

Annual Report

2023-24



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Social Studies (CSS) is an autonomous social science research institute. With multi-disciplinary research as its core activity, CSS formulates ideas, undertakes empirical studies, theorizes, and disseminates knowledge through training and publications in vernacular and English languages.

Founded by the late Professor I.P. Desai in 1969, CSS receives financial support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR, Government of India) and the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Gujarat. Besides, CSS also mobilizes funds from other government departments and institutions.

The Centre's faculty, though small in number, represents a variety of disciplines including sociology, history, economics, and statistics. With an emphasis on empirical research and Gujarat as its core research region, the Centre also undertakes studies related to other parts of the country.

Responding to contemporary dynamics of development, key areas of research in CSS include marginal communities, migration, labour, land and credit markets, society and violence, culture and conflict, public health, environment and resources, governance, women and society, social justice, and civil society. Addressing these themes, faculty members focus on studies of tribal communities, Dalits and minority groups, rural transformation, social conflicts, movements and riots, urban society and development, urban and regional planning, literature and social consciousness, human resource development (education and health), environmental issues and social impact assessment of development projects. Theoretical contributions of CSS are well recognised in the fields of social stratification, agrarian relations, social movements, education, Dalit society, tribal society, and development practices. The focus of the Centre's research since its inception has also been to assist in policy formulation for issues on social development.

During the last five decades, CSS has completed 316 research studies sponsored by regional, national, and international agencies. CSS has published 166 books (81 in English, 59 in Gujarati, 17 translated books, two in Hindi, and seven as part of the *Samaj Darshan* series in Gujarati) in the research areas as mentioned above. Moreover, it has published 26 I.P. Desai Memorial Lectures, 23 occasional papers, 18 working papers, and four under the CSS@50 years lecture series. During the last four decades, faculty members at the CSS have published around 632 researched articles (English, Hindi, and Gujarati) in internationally and nationally reputed journals and edited volumes.

Since 1981, the Centre has been publishing its Gujarati quarterly journal, *Arthat*. The journal holds a distinguished position among the academic fraternity in the region. This is further strengthened by the fact that scholars, activists, journalists, and people from other walks of life have been contributing articles to the journal. Besides providing a platform for the regional intelligentsia to communicate and share their research with the academic world, the journal also fulfils and encourages the aspiration of students and teachers of the state who are eager to express their academic reflections through the regional language. *Arthat* has brought out nine special numbers based on critical issues of the time. These are on Reservation policy – in commemoration of Prof. I.P. Desai, Gujarat state silver Jubilee year, Women, Displacement due to large dams, Women Consciousness in literature, Gujarat earthquake, Society and Literature interface, Indian Diaspora and Hind Swaraj.

For the last five decades, CSS has been frequently conducting interactive courses in research methodology (15), application of computers in social sciences (25), capacity building (04), and writing skills (02) catering to the academic and professional needs of a large number of research scholars and teachers. So far, 1055 young researchers and college and university teachers have participated in these programs. CSS has also been holding workshops on subjects addressing functionaries of the government and non-governmental organizations. Under its doctoral program (since 1979), 14 scholars have completed their Ph.D.

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, and Colloquia are useful academic platforms for Scholars to meet, interact, and present their work and thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge. CSS organizes these events regularly. So far, around 107 international and national conferences, seminars, and workshops and around 406 lectures under Colloquia have been organized. Under the ICSSR Guidance and Consultancy Scheme, the Centre's faculty members offer guidance to M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars in designing research, refining methodology, and analysing data. So far, 212 scholars have interacted with CSS faculty under this scheme. Faculty members are also often invited to deliver lectures at institutes and universities at regional, national, and international levels. The Centre also undertakes collaborative studies with scholars from other Indian and foreign institutions.

In memory of its founder, CSS organizes the I.P. Desai Memorial Lecture every year. So far, 28 lectures have been delivered by illustrious scholars from across social science disciplines, out of which 26 are available in print.

The CSS takes pride in its notable achievements, which encompass impactful policy-related and social change-oriented research, as well as significant contributions to pedagogy facilitated through publications, dissemination of research findings, and specialised training programs.

I. RESEARCH PROJECTS (COMPLETED)

1. “AMRUT and the Inclusive Urban Growth in Selected Districts of Gujarat”

To address the massive rise in urban population in recent decades and its stress on urban infrastructure, the Government of India, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015. This mission aimed to promote inclusive and sustained urban growth in selected 500 cities across the country. The key areas included water supply, sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks, and non-motorized urban transport. Since 2021, its second phase, a renewed and revised one at a larger scale, has been initiated as AMRUT 2.0. Conceived in ‘mission’ mode and aspiring to be a ‘jan-andolan’ (people’s movement), both these phases have common goals i.e., towards making cities livable, ensuring infrastructural expansion, and providing an improved quality of life for the entire urban population.

An evaluation study of AMRUT, sponsored by ICSSR, was carried out in nine selected cities and towns of Gujarat. A total of 2000 households from diverse social backgrounds were selected. The study was structured to address key thematic issues like relevance of the scheme, access, sustainability, equity, and effectiveness. While the official government of India data shows that the national average in terms of access to piped water supply to individual houses is around 70.00 percent, the data from the fieldwork point towards a much higher percentage and amounts to around 95.00 percent of household coverage in Gujarat. Like the water, even in the case of sewerage connection, while the national average is 42.00 percent coverage, the research finding is around 88.00 percent access to sewerage facilities among urban households in Gujarat. Additionally, 54.00 percent of respondents from nine cities reported having, parks and green spaces near their localities.

To maximize AMRUT’s impact the study recommended a strategic and nationwide campaign to increase awareness, establishing an AMRUT Helpline for direct connection with the beneficiaries, need to develop a mechanism to ensure coordination between political representatives (ward councilors), the municipal officers, and civil society organisations. The report also emphasised the need to address financial capacity and to make ULBs and municipalities financially self-dependent especially in small towns and non-metropolitan cities. The report was submitted to ICSSR.

Project Director : Sadan Jha, Gagan Bihari Sahu,
Satyakam Joshi, Kiran Desai
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned : Rs.15,00,000/-

2. **“Deprivation, Discontent and Development: A Case Study of the Dangs 1947-2009”**

A common notion prevails that tribal societies are conventionally are isolated, maintain pure and pristine traditional culture, and remain indifferent to the changes taking place around them. However, the reality contradicts this notion. The post-independent decades have significantly influenced these societies. Development and modernization have been a perennial source of socio-cultural changes that occur over time, across societies, including tribal societies. Several community development projects initiated by governments are, therefore, likely to have hastened this process of change, even in remote areas.

This, coupled with legal reforms introduced to streamline land and forest ownership as well as empower village Panchayats through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, has exposed even tribal population to a bureaucratic form of participation in local management. While the rate, process, and direction of change may differ, post-independent changes in tribal societies have been instrumental in their journey from subjugation to empowerment. This holds true for the tribal district of Gujarat, the Dangs.

Since its merger with Gujarat in 1960, Dangs has been subjected to an ever-accelerating rate of social change brought about by market forces and infrastructure development. Dangi society has undergone internal changes as well as external influences with other cultures. The contact with outsiders influenced them and they in turn adopted, changed, or incorporated some of the new elements with the traditional, without replacing the old structure. Changes in the form of modernity entered the Dangi society and character but it was done through assimilation, not replacement. Occupations have changed, social customs have altered, and perceptions, values, and beliefs have changed. In 1960, after centuries of neglect, the Dangs acquired the special identity of an independent district. Once as part of Gujarat, the Dangs were identified as an underdeveloped tribal district and its socio-economic development was given priority. This accelerated the process of change in the tribal society of the Dangs and penetrated deep into every area be it political, social, economic, religious, or the arts. The present study documents this process keeping in mind various social legislation implemented in favour of Dangis.

Project Director	:	Satyakam Joshi
Funding Agency	:	ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned	:	Rs.3,20,000/-

II. RESEARCH PROJECTS (ONGOING)

1. Impact of Covid-19 on Migrant Workers: A Study from Surat

The pandemic-induced nationwide lockdown was a primary cause of joblessness among migrant workers in urban pockets. The production came to a standstill, machines fell silent and markets were closed. Despite the government's appeal, many employers had either terminated workers, deducted salaries, or shut down operations. The loss of jobs left the workers more insecure compelling them to return to their native homes. This has led to a wide range of social and economic insecurities among them, unleashed uncertainties associated with their survival and sustenance in job markets, and eroded their capacity to negotiate with the present crisis. Even most of the migrant workers could not manage to arrange an alternative job or any productive economic activity in their native because for various reasons. Subsequently, they had to return to cities for their employment and income. Against this backdrop, this study aims to investigate the deplorable situation of the urban migrant labourers during and after the lockdown period. The study analyses data collected from a random sample of 200 migrant workers from various areas in Surat City. Data analysis is in progress and the report is expected to be submitted by March 2025.

Project Director	:	Gagan Bihari Sahu
Funding Agency	:	ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned	:	Rs.4,00,000/-

2. A Study of Food Security of the Tribals in Gujarat

Ensuring food security has been a pressing concern in India. Despite being a country with substantial food grain production, India has the highest number of malnourished children. The output indicators of food and nutrition seem to be very low for Scheduled tribes in India and particularly in Gujarat. Within this context, the present study aims to examine the extent, nature, and dimensions of food insecurity at the household level in the tribal belt of Gujarat.

The specific objectives of the study are: (1) To review programs and policies adopted by India to achieve food and nutrition security, mapping the coordination and contradictions between the state and central government, if any, during the implementation of these programs. The study will also investigate if there are any special provisions earmarked in the existing programs to ensure food security in the tribal region; (2) To identify leakages and constraints created by interest groups in the process of distribution of food/food grains at the local level; (3) To estimate the contribution of government food

security programs towards the households; (4) Examine the efforts made by the households to bridge the gap, if any, to attain food security; and (5) To make an assessment of who does what to bridge the gap between 'need and received'. Fieldwork is completed. Data analysis is in progress and the report is likely to be submitted by May 2025.

Researcher(s) : Gagan Bihari Sahu
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi
Sanctioned Amount : Rs.2,99,000/-

3. Corona Pandemic and the Surat Society: An Exploratory Study

This exploratory study is aimed to decipher the nature of problems and difficulties different sections of the social order of Surat City had to face during Corona 2019. It has also addressed the component of how various groups have coped with those difficulties. Apart from cross sections of people, the research has also explored the role of various government agencies as well as voluntary groups during the pandemic. Being an exploratory study, mainly qualitative methods, viz. long interviews, case studies, and focus group discussions have been applied. Materials from secondary sources have also been used. The fieldwork part as well as the data analysis exercise have been completed. The report writing work is in progress and will be accomplished in the next 3-4 months.

Project Director : Kiran Desai
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned : Rs.4,00,000/-

4. Regional Literature and Historical Consciousness: The World of Phaniswarnath Renu

What is the relationship between a writer and his locale? What does this relationship tell us about the society and the region in which the writer lived and composed his literature? Framed around these two core questions, the proposed research is aimed at studying an imminent writer Phaniswarnath Renu (1921-1978) and the region of old Purnea district in north-eastern part of Bihar. The broad objective is to understand the interrelation between history, literature and society. Widely known for his innovative techniques and depicting subjectivities of a region, Renu is recognised, appreciated, and criticised for propagating a new genre in Hindi—'anchalik Sahitya' (regional literature). These subjectivities, an emphasis on social details and particularities of his region, and the author's bold subversive moves to make fun of the canonical language norms point us towards the complexities of space and literature in fresh ways. In the context of north India in general and the world of Hindi literature

in particular, his prose redefined the terms of literary engagement with the landscape of the rural.

Away from treating literature in isolation from the social context that produces it (a dominant mode of engagement in literary criticism) or conceptualising literature as a mirror image of the society, this research perceives literature of Renu as an entry into the social and cultural life of the region. In this manner, his writings provide us an alternate archive of the rural life of the region. Bringing together methodological insights from social history, literature and anthropology, this study has undertaken an exploratory fieldwork in old Purnea district of Bihar for understanding this linkage between literature and social-cultural dimensions. The project is likely to be completed by March 2025.

Project Director : Sadan Jha
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned : Rs.3,50,000/-

5. A Study on Assessing the Implementation of Social Security Initiatives for the Tribal Communities in Gujarat

At present around 38.00 percent of tribals of Gujarat live below the poverty line despite implementing various government welfare schemes to uplift them since Independence. Due to historical development, geographical location, and poor socio-economic conditions, this group always remained at lower bottom of development. Over the last three decades, the Government of Gujarat has initiated a unique scheme called Van Bandhukalyan Yojana for the overall development of tribals. Social security schemes are important schemes for those living below the poverty line. The present study therefore is an attempt to understand and assess the implementation aspects of basic social security schemes for those tribals who live below the poverty line and also to identify major roadblocks in the implementation of these schemes and suggest policy intervention for better implementation. To assess the extent of coverage and quality of delivery of social security schemes for the poor tribals. The following schemes will be covered under this study (i) Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension schemes, (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme, (iii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, and (iv) PMJAY-MA Yojana (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Amrutam Yojana). Project is in its final stage and will complete by March 2025.

Project Director : Satyakam Joshi
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi
Amount Sanctioned : Rs.7,00,000/-

6. Social Justice and Laws for the Tribes: Some Critical Issues with Reference to Tribals of Gujarat

Recently the Indian state has recognized the injustice done to tribals through enacting two important acts in favour of tribal communities i.e. Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area Act (PESA)-1997 and Forest Right Act (FRA)-2006. The core idea behind enacting these acts was to improve the system of governance in tribal India and enhancing the livelihood of Adivasis dependent on natural resources has been an important focus for policy planners. In this context, proper implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and Forest Rights Act, 2006 are paradigm shifts that can impact the tribal communities favourably. The proposed study is on and about implementation of two revolutionary Acts i.e. Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area Act (PESA) 1996, and Forest Right Act (FRA) 2006, in the tribal districts of Gujarat. This study aims to critically assess the implementation aspects of these Acts and thereby identify major roadblocks in the implementation of these Acts and suggest policy intervention for better implementation. Report writing is in progress.

Project Director : Satyakam Joshi
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi.
Amount Sanctioned : Rs.4,00,000/-

7. An Exploration into the Nutritional Status of Tribal Communities in Gujarat

Food deprivation among tribes is disproportionately higher than in other population groups. Studies conducted on various tribes living in different parts of the country also suggest their food is nutritionally poor with low consumption of pulses, cereals, and vegetables than the recommended dietary allowances. Apparently, the impoverished status of the tribal population continues irrespective of the economic development of the state.

Though studies point to poor nutritional status and low food consumption by tribes, they tend to see them as homogenous entities overlooking the cultural and material differences between various communities. The data thus conceal the situation of a more marginalized group within the community. Within this context, this study specifically looks at the nutritional status of four tribal communities namely *Konkana*, *Gamit*, *Kotwalia* and *Kolgha* belonging to major and primitive tribal groups of Gujarat. Data have been collected through canvassing a structured questionnaire at the household level from 12 villages in Valsad, Dang, and Tapi districts having a relatively higher concentration of such communities. These

households were randomly selected. From each tribal community, information was collected from 100 households. The project is likely to be completed by June 2025.

Researcher	:	Gagan Bihari Sahu
Funding Agency	:	ICSSR, New Delhi
Sanctioned Amount	:	Rs.10,88,000/-

III. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED

The Institute organized one international conference, one training program, three City Centre dialogues, and four lectures during the year 2023-24. The total number of participants in these events was around 325.

(1) An International Symposium on Asian Commons: Connected Experiences and Open Future (along with Christ University Bengaluru, and Western Regional Centre, ICSSR, Mumbai.

The twenty-first century was once heralded as an Asian Century. The aspiration was that, after two long centuries of Western dominance, Asia would take the lead in ushering in an era of equitable distribution of wealth and resources, a respect for the environment, and more robustly democratic political communities. With a long tradition of decolonial thought and practice such as Pan-Asianism, Afro-Asian solidarity, and Non-Alignment, it was fervently hoped that a postcolonial consciousness borne out of such common history would guide Asia to put behind oppressive borders, and aggressive geopolitical as well as geoeconomic ambitions. Almost a quarter into the new century, due to recent experiences of the pandemic, climate challenges, economic stagnation, and demographic crisis, the task of decolonial thinking and decolonization remains as challenging as it was before. It is thus an urgent task to revisit the desire fueling the imagination of the Asian Century, to re-examine the current state of decoloniality, and to discuss alternative visions of Asian Commons.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or one earth, one family, one future is the motto of India leading the Group of Twenty (G20). Towards achieving this goal, an international symposium on 'Asian Commons: Connected Experiences and Open Future' was organized from the 31st of July–1st August by the Centre for Social Studies, Surat in collaboration with the Department of English and Cultural Studies, Christ University, and Western Regional Centre of ICSSR, Mumbai. Emphasizing the importance of sharing resources and knowledge among Asian societies, the two-day symposium harped upon the idea of Asian commons as a way to engage Asia in its incredible

heterogeneity and shared history. Scholars delved into Surat's rich legacy as the emporium of the Indian Ocean trade, her connection with eighty-four countries and ties with Surat Thani in Thailand.

The intellectual and political desire to create an Asian Commons comes from a collective history of anti-colonial struggles and shared vision for social and economic justice. First articulated in the idiom of national independence and socialism, the struggle for decolonization, justice, and equality continues to resonate in contemporary movements based on identities and autonomy. As a working concept, Asian Commons is informed by the historical resources accumulated through Asia's varied but connected experience with decolonization, as well as the intellectual project to study such lived experiences on their own terms. Asian Commons would allow intellectual and political innovation that embraces both the heterogeneities and commonalities of Asia.

The symposium conceptualized the idea of Asia in an inclusive and collective manner to examine the new and forgotten networks and connections that have been traced and created through different projects of survival, freedom, and living together. In this venture, Surat as a host city for such a symposium is strategically significant. Surat has a rich past when this port city functioned as a key node in the global trading network. The city had a vibrant relation with Africa, South East Asia and East Asia. In the last three four decades, once again trading networks of this fast-growing city have expanded into different directions in Asia making it a suitable venue to anchor such a symposium.

In his welcome address, Sri Kamlesh Yagnik, the Chairman of Centre for Social Studies, Surat talked about Upanishadic tenets that advocate inclusiveness, tolerance and oneness of human beings and contrasted it with the 'tragedy of commons' in which human beings make choices to satisfy individual needs without caring for the others. Among the visiting scholars, Melani Budianta, Professor of English Literature at Universitas Indonesia expressed the need for a long-term institutional collaboration and exchange of students among different Asian neighbours to facilitate and sustain the idea of Asian Commons. There is so much to learn from each other, she said. However, it has to be ethical too, she asserted. Convener of the symposium, Sadan Jha emphasized that Surat as a port city had a cosmopolitan characteristic and underneath its thriving trade and commerce there was also a vibrant intellectual and cultural life. This cosmopolitan self of the city and its citizens was at ease with people belonging to different ethnicity, religion and culture. For an open future, different organs of society like trade and commerce, social researchers and intellectual workers all must work together.

In two days, deliberations, six international scholars from various South Asian countries, around five scholars from other states of the country and thirty scholars, intellectuals, and artists from Surat took an active part in the symposium. The visiting scholars met with the members of South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and were felicitated by the latter. They also had a conversation with Shri Govindbhai Dholakia, observed various stages and processes of diamond polishing, and had lunch with the diamond polishing workers at SRK Industries.

Coordinators : Sadan Jha, Mithilesh Kumar, Smita Shukla
Date : 31 July-01 August 2023
Sponsor : Western Regional Centre, ICSSR, Mumbai

(2) Ten-Day Research Methodology Course on “QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS” for Ph.D./PDF Scholars in Social Sciences, December 11-20, 2023.

In recognition of the need for reorienting and upgrading the quantitative research skills among scholars of social sciences, the Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Surat conducted a ten-day Research Methodology Course (RMC) on “Quantitative Research Methods” for scholars and teachers currently enrolled and pursuing Ph.D. or PDF in social sciences to enrich their analytical skill. The basic purpose of this course was to (1) Orient the participants about the use of quantitative methods in social science research; (2) Demonstrate which statistical tool is required for what situation or data and why; and (3) Train participants on how to run a particular statistical tool as well as how to make the presentation and interpretation of the estimated outputs. Scholars from Economics, Sociology, Social Work, Political Science, Management, Education, Psychology, Population Studies, Rural Studies, etc., using quantitative methods in their research studies were taken in this course.

The course was designed to benefit participants in terms of improved conceptual clarity, data analysis skills through the application of the proper quantitative method, and practical knowledge to undertake and produce evidence-based quality research to make suggestions and recommendations for policy interventions and advocacy processes.

We received 89 applications (19 from Gujarat and 70 from other states) from almost all regions and states of the country. Out of 35

shortlisted candidates, 29 of them (18 from outside Gujarat and 11 from within Gujarat) attended the course.

Course co-ordinator : Gagan Bihari Sahu
Funding Agency : ICSSR, New Delhi
Sanctioned Amount : Rs.5,50,000/-

(3) Centre-City Dialogue (Workshop)

Since its inception, the Centre for Social Studies (CSS) has focused on understanding various facets of Surat City. These include urban settlements, its society, history, culture, calamities and resilience. CSS has completed more than 38 studies on various aspects of the city. To disseminate our study findings and to establish a dialogue with scholars, eminent citizens, resource persons, and government officers of Surat, CSS is organizing a Centre-City dialogue series. Thematically the series has focused on the Historical and Cultural Transformation of Surat; Municipal Waste Management Practice; Smart City: Challenges and Opportunities; Industry, Labour, and Migration; Public Health and Environment; and Urban Futures: Sustainable Living.

Third Centre-City Dialogue: “Surat as Smart City: Opportunities and Challenges” jointly organized by the Centre for Social Studies, Surat and Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation, Surat, 20.05.2023.

The Third dialogue of the Centre-City Series and the Third Pearl of the Wisdom Series by SRK Knowledge Foundation was held on **“Surat as Smart City: Opportunities and Challenges” on May 20, 2023 (Saturday) at 5.00 p.m.** onwards at Wisdom Hall, Centre for Social Studies, Surat. This initiative of Centre–City dialogue is made possible by financial support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. The following experts will share their views on:

SPEAKERS:

- 1. Mr. Devang Patel**, *Concept and Status of Smart City*
General Manager, Surat Smart City Development Ltd.
- 2. Mr. Sharad Kapadia**, *Citizens Perspective on Smart City*
President, Surat Citizen’ Council Trust, Surat
- 3. Mr. Krishnakant Chauhan**, *Smart City and Inclusive Growth*
Member, Paryavaran Surksha Samiti and People’s Union of Civil Liberties

Moderator and Convenor: Prof. Satyakam Joshi

Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi (OH-31)

Fourth Centre-City Dialogue: Migrants and the City: Industry, Labour, and Migration organized by Centre for Social Studies, Surat, 16.06.2023

A city cannot be conceived without her migrants. However, the migrant population often remains ignored or at the margins of any discussion on the city. This migrant population, in the form of workers, is the foundational building block of the industrial city of Surat. By an estimate, Surat is one of the most favourite destinations for internal migrants in India. This also holds true for the migrants coming from various regions within the state. Therefore, the city has an extremely diverse composition of migrant population and consists of people from Saurashtra, neighbouring tribal districts of south Gujarat to communities coming from Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan to name a merely few. This migrant workforce is the backbone of each and every industries of Surat: from diamond polishing to powerloom, from dyeing and printing to real estate. However, rarely we find a forum discussing, in dedicated manner, the working and living conditions of migrant workers in Surat. To address this apathy and to engage with the challenges, difficulties faced by migrant workers as well as their experiences and worldviews, the Centre for Social Studies invites you to its fourth city-centre dialogue, migrants and the city.

SPEAKERS:

1. **Rameshbhai Gelariya**, *Diamond Workers Union, Gujarat*
2. **Sanjaybhai Patel**, *Aajeevika Bureau, Surat*
3. **Sandeepan Tripathy**, *Doctoral researcher, National University of Singapore and Visiting Scholar, Centre for Social Studies, Surat.*

Moderator and Convenor: Dr. Sadan Jha

Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi (OH-31)

Fifth Centre-City Dialogue: “City and Public Health” organized by Centre for Social Studies, Surat, August 7, 2023.

The city of Surat is one of the fastest growing and the 8th largest city by population and the ninth largest urban agglomeration in India. Because of its swelling population and overwhelming migrant workers, provision and access to “public health” plays a very important role in the overall development of the city and in making the city liveable. Epidemics like the Plague in 1994, the flood in the year 2006, bird flu, the problem of Malaria, HIV aids, and COVID-19, etc., have adversely affected city life at different points in time. The Centre for Social Studies, Surat has been closely working with SMC

and Civil Society Organizations in understanding the social dynamics/impacts of these problems for better policy implications. In the last 30 years, Surat as a city has transformed a lot in terms of cleanliness, sanitation, provision of drinking water, and public health facilities in making the city liveable. Still, the city has to travel a long way to ensure healthy lives and well-being of all ages across different sections of the population. It is within this context, the CSS, Surat invites you to its fifth City-Centre Dialogue on “City & Public Health”.

SPEAKERS:

1. **Dr. Vikasben Desai**, *Challenges in Urban Public Health*.
2. **Dr. Ami Yagnik**, *Investing in Adolescent’s Health*.
3. **Dr. Paresh Shah**, *Lifestyle versus Health*.

Moderator and Convenor: Dr. Gagan Bihari Sahu

Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi (OH-31)

IV. PUBLICATIONS

The Centre continues to publish its quarterly journal **Arthat**.

(a) Books

Jha, Sadan (2023) (Guest edited), “*Hindi Janpadka Samajik Itihaas*”, Pratiman, Vol.19-20 (Sanyuktank; January-December). Delhi: CSDS and Vani Prakashan, ISSN: 2320-8201.

(b) Papers in Journals

Kiran Desai. “Agrarian Struggles in Gujarat: An Overview (in Gujarati)”, *A Quarterly Journal of Gujarat Research Society*, ISSN: 0374-8588, January-June, 2023 (part I) and July-December 2023 (part II).

(c) Chapters in Edited Books

1. Satyakam Joshi (2022). *Garinona Beli Ane Nashik Gandhijan: Bhikhubhai Vyas* (in Gujarati) in Manshuk Salla’s Edited Nishesh Samarpanni Yatra, Vanpath Trust, Dharampur,
2. Sadan Jha. Street and Its Subalterns: Conversations on the Go. In Sadan Jha and Gauri Bharat edited, *The Social Life of Streets in India: Histories, Contestations, Subjectivities*, Bloomsbury: London and Delhi, ISBN No: 9789354353895, pp:70-95.

3. Sadan Jha. Introduction: Streets have Social Lives (with Gauri Bharat). In Sadan Jha and Gauri Bharat edited, *The Social Life of Streets in India: Histories, Contestations, Subjectivities*, Bloomsbury: London and Delhi, ISBN No: 9789354353895, pp: 1-40.
4. Sadan Jha. Vernacular Visual Seeing in South Asia. In Dev Nath Pathak, Biswajit Das and Rattan Kumar Roy edited *Seeing South Asia: Visuals Beyond Borders*, London and New York: Routledge, ISBN No: 9781032066127, pp:27-47.

(d) Working Paper

Jha Sadan, Sahu Gagan B., Joshi Satyakam, and Desai Kiran, “AMRUT and the Inclusive Urban Growth in Selected Districts of Gujarat” (Working Paper, File No. 58/CRP-2023-555/AMRUT/SCD), Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

V. LECTURES/SEMINARS/ SYMPOSIUM AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY CSS

Colloquia: CSS organized the following seminar

(1) EMPLOYMENT VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN BEEDI WORKERS IN INDIA: IS THERE A WAY FORWARD?

Beedi manufacturing is one of India’s major informal sector jobs that employ about six million workers, mostly home-based women from poor households. Under this informal arrangement, the sub-contractors/agents play an important role, who supply the raw materials to workers at their doorsteps and collect finished beedis from them for the principal manufacturers. This informal production process has shifted the bargaining power away from workers to middlemen or contractors who often exploit them by rejecting beedis citing defects in the finished product, supplying spurious or inadequate materials (tendu leaves, tobacco, and thread), and paying low wages, etc. Indeed, the process lacks a straightforward employer-employee relationship, which enforces the invisibility of enterprises while protecting the interests of beedi workers. The remuneration earned by beedi workers is substantially less compared to their labour input. As an occupation, it provides no more than basic sustenance. In addition to low wages, they also suffer from several occupational health problems. Thus, workers from across the country are observed to be dissatisfied with beedi rolling as a livelihood strategy. Several policies, legislations, and welfare measures have done little to alleviate the working conditions and employment security of beedi workers as

they are largely home-based and unregistered. In view of the above, this paper unfolds the employment vulnerability of home-based women beedi workers, and type of alternative livelihood, they intended to adopt, and the challenges they face in shifting to such occupations.

Speaker: Dr. Gagan Bihari Sahu

Date: 05.05.2023

(2) AMIDST LABOR PRECARIETY - AFFECTIVE POLITICS OF ODIA MIGRANTS IN SURAT

People from Odisha's Ganjam district have been moving to Surat since the 1960s and have become one of the most important migrant communities of Surat. So much so that they are the key drivers of Surat's power looms. Despite constituting a significant part of the city, Odia workers are missing in numbers and narratives of labor worlds in India. In this study which forms part of my Ph.D. research, I focus on the stories of Odia people who become Powerloom workers in Surat. The paper reflects on the contemporary life world of Odia migrant workers in Surat. Drawing from 14 months of ethnographic research in Odisha and Surat, the study looks closely at the formation of precarity and its embeddedness in the everyday life of migrant workers in Surat's powerlooms. Departing from the structural tangents of labour conditions, the research takes an effective turn in understanding the sensibilities of migrant workers. By this, I am not simply to highlight the experience of precarious working conditions but to unpack the constitution of that experience by focusing on micro-interactions, articulations, rhetoric, and aspirations. In this paper, I highlight how the Odia workers stand as a contrarian figure in the discourse of workers and labour movements through their absenteeism and vigilantism. I argue that Odia workers take part in affective politics to endure extractivist powerlooms. By effective politics, I highlight how workers use dignity, status mobility, and aesthetics to make sense of their life world and different forms of precarity.

Speaker: Sandeepan Tripathy

Date: 24.07.2023

Speaker Bio

Sandeepan Tripathy is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the National University of Singapore, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He is currently, doing fieldwork and is a visiting fellow at the Centre for Social Studies, Surat. Along with it, he also serves as the Managing Editor of the Asian Journal of Social Science.

(3) SICKLE CELL ANEMIA: MEDICO SOCIAL ASPECTS AND ITS IMPACT ON MARGINALIZED POPULATION

Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA) is 110 years old genetically inherited blood disease affecting the quality of hemoglobin. Due to this, the red cell gets transformed into the sickle cell, which blocks blood circulation and oxygen supply to tissue. This is the reason for pain as a major manifestation of SCA. The recurrent pain episode has an impact on the Education-Economy-Employment-Enjoyment-Engagement (5 E's) of a case and family. A healthcare facility in India has shortfalls to meet with ideal medical management making suffering worst. This is a vital medico-social health issue for marginalized communities across the World. SCA is a global issue with maximum prevalence in Asia, mainly in marginalized populations (ST/SC/OBC) of India. Considering high morbidity and mortality at younger ages, there is an urgent need to enhance efforts for effective management and control issue of sickle cell. The questions to be answered are (1) Should India follow the Western model of care? (2) How can marginalized communities get proper care in rural India? (3) What is the present scenario of the Sickle cell program in India and what more can be done?

Speaker: Dr. Jyotish Patel

Date: 19.08.2023

Speaker Bio

Dr. Jyotish Patel, a Sickle Cell Expert. Dr. Patel has been working continuously on the issue of Sickle Cell at different levels with a multi-disciplinary approach via sensitizing people, government, and healthcare providers. For better health care services, Dr. Patel established a specialized Sickle laboratory in 1990 (1st in Gujarat) and a Sickle Cell Super-Speciality Hospital with all modern facilities and skilled manpower having a 98.00 percent survival rate for Sickle cell crisis cases.

(4) Workshop on AMRUT and the Inclusive Urban Growth in Gujarat

CSS, Surat has recently concluded an ICSSR research project on the AMRUT scheme in Gujarat. Based on the findings of this research, the workshop aims to address issues of urban infrastructure and the crucial intervention of AMUT in tackling the most vital challenges of water, sewerage, and green parks and open spaces for the improvement of the quality of life in cities and towns in Gujarat.

To address the massive rise in urban population in recent decades and its stress on urban infrastructure, the Atal Mission for

Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched by the Government of India in 2015 for inclusive and sustained urban growth. Since 2021, its second phase, a renewed and revised one at a larger scale, has been initiated as AMRUT 2.0. Conceived in 'mission' mode and aspiring to be a 'jan-andolan', both these phases have common goals i.e., towards making cities liveable, to ensure infrastructural expansion, and to provide an improved quality of life for the entire urban population. To meet the challenges of a massive rise in urban population and its resultant stress on urban infrastructure, the core objective of AMRUT was to improve the quality of life among urban dwellers. In the first phase, four sectors were selected for this purpose. These were Water supply, Sewerage, Transportation, and parks and green open spaces. After the successful completion of the first phase, a renewed and revised second phase of AMRUT 2.0 was launched in 2021 retaining three out of these four components and dropping the domain of the urban transport from its thrust areas. Present study is based on an evaluation study of AMRUT in nine selected cities and towns of Gujarat. Keeping in mind, the geographic and regional diversities within the state of Gujarat, this study sites are selected from across the state to represent this diversity and also the heterogeneous characteristics of urbanization in the state. These cities are Surat, Rajkot, Bhuj, Navsari, Valsad, Deesa, Gondal, Patan, and Dwarka. The challenges to the implementation of AMRUT are manifold, particularly in smaller urban settlements and towns as these settlements with lower orders of population have exhibited higher rates of population growth (URDPFI, Government of India, 2015). Such a phenomenon leads to an infrastructure gap and an assessment of such gaps may help AMRUT to achieve its desired objectives. In this context, the study assesses the impact of AMRUT on various sections of the urban population; benefits or citizens' perceptions about civic amenities and infrastructures developed through the AMRUT scheme. The core objectives of the study are to assess the impact of the AMRUT scheme in Gujarat on three crucial issues i.e., potable drinking water, sewerage connections, and green spaces and parks in Gujarat; to understand the challenges faced by the implementing agencies in making available such services; to assess the infrastructure gaps, particularly in the context of the urban periphery, expanding small cities and in areas witnessing a heavy inflow of migrant populations; and, last but not the least, to understand perceptions of urban dwellers about benefits of AMRUT and improved quality of their lives.

VI. PAPERS PRESENTED IN SEMINARS/ CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS/ LECTURES DELIVERED IN TRAINING PROGRAMMES/ THEIR PLACES AND OTHER ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS OF THE FACULTY

(a) Papers Presented by Faculty Members at Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences/ Colloquiums etc.

Sl. No.	Title of the Paper	Faculty member	Title of the Seminar/ Conference and Date(s)	Organised by	Whether international/ national/ state/ regional/ college or university level
1.	Mission Gandhi for Sustainable Development and Social Harmony	Satyakam Joshi	State-Level Seminar on Gandhi for 21st Century (Dtd.15.04.2023)	Prathana Sangh, Surat	Regional
2.	Issues and Challenges for Implementing New Education Policy 2020	Satyakam Joshi	State Level Workshop on New Education Policy and its Impact (Dtd. 24.06.2023)	Gram Seva Samaj, Vyara, Surat	Regional
3.	Social Science Research: Issues, Challenges and Future Direction	Satyakam Joshi	National Seminar on Current Social Problems (dtd.21-08-2023)	Department of Sociology, M.D. Shah and B.D. Patel Arts College Mahudha, Dist.-Kheda, Gujarat	National
4.	“Humanities in Hindi”	Sadan Jha	The Humanities in Indian Languages (Towards World Humanities Report)	Krea University; 12 March 2024.	National
5.	“Beneath the gloss of the mega city discourse in India”	Sadan Jha	Social Science Research in India: Potential, Prospects and Priorities	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, 29 February-01 March 2024.	National

Sl. No.	Title of the Paper	Faculty member	Title of the Seminar/ Conference and Date(s)	Organised by	Whether international/ national/ state/ regional/ college or university level
6.	“Asian Commons and Lessons from Decolonizing Education in India”	Sadan Jha	Panel on Commoning Asia and Beyond: The Making of a Commons in Southeast Asia, Post-Pandemic Futures: Re-Mapping Inter-Asian Routes (Inter-Asia-Cultural Studies Biennial Conclave), July 27-29, 2023	Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad	International
7.	Employment Vulnerability of Women Beedi Workers in India: Is there a way forward?	Gagan Bihari Sahu		Centre for Social Studies, Surat	College or University level

(b) Lectures delivered by Faculty Members

S. No.	Title of Lecture/ Academic Session	Faculty	Conference/ Seminar/ Training program etc.	Organised by	Date(s)
01.	Introduction of Qualitative Research Method and Techniques	Satyakam Joshi	Research Methodology Course in Social Sciences for Ph.D./PDF scholars	M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain	21.07.2023
02.	Correlation and Regression Analysis	Gagan Bihari Sahu	Two weeks Capacity Building Programme on Research Methodology	Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar	December 21, 2023
03.	Delivered Lectures and Workshops	Sadan Jha	Doctoral Programme and in Masters Courses	CEPT University, Ahmedabad	April 2023- March 2024

(c) Other Academic Engagements

Sr. No.	Other Academic Engagements	Faculty	Date(s)
01.	Worked as an Expert for the shortlisted Researchers for the ICSSR-sponsored projects.	Satyakam Joshi	August 2023
02.	Worked as a Member of the Research Advisory Committee for the Department of Social Work and Gandhi Peace and Research Study, Gujarat Vidhyapeeth, Ahmedabad.	Satyakam Joshi	August 2023
03.	Reviewed two manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Social and Economic Development jointly published by the Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Springer.	Gagan Bihari Sahu	2023
04.	Guiding one Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF) Dr. Anju Gamit, funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. She is affiliated with the Centre for Social Studies, Surat.	Gagan Bihari Sahu	2023
05.	Co-Supervisor (Member of the Dissertation Advisory Committee; DAC) for PhD dissertation of Neethu Mathew on “Spatializing Appropriation Practices: Everyday Life and the Architecture of Mumbai’s Chawl Neighbourhoods” in Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad (ongoing).	Sadan Jha	Since November 2023
06.	Co-supervisor (Member of Doctoral Advisory Committee) of Pawan Kumar (“Understanding History of urban sanitation in Allahabad: temporalities, rationalities and contradictions and manifestations”), Ph.D. candidate, CEPT University, Ahmedabad (Started December 2018). Degree awarded in 2023.	Sadan Jha	2023

(d) Book Reviews/Newspaper Articles, Magazine Articles etc.

Sadan Jha. Book Review of ‘*Ocean as Method: Thinking with the Maritime*’, by Dilip M. Menon, Nishat Zaidi, Simi Malhotra, and Saarah Jappie, London and New York: Routledge, published in *Nidān: International Journal for Indian Studies*, Volume 8, Issue 2. December 2023, pp. 118-123.

VII. VISITING SCHOLAR

Mr. Sandeepan Tripathy, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, National University of Singapore (NUS), has joined the Centre for Social Studies, Surat as *Visiting Scholar* for 4½ months (13th February 2023 to 31st July 2023). Mr. Tripathy's work on 'Precarity, Politics and Labour: A Study of Interstate Migrant Workers in India' explores the lives of Odia migrant workers in Surat's Textile Industry which is indeed one of the core areas of research of our institute.

Dr. Anju Gamit (ICSSR PDF)

Topic: Impact of Social-Religious Movement on Drinking Culture among Tribes: A Study of Tapi District (Gujarat)

Supervisor: Dr. Gagan Bihari Sahu

Internship Program

Five students (Tanya Yadav, Pragya Anand, Anjali Singh, Govind Patil and Karanveer Singh) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur, visited the Centre as an intern from 18.05.2023 to 17.06.2023. They worked at the Centre under the guidance of Dr. Gagan Bihari Sahu.

Ph.D. Programme

Sadan Jha co-supervised (Member of Doctoral Advisory Committee) Pawan Kumar ("History of Sewage Management in Allahabad: Disease, Pollution, and Urban Geography"), Ph.D. candidate, CEPT University, Ahmedabad (since December 2018) (Requirements completed in April 2023; Degree awarded in December 2023).

Sadan Jha is co-supervisor (Member of the Dissertation Advisory Committee; DAC) for Ph.D. dissertation of Ms Neethu Mathew on "Spatializing Appropriation Practices: Everyday Life and the Architecture of Mumbai's Chawl Neighbourhoods" in the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, (ongoing; since 30 November 2023).

ACADEMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Library

CSS library offers bibliographic assistance, photocopying, current awareness and referencing services. The library makes use of software and digital services including SOUL, J-STOR. The library's collection comprises 34432 books, back volumes of journals and periodicals. During 2023-24, 112 books (and bound volumes) have been added to the collection. The library subscribes to 63 national journals in three languages; 48 in English, 12 in Gujarati, two in Hindi and one in Marathi. Besides, CSS also receives 10 journals on an exchange basis and eight on gratis.

Documentation

A documentation unit has been set up as part of the Centre's library in order to facilitate the research pursuits of the Centre's faculty, as well as scholars from other research institutions and universities. One of the activities of this unit is to prepare bibliographies on subjects of interest and relevance. Research materials are also photocopied and provided to researchers on request.

Data Processing Facility

CSS now possesses 12 working computers and one working laptop, four laser printers, one scanner, and one multimedia projector. It has acquired 'SPSS 21.0', for Windows for social science data analysis and 'SOUL' software for the library. The Centre's computer facilities are being increasingly utilised by its faculty, administrative staff as well as social scientists and students from elsewhere. These facilities also support researchers visiting the CSS under its Guidance and Consultancy Scheme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following institutions for their support and collaboration.

- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.
- Western Regional Centre (WRC), ICSSR, Mumbai.
- Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), Surat.
- Dept. of Higher Education, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
- Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), Surat.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Prof. Saswata Biswas
Shri Chandrakant S. Jariwala
Dr. Gagan Bihari Sahu (Faculty Representative upto 30.09.2023
and Acting Director 01.10.2023 onwards)
Prof. Satyakam Joshi (Officiating Director upto 30.09.2023)

FACULTY

Gagan Bihari Sahu (Acting Director w.e.f. 01.10.2023)
Kiran Desai (Retired on 31.05.2023)
Sadan Jha
Satyakam Joshi (Officiating Director and retired on 30.09.2023).

LIBRARY

Ashok Pawar
Seema Shukla

ADMINISTRATION

Ashish Nikam
Dhairiyashil Desai (retired on 31.01.2024)
Naresh Prajapati
Nitin Patel
Rajesh Parneria
Sakir Munshi

Form GFR 19-A

Utilization Certificate for the year 2023-2024

Sl. No.	Letter No. and date	Amount Rs. in Lakh
1	1 st instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.12.06.2023	19.00
	2 nd instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.21.07.2023	04.00
	3 rd instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.01.09.2023	15.20
	4 th instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.27.09.2023	07.60
	5 th instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.10.11.2023	15.20
	6 th instalment (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.15.12.2023	12.16
	7 th and Final instalments (OH-36) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.08.03.2024	18.05
	Total OH-36 (A):-	91.21
	1 st instalment (OH-31) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.29.09.2023	25.00
	2 nd instalment (OH-31) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.29.12.2023	20.00
	3 rd and Final instalments (OH-31) ICSSR/5.8/2023/RIC dt.20.03.2024	1.15
	Total OH-31 (B):-	46.15
	Grand Total (A+B):-	137.36

Certified that out of Rs. 137.36 lakhs of grant-in-aid sanctioned and received Rs. 137.36 lakhs during the year **2023-2024** in favour of Centre for Social Studies, Surat under the ICSSR Letter Numbers given in the margin has been utilised for the purpose which it was sanctioned and balance of Rs. **Nil** remaining unutilised at the end of the year has been surrendered to ICSSR.

- 2 Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grant-in-aid was sanctioned have been fully fulfilled and that I have exercised the following checks to see that the money was utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of checks exercised.

1. Vouching
2. Classification
3. Budget provision

Signature:
Designation:
Date:

Gagan Bihari Sahu
Acting Director
16.08.2024

Form GFR 19-A

Utilization Certificate for the year 2023 – 2024

Sl. No.	Letter No. and date	Amount Rs. in Lakh
1	1 st instalment & 2 nd instalment (OH-36 & OH-31) GOG/2023/ dt.11.01.2024	10.00
	3 rd instalment & 4 th instalment (OH-36 & OH-31) GOG/2023/ dt.30.03.2024	12.00
	Total	22.00

Certified that out of Rs. **22.00** laks of grant-in-aid sanctioned and received Rs. **22.00** lakhs during the year **2023-2024** in favour of Centre for Social Studies, Surat under the GOG Letter Numbers given in the margin has been utilised for the purpose which it was sanctioned and balance of Rs. **Nil** remaining unutilised at the end of the year has been surrendered to ICSSR.

- 2 Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grant-in-aid was sanctioned have been fully fulfilled and that I have exercised the following checks to see that the money was utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of checks exercised.

1. Vouching
2. Classification
3. Budget provision

Signature: Gagan Bihari Sahu
Designation: Acting Director
Date: 16.08.2024