



CED Work with KICS - 2009-10 - A Report

Narrative Report from CED relating to the period April 2009 to March 2010

CWS in its knowledge & society activities works through Knowledge in Civil Society or KICS, a forum for conversations amongst activists and academics on issues relating to science and democracy. CED as a member of KICS has been entrusted the documentation aspects of the research work, as well as valoursing the same through organising and publishing.

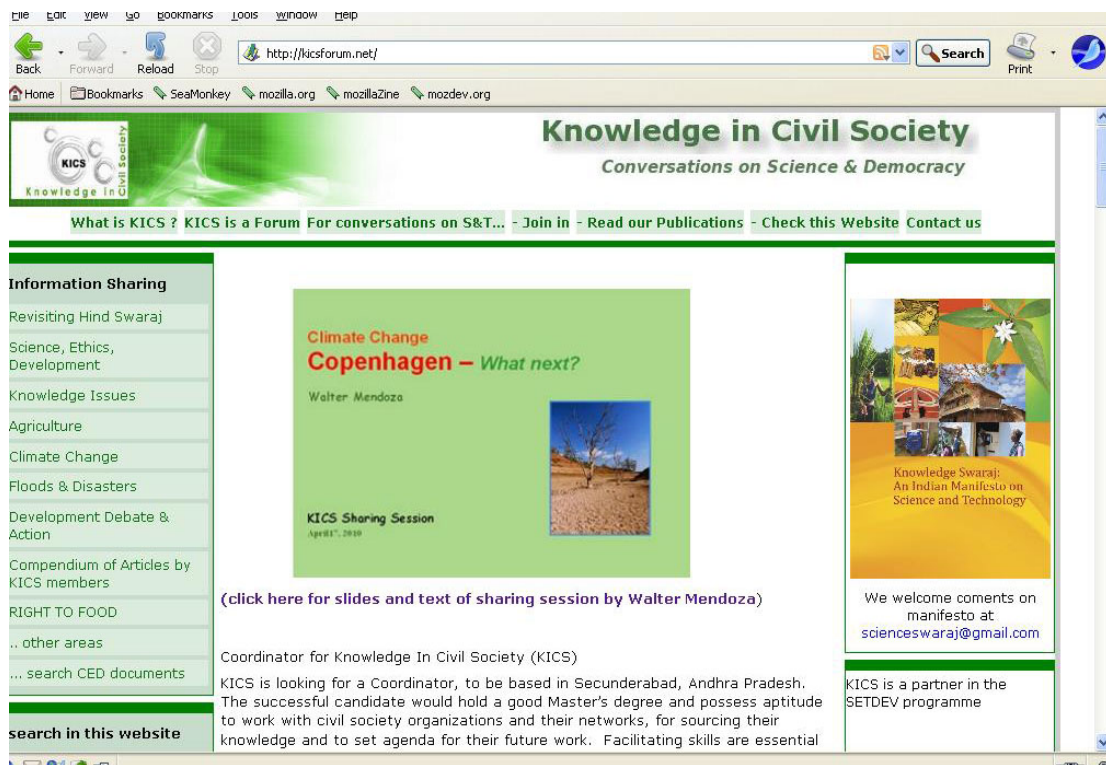
Research & Network (KICS Core 14.1)

[Website documentation](#)

CED has been doing the basic maintenance of the KICS website. Besides the technical work, it has been publishing content which include a) documents given by e-groups members; b) Annoucements and Information on Meetings, Sessions; c) reports of some of the meetings & workshops; d) publications of KICS and its partners e;) special documentation & research by CED.

The documents sent by members in the e group is extracted, and compiled under different subject heads, so that the knowledge is accesible later in a convenient form. :

These included 14 articles on GM, 6 in Agriculture, 6 on hind swaraj, 4 on energy, and 8 on health. In addition we have put other content which includes Tribute to Narendranath; Webpage on Ponnammallaiah, on receiving Gram Gaurav award; Knowledge Swaraj: An Indian Manifesto on Science and Technology; The National Innovation Act 2008 and



related comments; two opinions of KICS members on Telangana - M V Shastri & Kavitha Kuruganti; the BRAI Bill and the BT debate; some publications/studies such as 'Neither Water Nor Governance: Water Governance in Mann River Basin', an overview of Indian Energy Trends: Low Carbon Growth and Development Challenges by Prayas Energy Group; the debate on nutritional security v/s food security and other dossiers on topics such as NPM, Climate Change, Development. CED has been actively involved in the Workshops, meetings, and sharing sessions with a view to document these meetings and publish them on the website. CED also puts up the announcements and information on meetings, and publications of partners, which serve as a networking function of the website.

In terms of usage of the website the following are the statistics of visitors to the website www.kicsforum.net from March 2009-April 2010

Month	Unique visitors in that month	No. of visits	No of Pages	Hits
Apr 2009	1025	1420	6416	18086
May 2009	934	1258	3464	9504
June 2009	852	1246	8412	29701
Jul 2009	1157	1668	6519	24527
Aug 2009	1250	1665	5716	20663
Sep 2009	1387	1868	6913	17442
Oct 2009	1487	2044	6291	13883
Nov 2009	3416	4231	26317	50406

Dec 2009	4351	5484	23581	55511
Jan 2010	4204	5238	20259	52289
Feb 2010	3816	4786	13706	42395
Mar 2010	4836	6128	18453	53069
Total		37036	146047	387476

Note: Number of pages download is a better indicator of usage than hits, and hits also includes any small icon, logo, design element, which is stored in a separate file. The KICS website design is such that the average ratio of pages accessed to hits is just about 2.7 as compared to 12 or 13 in most websites.

Under another programme, SETDEV, CED has developed content based on documentation and study (see section on SETDEV)

[Printing of Partners Documentation](#)

As a part of KICS, CED wishes to make available knowledge among partners and other actors in civil society, by publishing in different forms, video, print and electronic.

CED interviewed M V Sastri on basics concepts of the development Idea and has published some excerpts of the same on You Tube.

[Development Strings](#)

[Development is of recent vintage. a Soviet Idea](#)

[Development as a western idea](#)

[Development & Neoliberalism](#). The same is now being linked to the KICS website.

CED has edited the interview with Bryanne Wynne and Andy Stirling at the Knowledge Debates Roundtable, the link will soon be made available on KICS website.

CED has also plans to add other video recordings of partners events, after editing the same. They include : Consultative meeting on "Women's health in the context of hysterectomies-Medical and Ethical issues" Co-organised by NIN/life-HRG/KICS on 09 Jan 2010 at Hyderabad

Farmers in Dry Land Areas speak on effect of climate change on the rain, how they are adapting to it in Doddarayyappanahalli-Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore rural Dist.

Doing ethics: a European and glocal perspective by Axel Carlberg. KICS sharing session

From Dharavi to Dharavi Bhet: Learnings by Allwyn DSilva. KICS Sharing session.

Towards a New Economics by Rajni Bakshi. KICS Sharing Session.

As part of the publishing effort, we have been experimenting with live webcasting of KICS events on KICS website. The two sharing sessions from Mumbai have been successfully transmitted.

[Research Studies](#)

The issue of development and equity has been brought up by Civil Society in a big way. It is therefore important to keep grass roots level workers in civil society movements and NGOs abreast of the kind of impact key NGOs have been making to ensure that local needs are taken care of. As a part of the Knowledge in Civil Society Forum, CED has been monitoring the developments in the negotiations on Climate Change, from the perspective of civil society. The developments were put out in the KICS website, in three phases: the wheeling and dealing from Rio since Kyoto, the run up and issues before Copenhagen, and the going on at Copenhagen and beyond. CED created two web dossiers in the KICS website: 1) [Climate Change: Copenhagen and Beyond](#) and 2) [Climate Change: Wheeling and Dealing: From Rio to Copenhagen](#).

The dossiers were also converted into Critical Concerns issues, which were short easy read 12 pages summaries for activists and NGOs.

KICS has been fairly well engaged with knowledge in the field of agriculture. It's partners like CSA have been pioneering research in the field of Non-pesticidal Management and the campaign on Genetically Modified Crops.

To supplement these efforts, CED has done extensive documentation work on these two areas.

On NPM, CED has brought out a CD compiling most of the information and knowledge. On the other issues. Likewise on GM, CED undertook documentation and study of the current aspects of the issues and brought out a series of Web dossiers and made them available on KICS website.

[BT Brinjal : On Hold for Now` , it dealt with the ongoing debate and discussions on about BT Brinjal. This was produced to coincide with the Public Hearing on approval to BT Brinjal. February 2010](#)

[GM crops, To GM or not to GM: That is the Big Question? And regular round up of events and emerging issues. June 2009](#)

Workshops Sharing Sessions (KICS 14.2)

[Sharing Sessions](#)

One of the tasks given to CED was to take the KICS work to other centres like Mumbai and Bangalore.

CED organised a sharing session with Fr. Allwyn DSilva, who despite being a senior parish priest has been working with the poor, and involved in developing several civil society organisations in Dharavi, Asia's biggest slum, and definitely the most difficult place to work in.

Titled from **FROM DHARAVI TO DHARAVI BHET (meaning island) where he is now posted, the session was attended by** students and teachers from St.Xavier's College, NGOs : Abhishekh Bharadwaj from Alternatives, Surabi Sinha from Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Ruchi Jain from Climate Change and professionals: Ajay nayak, Architect; Inir Pineiro, social entrepreneur; Rajni Bakshi, writer journalist. The session was co-hosted by the Xavier Institute for Social Research and in fact was held there.

Fr. Allwyn has been working in the slum areas for a long time. He shared his experience with rest of us. Earlier he worked at slums Jeri Meri and Sakinaka. They started Jagruti Kendra there. They initiated mass organizations i.e. if you have problems, you come together and try to solve it .It was a mass action not led by particular leader at a particular political party.

In 2000 he started working at Dharavi. Dharavi was a self-sufficient place. Lots of small-scale industries are there e.g. leather, plastic, pickle etc. If these slums have to be rehabilitated then the main problem is where to make new buildings for these lakhs of people. Another problem is many people in Dharavi are earning their income by making things like pots, pickles. If they are living on 6th floor where is the place where they can make their posts to sell?

[Sharing Session with Rajni Bakshi](#)

CED organized **EXPLORING A NEW ECONOMICS**, a sharing session with Rajni Bakshi who has just published the Book Bazaars, Conversations and Freedom. (www.bazaarsconversationsfreedom.com) at CED, Mumbai.

It was attended by Muneer Alavi from rural Communes, Mayank Garg Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of



Management Studies, Vikram Trivedi and Conrad Goveas from FIDA, Ajay Kumar from Tata Industries, Kiran Nanda from Indian Merchant Chambers, Ally Reeves from PUKAR, Vinay Somani, Tanya Mahajan, Rohnak from Karmayog.org, John D'Souza, Walter Mendoza, Raajen Singh, Maya Kudatkar from Centre for Education & Documentation and individuals like Manjeet Kripalini, Hansi Mehrotra, Ajay Kumar, V Giriraj .

Rajni related her work on new economics to the current situation in the Dantewada region, where there is a tension between the needs of the local tribals of the forest lands, and the system of governance, whose only presence in the forest regions is to facilitate mining, even as whatever forest resources are there are illegally depleted by forest contractors.

We need to register and strengthen the local economics which tribals are very much a part of, such that they are counted, and recognised by the dominant economy.

Website (SETDEV-IA)

[Website](#)

Website maintenance and documentation:- A separate website on Science and Technology has been linked to the main KICS website, which highlights and records the developments in the SETDEV project. Pdf versions of the documents on the SETDEV project and STR have been re-packaged, to make for easier online reading.

We have also made collections on various issues relating to the case studies, and published it on the website, as a kind of input into the case study work not only of the topics assigned to CED but also others. These are currently only available to SETDEV members on their logging in as these are essentially work in progress.

As part of the SETDEV project, CED created a specific compendium of 280 key articles on Climate Change in the KICS website. CED also created a collection of 16 articles on Knowledge and published it on the website. CED also transcribed a lecture of Prof Shiv Vishwanthan, and digitised a very old forgotten article by Uzamma, for the collection on "Revisiting Hind Swaraj"

In terms of usage, besides the earlier referred to usage of KICS website, SETDEV(<http://sntdev.kicsforum.net>) received the following response from March 2009-April 2010

Month	Uniq. visitors	No. of visits	Pages	Hits
Apr 2009	156	217	1646	2153
May 2009	172	228	492	1620
June 2009	169	285	715	2879
Jul 2009	209	309	732	2132
Aug 2009	195	291	1495	4932
Sep 2009	295	442	1558	4288
Oct 2009	221	371	1765	4126
Nov 2009	231	399	4034	5134
Dec 2009	258	529	3053	4347
Jan 2010	277	522	2205	3234
Feb 2010	284	531	4231	5215
Mar 2010	378	676	3550	4121
Total		4800	25476	44181

NPM Film (SETDEV-B1)

[Seeding a Knowledge Revolution](#)

CED made two versions of films on Non-Pesticidal Management. One a 56 min version titled - "Away with all the Pesticides" as part of the ILACs programme in collaboration with XIM Bhubaneswar, hospitality and local travel provided by Accion Fraternal.



A shorter 26 mins version - Seeding the Knowledge Revolution was made under the KICS programme as motivational material.

The films bring together the experiences, traditional wisdom and local, indigenous solutions to curb the devastating impacts of the Red Headed Hairy Caterpillar in the early 80s. It talks about Farmers in villages of Anantapur and Warangal districts have adopted NPM or Non Pesticidal Management practices and have grown food successfully without using pesticides. Some of the interview and literature material is also available .

As part of the NPM work we have visited the following organizations: CSA, SERP, ICRISAT, AME, Sahaj Samrudha and Action Fraterna (RDT).

The aim is to enable social workers and activists to enhance their understanding as well as provide resource material for training.

Focus Group Discussion (SETDEV - B2)

Focus Group Discussion

CED, as part of INECC- round table discussions, organised a day long Focus Group Discussion on Democratising the Science and Technology of Climate Change in Bangalore on the 23rd February 2010. This was co-sponsored by the SETDEV (Science and Ethics in Developing and Emerging Countries) programme.

The discussion brought together the scientific community and different sections of Civil Society - those dealing with Rural Livelihood, those working in the Urban setting, and sectoral issues.

Session I had Dr Sreenivasan, of the IISc discussing the science of climate change and some of the misconceptions in the popular media. T Pradeep, of IsquareD contextualised the issues of equity and sustainability for the marginalised vis a vis climate change.

Session II had several NGOs and science based organisations to outlines the issues of Rural Livelihoods - dryland farming, livestock, energy, non-farm economy, lifestyles.



(participants in pix left to right: Souwmyabrata Rahut, Vinay Sreenivasa, Dr.H.S.Sudhira, Dr.Monto Mani, Manjulika Vaz, Vinuta Gopal, Hariharan Chandrashekhar)

Session III discussed Urban Habitat and the issues of energy, transportation, construction, water, waste, lifestyles

Session IV: the Way forward discussed the relevance of re-iterating what really is a good life, in the context of climate change.

INECC Case study (SETDEV- CS1)

[Indian Network for Ethics on Climate Change - A case study](#)

The case study of INECC – Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change titled Democratising the Debate and Action Plans on Climate Change was a part of several case studies within a larger programme on Science and Ethics.

In terms of S & T, climate change raises specific issues of democracy where Justice, Sustainability and Plurality, violence and inequity and the crucial role that S & T plays in these areas.

By focussing on the marginal communities, and the view and action at the eco-regions, INECC demonstrates how civil society can intervene such that citizens are able to seek democratic engagement with science, promote long terms community oriented solutions, over short term fixes, as lay persons, engage and make choices, and make meaningful demands on the experts. These are all possible through a democratisation of institutions, or rather developing institutions to intervene in the S & T scenario, which are more democratic and decentralised.

Research: The task of preparing the full cases was then entrusted to a team at the Centre for Education & Documentation. The first task was literature review and documentation. Based on this, an outline of the case studies was circulated to all peers. Subsequently field visits were undertaken to DEO (Decentralised Energy Options) sites and to forest areas of Andhra and Orissa. Video interviews were held with NGOs, engineers, local technicians, women farmers, NGO Practitioners & Stakeholders . The researchers benefitted the most by participating in a range of events of INECC.



Reconstruction Case Study (SETDEV - CS2)

Case Study on Reconstruction

The case study on Reconstruction titled “Ethics In Built Environment: Opportunities And Barriers To A Inclusive, Sustainable And Plural Response” was done in collaboration with Architecture & Development. The lead author Radha Kunke with CED person acting as associates and research and support assistants.

The case-study opens the discussion and debate on one of the strongest contributors to and symbols of the current development paradigm, knowledge and resources control.

In this case-study, we focus on the “housing” and community-level reconstruction requirements and interventions, relating it to the concept of ‘people’ and ‘environment’.

The case study contextualizes 3 major disasters in the last decade (the Gujarat earthquake, the Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, and the Kosi floods in Bihar) and draws its observations and learnings from these to examine the roles of different actors and sectors and identifies the opportunities, barriers and challenges that reconstruction after each of these disasters created to pluralism, justice and sustainability.

While Gujarat broke new ground in enabling quick, owner-determined reconstruction, as government left it to the people to proceed and provide material support, The Tsunami sought to organise things by setting out guidelines, rules for engagement, which made it incumbent on all intervenors, to work in a particular manner. This resulted in a monoculture of houses, most of which disregarded micro-terrain, local relationships, and externalised a lot of environmental and sustainability issues.

Bihar is on the other extreme no major rehab work has been done for over two years, as people were waiting to get their houses done. Ultimately nothing is happening so people have now started doing things on their own, but without any support from the establishment.

In terms of Science & Technology, the ethics of the experts making decisions, which generally discount local technologies and knowledge, and privileges external carbon heavy materials produced by Science, is highlighted in this case study. This has lessons for construction and planning in general, particularly in an era where entire areas are sought to be "modernised" through rehabilitation schemes.



CSS



XHTML