



hazards  
centre

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## About Us

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Set up in 1997 by the Sanchal Foundation, the Hazards Centre is a professional support group and resource centre based in Delhi. We provide consultancy services to mass and community organizations on issues of development and environment.

Since 1997, the Centre has largely focused on people's issues, trying to help realize the rights of about 70% of Delhi's population, living on pavements, in slums, unauthorized colonies, resettlement colonies and urban villages. The work in Delhi provides the basis for interacting with other groups and sharing of experiences to develop a cogent perspective on the right to livelihood and shelter in cities. Currently, the Centre has been able to develop links with organizations in 18 other cities and towns.

The Centre also responds to rural organizations on issues of pollution, environment degradation, resource rights and livelihoods.



## how we define hazards

We see the term “hazard” in an all-encompassing manner, as “anything that may threaten the survival of a group or community”, and may thus mean to include lack of housing, opportunities for work, basic services, adequate information, harassment by the officials and the like.

# Why a Centre



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In order to deal with any hazard, we must first have a clear and in-depth understanding of it. “What is the actual threatening factor? What is the impact? Why did it arise? What is its degree? What consequences would it lead to? What could be done regarding it and how?”: the answers to all these questions need to be figured out. But to do so, one must first figure out what is the right informed question. That’s where the Centre sees its role.



## Our Mandate

The Centre provides alternative, participatory frameworks on issues of development policy, planning and practice, such as land and housing, health, sanitation, transport, water, electricity, environment, education, governance and livelihoods. We seek to challenge the dominant judicial and administrative forces aimed at making the nation an exclusive 'world-class', 'clean', 'shining' space by removing the poor and not poverty.

# Our Resource

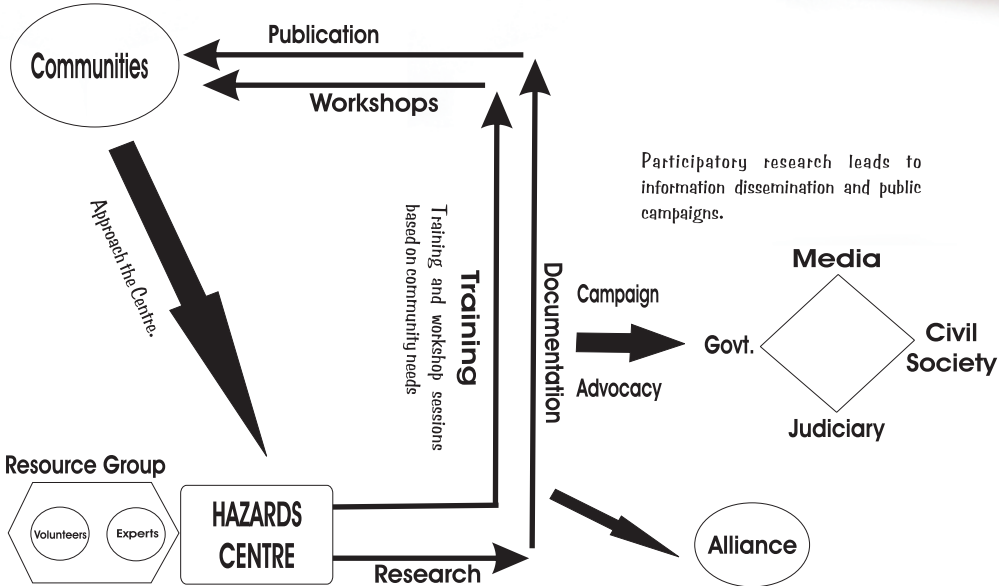


We are a small bunch of people from diverse backgrounds working together to help shape a different society. Our resource comprises a core team of researchers with expertise in various issues, volunteers of different backgrounds as well as a large expert group belonging to various disciplines.

- If a community/ organization wants to know what are its basic rights and how to access these, wants to understand policies and plans related to it, wants to join alliances and struggles of other such communities or seeks training or research to strengthen their struggle.
- If it wishes to get an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project which has an impact on the lives of urban or rural communities.
- If you want to volunteer any skill, resource, or time for a social cause of your choice.
- If you are an individual and want more information about development issues.
- If you are a student and want to learn and work on development and environment issues.



# how does the Centre Work



Centre consults with experts in Resource Group and takes assistance from Volunteers.

Participatory research leads to information dissemination and public campaigns.

Centre supports issue-based alliances that emerge.



**O**ur **W**ork





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**R**ESearch

**D**OCUMENTATION & **P**UBLICATION

**T**RAINING & **W**ORKSHOPS

**C**AMPAIGNS

**A**LLIANCE **S**UPPORT

## RESEARCH

As citizens, we all seek answers to a range of questions on issues of planning and governance. What are the patterns of migration and settlement? What is the housing scenario for different sections? Can the present water supply meet the needs of a growing population? What is causing all the pollution in rivers? What has been done or not done to clean them? Is the cost associated with National prestige of building "world class" infrastructure actually worth it? What has been the 'success' of the Metro in being a mass transport system? What does the Master Plan have to say about availability and distribution of basic services in the city? How can RTI be best used to improve administrative response? What are the 'development' plans in the coming years?

It is such and more concerns that we at Hazards Centre seek to provide answers to, using various techniques of research. We emphasize on participatory processes while gaining information from communities on their issues. Many of these researches are undertaken on requests from specific groups. These research data and the analytical conclusions to which they lead to, are documented in various simpler and easily comprehensible forms, so that they could serve as a base for further research and action.

## DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATION

One of the many strengths of the Centre is its extensive documentation and publication of its various research and analysis work, which essentially means recording of all such development processes that are increasingly marginalizing the poor, as also the strategies of resistance that are being formulated. Our work is brought out in the form of:

Reports

Booklets

Books

Visual Presentations

Pamphlets

Films and Documentaries

## TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Being a support group, one of our most important roles is to organize workshops with communities and students which they request in order to provide them with diverse sets of information and skills to act upon their own problems. Special attention is paid to train community volunteers who are able to take up community issues, collect and collate information, and develop pro-people policy instruments, a process which thus becomes the basis of informed governance and decision-making.

Feedback from workshops and continuing demand from groups suggests that such information provision and training has significantly enhanced the capacity of community groups and of the student volunteers

- to gather data, analyse it, and use it for meeting their needs of daily survival
- to understand policies and react to legislative changes

## CAMPAIGNS

Every now and then a particular group or network builds up enough capacity to launch a public campaign for a change in policy or support for a specific cause. The Centre provides support whenever required for such campaigns in the form of drafting policy papers, making posters, or preparing information kits

- a. Urban Right to Work Campaign: A national campaign for legislation for protecting employment opportunities in urban areas
- d. People's Housing Policy: A draft policy providing details of how communities can build their own shelter with minimal but critical assistance from government
- c. Solid Waste Management: An approach to economic and ecological waste management by waste pickers
- d. Bus Rapid Transit System: Promotion of BRT as a cheap and sustainable public transport
- e. Climate Change: A national campaign towards creating a new model of development in relation to adaptation, where one can learn from the lifestyle and knowledge of the lower classes
- f. Occupational Health & Safety: A campaign to promote safety at work place

## ALLIANCE SUPPORT

We believe in the power of mutual support. The wider the platform to combat the anti-poor forces, the stronger it is. That is why the Centre, ever since its inception, has supported various alliances of people, groups, and organizations. By encouraging participatory research, contributing to critiques of dominant policies, developing alternatives, facilitating informed debates and new practices, the Hazards Centre has been able to participate in the building of several collaborative efforts. Some of the alliance groups we work with are:

Right To Food Campaign

National Forum for Housing Rights

Campaign For Judicial Accountability

All India Kabori Mazdoor Mahasangh

Sustainable Urban Mobility (networking)

Climate Change Network



# Volunteers



Hazards Centre has been providing opportunities to concerned individuals to volunteer for a social cause with an integrated approach. It has been our aim to promote participatory research involving the affected people to understand cause, effect and remedy for any hazard. This entire process leads to a learning process, which in turn helps the volunteers.

- Filling up of "Personal Form"
- Selection of working area from the Task list.
- Interaction with the concerned resource person of the Centre for the selected task.
- Orientation of Interns/volunteers.
- Primary survey
- Policy Research
- Study of Secondary Literature
- Model Making
- Photography
- Poster Making
- Interviews
- Field Investigation
- Training



## URBAN GOVERNANCE & RESISTANCE

1. Punarwaas ki Gatha – Hindi – 2002
2. People's Housing Policy Book – 2003
3. Jan Soochana Abhiyan – Part I – Basti Visthapan Evam Punarwas - 2003
4. Jan Soochana Abhiyan – Part II – Hamare Maulik Adhikar - 2003
5. Jan Soochana Abhiyan – Part III – Hamari Samudayik Suvidhaen - 2003
6. Jan Soochana Abhiyan – Part IV – Anadhrikrit Coloniya, Adalat Aur Sarkar - 2003
7. Jan Soochana Abhiyan – Part V – Sanghathan Nirman – 2003
8. A Handbook on Right to Information - 2004
9. Democracy, Citizens and Migrants: Nationalism in the Era of Globalization (CCPD) – 2005
10. Loktantra Nagrik or Prawasi: Vaihswikaran ke yug mai Rashtrawaad – CCPD Hindi – 2005
11. Government by the People (Analysing 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992) – 2007
12. Whither Indian Cities : Urban reforms and counter strategies : National consultation on JnNURM - 2007
13. Redefining Citizenship – in the era of globalization - CCPD English – 2008
14. Vaishvikaran ke yug mein Punah Paribhashit Nagrikta - CCPD Hindi – 2008
15. Alliance Building for Urban Resistance - 2010

SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING

1. Dilli Kiski Hai ? - 2003
2. Changing Face of Delhi – 2004
3. Space for Waste: Planning for the Informal Recycling Sector by Chintan in Collaboration with Hazards Centre - 2004
4. Blueprint for an Apartheid City, Draft Delhi Master Plan 2021 --- 2005
5. Delhi Metro Rail – 2006
6. Aavaas Evam Rozgaar Bachhao (ISF) – 2006
7. DMP 2021: What is to be Done - 2007
8. A Study on potability of available water source of Five J.J. Clusters and Six Resettlement Colonies in Delhi – 2007
9. Restructuring and Efficiency : the case of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) – 2007
10. Health at whose cost (the registered medical practitioners in Delhi) – 2007
11. Badalte Shehar mein Rozgaar (Hawkers in Jaipur) series 1 - 2007
12. Badalte Shehar mein Rozgaar ( Jaipur me Paaramparik Kaamo me Mazdoor) series 2 – 2007
13. Badalte Shehar mein Rozgaar (Nirman Mazdoor in Jaipur) series 3 – 2007



14. Badalte Shehar mein Rozgaar (Women Workers in Jaipur) series 4 – 2007
15. Badalte Shehar mein Rozgaar ( Unorganised Sector in Indore Jaipur) series 5 – 2007
16. 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi : How Much does National Prestige Cost ? – 2007
17. A fact finding report on the eviction and resettlement process in Delhi – 2007
18. National Strategy for the Urban Poor : A policy paper on JnNURM and Urban Poor – 2007
19. Challenges to the Mission – National Seminar on JnNURM (21st – 22nd June 2008) – 2008
20. Urban Renewal or Cities of Exclusion ? : A Report on National Seminar on JnNURM (15th -16th Feb 2007) – 2008
21. Half Time or Time Out – JnNURM – 2010
22. A Case Study of Bhalaswa Lok Shakti Manch – 2010
23. Urban Resistance - 2010
24. A Different Kind of City – 2010
25. Climate Change in Urban Areas – 2010

## ENVIRONMENT & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Holy Yamuna – 2004
2. Ground Water Resources in Plachimada (Coca Cola stores toxics for future generations)  
By PSI and Hazards Centre - 2006
3. SEZ – How Special, How Economic ? – 2008
4. How Harsh is your Soft Drink ? – Coke Report – 2010
5. Sustainable Textiles for Sustainable Development – Occupational Health & Safety Manual - 2010
6. Sustainable Textiles for Sustainable Development – Environment, Occupational Health & Safety in the Craft Sector in India – Baseline Study of Selected Craft Clusters - 2010

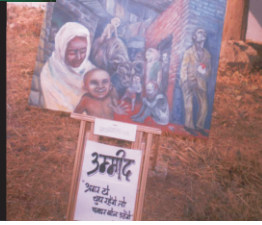
## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

1. Shehar.com - 2006
2. Volunteer Report (2007 – 2008), 2009





• उंचाई •  
मैं वहाँ पहुँचा  
और डर गया  
मेरे शहर के लोगों  
यह किन्तु भयानक है  
कि शहर की सभी सीढ़ियाँ मिलकर  
जिस महाम अँधेरे तक जाती है  
वहाँ कोई नहीं रहना  
• केंदारनाथ सिंह •





# Hazards Centre