



Documenting, what isn't



# Annual Report 2016-2017

## Centre for Education & Documentation



In an age when Google searches and delivers public online knowledge, information organisations in the social sector can now focus its resources and lens on that information that is marginalised or making accessible action-reflection knowledge to its constituencies. In a sense, Google has liberated us from dealing with general development and background information and has allowed us to focus on specific themes of our engagement. More importantly, digital technology has opened up the possibility of each of us to deep dive into our own topics of our interest, in content and in form, and seek out those knowledges which do not get documented properly in the normal course.

Given this, Centre for Education & Documentation has sought to redefine its role within the larger context of development information and its role in development education, for a socially informed civil society. Despite the growth of Internet, and the increasing DIY (do-it-yourself) software which enable consumers of information to also be producers of it, we cannot say that we are a more socially informed society that is needed to bring about social change. In fact, we seem to be going the other way, with selfies and facebook posts of lynchings, blatant oppression and trolling which are aimed at further subjugating marginalised people, who are seeking to liberate themselves.

Thus information organisations have their role cut out perhaps a new kind of “Gandhigiri”, namely to channelised the new technologies, which have the potential of decentralisation, into instruments of reflection, peace and change. Unfortunately, we seem to be forced into a reactive mode, using the same idiom of propaganda, much like the early film documentaries generally dominated by this authoritative male voice delivering the last word on events and ideas. At best, we do have a new TED format which points towards a very individualised heroic impact on disaggregated problems.

To combat the information overload, and the dominance of the algorithm and its affinity to the dominant discourse, CED has been promoting "slow knowledge" ( as in Slow Food ), a more deliberative, close to earth, organic process of knowledge production and information sharing.

The thrust therefore in the year 2016-17 has been to record on video oral history from the point of view of the people who are working in the field of social change and alternatives development. The purpose has been to document and study the State of the Art in civil society, and putting this online as open source for research and analysis in the public domain.

Many of these activist are knowledge producers and are interested curators of information as they are active on social media. But this tends to get lost in the information rush, and therefore it falls on centres like ours to ensure that these are "slowed down" and catalogued, which we do by creating a selective database with hyperlinks to the text if available online or backup of those documents that are not.

Thus more than our physical reference centres , we relate to our users digitally, and mainly online. At the same time, we close the year, with a programme of interaction though physical interactions with key persons at CED, and documented the same for others.

Unfortunately, our staff strength has been reduced. This probably enables us to be financially lean, and also attract newer forms of voluntary engagement in our developmental efforts. This is in line with the emerging trend of NGOs moving to a new organisational paradigm.

## Audio-Video Documentation

The main thrust of the video documentation has been to go beyond the packaged documentary, which showcases one's work to donors and well wishers, into repositories of experiential knowledge. People who are not fortunate enough to attend meetings and workshop need to have access to the details of inspiring accounts and views one gets to hear at these meetings. Most of these speakers are not able to reduce what they present into text. There is also the benefit of “interaction”, sharing, and debate that is generally lost in the normal reports of such meetings. Thus CED has recorded entire proceedings of various meetings in High Definition, and is regularly uploading these on Youtube for public viewership.

CED has also invited trainers, communications persons to use and adapt these materials into smaller modules for their own use. Not only can users directly download these videos, they are also invited to come to CED and make copies of whatever portions they want. CED will now open its facilities, for three days in a week for free use to all activists, trainers, and youth where they can work on developing their own content. This is being done as a natural extension of our learning and communications mentoring programme.

Most of the video documentation this year has been that of Vikalp Sangam. This includes several meetings of people engaged in Alternatives. The other meetings covered were those of INECC, which is the Indian Network for Ethics in Climate Change. Further we have started small circles at CED to discuss themes. These have been recorded and supplemented with documentation of other such meetings. ,

The following are some of the video documentation done by CED in the financial year 2016-17:

### Network Meetings

Youth Vikalp Sangam, Bhopal. 3rd-5th February 2017

Regional Vikalp Sangam, Bhuj. 25/7 to 31/7/2016

Vikalp Sangam Core Group Meeting – Pune. 6th to 7th December 2016

Sangam of Sangams: Pune: 8th to 9th December 2016

INECC meetings: Delhi - 30th November; Nilgiris, 22/10-26/10; ? Sept 25-30<sup>th</sup>.

### Video Documentation of Exploration of Alternatives

Money and Mutual Credit – Session with Giriraj with Pune Group. 27th August, 2016

Revitalising Local Livelihoods: Study of 25 years of Timbaktu Collective work -21st August-25th August

Energy Round Table meetings of INECC: Delhi: 1st to 2nd of December 2016; Mumbai 20th Feb 2017; Pune 15th Feb 2017

Education Alternatives: Panchgani : Preparatory meeting for a Vikalp Sangam: June

Green Entrepreneurship by INECC, Pune, 16th Feb 2017

Workshop on the Commons Approach: ICAN groups Udaipur. 20th to 22nd January 2017

Unconference in Pune: Local Vimanagar Group.

### Oral History by Activists

Jyothibhai Desai. 24th January 2017

KishoreBhai Saint. 23rd January 2017

Bharat Patankar 9th November

Oral History: Claude & Normal Alvares: 10th: November:  
Christina Almeida - 11th November  
Rico Noronha 12th November:  
KJ Joy - Pune , 6<sup>th</sup> November

## Interaction Space at CED



Most of you would remember CED as a reference facility as the clippings files, books and non-book materials oozed out of every wall, and hung from every beam, and the meeting space was very functional. The structural repairs to the building in which CED is housed meant that most of the shelves had to be brought down and were damaged. We used this opportunity to re-model CED so that we could have a creative open space for meets, as well as digital transmedia work. The structural repair work

carried out by the building society went on from 12th March 2016 to August 2016. (See picture 1). After the space was readied we have had several interaction circles, and video documented them for use by students later.

The meeting held were

1. Discussion in CED on 14th Nov. 2016 with Thomas Wallgren, He was active in the Kojjärvi Movement in the 1980s. As an activist he is famous for buying shares in large Finnish corporations, such as Nokia, only for the purpose of gaining the right to speak at their shareholders' conferences, where he would then raise the issue of the company's lack of environmentalism.



2. Discussion on Anantmurthy's "Hindutva on Hind Swaraj" at CED on 10th Dec. 2016.

3. Discussion with S. Akbar Zaidi, a political economist based in Karachi, who teaches one semester a year at Columbia University. Meeting at CED on 11th January 2017.



4. An informal sharing session with Ipe van der Deen on the 7th of Feb. 2017 at CED. Ipe who retired as senior adviser in the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. He started with this Agency working on energy saving in Built Environment. He did this with City councils, Provinces and several Ministries. All in all for some 10 years Ipe was active in the Works council of the Agency and chairperson of the Departmental Works council of the

Min. of Economic Affairs and he chaired the Platform Departmental Works councils for 4 years.

4. Complimentary Currencies: Designing them and contracts using Block Chain: The case of Ethereum: Siddarth Sthalekar . 29th March:
5. Review Dialogue between Youth Leaders & CFP on Respectism 14th March:

## Dissemination of videos, e-docs,-- Long & Winding Road

Under the first phase of the Long & Winding Road, CED has been making capsules of interventions by activists and thinkers and place them in the public domain on YouTube. The links to these modules are posted on email and facebook. This gives an opportunity to those development workers who are not able to attend these workshops and meeting. It also enables them to download the same and produce their own capsules for their programmes.

A total of 113 videos have been uploaded in the 12 month period from April 2016 to March 2017. many of them as large, full session videos, requiring minimal editing. A few of them, notably the Revitalising Local Agriculture are uplaoded as a collection, with webpages and blogs which enable the user to navigate the workshop. <http://www.lnwr.in/lwrd/TC/Revitalising.html> . The play on Rohit Vemula, in fact broke it up into specific issues, and linked to a webpage in which other resources were also available. See: <http://www.lnwr.in/lwrd/rohith.html>

The links to the videos uploaded are sent to specific mailing list some created by CED like the BbnCC, southern collective, teachers, NGOs to Cos etc,while others go externally managed mailing lists like vikalp sangam, social media etc

As part of our effort to slow down information which are relevent, CED makes short notes of some good material received and reposts these with the notes into the same mailing list. In addition, selected e-documents have been added to our eldoc catalogue, so they appear on search in our website. With the help of Priya Pradeep links to about 330 in the year and put them in a e-catalog in the doccentre.net website.

Even though we have shifted to on-line and digital work we still maintain a truncated library. We had 48 visitors (38 students, 3 activists, 7 professionals) during the year referring to topics related to Contract Labourers in Mumbai, Urban Economy, Human Rights issues, Climate Change, Child Abuse, Child Labour, BMC Civic Issues, Alternative/Renewable Sources of Energy, Trade in Higher Education, Labour Laws, Crimes & suicides among youths, , Bio Medical Waste, Textile Strike and Slums, Homosexuality in India and so on.

## Organisational Aspects:

As far as staffing is concerned, Praful Sawal is the only full time staff member and multi-tasks the accounts, admin and documentation and programme functions. While handling all the users who come to CED, he also assist John in the video documentation, as well as makes available the lab , and looks after the computer, video and documentation equipment at CED. Praful attended workshop organized by Atma Education on Film-making with Mobile & Digital Camera for NGOs on 28th July 2016. He

also attended workshop organized by Guidestar India in Mumbai on fundraising, leadership and growth on 17th March 2017.

John D'Souza performs the chief functionary and executive functions on an honorary basis. He is however engaged part time for the video documentation work. Raajen Singh also chips in on a part time basis, though he has not been keeping too well these days.

Shifting Server system to Bombay. Since Vinodkumar is discontinuing work with CED, we had decided to shift our server machine to Bombay. In last week of June 2016 John and Praful went to Bangalore to server installation training with Vinod's place. The server has since been maintained by Praful with telephonic help and guidance by Vinod.

The Management of CED is the responsibility of the Executive Council. The members as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were of Anjum Rajabali, Rajni Bakshi, Walter Mendoza, Vinod Kumar, John Dsouza. Eric D'Souza resigned from Executive Council as well as General Body member and Rajni Bakshi accepted to become a Trustee as of 24th July 2016 after sending a formal written consent letter to chairperson, as per rule 9 of the trust. Thus, the trustees who are responsible for trust matters are Anjum Rajabali, Rajni Bakshi, Walter Mendoza and John D'Souza.



Ms Preeti Bhat was elected to the Executive Committee alongwith Vinod Kumar at the last AGM, however since Mr Vinod Kumar has resigned, and the vacancy created by him has been kept vacant till the next AGM. Four Executive Committee meeting were held in the year ie Four ECM meetings held during 2016-17.

The AGM was held on 9th Feb. 2017 at CED Mumbai. It was attended by Anjum, Walter, Rajni, John, Preeti Bhat, Vinod over skype & Guest invitee, Arvind Krishnaswamy.

The following are the General Body members as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. We have invited three others Abhishek Thakore, Akshat Singhal and Anil Saldanha to join the AGM

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

## Financials and Funding

Project grants have been difficult to come by for CED, as its particular focus is not among the funding priorities of most donors. Most information, documentation and media related work is tied with specific programme and are mainly to cover project reporting and/or propaganda needs of the programme. The notable exception has been the need for documentation of the Vikalp Sangam meetings and discussions. This documentation provided CED the opportunity to document in detail the debates with the proviso that these will be made available in the public domain. Thus this activity was directly in line with our video documentation project under the Long & Winding Road. The Vikalp Sangam work fetched us contribution of Rs.1.72 lakhs from Kalpavriksh.

We had to withdraw Rs. 20.98 lakhs from our reserves to meet the deficit for the year. This is despite the fact that we have over the year reduced our staff strength, as well as indirect expenditure to bare minimum levels. Many of the expenditures are taken care of directly by the stakeholders. Our expenditure for the next financial year is also expected to be more frugal in real terms, as we will rely on voluntary involvement of our users.

### **Summary Income/Exp for the year 2016-17.**

	Rs. in Lakhs		Rs. in Lakhs
Total Expenditure	43.93	Total Income	43.93
Salary/Fees	16.19	Services	0.00
Direct Prog.	0.91	Kalpavriksh	1.72
Indirect Prog.	3.28	Ret. on Invest	42.20
Renovations	1.40		
Computer/Eq.	0.92		
Earmarked for 17-18	21.23		

Despite excess of expenditure over revenue, we still have reserves of Rs. 21.16 lakhs as on 31st March 2017 as we had a returns on investments of around Rs. 42 lakhs. The reserves will be used for activities over the next financial year.

### **Funds/Asset's as of 31/03/2017.**

	31/03/17		31/03/17
<b>Funds/Liabilities:</b>	<b>Rs. 253.26</b>	<b>Property/ Assets:</b>	<b>Rs. 253.26</b>
Reserves.	Rs. 21.16	Investments	Rs. 246.33
Corpuses.	Rs. 214.12	Bank Balance	Rs. 0.81
Other Dep.	Rs. 2.73	Advance/TDS Deposit	Rs. 1.13
SSS Fund	Rs. 15.25	Asset - L&W	Rs. 4.99

Meanwhile, The Executive Committee has decided to monetise the premises of CED, particularly that in Bangalore, to fund the activities of the Trust.



**CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

*Information in the Public Domain for a Participative Society*

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