



# Communicator

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# PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH RADIO

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COMMUNITY RADIO AS A  
PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION TOOL

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ESTHER S. KAR<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

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It has been over 20 years since the Hon'ble Supreme Court gave its landmark judgement declaring airwaves as public property. Since February 1996, Government of India has made a conscious effort to open up the airwaves to a diversity of media and also create a space for the Community Media. In the context of development communication, the Community Radio as a participatory communication tool has proved its effectiveness and reach and created a paradigm for involvement of the beneficiary in the decision making process. This study discusses how Community Radio sector in India has empowered and given voice to the most marginalised and ensured their participation in the development process.

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## Keywords

Community radio, Empowerment, Voice,  
Social mobilisation, People's participation.

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# RESEARCHING COMMUNITY RADIO



REMINISCENCES OF A CONCEPTUAL  
AND EMPIRICAL JOURNEY



KANCHAN K MALIK<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

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This paper reflects on the first ever doctoral work on ‘Community Radio in India’ carried out by the author at a time when the not-for-profit sector was not a reality in the broadcasting ecology of the country. It traces how the campaign for community radio in India and some of the grass-roots experiments of narrowcasting informed her research findings and analysis. The paper also make linkages, where possible, to the changes that have been witnessed in the field of research on community radio over the last decade and a half – how the academic foundations have evolved, transformed and progressed and what are the newer perspectives and prospects for research with the changing policy environment and practices within the CR sector in India.

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## Keywords

Community radio, Social change,  
Participatory communication, Voice,  
Media democratisation.

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# INSIGHTS FROM THE PAST

➤  
EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF  
COMMUNITY RADIO IN INDIA

➤  
SHWETA PRAJAPATI<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

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This study is an attempt to deliberate upon the critical issue of sustainability in the community radio sector with some insights from functioning of various community radio stations in India. While providing a brief account on the interlinked challenges faced by community radio stations, the study discusses a few case studies within the framework of social, technical, financial and institutional sustainability. It is based on the author's interactions with different community radio stations across India and also her own managerial experience of working with one of the stations. Insights from these varied incidents have been put together to deliberate upon common concerns and also share some interesting observations from the field which can indicate towards possible solutions.

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## Keywords

Community radio, People's participation,  
Community media sustainability, Chanderi Ki  
Awaaz, Vasundhara Vahini

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# A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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MIGRANTS, THEIR VOICE AND  
COMMUNITY RADIO

➤  
N. RAMAKRISHNAN<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

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Migrant communities are among the most marginalised communities in any society and they face extensive xenophobia and discrimination. An important component of establishing migrant rights is for societies to establish spaces and platforms that allow migrant communities to express themselves and speak out. One important way to achieve this is the use of community radio, a form of radio that is owned, managed and run by communities themselves. This article examines the challenges of voice poverty as applied to migrants. It explores how community radio have addressed the issue of migrants' rights and inclusion through sensitive programming and affirmative spaces for migrants to participate in community discussions.

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## Keywords

Migrants' rights, Marginalised community,  
Community radio, Voice poverty,  
Social inclusion.

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# COMMUNITY RADIO

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AN EMERGING TOOL FOR  
SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

➤  
BIJAY BASANT PATRO<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

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The three instances cited in this article point to the ability of ordinary citizens with the inclination to report on science being able to harness the facilities of Community Radio Stations so as to broadcast science programmes. Together, all the three experiments integrate the creative abilities of radio reporters in the communities to demystify and communicate science in a language (even colloquial language) that their listeners understand. This article provides a glimpse of three such interventions – a programme series on ‘Science for Women Health and Nutrition’ and mathematics on radio or Radio Maths and the science of climate change, a programme series that goes by the name Shubh Kal. While contributing to raising scientific temper, which is every citizen’s duty, as enshrined in the Constitution of India, these initiatives have laid the foundation of a people’s science movement in the country.

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## Keywords

Community radio, Science Journalism, Shubh Kal, Climate Change, Radio Maths.

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