

## Centre for Communication and Development Studies Annual Report: 2009-2010

### About CCDS

The Centre for Communication and Development Studies (CCDS) is a social change resource centre working to strengthen civil society and citizens' capacity to advocate for social justice, pluralism, sustainable development and accountable governance.

We make innovative use of media and communications to empower civil society with information, analysis and diverse perspectives on ways to work towards a more equitable, sustainable world.

CCDS has three main programmes:

1. **Open Space**, our civil society outreach process, uses literature, art, cinema, music, theatre, publications, lectures, workshops and discussions to reach out to civil society, especially youth.
2. The **Open Space Resource Centre**, which provides free in-house access to an eclectic collection of books, periodicals and films on social justice, arts and ideas.
3. Media advocacy through [www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org)—a leading cross-sectoral website on rights/development issues, with almost daily uploads of credible and original content by a network of 400+ media and development professional—and *Infochange Agenda*, our print and online dossier which addresses one topical theme each issue.

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### Introduction

In the midst of our usual programming, CCDS made time in 2009-10 to pause and take stock. We conducted the first external review of our institutional strengths, weaknesses and strategies to intensify our reach and impact. Anmol Vellani, Director of the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) and Arundhati Ghosh, Deputy Director, IFA conducted the review. The process involved working with the entire team to clarify the road ahead, and to chart out the requirements for institutional growth eight years after CCDS was set up.

The review process pointed to the gap between CCDS's ambitions and its human/material resources to realise those ambitions, and provided concrete actions to be taken towards expansion.

In the same spirit of reflection, we tried to document the process and praxis of Open Space, which we have successfully managed for over six years now. What does the concept of 'Open Spaces' represent and why are they important? Why are the divides between castes, classes, genders, nations, cultures and ideologies increasing? Why is it important to retrieve the middle ground between increasingly polarized positions? Is it because only in that middle ground is dialogue and conflict-transformation possible?

This reflection resulted in a volume of *Infochange Agenda* entitled 'Open Spaces', an exploration of intercultural dialogue and cultural initiatives that promote it. The volume includes diverse contributions/interviews by individuals who have been engaging with these issues in different spheres, including Jai Sen, Githa Hariharan, Shabnam Virmani, Ratan Thiyam, and Michel Bauwens. In the process of putting together this volume our own understanding of the importance of open (and *opening*) spaces as cultural and political praxis has been deepened.

Another important area of exploration for us this year was the definition, role and limitations of 'civil society', a term that has become common currency these days but which seems to mean different things to different people. This enquiry resulted in a volume of analysis on civil society which, while highlighting the many successes of civil society in India, also pointed out that civil society these days is being saddled with responsibilities that are not its – it is being seen as the counterpoint to non-performing governments, indifferent political parties, and hierarchical bureaucracies. Contributors to the issue also questioned the extent to which there a disturbing disconnect between civil society and the people it seeks to represent.

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## Brief summary of major activities

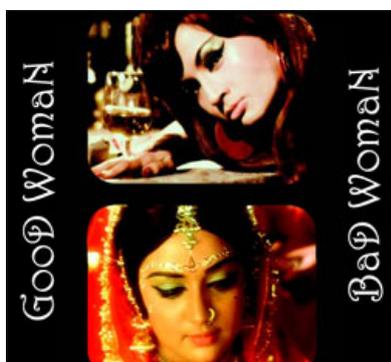
### 1. Civil society and youth outreach

#### Gender & Sexuality



**Vagina Monologues in Marathi:** Vandana Khare, former coordinator of the Pukar Youth Fellowships, presented first a reading, and later a performance of her Marathi translation of *Vagina Monologues*, *Yonichya Maneechya Gujgoshiti*. Both were designed to break the silence surrounding women's sexuality. Held in auditoriums in the heart of the old city, the programmes reached out to a wide cross-section of the Marathi-speaking middle class and were extremely well-received. As a parallel activity, OS conducted 5 workshops on Breaking the Silence Around Sexuality in peri-urban areas of Mumbai between September 2009 and

February 2010. Fifty-four female (college students, homemakers and sex workers) and 20 male participants (college students and unemployed fresh graduates), mainly from Thane district, participated. Many of the participants reported that this was the first time they felt they could discuss sexuality issues in a safe space.



**'Good Woman, Bad Woman'**, an OS publication examining the impact of popular culture on gender stereotyping, by cultural activists Anuja Ghosalkar and Shai Heredia, was released at the Women's Studies Centre and Sociology Department, Pune University, with an illustrated lecture/discussion. The faculty are keen on OS providing more such inputs to the Cultural Studies curriculum in the coming academic year, in the form of film/literature/theatre inputs.

**Sexuality, globalisation and Indian women:** Australian PhD scholar Leigh Williamson, who has been studying the impact of globalization on upwardly mobile Indian women, conducted a workshop for college students on self-image and the role of the media in perpetuating gender stereotypes.

#### Governance

**Cyber-activism:** A 2-day workshop on cyber-activism as a tool for generating awareness, advocacy and action through the Internet was conducted by Frederick Noronha, leading advocate for free software/Open Source technology and co-founder of BytesforAll. Participants included representatives of NGOs, IT professionals, media professionals and interested citizens.

**Web technology for non-profits:** 4-day workshop facilitated by designer and techie Prayas Abhinav, OS Fellow from Bangalore, on Open Source software for non-profits. Participants included software engineers, web designers, students of computer science, law, members from NGOs and e-learning professionals.



**E-governance:** Dr Anupam Saraph, Chief Information Officer of Pune, took an OS workshop on e-governance and online communication strategies for efficiency and transparency in governance. Participants included students, journalists and citizen activists.

**Advanced course in Right to Information:** A 2-day training in collaboration with CHRI, Delhi, was conducted by Venkatesh Nayak and Nawaz Kotwal. Thirty-eight participants took the course, including many law and media students and faculty and journalists.

#### Environment

**Climate Change:** Open Space and Janwani jointly organised a discussion on Climate Change at the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce auditorium to share the insights of delegates to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. Speakers included representatives from KKP, a waste-collectors initiative, environmentalists and alternative energy specialists/entrepreneurs and representatives of industry. A resource booklet on climate change has also been published by OS.



## Campus outreach

- a. In collaboration with *Freedimensional.org* (an international network that hosts activists in art spaces and uses cultural resources to strengthen their work) and the Sangam House Writers Residency, OS organized a one-day symposium at Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, where 10 writers from different countries and India engaged ACJ students and faculty in a dialogue on freedom of expression and censorship in their countries. The writers had been brought to India by Sangam House.
- b. Symbiosis Law School: Lecture on Human Rights Day.
- c. Two-day workshop on Gender and Identity at Fergusson College, Pune.
- d. Three-week art camps titled *Bridging Cultures* at the Mahindra United World College, Abhinav Art College as also with students of National Institute of Design and other art schools in Ahmedabad, resulting in collaboratively painted murals. The art activity was preceded by day-long orientation sessions on diversity, pluralism and the need for sharing spaces.
- e. Screening of *Kabir Project* films on plural traditions in India at FLAME – Foundation for Liberal And Management Education, followed by a concert by folk musician Mukhtiar Ali.
- f. Talks by Rajni Bakshi, author of *Bazaars, Conversations and Freedom*, on the effects of a market-driven economy and its implications for Indian society, for MBA students of Pune University and Fergusson College. Screening of Shabnam Virmani's *Koi Sunta Hai* at the Lalit Kala Kendra of the University of Pune, exploring ideas of pluralism and social justice.
- g. Orientation on development communications for Department of Social Work of the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.
- h. Art workshop on peace and panel discussion on a human rights approach to terrorism at Bharati Vidyapeeth Engineering College, Pune.



## Capacity-building in creative expression

Open Space has always believed in supporting, giving space to and building capacities for creative expression. Cultural expression and the arts, we believe, have the potential to question attitudes and prejudices, impel reflection and effect deep and lasting social change.

- a. *Creative writing workshop*: A five-day workshop integrating the craft and genres of creative writing with field visits, observation exercises and photography was facilitated by Dipallé Parmar-Haworth, artist, writer and poet. Participants included freelance writers, journalists, content developers, technical writers, a Vipassana teacher, a scriptwriter and an architect.
- b. *Seven-day Poetry Master Class*: Facilitated by poet, writer and editor of the Talking Poetry platform on Open Space, Priya Sarukkai Chabria. The course was designed to deepen understanding of the techniques and art of poetry writing and reading. Participants included students of literature and law as well as IT professionals.
- c. *Fifteen-day Creative Writing Master Class*: Facilitated by Priya Sarukkai Chabria. Participants included professionals and students.
- d. *All-India creative writing contest*: Following the positive response to the Open SpaceS-HarperCollins poetry contest last year, this year we announced a creative writing contest on the theme of Open Spaces. Over 80 entries were received and judged by three eminent judges including Editor-in-Chief of *TimeOut India* Naresh Fernandes, poet and writer Jerry Pinto and Priya Sarukkai Chabria. Entries came in from students, young professionals, bloggers, theatrepersons, first-time writers and professional writers. The best of the stories exploring the concept of Open Spaces will be published on the OS site.
- e. *Digital Filmmaking*: 10-day workshop facilitated by filmmaker and IIM alumnus Nitin Das. Participants were from a variety of backgrounds, including two 19-year-old students, three doctors, and an educational consultant.



- f. *Meet-the-musician*: Ma Faiza, one of India's best known deejays, shared her background as a women's rights/gay rights activist in the UK, discussed the evolution of rave music, the need to engage with one's community and ways in which this can be done.
- g. *Indian epics in theatre*: A workshop facilitated by Dr Arshia Sattar, Sanskrit scholar, translator of the Ramayana and Kathasaritsagar for Penguin, and former programme coordinator of OS.
- h. *Film Appreciation Workshop*: An introduction to ways of looking at cinema, conducted by four leading film scholars, Ajit Duara, Samar Nakhate, Avinash Deshpande and Anil Zankar.
- i. *Human Rights in Frames Film Festival*: Open Space hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Tri-continental Film Festival in Pune, curated by Breakthrough. The films reflected people's struggles, displacement of populations caused by development projects, human rights violations, repercussions of war, propaganda and war, freedom of speech and sexuality.
- j. *Cities in cinema*: 2-day lectures and screenings for over 250 students of architecture from different colleges, faculty members and professional architects, in collaboration with Forum for Exchange and Excellence in Design (FEED), Pune.



### Cultural Diversity



***The Kabir Festival, Chalo Hamara Des!*** An exploration of pluralism and cultural diversity through film screenings, conversations and music concerts (November 14,15,16, 2009): In Open Space's biggest Pune event for this year we collaborated with the Kabir Project at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Either Or (a popular crafts store) and Symbiosis Law School to screen Shabnam Virmani's quartet of critically-acclaimed films on the life and work of the 15th century saint-poet, and the relevance of Kabir in 21st century India, divided by religion, caste and class. The screenings at FTII and NFAI culminated in a unique music concert at the Symbiosis University

auditorium that brought together some of the finest folk-classical-Sufi voices of Kabir -- Mukhtiar Ali, Mahesha Ram and Pt Vijay Sardeshmukh. Over 1,200 people attended this festival. Events of this scale are also important in bringing hundreds of new citizens into the OS network.

***Wari: Pilgrimage of joy***: Presentation of photographs and narratives by Sandesh Bhandare and Manjiri Khandekar of the annual 21-day pilgrimage that affirms cultural diversity and the spirit of voluntarism as thousands of devotees of saint-poets Tukaram, Vithoba and Dnyaneshwar walk from one temple town to another through Pune hosted all along the way by voluntary associations and citizens' collectives.

***History of communal tension in Gujarat***: Public lecture by peace activist Rohit Prajapati. The rise of Narendra Modi has been seen as central to communalism in Gujarat in recent years, but Rohit contended that the Gujarat riots of 2002 must be seen in the context of 50 years of propaganda of the Hindutva forces.

***Buddhism, bhakti and beyond***: India's great equalitarian tradition. Dalit rights scholar and activist Gail Omvedt delivered this lecture.

***A market culture beyond greed and fear***: Talk by Rajni Bakshi on countless initiatives worldwide to forge a new, more equitable and sustainable market culture.

***Home-Schooling/Unschooling***: Urmila Samson shared her family's experience of stepping out of the mainstream school system and the change this brought into their family's way of life.

### Youth capacity-building: Anubhav, Journeys Through a Changing India



Twenty young people, mostly students, travelled with OS on four weekend trips which helped them understand issues related to social justice and sustainable development in India. We travelled to Hiware Bazaar, a village transformed by a dynamic panchayat where sustainable farming practices have reversed migration; to the waste-recycling units of Dharavi where enterprise thrives; to the Sakarshalas of Baramati where the children of migrant labour on sugarcane farms study; and to the biodiversity hotspot of

Bhimashankar, where students lived with tribals, understanding their deep relationship with the forests and traditional conservation techniques. Pre- and post-visit briefings and documentary film screenings helped to build context and perspective. On the strength of the positive feedback received from participants, we are planning at least two such Anubhav journeys every year.

### **Open Space Fellowship Programme**

In the concluding year of the Open Space Fellowship programme initiated in 2007, Fellows worked in five cities including Lucknow, Ranchi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bangalore. The overarching theme in all the cities has been the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity, and understanding and upholding human rights.

**In Lucknow**, Navras Jaat Aafreedi, who has a PhD on Jewish cultures in India, organised 56 programmes over 22 months. His work has focused on highlighting the consequences of racism and communalism, and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second World War in 2009 OS-Lucknow organised a Holocaust films retrospective during which 46 film screenings/discussions were held over 14 days in collaboration with the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and University of Lucknow. They were watched by 4,000 people, mainly students, and a trilingual brochure (English, Hindi and Urdu) was distributed among audiences.

OS-Lucknow also held a screening of *A Mighty Heart*, about the killing of Daniel Pearl. As Pearl's parents wrote in a special message for this programme:

*It is especially significant for us, and for Danny's son, Adam, to see Danny's legacy supported by people from the Muslim religion, the religion of the country where Danny's journey came to a sudden halt. We live in an era where hate propagates with Internet speeds, and one can easily get the impression that humanity is losing ground to a rising tide of savagery. Adam's generation must understand that this is a misleading metaphor; that underneath the surface we have an ocean of decency and goodwill, and that hatred and ignorance are merely islands that can be conquered.*

OS-Lucknow hosted discussions on Muslim identity through the screening of films such as *New Muslim Cool* and *Being Osama*. A series of diversity dialogues were held at Lucknow University between students of Afghanistan, USA, India, Pakistan and other nations. Several lectures were organized, including by Prof Deepika Marya of the University of Southern Maine, Sadia Shepard, American documentary filmmaker and writer, and Prof Nadeem Hasnain, Pro Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University.

**In Kolkata**, Debolina Dutta, a young human rights lawyer, stimulated debate amongst young people through screenings, discussions and exhibitions (in collaboration with Oxford Bookstore and Seagull). She conducted intensive trainings on issues surrounding gender, sexuality, multiculturalism, identity and conflict-resolution for 29 students from different campuses, who went on to initiate the Positive Spaces Campaign in their colleges, trying to reduce discrimination against sexual minorities, religious minorities, dalits, the disabled and other marginalised groups. These young people made a 30-minute film on attitudes towards homosexuality titled *Are We Talking Straight?* Made by total amateurs, the film has been screened and appreciated at all the major gay film festivals in India, and also on several college campuses in Mumbai, Kolkata and IIM-A. The Positive Spaces campaign has also led to the publication of a 44-page magazine titled *Positive Spaces*, a collaboration between OS and Kinaara, an online literary magazine for students.

**In Ahmedabad**, Raheel Dhattiwalla, a young researcher and journalist, worked to bridge social divides (especially Hindu-Muslim) among youth by what she calls the "oblique approach". She designed workshops and programmes that brought Hindus, Muslims, upper and lower caste youth together in collective activities on themes such as RTI, theatre, filmmaking and heritage walks. These walks, for instance, took students from West Ahmedabad into the old city-- with its multicultural history, *pols* and mosques-- for the very first time. For the first time, they set foot inside a mosque and participated in traditional rituals at the Jama Masjid, such as touching a pillar blindfolded to be granted a wish. Some of the young students who were part of that heritage walk were "amazed to discover Ahmedabad's spiritual and multicultural foundation". For someone like Jignesh Vanza who believed that the religion of Muslims is "Muslimism", Deepa Mehta, whose "family tradition is to avoid Muslims" and Heena Shah who had never visited the Muslim areas of the city or had a single Muslim friend because "they can kill us", this exercise was significant. "It is difficult to make the participants become friends in a year, but often it was the first time in 20-25 years in this completely polarised city that they had come across members of a religious group other than their own, leading to sitting and eating together and discussing their fears about the other," says Raheel.

OS-Ahmedabad also initiated a series of interfaces between civil society leaders and citizens of Ram-Rahimnagar, a unique settlement in Ahmedabad where peace between Hindus and Muslims has been kept through the worst of communal tensions. In the run-up to the general elections of 2009, OS-Ahmedabad partnered the *Jaago Re* campaign to get young people to vote. They made a series of short films on public attitudes to participation in governance.

**In Bangalore**, poet, designer and techie Prayas Abhinav worked on creating alternative spaces, both physical and virtual, for dialogue. His project was called Porous City, and it tried to create mobile cultural spaces for dialogue and interaction.

**In Ranchi**, trained social worker Praveer Peter's project was the discussion of identity issues with Sarna tribal youth from rural backgrounds who had come to the city to study further. Between rural and urban cultures, and tribal and mainstream religious cultures he found this group confused and alienated. Using a handful of films on migration, displacement of adivasis and adivasi culture, he held screenings and discussions at several schools and colleges in Ranchi.

## 2. Media Advocacy: Research and communications for social change

[www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org):

Currently in its ninth year online, Infochangeindia.org is India's leading online resource base on social justice and development issues, with over 21,000 pages of content available for free access and free reprint for public education purposes.

In 2009, [www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org) logged over 700,000 visitors, who collectively read/downloaded over 48,00,000 pages of content. Our readers include students, researchers, policymakers, bureaucrats, academics, mediapersons, professionals, development workers and citizens. Our content is updated every day. Content is contributed by a widespread and credible network of over 450 writers, journalists and activists, most of them specialised in reporting on development issues. Our content has always been widely cited, referenced, linked and reprinted by development and policymaking organisations. Now increasingly, we are seeing Infochange content reprinted in mainstream newspapers, magazines, Wikipaedia, online learning platforms and tutorials, as well as textbooks, and cited and reprinted on blogs and social networks.

Infochange is today recognized as a credible, accurate voice in a babel of opinions. In the recent explosion of public opinion, with millions of individuals making their opinions public several times a day on blogs, citizen-journalism platforms, social networking sites, Twitter etc, credibility and accuracy have become crucial qualifiers of content. This is where Infochange scores highest. Readers come to Infochange for accurate reportage and informed analysis. Also, the vast media experience of the core team of Infochange – each of the editors, commissioning editors, and copyeditors has over 25 years of experience in mainstream and niche media in India – shows in our editorial judgement and presentation of this reportage and analysis. This is why a reputed news organisation like BBC has recommended and linked to Infochange for development news from India over the last nine years.

Increasing specialisation in knowledge-building also means that content is now being designed for people working within say the water sector, energy sector, HIV sector etc. Knowledge built for specialised readers will necessarily be inaccessible to the layperson, and likely full of details and jargon that ordinary readers will not need/understand. Infochange's content is professionally edited, accessible and on a broad spectrum of topics. Thus it ensures much wider appeal. Infochange content is used by both the post-doctoral scholar and by the school student, by the policymaker and by the farmer, by the public health specialist and the HIV-positive or disabled. That is its USP and the reason for its popularity and growing readership.



Infochangeindia's relevance to the lives of this broad swathe of readership is apparent in the scores of feedback messages we receive every month. So while David Andelman, Editor of *World Policy Journal*, a leading global foreign policy magazine, writes of his appreciation for our work, we also hear from the grandmother in Kerala researching the effects of chemical agriculture on her grandchildren, the son of a leprosy-affected person, a number of disabled people, medical professionals from the private sector reading up on the H1N1 outbreak, inmates of a refugee camp in Jammu that we have reported on, and patriarchal men protesting an article on increasing domestic violence in 100% literate Kerala!

### Site statistics for 2009

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2009	36378	54574	358651	1608564	23.35 GB
Feb 2009	37778	55500	416182	1936055	27.63 GB
Mar 2009	39460	59550	399499	2386268	30.05 GB
Apr 2009	39845	63142	410892	2475476	28.35 GB
May 2009	38921	59796	394790	2298745	23.40 GB
Jun 2009	37337	58974	403364	2298127	23.69 GB
Jul 2009	39312	62893	382006	2497892	23.92 GB
Aug 2009	36928	58351	378101	2341600	22.05 GB
Sep 2009	39431	62735	436905	2630973	24.50 GB
Oct 2009	37635	58794	422312	2471174	24.37 GB
Nov 2009	39049	62112	442005	2607629	26.64 GB
Dec 2009	35130	57611	413511	2341434	25.44 GB
Total	457204	714032	4858218	27893937	303.40 GB

### Infochange Media Fellowships 2009

We received over 120 applications this year. Significantly, **more than 30% were from journalists writing in the regional languages**, a good indicator of the wide spread and reach of [www.infochangeindia.org](http://www.infochangeindia.org) today. Four fellowships were awarded. They are:

- a. **Subrat Kumar Sahu:** For a series of articles on Community Forest Management in Orissa. At a time when most of India's forest areas are being depleted, a revolution in forest conservation is quietly taking place in the adivasi heartland of India. In Orissa alone, thousands from some 10,000 villages have formed village-level communities to protect and manage forests which they have recreated from barren lands and which ensure the sustainability of the local economies. Sahu's series profiles the CFM initiatives, looks at the state challenges in the form of joint forestry management and state power, the loss of the forests to mining leases etc, impact of Forest Rights Act and the likelihood of government selling its forests in the international carbon market as carbon sinks.
- b. **Kurush Canteenwala:** For a documentary film titled *Dilli ki Pyas*, about the haphazard and inequitable water supply and water management in Delhi, and the proposed Renuka Dam in Himachal Pradesh, which will submerge 3,000 hectares of fertile land and 11,00,000 trees and displace 800 families and part of the Renuka Wildlife Sanctuary to provide Delhi an additional 1,450 million litres of water supply – roughly equivalent to the water lost in leakage, theft and transport every year. The film is located in Delhi and the Renuka Dam site in Himachal Pradesh.
- c. **Maheen Mirza:** For a detailed study of nutrition amongst the urban poor in three Bhopal slums. Mirza explores 1) The impact of migration and consequent loss of access to natural resources/grainbanks on nutrition; 2) how informal, unorganised livelihood patterns affect nutrition; 3) government interventions to promote food security; 4) how the market is inducing the poor to switch to processed foods that appear nutritious; and 5) women's role in food provisioning.
- d. **Rintu R Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh:** For their joint proposal titled 'In Search of My Home', a documentary film that records the narratives of refugees in India who live precarious lives in the absence of refugee status from the UNHCR. These refugees are from Burma, Bangladesh and other nations. The film comments on the ambivalence of India's refugee policy and how the absence of legal redressal systems,

minimal healthcare, abject living conditions and dwindling educational opportunities form a complex mire that seems impossible to get out of.

## Publications

Three volumes of *Infochange Agenda*, our exhaustive dossier on social justice issues, were published this year.



**‘Collateral Damage: Occupational safety and health in India’** is the first comprehensive look at the collateral damage of our brisk economic growth on millions of workers, particularly in the informal sector. The volume looks at legislation and judicial responses on the subject, and the inadequate response of trade unions. We carry special reports from salt pans, from MNC sweatshops, from asbestos and granite units, chemical factories and construction sites. Several environmental and labour activists collaborated with us on this volume.

**‘Open Spaces’** our issue on multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue explored why regional, religious and national identities are hardening in a globalising world, and how the increasing conservatism, censorship and intolerance can be countered by cultural initiatives that open spaces for dialogue. We also documented several initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue.

**‘We, the People’**, the *Agenda* issue on civil society, defines and explores the role and impact of civil society. This is the first collection of readable and accessible articles that provides different perspectives on civil society by some of India’s leading academics, sociologists, commentators as well as leaders of civil society and people’s movements, including Sunita Narain, Dunu Roy, Kamla Bhasin, Tarun Tejpal, Ingrid Srinath, Neera Chandhoke, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Rudolf Heredia, Aruna Roy, Syeeda Hameed, Rajesh Tandon and others. Several articles also explore the limitations and weaknesses of civil society. This edition was released on the first anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks, an event that saw an unprecedented eruption of protest from civil society.

## Open Space publications

Two publications exploring the impact of popular culture in moulding public opinion on socio-cultural issues were brought out in this year. *Inclusion, Bollywood-style*, by journalist, poet and writer Jerry Pinto, looks at the ways in which Hindi cinema has portrayed cultural diversity over the decades. This booklet combines analysis with song lyrics, dialogue and colourful visuals. *Good Woman, Bad Woman* by cultural activists Anuja Ghosalkar and Shai Heredia looks at the stereotypes of the demure, unassertive good woman in Hindi cinema and contrasts it with the bold and sexually assertive stereotype of the vamp and the tawaif with the heart of gold.

*Hotting Up! The Causes and Consequences of Climate Change*, and *Borders*, a poetry booklet showcasing the best poems from the OS-HarperCollins poetry contest on the theme of Borders, were also published this year.

*Positive Spaces*, an anthology of essays and poems by young Indians, was jointly published by Kinaara and Open Space-Kolkata.

## CCDS Films

*Are We Talking Straight?* A 30-min documentary addressing issues of homosexuality, made by participants of the human rights trainings conducted by OS-Kolkata.

*Delhi's Thirst, Renukaji's Destruction.* This CCDS film by Kurush Canteenwalla records inequitable water distribution in Delhi which, to quench its insatiable thirst, is now looking to dam the Renukaji in Himachal Pradesh, destroying a fertile green valley and displacing the people of 17 panchayats.

### 3. Open Space Resource Centre

OS now holds 2,600 books on a wide variety of subjects from globalisation to gender, media to Indian art and theatre. We hold 466 documentary films on social justice and development issues and 350 world cinema and Indian cinema classics. We subscribe to 9 newspapers and 22 magazines/journals. Many others read and watch our resources inhouse.

### 4. Awards and honours

CCDS won the Delhi Chief Minister's Award for Best Environmental Conservation Film at the Vatavaran Film Festival in October 2009 for the CCDS documentary on the impact of mining in Goa entitled *Goa Goa Gone*, directed by Kurush Canteenwalla.

A UNFPA Award for Gender-sensitive Reportage 2009 was awarded to our senior researcher Anosh Malekar for his Infochange story on how education is bringing about a slow change in the lives of the poverty-stricken and illiterate girls of the Muslim Meo community in Mewat district of UP. These girls battle the triple burden of gender, religion and poverty.

The CCDS film entitled *Waste*, directed by Parasher Baruah, was invited to the Munich International Documentary Film Festival in the first half of 2009, and to the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival in March 2010.

OS Fellowships have given the young people we have worked with the platform and the space to evolve into serious researchers and civil society leaders. Raheel Dhattiwalla, our fellow from Ahmedabad, was awarded a scholarship for her research on racial violence and prejudice in Gujarat at the department of sociology, Nuffield College, Oxford.

### 5. Feedback from faculty and participants

OS's campus outreach is greatly appreciated by faculty. We are constantly being invited back to the campuses where we have worked. The Women's Studies Centre of the University of Pune and the Symbiosis Law School would like formal partnerships in the coming years. We will be working towards similar partnerships in other cities too once the Fellowships are awarded.

Faculty members say:

*"As a teacher of sociology, I deal with several issues of social justice, human rights and sustainability. But classroom teaching has its limitations. The programmes offered by OS supplement and complement the academic teaching I am engaged in. This is truly welcome and makes for enduring learning."* **Sunita Pandhe**, Professor of Sociology, Fergusson College, Pune.

*"I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Open Space in stretching the minds of our students who come from all over India and Pune and instilling and inculcating in them critical thinking through films, discussions and other media."* -- **Dr Shashikala Gurpur**, Principal, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

### **Feedback from participants in OS programmes**

*“The Play for Peace sessions were no doubt one of the best experiences. The art workshop in understanding violence was very insightful ...it has definitely left an impact in the way I look at things these days -- whether it is on pop culture or any billboard, I enjoy putting my head to the exercise of analysing it from the gender aspect .OS talks on Culture and Gender, Sex and Sexuality were an eye-opener!!!”-- **Chiteisri Devi**, law student from Indian Law School, Pune and former intern at Open Space.*

*“I have always held the internship at OS as an extremely important milestone in the early part of my life.” -- **Ankur Kothari**, architect and former intern at Open Space.*

*“The globalisation workshop I was part of was really very insightful and the material we were given was good. The internship programme was a really good experience in terms of the number of things we as interns got to do and learn.” -- **Mahalakshmi Ganapathy**- Student and former intern at Open Space.*

*“The Anubhav Journeys really gave me a chance to experience Indian society as it changes in ways both interesting and inspiring.” -- **Conrad Niemeyer**, student participant of the Journeys to a Changing India.*

*“The Ma Faiza talk was just wonderful. I can't believe I got to meet such a famous person in such an informal setting. Listening to her gave me strength to face my own sexual identity.” – **Apphia K**, young writer.*

*“I have just discovered the Open Space resource room and I plan to come here as often as I can. I love the atmosphere and the wonderful resources.” **Atul Paranjpe**, musician and artist.*