

Fordocumentationand researchheadforCED

BY KINJAL DAGLK

The most enterprising minds are those that are also sensitive to issues. In one such example, the result was the establishment of a centre inspired by student awareness of the right to information.

Tucked away in Suleman Chambers behind Regal Cinema is the Centre for Education and Documentation — a library that houses over 8,000 books, 4,000 government, as well as NGO reports, and 250 documentaries, besides an abundant and updated store of published material and journals. The CED, as it is popu-

larly known, was started in 1978 by a group of students who had graduated from St. Xavier's college, Mumbai, and were keen to do social work. Mr John D'Souza, the present director of CED and one of the founders of

info centre

CED relates the rest of the story. Says Mr D'Souza, "As students, we thought of doing developmental work. We set up an organisation called Vistas and began working in villages. However, two things happened which fuelled our desire for an informa-

tion centre — the Emergency, and the question of rethinking the development agenda. With the Emergency we realised the need to have more information on the ground level. We also felt strongly attacked as the villages we were working in accused us of being involved in a scam. Suddenly, it was not enough to have good intentions."

The CED is an information centre containing newspaper clippings, magazine reports, documents and studies which are classified under 800 topics mainly focusing on development and social issues, especially issues

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concerning gender, environment, voluntary sector, sustainability and social justice. The information is accessed through their computerised database and is **mainly** available by physical reference.

The CED library also contains videos which can be borrowed for viewing.

Remote users can have access to the database through the CED site — www.doccentre.org. One can also enrol as a non-resident research fellow or as an institutional affiliate and get photocopier by post for personal study and reference. Some material is available in text form. These can be sent to subscribers by e-mail. Non-subscribers have "free access to information put on the site.

Call CED at 2020019