



EQUATIONS 
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EQUATIONS, established in 1985, is a Society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. It is also registered under section 12 A of Income Tax Act, 1961 and has obtained recognition under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This report captures EQUATIONS work of 2015-2016 detailing our research studies, campaigns, consultations and policy critiques. Some of the trends and developments we responded through our work were:

At the national level, the Ministry of Tourism announced the formulation of a new tourism policy by May 2015. Less than 10 days time was given to the public to respond to the policy. A joint statement by civil society organisations from across the country working on tourism and related issues was issued, rejecting the policy and raising questions regarding the process and content.

In the light of rampant increase in tourism infrastructure, EQUATIONS is working on documenting empirical evidence about Public Private Partnership, Special Tourism Zones / Mega Tourism projects. We investigated these aspects through our work on economics of tourism. Our work highlighted the illegal constructions by certain builders of a large hotel complex that was coming up.

The need for protection of the coastal ecology and livelihoods of local communities from industrial activities and tourism continues even today, especially with newer projects like the Sagarmala which are being conceived of. Seaplanes in tourism has been a concept which many state governments are trying to push as a new tourism product. It is not only the coastal states who have actively tried to initiate seaplanes but also states like Uttarakhand, seaplanes are being mooted by using water bodies like reservoirs of dams, lakes. Our work aimed at highlighting these issues and impacts of tourism.

Exploitation of children (economically, physically, sexually and emotionally) continues to be a serious concern in tourism sector, which was highlighted through our research. This is further heightened with the poor implementation of the Safe and Honourable Tourism Code and lack of protection mechanisms for children

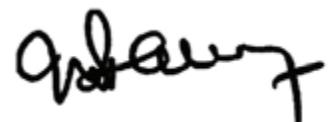
in tourism. The issue of child protection was an area of engagement with the tourism industry (organised and unorganised). Child labour has been a growing concern within tourism. These are areas that we continue to work on.

Under the current government many laws & policies – land, labour, environment, children, transgender, women – that are witnessing a change, which automatically has an impact of the tourism. These have been on our radar.

To build awareness on tourism issues with students and academics we engaged with educational institutions in South India.

We have continued our advocacy with various central and state level Ministries and other government bodies such as the Ministry of Tourism, Maharashtra Department of Tourism Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, and with the Department of Women and Child Development, Karnataka. EQUATIONS also met and engaged with Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers to urge them to adopt a more holistic view of tourism development for the country.

Collaborating with organisations / peoples movements continues to be the backbone of our work. This year we were able to strengthen our work with important national and local people's movements and community based organisations, to be in solidarity and to bring in the linkages between tourism and their wider struggles.



Mario Pinto Almeida

President

Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS) Society

CONTEXT OF OUR WORK¹

Tourism Trends

According to Global Travel and Tourism Competitive Index, in 2015, India has moved up 13 positions to 52nd rank from 65th. India's travel and tourism economy is poised to grow 7.5% in 2015 over the previous year, exceeding the 6.9% growth that the global forum has predicted for the South Asian region. As per the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), the number of foreign tourism arrivals (FTAs) recorded during 2015 was 80.27 lakhs with a growth of 4.5%, as compared to the FTAs of 76.79 lakhs during 2014, which is lower than the growth between 2013 and 2014 which was 10.2%. Foreign exchange earnings (FEEs) from tourism in rupee terms during 2015 were Rs.1,35,193 crore with a growth of 9.6% as compared to the FEE of Rs.1,23,320 crore during 2014. India is trying to raise the share of FTAs to 1% of the total global tourists over the next few years, which was recommended in the 12th five year plan document. However, continuous push and relaxation by the government on visa policy and international promotional campaigns have not made a significant change in attracting foreign tourists. Current flow of tourist is as expected, but it is shown by the government that they are achieving unexpected targets. What is however lacking on the part of the government is to understand whether tourism is benefiting local communities or not, what type of impacts do they face from such ambitious targets when we relax our policies and norms.

The top ten States in terms of number of FTAs (in millions) during 2015 were Tamil Nadu (4.68), Maharashtra (4.41), Uttar Pradesh (3.1), Delhi (2.38), West Bengal (1.49), Rajasthan (1.48), Kerala (0.98), Bihar (0.92), Karnataka (0.64) and Goa (0.54). In 2015, while the top 4 states retained their previous rankings, West Bengal improved by one rank to leave Rajasthan at sixth rank. Kerala, Bihar and Karnataka retained their ranks at seventh, eighth and ninth ranks and Goa re-entered the top 10 most visited states causing Haryana to drop out of the ranks. Possible reason of drop out of Haryana from this list can be Jat agitation in the state.

On the other hand there is a significant shift in outbound travel. According to Ministry of External Affairs, India's rising middle class and increasing disposable incomes has continued to support the growth of domestic and

outbound tourism. Total outbound trips increased by 8.7% to 19.9 million in 2015. During 2015, the number of domestic tourist visits to the States / UTs was 1432 million as compared to 1282.8 million in 2014 registering a growth of 11.63% over 2014. The top ten States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits (in millions), during 2015, were Tamil Nadu (333.5), Uttar Pradesh (204.9), Andhra Pradesh (121.6), Karnataka (119.9), Maharashtra (103.4), Telangana (94.5), Madhya Pradesh (78), West Bengal (70.2), Gujarat (36.3) and Rajasthan (35.2).

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have maintained the 1st and 2nd rank respectively in terms of domestic tourist arrivals in 2015. Andhra Pradesh has gained the third position leaving Karnataka and Maharashtra at the succeeding 4th and 5th positions respectively. Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have retained their previous rankings at 6th, 7th and 8th. Gujarat, has risen to rank 9th leaving Rajasthan at the 10th and causing Jharkhand to slip out of the top 10 most visited states. The reason for Gujarat in this list might be influenced by the new state tourism development strategy in terms of promoting MICE tourism, cultural and event based tourism. Many states who were in the top ten list also announced new tourism policies during 2015 – 16. Apart from promotional events to attract tourists in the state, there is minimalistic planning of state governments to understand the need and readiness of local communities living in and around tourism destination.

International Policy

Internationally, discussion shifted from Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)² in 70th session of United Nations General Assembly. 17 SDGs have been identified, in which Goals 8, 12 and 14 can be aligned with tourism as it speaks about economic growth and decent work for all, promote sustainable consumption and production, and advance conservation and sustainable development of aquatic resources. Subsequently, World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and the other international organisations have started articulating their linkages with the SDGs. Many developing countries have also started envisioning

¹ This section has been written based on articles in the national and local media.

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

tourism along similar lines as the UNWTO. Majority of the international debate in this context is focused on promoting tourism as a tool for trade competitiveness, promoting higher financing of tourism for development, advancing travel facilitation, tourism and air transport for development, committing to promote job creation and tourism – as tools for sustainable development.

On the other hand, UNWTO announced the theme of World Tourism Day 2015 as 'One Billion Tourist, One billion Opportunity', as a means of highlighting the employment generation potential of tourism. According to UNWTO World Tourism Barometer³ international tourist arrivals grew by 4.4% in 2015 to reach a total of 1,184 million in 2015. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council report 2016⁴ travel & tourism generated US \$7.2 trillion (9.8% of global GDP) and supported 284 million jobs, equivalent to 1 in 11 jobs in the global economy. Important to note is that in all these international statistics, there is no data related to contribution of the unorganised sector and involvement of local communities in tourism. Other discussions are centered around competitive marketing and investment. Countries like India, Thailand, Myanmar also started working on these issues and started inviting national and international investors to invest in tourism development in their respective countries.

UNWTO is also advocating with different countries across the world on relaxation on their visa policy to increase flow of foreign tourist. India has also announced electronic tourist visa and visa on arrival facilities for several countries. Current discussions are also about how to open the rural areas for tourism development, wherein the UNWTO is advocating that local communities open their homes as homestays, while also linking this to sustainable tourism. The debate on tourism and its impacts has been limited to environmental impacts at best and all other detrimental fall outs of tourism have been overlooked. Much as we see in the next section, promotion of tourism and serving the interests of the industry have been the focus of tourism debates internationally.

Policy and Budgets

The Ministry of Tourism announced the Draft National Tourism Policy (NTP), 2015 on May 1st. The draft tourism policy has proposed to open up many new areas to develop tourism within the country by promoting and

developing tourism products according to the needs of the industry. The draft policy fails to acknowledge and address issues and concerns which people affected by tourism and civil society organisations have raised from across India.

The draft policy proposes to create Brand India with what it terms as the 5 Ts: Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology. In the context of tourism, the government has followed up on its plan and has constantly promoted India by liberalising its visa regime despite not having a policy on the same, and promoting India at various international platforms. In terms of niche products, MoT has identified Cruise, Adventure, Medical, Wellness, Golf, Polo, Meetings Incentives Conferences & Exhibitions (MICE), Ecotourism, Film Tourism and Sustainable Tourism. The action plan which has been prepared for development of these tourism products has already been put in place before announcement of tourism policy.

The process undertaken by the Ministry to write this policy document was flawed and unconstitutional. No discussions took place with the Local Self Governing Institutions (LSGIs) who govern the tourism destinations and despite people losing their land and livelihood to the industry. People who are dependent on natural resources like forests, coasts and grasslands often find themselves restricted, as tourism is developed without taking into consideration the carrying capacity of these regions.

The draft NTP, 2015 does not alert the industry as to implications of unregulated tourism development, thereby not creating the space for the much needed regulatory mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of people affected by tourism. Further, the large corporate entities will also get tax benefits and subsidies.

While the NTP seeks to emphasize upon the enhanced and greater role of Center, state tourism institutions (that include State Tourism Development Corporations, other autonomous public sector agencies, District Councils, elected bodies like Panchayats and Municipalities) find no mention in it. Also, emphasis on centralization and placing tourism in the concurrent list undermines not only their present significant role in tourism promotion, but also the scope of meaningful participation of these institutions in future policy interventions.

The Ministry of Tourism got a 70% hike in the Union Budget with an allocation of Rs 1,590 crore from Rs. 980 crore, to focus on infrastructure development and promotion and publicity initiatives. For 2016-17, the government allocated Rs 900 crore for infrastructure development with over Rs 700 crore for Swadesh

³ <http://www.e-unwto.org/loi/wtobarometereng>

⁴ <https://www.wttc.org/-/media/files/reports/economic%20impact%20research/regions%202016/world2016.pdf>

Darshan scheme and Rs 100 crore for PRASAD scheme. Apart from central grants, centre as well as state is trying to get investment from Indian as well as foreign investors.

At the state level, the trends of formulating state tourism policy is also influenced by the draft NTP. Between 2015-2016, 15 states have announced draft / finalised new tourism policies or are in the process of formulating one. While the NTP is still in draft form, many aspects of the draft document are already visible in the state tourism policies: increasing private investments, development of inter-departmental coordination, PPP, land, single window clearance, and new areas development. The focused areas and products which these states have already started to develop are (i) Development of facilities to support MICE in urban centres (ii) Mega Tourism Projects in high-potential areas (iii) Cruise Tourism along the long coastline (iv) Water / Amusement/ Theme Parks (v) Spiritual Tourism (vi) Coastal/ Beach Tourism (vii) Cinematic Tourism (viii) Khadi, Handloom, Handicraft and Textile Tourism (ix) Archaeological and Historical Tourism (x) Geo-tourism (xi) Eco and Wildlife Tourism (xii) Adventure Tourism and Water Sports (xiii) Wellness and Medical Tourism (xiv) Rural Tourism (xv) Educational Tourism (xvi) Cuisine Tourism (xvii) Industrial Tourism.

State Departments of Tourism (DoT) have also started developing the circuit and theme based tourism. These include Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan following on the lines of the draft NTP. Also, there is significant discussion on developing religious tourism through these new state tourism policies. Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sikkim, also came up with homestay policies. Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have developed heritage policies as well. Yoga and Wellness in Kerala, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are gaining popularity as central government has given priority to these things through establishing Medical and Wellness Tourism Promotion Board.

Neither has the centre nor the states followed a decentralised decision making process while working on the tourism policies/schemes. Industry interests have remained central and privileged by the policies / schemes. Concerns of the unorganised sector in tourism and people living in and around tourism destinations have not found space in these documents.

Legislation

Land

In 2015, attempts had been made to amend The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 ordinances. Through this ordinance, the Government planned to dilute the existing land laws by making land acquisition easier by omitting steps like social impact assessment, impact on food security, consent of 80% of the land owners, assessment of displacement or of communities affected by displacement. This extends to PPPs as well. The amendments proposed through this ordinance were completely in favour of the corporates and the industry to enable acquisition of large tracts of land without any accountability. The ordinance lapsed in August 2015 and it was not renewed. The finalisation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 has been advanced to the 2016 monsoon session of the Parliament.

The diluting land laws in the country have the potential to affect millions of farming communities and the adivasi communities who depend on their land for their survival. In terms of tourism, these land reforms would enable in acquiring land easily for Mega Tourism Projects, Special Tourism Zones, and for PPP projects. Creation of such land banks for the purpose of tourism has the potential to displace such communities, and in turn favouring the investors, businesses with an interest in tourism.

Transgender

Another development that would have aided the struggle of Transgender community was to decriminalise homosexuality. This was a view that was even shared by the RSS and by political parties such as Congress, CPM and some members of the BJP. However in Lok Sabha, a private member's bill calling for decriminalizing homosexuality was defeated twice.

However the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, decided to go ahead with the 'Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2016' which seeks to provide recognition to transgenders and protect their rights despite other ministries "failing" to send their comments. It has sent the draft bill to the Ministry of Law and Justice for finalisation before it is sent to the Cabinet for approval.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people in India face a variety of issues. So far, transgender

communities have been excluded from effectively participating in social and cultural life, economy, political participation and decision-making processes. A primary reason of the exclusion has been the lack of legal recognition of the gender status of transgender people. Therefore, this Bill has huge significance as far as the rights of the LGBT community is concerned.

Child

2015 witnessed policy level changes in two legislations in relation to children. The Union Government proposed amendments to allow employment of children below 14 years in family enterprises, audio-visual entertainment industry and sports industry except circus on condition that such work does not interfere with their education. The proposed amendment potentially opens loopholes that will sustain or even encourage exploitation of children. The move to allow children to work in family enterprises is problematic as it moves to a space which is extremely difficult to regulate. Employers will use the exemption by showing that the children employed were their next of kin and it was a family business. The unorganised entertainment sector is part of tourism, the acrobatic and fire work performances of children from adivasi communities, the cultural performances of children from local groups in tourism destinations are all directly related to tourism.

The recent amendment to the Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) 2011 is a significant change that would impact the way juveniles in conflict with law will be dealt with. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 has been passed by Parliament of India wherein juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16–18, involved in heinous offences, can be tried as adults. Though there were protests by the social activists on the recent amendment, but the Act came into force from 15th January 2016. Several new offences committed against children, which are so far not adequately covered under any other law, have also been made part of this law. These include: sale and procurement of children for any purpose including illegal adoption, corporal punishment in child care institutions, use of child by militant groups, offences against disabled children and, kidnapping and abduction of children.

Governance

Karnataka has passed the Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Bill (Second Amendment), 2015 in February 2016. It is a significant legislation that prescribes transfer of decision

making to the Grama Sabhas (GS). The state government, through the passing of this legislation, has demonstrated its willingness towards democratic participation and decentralization. The legislation transfers decision making on all developmental issues, including tourism, to the GS.

Industry

Last year witnessed the recognition of tourism as an industry, as per various State Tourism Policies that have been unveiled during the period. Out of the 7 states that approved new tourism policies, 4 states – Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh – have accorded tourism the status of an ‘industry’. These State Tourism Policies also seem to be in sync with the draft National Tourism Policy, which puts special focus on inviting private investments, setting up single window clearance mechanisms for managing various clearances, renewals, rules to set up hotels, resorts, restaurants, amusement and theme parks and even mega tourism projects.

According to newspapers, granting industry status has paved way for various benefits and subsidies for large investments in the tourism and hospitality sector, for example exemptions on luxury tax, entertainment tax, electricity duty, along with 100% exemption on stamp duty and land conversion costs. States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka are also offering more subsidies depending on the scale of the project, encouraging investments for large, mega, and ‘ultra-mega’ tourism projects. This goes to show that the Government continues to facilitate the workings of the businesses of the tourism industry, by setting up mechanisms that bypass the LSGs and granting clearances for large scale projects overnight to the tourism industry.

With impetus given to Industrial Corridors and the Smart City Mission, the Government is encouraging the hotel industry to expand in these regions, which mostly include tier-II cities. Through Industrial Corridors like the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Smart Cities, the encouragement for mid-range and budget hotels to expand has come in through the rise of business travellers and MICE tourism in these regions. Alternatively, according to news reports after the Union Budget for the year 2016-17 was announced in February 2016, there has also been a demand from the hotel industry to lower the threshold of infrastructure status for hotel projects from Rs. 200 crores down to Rs. 25 crores. This would enable even budget and mid-range hotel projects to be eligible for subsidised loans from the banking sector.

Tourism Education

There is a major focus on skill and capacity building by the new government. There was a proposal given by the Ministry of Tourism to declare NCHMCT (National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology), Noida as an Institute for National Importance by an act of Parliament as it will function as a nodal/umbrella institute, with the many institutes at the state level affiliated to this one.

Besides the regular institutional academic effort leading to award of diplomas and degrees, MoT has put in place the following strategy to meet the sectoral skill requirement:

1. institutionalizing skill testing and certification
2. commissioning pre-service skill development training programmes of short duration.

Following this strategy, Central Board of Secondary Education has decided to introduce five skill-based courses in tourism and hospitality from the academic year 2016. The courses will be taught to students of classes XI and XII and include food production, food and beverage services, front office management, bakery and confectionery, and travel and tourism. The Ministry has also decided to bring hospitality education into the mainstream through Government vocational schools, Industrial Training Institutes, polytechnic institutes, Government colleges, Universities and Public Sector Undertakings. Now every hotel and accommodation unit has to train manpower each year under the Hunar se Rojgar tak Scheme to reach the goal of skilled workforce of 5 million persons by the year 2022.

In terms of institutionalising skill testing and certification, as of now, 45 institutes – 21 Central Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), 17 State IHMs and 7 Food Craft Institutes – have the authority to test and certify skills in four hospitality trades namely food production, food and beverage service, bakery and housekeeping. Since the inception of this programme and till the close of January 2016, the total number of person certified stood at over 89000. Prayat Mitra, sensitizing programme for existing service providers, training for fast food delivery boys another set of initiative which MoT has initiated.

Above mentioned activity which MoT started between 2015- 2016 can be seen within the proposed draft NTP. There is a continuous push of MoT to start short term courses to cater to the need of tourism industry without recognising inherent problems within the existing tourism courses in India. There is negligible research done by the government on the issues linked to tourism education, curriculum, scope and capacity building of tourism academicians in India.

Infrastructure

In terms of roadways, the thrust has been on completing highway projects worth Rs. 16,000 crores and aiming at a target of 10,000 km of roads to be achieved through the PPP model. With 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved under Railways, the Government is pushing for private investments and have undertaken more than 20 projects worth Rs. 14,000 crores for laying new lines, doubling existing ones with focus on enhancing port connectivity. All these projects are also planned to be accomplished through the PPP model. Impetus has also been given to constructing 'all-weather' roads and railways to comparatively geographically inaccessible regions like the North-East region and the Himalayan States comprising of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim. Furthermore, plans have been implemented to integrate the countries' road and rail networks to other countries' road and rail networks like Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal in a bid to aid trade and tourist movement. The construction of helipads and ropeways has gained prominence in such places.

These developments point towards improving the 'last-mile connectivity' to the tourist destinations especially in the North-East regions and the Himalayan States. This would enable movement of people and tourists on a large scale, thus opening up potentially environmentally fragile regions to centres of tourism induced development.

It is not just surface transport that has been the focus, but also waterways (including inland waterways). The Government enacted the National Waterways Act, 2016 in March and declared 111 rivers across the country as 'National Waterways' to boost the movement of goods and passengers in the country. The Sagarmala project – an ambitious port-led development project – also plans to improve coastal connectivity by increasing the capacity of existing major ports and adding 12 new ports which would be connected to the inland waterways. Development of tourism along the coast is also a part of this project, along with the creation of Coastal Economic Zones in all 13 coastal states and union territories, according to news reports.

These are extremely large-scale infrastructure projects but there has been a failure to address what kind of impact there would be to the coastal communities. Also it is important to note that such large-scale infrastructure is bound to affect the banks of the inland waterways, the ecosystems that survive in that region and human settlements of the local communities.

Economic Policy

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) still remain to be the preferred model of tourism development for many states especially those states that have released a new policy in the last year. In Maharashtra, there seems to be a major push for completing the stranded tourism projects this year, most of which are in the realm of PPPs. In order to achieve this, the Maharashtra state government has formed an inter-departmental team to ensure the fast-tracking of these projects. Karnataka has continued with the PPP model as the driving force for tourism development through its new tourism policy, even though the same model failed to achieve its objective of tourism development between 2010-2015, as per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on the performance of the Karnataka State Tourism Department.

Special Tourism Zones (STZs) and/or Mega Tourism Projects (MTPs) in different forms are coming up across the country and new tourism policies at the centre and states also support these. Some of the examples are Samukha in Odisha and Kevadia in Gujarat. These large scale projects facilitate acquisition of large tracts of land to build high-end tourism infrastructure, which seem to be aided with the intention of diluting the land laws in the country and the slew of benefits and subsidies offered by many State Governments in their new Tourism Policies. Again, there has been a failure to address the impacts of such large tourism projects and the implications on the communities that live in these regions, their livelihoods and the environment. These projects seem to be facilitating the acquisition of large tracts of land through single window clearances in a completely undemocratic manner.

In Maharashtra, private companies can now take up nature conservancy projects to boost ecotourism on private lands surrounding tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries under corporate social responsibility (CSR). Early this year people came to know that the government of Karnataka had entered into agreement of adoption of various public spaces by corporate entities as part of their CSR initiative and maintain them for five years. This has led to corporatisation of private lands and public spaces.

There has also been a major push from the government, at both centre and state, to introduce labour reforms, after a hiatus, and they wish to get five new labour bills approved when the second half of the budget session which resumes in April 2016. Through these bills, the government wants to club around 40 existing labour laws

into four or five acts. This move is seen by trade unions across the country as 'anti-worker' or 'anti-labour', as these reforms will actually be diluting the existing laws that ensure employees' welfare.

Labour laws are being diluted to restrict the formation of unions, reduction of auditory gaze on establishments and relaxation on smaller enterprises from compliance to basic labour laws. The plan to recast the existing labour laws into five broad codes: industrial relations, wages, social security, safety and welfare and working conditions. State governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have amended their labour laws to make them more industry friendly. In the tourism industry, the hospitality sector has high levels of contract labour and the rest of the workers of tourist areas are self-employed and hence outside the purview of almost all labour laws. In the light of such draconian changes in laws regarding regulation and dilution of rights to the workers, the labour in tourism stands in a very precarious position, and will have no space to be heard. Tourism is time bound and already an unregulated sector. The implications of these changes in labour laws would further contractual employment thus having a broader impact on social security. Additionally, the unorganised labour force in tourism is high. With the dilution of laws for even the organised sector, there is little hope for the protection of labour in the unorganised sector.

Types of Tourism

Many of the states, especially the western Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are promoting fairs and festivals-based tourism. In 2015-2016, Gujarat had 21 fairs and festivals listed under the DoT. Additionally, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited is increasing the number of days for the Rann Utsav, from 95 days to 107 days, and has opened a bidding process for expanding the Rann Utsav into another tent city in Dhorodo, and replicating the model at Mandvi during the tourist season. Fairs and festivals have also found great significance in states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh along with "adivasi culture" in Maharashtra. Many State Tourism Departments such as Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh are also in the process of organising fairs and festivals on PPP basis, in an attempt to adopt our historical and cultural assets into tourism products.

Religion, which has always been a prime reason for travel, has found new expressions with the tourism industry capitalising on it through various religious circuits – like

the Buddhist circuits in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar. Amarnath Yatra (Kashmir), Kumbh Melas (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra) and Meenakshi Kalyanam (Tamil Nadu), Rath Yatra (Odisha), Pandharpur Palkhi Yatra (Maharashtra), Sonepur Livestock fair (Bihar) and Nada Devi Rajat Jat (Uttarakhand) are some selected festivals, fairs and yatras recommended by MoT to initially launch the Clean India campaign.

Related to heritage and culture, many state governments have announced heritage tourism schemes after the announcement of draft NTP like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh has also formulated a heritage tourism policy with a selection of more than 100 heritage buildings.

There is a growing trend of development of MICE tourism which is very prominent with the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka. For example creation of business districts like the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar and the emergence of Smart Cities like Kochi, Indore, Pune plan to give a huge boost to this type of tourism.

Seaplanes in tourism has been a concept which many state governments are trying to push as a new tourism product. The coastal states of Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh have actively tried to initiate seaplanes. It is not just the coastal areas, but even in states like Uttarakhand, seaplanes are being mooted by using water bodies like reservoirs of dams, lakes.

Medical tourism and Wellness tourism is also high on the Government's agenda. The MoT has set up the National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board for its promotion. To promote medical tourism, the Government is planning to relax visa norms by facilitating visa on arrival, faster immigration, multiple entry visa, along with improving hospital infrastructure across the country.

Environment

Forest

Promoting tourism in forest areas in the name of ecotourism was visible in the past year. The push for creating ecotourism hubs or 'hotspots' was seen across the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, West Bengal. The Odisha Government is to invest Rs. 100 crores to develop 40 ecotourism destinations in the state. West Bengal has plans to develop eco-tourism hubs in North Bengal, an example being Gajoldoba. At the policy level, the recently released tourism policy of Gujarat sees

ecotourism as a crucial tool for tourism development in the state. In a bid to encourage tourism in forest areas, Maharashtra has established 'Nisarg Paryatan Vikas Mandal' – an Ecotourism Promotion Board.

Such large scale promotion of tourism in forest areas also comes at a time when the Government is intending to change and dilute many of the laws protecting forest lands. For example, the Cabinet gave its approval to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill that aims to utilise thousands of crores of rupees (38,000 crores as per news reports) as compensation for diverting forest land for 'non-forest purposes' like setting up industries or infrastructure projects. There are strong intentions to dilute the The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 or commonly known as the Forest Right Act, 2006 by doing away with the informed consent from concerned gram sabhas in the form of a written resolution before adivasi forest lands are given away by the government to industry.

These changes potentially affect a large proportion of the population who are dependant on the forest for their livelihoods. Linked to these changes are the changes proposed in land acquisition laws. This would enable the creation of ecotourism 'hubs' or 'hotspots' which are being talked about by each state.

Coast

Tourism already exists in most of the ecosystems in the country. Over the past year, the union government is pushing ahead with its plans for developing 1,100 islands and 300 lighthouses across the nation to tap their tourism potential. Apart from this, they also plan to seek The Parliament nod on a Bill for converting 101 rivers into waterways by developing them on the PPP mode. The government has already started preparing the Detailed Project Reports for 16 of the 101 identified rivers. Tourist modes of transportation (also seen as tourism products) such as cruise ships, houseboats, seaplanes have remained as the focus while, at the same time islands, beach and river front developments are also being given the impetus.

Over the past few years seaplane operations have faced resistance from the people in Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa. However this has not deterred the operators who have continued to explore places from where operations can be started. While earlier, this was restricted mainly to The coastal and backwater stretch, now even large reservoirs are being considered. A CAG report has criticised The Kerala government for its failure in implementing the

seaplane project even after Rs 23.29 crore was sanctioned towards it, saying the state's Tourism Department should have conducted the feasibility study before venturing into the project. It further went on to add that the failure of the Department to identify and address the concerns of the local fishermen, who feared loss of livelihood if the project was implemented, culminated into The non-implementation of it. In Maharashtra, service operator Mehair launched the Nashik and Pune service. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are states where the seaplane services are in the pipeline while in the hilly state of Uttarakhand seaplane services are proposed on the lakes as an adventure sport.

Two islands of Lakshadweep, have been designated as immigration check posts in an effort to attract foreign luxury cruises. A team was constituted to finalize the integrated island management plan as well as look into allegations of the violation of coastal regulation zone by resorts in Lakshadweep. The report has gone into the carrying capacity of islands, besides suggesting a reduction in The CRZ baseline from 50m to 20m. With the Supreme Court directly monitoring the implementation of the report, the administration is keen on promoting high-end low-volume tourism. On the Andaman side, the Centre is considering a proposal to open up 5 islands to tourists to promote them as ecotourism destinations.

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation decided to promote water tourism by organising the Jal Mahotsava at Hanuwantia island of the Indrasagar dam. A wide range of adventure sport activities as well as accommodation (cottages and tents) were constructed on the island.

A long standing demand of the coastal states at various points in time has been for the relaxation of the CRZ norms. Last year, 4 out of the 8 coastal states (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Goa) have asked for the reduction of the No Development Zone from 200 metres to 100 metres for construction of tourism infrastructure. In Karnataka, 42 beaches and 4 islands that have tourism potential have been identified. What is often missing is the impact that unregulated tourism development has on the local communities and the environment. For instance, Mandrem in Goa, within a span of a decade has many hotels, resorts and guesthouses that has come up. There are at least eight major complaints against resorts in this belt. The structures have usurped the No Development Zone area, raised ground-plus-one concrete structures with kitchens, toilets and bathrooms and the discharging sewage in the eco-fragile zone. Some states such as Kerala and Maharashtra have stopped

recommending projects proposed in coastal areas for environment clearance.

For certain high profile tourism events / projects – such as the World Culture Festival or the Statues of Shivaji and Sardar Patel, there have been serious contentions raised by civil society organisations with regard to environmental clearances. The Culture Festival backed by the government, brazenly flouted the environmental rules and regulations. The venue was spread over 1,000 acres with the stage, built over a 7 acre area. The Delhi Development Authority, which manages the Yamuna's floodplains, gave permission wherein it should have considered that no construction activity, permanent or otherwise, can be allowed on the floodplains because it causes damage to the fragile ecosystem of the river. While the National Green Tribunal (NGT) too raised critical issues however it allowed for the event to continue on the grounds that the organiser pay Rs 5 crore for the damage caused to the environment, ecology, biodiversity and aquatic life of the river.

The second example is the case of the two statues. According to media reports, the Shivaji statue is to be built on a rocky outcrop 3.6 km towards the sea. The site falls in CRZ IV and will involve new construction, reclamation of land and fortification of the sea wall. Under CRZ norms, reclamation or construction activity in the water up to 12 nautical miles into the sea is prohibited. However, an amendment proposes to ease these norms to allow the construction of memorials in the sea. Perhaps fearing criticism from the public, the government of Maharashtra had requested the central government to waive the public hearing, an important step getting the clearance. The expert appraisal committee, looking into the matter, has obliged.

The Statue of Unity is to be built 3.2 km downstream of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. It will involve massive construction that will have a serious impact on the ecology and environment of the area. The project is in an environmentally sensitive area, making the relevant clearance a necessity. However, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd, which is implementing the project, counters this claim, by saying that such a clearance is needed only if the construction area is more than 20,000 square metres, much more than what the project will require. A case has been filed. A well-established process for obtaining a green clearance is not only imperative for the people and the environment but also for the government. These two projects may set a precedence for other development projects. An exemption from public hearings is a lost chance to gain public trust and involve citizens.

Governance

While the Bill to provide 33% reservation for women continues to be stuck in Parliament, the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has proposed a legislation to reserve 50% of the seats in rural and urban local bodies for women. The reason to extend this across the country was because over the years, more than half the states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) have increased the quota of women's representation to 50% in PRIs while a few have extended it to even urban local bodies. This proposal is intended to empower women politically while extending to them necessary financial assistance in other sectors. Other developments in relation to governance have been with state governments putting in place e-governance structures that will connect all gram panchayats in the state and the launch of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission aimed at making villages smart and growth centres of the nation, conceptualised on the lines of the Smart Cities Mission. The plan is to identify and develop these villages in a cluster approach. For the selection of clusters, factors like demography, economy, tourism, pilgrimage significance and transportation corridor impact will be considered.

While we will need to see how these developments pan out, three contrasting instances were observed in relation to tourism and governance. In the Balussery (Kerala) legislative assembly constituency, over a dozen individuals, a few temple committees and one grama panchayat have expressed willingness to donate their land for the Balussery tourism corridor project for improving the tourism potential in their locality. On the other hand, the people of Pedda Karagraharam panchayat of Machilipatnam mandal (Andhra Pradesh) have decided to pass a resolution against the State Government's move to acquire nearly 650 acres of land in the panchayat for various port-based industries. The third is of the Mawlynnong village in Meghalaya who have formed the Mawlyngbna Multipurpose Cooperative Society to manage and cater to the inflow of domestic and foreign tourists.

In all three instances, for different purposes and in varying degrees the LSGs have consciously engaged in the way tourism is planned and developed in the area, a discussion which is often missing in the Gram Sabhas. There is a need to have greater awareness and the exercising of the powers that LSGs have in relation to tourism development to ensure that tourism is governed based

on the needs and aspirations of the local people and that this power is not taken away, which we can already see in many instances. One area where this is clearly visible is the case of para-statal bodies that have been formed, which dictate the development route, leaving LSGs to then become mere implementing agencies. Many Development Agencies already exist either for a particular theme or a geographical area, while new ones are constantly being formed such as the New Island Development Authority by the Gujarat Government to start implementation of the Sagarmala project.

Social Groups

Caste

Caste based atrocities and violence continues and is on the rise across the country. The dominant castes in India are using violence against Dalits to reinforce the hierarchical caste related power structures and suppress Dalit rights assertions and claims. The media has reported on a range of incidents that have taken place – from the denial of entry to public spaces, being fined for entering a temple, being beaten for partaking of food at a function in the community hall of a village, discrimination in schools, access to water in public places, renting houses in villages and towns, being smeared by kumkum for writing on the caste system, often threatened with their lives, and at times even going to the extreme extent of Dalits being killed by upper caste people because of a fight over a mobile phone or honour killings.

Despite the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”, not much has changed on the ground and there are still an estimated 1.3 million manual scavengers in the country, nearly 90% are women. The campaign aims to put an end to open defecation and adopt better solid waste management practices, which has now also received support from the World Bank (loan of USD 1.5 billion). However according to media reports only 20-25% of the target in terms of toilet construction has been achieved while on the garbage management front, the results are even more abysmal.

Karnataka Tourism Policy mentions that major impetus will be given to development of backward regions, women and differently-abled entrepreneurs and those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes while the Ministry of Tourism, launched a mobile app, which will enable travellers to send pictures of dirty spots at 25 tourist places to the authorities for “immediate action” as part of Clean India Mission. However on the other hand

tourist infrastructure or places of visitations like hotels and temples continue to be spaces of exploitation for the Dalit people. Overt and sometimes hidden discriminatory practices range from blatant use of double tumblers in hotels and tea shops or the denial of entry in temples entering places of worship is rampantly practised. News about minor girls being gang raped in hotels is also reported.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has decided to offer a 3 month certificate course for non-Brahmins in temple rituals and practices for about 200 people from dalit and backward communities, which EQUATIONS believes is a regressive move. Temple authorities in the name of training youths are consciously and systematically altering beliefs and cultures though do not guarantee any employment in the temple. The youth trained will only be allowed to perform the rituals which can be done by the general public and not the ones practised by the traditional priests. As a part of the training they will focus on the general tenets of the Vedic religion, evolution of temple system, the dos and don'ts of idol worship and rituals, and conduct of festivals, will be asked to perform yoga and recite the prescribed mantras before attending the classroom – none of which might be part of their culture.

The number of registered cases of anti-Dalit atrocities, which is often under-reported, jumped by 17.1% in 2013 (compared to 2012) according to the NCRB and by 19.4% in 2014. According to a report of the National Crimes Statistics there is rising violence against Dalit women, highlighting that rape cases registered against them have increased by 47% since the previous decade. However even with the introduction of special courts for speedy trials, the conviction rate has remained very low and has declined even — from 30% in 2011 to 22.8% in 2013 while the percentage of “pending cases” has increased from 80 to 84%, under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention Of Atrocities), Act 1989.

Child

The proposed amendment to the Child Labour act bans children below the age of 14 to be employed at any commercial establishment, however allows children who help their parents in family businesses and traditional work involving some art and skill. This amendment will predominantly affect the children of the most marginalised castes, in particular dalit, adivasi and Muslim children as they are often forced to work because of their family's marginalised status and lack of alternatives. This change in legislation also brought to

light many organisations in Karnataka sharing data based on studies conducted (Bengaluru has the highest number of working children in Karnataka followed by Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Mysuru and Yadgir) or how the Sumangali Scheme promoted by many textile mills in Tamil Nadu as a dowry earning scheme continues in reality as a cruel bonded labour practice. Gujarat government plans to eliminate child labour starting with six districts as the school drop out ratio was found to be higher there.

Other issues reported by the media on the exploitation of children were the increase in sexual and online sexual abuse of children, the trafficking of children from other states to the orphanages in Kerala, rise in child marriages registered in Haryana & Rajasthan and with the under-five mortality rate in India being seven times higher than in high-income countries. According to data released by the NCRB, the trafficking of minor girls, surged 14 times over the last decade and increased 65% in 2014. Highest cases under POCSO were in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Each of these issues is also linked to tourism. A study on child sex tourism by a PhD scholar from Pondicherry University speaks about how children are sexually abused in Puducherry and its surrounding areas bordering Tamil Nadu by foreign and domestic tourists. Child labour is rampant across many tourism destinations, especially places of pilgrimage and during the mega religious events like the Jagannath Dham (Odisha) or Dasara (Mysuru). A report by Child Rights and You concluded that there has been a 53% increase in child labour in the country. For the protection of children, the Ministry of Railways and Women and Child has proposed to set up of an online registration program to help parents trace their missing or runaway children rescued at railway stations. This has been a long-standing demand of many CSOs.

LGBT

Post the Supreme Court judgement recognising transgenders as the third gender, Karnataka and Telangana are in the process of conducting surveys, based on which the government will take the lead to ensure gender minorities' access social entitlements and support them in exercising their constitutional rights. Further many states (Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir) have are planning to set up the Transgender (Welfare) Boards that will aid in the implementation of the NALSA judgement.

West Bengal has gone a step further and announced the launch of a helpline, considering the appointment of community members as civic police volunteers, constructing separate toilets for them and to start sex reassignment surgery facilities in state-run hospitals for transgenders. Kerala, on the other hand is working more towards financial independence by initiating the Gender – Taxi (G-Taxi) based on the She-Taxi scheme. This they believe is a step towards ending societal stigma towards the transgender community, by providing them a better means for livelihood and to ensure them non-discriminatory treatment in society.

While there are steps being taken in the right direction by setting in place protection mechanisms, a life of dignity is still a distant dream as they continue to be ostracised by their families and the society incidents of which we continue to hear about from across the country. There is the need to recognise them as people with equal rights.

Women

Maharashtra government based on the guidelines of the Union government, and following suit from Rajasthan, decided to make several amendments to the Factories Act, 1948, for allowing women employees to work in night shifts while asking institutions to undertake security measures. Within tourism, to ensure safety of women travellers, the Karnataka DoT plans to train and deploy 425 tourist mitras in 319 destinations, the Telangana transport department launched She Cabs, a taxi service provided by women for women while the Thiruvananthapuram City police launched 'She Auto'. For the latter however there are a fewer takers among women auto drivers (only 6 of the 300 who are part of the project). There are also private all women taxi operators in many states. An increasing trend among tour operators (often owned by women entrepreneurs) is catering to single women travelling alone which is on the rise.

While on the one hand there are efforts made towards the empowerment of women, on the other hand the exploitation and violence faced by women is a matter

of serious concern. In India, one woman is being raped every 29 minutes, is a victim of sexual abuse every 59 minutes, every 22 minutes we see one dowry victim and violence against a women at every 3 minutes as reported by the media. If one is to take into consideration the broader framework of empowerment, India currently ranks 135 among 147 nations on Women Empowerment Index of United Nation's Human Development Index. This is based on the status of women covering health, education, work and decision making along with social obstacles in women empowerment.

According to media reports, trafficking of young girls and women from North East India, for tourism purposes is on the rise with increasing incidents being reported across the country – from the coastal areas of southern India to Uttar Pradesh. Gurgaon has over 60 spas and night clubs which is also where they find potential customers and often it is the club and spa operators themselves who deploy touts to solicit for sexual services. Women from the Northeast because of their features, are presented before unsuspecting customers as "Thai girls" to offer "Thai massage". These spas also have women from other countries involved in the business, mostly employed at high-end spas. They come to India on short-term tourist visas, work here and get replaced after a month or two. These situations put women in oppressive circumstances which they then find extremely difficult to get out of because of varied reasons such social stigma, financial needs and lack of other employment opportunities. In Goa, middlemen have gone a step further where they photograph Goan girls and women and share these with male tourists. These Goan women are not sex workers, but are residents.

Another alarming trend is that of surrogacy tourism which violates the rights of surrogate mothers, who are forced to sell their womb due to poverty. The government is proposing a law to safeguarding the interests of surrogate mothers and their children and will bar foreigners, Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin from availing surrogacy facilities in India.

OUR WORK IN 2015 – 2016

Networking Interventions

EQUATIONS endeavours to achieve its mission working in collaboration with organisations and peoples movements. Over the last year, we continued our engagement with diverse groups. We have been in solidarity with people's movements and various struggles and movements linked to land, forest rights, coastal and environmental groups and unorganised sector (vendors, artisans, sex workers). Our alliances with civil society organisations and groups on child rights, women's rights, rights of LGBT communities and monitoring groups of national and international financial institutions, public private partnerships, forest rights, globalisation and trade networks in the country continued.

At the national level, we engaged with the Centre for Workers' Management, Delhi Forum, Bank Information Centre, National Hawkers Federation and Public Finance Public Accountability Collective.

At the state level, we collaborated with many organisations on various issues. We worked closely with the Anyay Rahit Zindagi, Caritas, Centre for Responsible Tourism, Children's Rights in Goa, Council for Social Justice and Peace, Goanchea Ramponkarancha Ekvot (Goa), Kachchh Heritage, Art, Music, Information and Resources (Gujarat), Himalaya Niti Abhiyan, Sambhavna Institute (Himachal Pradesh), Alternative Law Forum, Aneka, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Environmental Support Group, Jeeva, Karnataka Sexual Minorities Forum, Karnataka Sex Workers Union, Ondede, Raksha, Samanvaya Karnataka, Samara, Sangama (Karnataka), Adhar Khajuraho, Hifazat Coalition for the Protection of Children, M P Institute of Social Science Research, Vikas Samvad Samiti (Madhya Pradesh), Gorai Machhimar Sahakari Sanstha (Maharashtra), Indigenous Perspectives (Manipur), Gopabandhu Seva Parishad, Spandan (Odisha), Law Trust, Social Need Education and Human Awareness,

Society for Action (Tamil Nadu), Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti, North Eastern Society for Preservation of Nature and Wildlife, Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch (West Bengal), on addressing tourism issues.

In solidarity with our international partners, we have continued our engagement with ECPAT International, ECPAT Netherlands, ECPAT South Asia Regional Network on child and tourism. With the formation of the Tourism Action and Advocacy Forum we engaged with Alternative Tourism Group, Altervoyages, Badayl Alternatives, Golan for Development of the Arab Villages, International Support Centre for Sustainable Tourism, Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisations Forum, tim-team, Vertientes del Sur – Perú and academician from University of South Australia.

We have continued our engagement with central and state level Ministries and other government bodies such as the Ministry of Tourism, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, and with the Department of Women and Child Development, Karnataka. We also met with Members of Parliament in relation to our work.

Our interactions with the tourism industry, were connected to our work on the Safe and Honourable Tourism Code and with Accor Hotels by working with them to implement the requirements of The Code.

To build awareness on tourism issues with students and academics we engaged with Chirala Engineering College (Andhra Pradesh) & Kodagu Vidayala, Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology (Karnataka) and tourism teaching institutions like the Christ University, Jyoti Nivas College, St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Karnataka) and Banaras Hindu University (Uttar Pradesh).

INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES AND TOURISM MODELS

National Tourism Policy: The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) announced draft National Tourism Policy (NTP) on its website on 1st May 2015. Less than 10 days time was given to the public to study the document, investigate related issues and prepare comments. A joint statement by 35 civil society organisations from across the country

working on tourism and related issues was issued, rejecting the policy and raising questions regarding the process and content – which is limited in its vision, flawed in its approach and aims to centralise power, places central bureaucracy and corporates at the core and is anti-people.

EQUATIONS met in May and July 2015, Members of Parliament (MPs) from different political parties, some of whom are part of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Transport, Tourism and Culture. We shared with them our concern regarding the draft Policy and raise pertinent questions regarding this in Parliament. An MP wrote a personal letter to the Tourism Minister asking him to take into consideration the issues we raised and followed it up with another letter when he did not receive a response. EQUATIONS also met with Secretary Tourism in July 2015 where we shared with him the concerns and submitted detailed comments on the draft NTP.

In February 2016, we read in a national newspaper which quoted the Tourism Secretary stating that the NTP has been placed in the Cabinet for approval. EQUATIONS was concerned that issues we had raised might not have been taken into consideration in the final draft. It was with this objective, that we put together an updated note 'Draft National Tourism Policy, 2015: A Mockery of Democracy'. EQUATIONS met with the Cabinet Ministers of Tourism, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Tribal Affairs, as well as with other Members of Parliament to share our concerns regarding the current tourism developments in regard to the Policy and sought their intervention to raise pertinent questions regarding this in Parliament. A positive outcome from these engagements has been the placing of a Special Mention on the Policy before the Rajya Sabha by an MP, to which the Tourism Ministry would need to respond to.

We also filed RTIs with the MoT, seeking information on the comments and suggestions they have received on the draft NTP as well as on the Policy that was sent to the Cabinet for approval. While we have received the 1st set of information which we will be analysing in the coming months, the 2nd set of information was not sent stating it to be a confidential document.

State Tourism Policies: In December 2015, the Maharashtra Tourism Department had published a Consultation Paper ahead of the new Tourism Policy that they plan to announce in 2016, seeking suggestions and opinions from tourism stakeholders. EQUATIONS made a submission in which we highlighted the lack of recognition of people living in and around tourism destinations and the impacts that tourism has on their lives and livelihoods. The proposed policy had also failed to uphold critical structures as mandated by the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments as the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas, which find no mention in the decision making process, when in actuality the Constitution reposes in them the right to take decisions on matters

impacting them and the development of the region.

Karnataka released its Tourism Policy (2015-2020) in July 2015. In February 2016, it came to our notice that several public spaces (which are tourist destinations) in Karnataka and mainly in Bengaluru were put up for 'adoption' under their initiatives for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Following this declaration, the artists of Venkatappa Art Gallery (VAG) - which is one of the chosen places - resisted this move by the Government. In March 2016, a talk was co-organised by Alternative Law Forum (ALF) and EQUATIONS. We shared our thoughts on the policy and the artists of VAG shared their experiences of the ongoing resistance. Post this discussions, ALF and EQUATIONS have filed RTI applications for the 6 sites that have been chosen in Bengaluru for adoption under CSR.

Community Based Tourism (CBT): Over the years different models, or more so different terminologies have evolved around the basic idea of Community Based Tourism. These include rural tourism / village tourism / community based ecotourism / sustainable tourism / responsible tourism. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also collaborated with Asian Development Bank (ADB) and obtained a loan to implement CBT in several areas in the state. Through the work of an Intern, we were able to identify and understand the objective of ADB and government on implementation of CBT in the state. The areas which are selected for project implementation are highly fragile, where the local community dependency is much more on the agricultural work. We felt the need to understand the concept of CBT and to draw out its nuances - the situation and involvement of local people in these processes and also to assess the nature and kind of CBT that has developed in Himachal Pradesh.

EQUATIONS over the past few years has also been in the process of documenting and analyzing various CBT initiatives across the country. Last year, in collaboration with HNA, we have initiated a research on assessing community involvement & ownership with a special focus on women, across different models of CBT in Himachal Pradesh. Internally this work is between the IPT and SCT programmes. We have been involved in secondary literature review, developing the research design and tools and undertaking a recce visit to HP to meet with people engaged in CBT. To test the research tools developed, we undertook a pilot study to Dhameta where we interviewed and organised group discussions among people that are a part of the CBT process. The next steps are to finalise the research note and tools based on the pilot study and to then visit the field to undertake the research.

Continuing the work on CBT, EQUATIONS in collaboration with Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch (SJSJ) initiated work on a CBT initiative in Kumirmari in the Sunderbans region, two years ago. In the last year, through our interactions with the local people and Panchayat, it was decided to call the Gram Sabha meeting and discuss about tourism and its linked issues.

In July 2015, in the Gram Sabha meeting a resolution was passed by the village people to form the village tourism committee. EQUATIONS, SJSJ and Kumirmari Panchayat organised and facilitated discussion on critical issues on tourism, CBT in the different parts of the village based on the planning in the month of August and September 2015. In the each meeting, village people collectively elected / selected their representative for the tourism committee. Meetings were organised in 15 hamlets of Kumirmari as a part of this process followed by the Gram Sabha meeting where the resolution recognising the tourism committee – the Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti (KJPS)



Community Meeting during the process of KJPS formation in Kumirmari, Sundarbans

was passed. Currently KJPS comprises of 5 women and 15 men including 3 representatives from the Panchayat and 1 each from EQUATIONS and SJSJ. Members of KJPS met with an advocate, regarding the legislative support in terms of legal identity of a tourism committee.

With the formation of the KJPS, the next steps included the tourism envisioning process. This process has been divided into three phases, with the 1st phase being a 3-day workshop with KJPS members to discuss and formulate a draft people's manifesto for tourism in Kumirmari. The workshop adopted the appreciative enquiry and the world café methods for discussions. Themes chosen for discussion included Understanding Communities & Place, Tourism Context and Development, Infrastructure Development, Capacity Building and Marketing, Role & Benefits sharing, Impacts, Social Justice and Development,



Member of Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti deposing before the panel during the Public Hearing on non-implementation of FRA, Gosaba, Sunderbans

Institution Building, Regulation & Monitoring Mechanism. The next steps would be exposure visits to tourism destination as well as with people who are engaged in the process of implementing CBT.

KJPS members were also part of the public hearing on the issue of non-implementation of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA). They deposed before the jury and shared on the issue of tourism in the Sunderbans and on the CBT initiative. They also participated at a 3-day workshop on Ecologically and Socially Sustainable Tourism organised by Sambhavna Institute and EQUATIONS in Himachal Pradesh.

Religious Tourism: Of all the reasons for domestic tourists to travel, embarking on pilgrimages features second. Tourism in India also has its roots in pilgrimages (across all religions) that people have been undertaking for centuries now. EQUATIONS felt that by not working on religious tourism, we are not addressing critical issues as several of the pilgrimages are also located in eco-fragile areas. Accordingly, in 2014, we initiated work by documenting impacts and issues of religious tourism in Amarnath, Jammu & Kashmir and in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Based on these visits, a report on Amarnath Yatra is being written. This research will contribute to a base paper that is being thought about as a part of our larger work on religious tourism. The other religious tourism places which will be documented are Ajmer (Rajasthan), Velankini (Tamil Nadu), Bodh Gaya (Bihar) and Amritsar (Punjab).

Campaigns: The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on a Civil Writ Public Interest Litigation ordered in Jan 2015, to immediately demolish all Khokas and Dhabas (sheds and eateries) which are unauthorised and illegal being carried on at Solang Nallah and to stop the plying of all vehicles from Manali to Rohtang which

are 15 years old, from coming tourism season. This move would have affected the livelihoods of thousands of peoples which was not taken into consideration. In July 2015, the NGT declined to relax the order and continued the ban of all tourist activities in and around the Rohtang Pass, to check environmental degradation. The two-member bench asked the government to come out with a rehabilitation policy for the people, mostly from the tourism industry, going to be affected by the ban.

EQUATIONS' shared with Himalayan Niti Abhiyan (HNA), who have been mobilising and supporting the

people in Manali, a document in relation to NGT's order. In our critique, we elaborated on the current situation in the Manali-Rohtang area which is the outcome of State apathy. The Tribunal has addressed the issues in the Manali-Rohtang area in a lopsided manner, wherein responsibility for the situation is unfairly placed on the unorganised sector of the tourism industry while allowing the bigger players of the industry and the government to walk away scot-free. The State Government, the Department of Tourism and the Forest Department need to be held accountable for the current situation of chaos on the Manali- Rohtang route.

ECONOMICS OF TOURISM

Economic Impacts of Tourism: On building an advisory panel for the our work in challenging the frameworks for assessing economic impacts of tourism rooted in neoclassical economics, EQUATIONS has been in contact with a professor from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He agreed to be a part of the panel, as well as support the work on the unorganised sector.

A study was also initiated on the issue of livelihoods versus employment as a collaborative effort by Law Trust, SNEHA, and EQUATIONS. Internally this work is between the EoT and ECT programmes. The region identified for this study was the coast of Tamil Nadu. Prior to identifying sites for the study, preliminary visits were conducted and the following six sites were finalised –

Mahabalipuram, Poompuhar, Pichavaram, Rameswaram, Koozhaiyar, Vizhunthamvadi, along with an additional site – Muthupetta. A concept note has been prepared detailing the observations, objectives of the study, and the research design. Next stage would be to conduct a pilot study at one of the sites, followed by phases of data collection.

Tourism Impact Assessment (TIA): In November 2014, EQUATIONS had initiated a TIA study to gather evidences of the ongoing tourism activities and their impacts, in the Banni region of Kutch in collaboration with KHAMIR. 2015 was spent in collecting primary data through five rounds of data collection, and was done by a team consisting of one staff from each of



Women fish vendors selling the day's catch on the beach at Poompuhar, Tamil Nadu



Vendors plying their trade at Velankanni Beach, near Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu

the collaborating organisations and 3 freelance research assistants. After data collection, we had a meeting with the panchayats of Banni to hear from them about their perspective on tourism and Rann Utsav. Representatives of 17 out of 19 panchayats were present and the meeting laid the foundation for future work with the people in the region. The draft report of the TIA study has been prepared and is in the process of being finalised.

Unorganised Sector in Tourism: EQUATIONS had prepared a draft report based on the issues of artisans in tourism from two field visits between 2013 and 2015. This report is being finalised by including information gaps and updated with regard to Geographical Indication (GI) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). This finalised report would give direction to our work on artisans in tourism.

National Hawker Federation (NHF) organised a national conference in February 2016 to bring forward the contribution of hawkers and street vendors to the national economy by organising various seminars on diverse issues ranging from urban poor, tourism, and climate change. EQUATIONS organised a seminar on “Tourism and Street Vending”.

Organised Sector in Tourism: EQUATIONS has continued to look at organised sector through research on corporate accountability. An external researcher started work in February 2015, through data collection amongst tour operators for a research on corporate social responsibility and corporate accountability. The report once written, would help in strengthening our existing corporate accountability framework.

We are collaborating with the Centre for Workers' Management (CWM) on hotel employees at tourist destinations. Initial mapping and profiling of the prevailing formal and informal workforce will be taken up, which is also set in the context of the livelihoods versus employment debate in tourism.

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Tourism: In the light of rampant increase in tourism infrastructure, it has become pertinent for empirical evidence to be documented about the way PPPs work in developmental projects. The work towards a dossier for the same had been initiated in 2014, and the Jal Mahal project in Jaipur, Rajasthan had been documented. The other two projects that were chosen were Gorai-Manori-Uttan Recreation and Tourism Development Zone (GMU-RTDZ), Maharashtra and Shamuka Tourism Project (STP), in Odisha. GMU-RTDZ and STP have faced opposition from local movements, with EQUATIONS having supported both the movements in the past. Currently

our efforts are focused on finalising the reports, and also for campaign and advocacy purposes.

Tourism Budgets: CBPS and EQUATIONS are collaborating on a study of tourism budgets of the MoT and 5 state DoTs. The aim of the study is to assess budgetary allotments, if any, for regulation of tourism. It is envisaged that the study would be used to put pressure on the MoT and DoTs on the need to make allocations for putting in place regulatory mechanisms on the tourism industry and mechanisms for the protection of communities living in and around tourism destinations. This would be done by assessing the heads under which tourism linked expenses are budgeted and implications of the same, the budget versus expense under different heads, and assessing the nature of inter-sectionality between tourism budgets and some selected allied sector budgets. The states identified are Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

A workshop was organised in May 2015 by ALF and EQUATIONS to understand and analyse the reports produced by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG). CAG is reposed with the responsibility of auditing union and state government accounts as well as of other government bodies (para-statals like BDA, BMTC). These audit reports are extremely insightful and some of which are landmark in their observations and directions to the government. However, neither does the government departments nor the civil society pay much attention to these reports. It was felt important for us who are at logger heads with the state on several issues, that these reports can offer the much needed impetus to support our statements, using government data. The workshop was attended by people from various organisations, academicians and general public.

A national level informal collective – Public Finance Public Accountability Collective' (PFPAC) - has been formed to monitor financial institutions. EQUATIONS is a member and part of the founding group. The area of Finance is vast and countering financial capitalism is extremely challenging, and thus prone to waywardness in the initial stages. It was thus decided to focus on certain key issues – Comptroller and Auditor General Reports, Banking, Taxation and Budget and understanding Goods and Services Tax (GST).

EQUATIONS attended the 57th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics held in October, 2015 in Srinagar. The conference covered themes of unpaid labour, labour and employment in manufacturing sector, right to work and on Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It is a fairly prestigious and large academic event with

a broad range of themes, and attracts many academicians and professionals in the field of labour and labour economics from across the country. EQUATIONS had not yet done any research on labour in tourism but it

was felt that it is a good opportunity for networking with labour economists at one place and to seek support in our work towards unorganised labour in tourism, and understanding the present debates.

ECOSYSTEMS, COMMUNITIES AND TOURISM

Seaplanes in Tourism: EQUATIONS realised the need to understand ground realities of the seaplane issue, as many states were proposing to implement seaplane projects which have a negative impact on the livelihoods of fishing communities and the environment. In Maharashtra, the situation is quite different from Goa. However, the future of seaplanes in Maharashtra does not seem promising as MEHAIR, the operators of seaplanes in India, are running into huge losses.

On the one hand in Goa, the resistance to seaplanes by Goanchea Ramponkarancha Ekvot (GRE), the Goan chapter of National Fishworkers Forum and local fisher people is immense, while on the other hand, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation is very particular about the implementation of the seaplane project. EQUATIONS provided support by sharing information and documents on seaplanes as requested for resistance by GRE. We plan to put together our experiences and learnings into a perspective paper of seaplanes in tourism.

Seaplanes are proposed at all coastal states except Odisha and West Bengal. Recently seaplanes were proposed in Andhra Pradesh at various sites including

Bheemunipatnam, Kakinada and Bhavani island. At Visakhapatnam, the Fishermen's Youth Welfare Organisation was met with and discussed about the impacts of seaplanes. At Bheemunipatnam and Kakinada, discussions were held with Vikasa. We shared about the impacts of seaplanes, details about how seaplanes would add to environmental degradation caused already by the Kakinada industrial park where the resorts are located. These organisations have expressed their concern over the seaplane issue and have expressed their intention to be part of the larger campaign.

EQUATIONS received an invitation from Chirala Engineering College to participate in Greener – a National conference with a focus on environment which was conducted in June 2015. EQUATIONS presenting a paper titled "Flights of Fancy: Seaplanes tourism in India".

Coasts, Communities and Tourism: A study on Coasts, Communities and Tourism in West Bengal was conducted by Disha in collaboration with EQUATIONS highlighting critical issues on coastal tourism at Digha, Sankarpur, Bakkali and Frazergunj. This report is currently in the draft form and is in the process of



Proposed site for Seaplanes service, Maharashtra



Proposed site for Seaplanes service, Maharashtra

being finalised. A visit to the coastal areas of Murud, Ratnagiri and Ganpatipule in Maharashtra was also carried out in April 2015 to explore tourism, its issues and impacts. The emphasis was on assessing the kind of tourism development that is taking place on the ground in comparison to the state plans.

Forests, Communities and Tourism:

Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA), North Bengal:

Following the RIA that was undertaken in 2014 by EQUATIONS in collaboration with NESPON on tourism development, another visit was undertaken in June 2015 to fill in gaps and the tourism platform in Buxa was also initiated, our plan to hold a press meeting in New Jalpaiguri could not be accomplished as there were heavy rains in the region causing harm to life and property and the media was focussing on that crucial matter. The plan is to finalise the RIA report, make it public and demand certain steps be taken by the government towards regulating tourism in the region.

As a part of the RIA study in the Buxa National Park, it was noticed that the adivasi homestay owners were being instrumentalised by the non-advansi, resourced communities of Alipur-Duar (the district headquarters). This was causing a change in the nature of tourism to be more exploitative – of the homestay owners being treated like managers by the moneyed class of the area and in terms of rampant abuse of women and sex work. It was collectively decided to form an association of the owners since that would help them bargain with the more powerful, resourced class of people controlling tourism in Buxa. In June 2015 such an association was formed, office bearers chosen and a work plan for 3 months was

finalised. The next step of work for EQUATIONS would be the strengthening of this association.

Rapid Impact Assessment, Calangute: The local communities in Tivvai Vaddo, Centre for Responsible Tourism (CRT), EQUATIONS and Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) came together to work on the illegal constructions by certain builders of a large hotel complex that was coming up. It was felt necessary to explore ways of resisting similar unregulated illegal constructions by campaigning for a change in land reforms at Goa. Based on this, the communities at Tivvai Vaddo filed a case in NGT against the builders. In February 2016, the NGT passed an order to maintain the status quo. Later on, it directed Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to sort out the matter before 4th May 2016. CRT is in the process of filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court. The communities at Tivvai Vaddo agree that a rapid impact assessment of tourism in the area will support the case that is to be filed in the High Court, which is being planned for the coming months.

Protected Area Observatory: EQUATIONS received an invitation to be part of a meeting organised by Foundation for Ecological Security in May 2015 in Anand, to contribute to their new initiative – the Protected Area Observatory (PAO). The PAO has been conceived as an on-line Decision Support System for Protected Areas and surrounding landscapes. EQUATIONS felt it was important to be part of this meeting as the proposed portal is about decision making and therefore a matter of forest governance. This portal could result in taking away from the already diluted decision making spaces like the LSGIs and could prove to be problematic, if not conceived of appropriately. Secondly, tourism is one of the thematics within the portal and PAs are popular tourism



A signboard on the fence that encloses the disputed land in Tivvai Vaddo, Calangute, Goa



An aerial view of the land in question, enclosed by fences, where a large hotel complex is proposed to be built in Tivvai Vaddo, Calangute, Goa

destinations, therefore needing our attention and lastly through this, a case for tourism linked conservation could be made and it is important that this link be countered. These views were shared during the meeting.

EQUATIONS received an invitation from the “forum of struggle groups working with forest dwellers community for forest rights and struggle for livelihoods” to be part of the consultation on the issue of Forest Rights in August 2015 in Nagpur. In 2013, AIFFM and EQUATIONS had conducted a North Maharashtra level meeting in Chandrapur regarding forest rights and tourism during which time there were critical discussions regarding tourism. This meeting took forward these discussions and decisions of the 2013 meeting. Van Adhikar Sammelan has included pro-people resolutions on tourism which they were urging Gram Sabhas to pass. This is a direct outcome of our past and current work on tourism with forest groups.

Workshop to review prevailing environmental and social justice concerns: A workshop to review prevailing environmental and social justice concerns and to identify collective ways forward was organised at Environmental Support Group (ESG) office, Bengaluru. The workshop was organised collaboratively by ALF, ESG, The Other Media and EQUATIONS. Various groups from across the country working on diverse issues related to environment participated. It was decided to revive the campaign on environment justice in India.

In March 2016, EQUATIONS in collaboration with Sambhaavnaa Trust organised a 3-day workshop on ‘What is Sustainable Tourism’ which was open to people engaging in alternate forms of tourism, aspiring to do so or resisting mainstream tourism. We believed that this would help in influencing the debate on tourism to reflect the perspective of sustainability and towards building a platform of people challenging mainstream unsustainable tourism practices in different ways.

GOVERNANCE, LAW AND TOURISM

Tracking: Parliamentary questions and answers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are tracked. The tracking of parliamentary questions is undertaken with a view to identify and influence the policy discourse on issues directly and indirectly related to tourism. The earlier backlog of tracking questions for the year 2012-15 and of Budget and Winter session of both the houses of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the year 2015-16 has been completed. The next step is to start analysing parliamentary questions and to identify MPs with whom EQUATIONS can advocate to raise questions on unsustainable practice of tourism.

EQUATIONS has initiated developing a repository of judgements passed by the NGT on issues related to tourism. One of the endeavours of EQUATIONS is to furnish with the information required for advocacy related work.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) & Tourism:

A reconnaissance visit was done in the previous year to Madhya Pradesh as part of the work on strengthening Gram Sabha (GS) on tourism issues and based on the observations it was planned to explore collaboration with organizations. In this regard, a visit was made to Madhya Pradesh but we could not agree on the terms of collaboration with the organizations as the issue of

tourism in relation to local governance was not a priority. They felt that the gram panchayats were not ready to address the issue of tourism. In this backdrop, the work on local governance and tourism will be undertaken in another state where there is a pressing issue of dilution of powers of PRIs with respect to tourism planning and decision making.

The work of strengthening GS in Goa was conceptualised by creating a tourism platform to mobilize communities. The study on Panchayati Raj Institutions & Tourism done in collaboration with CSJP, CRT and EQUATIONS was to be used as the basis for discussion. This was to be done in off-season so that maximum number of people from the village could participate. However, during this period, certain steps taken by the state government which directly impacted the local communities, required CSJP to shift their focus and energies to those issues. Thus, the planned work will be taken up in the coming months.

Karnataka government has passed the Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Bill (Second Amendment), 2015. It has been signed by the Governor of Karnataka in February 2016 but the rules are yet to be drafted. This Act has given power to GS and has enabling provisions to strengthen LSGIs. With respect to tourism, the Act empowers panchayat to take decision related to management, planning and regulation

of tourism, locally. In light of this development, our future work is to identify and interact with PRIs where there is tourism or has potential of tourism to make them aware of the rights given to them under this legislation through sensitisation programs and legal literacy workshops. We will inform and support organizations we collaborate with in other states to advocate for similar legislation to strengthen the PRIs.

In the past year, EQUATIONS initiated a study on para-statal bodies in tourism in Anegundi & Hampi (Karnataka) and Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), to understand the ground realities. In Anegundi and Hampi, we are collaborating with the local communities directly. For this purpose, in Anegundi we had meeting with the Gram Sabha in which it was proposed to form an informal committee representing the community. The committee will have representation from all sections of society such as women, members from the schedule caste and schedule tribe communities, and youth groups. In Hampi, the discussion is still on and we expect to form the committee during the coming months while in Mamallapuram we will be collaborating with Society for Action, who works on social issues related to rights of child, women, and local communities.



Discussion with Gram Sabha for formation of informal Committee in Anegundi



Discussion with Gram Sabha for formation of informal Committee in Hampi

SOCIETY, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Caste: As part of the Caste and Tourism work, EQUATIONS initiated a study in Tamil Nadu to understand the issues of caste and their linkages to tourism. The criteria for choosing the sites will be on the caste atrocities reported and the presence of organisations working on the issue. EQUATIONS met various groups, movements, activists and organisations working on the issue. Madurai is one of the places identified where we will be collaborating with Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary.

Child: The interventions in Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, are in collaboration with Anyay Rahit Zindagi, Caritas, Centre for Responsible Tourism, Children's Rights in Goa (Goa), Adhar Khajuraho, Hifazat Coalition for the Protection of Children, M P Institute of Social Science Research, Vikas Samvad Samiti (Madhya Pradesh), Gopabandhu Seva Parishad, Spandan (Odisha) and EQUATIONS.

Over the past year we have been involved in various research studies. In Goa, we had initiated research with the view of understanding the status of children, especially children of the migrant community, affected directly or indirectly by the tourism industry, which was completed. We are in the process of compiling a legal kit which will focus on various Acts, policies, laws including tourism codes and available redressal mechanism that could be used to report violence against children. The legal kit for Goa is under preparation while the kit focused on Madhya Pradesh has already been published.

Access to Justice study focusses on bringing to the forefront the voices of child survivors. The study aims to understand the experiences of child survivors in terms of legal redressal, their interaction with the legal actors and their perceptions on the legal mechanisms and processes. It also aims to understand the perceptions and experiences of legal actors in dealing with child survivors of sexual exploitation. A preliminary report on the sexual

exploitation of children in the context of tourism was also undertaken in Kanha and Pachmadi, Madhya Pradesh. We are also in the process of documenting child protection issues during Simhasth, a mega religious tourism event which takes place once every 12 years in Ujjain. This event brings in around 5 million people for a month-long festival. The documentation is aimed towards identifying pointers to advocate for child protection issues in such mega tourism events, not only in Madhya Pradesh but also in other places of India. The reports of these researches will be finalised in the coming year.

In the coming year we plan to take forward our work in Goa and Madhya Pradesh and initiate work in Odisha by engaging with a range of actors – children, family, community, government, civil society and private sector. Through this work we would aim to address the issue at the systems level which would include strategies on awareness, training, attitudinal changes, evidence based research, addressing issues of livelihood and education and making tourism practices more accountable and also at the structural level in mobilising community groups, strengthening implementation of law, policies and mechanisms, identifying gaps and advocating for change. EQUATIONS has planned for a detail research during the first phase of work to understand the legal framework along with existing child protection mechanism in three

states of India. We have initiated the desk research on the same.

As EQUATIONS is an affiliate member of ECPAT we were invited to participate at the India Network Consultation in October 2015 to explore the need to build a broad coalition against the sexual exploitation of children in India. In the meeting, the discussion revolved around having a more inclusive process to come to this consensus.

Based on our meetings with ACCOR Hotels through last year we were able to agree on working together to support them in formulating their policy on child protection and training their staff based on the requirements of the CODE. For this an orientation workshop was organised with staff of the Southern region to share with them the issues linked to child and tourism and to get their views of the content of the policy and the workshops that are planned.

EQUATIONS has been the Local Code Representative (LCR) with The Code since 2011. While entering into an agreement with ACCOR Hotels we realised that it also needed to renew our agreement with the CODE, which was done in February 2016.

Our engagement with the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Kovalam, to facilitate sessions on Safe and Honourable Code of Conduct continued as



Interacting with children during Training on AtJ, Bhopal



Safe and Honourable Code Workshop, Kochi



Training on Access to Justice, Bhopal



Interaction with staff of Accor Hotels, Bangalore

we were invited for a workshop in Kochi in January 2016. The presentation included issues related to child and tourism followed by the specifics of the code.

Terre Des Hommes Netherlands facilitated a 3 day training workshop for organisations they support and will support from 2016 in Kathmandu in November 2015. The strategic intent was to strengthen the understanding of the legal processes towards just and effective management of cases, modification of procedural gaps and its bearings on the victims and to strengthen advocacy on implementing appropriate systems/ mechanisms, laws and policies that protect children. This workshop would help in our work on the research on access to justice as well as future work linked to online sexual exploitation of children.

LGBT: A study on LGBT and tourism was undertaken to understand the relationship between LGBT groups and tourist sites, challenges faced by them and engagement of LGBT communities, associations / unions or CSOs at tourism destinations. The report was shared with the LGBT groups in Karnataka. A one day consultation 'Hidden Voices Hidden Realities' was organised in collaboration with Aneka, EQUATIONS, Jeeva, KSMF, KSWU, Ondede, Raksha, Sangama, and Samara in Bengaluru in May 2015. During the consultation, the findings of the study were shared and a discussion to explore opportunities to take forward work through the formation of a LGBT and Tourism working group. This was planned for undertaking advocacy related work to build tourism perceptiveness among the government departments and to ensure the inclusion of tourism issues under the Transgender Policy of Karnataka. The advocacy materials of posters and briefing sheets were printed and disseminated to the government and institutions, through the working group.

EQUATIONS made submissions to the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015 to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to the State Policy for Transgender



Consultation - Hidden Voices, Hidden Realities, Bangalore

in Karnataka 2014 to Department of Women and Child, Karnataka and participated in consultation meetings on formulation of the Karnataka Transgender Welfare Board in Karnataka. The aspect of tourism was highlighted in these various spaces.

Student, Youth and Tourism: A concept note to undertake a research on our work in tourism education has been written based on the observations while participating in various conferences and seminars and secondary literature. The curriculum of tourism education continues to focus on the way the State and the tourism industry view this sector, thereby neglecting critical issues & perspectives in tourism. However in spite of this focus on the needs of the industry, the gap between what is needed and what is taught continues.

EQUATIONS received an invitation from Department of Tourism, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, to chair a session at the National Symposium on synergising tourism education, research and industry, during which we presented a paper on "Current Trends and Gaps in Tourism Education". EQUATIONS also presented a paper at an International Seminar on "Public Private Partnerships in Tourism Sector in India - Development, Sustainability and Challenges" organized by St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru. The Department of Tourism Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru also contacted EQUATIONS to give views on their research project titled "Strategic intervention of Destination Management Organization's to enhance competitiveness of tourism destinations- A model for Karnataka". EQUATIONS also received an invite from the same department to handle a session on Sustainable Tourism with 2nd year undergraduate students.

EQUATIONS received an invite from Jyoti Nivas College, Bengaluru to support them in developing tourism research skills among their student. We accepted their proposal with understanding that this can be a good opportunity for us to influence the students and the institution through involving them. We started with the handling session on critical issues in tourism and also showed a film followed by a discussion. However we were not able to take forward the work on research skills as the expectations between college and us were different. Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology also requested EQUATIONS to handle a session on critical issues linked to responsible tourism, in which we highlighted issues linked to environment, forest and the people living in and around tourism destinations, which has been continuously affected due to irresponsible tourism.

Kodagu Vidayala in Coorg, Karnataka - a school, approached EQUATIONS to provide guidance to the students working on research projects looking into tourism impacts. The research projects is aimed at looking into overall impact of tourism on the Cauvery river catchment area. They requested EQUATIONS' assistance on preparing tools for research and arriving at an environmental assessment framework.

Women: A base paper on sexual exploitation of women in tourism had been written which is now being expanded to cover the broader aspect of violence against women in tourism. EQUATIONS presented a paper on 'Women and Work – Toiling Without Rights' at the National Tourism Conference and Tourism Fest at Jyoti Nivas College, to bring in perspectives on women's participation and gender issues in tourism with students studying tourism.

EQUATIONS has also engaged on women's policies at the state and national level this past year. In Karnataka, the Department of Women and Child Development is drafting a policy for empowerment of women. EQUATIONS has been asked to write the section on women and tourism, aspects of which would be incorporated in the Karnataka Women Empowerment's Policy. The DWCD organised a meeting on social

development and economic empowerment of women, governance and legislations where EQUATIONS gave inputs on women's social development, economic and political rights in tourism. Inputs from these meetings were then presented by the Minister for Women and Child Development, at the All Women's Legislator's meeting in Feb 2016 in Delhi. These spaces gave us an opportunity to highlight the issues of women in tourism.

EQUATIONS has been in solidarity with the campaign on 'Women in Black'. The World Court of Women Against War, For Peace was organised by Vimochana in association with the Indian branch of the international movement of Women in Black in Bengaluru and Kolar in November 2015. EQUATIONS was part of the World Court that has testimonies contesting against the violence of war, the impact it has on women and marginal groups in rebuilding lives and communities after conflict. We were also part of the vigil, that was held to express resistance to the various forms of subjugation, violence and injustice faced by women in conflict situations and violations of women's rights universally in the social, political and economic arenas.

TOURISM RESOURCE CENTRE

News is tracked through feeds from more than 50 sources online, segregated by class code and which is stored digitally in a central repository once in 15 days. This forms the basis for the analysis of the tourism trends and research that we undertake. Apart from these, we also have subscriptions to magazines, journals including tourism journals, as well as online portals like India Stat to aid our research work. Over 300 additions (books, reports, and CD's) were made to the library during the past year.

In the context of information dissemination, there was a need felt to develop a new website with changing technology and with a view to update the website content.

There was also a focus on developing a communication and media strategy. Internal discussions have been held on both these aspects and they are now in the process of getting finalised.

Over 10,000 copies of books, reports, briefing sheets, posters, were disseminated through meetings, workshops organised and attended, and through postal dissemination. For the period April 2015 to March 2016, there were 26,843 unique visitors to the website, with a total of 16,171 PDFs which were downloaded. 13 articles were covered by the media, as well as 3 press releases issued.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengths Finder: The strength finder process which began in January 2014 continues to be an ongoing process. As a continuation of our work we revised our self appraisal and feedback forms for staff to incorporate a section on strengths. By doing this we ensured better analysis of strengths in relation to staff's individual and team role within the organisation. The team was also introduced to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) which is a personality test that will feed into and compliment our work on strengths. The staff took the MBTI test to arrive at individual results.

Research in Tourism and Capacity Building: Research is an essential work of EQUATIONS. To being in greater rigour and to make our research more standardized, training on research methodology is being undertaken in collaboration with an academician, who is associated with the Centre of for Philosophy and Humanities at Manipal University. In continuation of strengthening our research training program, followings developments have taken place.

A seven-day workshop in December 2015 was on research methodology, tools and techniques, working of software used in qualitative research, and brief discussions on four research proposal - (1) CBT and Women, (2) Coasts and Livelihood in Tourism, (3) Para Statal Bodies (PSBs) in Tourism and (4) Caste-based and Sexuality-based Discrimination in Tourism (discussed in the previous sections).

The sessions include theoretical and practical understandings of employing research techniques: how to conduct interviews, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), techniques of observation and participatory observations. Learning of software- Mendely and MAXQDA was also briefed. To make our understanding more sharp, all the members of research projects participate in conducted interviews, FGD, observations of social spaces among themselves. All the processes were recorded for our future reference and training of new staff.

Valuable feedback was given on research note during the training workshop. These helped the research team to sharpen their proposal in terms of working on secondary literature, employing research tools – quantitative and qualitative, selection of sample size, stakeholder mapping, understanding on conducting pilot and data collection.

All the research teams have made reconnaissance visits to states identified to understand the field realities. Collaboration with the local organization has also been made in this regard.

During the next phase, pilot and data collection will be done by the research teams in collaboration with local organizations. As part of the work, the next step is to have 2-3 day session on specific quantitative techniques – Analysis of data, presenting data, different kinds of analysis – correlations, variations, comparison, regressions, tests.

REFLECTIONS: LOOKING BACK AND GOING FORWARD

The focus of work in EQUATIONS last year was mainly in research and policy advocacy work. The capacity building on research methods is aimed at bringing greater rigour and making our research more standardised and in line with current tools and techniques used.

Wide repository of prior work (thinking on tourism, documents) was key to us being able to make an in-depth submissions to the Ministry of Tourism well in advance in regard to the National Tourism Policy. Planning and strategising, we realised needs to start from the very beginning, which helped us stay a step ahead to make inputs into the process. As a part of the process the need to build sharper strategies and skills while engaging with

Parliamentarians was felt. The next steps are to plan strategic interventions with collaborating partners at local level to be able to jointly advocate with government, policy makers and bodies to influence tourism policies and practices of the industry.

Collaborating with organisations / peoples movements / individuals continues to be the backbone of our work. Collaboration is about mutuality. In regions / on issues where our collaborations are strong we have been able to move swiftly. At times some work takes longer / is affected if the sense of mutuality changes. Also with the multiple kinds of collaborations we are part of, there is a need to understand organisations

and processes which takes time and hence to account for these while strategising and planning our work.

There is a need to build capacities – to equip programme staff with campaign skills, as that is an area we need to strengthen. The accelerated pace of tourism developments on the field, requires us to stay abreast with current trends and to re-strategise and align our work. This shift in focus when needed would support in contributing significantly to the new developments that are unfolding in the present.

Newer areas of engagement like caste, religious tourism or geographies require us to build a deeper understanding of the issues and the inter linkages, even before engaging with organisations, as very often these are not only sensitive but also political issues. This understanding is one that we need to build at the individual as well as at an organisational level.

Taking into context the push for privatisation and enclavisation in tourism, our work on documenting various PPP projects in tourism has to be strengthened in order to challenge the established framework of calculating economic benefits from tourism. There is a need to re-

focus on the broader work that the Economic Impacts of Tourism entails, which is to develop an alternative approach to assess these impacts.

In the past we have shared that we need to work on Alternatives at different levels. As a part of this thinking, we initiated work in the Sunderbans on community based tourism, to demonstrate the power and impact of alternative tourism practices which are owned, governed and implemented by people living in and around tourism destinations. Through this process we are careful to avoid the imposition of a western understanding of CBT but one that is rooted in the Indian context. While the formation of the Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti (West Bengal) happened successfully, going ahead we will need to pay more attention to these processes as keeping the committee together will be a challenge.

There is a need to strengthen our engagement with the media to reach out to the wider society as well as engage with people at large (tourists) on tourism issues and develop effective ways of communication. We recognise the need to influence promotional materials and develop populist materials for tourists.

KEY FUNDING SUPPORT

Our core donors Bread for the World and Misereor have continued to provide critical support to our work on People Centred Tourism in India. Misereor also supported through a separate grant our work on building capacity and strengthening our Research in Tourism.

Defence for Children (ECPAT Netherlands) extended its

work on Reducing Violence Against Children. This project in turn is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Terre Des Hommes, Netherlands is supporting our work on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism and Online and we are working with Accor Hotel, to support in implementing the Code.

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

EQUATIONS formed its Internal Complaints Committee under The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. As a part of this process, from among EQUATIONS staff team

we have 4 members across the different levels of the organisation who are part of this committee and one external member. There were no complaints filed with the committee during this period.

EQUITABLE TOURISM OPTIONS (EQUATIONS)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

At A Glance As On 31.03.2016

Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2016	
Current Assets	Amount in Rs.
Fixed Assets	49,69,751.56
Investments and Deposits	47,74,816.10
Loan and Advances	4,95,123.71
Cash and Bank Balance	11,64,792.23
Total Assets	1,14,04,483.60
Current liabilities	Amount in Rs.
Capital Fund	49,69,751.56
General Fund	13,46,368.32
Corpus Fund	32,235.00
Unutilised Project Fund	35,39,873.34
Other Funds	15,16,255.38
Total Liabilities	1,14,04,483.60
Income and Expenditure account for the period ended 31.03.2016	
Income	Amount in Rs.
Grants and Donations	1,77,94,706.89
Bank Interest	2,17,145.00
Honorarium	33,172.00
Other Income	94,480.00
Total Income	1,81,39,503.89
Expenditure	Amount in Rs.
Project expenses	1,27,91,184.00
Institutional expenses	34,29,429.42
Depreciation	5,53,427.34
Total Expenditure	1,67,74,040.76
Excess of Income over Expenditure	13,65,463.13

EVENTS THAT SAW EQUATIONS' PRESENCE

APRIL 2015 – MARCH 2016

MEETINGS

APRIL 2015

- National Symposium on Synergising Tourism Education, Research and Industry, on 9th and 10th April 2015, organized by Department of Tourism, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. EQUATIONS presented on critical trends and gaps in tourism education in India.
- Meeting on Orientation on the Judgment to LGBT groups, on 15th April 2015, organized by Alternative Law Forum, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting of the Panchayats of Banni, Kutch on Forest Rights and Tourism issues, on 18th April 2015, organised by Sahjeevan, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Meetings as a part of the Fact Finding on Forest Right Issues, from 21st to 23rd April 2015, organized by Sundarban Jan Shramjivi Manch, Programme for Social Action and Delhi Forum, Sundarbans, West Bengal.
- Discussion on Child Labour Act and Juvenile Justice Act, on 19th May 2015, organized by Alternative Law Forum, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Participated in Protected Area Observatory – an online Decision Support System, on 25th May 2015, organized by Foundation of Ecological Security, Anand, Gujarat.
- Workshop on CAG, on 30th May 2015, organized by Alternative Law Forum and EQUATIONS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

JUNE 2015

MAY 2015

- State Level Consultation on Child and Tourism, on 7th May 2015, co-organized by Vikas Samvad, Centre for Responsible Tourism, CARITAS, Children's Rights in Goa, Jan Ugahi, Hifazat Coalition and EQUATIONS in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Meeting with Members of Parliament, from 11th to 13th May 2015 on draft National Tourism Policy 2015, New Delhi
- Hidden Voices and Hidden Realities: Consultation on LGBT and Tourism, on 14th May 2015, co-organised by EQUATIONS, Jeeva, Karnataka Sexuality Minorities Forum, Karnataka Sex Workers Union, Ondede, Raksha, Sangama, and Samara, Bengaluru, Karnataka. EQUATIONS presented on the findings of the study.
- Meeting on "Just Speak Out" Program on the eve of the International Day of Families, Gender Minorities Family Acceptance meet and orientation, on 15th May 2015, organized by Ondede, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting on Public Education at Radio Active, on 1st June 2015, organized by Karnataka Janapara Vedike, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Discussion on Amendment to Child Labour Act, on 2nd June 2015, organized by Concerned for Working Children, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Protest against Juvenile Justice Bill and Child Labour Amendments, on 3rd June 2015, organized by Karnataka Janapara Vedike, at Town Hall, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Greener – National Conference on Environment, on 5th June 2015, organized by Chirala Engineering College, Chirala, Andhra Pradesh. EQUATIONS presented on Flights of Fancy: Seaplanes in Tourism in India.
- Protest rally of campaign 'Acche Din ka Katu Sathya', on 6th June 2015, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Final Completion Workshop of CEPF Investment in the Western Ghats Hotspot, on 9th - 11th June 2015, organized by CEPF, Bengaluru, Karnataka. EQUATIONS presented its work as a part of this project.
- Protest meeting and rally against illegal evictions of Street Vendors, opposing the FDI permission in

Retail, demanding implementation of the Street Vendors Act, on 15th June 2015, called by the Bruhat Bengaluru Beedhi Vyaapaari Sanghatanegala Okkoota Federation of Street Vendor Unions of Bengaluru), Karnataka.

- Meeting of the Shack owners on 22nd June 2015, organized by CARITAS Goa and Center for Responsible Tourism, Panjim, Goa

JULY 2015

- Meeting of the Taxi owners on 1st July 2015, organized by CARITAS Goa and Center for Responsible Tourism, Panjim, Goa
- Meeting on remembrances of 377 Judgement and orientation on the Judgement to the LGBT groups and planning on for the advocacy, on 2nd July 2015, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Consultation of Guest House Owners, on 6th July 2015, organized by CARITAS Goa and Center for Responsible Tourism, Panjim, Goa.
- National Consultation on Child Labour, on 14th July 2015, organized by Concerned for Working Children, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Dr. Lalit Panwar on 16th July 2015, New Delhi.
- Meeting on National Women's Policy, on 17th July 2015 organized by Ondede, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Consultation on Child Protection Mechanisms in Tourism, on 23rd July 2015, organized by Vikas Samvad, Hifazat Coalition and EQUATIONS in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- Meeting on Community Based Tourism, on 23rd July 2015, organized by Kumirmari Panchayat, Sundarban Jan Shramjivi Manch and EQUATIONS, in Kumirmari, West Bengal.

AUGUST 2015

- 1st Maharashtra State Level Van Adhikar Sammelan, on 23rd August 2015, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Meetings for the formation of tourism committee in the 13 Gram Sansads, from 30th August to 12th September 2015, organised by Kumirmari Gram Panchayat, Sundarban Jan Shramjivi Manch and EQUATIONS, Kumirmari, West Bengal.

SEPTEMBER 2015

- International Seminar on Tourism Sector in India – Development, Sustainability and Challenges, on 3rd September 2015, organized by St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting to discuss on Manifesto of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, on 12th September 2015, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Consultation on Formation of Transgender Commission, on 12th September 2015, at Vikas Soudha Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Gram Sabha meeting for the formation of Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti, on 13th September 2015, organized by Kumirmari Gram Panchayat, Kumirmari, West Bengal.

OCTOBER 2015

- 57th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, from 10th – 12th October 2015, organised by the Department of Economics, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Division of Agricultural Economics, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- India Network Consultation on 12th and 13th October 2015, organised by ECPAT International, New Delhi.
- Consultation for the formation of Karnataka Transgender Welfare Board or a Commission in Karnataka based on "The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill 2014" organised by Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society on 17th October 2015 at Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Karnataka LGBT groups organised a community consultation to discuss on "The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill 2014" on 29th October 2015, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Orientation session on "The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill 2014" given to the LGBT community members of Karnataka, on 29th October 2015, organised by Karnataka Transgender Samithi, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

NOVEMBER 2015

- Workshop on Envisioning Tourism in Kumirmari from 5th to 8th November 2015, organised by Kumirmari

Jan Paryatan Samiti, Sundarban Jan Shramjivi Manch and EQUATIONS, Gosaba, Sundarbans, West Bengal.

- Meeting on International Development Finance on 6th and 7th November 2016, organised by BIC, Action Aid (South Solidarity Initiative) and The Research Collective (PSA), New Delhi.
- The World Court of Women Against War for Peace which was organised by Vimochana on the 16th November 2015 at Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Protest against violence of wars and the systemic violence perpetrated on women by society, on 18th November 2015 near M.G metro station, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Workshop to review prevailing environmental and social justice concerns, on 25th and 26th November 2015, organised collaboratively by ALF, Coastal Action Network, Citizens Action Group, ESG, EQUATIONS and The Other Media, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting organised by Public Finance Public Accountability Collective (PFAC) on 27th November 2015, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

DECEMBER 2015

- Participated in Jeeva's organisation anniversary to the cause of sexual minorities on 4th December 2015, organised by Jeeva, at Jain University, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Guest Lecture on Sustainable Tourism with 4th semester BBA (Tourism & Travel Management) student on 4th December 2015, organised by Department of Tourism, Christ University, Bengaluru, Karnataka. EQUATIONS presented on Sustainable Tourism.

JANUARY 2016

- 4th International Congress on Kerala Studies on 9th – 10th January 2016 organised by AKG Centre for Research and Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Workshop on Safe and Honourable Tourism Code on 15th January 2016 organised by the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (IHMCT), Kochi, Kerala. EQUATIONS facilitated a session on Child Issues in Tourism and on the S&H Code.
- Launch of the Project to Sexual Exploitation of

Children in Travel and Tourism and Online, on 18th and 19th January 2016 organised by TdH NL, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Guest Lecture on "Critical Issues in Tourism" with 3rd year BBA (Travel and Tourism) student, organised by Jyoti Nivas College, on 25th January 2016 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. EQUATIONS presented on Critical Issues in Tourism.
- Public Hearing on the issue of non-implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 on 31st January 2016, organised by SJSM, AIUFWP and Delhi Forum, Gosaba, Sundarbans, West Bengal.

FEBRUARY 2016

- Consultation Workshop on Transgender Policies Research, organised by Aneka, on 2nd February 2016 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Participated in a Conference and Rally, held from 2nd – 4th February 2016, organised by National Hawker Federation at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi. EQUATIONS organised a seminar on "Tourism and Street Vending" on 4th February 2016.
- Interaction Session with Accor Hotel India, Southern Region on Child and Tourism & The Code, 8th February 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Participated in a meeting on Women and Ushering in a new era of social developments, Women contributing to economic developments, Women and Good Governance, Women and Legislation on the 22nd February 2016, organised by the Department of Women and Child Development Karnataka, in Vidhan Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Presented a paper on 'Women, Work and Tourism: Toiling without Rights' in National level Tourism Conference and Tourism Fest "Gran-Torino" on the 23rd February 2016, organised by the Tourism department in Jyoti Nivas College, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

MARCH 2016

- Meeting for the National Women's Legislators Conference – Women Legislators Building Resurgent India – Identifying Challenges, Offering Solutions on 1st March 2016, organised by Department of Women and Child Karnataka, in Vidhan Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Participated in International Women's Day, on 8th March 2016, Organised by Vimochana, at Town Hall, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Handled session on the issues of Sustainable Tourism with student of Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology on 8th March 2016, EQUATIONS office, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting with Minister and Personal Secretary to Minister, Ministry of Tourism on 9th March 2016 on draft National Tourism Policy 2015, New Delhi.
- Meeting with Minister, Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 10th March 2016 on draft National Tourism Policy 2015, New Delhi.
- Participated in fishworkers rally to draw attention of Parliament on fisherman issues on 10th March 2016, organised by NFF, New Delhi.
- Meeting with Assistant Director General, Ministry of Tourism on 10th March 2016 on S&H Code, New Delhi.
- Meeting with Members of Parliament, on 11th, 12th, & 14th March 2016 on draft National Tourism Policy 2015, New Delhi
- Workshop on 'What is Sustainable Tourism?' from 10th to 12th March 2016, co-organised by Sambhavanna Institute and EQUATIONS, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.
- Meeting with Minister, Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on 14th March 2016 on National Tourism Policy 2015, New Delhi.
- Profiteering and Exclusion through Privatization: A Critical look at Karnataka's New Tourism Policy on 18th March 2016, organised by ALF and EQUATIONS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Consultation on Caste, Disability, Gender in the context of anti-discrimination organised by Alternative Law Forum, on 22nd March 2016 at Vishranthi Nilaya Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting on State Policy for Transgender in Karnataka, on 23rd March 2016, organised by Department of Women and Child Development of Karnataka at Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Meeting on Budget and Dalits, on 27th of March 2016 organised by Samanvaya Karnataka, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

PUBLICATIONS

- Annual Report, 2014-2015 (English)
- Report on "Walking the Tightrope: Exploitation of Migrant Children in Tourism in Goa". (English)
- Civilised, Safe, Equitable Tourism (Hindi)
- Booklet – Legal Kit on Child and Tourism in Goa (English and Hindi)
- Booklet – Laws and Systems relating to Child Protection (Hindi)
- Booklet – Hastakshep – articles on tourism (Hindi)
- Envisioning Tourism (English & Hindi reprint)
- Tracing the Maze (English reprint)

VISUAL MATERIALS

- Briefing Sheet – Walking the Tightrope: Exploitation of Migrant Children in Tourism in Goa (English, Hindi, Kannada, Konkani, Marathi)
- Briefing Sheet – Protection of Children in Tourist Destinations (Hindi)
- Briefing Sheet – Corporate Accountability and Tourism (English reprint)
- Briefing Sheet – Child Labour and Tourism (English reprint)
- Postcard – Protection of Children in Tourism (English and Hindi)
- Door Hanger – Protection of Children in Tourism (English and Hindi)
- Poster – Code of Conduct For Safe And Honorable Tourism (Hindi)
- Poster – Guardians of Guards (English reprint)

PAPERS AND STATEMENTS

- Statement of Civil Society Organisations to the draft National Tourism Policy 2015, on 10th May 2015.
- Paper on Flights of Fancy: The ground truths of seaplanes in tourism, 5th June 2015.
- Biodiversity Day: Statement on Tourism & Biodiversity: A Call for Meaningful Action by Tourism Advocacy and Action Forum, on 5th June 2015.

- Down to Tourism Slippery Slopes – EQUATIONS’ response to National Green Tribunal on the Manali – Rohtang Case, on 26th July 2015.
- Submission of Detailed Comment on draft National Tourism Policy 2015 to Ministry of Tourism, 30th July 2015
- World Tourism Day, The Bitter Irony of “1 Billion Tourists – 1 Billion Opportunities” Statement of the Tourism Advocacy and Action Forum, on 27th September 2015.
- Aviation, Tourism & Children’s Rights: A Global Emergency, Statement of the Tourism Advocacy and Action Forum (TAAF) Prepared by the International Support Centre for Sustainable Tourism, 7th December 2015.
- EQUATIONS Submission to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on ‘The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2016’ 3rd January 2016.
- EQUATIONS Submission to Department of Women and Child Development on ‘State Policy For Transgender in Karnataka, 2014’, 31st March 2016.
- Draft National Tourism Policy, 2015: A Mockery Of Democracy, March 2016.
- “Tourism is not just a holiday” Indian NGOs blast “flawed” Draft Tourism Master Plan 2015, on 10th May 2015, Travel Impact Newswire, New Delhi.
- “Civil Society’s comments on the draft National Tourism Policy”, on 11th May 2015, Travel Trends Today.
- “Indian civil society groups protest national tourism policy”, on 12th May 2015, Travindy.
- “35 civil society groups demand democratic approach for formulation of tourism policy”, on 12th May 2015, Financial Express.
- “35 NGOs take staunch objection to draft National Tourism Policy 2015”, on 15th May 2015, Travel Bizmonitor, Mumbai.
- “Proposed tourism policy is ridden with loopholes, falls short of global standards”, on 15th May 2015, Scroll.in.
- Press Release: Flights of Fancy – The Ground Truths of Seaplanes in Tourism, on 05th June 2015.
- Tourism and Environmental Demand and Economic Impacts of Tourism -”Hastakshep” Weekly supplement of Rashtriya Sahara, on 6th June 2015.
- Press Release: Make in India Child Labour and Tourism, on 12th June 2015.
- Child and Tourism – Tourism First Magazine features cover story of child and tourism on 30th June 2015.
- Flights of Fantasy, on 14th July 2015, in Spectrum, Deccan Herald.
- Video on “LGBT Rights” of progressive shift in perspective that has happened among us despite the regressive judgement by the Supreme Court which was organised by Jhatkaa, November 2015.
- A Tale of Trans-ition, Punita Maheswari, 23rd November 2015, Indian Express.
- New Tourism Policy Will Harm Local Communities and Environment, Say Activists, 25th March 2016, The Wire, New Delhi.

TRANSLATION

- Briefing Sheet – Walking the Tightrope: Exploitation of Migrant Children in Tourism in Goa (English to Konkani, Kannada, Marathi, Hindi).
- Booklet – Legal Kit on Child and Tourism in Goa (English to Hindi).
- Maharashtra RTI response document (Marathi to English)
- EQUATIONS Submission to Karnataka Women and Child Department on Karnataka Transgender Policy - (English to Kannada)

MEDIA REPORTS

- Press Release: Hand-Crafted For Tourism – Story of a Journey from Cultural Expression to a Souvenir Production, on 1st May 2015.
- Civil Society Groups Call for Child Safety at Tourism Spot, on 9th May 2015, Hindustan Times, Bhopal.

CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Papers contributed to Report – Airport Development and Tourism Policy and Schemes to report titled “Achhe Din Ka Katu Satya”.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

Internal Seminars / Capacity Building Workshops for EQUATIONS staff

- Intern Presentation on Analysis of Uttarakhand State Tourism Policy', by Mansi Koshyari on 27th May 2015.
- Tourism Impact Assessment workshop handled by Swathi S on 2nd and 3rd June 2015.
- Session on Theoretical Background of Research Methods handled by Kaveri Haritas on 18th June 2015.
- Legal literacy session on Labour and Unorganized Sector, handled by Clifton D'Rozario (Manthan Law), on 20th June 2015.
- Session on EQUATIONS Class code and Feedly for new staff handled by Suman M on 22nd June 2015.
- Intern presentation on Community-based Tourism in Himachal Pradesh, by Vinu Vijay on 8th July 2015.
- Intern presentation on secondary data for study on Tourism Impact Assessment in Kutch, by Harsh Raveendra on 22nd July 2015.
- Strength Finder's meeting facilitated by Organizations and Alternatives Consulting (O&A) on 30th July 2015.
- Strength Finder's Workshop facilitated by O&A on 12th August 2015.
- Legal literacy session on Land Acquisition Act, (land and other resources) handled by Maitreyi Krishnan (Manthan Law), on 23rd August 2015.
- Legal literacy on land reforms, handled by Maitreyi (Manthan Law), on 12th September 2015.
- Legal literacy session on Adivasi, handled by Clifton D'Rozario (Manthan Law), on 17th September 2015.
- Session on Research concept notes handled by Kaveri Haritas on 30th September 2015.
- Intern presentation on Tracing Tourism in the cases filed and decided by National Green Tribunal with focus on all the Benches of National Green Tribunal - the Principal Bench, the Zonal Benches & Circuit Benches', by Sidharth Ray in October 2015.
- Strength Finders Process: Introduction to Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), on 30th November 2015. MBTI is a personality test which will feed into

the strength finder process as it will compliment our work in strengths.

- Tourism Research Methods Workshop from 08th to 14th December 2015, facilitated by Kaveri Haritas, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Induction training for staff who joined newly on HR/ IT/ Admin/ Finance and TRC processes, on 25th January 2016.
- Intern presentation on Assessing the implementation of legislation, Policies and Mechanisms in the context of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, by Samvit Ganesh on 29th January 2016.

External Capacity Building Workshops

- Jerome Victor attended "Buniyaad" a two week program offered by Sambhaavna Institute from 16th to 31st October 2015, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
- Durang Bosu Mullick attended WATCH training workshop from 3rd to 5th November 2015 organised by Terre De Hommes Netherland, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Ananya Dasgupta attended 'Listening to the Unconscious in Self, Groups and Society' organised by Group Relation Conference at Lonavala from 24th to 27th November 2015
- Durang Bosu Mullick attended Training on Access to Justice 25th to 27th November 2015 organised by DCI/ECPAT Netherlands, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Theresa Lobo, James and Aditi Chanchani attended the Workshop on Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 and amendments of rules 2015, on 13th January 2016, organised by Financial Management Service Foundation (FMSF), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND EXTENDED TEAMS

EQUATIONS MANAGING COMMITTEE (2015-2016)

Sl.No	Name	Designation
1	Mario Pinto Almeida	President
2	Ravi Chellam	Secretary
3	Mahesh Lobo	Treasurer
4	TT Sreekumar	Member
5	Aditi Chanchani	Director, (ex- officio)
6	Rajesh Ranjan	Staff Representative, (ex-officio)

EQUATIONS STAFF TEAM 2015-2016

Sl.No	Programme	Programme Coordinator	Programme Team Members
1	Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models	Swathi Seshadri	Aditi Chanchani/ Rajesh Ranjan
2	Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism	Swathi Seshadri	*Shahzeb Yamin/ Jerome Francis Victor
3	Economics of Tourism	Swathi Seshadri	*Mrinmayee Mandal/ *Harsh Raveendra
4	Governance, Law and Tourism	*Swathi Seshadri/ *Ananya Dasgupta	Ghanshyam Kumar
5	Society, Culture and Tourism	*S Babu *Swathi Seshadri and *Aditi Chanchani	Sharmila Sundaresan / Suman M/ Rajesh Ranjan/ *Durang Bosu Mullick/ Joyatri Ray*#
6	Tourism Resource Centre	Aditi Chanchani	Suman M/ Kavitha M
7	Institutional Support Services		
	Admin	*Sharmila Sundaresan/ *Theresa Florina Lobo	Girisha V/ Sowbhagya
	HR	Sharmila Sundaresan	
	IT	Rajiv Das#	
	Finance	*Usha Nandini/ *Theresa Florina Lobo	James

* For part of the year # Part-time staff

TRANSLATION & TRANSCRIPTION SUPPORT

- Chinmay Mishra
- Kishore Kumar
- Madhushri Manoj Timble
- Salvador Fernandes

DESIGN & COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

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- K.P Prashant
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- Moushumi Paul
- National Printing Press
- Rajini
- Sai Vigyan
- Smriti Chanchani

INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS IN EQUATIONS (2015 – 2016) AND THEIR WORK

Sl No	Name of the students	Academic Course	Institution	Period of internship (Weeks)	Research details	Programme worked with
1	Manasi Koshiyari	Masters' in Public Policy	St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.	27 th April 2015 to 4 th June 2015 (6 weeks)	Update of a compilation of policies and schemes. Tourism trends and analysis of the Uttarakhand tourism policy.	Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models
2	Vinu Vijay	Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Services)	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior.	6 th May 2015 to 10 th July 2015 (10 weeks)	Community Based Tourism in Himachal Pradesh with a focus on two ADB projects	Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models
3	Harsh Raveendra	Post Graduate Diploma in Travel and Tourism.	Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior.	6 th May 2015 to 24 th July 2015 (12 weeks)	Contributed to the Tourism Impact Assessment study	Economics of Tourism
4	Sidharth Ray	BBA LLB (Hons)	School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru	20 th October to 17 th November 2015 (5 Weeks)	Tourism cases filed in the National Green Tribunal	Governance, Law and Tourism
5	Samvit Ganesh	BBA LLB (Hons)	Jindal Global Law School.	5 th January to 29 th January 2016 (4 Weeks)	Assessing the implementation of legislation in the context of sexual exploitation of children in tourism	Society Culture and Tourism

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ADB	- Asian Development Bank	CRG	- Children's Rights Goa
AIFFM	- All India Forum of Forest Movements	CRT	- Centre for Responsible Tourism
ALF	- Alternative Law Forum	CRZ	- Coastal Regulation Zone
ARZ	- Anyay Rahit Zindagi	CSJP	- Council for Social Justice and Peace
BBPV	- Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike	CSOs	- Civil Society Organisations
CAG	- Comptroller and Auditor General	CSR	- Corporate Social Responsibility
CBPS	- Centre for Budget and Policy Studies	CWC	- Concerned for Working Children
CBT	- Community based tourism	CWM	- Centre for Workers' Management
CCT	- Coasts, Communities and Tourism	DMIC	- Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor

DoT	- Department of Tourism	NESPON	- North Eastern Society for Preservation of Nature and Wildlife
DWCD	- Department of Women and Child Development	NFF	- National Fishworkers' Forum
ECPAT	- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes	NGT	- National Green Tribunal
ECT	- Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism	NHF	- National Hawker Federation
EoT	- Economics of Tourism	NTP	- National Tourism Policy
ESG	- Environment Support Group	OPS	- Operations Team
FCRA	- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act	PAO	- Protected Area Observatory
FCT	- Forests, Communities and Tourism	PCTI	- People Centered Tourism in India
FDI	- Foreign Direct Investments	PFPAC	- Public Finance Public Accountability Collective
FEE	- Foreign Exchange Earnings	PIL	- Public Interest Litigation
FRA	- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	POCSO	- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
FTA	- Foreign Tourism Arrivals	PPP	- Public Private Partnerships
GCZMA	- Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority	PRASAD	- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive
GI	- Geographical Indication	PRI	- Panchayati Raj Institutions
GLT	- Governance, Law and Tourism	PSB	- Para-Statal Body
GMU-RTDZ	- Gorai-Manori-Uttan Recreation and Tourism Development Zone	PSC	- Parliamentary Standing Committee
GRE	- Goanhea Ramponkarancho Ekvot	PSECTTO	- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel & Tourism & Online
GS	- Grama Sabhas	RIA	- Rapid Impact Assessment
GSP	- Gopabandhu Seva Parishad	RTCB	- Research in Tourism and Capacity Building
GST	- Goods and Services Tax	RTI	- Right to Information
HNA	- Himalayan Niti Abhiyan	RVAC	- Reducing Violence Against Children
IHMCT	- Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology	S & H	- Safe and Honourable Tourism Code
IITTM	- Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management	SCT	- Society Culture And Tourism
IMH	- Institute of Hotel Management	SDG	- Sustainable Development Goal
IPR	- Intellectual Property Rights	SJSM	- Sundarbans Jan Shramjeevi Manch
IPT	- Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models	SNEHA	- Social Need Education and Human Awareness
ISLE	- Indian Society of Labour Economics	STCI	- Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India
KHAMIR	- Kachchh Heritage, Art, Music, Information and Resources	STP	- Shamukha Tourism Project
KJPS	- Kumirmari Jan Paryatan Samiti	STZ	- Special Tourism Zones
LCR	- Local Code Representative	TAAF	- Tourism Advocacy and Action Forum
LGBT	- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender	TDH	- Terre Des Hommes
LSGI	- Local Self Governance Institutions	TDZ	- Tourism Development Zone
MBTI	- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator	TIA	- Tourism Impact Assessment
MDG	- Millennium Development Goal	TISS	- Tata Institute of Social Science
MICE	- Meetings Incentives Conferences & Exhibitions	ToR	- Terms of Reference
MoEFCC	- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	TRC	- Tourism Resource Centre
MoT	- Ministry of Tourism	UNWTO	- World Tourism Organisation
MP	- Member of Parliament	VAG	- Venkatappa Art Gallery
MPISSR	- M P Institute of Social Science Research	VSS	- Vikas Samvad Samiti
MTP	- Mega Tourism Projects		

EQUATIONS is a research and policy, advocacy organisation (non-profit society) working on tourism and development issues in India. Our work has focused on the economic, environmental, social, cultural, political and governance impacts of tourism particularly on people living in and around tourism destinations. We do this through our work on Institutions, Policies and Tourism Models, Economics of Tourism, Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism, Governance, Law and Tourism, Society, Culture and Tourism and Tourism Resource Centre. EQUATIONS closely collaborates with organisations and peoples movements, to influence people centred forms of tourism & policies that ensure significant local benefits and take into account the negative impacts of an unbridled growth of tourism.

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