only in under a new systemic understanding of an alternative economics and politics. Some of these idea have been gleaned by us from discussions among practioners at the the Vikalp Sangam. These are:

Regional Economics;

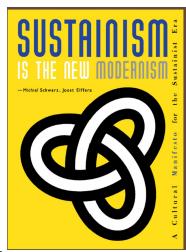
**Alternative Politics**;

Youth & Aspirations;

Community Aspects;

Gender Thinker;

Knowledge, Culture and Activist: Futures



Michiel Schwarz coined the word "<u>Sustainism</u>" to capture an emerging practice. that embraces more sustainable ways of living and an interconnected world. It is marked by new attitudes to both the manmade and the

natural environment, and new approaches to both local and global issues. What is coming into being is nothing less than a change in cultural perspective, a new mindset, a world wide remaking... Moving beyond ideas of modernism and post modernism, this shared outlook promises a networked, globalised, sustainable future.



At the fireflies, we recorded and published the Interplay exercises, which brought in an interesting "inter connectedness" between <a href="Mind-Body-Community">Mind-Body-Community</a> and Alternative <a href="Culture guided by Hazel Lobo">Culture guided by Hazel Lobo</a>.

Similarly, CIEDS and Fireflies organised a "sufi evening" which we captured on video. The page can be found here. <a href="http://www.doccentre.net/lwrd/culture/sufi.html">http://www.doccentre.net/lwrd/culture/sufi.html</a>

#### The Information & Database Backend

The Physical Information Hub of CED, still represents a one rich repository on the three Development Decades – the 70s, 80s and 90s, as seen from below. The News Clippings under 750 odd issues, and reports and booklets still dominate the otherwise rich collection of period books, journals, and documentaries. These are archived and



maintained even as users have reduced to a trickle. The service will changed on an "on demand" facility, rather than a 8x5 Hub.

now be

In any case, the best of material have been digitised and made available to users through on-line and off-line electronic transfer Our services include

<u>Master Catalogue System (MCS)</u>: This is a catalogue of Books, Reports, AVs, Journals physically available at CED's Mumbai and Bangalore Centre. This was mainly used by our members come for reference. We have about 22841 records in Mumbai Catalogue and 21472 in Bangalore catalogue.

<u>Eldoc (Electronic Documentation system)</u>: It is a database of Electronic Documents curated from various sources. The main highlight is that the database has the digitised articles from our archive section. And for the last couple of years, we have been very selective in adding to this database. The database has 137229 (as on 31/03/2015) records and can be searched by Title, Author, Publications, Date, Keywords etc.. and each record is linked to the original source or to a backup copy.

<u>Website:</u> CED's website DOCCENTRE.NET is updated regularly with outputs such as video clips, Info-tweets (DOCS-in-SITE), publications and so on.

#### The statistics of our website -

	Unique visit	Number of visits	pages	Hits	Bandwidth(g b)
April 2014	2867	4875	21350	61394	2.29g
May	3,025	5862	18157	44637	2.17gb
June	3156	6541	17127	40160	2.06g
July	3340	8805	24918	63009	2.54g

Aug	3502	7731	26821	79748	2.45g
Sept	3990	8182	29346	82024	5.50g
Oct	4410	6932	22753	55634	3.2
Nov	4102	6202	21313	56836	2.41
Dec	4185	5807	19952	48634	2.08
Jan 2015	4089	5518	13520	36060	1.73
Feb 15	4435	6101	20327	37188	1.98
March 14	4914	7305	17916	35592	2.18
Total		79861	253500	640916	
Average per month		6655	21125	53409	
2013-14 figures		6142	26799	45296	

#### Interaction at CED

Library and Archive Users: CED still get a host of library users from two opposite end of the Information spectrum, We get students who have to finish their project and the researcher scholars who come ot delve into the unique archive of CED clippings, reports, journals, AVs, and other non-book material on development issues.

The students in Mumbai have mostly referred to topics related to Gender, Communalism, Environment, Media, Mumbai, urban issues and so on.

	Total	Stud	Act	Prof
April 14	8	4		4
May 14	3	1		2
Jun 14	11	10		1
Jul 14	8	6	2	
Aug 14	16	13	3	
Sept 14	17	16		1
Oct 14	8	7		1
Nov 14	38	38		
Dec 14	17	9		8
Jan 15	10	5		5
Feb 15	3	3		
Mar 15	6	2		4
Total	144	113	5	26



In Bangalore, there were fewer users. A couple of media students referred to traditional art forms in India and another student from Aditi Mallya school referred to CED Annual Report 2014-15

21374 April 2014 2014
I have come looking for material and dippings on
I found exactly what & wanted all decourant of
is fir un Economics project for Rishi Valley School
helpful sourced, the (ED, My email is arramanigate)
Aryaman Jal, studenty
(Frank & Aroper)

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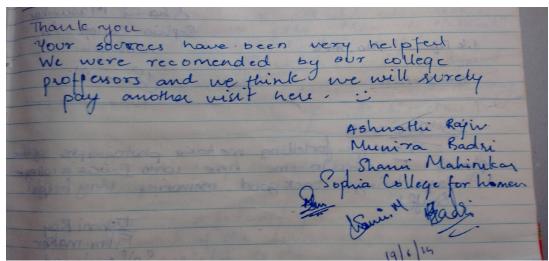
1- PRIYA SANGAMESWARAN, CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES,

CALCUTTA: Doing research on transformation of urban industrial space
in MaurabaiThane Some of the books/seports were useful. But I didn't

get the older newspaper articles that I was looking too.

However, the place is in general good and the staff, very helpful.

Lizaens/63200/63201/H23624/ Koza/ Reports H00(16)/42004K25)



Some of the formal events held at CED during 2014-15 were:

On the eve of Independance Day, 2014, <u>Rajni Bakshi</u> organised a meeting to gain insights from veteran socialist leader Vijay Pratap to discuss Development and Educating CED Annual Report 2014-15 people on their understanding and how to relate these to governance.

On September 11, 2014 Badal Ja! hosted the second edition of Small Steps meetup series

on sex and sexuality.

Book Reading: CED Bangalore hosted Pankaj Sekhsaria, author of 'The Last Wave' for a Book Reading session on September 26, 2014. There was a discussion on the author's perspective of the islands, the Tsunami of 2004, the people and life there followed by a discussion on the book.

Sustainism: On March 2, 2015 CED, Mumbai hosted a dialogue with Michiel Schwarz (<a href="www.sustainism.com">www.sustainism.com</a>). His presentation/lecture at the February Dialogues, Fireflies

Ashram was shown. There was an interaction with him over skype.

# **Organisational Aspects:**

The management of CED is the responsibility of the Executive Council, who are: Anjum Rajabali, Eric DSouza, Rajni Bakshi, Walter Mendoza, Vinod Kumar, John Dsouza.

The trust matters is the responsibility of the trustees: who are: Anjum Rajabali, Eric D'Souza, Walter Mendoza and John D'Souza.

In view of the transition phase at CED, the development of the programme of CED has been entrusted to a core programme group among the executive council consisting of Anjum Rajabali, Walter Mendoza, Rajni Bakshi with John Dsouza acting as its executive.

The following are the General Body members.

Anjum Rajabali, Eric D'Souza, Rajni Bakshi, Walter Mendoza, Vinod Kumar, John D'Souza, Sumi Krishna, Sameera Khan, Kaiwan Mehta, Karuna D'Souza, Leena Abraham, Preeti Bhat, Abhishek Bharadwaj, Amita Malkani, Carmen Kagal, Tanvi Patel, Tanya Goveas.

In view of the shortage of funds, the number of full time staff members have been steadily reducing as we have not fulled any vacancies created by staff resignation. Depending on the nature of activities planned, the new policy is try and manage using existing staff and supplement it by project and work specific consultant. The staffing for CED consists of Programme Staff, Part-time/Contract Consultants and Support staff.

#### Programme Staff

Vinod Kumar S - Systems Manager

Veena B N – Documentalist

Praful Sawal – Accountant and Documentation Assistant

#### Support Staff

Basically no support staff except for Raghu was appointed in CED Bangalore as a Drivercum-Office Assistant for a brief period.

Part-Time/Contract Consultants
John D'Souza who is also acting as honorary Chief Functionary
Raajen Singh
Avinay Yadav

# Financials and Funding

This year Rs.80,000/- was received from LAYA for maintaining the INECC website, Rs.40,000/- from CWS-KICS and Rs.1,00,00/- from Kalpavriksh. As the revenue from services has gone down drastically we had to withdraw Rs. 15,10,539/- from our reserves to meet the deficit. With that, as on 31st March 2015 our reserves stands at Rs. 1,13,383/-.

#### Summary Income/Exp for the year 2014-15

	Rs. in Lakhs		Rs. in Lakhs
Total Income	35.83	Total Expenditure	36.87
Services	2.10	Salary/Fees	27.32
INECC/CWS/Kalp	2.20	Direct Prog.	0.29
Ret. on Invest	31.17	Indirect Prog.	9.08
Misc/Assets sold	0.37	Audit Fees	0.18



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