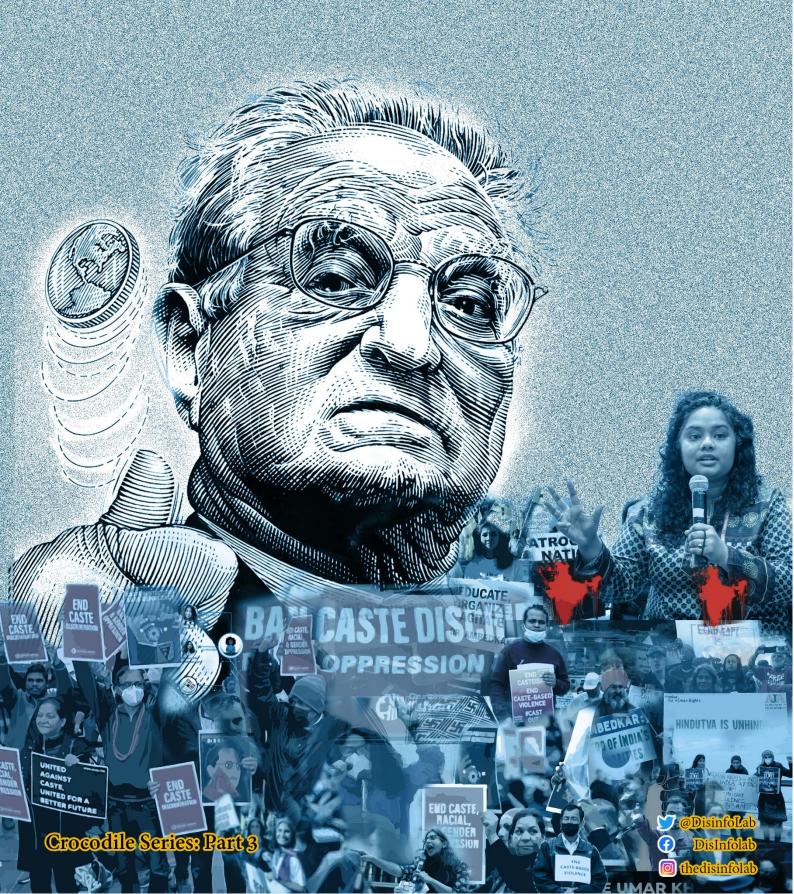


मगरमच्छ Cost of Caste

Equality Labs: Caste Binary & BLM



Preface

What happens when a Pak Jamaat protégé, a fake identity, and two Soros-funded agents walk into a bar?

They produce a survey on India's caste issues.

The 'Survey Report' in question is conducted by Equality Labs, a front associated with usual suspects working against Indian interest for decades.

It appears shocking that such a farcical report was given unqualified publicity by the most prominent 'Global' media? Not one 'journalist' cared to check the report and its pioneers?

No one cared to find that the fronts 'acknowledged' by the report are associated with Islamist fronts and that the 'Survey' DELETED references from its acknowledgments after they got exposed for their terror and ISI links?

However, it doesn't feel shocking when one realizes that the real movers and shakers are none other than Soros and company.

Table of Contents:

Preface	2
Introduction	4
Chapter 1: Equality Labs	5
Equality Labs and its Founders	5
Equality Labs- the Pak/ Jamaat Imprints	8
Chapter 2: Anatomy of Equality Labs' 2018 Caste Report	11
Equality Labs' Caste Report Methodology	12
Who funds Equality Labs?	13
The Omidyar Network and Equality Labs	13
Open Society Foundation	14
Ford Foundation & Fractured Atlas	15
New Media Ventures	15
Chapter 3: the Larger Agenda and the Clean-up	20
The Clean-Up	21
Chapter 4: Media's Role in EL's Claim to Fame	22
Chapter 5: Déjà vu – Equality Lab is Dalitstan Reincarnated	25
Dalitstan- a Foreign Experiment in Weaponization of Caste	25
VT Rajshekar: Indian foot soldier for the Balkanization of India	26
Chapter 6: Metamorphosis - Dalitstan to Equality Labs	28
Dalitstan Reboot:	28
Salil Shetty – the Circle of Life	28
Conclusion	31

Introduction

Caste is the curse of South Asia, but predominantly in India. And like everything else in the subcontinent, it is a rather layered and complex. While originated in Hinduism, the disease has inflicted all religions and sects in Sub-continent, and not surprisingly has also spread in other parts of world in some form or other.

However, what we are witnessing is not a discourse on caste nor any attempt to understand and treat it. Rather, the present discourse, centered in the US, is an attempt to create a binary out of Caste – a lazy narrative on Dalit vs Brahmin. However, there is method to this madness. This binary is useful for many reasons. First, it is always convenient to divide people into us vs them. Ask the US.

Secondly, it will be easy to push through the discourse picking up elements from the White vs Black narrative from the US. It doesn't matter that these are two entirely different context. It doesn't matter, if you are Soros, have millions of dollars to pour on any cause' and have a rather compliant 'news media' (who are complaint for the reasons best known to them). With this much arsenal, any narrative could be established, and is being established.

This is a dangerous precedence. These polarizations are quick to germinate, but takes ages to heal.

Chapter 1: Equality Labs

Philanthropists often make donations to organizations that tend to further their cause – whether it's human rights or propaganda in the garb of human rights. Soros and Open Society Foundation (OSF) are no exception.

As part of his 'philanthropy', Soros has set foot in the Caste discourse. The Caste discourse, which has been South Asia's oldest problem seems to have traveled to Western soil. The last few years have seen a tectonic movement in the Caste discourse especially in the US, which itself has a long-long history of racial & social hierarchies that have led to persistent inequalities & discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and other social factors.

As noted in our report "Institutionalization of a Fault Line", several organizations claiming to fix the 'existing' Caste discrimination problem have mushroomed in the US. One such entity which has been projected and promoted by a whole cabal of the Jamaat and anti-India lobbying groups to lead this Caste narrative is **Equality Labs**.

Equality Labs and its Founders

Equality Labs was founded by a Dalit techie, artist, and activist **Thenmozhi Soundararajan** (**Dalit Diva**), born and brought up in the US, which claims to be a progressive organization to combat caste discrimination. Although Equality Labs has been operating since 2016, it was officially registered only in 2022 as Equality Labs LLC, registered in Delaware (in March 2022) and in California (July 2022).¹ ²

Incidentally, Thenmozhi Soundararajan had been working on the grants from the Open Society Institute in 2014.³

As noted in "Institutionalization of a Faultline" EL has members who all have questionable backgrounds and affiliations: Equality Labs' co-founder, **Sharmin Hossain**, is a Bangladeshi American, who served as the Political Director of the organization before rendering her resignation in March 2021.⁴ Sharmin Hossain is the daughter of Mohamed Hossain, a Bangladeshi national and a former socialist student organizer with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), a political party in Bangladesh founded in 1971.⁵

¹ https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business

² https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/eCorp/EntitySearch/NameSearch.aspx

³ https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display 990/137029285/2016 01 PF%2F13-7029285 990PF 201412

⁴ https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharmin-hossain-298792200/

⁵ https://www.saada.org/movingmemories/sharmin

Sharmin is also the **2015 Open Society Youth Exchange Fellow** under which she founded the **Bangladeshi Historical Memory Project.**^{6 7 8}

Another Equality Labs cofounder, **Aruna Lohitakshi Sanghapali** (also Sanghapali Aruna Kornana), is an anti-caste activist and Executive Director of Project Mukti. Aruna Sanghapali was one of the key persons who organized a placard holding with the former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and former general counsel and the head of legal, policy, and trust at Twitter, Vijaya Gadde for promoting 'Smash Brahminical Patriarchy' and 'End Caste Apartheid' posters in 2018.⁹



Barkha Dutt, Vijaya Gadde, Aruna Sanghapali with Jack Dorsey

Note:

In November 2022, Vijaya Gadde was fired from Twitter. In February 2023, she was grilled by the US House Oversight Committee over the platform's actions to take down or limit the reach of certain political material and other controversial policies catering to a set of ideologies and political interests as exposed in the Twitter Files series.¹⁰

Equality Labs' fourth co-founder is **Maari Zwick Maitreyi** also known as **Valli Karunakaran**. And notably, she has two identities: that of an Activist (Maari Zwick Maitreyi) and a Journalist (Valli Karunakaran).

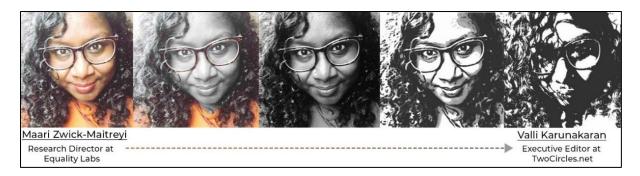
8 https://web.archive.org/web/20160317191923/http://www.bangladeshihistory.com/

⁶ https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/keeping-memories-bangladesh-alive-even-most-painful-ones

⁷ https://www.sharminultra.com/about

⁹ https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/uproar-smash-brahminical-patriarchy-shows-wilful-ignorance-sanghapali-aruna-92083

¹⁰ https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/vijaya-gadde-grilled-8436990/



With her one identity i.e., Maari Zwick Maitreyi, she is the Research Director of Equality Labs and has long been associated with Thenmozhi Soundararajan via other Dalit platforms such as Dalit Nation (predecessor to Equality Labs).¹¹ ¹² To her credit, Maari Zwick started the "Dalit History Month" initiative which was launched by Dalitnation (along with Project Mukti) in 2015 and is currently under Equality Labs.¹³

With her second identity, Valli aka Maari is the Director and Executive Editor of the US-based news portal, TwoCircles.net which is an essential part of the US-based Jamaat and anti-India lobbying nexus including Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA).

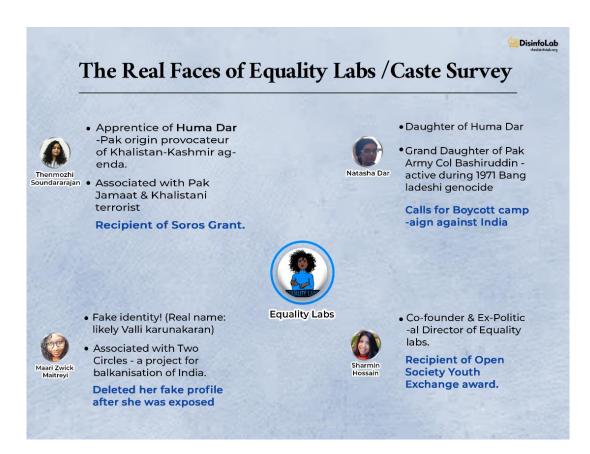
Once her delusional charade was documented and exposed in the Disinfolab report, *"Institutionalisation of a Faultline"*, she deleted the social media traces of Maari Zwick Maitreyi via which she cofounded EL.¹⁴

¹¹ <u>https://www.facebook.com/buddhistpeacefellowship/photos/for-many-dalits-today-embracing-buddhism-is-first-and-foremost-understood-as-a-r/10155523715164866/</u>

¹² https://web.archive.org/web/20160325091958/http://dalitnation.com/about-3/

¹³ https://www.queerlitfest.com/qlf2019-speakers

¹⁴ https://twitter.com/maaarizma



Equality Labs- the Pak/ Jamaat Imprints

Other key members of EL include Huma Dar, a lecturer of South Asian Studies at the Universities of California, and Berkeley of Pakistani descent. She was one of the advisory board members of Equality Labs (as of 2018) when Equality Labs released its only Caste survey report.¹⁵



¹⁵https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58347d04bebafbb1e66df84c/t/603ae9f4cfad7f515281e9bf/16144737320 34/Caste_report_2018.pdf

Huma Dar holds a BA and MA from Stanford University; in the past, she has worked as an Apprentice Baker in San Francisco. She worked as the International Advocacy Officer at Musawah Global Vision Berhad, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family launched in 2009 in Kuala Lumpur.¹⁶ 17 18

Musawah has received funds from several philanthropic grant-making organizations including Ford Foundation and the Open Society Foundation (OSF). Musawah also received USD 111,000 and USD 300,000 (2013) from Ford Foundation for its works in the Arab world and expand its work & its presence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.¹⁹ In 2021, Musawah received USD 320,000 from OSF for 14 months for its programs in the MENA region.²⁰

She has been a key proponent of the Kashmir-Khalistan desk (K2) conceived by Pakistan's ISI and a crucial proponent of the Pakistan & Jamaat operations in the US.

Over the years, she has been found to exploit India's several fault lines including Kashmir, Khalistan, Minorities issues, and even the Caste line. As expected, Huma Dar has been a vocal proponent of Khalistan. On June 11, 2017, Huma Dar attended a Sikh rally in San Francisco of the Khalistanis.²¹ And on the Kashmir line, she presents herself as an authority based in the US. She was named as an expert in the Stand with Kashmir (SWK), a group supported by Pakistan that bills itself as a leading advocate front for Kashmir in the US.²²

In 2019, Dar also began calling for the Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions Movement (BDSM) against India. ²³ Worth recalling that BDSM against India is a Muslim Brotherhood sponsored project which aims to capitalize on conflicts to sustain funding for vulture activists. The precursor event to BDSM was held in December 2021 in Bosnia organized jointly by the Qatar-Turkey-Pakistan (QTPi) nexus & Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami. Some of the names in the list comprised individuals such as Angana Chatterji, Haley Duschinski, Farhan Mujahid Chak (Kashmir Civitas), and Hafsa Kanjwal (groomed by Pakistan & ISI mole) who have been actively perpetuating the Kashmir conflict industry.

¹⁶ https://www.facebook.com/musawahmovement/

¹⁷ https://www.musawah.org/about/

¹⁸ https://www.musawah.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Bahrain-Qatar-Oral-Statement-CEDAW57-2014.pdf

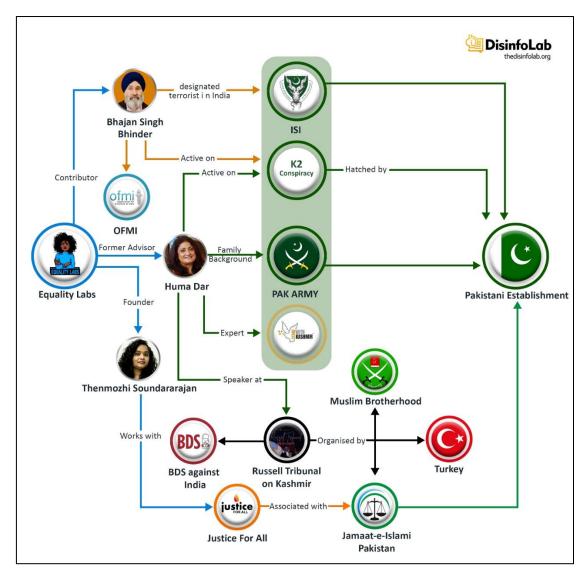
¹⁹ https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990pf_pdf_archive/131/131684331/131684331_201712_990PF.pdf

https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/past?grant_id=OR2021-80813

²¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGy2mj0F_El

²² https://standwithkashmir.org/who-we-are/

²³ https://peoplesdispatch.org/2019/12/01/academics-and-activists-condemn-india-diplomats-call-for-replicating-israeli-model-in-kashmir/



More details about Huma Dar are in the Disinfolab here.

Chapter 2: Anatomy of Equality Labs' 2018 Caste Report

As noted in our previous reports, both Equality Labs and Thenmozhi Soundararajan rose to the mainstream with the help of the US-based and Pakistan-backed Jamaat-e-Islami nexus including Justice For All (JFA) and Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), all of them have been exposed in Disinfolab reports earlier.

EL's base of its claim to fame has been a one-only survey report on Caste published in 2018.²⁴ EL published its 'only' caste report in the US with the assistance of several organizations such as IAMC, OFMI, and AJA (itself a hybrid organization alongside IAMC, OFMI, and HfHR).²⁵ The readers of DisInfo Lab Reports would be very much familiar with these organizations. For reference, you may see our past reports on these fronts:

- IAMC: Indian American Muslim Council
- OFMI: Organization for Minorities of India
- **HfHR:** Hindus for Human Rights
- AJA: Alliance for Justice and Accountability

These organizations are fronts created by the Pak Establishment/ Jamaat-e-Islami in the US as part of its longest war against India.

Acknowledgments

Equality Labs would like to thank our co-sponsoring organizations including, the Dalit American Coalition, Ambedkar Association of North America, Friends for India's Education, Boston Study Group, Ambedkar International Mission, International Campaign for Dalit Humans Rights, all of the U.S. Sri Guru Ravidassia gurudwaras, Dalit American Women's Association, and Ambedkar International Center.

We are thankful to all the organizations in the diaspora who have helped us to disseminate the survey. This includes several South Asian religious institutions and community based organizations such as South Asian Americans Leading Together, The Alliance for Justice and Accountability, the Bangladeshi Historical Project, South Asian Histories for All, Indian American Muslim Council, South Asia Solidarity Initiative, Association for India's Development, Desis Rising Up and Moving, and Alliance of South Asians Taking Action.

We are also grateful to the many academics, community leaders, religious leaders, and organizers who helped to design, review, sharpen the analyses, and vet the conclusions made in this survey. In particular we want to thank Professors Huma Dar, Dr. Chinnaiah Jangam, Dr. Cornel West, Lama Rangol, Jesenia Santana, Smita Narula, Benjamin Kaila, Suthamalli Ganga, Gary Bagha, Thilakavathy Soundarajan, Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Theeba Soundararajan, Vasugi Karunakaran, Sabiha Basrai, Design Action, A. Karunakaran, Purva Pandey, Smitha Dandge, Susan Celia Swan, Bilkis Paali, Shabana Sharda, Sainaba Ali, Harjit Kaur, Sandra Ordonez, Anne Gorrissen, Davinder Prasad, Sana Uddin, Teesta Tora, Kasseem Rahemwalla, Fahd Ahmed, Gurpal Singh, Prachi Patankar, Sonia Joseph, Robindra Deb, Sinhack, Khalid Azam, Khalid Ansari, Mussadique Thange, Kashif-ul-Huda, Anirvan Chatterjee, Barni Qaasim, Sham Vishal Bhat, Vinay Bhat, Anasuya Sengupta, Barnali Ghosh, Sharmin Hossain, and Eve Ensler for their support and love. We also thank all of the organizations and academics who have endorsed this survey. A full list can be found at Equalitylabs.org.

We also thank our parents and our families who have created and held the foundation for us to do this work. Thank you for your love and support. We could not do the fight we do without you.

This report has been authored by Maari Zwick-Maitreyi, Thenmozhi Soundararajan, and Natasha Dar with additional input from Prathap Balakrishnan and Ralph F. Beel.

We finally extend sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in this survey. In particular, the Dalit Bahujan and Adivasi American community whose resilience, strength, and commitment to endure has inspired us throughout this project.

-

²⁴ https://www.equalitylabs.org/castesurvey

²⁵https://web.archive.org/web/20200901094811/https:/static1.squarespace.com/static/58347d04bebafbb1e66df84 c/t/5d9b4f9afbaef569c0a5c132/1570459664518/Caste_report_2018.pdf

The report was co-authored by Thenmozhi Soundararajan, Maari Zwick Maitreyi, and Natasha Dar. Natasha Dar is the daughter of Equality Labs' former advisor & Pakistan-backed K2 operative Huma Dar.

Through that report, EL has been able to hit popularity by taking on the Silicon Valley giants for alleged Caste discrimination. Between 2020-2022, Equality Labs through its report on caste survey went loggerheads with CISCO, and Google and further inflicting fear among other leading tech giants such as Google, IBM, and Apple to take action on Caste discrimination. In 2023, the same report was used to bring about a resolution in Seattle and subsequently the bill against Caste discrimination by the Seattle Council member. Most recently, in March 2023, California State Senator, Aisha Wahab introduced a bill to ban caste discrimination in the state, because of the Caste Survey report. However, it was a result of the EL's aspersion on Google and CISCO. More like creating a build-up set in motion by EL to stay relevant for more years on the pretext of fighting caste discrimination in the US. Supremely, this one lame survey report by Equality Labs has become the base for all the decisions/developments in the US.

Equality Labs' Caste Report Methodology

Equality Labs Caste report was based on survey spanning eight months and by questioning 1534 people with a 47-question survey. The survey was done via different mediums such as through direct contacts community listservs, immigrant organizations, cultural and linguistic networks, and social media. Total respondents were reduced to 1200 from 1534 after eliminating incomplete & duplicate responses, intentionally illogical and misleading responses among other factors not meeting the criteria.

However, the application of the report was such that it was first used when a lawsuit was filed against CISCO in July 2020 for alleged discrimination of a Dalit employee by two other employees of Indian origin in the company. As EL's report was cited in the lawsuit, EL also began campaigning against CISCO and in September 2020, it made mass appeal to supporters in the US as well as outside the country.

It was then, when EL was found orchestrating a mass falsification campaign via appealing to ones living outside the US. EL via the newsletter publicly asked supporters outside the United States to use the zip code 95134 when filling out a petition to influence technology company policies in the U.S. This zip code is for San Jose, California, where Cisco is located. By asking international respondents to use this zip code, Equality Labs was essentially asking them to provide fake data in order to secure the desired results.²⁸

²⁸ https://mailchi.mp/equalitylabs/southasiantownhall-4131209?e=bea6c6de99

²⁶ https://www.outlookindia.com/international/explained-what-s-seattle-caste-discrimination-ban-what-are-the-implications-and-what-led-to-it--news-267058

²⁷ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-65048026

Jai Bhim Equality Labs friends,

As summer ends, and many of us return to work, we are thinking of the red skies over California and long hospital lines as COVID-19 races across South Asia. For those of you in San Francisco and the Bay, here are <u>disaster preparedness tips</u> and <u>some wildfire safety tips</u>. Meanwhile, in the Gulf of the US and in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India, entire cities and communities have been <u>decimated</u> by flooding and other forms of climate disaster. Poor, rural, and migrant <u>South Asians</u> are on the frontlines of <u>climate</u> <u>change</u>, confronting the end of entire nations as fossil fuel companies, multinational corporations, and climate deniers sit back. We invite you to tell us how you're experiencing climate disaster and change by replying to this email.

This week, we continue to encourage all of you in our community to fill our <u>Caste in Tech survey</u>, and our <u>End Caste in the US petition</u>. Even though many of you may be tired of signing petitions, this one is critical for us to demonstrate public support for ending caste discrimination in the U.S. For many people, caste is something that never made it out of South Asia -- but the reality is, caste is very present in the U.S. Since word of the Cisco case broke in early July, nearly 300 caste-oppressed individuals in the US have reached out to Equality Labs to report <u>stories of caste discrimination</u> in the workplace. That's why we need your help reaching 10,000 signatures on our petition, supported by Color of Change. If you are outside of the United States, use 95134 as your zip code.

In April 2023, the California Civil Rights Department has voluntarily dismissed its case alleging caste discrimination against two Cisco engineers who were implicated for allegedly discriminating against the Dalit employee. However, continued to pursue the litigation against the company.²⁹

EL after publishing its only Caste report resorted to manipulating/falsifying data including seeking possibly fake signatures to fulfil its quest and stay relevant. But how was EL able to do such Dalit activism chicanery? Who was funding it?

Who funds Equality Labs?

For its Caste survey project, Equality Labs has received grants from several philanthropic foundations including Open Society Foundation, Luminate Group, New Media Ventures, and Ford Foundation, the funding of which had already begun in 2017. The project was seed funded by Pierre Omidyar and his Luminate Group when the survey was in progress.

To date, Equality Labs has raised close to a million dollars via grants from philanthropic fronts & with the help of incubator organizations.

The Omidyar Network and Equality Labs

Starting in 2017, a year after it began its caste survey, it began receiving funds for its caste survey from a web of philanthropic and angel investment organizations. In 2017, Equality Labs raised grants from numerous organizations including the **Luminate Group** founded by the Iranian-American philanthropist **Pierre Morad Omidyar** and his wife **Pamela Kerr**

²⁹ https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/calif-scraps-caste-bias-case-cisco-engineers-company-still-sued-rcna79434

Omidyar in 2018.³⁰ Pierre Omidyar is a technology entrepreneur, philanthropist, and the founder of the auction and shopping website, eBay. In 2004, he founded the Omidyar Network, which like Soros' OSF, is a philanthropist front for supporting organizations and media portals whose objectives align with his values and causes.

Equality Labs received USD 50,000 from Luminate Group in 2017 for six months in the name of ending 'caste apartheid, fighting Islamophobia, and religious intolerance via a New York-based non-profit technology company, **Fractured Atlas Inc.**, which claims to help artists and arts organizations by providing fundraising and business tools for their growth.^{31 32 33}

Open Society Foundation

Equality Labs has been a key recipient of OSF funds since 2018. After receiving seed funding from Luminate Group in 2017, EL began receiving grants from the Open Society Foundation (OSF) in 2018. In 2018, EL received USD 25,000 from OSF via Fractured Atlas, for the same survey of caste-based discrimination in the United States. Incidentally, in the same year, EL published the report on March 19, 2018.³⁴



Subsequently, Equality Labs went on to raise USD 477,025 in three instalments from OSF (via Fractured Atlas) between 2018-20, making OSF one of the largest donors of the organization.³⁵

³⁰ https://www.omidyargroup.com/pov/organizations/luminate/

³¹ https://www.fracturedatlas.org/what-we-do

³² https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/equality-labs/monthly_support?utm_campaign=caste_equity_campaign

³³ https://luminategroup.com/investee/equality-labs

³⁴https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58347d04bebafbb1e66df84c/t/603ae9f4cfad7f515281e9bf/16144737320 34/Caste report 2018.pdf#page=44

³⁵ https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/past?filter_keyword=Equality+Labs

Ford Foundation & Fractured Atlas

Fractured Atlas is a financial incubator that provides financial services to artists and organizations by raising funds on their behalf and helping them develop tools for their business growth. As noted, Fractured Atlas seems to be a key front as it helped EL raise USD 527,025 from both Luminate Group and OSF between 2017-20. It is not clear which artistic project was involved here.

It is not just the likes of OSF and Luminate Group, Equality Labs also received funds from the New York-based **Ford Foundation**, which ostensibly supports and funds organizations and initiatives to reduce poverty and injustice, promote democratic values, and advance education, the arts, and scientific research.³⁶ In 2019 EL received USD 125,000 & USD 250,000 respectively from Ford Foundation via Fractured Atlas Productions Inc. "to enhance digital security rights for diverse civil society and community-based organizations across the United States."³⁷

Two years later, in 2021, EL received another injection of funds worth USD 150,000 from the Ford Foundation to 'address the technical vulnerabilities of marginalized communities in the United States and provide rapid response around digital security challenges for grassroots campaigns and organizations.'38

To date, Equality Labs has managed to yield USD 525,000 from Ford Foundation which is more than what it had received from the OSF.

New Media Ventures

In the same year (2018), EL received an undisclosed amount from a San Francisco-based **New Media Ventures (NMV).** New Media Venture is the first seed fund and community of angel investors technology leaders, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and politicos, that "support media and tech startups that disrupt politics and disrupt progressive change." ³⁹ ⁴⁰ ⁴¹

NVM is in turn funded by OSF and Luminate Group. In a way, NVM is an umbrella angel front that further receives funds from the likes of OSF and Luminate Group.

NVM is also affiliated with Tides Network which is an American Public charity founded in 1976 by American philanthropist and progressive political activist Drummond Pike. Tides Network acts as an incubator for smaller progressive organizations.⁴² The Tides Network includes a number of organizations that work on a variety of issues, including social justice,

³⁶ https://www.fordfoundation.org/about/about-ford/

³⁷https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/131684331/202023189349104072/IRS990PF

³⁸ https://www.fordfoundation.org/media/7796/2021-annual-tax-return-form-990-pf.pdf#page=66

³⁹ https://www.newmediaventures.org/investments/portfolio

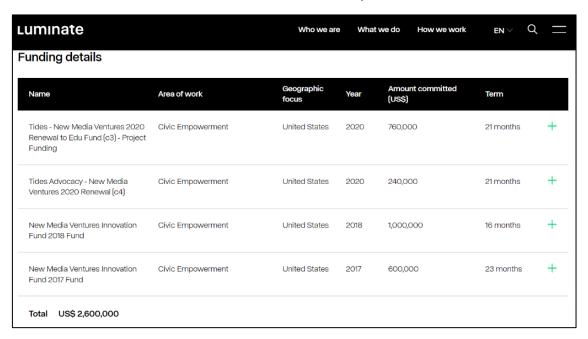
⁴⁰ https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/equality-labs/company_financials

⁴¹ https://www.equalitylabs.org/latestnews

⁴² https://events.ucsc.edu/event/3391

economic opportunity, and environmental protection via grant-making, fiscal sponsorship, and advocacy work.

Between 2017-20, NVM received USD 2,600,000 from Luminate Group via Tides Advocacy (an affiliate of Tides Network) for the cause of civic empowerment.⁴³

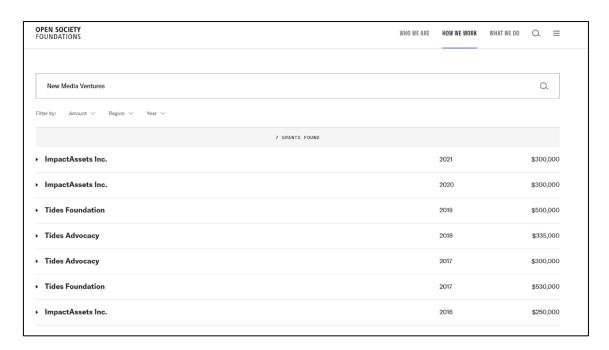


NVM had been receiving funding from OSF from 2016 every year till 2021. Between 2016-21 NVM received USD 2.29 million from OSF via different fronts including Tides Foundation and Impact Assets for "identifying & supporting innovative groups and non-profit entrepreneurs working on building infrastructure for social change".⁴⁴ Impact Assets is a non-profit impact investment firm that helps individuals and institutions to invest in organizations and funds that generate social and environmental impact as well as financial returns.⁴⁵

⁴³ https://www.luminategroup.com/investee/new-media-ventures

⁴⁴https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/past?filter_keyword=New+Media+Ventures&grant_id=OR2020-76085

⁴⁵ https://impactassets.org/about-us/



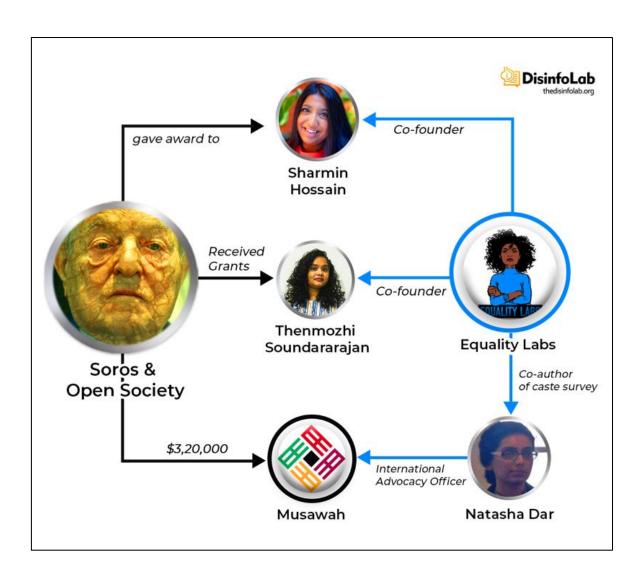
Furthermore, EL has received USD 124,000 from one San Francisco Foundation for 'Strengthening & Scaling digital securities for vulnerable networks in Bay area of San Francisco. Foundation is a philanthropy organization founded in 1948 and is presently one of the largest community foundations in the US. ⁴⁷ To put it into perspective, EL has received a more than a Million dollars (excluding an undisclosed amount from New Media Ventures) between 2016-2022. With all this fund, EL produced a half-baked survey with the assistance of the US-based Jamaat & anti-India lobbying nexus.

⁴⁶ https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/10679337/202011549349301116/full

⁴⁷ https://sff.org/about-us/

Funder	Mode of Funding	Grants	Year
Luminate Group	Direct	\$50,000	2017
Open Society	via Fractured Atlas	\$25,000	2018
OSF & Luminate	via New Media Ventures	Undisclosed	2018
Open Society	via Fractured Atlas	\$4,52,025	2020
Ford Foundation	via Fractured Atlas	\$5,25,000	2019-2021
San Francisco Foundation	Direct	\$124,000	2019

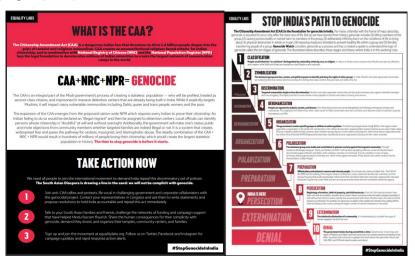
It is worthwhile to note that all these new generation poster-girls of the Caste/ Dalit Movement in the US are connected to the philanthropic network of George Soros and his Open Society Foundation (OSF) funding network. It is also important to note that these poster girls did not become recipients of OSF after setting up the Equality Labs, but were chosen by OSF before they all set out to open Equality Labs in 2015-16 which would later work in tandem with the Pakistani & US-based Jamaat groups & become the face of the Caste Faultline of India in the US.



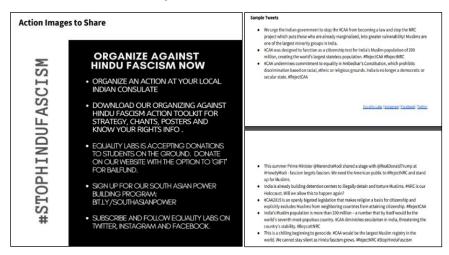
Chapter 3: the Larger Agenda and the Clean-up

But the Master Puppeteers who have funded EL had to put their money to good use. Exploiting one Faultline alone would not be sufficient. With so much funding and grants behind mainstreaming Equality Labs, it was important to yield returns. Moreover, the actors who have been acknowledged by Equality Labs in its 'report' had favors to be returned.

Starting in 2019, Equality Labs expanded its activities about issues in India. Equality Labs became active during the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests which were happening in India. During that time, Equality Labs collated CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC), and National Population Register (NPR) with Genocide in India and released a one-pager pamphlet on that.



Equality Labs also released a toolkit titled "Organizing against Hindu Fascism" to organize protests and run online campaigns against the Indian establishment. The toolkit gave sample tweets as well as creatives to run the campaigns and also hold protests. The password to access the toolkit is "rejectcaa". ⁴⁸



⁴⁸https://web.archive.org/web/20200630194230/https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58347d04bebafbb1e66df8 4c/t/5dfd7638b02a616945e370ec/1576891960865/Organizing+Against+Hindu+Fascism+Toolkit.pdf

Notably, during this time, EL had been receiving funds from the likes of the Ford Foundation and OSF for its projects and campaigns including issuing a toolkit during the CAA-NRC buzz in India, while spearheading the caste discourse in the US.

The Clean-Up

The past is hard to erase.

While at one time Dalit Diva/ Equality Labs were actively contributing to all the anti-India narrative, of late given the rise in their stature and increasing significance of Caste narrative in the larger scheme of things, it was decided that this front would solely focus on the Caste discourse. Hence a massive clean-up was undertaken, where Equality Labs and Dalit Diva deleted all posts prior to 2022.

Did we mention that past is hard to erase.

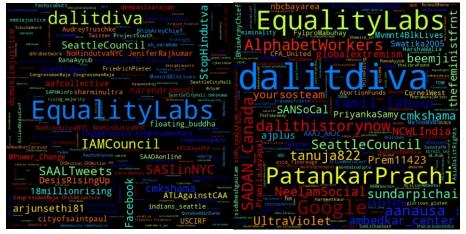
Incidentally, we have all the database of these two and others, knowing well that they would attempt a clean-up. A word-cloud of the Twitter handles used by the front will give us some indication of their larger agenda.



Up to 2022

Post 2022

As we had noted earlier, Equality Labs has been selectively deleting its association with Islamist/ Pak-Jamaat fronts. However, post clean up the front looks like one dedicated only to the Cause of Caste.



Up to 2022

Post 2022

Chapter 4: Media's Role in EL's Claim to Fame

With so much investment behind the 'single' Caste survey report of Equality Labs, it was imperative to create a buzz for its mega launch. Although EL was formed in 2015-16, it only yielded prominence due to its Caste survey report in 2018.

Equality Labs and its philanthropic donors (owners), started earning the return on investments from the next year onwards (2019). EL targeted prominent universities, states, and even IT Tech giants with its single

- On May 22, 2019, Equality Labs in partnership with South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), API Chaya, and the office representative of Pramila Jayapal held a congressional briefing on the existence of Caste discrimination in the US.⁴⁹
- ➤ In December 2019, Brandeis University (Massachusetts) became the first University to add Caste to its non-discrimination policy, based on Equality Labs' report.⁵⁰
- In July 2020, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing registered a lawsuit and IT firm Cisco Systems Inc and two of its employees on the grounds of caste discrimination against one of its Indian-American employees. Incidentally, the EL report was used as evidence to prove Caste discrimination in the US. Incidentally, the EL report was used as evidence to prove Caste discrimination in the US.⁵¹
- ➤ In December 2021, Harvard University recognized Caste-based Discrimination after EL gave a presentation of its Caste survey report at the University.^{52 53}
- ➤ In June 2022, EL targeted Google alleging the tech giant promoted Caste discrimination in the company. Subsequently, other Tech giants like Apple, and IBM added Caste into their non-discrimination policies. ⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ ⁵⁶
- ➤ In December 2022, Brown University banned Caste discrimination based on the Equality Labs report.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ https://thewire.in/caste/a-historic-congressional-hearing-on-caste-in-the-us

⁵⁰ https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/12/20/university-adds-caste-nondiscrimination-policy

⁵¹ https://regmedia.co.uk/2020/07/01/cisco.pdf%23page=4

⁵² https://theprint.in/world/harvard-recognises-caste-based-discrimination-gives-indians-studying-in-us-hope-of-equality/778385/

https://www.equalitylabs.org/press-releases/2021/12/1/equality-labs-congratulates-harvard-graduate-student-union-in-historic-win-for-workers-rights-and-caste-equity

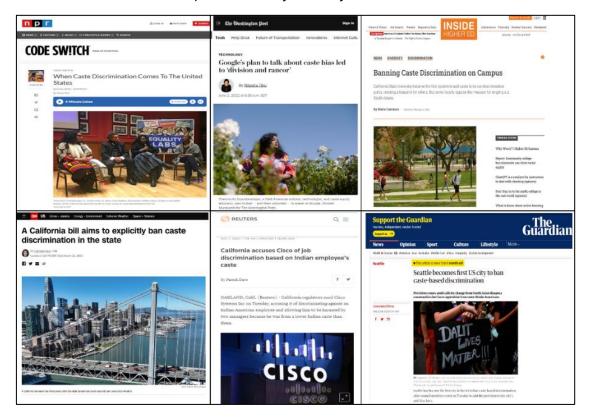
⁵⁴ https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/google-cancelled-dalit-activist-talk-caste-after-pressure-employees-164630

 $^{^{55}\}underline{\text{https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22050236-tanuja-gupta-goodbye-letter?responsive=1\&title=0}$

⁵⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/06/02/google-caste-equality-labs-tanuja-gupta/

⁵⁷ https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/07/us/brown-university-caste-protections-cec/index.html

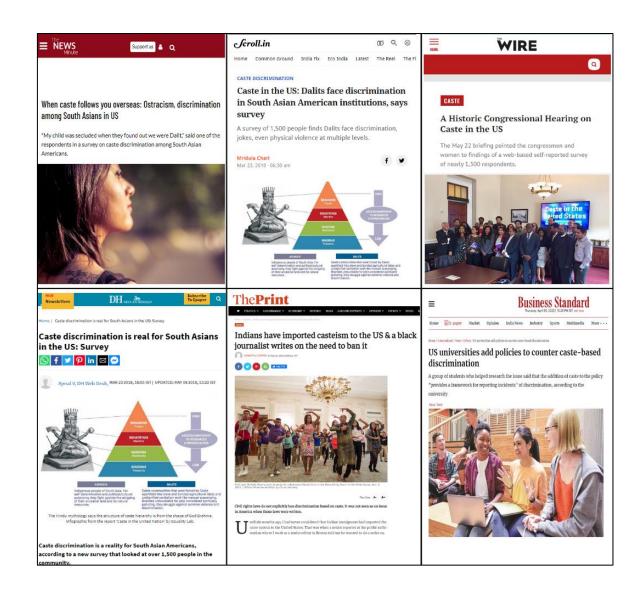
- ➤ Most recently, in February 2023, Seattle became the first US city to ban Caste Discrimination in the state based on that 'single' Caste survey report by EL.⁵⁸
- ➤ In March 2023, California State Senator, Aisha Wahab introduced a bill to abolish Caste discrimination in California state, all on keeping the EL survey report as the basis. And the bill was passed in May 2023 by the California State Senate Council.⁵⁹



Once the 'Global Media' provided legitimacy and publicity, it was only natural that Indian media would lap it up, again without asking even basic questions about the methodology and the people behind the so-called survey. The survey report and its subsequent theatrical impact was lapped up by a set of media portals including 'The Print', 'The Wire', 'Scroll.in', 'News Minute', and 'Deccan Herald', among others.

⁵⁸ https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/21/seattle-ban-caste-based-discrimination

⁵⁹ https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/us-state-california-senate-passes-bill-to-ban-caste-discrimination-4027210



Chapter 5: Déjà vu – Equality Lab is Dalitstan Reincarnated

The anti-Caste movement in general and the Dalit movement, also known as the "untouchables" or "Scheduled Castes'," was a significant social and political movement in India since independence, and became a major social and political churning in the 1980s and 1990s that worked to improve the rights, dignity, and representation of Dalits.

The persistent oppression and discrimination against Dalits based on their caste in Indian society led to the emergence of the Dalit movement. Political leaders, intellectuals, and grassroots activists spearheaded the movement to unite Dalits and draw attention to their plight. Dalit Movement in India was more of a revolution to bring about a progressive reform in Indian society. A whole range of social and political leaders came to the fore, taking the movement towards social and political equality, which despite significant accomplishments, still remains a work very much in progress.

However, a native social movement would not be useful for foreign agenda. If a social movement intends to achieve its objective, it would not serve the purpose of those powers who intend to exploit such fault lines, and for India luckily, there is no dearth of such 'powers'. Hence, while the home-grown social movement was on, an experiment was conceived in the US by Christian Missionaries to weaponize India's caste system against India!

Dalitstan- a Foreign Experiment in Weaponization of Caste

Among the organizations that were created abroad was a US-based Dalit organization founded in 1999 as "Dalitstan". ⁶⁰ Incidentally, Dalitstan was launched by US-based individuals, who advocated for the balkanization of India into several separate nations including a Dalit homeland. ⁶¹ The founders of Dalitstan were all Church-going Whites from the US including Kermit Northcutt, Debra Schwartz, George Schwartz, Helen Eklund, and Andy Moore. ⁶²

The Dalitstan to Equality Labs discourse is interesting because it provides a unique example of collusion between Christian missionaries and Jamaat-e-Islami to carve their share from India.

The website for the Dalitstan project was registered by Helen Eklund who was serving as its President. Dalitstan's Treasurer, Kermit Northcutt is a devout Christian. He is a member of Antioch Christian Academy and an active member. Antioch Christian Academy comes under Antioch Network, which was founded in 1987 as an international multicultural fellowship that spans the globe and runs its missionary in the US.⁶³ Antioch Christian

⁶⁰ https://web.archive.org/web/20000818232602/http://dalitstan.org/mission_statement.htm

⁶¹ https://web.archive.org/web/20000818232602/http://dalitstan.org/mission_statement.htm

⁶² https://www.allbiz.com/business/dalitstan-inc-254-728-3317

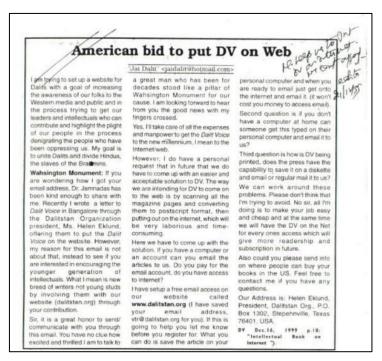
⁶³ https://www.antioch-network.org/about/

Academy is a ministry of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Lucedale, MS. ACA is a private Christian school and was established on June 14, 2008.⁶⁴

It was worth pondering as to why US-based missionaries would set up shady fronts like Dalitstan which would in turn seek the 'Breaking India' objective. And somehow, they found suitable faces from India who would further their cause & add to its credibility.

VT Rajshekar: Indian foot soldier for the Balkanization of India

In a bid to rope in vocal Dalit voices from India, Dalitstan website owners contacted prominent Dalit faces from India. One of the key faces contacted by Dalitstan for contributing to its website was VT Rajshekar. A letter written by Helen Eklund, one of the founders of the Dalitstan website mentioned contacting VT Rajshekar to republish the contents of his then offline magazine 'Dalit Voice' (based in Bangalore) on their website.⁶⁵



Vontibettu Thimmappa Rajshekar Shetty (a.k.a VT Rajshekar) is an Indian journalist and activist, who founded the magazine Dalit Voice. Rajshekar worked at Indian Express for 25 years, before parting ways and starting his magazine Dalit Voice (now defunct) in 1981.⁶⁶ He was a suitable choice and was known in circles for his anti-India views. In 1986, Rajasekar's passport was confiscated because of his controversial writing works from outside India. He was arrested in the same year under the Terrorism and Anti-Disruptive

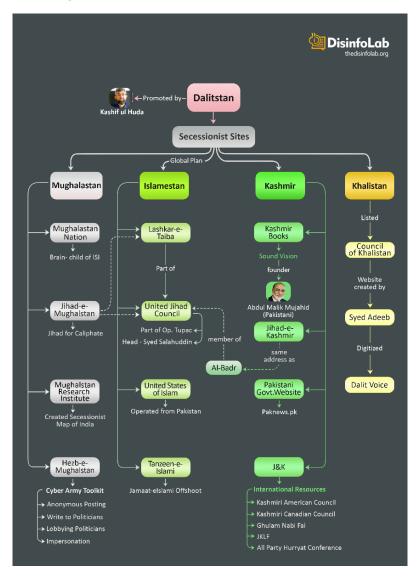
⁶⁴ https://www.facebook.com/antiochchristianacademyministries/about/

⁶⁵ http://web.archive.org/web/20020322121309/http://dalitstan.org/voice/dvtmp/voice08.jpg

⁶⁶ https://web.archive.org/web/20041021223739/http://www.dalitvoice.org/about.htm

Activities Act (TADA). And later on, he was again arrested under the Sedition Act under the Indian Penal Code.⁶⁷

It is important to note that Dalitstan was a secessionist project targeting India across its various fault lines such as Khalistan, Kashmir, and Dravidstan among others. The kind of separatist content it sponsored on its website and incidentally targeting India's sovereignty & geographical integrity is documented in the Disinfolab report"Institutionalization of a Fault Line." 68



The roping in of VT Rajshekar by Dalitstan, which was seeking the balkanization of India, also marked the advent of the digital Dalit movement in India hijacked by foreign faces. VT Rajshekar's successors have now taken up their respective roles and at important places.

-

⁶⁷ https://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/india/India994-10.htm

⁶⁸ https://thedisinfolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Institutionalisation-of-a-Fault-Line-A-case-study-by-DisinfoLab.pdf

Chapter 6: Metamorphosis - Dalitstan to Equality Labs

In a major blow to the 'breaking India' project, the Dalitstan website was among the 18 websites that were banned by the Department of Information Technology following the July 11, 2006, Mumbai train bombings in a bid to check the terror and hate messages.⁶⁹ The missionary project of Balkanizing India was neutralized by the Indian government at that time. However, it gave impetus to a new major development. Disinfolab noted in its previous report how several organizations had mushroomed in the US post-2006. The 'Balkanize India' project once run by foot soldiers like VT Rajshekar in India & controlled by the US saw a shift in its operations.

Dalitstan Reboot

The Dalitstan project was reborn as Dalit Nation and later metamorphosed into a more appealing Equality Labs, following the zeitgeist. There was yet another transformation – the Christian Missionaries were replaced by the Philanthropists. The Dalit line, also India's most sensitive fault line is now in the hands of these US-based activists & philanthropists to deepen.

Salil Shetty - the Circle of Life

Coincidentally, VT Rajshekar, who with age retired from the Dalit movement put forth his son, Salil Shetty as his successor. Salil Shetty is currently the Vice President of Open Society Foundations (OSF) and is believed to be the lieutenant and points man of Soros in India.⁷⁰ He was appointed as the Global Vice President of Open Society Foundation (OSF) in June 2021.⁷¹

Before working with Soros, Salil Shetty worked at Wipro and then worked at Action Aid India, followed by a job at Action Aid Kenya. From 1998-2003, he was the Chief Executive of ActionAid.⁷²

In 2014, a report by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) of India listed Action Aid alongside other NGOs such as Greenpeace India, Cordaid, and Amnesty was fueling anti-development projects in India through a network of local organizations such as PUCL & Narmada Bachao Andolan. Action Aid among those NGOs was active in various parts of India where development projects were sanctioned or were in progress.⁷³

⁶⁹ https://web.archive.org/web/20130527095335/http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2006-07-

^{19/}india/27816956 1 govt-blocks-check-terror-websites

⁷⁰ https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/who-we-are/leadership/salil-shetty

⁷¹ https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/newsroom/open-society-names-salil-shetty-as-vice-president-global-programs

https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/who-we-are/leadership/salil-shetty

⁷³ https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govt-bans-69-ngos-from-receiving-foreign-funds/articleshow/46444242.cms



LEADERSHIP

The Open Society leadership team works alongside our staff, partners, and grantees to help promote the values of justice, democracy, and human rights in over 120 countries throughout the world. Our Executive Committee represents the needs and concerns of the network, from organization and oversight to strategy and impact.







Salil Shetty Vice President

Department Global Programs

Locatio

Salil Shetty is vice president, global, at the Open Society Foundations

Since 2018, Shetty has been a Senior Fellow at the Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and continues to be affiliated with the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute at Harvard University. Prior

Shetty is believed to be one of the key operatives of Soros and his operations in India and gives away connections to many Indian faces, who are part of the Soros-funding machinery in India. From 2010-18, Salil Shetty served as Secretary General of Amnesty International. It is to be noted that Amnesty was shut down in India for violating Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and receiving crores of INR illegally from abroad and violating the law of the land in India.⁷⁴

Note:

Notably, OSF's Vice President, Salil Shetty had also been part of Action Aid (International & India) from 1998-2003. Later, he joined Amnesty International and served as its Secretary General from 2010-18. ⁷⁵ Both Mander and Salil have similar backgrounds before they joined OSF and served in high positions in the organization.

⁷⁴ https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1660095

⁷⁵ https://mittalsouthasiainstitute.harvard.edu/people/salil-shetty/

