



Anthropos India Foundation Activity Report 2014-2017

JULY 2018

Anthropos India Foundation



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER CHAIR

“Anthropology is the most humanistic of the sciences, and the most scientific of the humanities

-Alfred. L. Kroeber

My journey from science to social science has been fortuitous, but surprisingly the transition was gradual and smooth. After BSc, I switched to Anthropology not really knowing what the subject was all about, only to realize later; it is a cordial marriage between the science and social science. In the course of my post graduate engagement that is, Masters in Anthropology from Hyderabad Central University, I learned not just academic lessons on appreciating human diversities and cultures across the globe but also some unforgettable lessons on the necessity of humanistic attitude and the emphatic need to respect local knowledges and ecosystems. Credit to my learning goes to all my formal and informal teachers at HCU, DU, JNU and other universities I have interacted and have been involved with, in various capacities, in the past few years.

My brief stint as an academician at Delhi University, IIT Delhi as well as more than 15 years of experience in developing courses on public health, disasters, women’s issues at JNU, made me realize the immense contribution made by anthropologists in so many diverse fields, based on empirical studies across cultures.

I have been working with many associations of anthropology in India for the past two decades and have always appreciated their role in connecting anthropologists across the country and in bringing out some excellent publications through journals and monographs. However, after witnessing the important position anthropologists hold in our society and their contribution to everyday life, I realized anthropologists particularly, and social scientists, in general, can play a very important role in bettering everyday life and battling issues and social problems.

Given the diversity of India with wide variations and its rich social and cultural repository, visual documentation of the same through ethnographic filmmaking is of immense value for the present as well as future.

Moreover, given the numerous social problems our society faces, action, applied research and advocacy is the need of the hour. I realised we need to work on all aspects of the matrix at the same time rather than treating them separately.

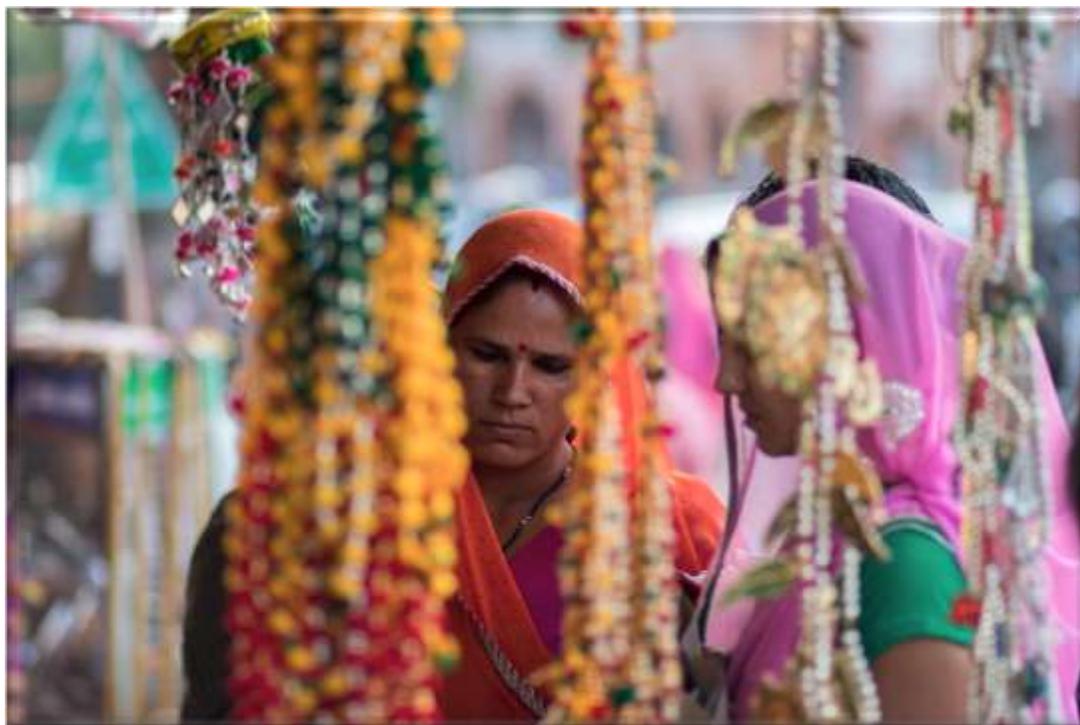
Gradually my ideas were shared with my esteemed colleagues and eventually they germinated and flowered into becoming AIF’s vision and the organization came into being soon after.

With humble steps, we are beginning on a long journey to reach our goals and in the process wish to take along many more friends in this journey.

Dr. Sunita Reddy
PhD (Anthropology)
Chairperson, Anthropol India Foundation
& Asso. Prof. Jawaharlal Nehru University

About Anthropos India Foundation

Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) is a trust registered in Delhi since April 2012. The aim of AIF is to promote the discipline of anthropology; its philosophy and methods. It also aims to conduct Anthropological research; Applied and Action. Anthropology deals with communities both big and small. Anthropology engages in solving various social issues of communities.



- AIF promotes visual Anthropology through vibrant, authentic and meaningful ethnographic films and photo documentation.
- AIF maintains a dynamic website, www.anthroposindiafoundation.com where scholars can upload and disseminate their work.
- AIF conducts various distinguished guest lectures by eminent scholars from the field of Anthropology and social sciences, doing empirical research in their respective discipline. The motive of these lectures was to part the knowledge and expertise of these scholars. The series of lectures were recorded and uploaded on AIF official website for easy access.
- AIF focuses on community-based research activities in India. AIF seeks to address issues on both the local and regional levels, based on the ‘emic’ perspectives and bottom up approach to solve. Ethnomethodology was used as a tool to solve various issues while respecting the local knowledge, culture and ecology.

-
- AIF has carried out a workshop on ‘Doing Ethnography’, where the students were trained to do quality research using ethnography methods.

Trustees

The Trustee members of the AIF are Dr. Sunita Reddy as founder Chair in Delhi, Shri. Shankara Reddy and Smt. Kavita Tank from Bangalore, Ms. Pushpinder Kaur and Ms. Aditi Verma from Delhi.

Vision

The vision of Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) is to bring Anthropology in India to the forefront and craft a new methodology to address social issues. AIF also provides a platform to share, debate and publish research findings in various Anthropological areas. AIF strives for enhancement, vibrancy and application of Anthropological methods and theories in Indian context, focusing on Applied and Visual Anthropology.

Mission

Anthropology is everywhere, Let’s practice it. Through its action research we strive to reach out to women, children and other marginalized sections in the areas of health, education and child rights.

Areas of work

AIF has various fields of work. Accounted below are the different areas of work AIF has dwelled into and shall continue to grow in:

- ✚ Strengthening Anthropological research methods among practitioners.
- ✚ Conducting Anthropological research; Applied and Action and reach out to Communities.
- ✚ Carrying out Advocacy and Policy interventions on the issues of Health, Education and Child Rights.
- ✚ Organizing and disseminating distinguished guest lectures by eminent Anthropologists and Social Scientists.
- ✚ Promoting Visual Anthropology through vibrant, authentic, meaningful ethnographic films and photo documentation.
- ✚ Publishing newsletters, e-journals & magazines.

Activities Conducted:

Ethnographic Workshop:

The workshop was organized from 8th-10th December 2014 at the Convention Centre & SSS-I, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The objective of this course was to impart rigor and advanced skills in conducting qualitative research. Indian scholarship in academics, especially in the field of social sciences suffers due to lack of consistency in research methods. This restricts transformation of research in replicability and application; and limits wider dissemination through publication, especially in national/ international journals of repute. Rigor in doing qualitative research mostly embedded in anthropological subdisciplines will enable young scholars from universities to update and refresh research skills, keeping in line with the realm of trans-disciplinarily, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches

Picture: The Student participants of Ethnography Workshop (standing). Seated are from right are Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya (JNU), Prof. Vinay Srivastava (DU), Dr. Sunita Reddy (JNU) and Dr. Hari Mohan (Executive Director, AIF)



A National Symposium:

Title: ‘Breaking the Culture of Silence Against Child Sexual Abuse: Towards an Integrated Action Plan for Prevention’

Anthropos India Foundation in collaboration with Save Children Fund, CRY (Child Rights and You) and CSE (Center for Science and Environment) conducted a daylong national symposium titled ‘Breaking the Culture of Silence Against Child Sexual Abuse: Towards an Integrated Action Plan for Prevention’ on 22nd October 2016 organized at JNU, New Delhi. This symposium aimed to address the issue of CSA from a systems approach and position it within the public health framework. While trying

to gather relevant solutions for the same, the symposium aimed to gather recommendations for future work and also suggest a way forward.



A National Seminar:

‘National seminar on Indigenous Healing Practices among the Tribes: challenges in recognizing and mainstreaming’

The National seminar was organized in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 10th -11th February 2017. The seminar was organized to discuss and deliberate on the issues of ethno-medicine or indigenous medicines among scholars who have been engaged in this area of study. Dr. Sunita Reddy, Convener of the seminar welcomed research scholars & eminent personalities who have been working in the field of ethno-medicine & indigenous health practices and took forward the two-day long seminar.

The seminar was organized on five broad themes:

- I. Indigenous healing practices among the tribes,
- II. Challenges in integrating and mainstreaming tribal health knowledge,
- III. Intellectual property rights, bio prospecting and benefit sharing, and
- IV. Inter-disciplinary approach to research, and V. The way forward for policy and planning.

Special lecture series :

AIF conducted and organised special guest lecture series where leading professors and doctors came and provided the valuable insights on many subjects in their respective fields.

AIF wishes to make it easier for the young scholars and interested people to get such exposure.

1. CARE, CURE, CATER -Healthcare Between Sympathy and Profit: Insights from Corporate Hospitals Accommodating Foreigners in Delhi

Dr. Hiedi Kasper

Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland



This lecture talked about the increasing praxis of crossing national boundaries in the search for affordable medical treatment and the growth of medical tourism industry in India & elsewhere have been viewed as inherently intertwined with globalization, increasing ease in traveling and communicating around the globe as well as marketization and corporatization of healthcare. However, little has been said so far how these intertwinings unfold on the ground in the everyday practice of giving and receiving care. Therefore, the paper discusses how for-profit healthcare provision to foreigners unfolds

in corporate hospitals in Delhi NCR.

2. Distinguished Guest Lectures- Relevance of Anthropology in Contemporary World

Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava
Delhi University



A distinguished guest lecture series was organized by Anthropos India Foundation (AIF). Eminent Anthropologist Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, University, delivered the second lecture. Dr. Arun P. Bali, former Director (IC) & Managing Editor ICSSR chaired the session. It talked about how Anthropology is understood as a study of the so-called non-western, simple, 'primitive' and non-conspicuous societies of the world. Though the branches of urban and industrial anthropology are progressing

fast, anthropologists' image as experts on 'primitive' societies continues. The development of science and technology, has led to greater power over environment and opportunities to enhance human capacity, though with a class character. The rise of totalitarian ideologies also defied many assumptions about future.

3. ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSIGHTS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE- issues of food security and sustainable development in the in the context of humanogenic climate change.

Prof. Joan P Mencher
Professor of Anthropology from the Graduate Center and Lehman College of the City University of New York (retd).



The lecture was about how anthropologists have an essential role in addressing the issues of food security and sustainable development in the context of humanogenic climate change. Studies of small-scale sustainable agriculture show the many ways in which small farmers have been dealing with food security issues and coping with climate stress. The successes of SRI/SCI, a new set of agricultural strategies, show a potential to reverse the damage caused by decades of for-profit agriculture, and provide a meaningful living for millions of Indian farm

families. Anthropologists can be important advocates for farmers.

4. What Constitutes Evidence in Human Rights Based Approach to Health

Prof. Maya Unnithan

Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University



The impact of human rights interventions on health outcomes is complex, multiple, and difficult to ascertain in the conventional sense of cause and effect. Existing approaches based on probable conclusions from evidence are limited in their ability to capture the impact of rights based transformation in health. This talk focus on plausible conclusions from evidence enables policy makers and researchers to take into account the effects of a co-occurrence of multiple factors connected with human rights, located in “context” ad power, focusing on lived experiences of human rights –based interventions in maternal and reproductive health care and addressing the methodological challenges.

In addition to this, AIF has made a short documentary film on migrant women workers, which can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ubZgxSZTfA>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT DELHI:

S.No.	Name	Designation & Address
1.	Dr. Sunita Reddy	Founder member and Chairperson (AIF) Associate Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi
2.	Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya	Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU New Delhi
3.	Dr. Hari Mohan	Development Professional New Delhi
4.	Dr. K. Anil Kumar	Assistant Professor, Discipline of Anthropology School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi
5.	Dr. Suresh Sharma	Associate Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi

LIST OF ADVISORY MEMBERS:

AIF has an extensive list of advisory members who provide valuable and vital input in AIF's work.

S.No.	Name	Designation & Address
1.	Prof. K.K. Mishra	Vice Chancellor, Utkal University, Odisha.
2.	Dr. Kailash Kumar Mishra	Bahuda Foundation, Dwaraka, Delhi
2.	Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava	Director, Anthropological Survey of India.
3.	Prof. Siva Prasad	Professor, Dept. of Anthropology University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad
4.	Prof. Tulsi Patel	Retired Professor, Dept. of Sociology School, Delhi University New Delhi
5.	Prof. Kwaja Ekrammudin	Professor, School of Languages at JNU, And Director, NCPUL, New Delhi
6.	Dr. Thomas Philip	Former Director, Sexual Health resource Centre (SHRC), New Delhi
7.	Prof. Deepak K Behera	Retired Professor, Department of Anthropology Sambalpur University Sambalpur Orissa

8.	Prof. Joan P Mencher	Chair of The Second Chance Foundation (TSCF) Retd. Professor of Anthropology, Graduate Center and Lehman College of the City University of New York USA
9.	Dr. Tian Guang	Foreign Expert, Professor, Business School of Shantou University 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063
10.	Xiangming Chen	Dean and Director, Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) Trinity College, 70 Vernon Street, Room 201 Hartford, Connecticut 06106 USA
11.	Dr. Heidi Kaspar	Lecturer, Geography Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland visiting fellow - Center for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and University of California, Berkeley
12.	Mr. Acyut Nath Jha	Editor, Okhla, New delhi