

VINEETHA VENUGOPAL

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WORK SUMMARY

Independent Consultant

- **Kabes Media: September 2022 - February 2024:** Research, fundraising and organizational strategy
- **Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF): September 2022- September 2023:** Contributed to civil society conceptualisation of digital commons and digital public infrastructure.
- **World Wide Fund for Nature: April 2023 - May 2023** Developed content on digital evidence to strengthen efforts to counter illegal wildlife trade in cyberspace
- **Dakshin Foundation: June 2021 - October 2021:** Analysed coastal regulations on Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Full-Time Positions

Aspen Institute - Program Associate, ANDE South Asia: February 2024 - till date

- Key responsibilities: Ecosystem building, partner management, member engagement, program management, event curation, communication, fundraising and event coordination
- Co-designed and co-coordinated an Access to Green Markets corporate demo day. Co-leading ANDE Asia Diversity Equity and Social Inclusion learning lab and leading SCALE project in India to increase the effectiveness of Business Development Services.

Digital Empowerment Foundation- Assistant Manager: Jan -September 2022

- Key responsibilities: Research, fundraising, partner engagement, external communication, documentation and advocacy.
- Designed programs on misinformation & disinformation and data protection & privacy
- Cohort member representing DEF in the HP ASPEN Digital Equity Accelerator

Dakshin Foundation- Senior Research Assistant : April 2019 - March 2021

- Researcher and field coordinator for a participatory GIS mapping initiative to strengthen the claims of fishing communities over their coastal commons.
- Analysed environmental legislations and policies; collaborated with fisher trade unions and allied organisations and campaigned towards marine and coastal conservation.
- Co-coordinated relief operations during the COVID-19 lockdown in India.

IT for Change- Project Associate: November 2017 - March 2019

- Partner management, project documentation & research for an action research project to build a proof-of-concept, scalable model of a community-owned spatial data system.
- Coordinated field activities, developed curriculum for capacity building and mentored a cohort of youth participants from the community to take the program forward.
- Co-designed and executed a successful survey-based data campaign.

Dell International Services Private Limited- Software Dev. Senior Analyst: 2014-2015

Infosys Limited- Technical Analyst: 2008 - 2013

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Digital -C, DB2, Mainframe Technologies , UNIX, Perl, DotNet Technologies (C#), MATLAB, GIS, Wordpress, Open Data Kit (ODK), Python, Salesforce
- Research: Policy analysis, thematic analysis, survey design, participatory mapping, data analysis
- Teaching: curriculum development, workshop facilitation

EDUCATION

- **Universitat de Barcelona** - Ecological and feminist macroeconomics - Online Summer School. 2021-2021.
- **University of Chicago** - School of Social Services Administration (Exchange Student): 2016 - 2016.
- **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai**- MA Social Work in Community Organization and Development Practices: 2015- 2017.
- **Government College of Engineering Kannur, Kerala** - B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering: 2004-2008

PUBLICATIONS

- Venugopal, V., Das, B. S., and Sridhar, A. (2024). Recentering the commons: assessing citizen mapping as an environmental practice. *Maritime Studies*, 23(2), 16.
- Venugopal, V. (2023). Aadhaar Card Please...A perception survey on Aadhaar-related services. Digital Empowerment Foundation.
- Aaditeshwar Seth et al. (2023). "A Governance Framework for Digital Public Infrastructure: Learning from the Indian Experience," T20 Policy Brief.
- Venugopal, V and Jenny, S. (2023). Taking a stand against manipulation and violence. In Worthington, J. (Ed.). *Managing the misinformation effect: the state of fact-checking in Asia*. International Federation of Journalists.
- Venugopal, V, Das, B.S., Namboothri, N and Sridhar, A. (2021). Commoning Coastal Odisha. Dakshin Foundation, Bengaluru.
- James, S., Sinha, N., Sridhar, A and Venugopal, V. (2021). Challenging the violence of development: Unpacking the protests against the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021. Bar and Bench.
- Venugopal, V. (2020). Commoning Practices – Towards becoming 'in common. Dakshin Foundation.
- Venugopal, V. (2020). The role of LEK in governing the commons – an overview. Dakshin Foundation.
- Venugopal, V. (2020). The Shore Scene: The Heavy Toll of COVID-19 on India's Fishers. The Bastion.
- Jojan, A. and Venugopal, V. (2019). Biodiversity Act : Draft ABS Guidelines Helps Businesses By Diluting Sharing Of Benefits With Local Communities. *Live Law*.

CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

- Student Conference on Conservation Science, Bengaluru, 2024 - Asking new questions in a changing enviro legal landscape (workshop facilitator)
- 7th India Land and Development Conference. Pune, 2023 - "Recentering the commons: Assessing citizen mapping as an environmental practice" (paper presenter)
- Student Conference on Conservation Science, Bengaluru, 2023 - "Introduction to climate law and justice" (workshop facilitator)
- United Nations Internet Governance Forum 2022- Lighting talk - " Democratising data rights discourse - experience sharing from India" (speaker, online)
- Aspen Accelerating Digital Equity Showcase, October 2022, (presenter)
- Student Conference on Conservation Science, Bengaluru, 2022 - "Asking New Questions on Environmental Law" (workshop facilitator)
- RightsCon 2022 - "Unbridled AI-powered systems in governance: experiences, insights and shared confusions" Community Lab (facilitator)
- Janta Parliament, 2020, Environment Session (panelist)

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Qualified University Grants Commission (UGC) National Eligibility Test (NET) 2016 and 2017 for Junior Research Fellow and Assistant Professor.