

Alternative Futures

research and communication for another future

the journey

from 2000 to 2015

19 February 2015

www.alternativefutures.org.in

www.gencap.org.in

www.iforchange.org

The vision and the rationale

- The vision/dream is of a society based on the principles of **ecological sustainability**, **social justice**, **spirituality** and **cultural pluralism**
- 1980s and 1990s were the decades of the development critique. We set up AF to move beyond development **critique** to viable alternatives and innovations (social, policy and technological) for development and social change.

Diversity of Themes

Not a single-issue organization

- Water Policy
- Water and Sanitation: IEC Strategy and Materials
- Nature and funding of CSOs/voluntary sector
- Poverty and livelihood strategies
- Managing natural resources and inclusive growth
- Science, technology and society
- Science communication/popularization
- Innovations for development and governance; Best practices in public sector reform
- Safety and social security of workers
- Gender, climate change, food security, livelihoods
- Research communication and advocacy

Development, voluntary sector, poverty strategies (2000-2007)

- Role of civil society and development in India
- Voluntary Sector in the post-liberalization period
- Donors to the NGO sector in India
- Impact of globalization on women's employment
- Management and feedback systems in Dutch-supported Indian NGOs
- Global donor and private sector approaches to poverty reduction

Water and natural resources management (2001-2014)

- Policy framework and book on water resources management for the 21st century
- Managing water resources for inclusive growth: Indian 2050
- Water and sanitation: IEC strategy, materials and training
- Managing natural resources with respect to hunger, poverty and nutrition (for Indian Public Policy Report, 2014)

Science, technology and society (2001-2011)

- S&T inputs from India for State of the Future 2002 report (Millennium Project)
- Monitoring people's awareness on science and development issues: Year of Scientific Awareness
- MIS for DST's Science and society division projects (1998 to 2003)
- Website on science popularization sites and museums <http://sciencemuseums-ncstc.in/index.php>
- Exclusive women's universities and their contribution to science and human resources

Innovations, inspirations and resources for change

www.iforchange.org

An online database of innovations, insights, inspiring stories, initiatives and resources (knowledge, books, websites, opportunities) for change.

What suggestions on making this website more useful for mobilizing and catalyzing change?

Perspectives on the future

- Hosted the secretariat of the World Futures Studies Federation (www.wfsf.org) from 2008 to 2014.
- Special issues of Futures: journal of policy, planning and futures studies (www.elsevier.com/locate/futures)
 - Indian Futures, 2004
 - Transformative Initiatives, 2007
 - Global Mindset Change, 2010
 - India @ 2050, 2014
- What can and should we do on research and knowledge on the future from Indian perspectives?

Gender and climate change

- Policies and practices for gender-responsive adaptation (NAPCC)
- Gender and State action plans on climate change (SAPCCs – www.gencap.org.in).
- Gender mainstreaming guidelines for implementation of SAPCCs (for UNDP/MoEF)
- High-level committee on status of women – chapter on Gender, environment and climate change
- Gender, climate policy and practices in East Brahmaputra Basin - Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (paper for ICIMOD)

Adaptation, mitigation, disasters

- Scaling out CGIAR Climate-smart Villages model through government structures (MoPR & MP)
- Delivering Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation's message to donors and stakeholders
- Towards a Low-carbon Indian Economy (paper for CII)
- Evaluating potential grantees in W. Bengal for climate change-related projects
- Mapping Disaster Management policies and programmes in India
- Sustainable energy development in India – study for Rockefeller Foundation (1997).

Training and research communication

- Research communication for think tanks – behavioural change, advocacy and media skills
- Preparation of South Asia training manual and training of women panchayat leaders on 'Gender, climate change, agriculture and food security'
- Drafted a EU proposal for Aga Khan Foundation on provision of basic services to tribal people through panchayats
- Media advice for release of UN Asia report on gender empowerment
- Ganga Ballet with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

2015 and beyond...

- Continued focus on climate change...
- Continued emphasis on gender justice...
- Knowledge management, advocacy, training and work towards India as a knowledge society
- Future visions: innovations, initiatives, insights for India 2050...
- Need to focus on youth, development and social change: skills and perspectives

2015 and beyond...

- What activities should AF take up in the next ten years to be most effective in contributing to social change, sustainable and inclusive development?
- What needs to be done for greater engagement with people and policy-makers?
- Collaborations, partnerships, donors?
- Can Indian funding step in to make up for foreign donors?
- What can be done through corporations – through the triple bottom-line approach or through CSR?

Thank you!