

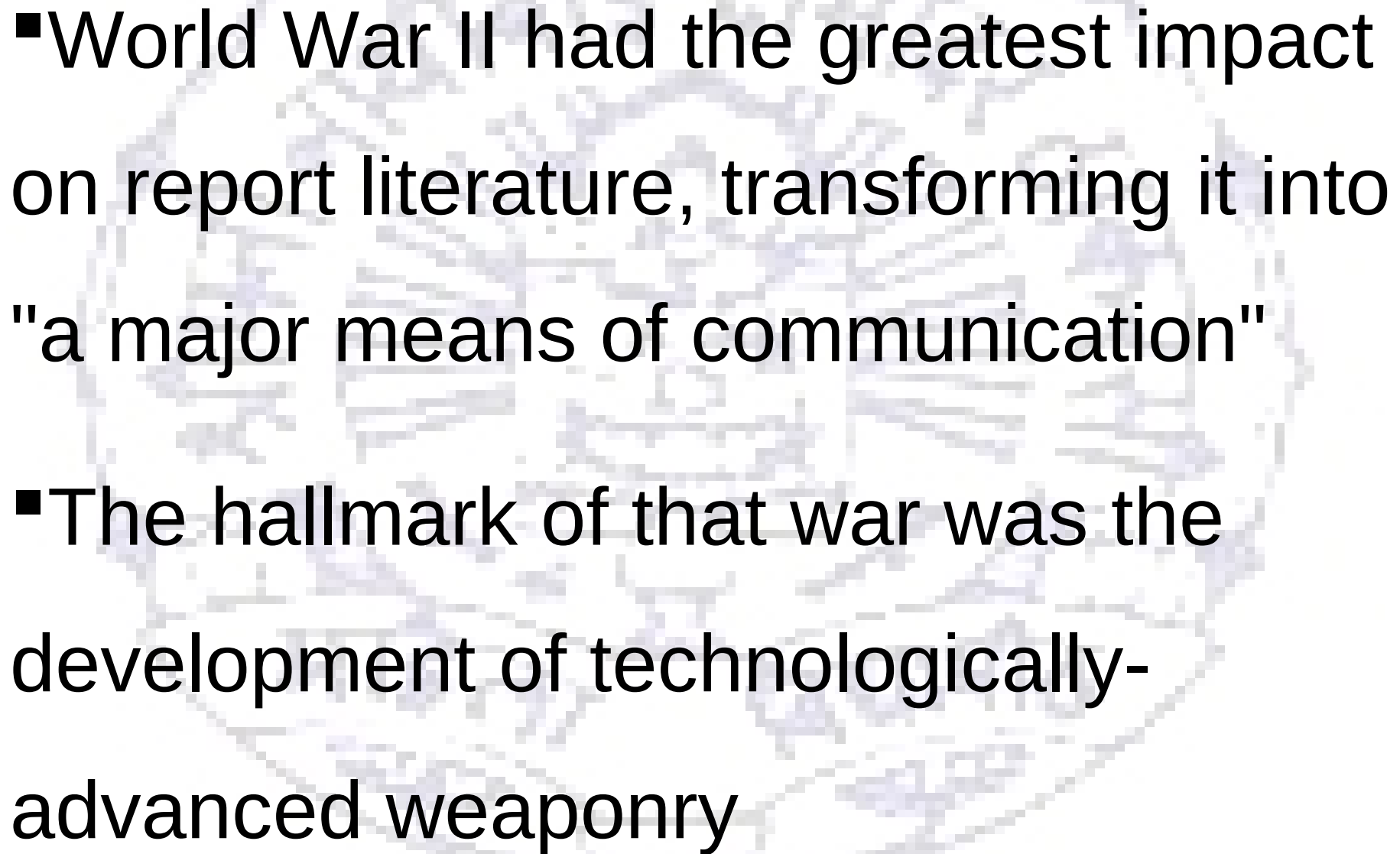
Grey literature for development: Some case studies

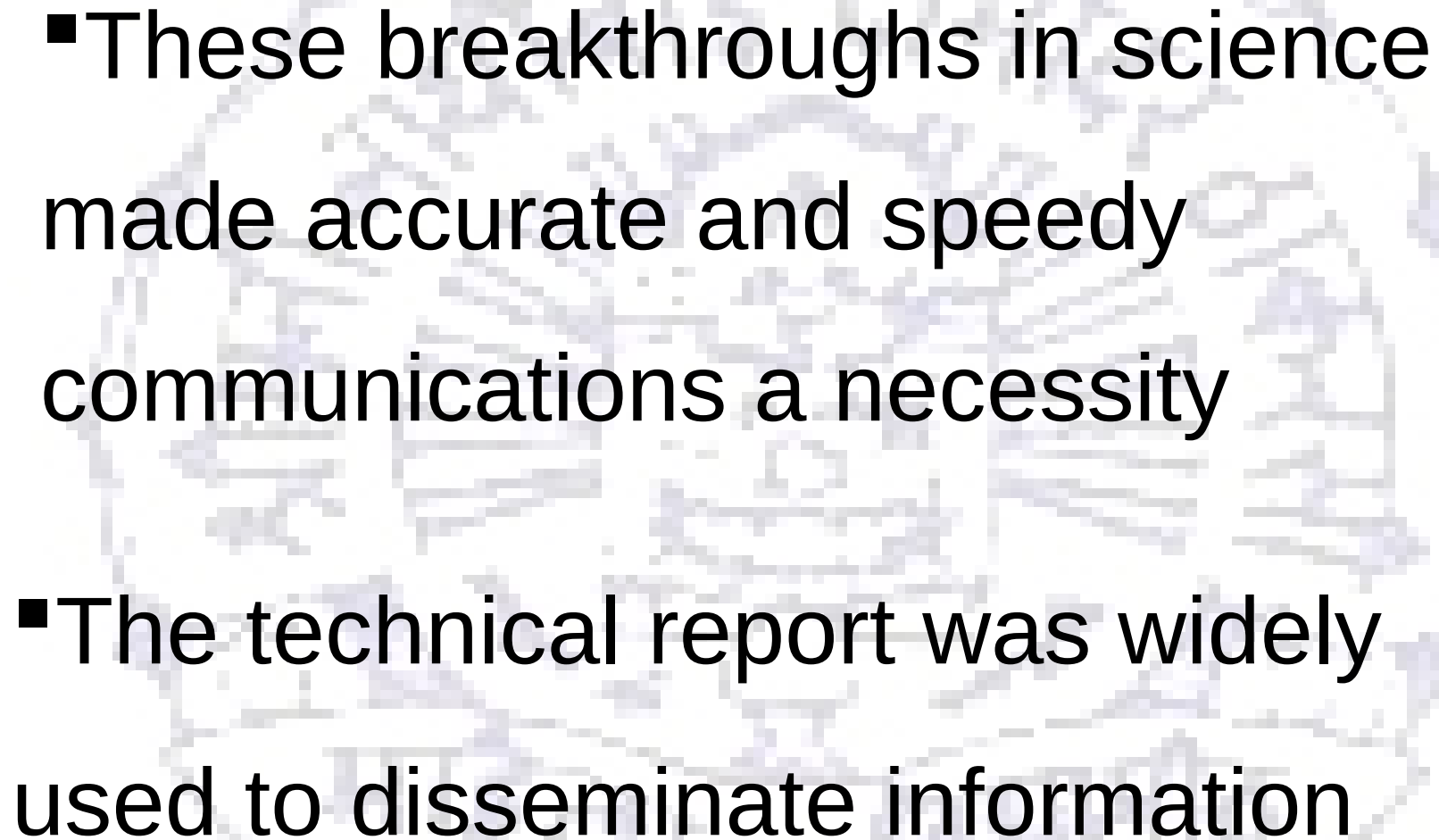
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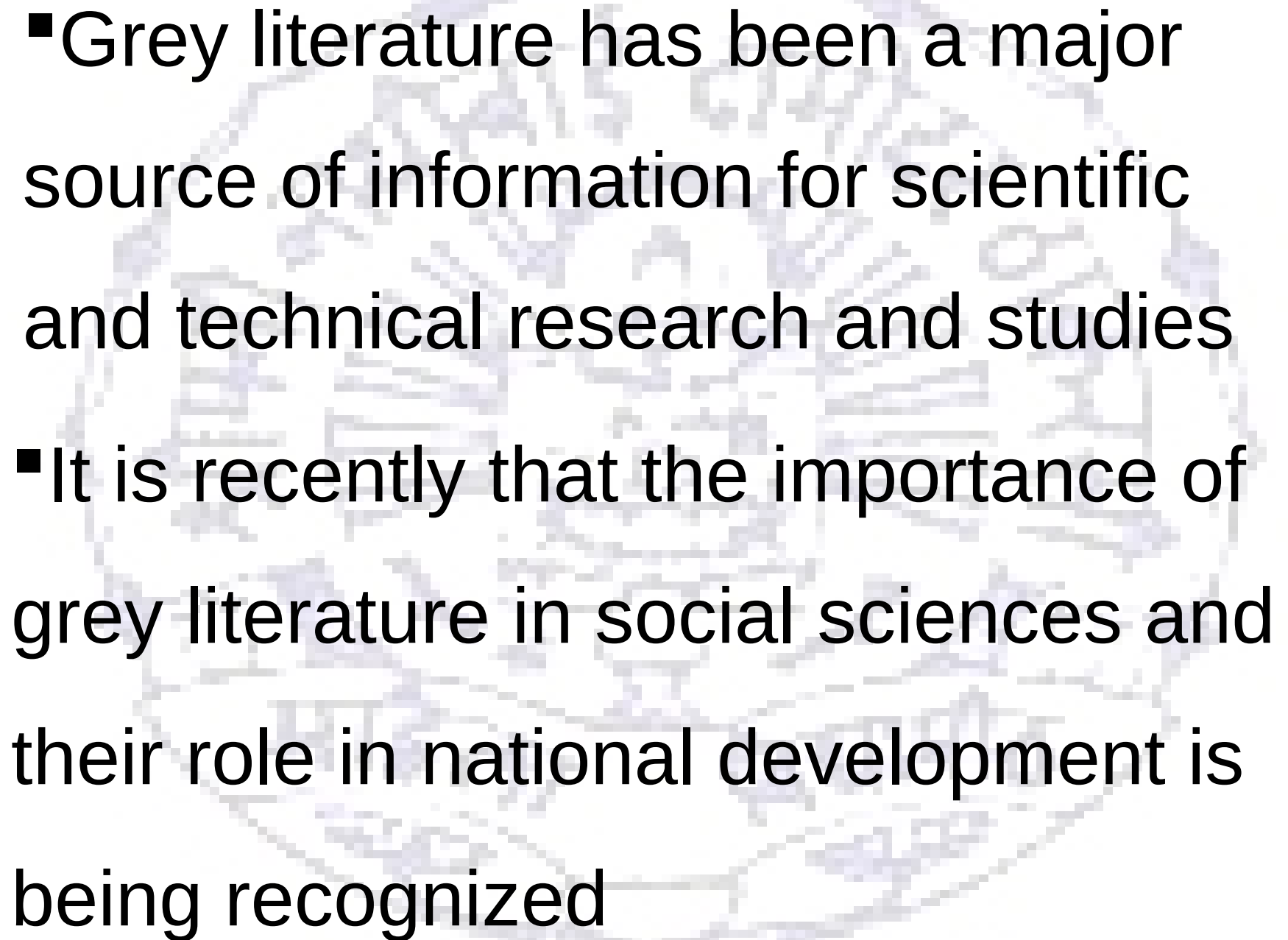
Dr. Bharati Sen

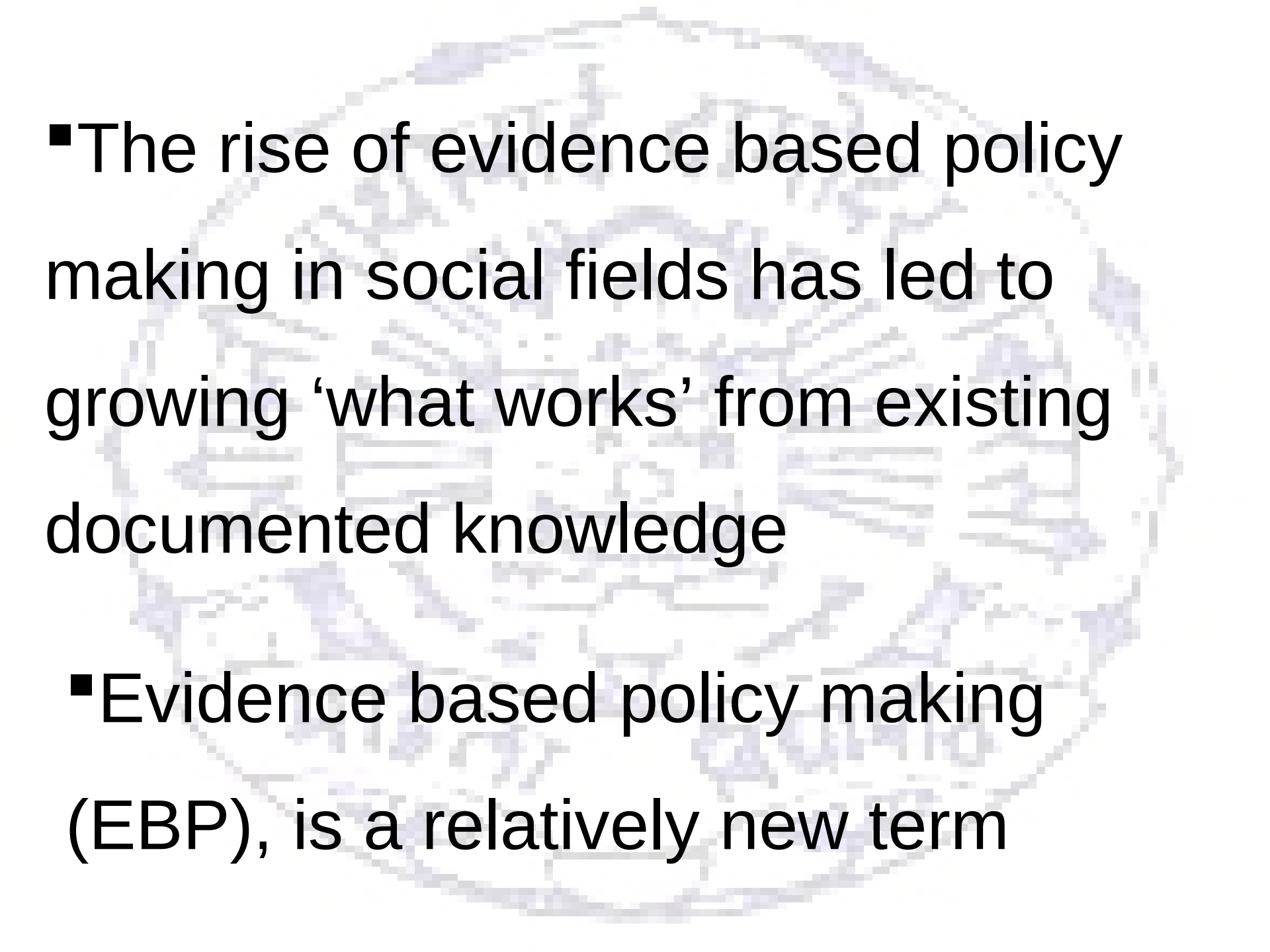
SHPT School of Library Science

SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

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- World War II had the greatest impact on report literature, transforming it into "a major means of communication"
 - The hallmark of that war was the development of technologically-advanced weaponry

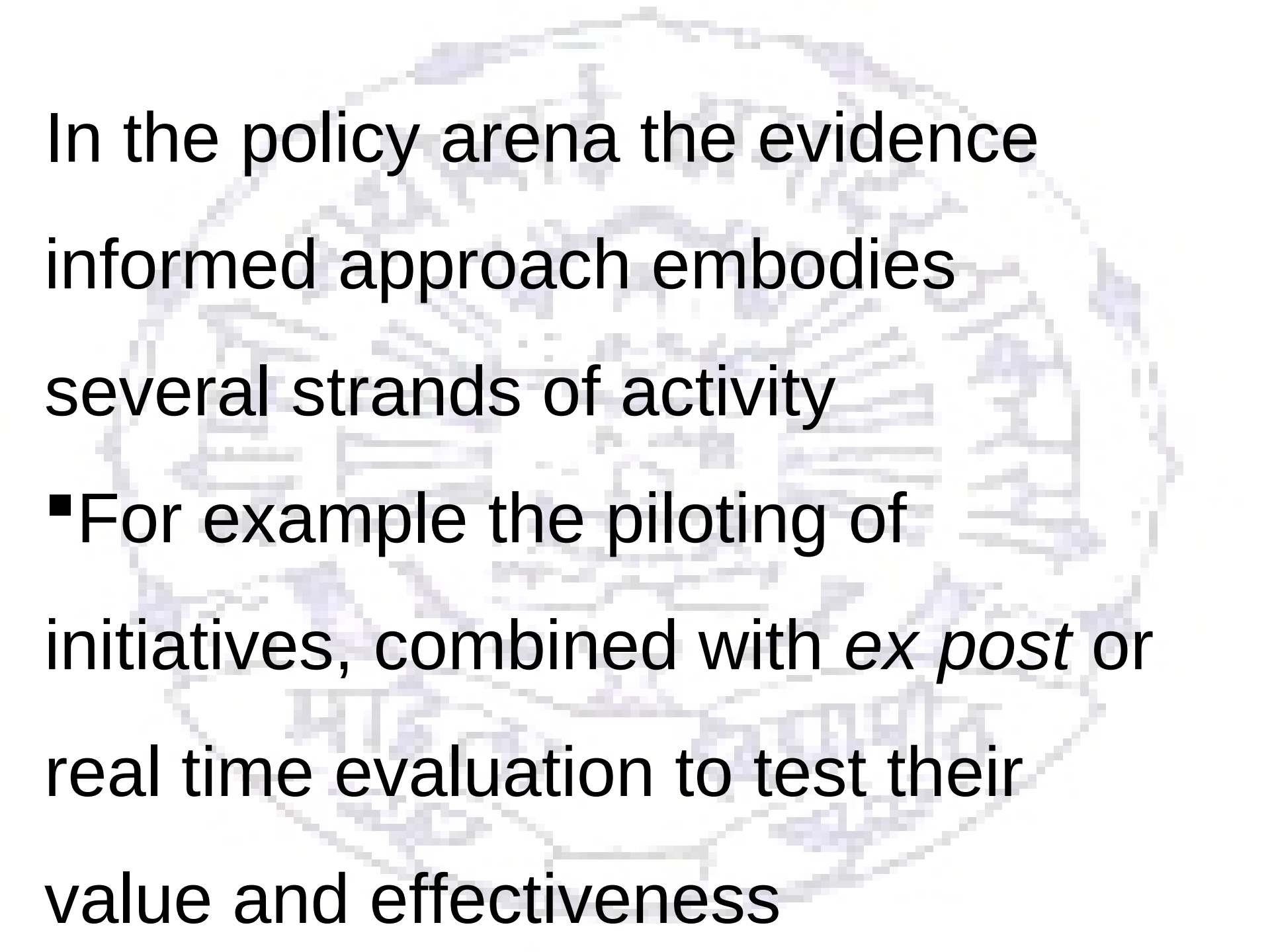
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- These breakthroughs in science made accurate and speedy communications a necessity
 - The technical report was widely used to disseminate information

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- Grey literature has been a major source of information for scientific and technical research and studies
 - It is recently that the importance of grey literature in social sciences and their role in national development is being recognized



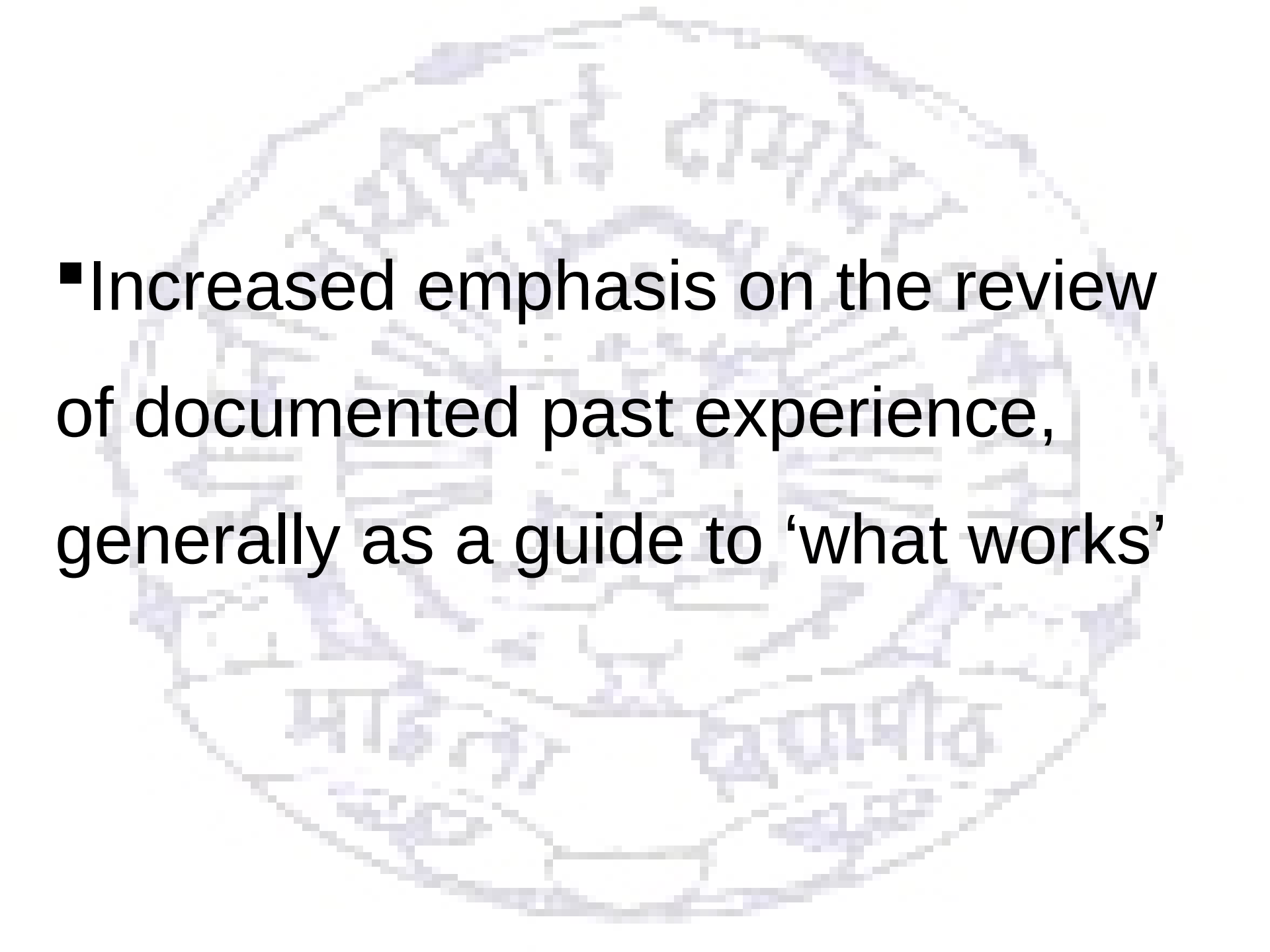
▪ The rise of evidence based policy making in social fields has led to growing ‘what works’ from existing documented knowledge

▪ Evidence based policy making (EBP), is a relatively new term



In the policy arena the evidence informed approach embodies several strands of activity

- For example the piloting of initiatives, combined with *ex post* or real time evaluation to test their value and effectiveness

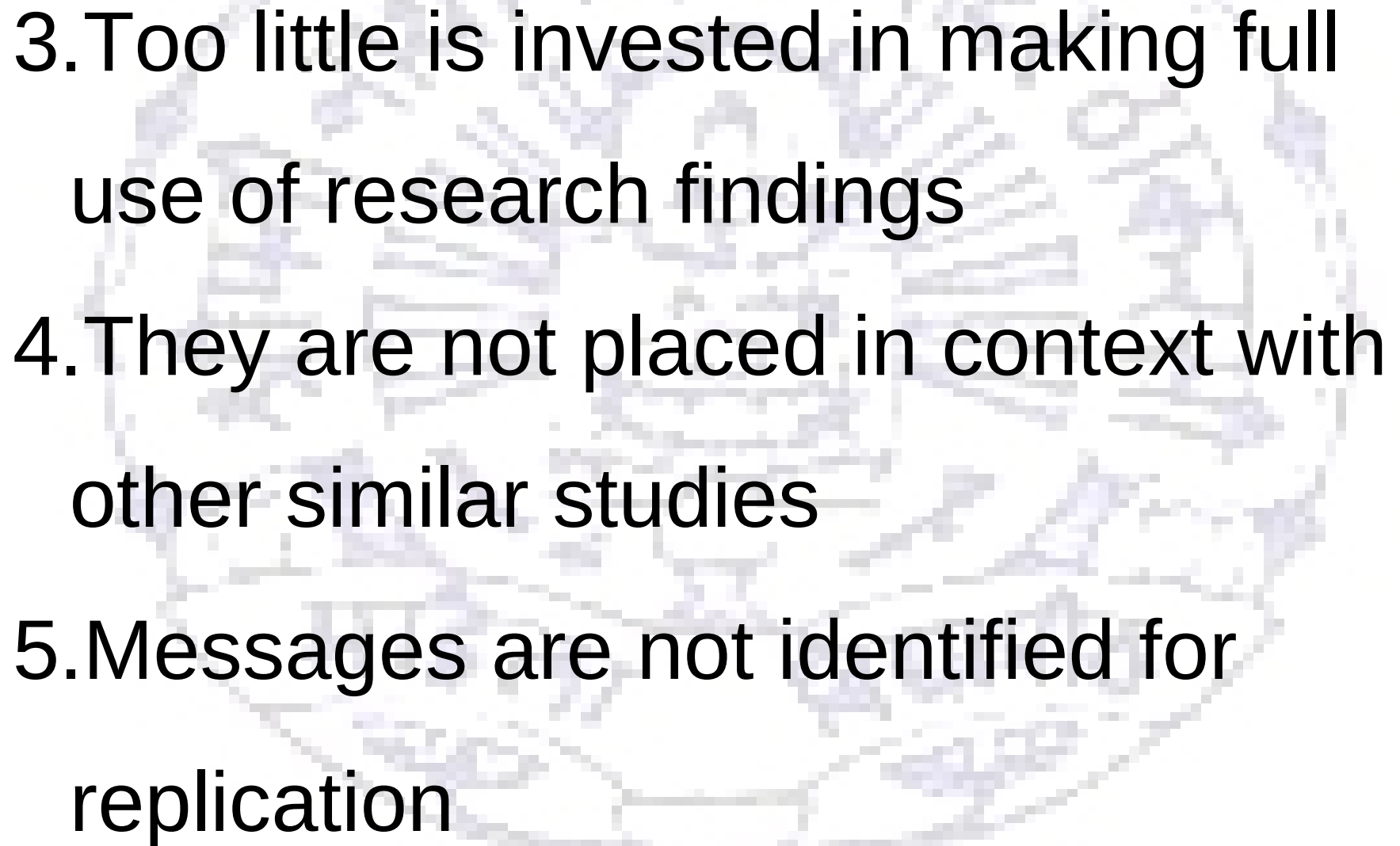


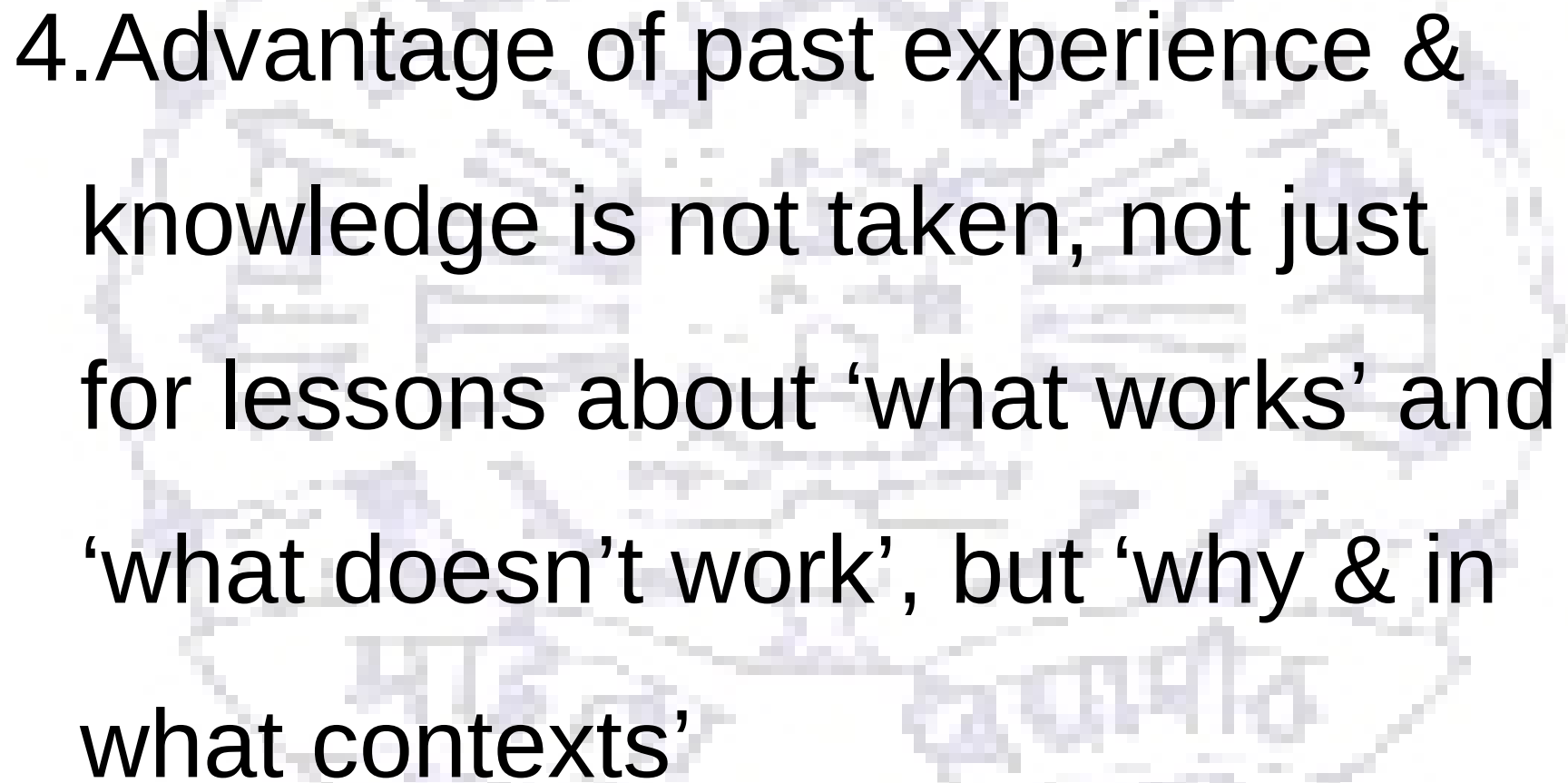
▪ Increased emphasis on the review of documented past experience, generally as a guide to ‘what works’



Rationale for amassing/assessing
evidence is:

1. There is little that is truly new in this world, either problems or solutions
2. Time/effort is wasted on reinventing wheels

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3. Too little is invested in making full use of research findings
 4. They are not placed in context with other similar studies
 5. Messages are not identified for replication

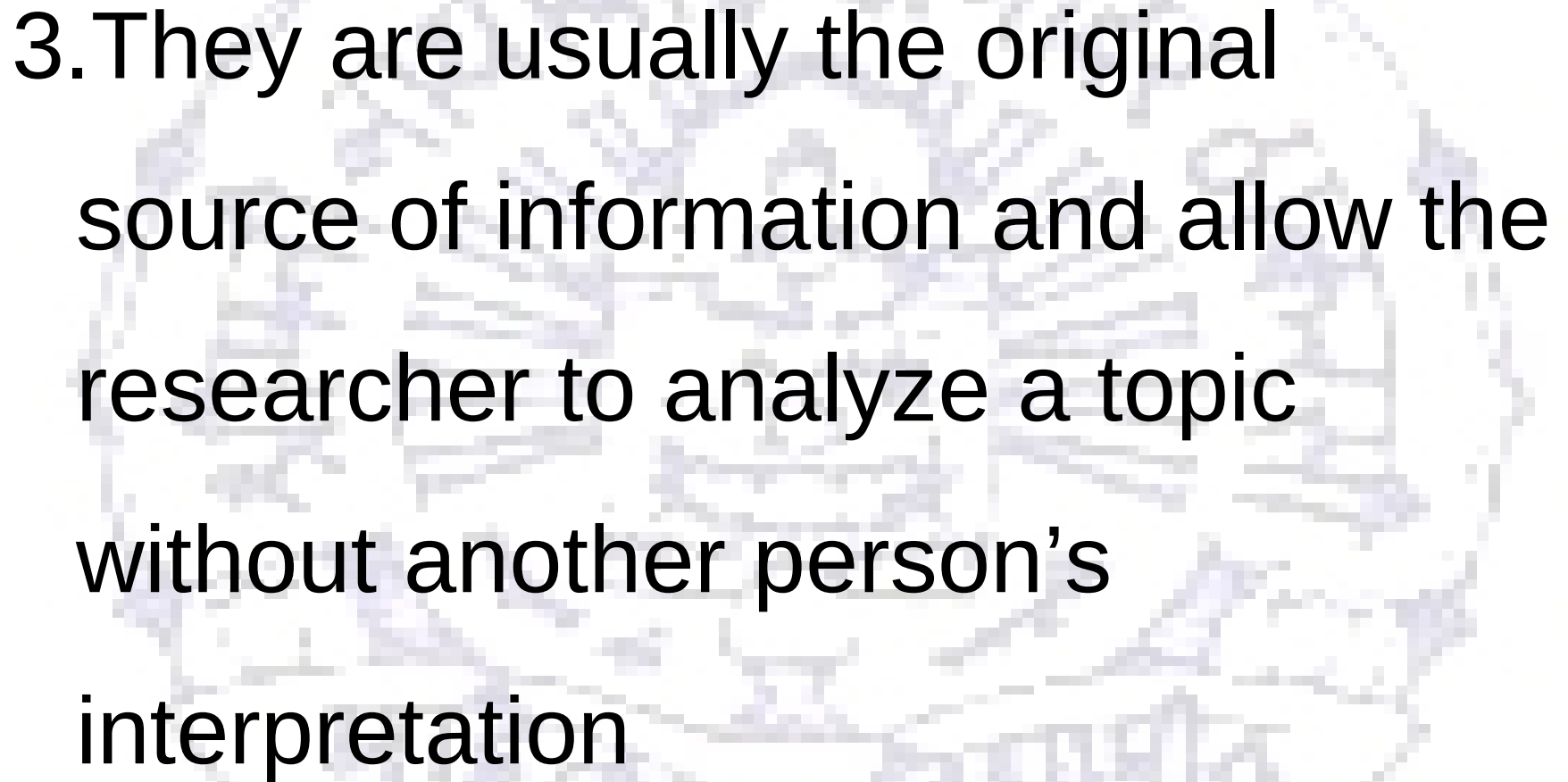


4. Advantage of past experience & knowledge is not taken, not just for lessons about ‘what works’ and ‘what doesn’t work’, but ‘why & in what contexts’

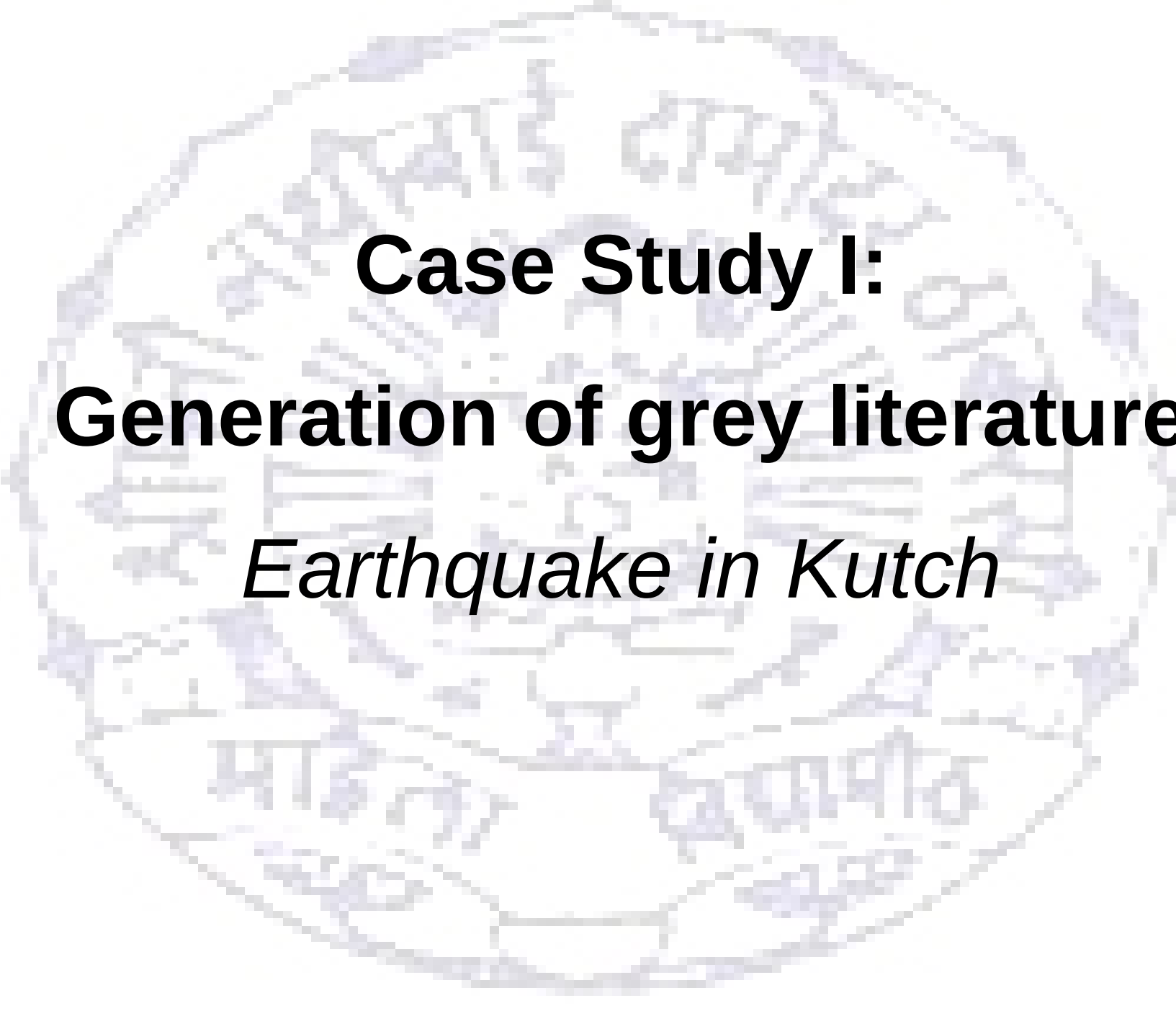


As primary sources:

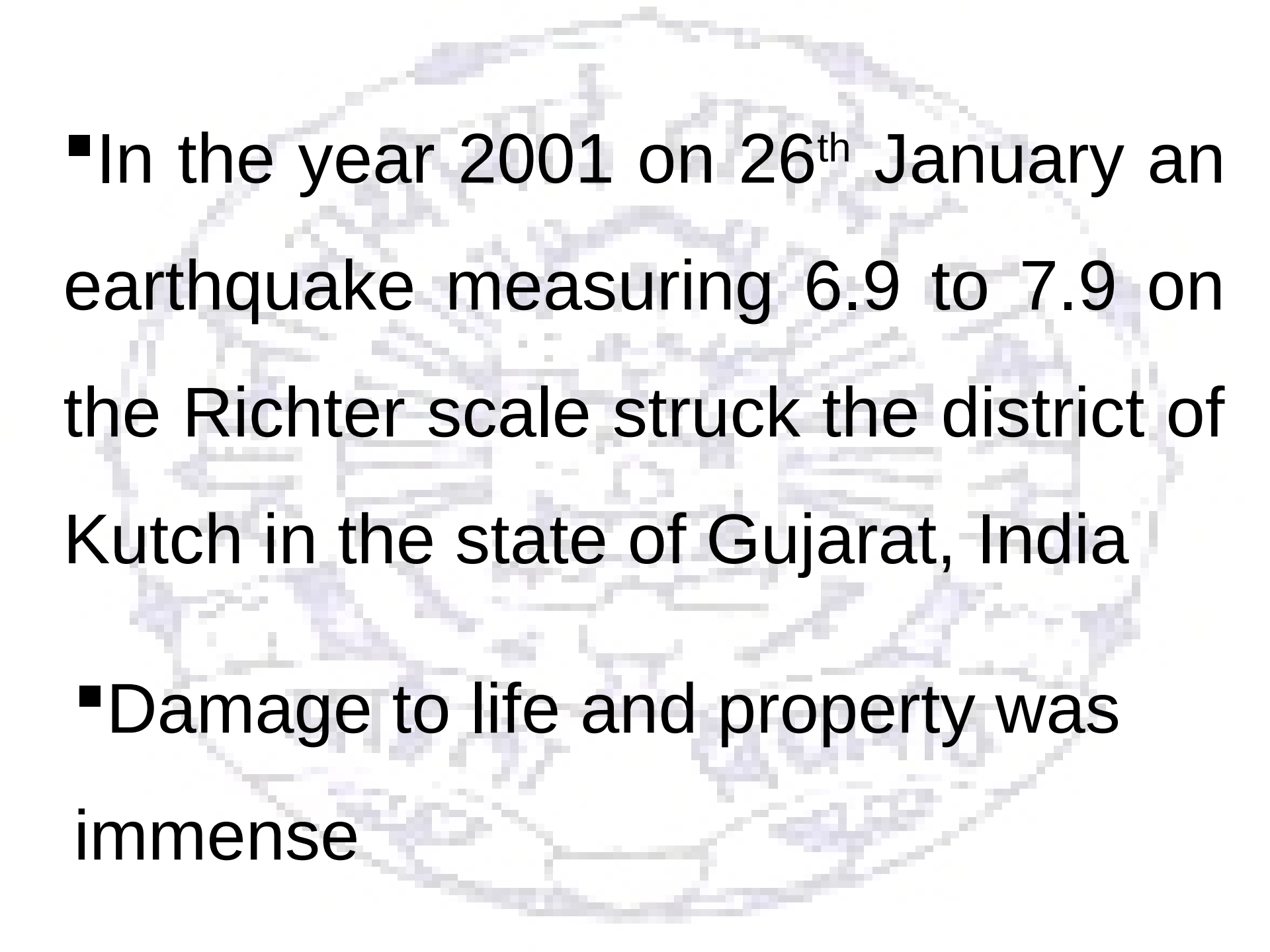
1. Grey literature provides un-interpreted, first hand accounts or evidence of an event or experience
2. These sources contain information or data and are usually written at the time of the event or research



3. They are usually the original source of information and allow the researcher to analyze a topic without another person's interpretation

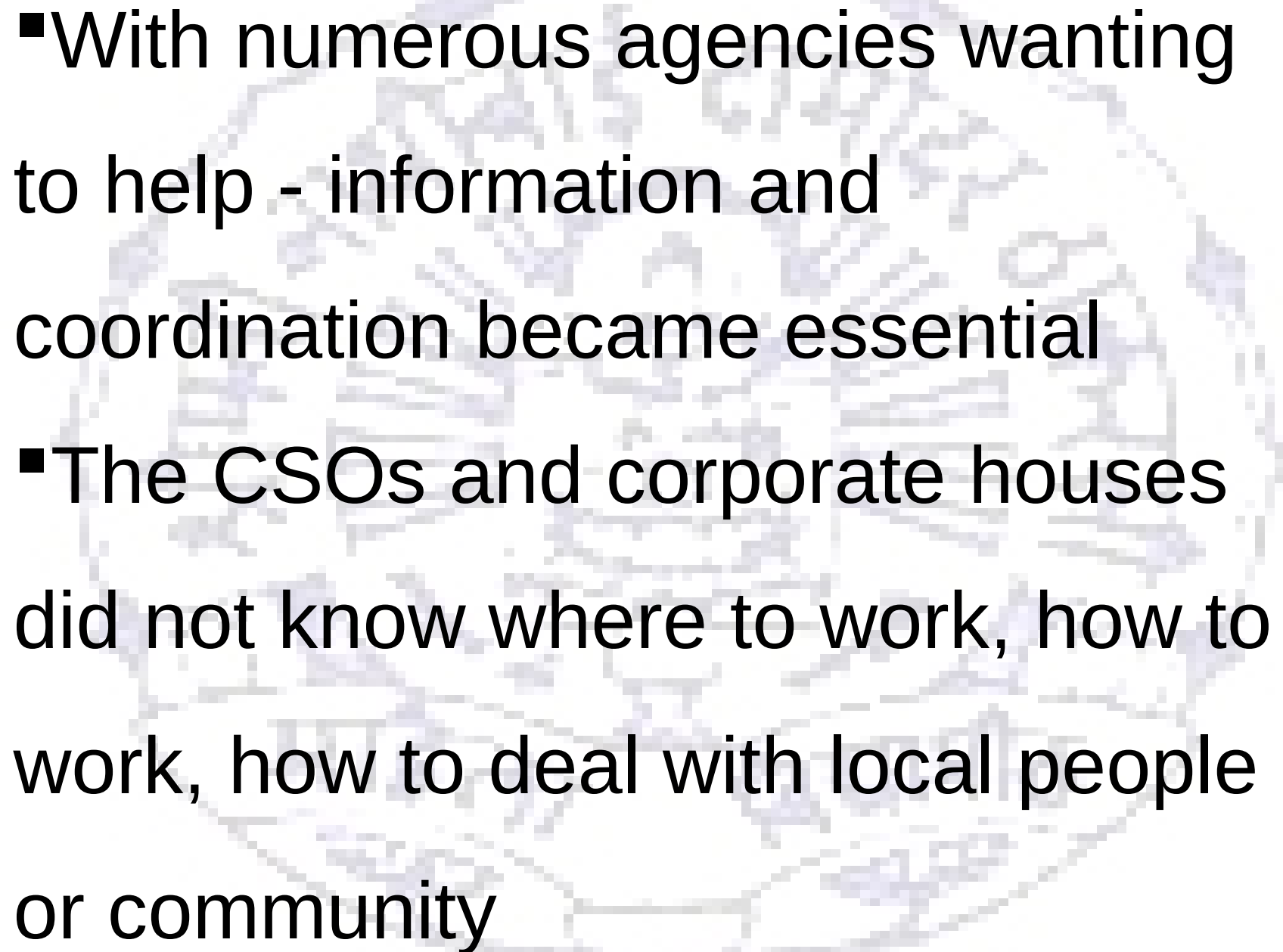


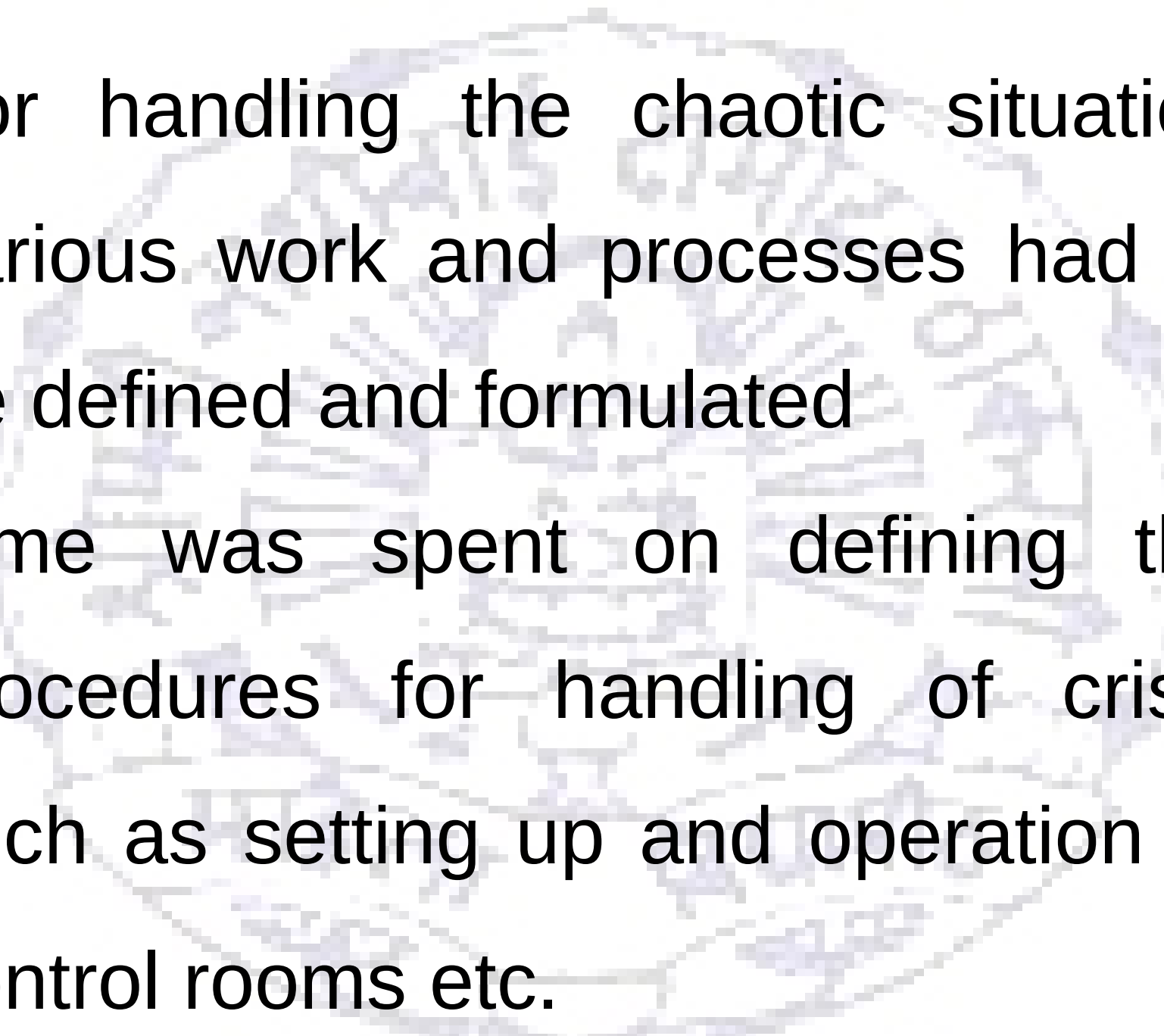
Case Study I:
Generation of grey literature
Earthquake in Kutch



▪ In the year 2001 on 26th January an earthquake measuring 6.9 to 7.9 on the Richter scale struck the district of Kutch in the state of Gujarat, India

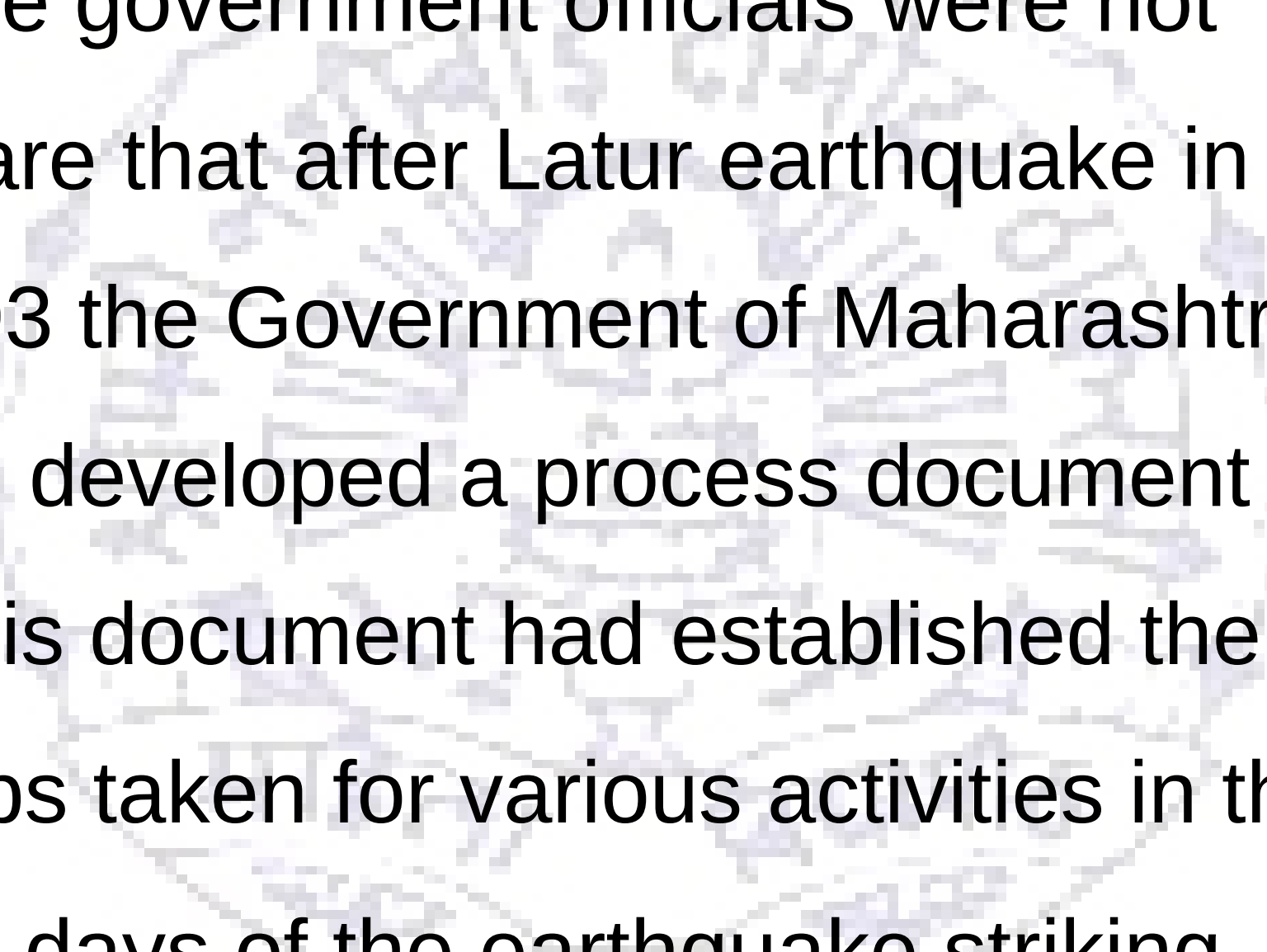
▪ Damage to life and property was immense

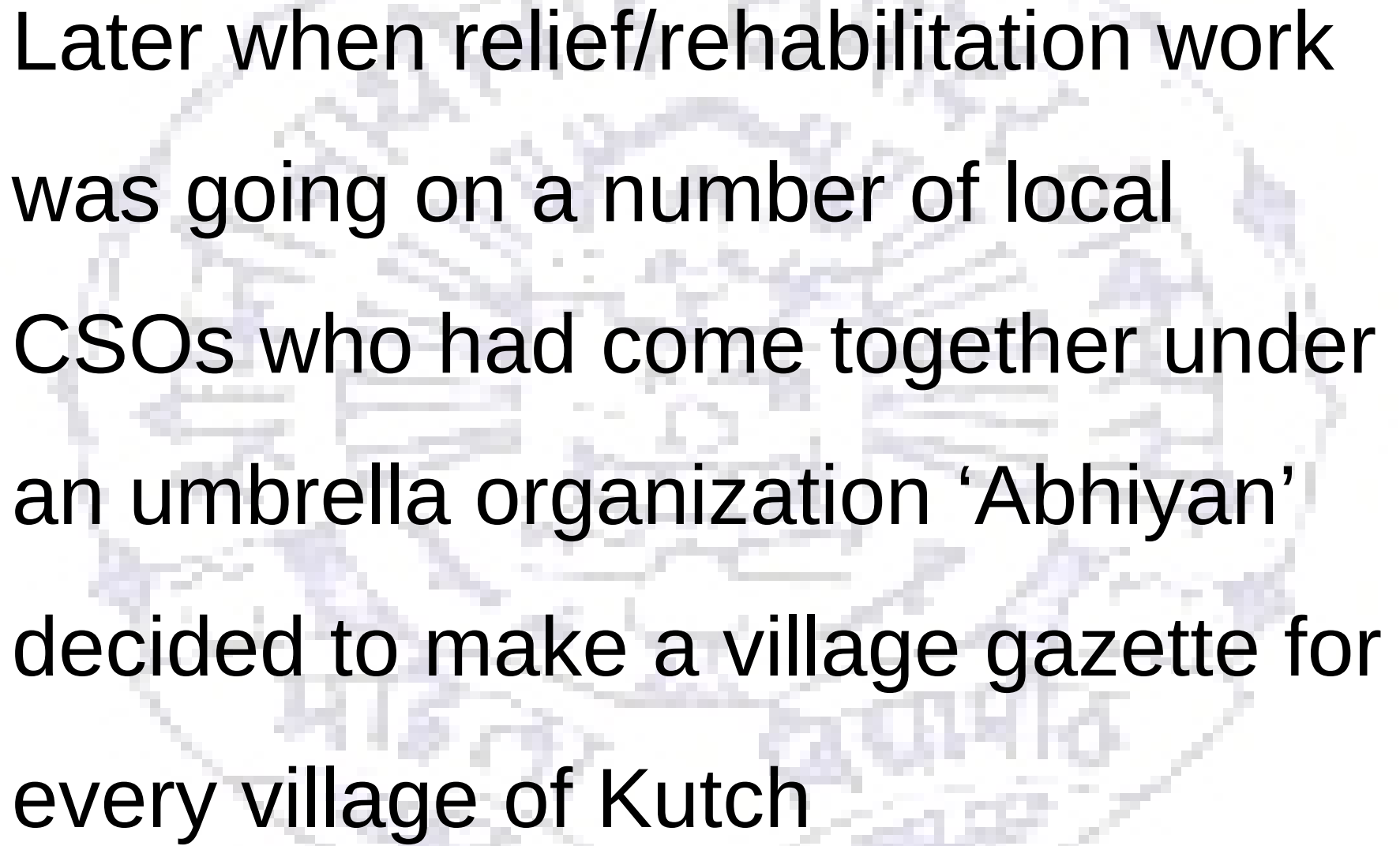
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- With numerous agencies wanting to help - information and coordination became essential
 - The CSOs and corporate houses did not know where to work, how to work, how to deal with local people or community



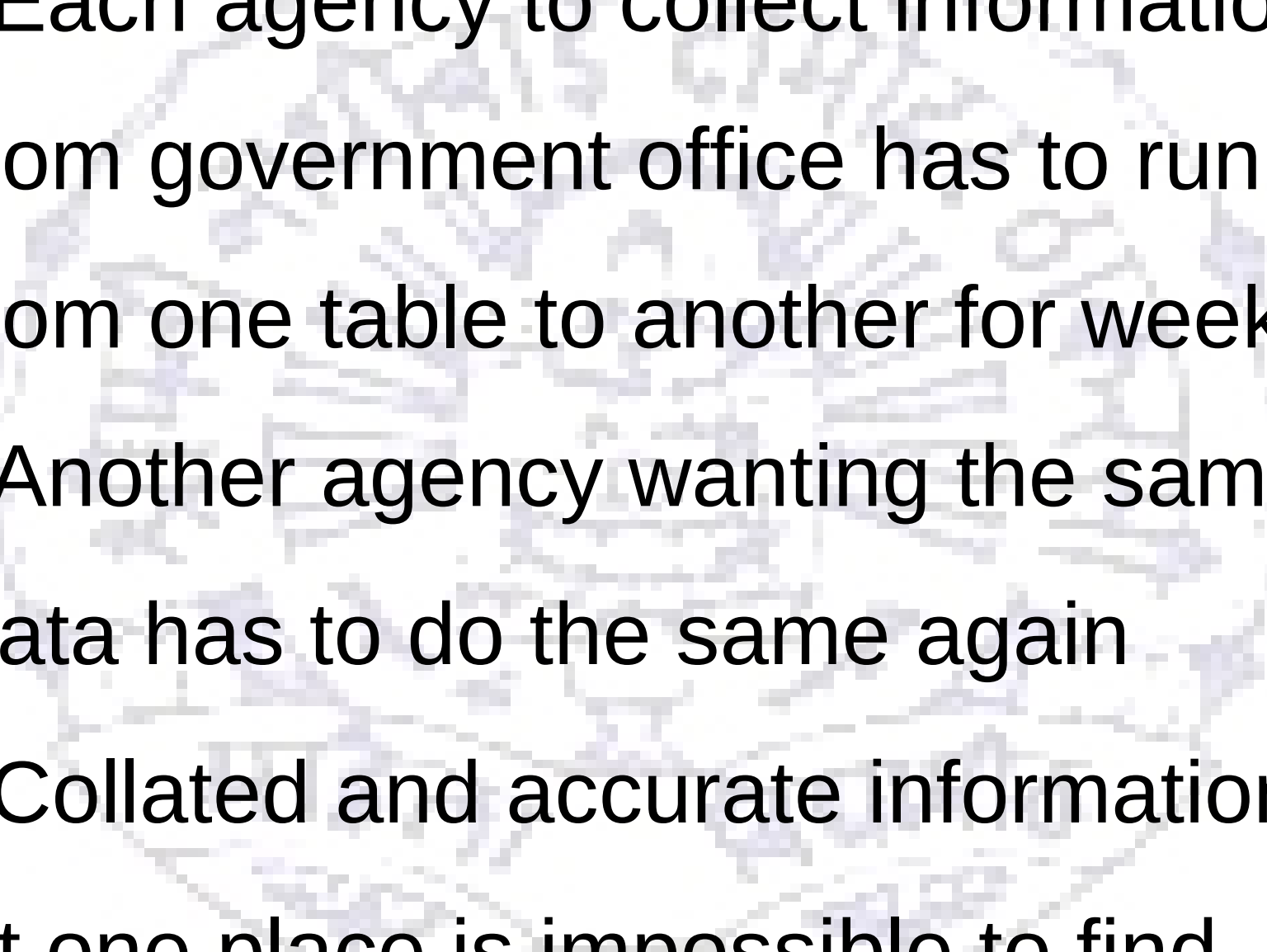
For handling the chaotic situation various work and processes had to be defined and formulated

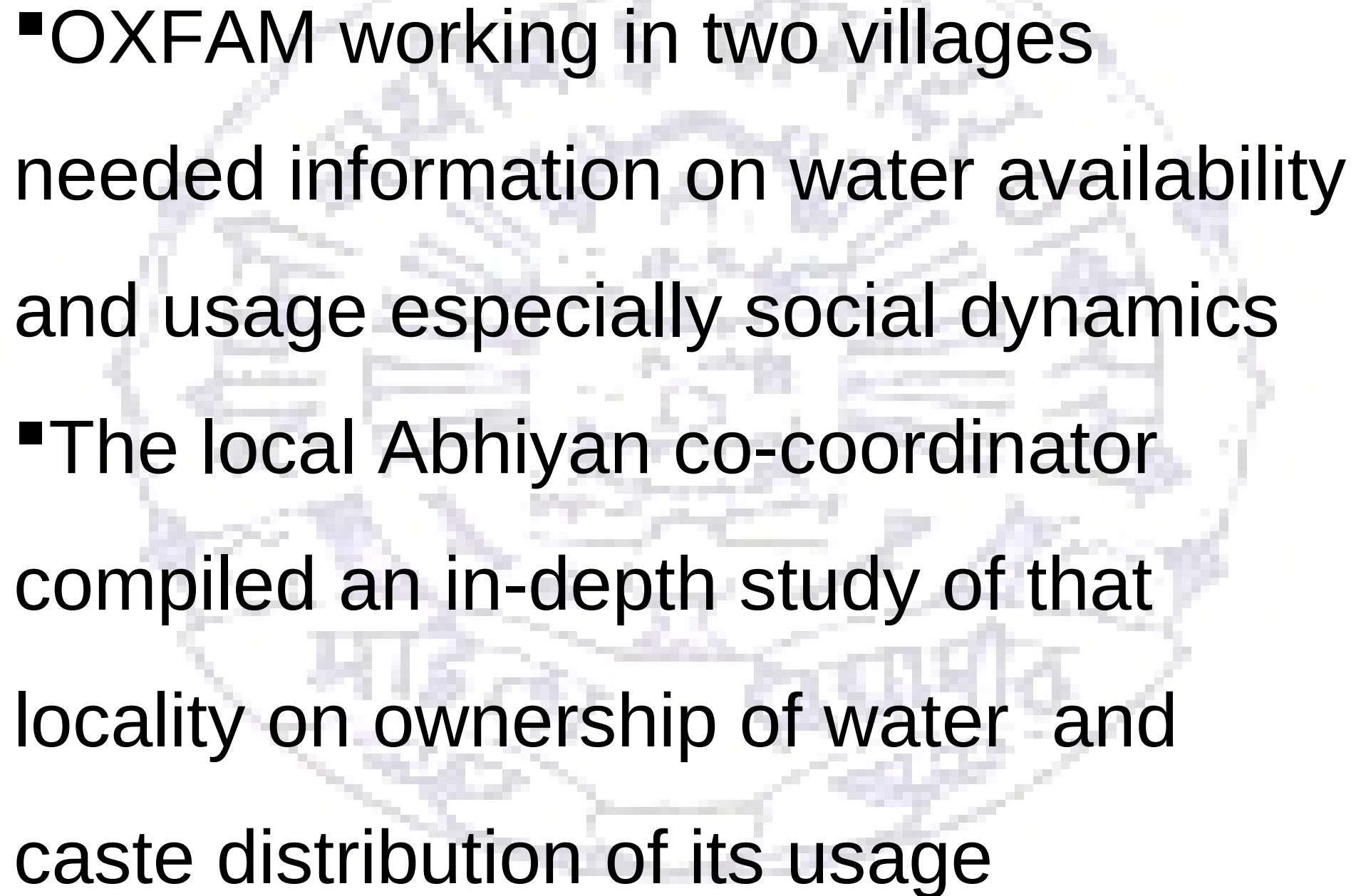
Time was spent on defining the procedures for handling of crisis such as setting up and operation of control rooms etc.

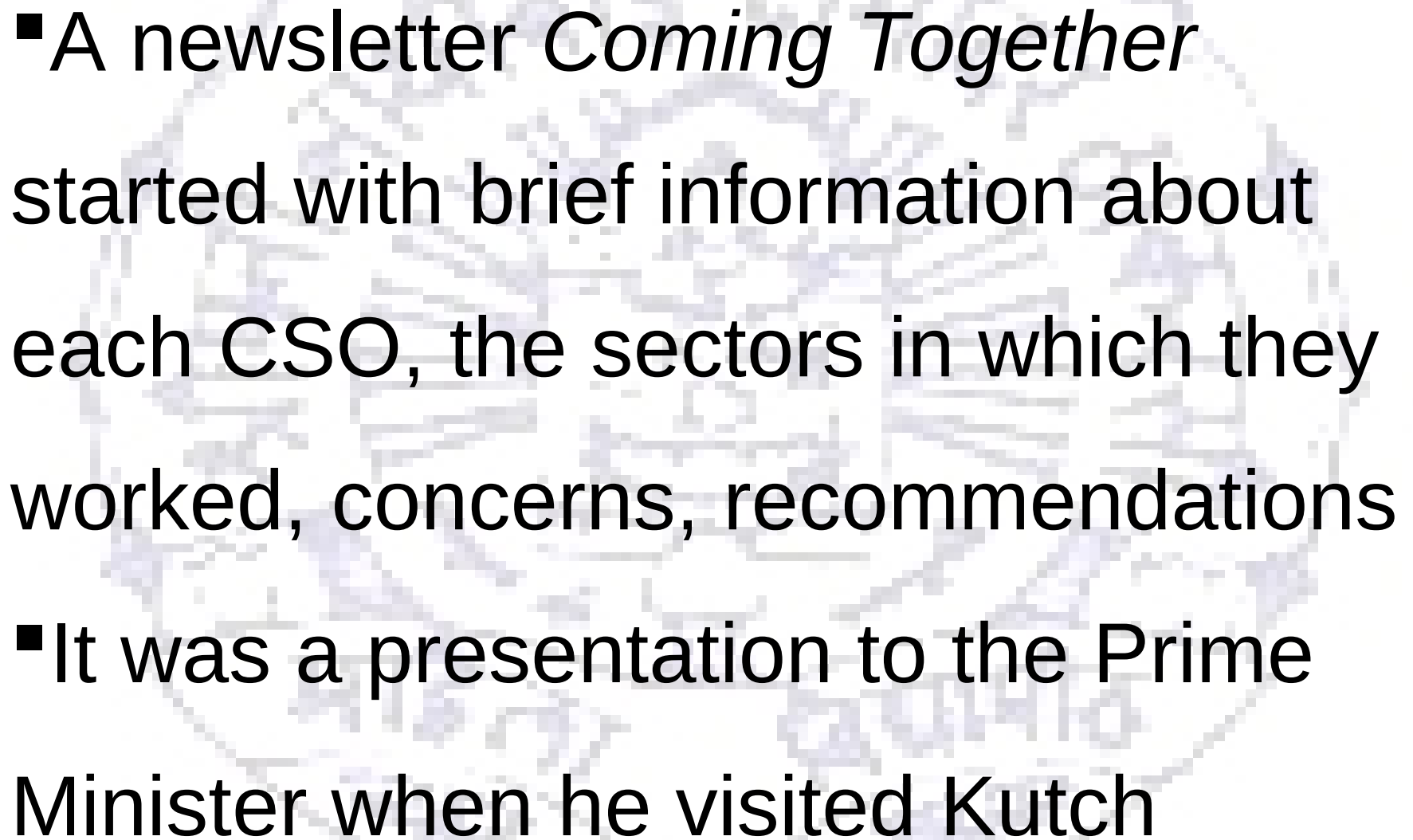
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- The government officials were not aware that after Latur earthquake in 1993 the Government of Maharashtra had developed a process document
 - This document had established the steps taken for various activities in the first days of the earthquake striking



Later when relief/rehabilitation work was going on a number of local CSOs who had come together under an umbrella organization 'Abhiyan' decided to make a village gazette for every village of Kutch

- 
- Each agency to collect information from government office has to run from one table to another for weeks
 - Another agency wanting the same data has to do the same again
 - Collated and accurate information at one place is impossible to find

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- OXFAM working in two villages needed information on water availability and usage especially social dynamics
 - The local Abhiyan co-coordinator compiled an in-depth study of that locality on ownership of water and caste distribution of its usage

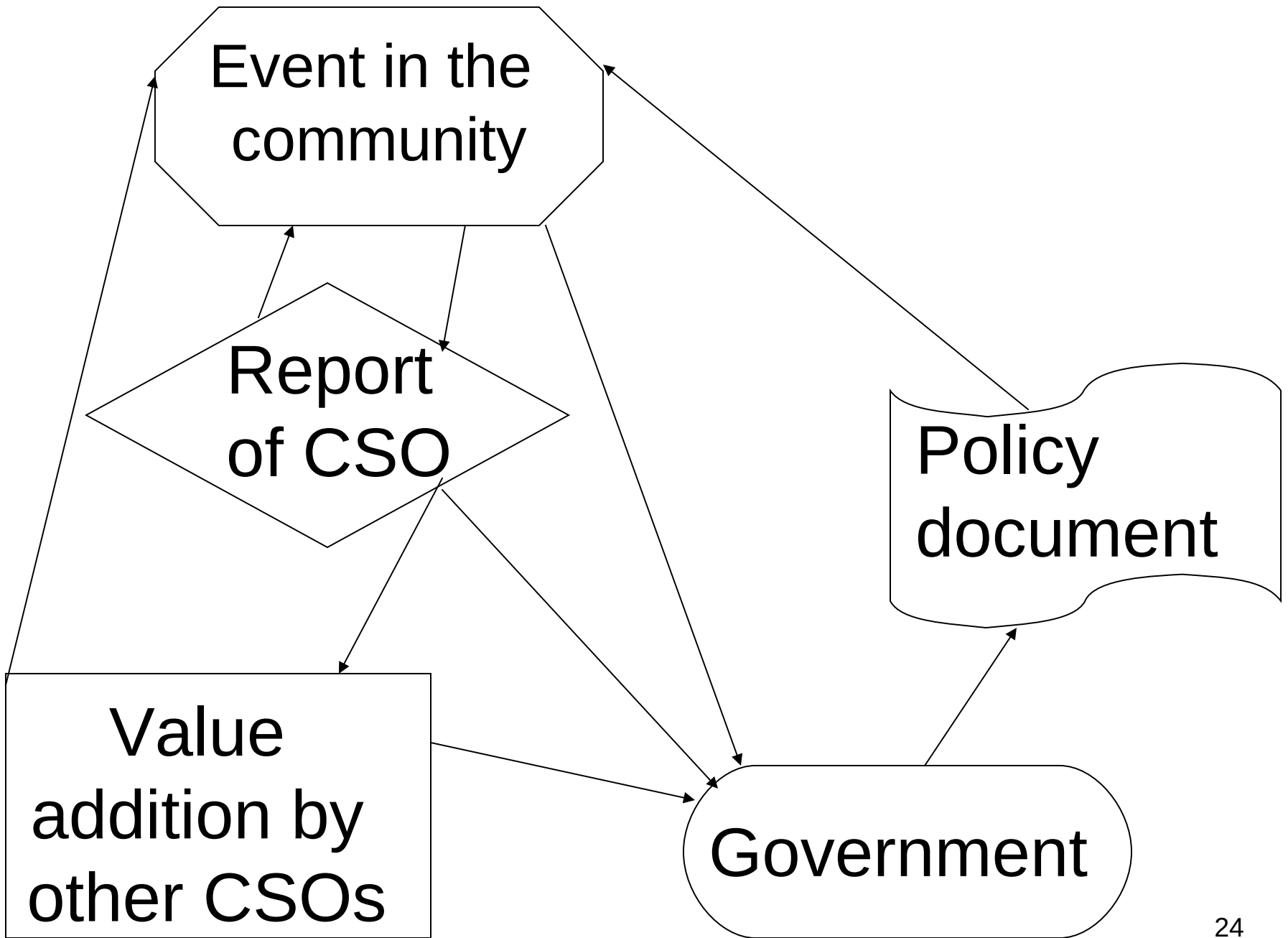
- 
- A newsletter *Coming Together* started with brief information about each CSO, the sectors in which they worked, concerns, recommendations
 - It was a presentation to the Prime Minister when he visited Kutch

Second issue had more information:

1. Photographs, maps, showing the extent of damage and work done
2. How the policies were framed
3. Problems in adopting the villages
4. Reasons for delay
5. Policy change recommendations

Three types of grey documents were:

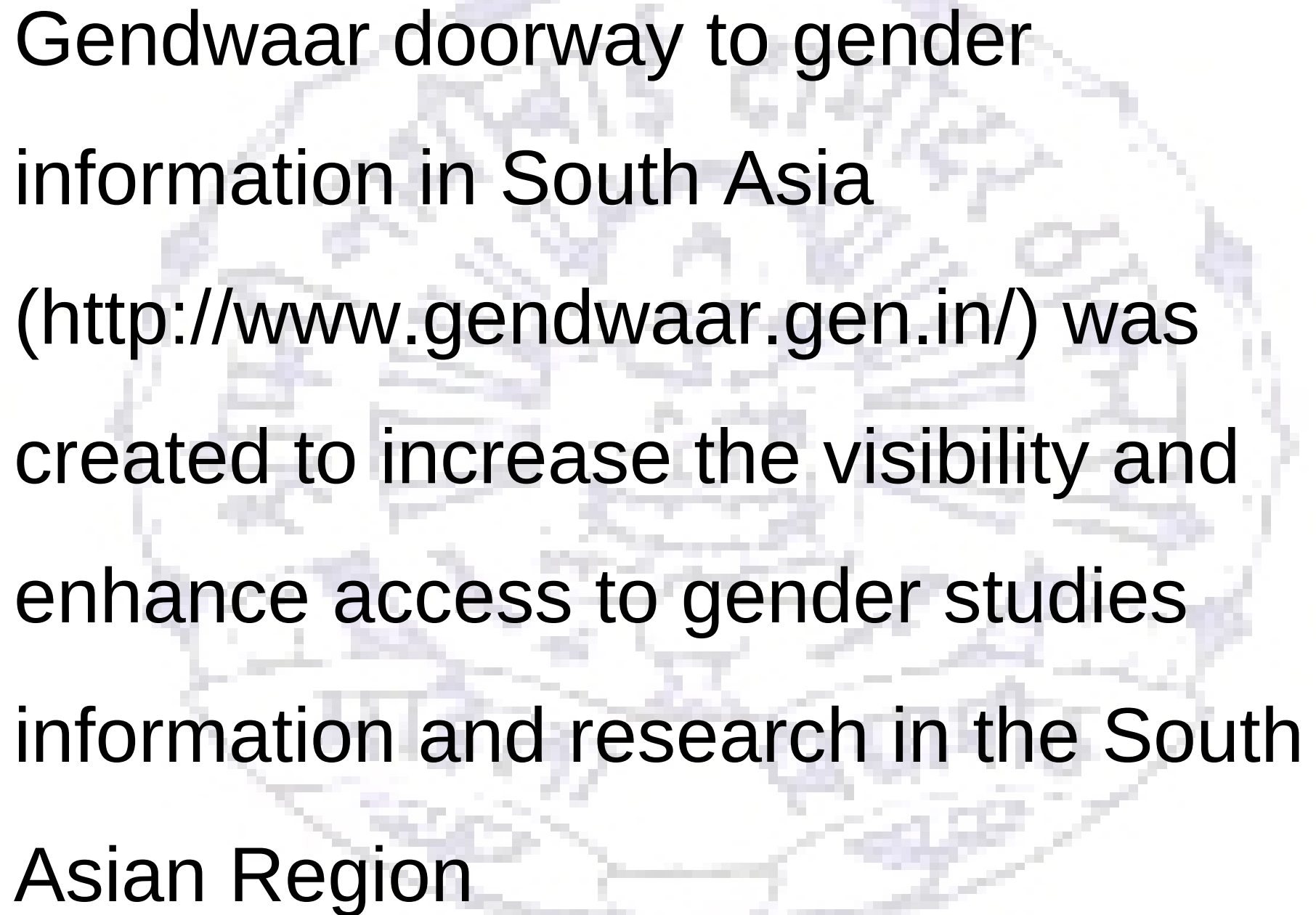
- The village gazette that would also become a tool for policy advocacy
- 2. A comprehensive database for accessing local information
- 3. A newsletter *Coming Together* which for NGOs became a reference tool



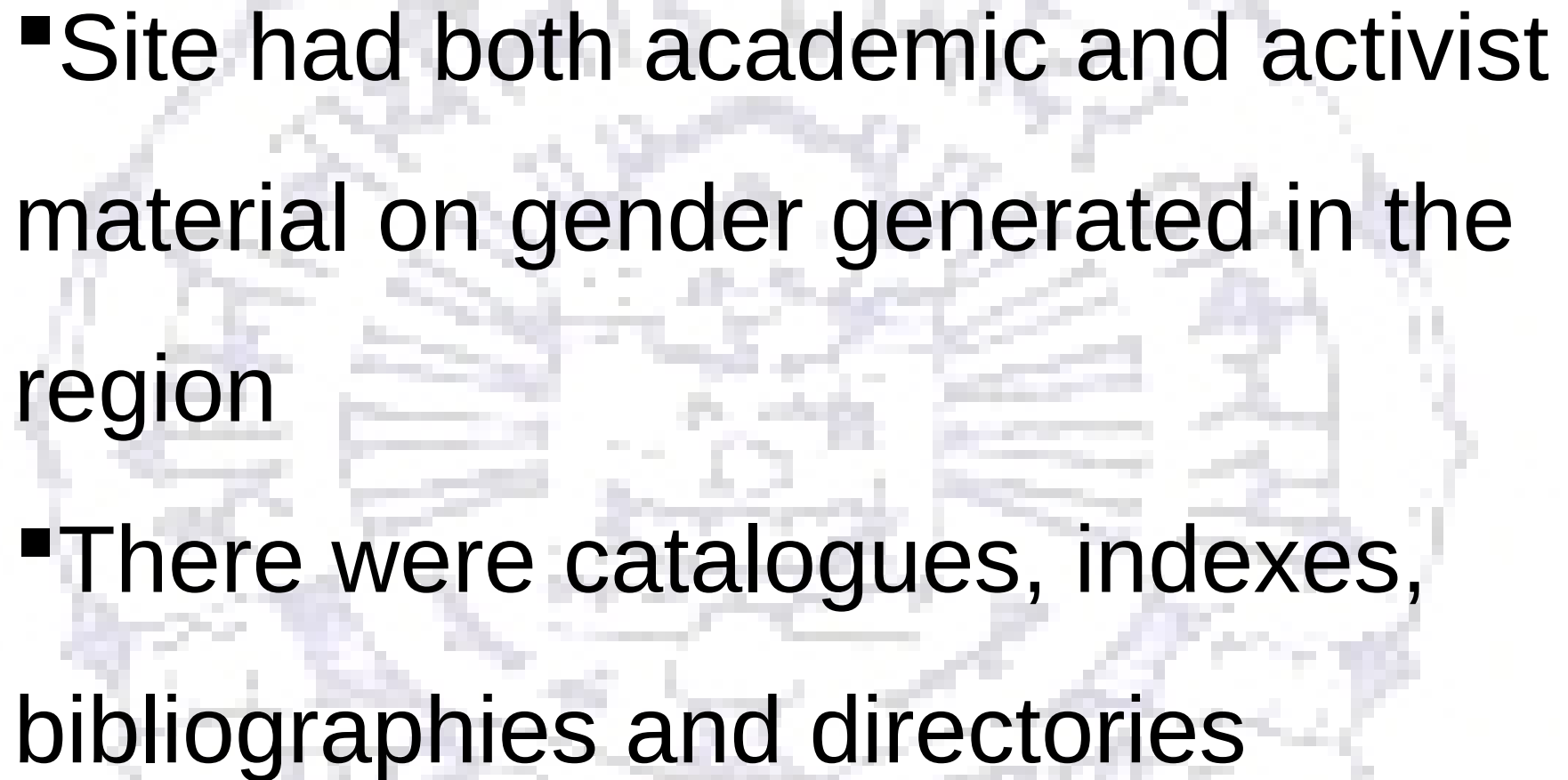


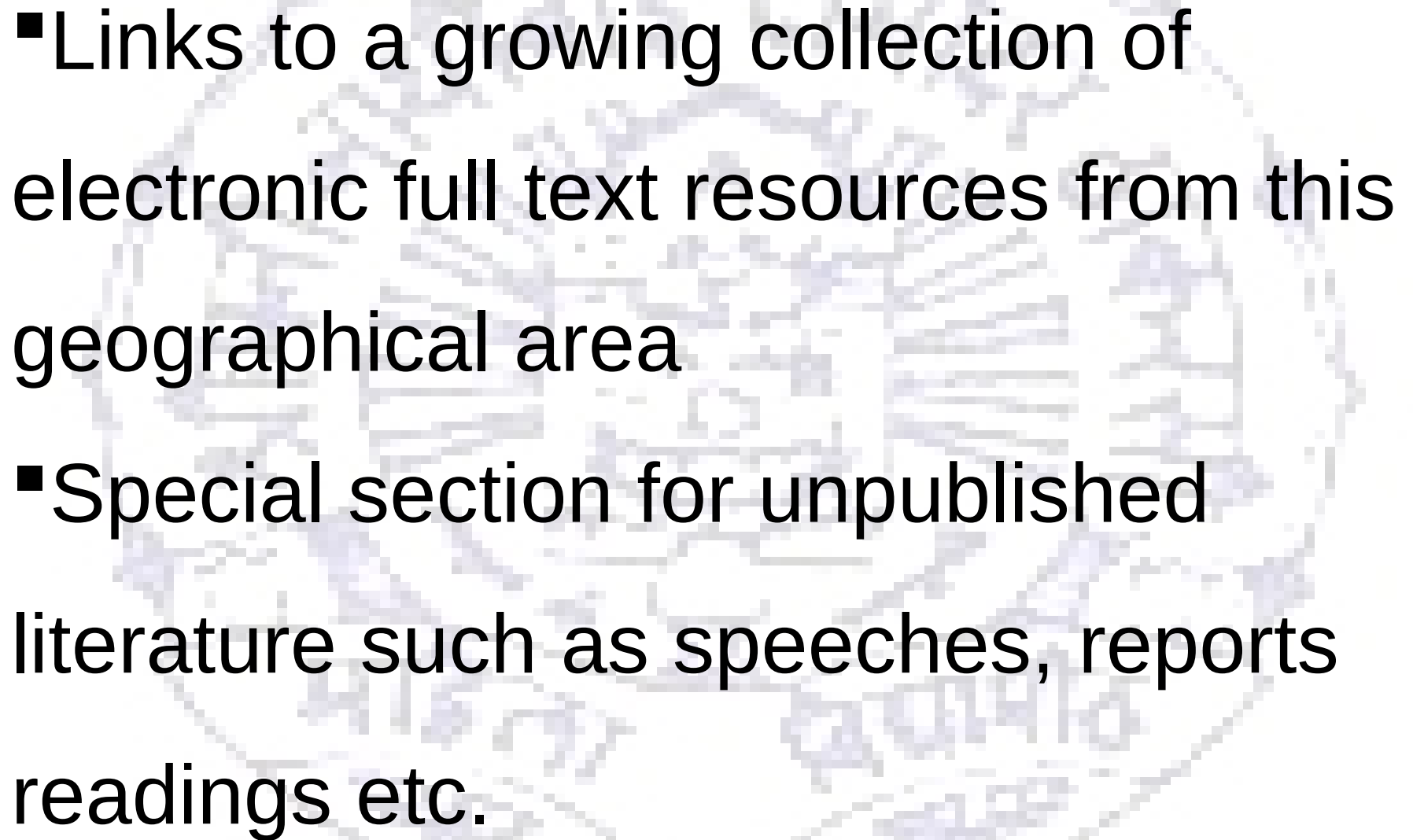
**Case Study II: Need for organization
and access of grey literature**

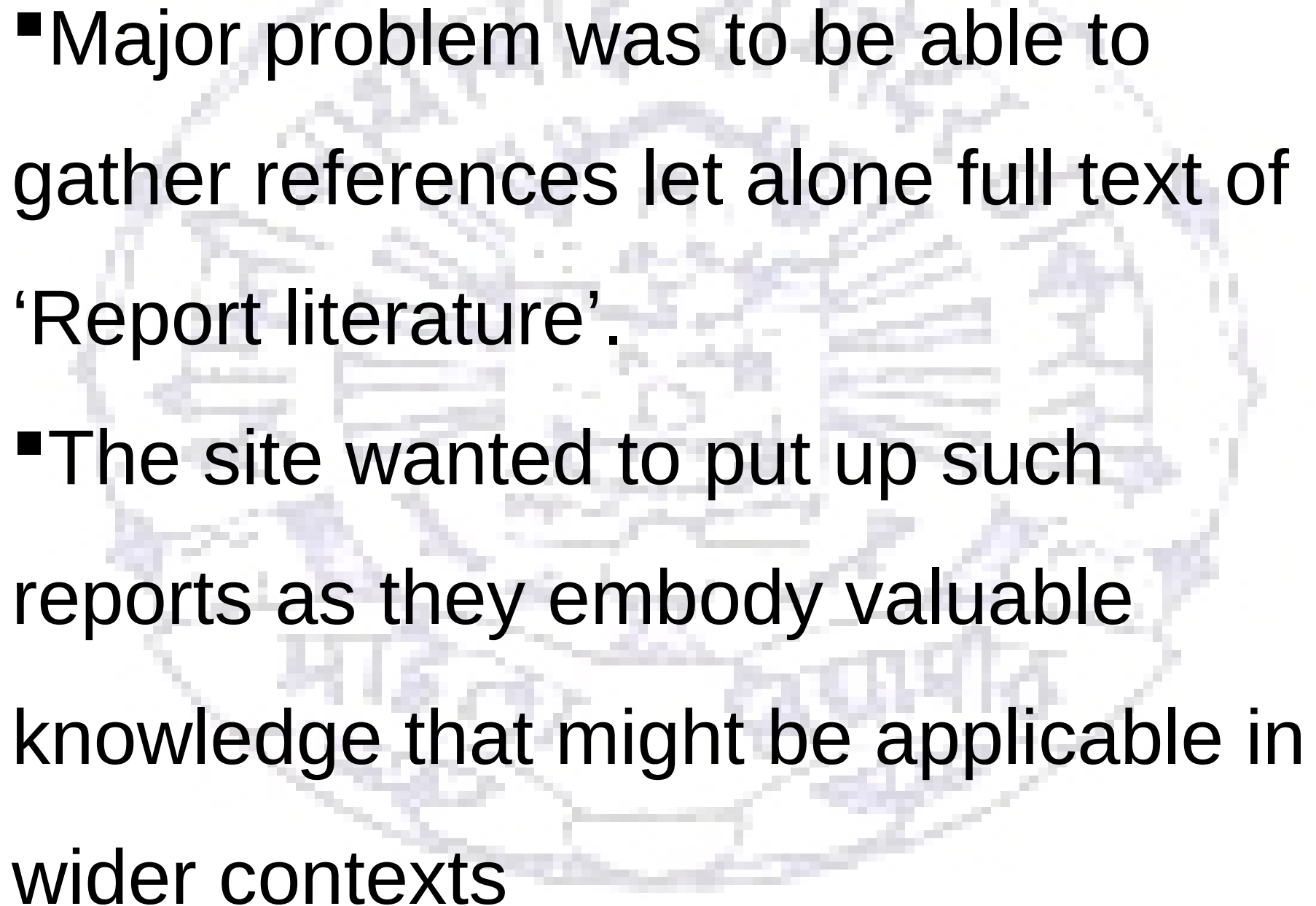
Gendwaar

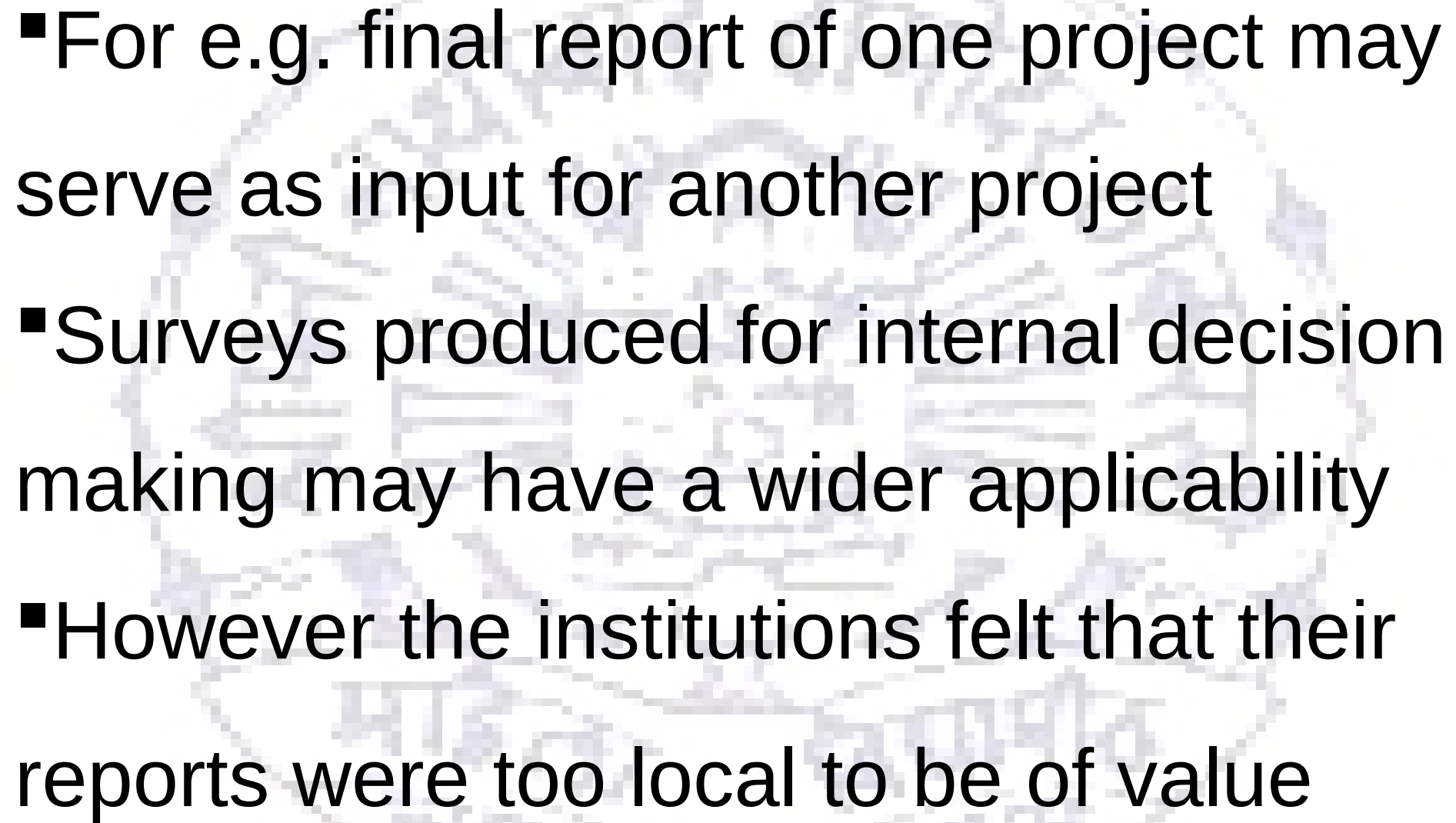


Gendwaar doorway to gender
information in South Asia
(<http://www.gendwaar.gen.in/>) was
created to increase the visibility and
enhance access to gender studies
information and research in the South
Asian Region

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- Site had both academic and activist material on gender generated in the region
 - There were catalogues, indexes, bibliographies and directories

- 
- Links to a growing collection of electronic full text resources from this geographical area
 - Special section for unpublished literature such as speeches, reports readings etc.

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- Major problem was to be able to gather references let alone full text of 'Report literature'.
 - The site wanted to put up such reports as they embody valuable knowledge that might be applicable in wider contexts

- 
- For e.g. final report of one project may serve as input for another project
 - Surveys produced for internal decision making may have a wider applicability
 - However the institutions felt that their reports were too local to be of value

The established definition of 'grey literature' needs narrowing for particular contexts, and such a refinement is:

“information produced in a specific working context which is, or might be of value outside that context”

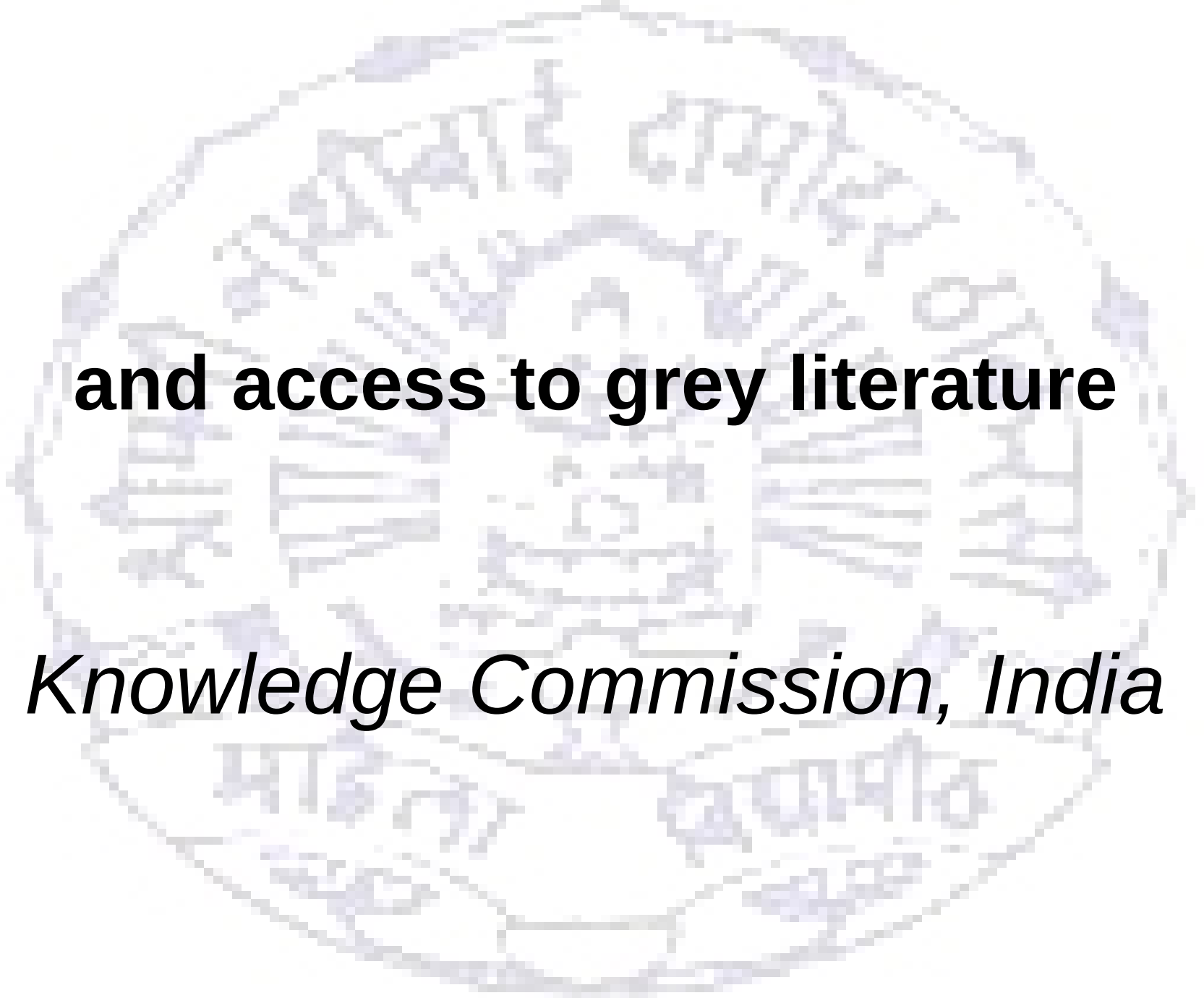
[Lambert, Matthews, and Jones (ca 2005)]

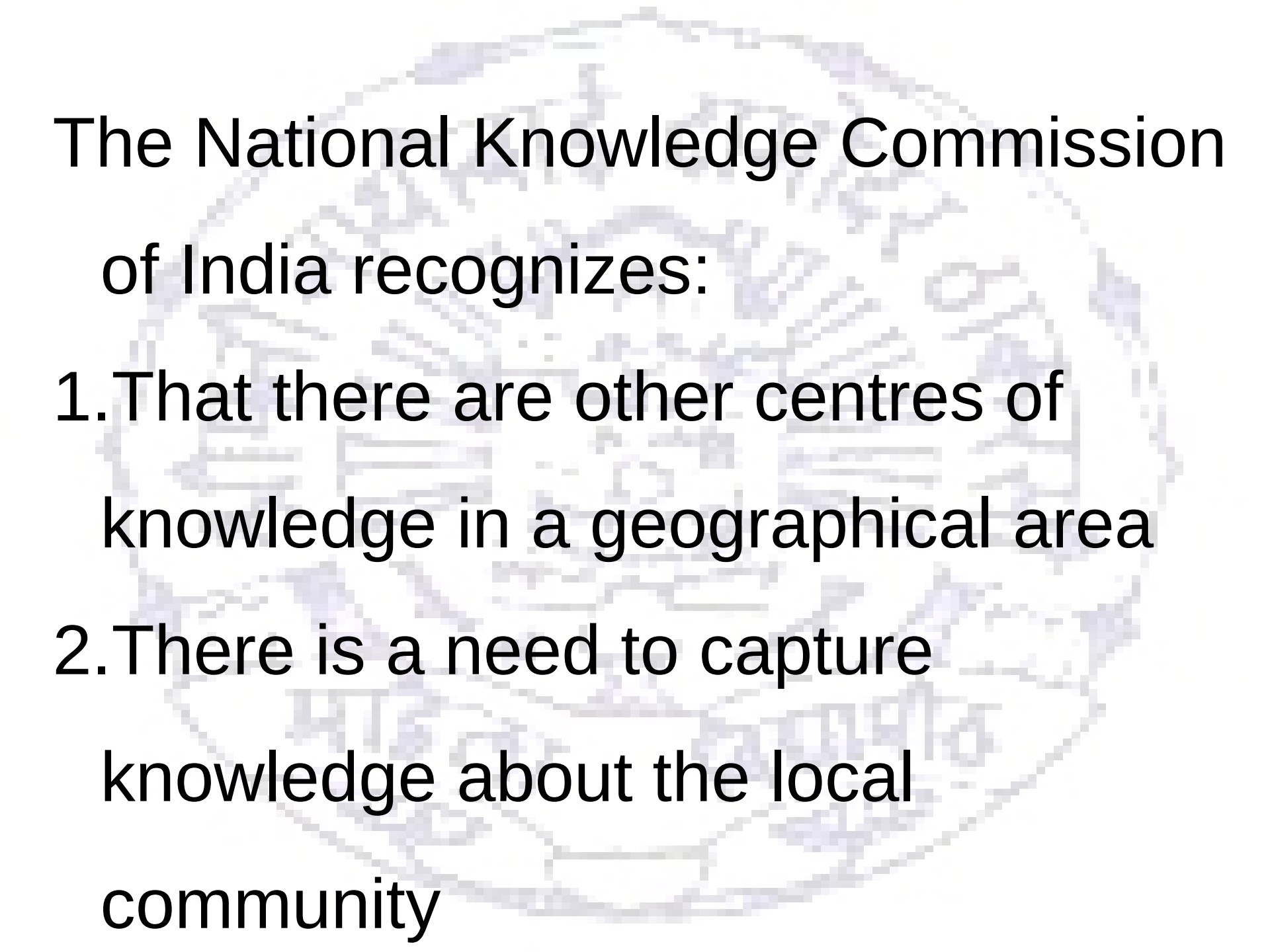
C

and access to grey literature

R

Knowledge Commission, India





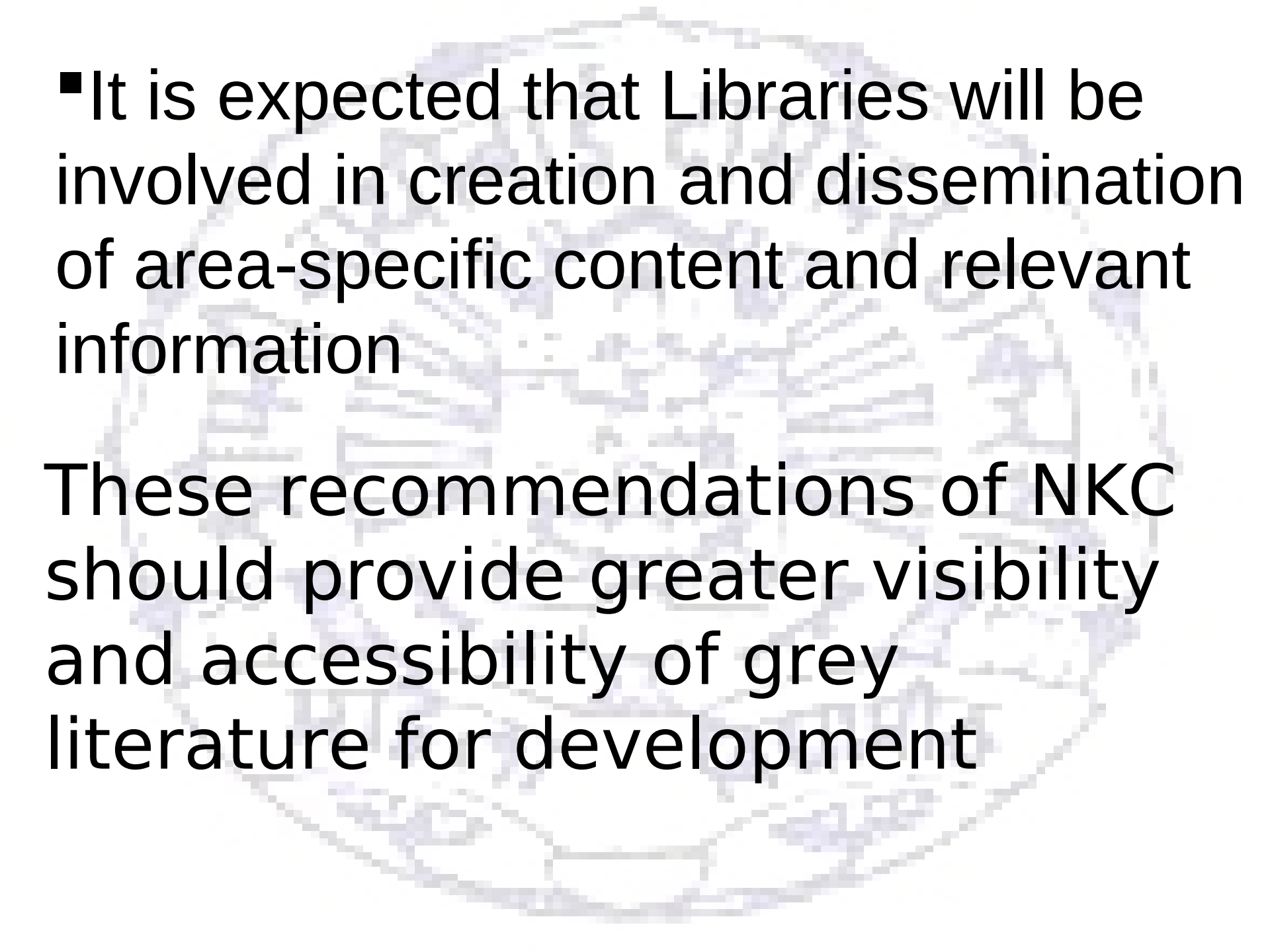
The National Knowledge Commission
of India recognizes:

1. That there are other centres of knowledge in a geographical area
2. There is a need to capture knowledge about the local community



3. Libraries need to expand their role to include community information

4. Integrate with all other knowledge-based activities in the local area to develop a community-based information system



▪ It is expected that Libraries will be involved in creation and dissemination of area-specific content and relevant information

These recommendations of NKC should provide greater visibility and accessibility of grey literature for development



Thank You

Namaskar