

CSOs and NGOs working for Business and Human Rights¹

Cividep India

Workers' Rights & Corporate Accountability

Name of Organisation: Cividep India

Website of Organisation: <http://cividep.org/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/cividep/?fref=ts>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

Cividep India has been working since 2000 to safeguard and promote the economic, social and cultural rights of workers in India, where a lack of formal employment contracts, weak regulations and poorly implemented legal mechanisms leave workers with little protection. Its constituency includes workers in the global supply chains of garments, electronics, leather and coffee, and communities affected by extractive and other industries. It has advocated with local government, businesses and global brands, as well as campaigning in association with allies worldwide.

Cividep attempts to empower workers and communities and to ensure that businesses comply with human and labour rights and environmental standards. With this objective, they educate workers, study effects of corporate conduct, dialogue with various stakeholders and advocate for policy change.

Cividep's relationship with DTP began in 2008 when its Executive Director, Gopinath Parakuni, attended the DTP Human Rights and Business program in the Philippines. In 2010, DTP and Cividep worked together to organise DTP's regional Human Rights and Business program in Thailand. DTP's training sessions have strengthened Cividep's capacity to research business and human rights issues, particularly from a legal standpoint; improved its knowledge of judicial and non-judicial grievance mechanisms; and helped its staff to better understand how to access the World Bank, the OECD and other international organisations.

Cividep has also drawn on the structure and philosophy of DTP's programs in its own work. It now runs its own Human Rights and Business workshops annually in India, developing the capacity of grassroots organisations to defend community rights, and building a network of human rights defenders working with vulnerable communities in different regions of the country. Gopinath participated in the DTP Fellows Program in Australia in 2015.

"The association with DTP is partly responsible for Cividep growing into a competent and well-recognised civil society organisation in South Asia that defends the human rights of workers and other communities impacted by corporate policies and practices."

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, It has provided training to over 2800 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.