



SANCHAL FOUNDATION

E-57 Panchshila Park

New Delhi 110017, INDIA

Annual Report 2023-2024

A. Road Safety

1. Sanchal Foundation's associated unit, the Independent Council for Road Safety International (ICoRSI), was a co-sponsor of the fifteen-day International Course on Road Safety, 23rd November to 7th December 2023, in collaboration with Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.



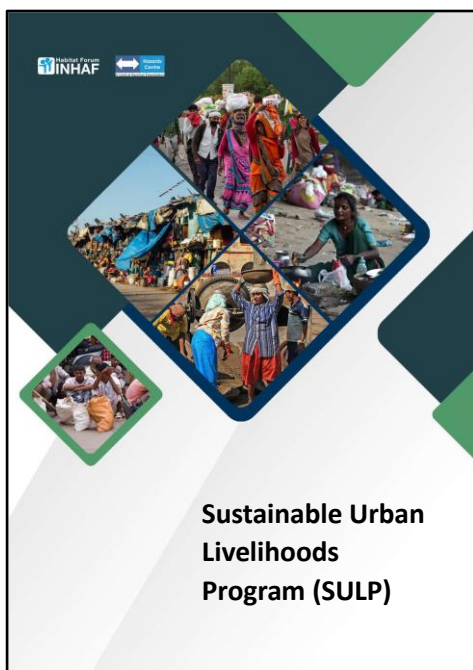
2. ICoRSI continues to prepare Evidence Gap Maps in the area of traffic safety in collaboration with Campbell Collaboration International and publishing the same with IIT Delhi and WHO, SEARO, New Delhi.
3. ICoRSI also contributed to the publication and production of the publication "Road Safety in India: Status Report 2022" edited by Geetam Tiwari, Rahul Goel and Kavi Bhalla.

B. Labour Security

1. Sanchal Foundation's associated unit, Hazards Centre collaborated with India Habitat Forum to extensively research and design a program to ensure sustained urban livelihoods. The team guided the overall design of the study and mobilised a larger cohort of 32 researchers to compile different sections.
2. The report traces the trends in urban growth and poverty since 1990. It tracks the rise in youth unemployment during demonetisation. It also reviews the

performance of the national Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana and Urban Livelihoods Mission between 1997 and 2023. It shows that they have focused on self-employment but had little impact on urban employment and poverty.

3. Nine State Government schemes for urban employment, and seven schemes proposed by non-government actors are analysed to illustrate that they have tried to increase wage employment. Primary studies in fifteen small and medium towns of Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh document workers' perceptions of livelihoods and their demand for the right to work.
4. The report ends with a suggested action plan to ensure three hundred days of work for all workers at fair wages. It argues that the funds required for this may be raised through budgetary allocations, and enhanced revenues from penalties and taxes to ensure environmental and social justice in employment schemes.
5. Hopefully, the report will appeal to groups and associations representing urban labour in different towns and cities. This will need a series of meetings, consultations, and conferences with labour, for whom the issues of work, wages, and safety are becoming more and more important. Sanchal does not have the resources for this at present.

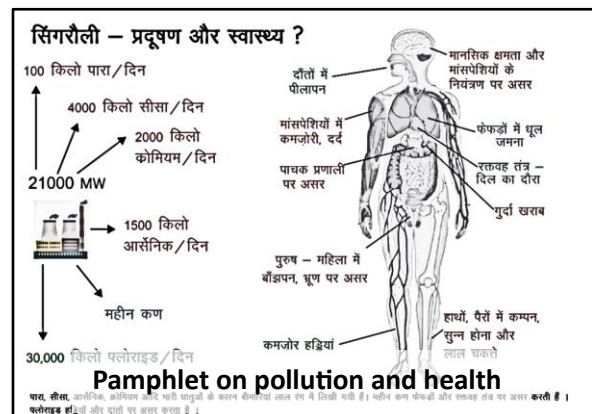


C. Labour Safety

1. Development of Instruments: Sanchal's research team at the Hazards Centre has assembled a pack of low-cost instruments to measure air pollution, ambient temperature, peak flow and heart rate, and muscle tone. These are easily used by workers. A prototype capnograph to measure energy expenditure has also been developed at IIT Delhi and field tested.
2. Discussions are ongoing with IIT for development of other personal monitoring instruments for heart function, body temperature, blood oxygen, blood glucose,

stress levels, humidity, volatile organic compounds, sulphur and nitrogen oxides, chlorine and gaseous heavy metals.

3. In addition, the matrix of the time-motion study has been made simpler for workers to be able to use. Using this as the base, the team has designed a second layer of hazard exposure and a third of energy use. These can then be used to model health impacts, safety measures and productivity analysis.
4. This has been the outcome of the Centre's earlier work on safety (supported by a grant from Pardos) in the stone-carving industries in Pindwara, and stone-crushing units in Bewar. Installation of shrouds on the angle grinders, coupled to domestic vacuum cleaners, reduced dust by 80%. But workers complained that the shrouds made it difficult to see the working area.
5. Aajeevika Bureau wanted training in occupational safety. Over sixty workers from Jodhpur's steel units, Surat's power looms, Navi Mumbai's small factories, Ahmedabad's textile units and foundries, and Ankleshwar's chemical plants gathered in Ahmedabad, along with the research and organisation team for a two-day workshop.
6. The workers mapped the production process in their units, and listed the hazards. This was used to illustrate the three principles of safety (see #8). Most of the workers felt the workshop was useful, but the research team felt that their contribution had not been recognised and no safety solutions were prescribed.
7. Other assistance requests came from labourers in Jaipur wishing to document their work and working conditions; construction workers migrating to the Gulf for the Olympics and suffering from heat impacts; informal sector workers in Uttar Pradesh wanting to know how wages are calculated.
8. In the hierarchy of safety interventions, the highest priority has to be given to (a) elimination of the hazard, followed by (b) engineering and management controls, and lastly, (c) personal protective equipment. Sanchal's interventions based on this hierarchy have been restricted by lack of resources and a workshop to design, fabricate and test improved tools and equipment.
9. One of the tasks in the coming year will be to see whether a technical centre can be set up to provide the necessary support for designing and implementing good safety practices. Preliminary discussions have begun in this regard with the Industrial Design Centre at IIT Delhi, and the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad.



D. Environment

1. Technical support was provided to the people in Sonbhadra district to grasp the extent of pollution from the thermal power plants in the region and the impact on the local people. Sanchal researchers assisted in conducting surveys to document the extent of damage to human health, especially damage to lungs (from coal ash), bones & teeth (from fluoride), nerves (from heavy metals), and reproductive functions (cumulative effects).
2. Using the information generated from the surveys, the technical team used the Workman's Compensation Act to compute the health cost borne by the affected population. The local organisation of affected people approached the National Green Tribunal, through a team of lawyers, demanding financial compensation for all those affected by the pollution in the region. The Tribunal has ordered the Central Pollution Control Board to submit a detailed investigation report.
3. Labour productivity is defined as the output from the labour used to produce that output. This ignores social and environmental 'externalities' associated with extracting resources, paying wages, and making profits. The Sonbhadra case poses a challenge to develop a framework for costing these externalities and redefining productivity through energy balances instead of a loss in wages approach (as in the Workman's Compensation Act).
4. Technical support for assessing water quality and quantity from different sources was extended to the women of Bhalaswa. They have been struggling for the last twenty years to access piped water supply to the resettlement colony through the Public Grievance Commission. This is another externality that has to be computed.
5. Four interns have submitted reports on: (a) floods in the river Yamuna in Delhi from 2003 to 2023 and their possible causes; (b) air pollution in Delhi in the last 25 years correlated to a timeline of mitigation interventions; (c) land degradation because of development along the Bhagirathi-Alaknanda rivers from 2004 to 2024; and (d) working and living conditions of street vendors in Guwahati.
6. We propose to bring out a compilation of the interns' studies, along with the case studies of community actions (Deenbandhu Samaj Sahayog, Indore and Kathputli Colony, Delhi) prepared by other interns, in the form of a memorial volume for Prof. P K Mehta whose Himalaya Foundation provided the funds to undertake these activities.

E. Finances

1. The Foundation began with a year with an opening balance of Rs.31,72,264. During the course of the financial year, it received Rs.6,30,000 as donations and contributions.
2. A total of Rs.24,31,824 was recorded as expenditure during the year, of which 86% was spent on human resources. Because of the financial constraints of the Foundation, most of the program activities in which the Foundation's staff was engaged, was supported by organisations and institutions with whom they forged very productive collaborations.

F. Miscellaneous

1. The administrative office had to be shifted from Chattarpur to Vasant Kunj. We are grateful to Dr. Kanwarjit Singh Chawla for having offered us the facility at Chattarpur for seven years and providing all assistance for our work. The move was completed rapidly because of extensive digitisation. By the end of 2024 all the records and functions can move online.
2. Five meetings of Sanchal members took place during the year to discuss the current situation and what Sanchal could do in that context.
3. The matter of FCRA cancellation continues to be pursued in the High Court with three hearings during the year.
4. Hazards Centre continues to give technical support to the Sajha Manch in the matter of the Delhi Master Plan 2024 with four hearings before the High Court. Nineteen workshops and meetings took place at different places in the city linking issues of eviction, resettlement, ration cards, water supply, electricity connections, school admissions etc. to the Master Plan.
5. At least four community groups in Delhi had expressed a desire to document their perception of 'heritage'. In spite of following up with two workshops each, the people were not able to do anything because of their diffidence in writing.
6. Hazards Centre researchers attended seventeen events, seminars, workshops etc. to broaden their own understanding as well as to give talks and offer support to other campaigns and networks. There has been a resource limitation preventing them from actually providing substantial support as demanded by community groups.
7. There has been a larger number of young people applying for internships this year. A lot of effort has gone into shortlisting, interviewing, orienting and assigning and mentoring them for specific tasks. A few of them have produced excellent work. But there has also been a very high dropout rate. This may have something to do with the inclusion of summer placements into the academic calendar and the desire of young aspiring graduates to expand their curriculum vitae in order to access admissions and scholarships outside India.

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