COMMON CAUSE EVENTS

SPIR 2020 Brainstorming: December 3, 2019 and January 16, 2020

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PHOTO CREDIT: Sachin Kumar, CSDS

A brainstorming session at CSDS to finalise the themes and concerns of SPIR 2020.

Common Cause organised several brainstorming sessions at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) to finalise the themes and concerns of the third edition of the Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR 2020). SPIR 2020 will look at the forms and context of policing in conflict states or states where some form of extremism, insurgency or militancy is taking place and a large number of paramilitary or armed forces are present. The first session was held on December 3, 2019 at the CSDS campus, in which elaborate discussions focussed on the themes and issues needed to be addressed by the upcoming report.

Apart from Kamal Kant Jaswal and Vipul Mudgal, President and Director of Common Cause respectively as well as Sanjay Kumar, Professor, CSDS, participants included Ish Kumar, former director, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Pooja Satyogi, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi and senior journalists such as Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty and Satyendra Ranjan.

Mudgal began the session by stressing on the importance of using data to improve policing and suggested ways in which data can be used to assess the performance of the police as well as levels of citizens' trust and satisfaction. Subsequently, he explained how the objective of SPIR 2020 was to shed light on the status of policing in conflict ridden areas of the country.

During the session, participants shared their diverse perspectives on the upcoming report and gave suggestions on its methodology and themes. Ajay Dandekar, faculty member at the Department of History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, recommended segregating the report depending on the relevant regions. Satyogi suggested creating a distinction between short term and long term disturbed areas.

Other notable suggestions came from Javed Iqbal Wani, assistant professor, School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University Delhi. He cited the example of Jammu & Kashmir while proposing that the report explore the relationship between local police forces and the paramilitary forces and evaluate whether citizens view the law enforcement agencies as a monolith or as entities with different personalities. Pisharoty discussed in detail the dynamics of the law and order situation in the Northeast.

Keeping these suggestions in mind, the team held another session on January 16, 2020, in which survey questionnaires and the sample scheme were finalised. As per the designed sample scheme, approximately 10,000 citizens and police personnel from 26 districts of 11 states will be surveyed.

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Discussions on SPIR and India Justice Report: February 8, 2020 and February 27, 2020

Radhika Jha*



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Radhika Jha of Common Cause participating in a roundtable consultation at the release of the India Justice Report at the Gujarat National Law University.

On February 8, 2020, a roundtable consultation and release of the India Justice Report (IJR) was organised at the Gujarat National Law University in Gandhinagar. Radhika Jha from Common Cause participated in the session and represented the IJR team in the consultation on police. The report release was attended by more than 60 civil society members, faculty as well as students, while the roundtable on the police was attended by about 15 civil society members and academics. The consultation focussed on the findings of the study, particularly in the context of Gujarat, and the ways in which these findings can be used for advocacy purposes. Participants also gave constructive feedback on the report and suggested future areas of research.

On February 27, 2020, Jha of Common Cause presented the key findings of the Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2019 to the students of the post graduate programme in Public Policy & Governance and LLM in Law and Development at the Azim Premji University (APU), Bengaluru. The presentation was attended by nearly 50 students. It was followed by a faculty seminar in which Common Cause made a presentation on the first two editions of SPIR to the faculty of APU. The presentation was accompanied by an engaging question and answer session on policing in the country as well as the future research projects of Common Cause. Possible collaborations between the organisations were also discussed during the meeting with the faculty.



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The consultation, focussed on the findings of the India Justice Report, was attended by civil society members and academics.

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Labour Migration – Advanced Perspectives for Practice: February 10, 2020 - February 15, 2020

Shambhu Ghatak*



PHOTO CREDIT: Shambhu Ghatak

Ravi Srivastava, former professor of economics and chairperson, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Right) with Shambhu Ghatak of IM4Change.

Inclusive Media for Change and Common Cause participated in a certificate course offered by Aajeevika Bureau, a non-profit that works with migrant workers of south Rajasthan, in partnership with Azim Premji University. Titled 'Certificate course on labour migration – advanced perspectives for practice,' the six-day programme aimed to provide a learning platform for civil society practitioners, workers' rights advocates and students interested in issues related to internal labour migration, urban governance and informality.

Using a collaborative, experiential learning model, the course, held from February 10 to February 15, 2020 in Bangalore, strived towards enriching the practitioner's field insights with conceptual and critical discourses on migration.

Shambhu Ghatak and Mandeep Punia, who attended the programme on behalf of the Inclusive Media for Change project of Common Cause, learnt in detail about the main sources of migration related data i.e. Census (by Ministry of Home Affairs), National Sample Survey (by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) and India Human Development Survey (by National Council of Applied Economic Research). In addition, course participants were introduced to various theories of migration -- classical and neoclassical theories including rational choice theory, structuralist/ Marxist approaches to labour migration and post-structural theories of migration. The certificate course also covered labour laws and explained the role of trade unions in formal and informal labour markets.

Around 28 participants from various parts of India attended the course. Course instructors included Babu Mathew, former registrar and faculty at National Law School of India University and Ravi Srivastava, former professor of economics and chairperson, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



PHOTO CREDIT: Shambhu Ghatak

The certificate course provided a learning platform for civil society practitioners, workers' rights advocates, and students.

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