

EQUATIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 05

Our work in the last twenty years, focusing on tourism concerns in India and the developing world includes documentation, publication, research, seminars, networking and lobby for tourism, that is just, culturally appropriate and equitable. As a campaign and advocacy organization in the last two years we have been intensively working on following broad themes:

Network building:

In order to bring multiple perspectives and competence in our intervention we network with local and community based organizations, panchayat, academicism institution, government, tourism industry, special interest groups, legal forums, trade unions, and policy and research organizations. This ensures that our interventions are rooted in the issues, experiences and rights of local communities, while interfacing actively with policymaking and policy influences bodies

Women and Tourism

The tourism industry claims to be a major employer of women globally. Women, at the bottom economically suffer the most when resources are used for tourism. Research to a certain extent has tried to understand links between tourism and prostitution, but other socio economic impacts of tourism on women require considerable attention. EQUATIONS monitors, documents, and publishes the impacts of tourism on women with the object of helping women to gain dignity and greater control over their life.

Tourism Education

EQUATIONS strives to influence tourism education both at national and international levels through collaboration with tourism studies institutions influencing tourism curriculum, building awareness among teachers and students of tourism and promoting research studies on issues related to tourism impacts and policy.

Child and Tourism

EQUATIONS studies the links between child abuse, exploitation of children and tourism, it networks with concerned groups, government agencies tourism industry, and other players to draw attention to and devise strategies for ensuring that tourism does not contribute to exploitation of children.

Ecosystem communities and tourism

EQUATIONS' Programme on Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism strives towards influencing international, national and state policies on ecotourism, keeping democracy, protection of environment and peoples' rights as inalienable benchmarks.

Globalization and Tourism

Using the complex web of tourism to understand the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), EQUATIONS studies the impacts of a multilateral trading regime in tourism for India and developing countries.

Political, social and economic context of EQUATIONS work

Within the realm of research, networking, advocacy and campaign work undertaken by the EQUATIONS, the last year has thrown up many a challenge, stemming from the constantly changing regional, national and international socio - political milieu.

At the national level, the new government formed after the parliamentary elections ushered in the Common Minimum Program (CMP) with full credit support to boost the service sector, including tourism and bring in investments for tourism in all regions of the country including Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast. With a new minister Ms. Renuka Chowdhury at the helm of affairs, it

was expected that the previous trends would continue with a fresh perspective. True to this point, the new minister has aimed for large-scale tourism development with a strategy of involving more private players, foreign investment and through it improving air, rail and road connectivity to existing and new destinations and to the 22 world heritage sites of India. Further, the ministry's proposal to grant the tourism sector infrastructure status and create a "single stop clearance" will have serious implications on environmental impact assessments, decentralization and initiatives to involve communities in tourism development.

India has proposed to set up a national tourism board on the lines of Singapore and Hong Kong to "hard sell India as a tourist destination" for medical, religious and eco tourism. Having identified 31 villages to promote them as ecotourism destinations, the ministry has finally talked of regulation in these villages to ensure that the ecological setup is not disturbed.

To sum up, the challenges we faced this year remained the same despite a change in government. On part of the tourism industry, mainstream perspective on tourism development continues. All though the tourism ministry is now desiring to work with other ministries to streamline tourism growth, there continues to be a disconnect with other key sectors as was evident from the Draft National Environment Policy (NEP) 2004 which was a completely inward looking document.

At the regional level, states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh, have prioritized tourism as a thrust sector, driven by the private sector. Karnataka has specialized into different forms of tourism like education tourism, IT tourism, health tourism, and business / conference tourism; the mantra being more diverse the products the more the tourism. A Rs. 600 crore tourism master plan is ready and awaiting implementation to bring in tourists by the droves. Even though the policy highlights development of tourism infrastructure and amenities (like accommodation, transportation, wayside, adventure tourism, amusement parks, water sports, zoo, heritage centers etc) at the same time it is silent on issues to be urgently addressed like environmental degradation, alienation of indigenous people, carrying capacity of destinations, cultural decay, child trafficking and sex tourism.

Among the southern states, Kerala has taken the lead in the region by adopting a more sophisticated approach to tourism and the behavior of other states is to follow the Kerala model. This is despite the fact that even though Kerala continues to promote tourism and exploit every resource of potential the government has failed to impose restrictions on unethical practices that have developed in the name of tourism.

Following the Kerala model the Tamil Nadu government has increased the tourism budget from a mere Rs. 5 crores in 2000-2001 to Rs. 32.42 crores in 2005-2006. The state government has been planning to make the state a not-to-be-missed tourist destination. The 64th SKAL¹ World Congress, which was held in Chennai during October 2003 has enabled the state to make its presence strongly felt in the tourism sector internationally. It has clearly stated its role as a mere facilitator and invited private investors for executing mega tourism projects (like cable car, sound and light show, cruise vessel operations, air/sea sports, spa resorts) and infrastructure developments projects (about 85% of public investment is to be spent on infrastructure development). The recent Tsunami that struck the east coast of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry has damaged most of the beach tourism destinations in Tamil Nadu. The commitment of the government is on bringing normalcy in the affected areas including tourism areas, but the reality is that the backdrop of the tsunami, is being used as a pretext to take forward the development agenda.

Similarly, Andhra Pradesh has ventured on an aggressive promotional drive, in an effort to boost tourism both at national and international levels. With a vision, 'Bring the world to AP', and 'Take

¹ Headquartered in Torremolinos, Spain, SKAL is a professional organisation of tourism leaders from around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship.

AP to the world', the government plans to make the state the ultimate destination in India by the year 2020. The tourism minister of India hails from Andhra Pradesh and she has identified religious tourism as a focus area. Based on this, Andhra Pradesh has embarked on creating niche in this segment (religious tourism) by aggressively promoting the Buddhist pilgrimage circuit to both domestic and international tourists from Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka and China.

Therefore we can observe that in each of the states, the focus is on large-scale infrastructure, hospitality industry and diversification of tourism products. A token mention of environmental, social and community concerns finds place in policies and policy notes, but how this will be implemented is not clearly spelt out. On the other hand, the areas earmarked for development have clear plans for land acquisition without regard to displacement issues, infrastructure requirements, and capital investment and the states' support in the form of subsidies and incentives. With this mode of tourism development, the result is harmonization of frameworks for movement of capital, domestic and international.

This is further strengthened by our analysis that there is a process of integration of spaces in operation. Take the west coast of India for instance; the course of action to develop areas adjoining state boundaries is evident by Kerala wanting to promote Bekal (declared as a special tourism area) in the north and Karnataka to promote the Dakshina Kannada in the south. Similarly, Uttar Kannada (north) with Goa, and Goa with Sindhudurg (declared as a special tourism area) and then with Mumbai in Maharashtra. A parallel process is ongoing in the Western Ghats. This would lead us to visualize two parallel belts of tourism development, coastal and high range with a tourism circuit touching both these ecosystems. This may be generalized to be occurring at the intra and inter national level, if we take the cases of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Islands have been linked up to Phuket in Thailand and Kerala circuitizes its tourism with Sri Lanka and Maldives.

The process of integration of spaces for expanding tourism brings in shrinking spaces for local communities, especially fisher folks and for hill tribes, forest dwellers. The space is recreated, reproduced and reconstructed, which further alienates the local communities and finally detaches them from their traditional habitats. Some hotels in Kerala and Tamil Nadu continue to illegally declare beaches as private and restrict access to the communities. With denial of access to local communities and their detachment comes denial of livelihoods, and with denial of livelihoods comes the wiping out of the history of a community.

With the active nexus of governments (read politicians) and the tourism industry, and bundling of contradictions, the governments have only accelerated the integration of spaces and have set bad examples in governance. The contradictions have surfaced in the case of Tamil Nadu where the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, earlier violated in connivance with the development lobby of tourism, aquaculture, private land developers etc., is being evoked to displace coastal communities beyond 1000m from the high tide line (HTL). On the contrary, by CRZ governing the area 500m from the HTL only, permits habitation of coastal communities and their activities. In a sensitive situation post tsunami, the government is behaving in a most insensitive and ruthless manner, with long term self interest on its agenda (for gaining complete access and control over the coastal areas). The government of Tamil Nadu, as also the Administration of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has been audacious enough to announce at the International Tourism Bureau, Berlin this year that they are ready to receive tourists and all things are back to normal.

Effects on the work and on the overall objective/overall goal.

The objectives and strategies that we had set out with at the beginning of the project cycle have been revalidated and strengthened by our work. EQUATIONS has built, consolidated and clustered networks in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu; in Karnataka we have built and consolidated networks, and in Andhra Pradesh we have identified networks.

In specific locations, our network partners have taken responsibility to monitor tourism impacts and disseminate information to local networks. This is a role that we foresee would enable local groups and communities to take informed decisions upon. Our work on analysis would focus on building tourism development theory from particular (destination-specific analysis) to general. There are clear trends in the pattern of development, e.g., springing up of amusement parks across all states, that will aid us in our analytical theory, as we have mentioned in preceding paragraphs on integration of spaces for tourism development. One of the strategies that we have identified is to formulate an *a priori* hypothesis, substantiate it with research facts (from monitoring mechanisms) and evolve the theory, for instance a politico-economic analysis of the mega coastal tourism zone that is developing on the west coast of India.

In the socio-economic and political climate of India in general and South India region in particular, our analysis would address tensions that are emerging with our work and the international, national, state and local processes. In the context globalization and entry of multinational players, and domestic players adopting character of multinational counterparts, a class analysis will be undertaken to ascertain who are the various actors and their character.

EQUATIONS have the advantage of working in different states. We have raised the toughest questions when they have to be raised; we have the capability to do that. In the broad framework of our project objectives, our aim is to also compel engagement and discussions on issues of concern at all levels.

Comparison of planned results with achieved results for the Year 2004-05

The process of building and broad basing networks of people concerned with tourism to influence tourism policy and development in India continued this year with the focus of interventions being district level visits & meetings with various stakeholders in states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka. Strategic collaborations with diverse stakeholders ranging from civil society organizations, concerned individuals, activists, panchayats, government departments, media, academicians, researchers, students, and tourism industry & service providers were sustained.

EQUATIONS have reincorporated Karnataka in the networking activities this year (2004-05). This has been achieved through revitalizing and scaling-up of networks and strengthening the information base leading to identification of areas and issues for future interventions. In Nagarhole, the issues pertaining to national park were revisited and the program was able to revive the network that played a proactive role in campaign against the setting up of a luxury resort inside the park. During this year, as a direct outcome of the national consultation held in July 2004, that raised the issue of displacement due to tourism development in Pilikula to the representatives from different parts of the country and the consequent campaign that EQUATIONS had undertaken with the local organizations in Mangalore, local communities are demanding their rights for participating in the decision making processes and their involvement in tourism activities. In addition, the program identified three spatial zones for an intensive intervention, which include, coastal Karnataka, Hampi and Kodagu. The program identified network partners in these areas for future collaboration and also conducted preliminary field visits in the selected tourism destinations. The network partners have outlined the need of consultative processes towards generating awareness on tourism issues. Karnataka is one of the favored destinations for World Bank and ADB for financial operations and policy advice; much of its basic amenities such as health care services, education, and water are being driven by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). These policies are being pushed through loan conditions, and direct financing of transnational corporations. In the light of growing investments in Karnataka, there has been growing regional disparity in terms of economic and social development. The program facilitated an intense debate over the growing presence of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in the state.

The Kerala Program was able to establish its presence in the state with its continuous efforts in the last one and half years. This is evident from the network partners and stakeholders willing to engage more direct contacts with the program in state specific issues. Many of the program's work has resulted in empowering local groups and other stakeholders to pick up issues on their own, monitor tourism related issues and create fruitful debates within the state. The article written by Mr. Joji Koottummel, one of the network partners from Kumarakom, in Kerala Kaumudi Daily on the Kerala Tourism (Preservation & Conservation of Areas) Ordinance 2005 has prompted the state tourism minister to respond and come up with clarifications. The issues raised by the program on sex tourism prevailing in the state was well picked up by media, resulting in creating debate on the issue in the state assembly. The panchayats have been critical to raise their concerns with the government and other state machineries on tourism issues. This has resulted in the political parties also to engage on tourism debates. The program has been successful in timely updating the network partners on the critical issues, developments and policies on tourism issues, which has resulted in such campaigns and debates. The program's strategy to analyse the tourism trends in the state in relation to the official tourism policy document – Vision 2025 has been vital to make the government abide on the values and principles they themselves have put forward. In spite of this, various departments of the government, including Tourism Department have been proactive to have discussions with the program and even to accept some of the recommendations. Although the government has taken decisions to come up with regulations in the case of backwater tourism and Ayurveda tourism, this was not effectively implemented. It is noteworthy that political parties have taken up issues on tourism resulting in campaigns and discussions in the State Assembly.

In Tamil Nadu, local NGOs and activists are taking up tourism issues on their own. They have organized campaigns in Kanyakumari and Mamallapuram to sensitize tourists on responsible tourism. State level coalition of NGOs and movements have included tourism impacts on their agenda for state level advocacy, wherein tourism is a major component in the decadal evaluation of status of environment in Tamil Nadu. Involvement of local groups in the rapid assessment survey has helped them to prepare for state level advocacy on impacts of tourism on women and children. EQUATIONS have been raising the issue of coastal violations in Tamil Nadu at least from the past 10 years. After the tsunami and constitution of the Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Coordination - TRRC (TN & Pondicherry), a need was felt to conduct assessment to gauge the magnitude of impact on different social, economic and environmental aspects of the coast. Tourism being a major impacting factor in this space, EQUATIONS was invited as a resource to conduct the assessments. Similarly, in the post-tsunami context, TRRC was able to identify the issues with women and children and EQUATIONS was invited to conduct psychosocial intervention and facilitate a social impact assessment covering these issues. We see this as a shift in activity but reinforcement of our objectives and mandate on coastal issues.

The Campaign Support Unit's (CSU) interface with networks through information exchange has resulted in networks seeking EQUATIONS' support in their own campaigns and interventions. The CSU's utility value has increased with many local, state, national and international students and researchers benefiting from it. This is indicative of the fact that the CSU users are keen to evaluate tourism on its costs (including social and environmental) and benefits, rather than benefits alone. CSU's role as networks database manager was used to raise the campaign on the draft National Environment Policy 2004 to national level with the state tourism departments. The information support role of CSU has aided local governments to take informed decisions, as in the case of Kunnathunadu gram panchayat, Kerala against the Veegaland amusement park. A significant contribution of the CSU has been in the campaign against the Sahara group's mega ecotourism project in Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, where the government of West Bengal reversed its decision to partner it.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions & Tourism program has been working in close association with the state networking programs. In the last two years, overlapping of Panchayat program with the state programs has been clearly visible and therefore contribution of the program is not exclusive.

However, the program made a significant contribution in facilitating peoples' charter on sustainable tourism and formation of functional committee in Kumarakom (Kerala). The State also witnessed dual stances being taken by the government on various issues. The newly proposed Kerala Tourism (Conservation & Preservation of Tourism Areas) Act, 2005 has stripped the Panchayat off of their powers, while the Tourism Vision 2025 document strategies to promote sustainable tourism development with focus on conservation and preservation and to regulate tourism activities through participation of panchayats. The program provided critique to the Act and thus, prepared the ground to launch a campaign.

The Women & Tourism Program has been working on entrepreneurship development and women in governance to integrate gender concerns in tourism development. During the last two year's, the program has gained clarity on various models of entrepreneurship in tourism destinations by analyzing models from different parts of the South Asian region. In Tamil Nadu, the program was able to bring out the women's issues to the forefront of tourism debates at the local level through focused research carried out by program.

The Tourism Education program's awareness raising activities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have resulted in institutions we interacted with to express deeper interest on other issues apart from environment. They have also offered to widen the scope of awareness activities in future to their network of tourism teaching institutions.

In the year 2004-05, Ecosystems, Communities and Tourism Programme, took up the two projects Khonoma Green Village Project (KGVP) and Film and Advocacy Project on Forest Dwellers and Nomadic Tribes (FAP) on priority basis. In the KGVP, EQUATIONS facilitated the process of EIA, which was mooted by Khonoma Tourism Development Board (KTDB), and executed in association with the local research team. The experiments done in Khonoma have been recognized by the government, both at central and state level and Government of Nagaland is all set to replicate the experiences of Khonoma in different villages of the state. The year 2004-05, also witnessed increasing thrust on the debate on indigenous people, their threatened rights and opportunities. Drawing from evidences from Nagarahole, Periyar, Chhattisgarh, we realized that the Program needs to analyze the issues of indigenous people in depth. In the light of new tribal policy, environment policy and amendments in existing environmental legislation (such as inclusion of community and conservation reserves by an amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972), we have perceived a greater need to systematically document violations of rights and struggles of local communities. We believe that a systematic and comprehensive documentation of the relentless struggles of forest dwellers and nomadic tribes is critical at the present juncture; in order to expose the paradigm of induced development in tribal areas and its negative impacts on these vulnerable communities. The Film and Advocacy project aims at extensive research, documentation and filming of violation of tribal rights over their lands, waters and forests; the stories of their never ending struggles and violation of their human rights. In the last year, the Program launched a campaign against Sahara's tourism project in Sundarban. The campaign centered on adverse ecological impacts of the proposed project and livelihood concerns of the local communities. Various groups and concerned individuals have supported this campaign. The campaign has resulted in the government of West Bengal shelving the project, at least for the time being, citing environmental concerns. However, other developments in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve that also include tourism are issues that need to be dealt with by the Program.

After the tsunami in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 26 Dec.04, questionable governance moves by the government and administration respectively in these two areas have strengthened the Program's mandate to intervene from a policy and legal perspective. In Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification is being now evoked to translocate coastal communities to interior areas. The governments has earlier turned a blind eye, and many a times actively conspired with, to promote large scale violations on the coast. In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the administration is now focusing on revamping earlier controversial plans for tourism development. All this is being done when the people are still

struggling to get a grip on their lives after the calamity; the governance has only taken an advantage of the situation to pursue their own interests

In fulfilling its three objectives - awareness building, national level advocacy and contribution to the international debate on the WTO, this year the General Agreement in Trade and Services (GATS) and Tourism Programme's activities have concentrated on research work. EQUATIONS has completed the research work as part of the project to develop a *WTO-GATS-Tourism Impact Assessment Framework for Developing Countries* and has also established international contacts to take this project into its implementation phase. The Programme has also undertaken research work in the area of Regional Trade Agreements as this was identified as a significant area for future advocacy interventions for EQUATIONS. A significant portion of the Programme work during the last year has revolved around research work. The main activity under this head was the completion of the research study to develop a *WTO-GATS-Tourism Impact Assessment Framework for Developing Countries* - a project supported by EED, Germany. In addition, given the changed politico-economic milieu, the Programme undertook intensive research work in the field of Regional Trade Agreements in the context of India. Monitoring of negotiations and the Government of India's position on the GATS is an on-going process. By subscribing to various international list-serves (both confidential and public), EQUATIONS has been able to gain information and regular updates on the developments in Geneva.

An important part of the Programme's work has been to carry on the networking and advocacy activities at the national and regional level. During the past year, the Programme has worked in association with the Karnataka State Networking Programme in mobilizing local groups on the issues concerning International Financial Institutions and its implications for development concerns in the State. During the last year, important milestones like holding a press conference and a state-level strategy session were successfully implemented in association with State Network Partners. However, although these interventions have enabled an initiation of the debate in the State, the campaign has not been able to move forward.

As an initial step towards strengthening the national campaign towards the Hong Kong Ministerial, the Programme has also entered into a partnership with Focus on the Global South, Mumbai to undertake joint monitoring and networking on issues concerning the WTO, IFIs and Regional Trade Agreements. A milestone in this regard was the joint networking and advocacy that the Programme was involved in around the G-20 Mini Ministerial held in New Delhi in March 2005

During this reporting period, the Child and Tourism programme along with Women & Tourism programme and networking programme has initiated a process of gathering information on issues related to women, children and tourism in Tamil Nadu. This initiative was primarily undertaken during the "South Regional Consultation on Impacts of Tourism on Women and Children in Tamil Nadu" held in Dindigul focusing on 9 tourism districts of Tamil Nadu (South). Following this meeting participant requested that EQUATIONS conducts a rapid assessment survey to gather data on the above issues. Participants present at the consultation mentioned that they will undertake the survey, provided EQUATIONS guide them and take the lead role for this initiative. It was also decided that the pattern similarities of impacts of tourism on women and children will be compiled and submitted to the Department of Tourism, Tamil Nadu on the 27th of September 2004, the World Tourism Day in form of a Demand / Memorandum. The similar concern was voiced in other district meetings in Tamil Nadu as well. During the last three months, the programme has been able to engage in dialogues with government *functionaries and other stakeholders* on the process of implementing the guideline (CLRG). As envisaged during the last programme year (2003 - 2004), lobbying with concerned government officials to incorporate the same while undertaking rescue operations is forming a critical part of intervention in the Child and Tourism programme.

The work on setting up monitoring cells as a follow up to the last year's work in Andhra Pradesh, is still in its infancy. The programme has discussed the parameters and the structure of child rights monitoring cell structure with Andhra Pradesh Child Rights Action Forum.

Networking and cooperation with other organizations

Apart from the diverse groups such as fisher folks, women self-help groups, women's rights groups, trade unions, political parties, advocates, students, academicians, youth clubs and other civil society formations into the tourism debate; having continued our networking with these groups, this year we have networked more closely with the print and electronic media, panchayats, advocates, environmental activists and researchers, and government departments.

The response from media has been positive with moderate coverage of views in the three focus states of the project this year; holistically looking at environmental, social and economic impacts of tourism, and provide adequate space for local governance decisions and to put regulations in place.

We acknowledge the intensive support we have received this year also from the following organizations in the states of:

1. Karnataka: Mahila Ookota, NGO Forum (Mangalore), Campaign Against Child Labour, CIVIC, Focus on Global South
2. Kerala: Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishat, Kumarakom Nature Club
3. Tamil Nadu: CEDA Trust, Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu Environment Council, Women's Collective, Coastal Action Network, TRRC and Consumer Action Group, CREED
4. Pondicherry: HOPE, ADECOM
5. Andhra Pradesh: APCRAF, Mahiti, Prajwala, Laya, Help, STHREE, Navajeevan.
6. Goa: Bailancho Saad, ARZ, Jan Ugahi.

While this is an indicative list of organizations that have worked with and collaborated with us, this is by no means an exhaustive list. At the national level, Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT); all these organizations have supported EQUATIONS goals and vision through voluntary contribution of their expertise and skills. In addition to this, EQUATIONS has been accorded membership to ECPAT².

Cooperation with other donors- additional project support etc.

EQUATIONS have in the last year expanded its cooperation with a range of donors. Our core donors are Bread for the World and Misereor, who have continued to provide critical support to our network-building program that is the heart of EQUATIONS work. We have also been supported this year on research projects and interventions by HIVOS (India Regional Office) for research project on Film & Advocacy on Forest Dwellers and Nomadic Tribes; EED - Tourism Watch, Germany for a project on Developing a GATS-Tourism Impact Assessment Framework; UNIFEM-SARO for a study on child rights in tourism. We are also involved with a consultancy assignment with the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Nagaland.

² ECPAT began as a campaign against child prostitution in Asian tourism. ECPAT is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Since the early 1990s, ECPAT International and ECPAT groups around the world have worked with the tourism and travel industry to raise awareness and to take practical measures against children being sexually abused. Encouraged by ECPAT, the tourism and travel industry has responded to the challenge of not allowing the industry to be used to harm children. Luggage tags, ticket pouches, education manuals and programs in tourism training schools, in-flight videos, advertisements against child sex tourism, and codes of conduct for tour operators have been adopted and promoted by various sectors of the industry.

Reasons and comments in case of deviations

In the Kerala program, the deviation was under the rapid assessment survey that was planned. Whereas the issue was identified as child sex tourism in Thrissur, the network partners felt a need for a primary investigation prior to the assessment. They have conducted the investigation and hence the assessment will be undertaken during 2005-06.

In the Tamil Nadu program, district and inter-district meetings could not be organized in the second half of the year for two reasons: a) induction of a new team member and b) changed ground conditions after the tsunami in end of December 2004. Therefore, the state level advocacy workshop could also not be organized, as it would draw from the district and inter-district meetings.

In the Karnataka program, contacts were revived for the district of Kodagu but the preliminary visit to identified areas of intervention could not be undertaken. Organizing district meetings and facilitating grassroots action has been moved to year 2005-06 as identifying stakeholders & developing the agenda is in the process of finalization and grassroots action will follow district meetings. However, a strategy meeting with network partners was organized in addition to planned activities for a need-based intervention on IFIs entering the state to provide basic services.

In the CSU program, the implementation of the monitoring cells in other identified location of Kerala and Tamil Nadu was not possible due to the ground situations; the network partners are willing, the concept note, operational guidelines and bye-laws are in place, but a more concerted effort with our networks is required to convert this into a reality. Discussions with local stakeholders are on and we hope to achieve these during this year 2005-06.

The PRIs & Tourism program in Kerala has made a positive deviation by organizing more meetings than planned due to a need-based intervention to build awareness of panchayats on the Tourism Ordinance, 2005. Further, a state level compendium of panchayat issues could not be undertaken but a publication on "study on role of panchayats in tourism" has been done. In Karnataka, facilitating grassroots action by panchayats was not undertaken due to panchayat elections in the state. For the preparation of peoples' charter for sustainable tourism, the visits to identified panchayats was delayed, and because of elections, it would be appropriate to engage with new panchayat members. In Muttukadu, Tamil Nadu the formation of multi stakeholder committee in panchayat on tourism issues could not be completed because the panchayat was affected by tsunami.

In the Women & Tourism Program, the constraint was in having a person to anchor the implementation of the action plan. Despite best efforts, a suitable person could not be found. Otherwise, the program is in a position to execute its planned activities.

In the Tourism Education program, the state level workshop for academicians was planned for a national level one, with commitments from our partner Christ College and Ministry of Tourism Government of India. However, the ministry withdrew its support to the initiative citing time constraints and the cost of the event could not be borne by EQUATIONS and Christ College alone.

Consequences for the work to be done in the future

There are no major shifts that we foresee in the project in the coming year. We have made a few minor changes in the project as: a) the Panchayat Raj Institutions & Tourism program has been renamed Local Self Governance Empowerment & Tourism program to widen interventions due to changes happening on the ground. b) In the Tamil Nadu networking program, the planned activities remaining the same, our priority will be on state level advocacy on environmental (coast) and social issues in both tsunami and non-tsunami affected areas.