

#### NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR MANCH (AIDMAM)



AIDMAM organised a State level workshop on 'Dalit Women Elected Representatives at Local Governance and their role in Criminal Justice system', in Patna, Bihar, on January 28, 2011.

The workshop was inaugurated by Ex-Chief Minister and Ex-Union Minister, Shri Jagannath Mishra. The workshop addressed the issue of untouchability and violence (including domestic violence) on Dalit Women and discrimination at all levels including schools, ICDS, NREGA, Land, Budget and in accessing civic amenities. The participants were informed on how to access legal and administrative systems to address violence against Dalit Women to secure justice for them. Information was disseminated on Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the SCs & STs (PoA) Act, 1989. The workshop witnessed participation of Dalit Women Elected Representatives (DWERs) from 14 districts of Bihar. AIDMAM was able to generate visibility of their work among Govt. officers and also civil society members. It also brought together women and support groups from many more districts with the hope of strengthening the role of Dalit women in panchayats

The Conference focused upon social and economic empowerment of SC women and children, issues relating to manual scavenging and security and protection from atrocities. There was wide participation from various stakeholders including Central Government Ministries, State Governments, experts and representatives of CSOs, who presented their views during the Conference.

#### AIDMAM's solidarity in Women in Governance network (WinG)

On January 29, 2011, AIDMAM facilitated a panel discussion held by WinG on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, WinG is a unique network of women who are striving to be change agents in a world dominated by patriarchal and casteist traditions. The members of WinG are all women from marginalized communities who



are working for women's rights and trying to assist in creating space for women to become leaders in their communities. The conference brought together Dalit women and women from North

East states to share and brainstorm over common issues and devise a clear strategy to build capacities of women towards leadership, both in civil society as well as governance. Concept of Human Security was further analyzed from the perspective of women. Situations and contexts of human rights defenders were further probed to understand the unique challenges of women human rights defenders.

On January 18-19, 2011, AIDMAM participated and shared about the plight of Dalit women in the country, at the Conference on, 'Issues & Challenges for Development of Scheduled Caste Women & Children', organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, at Vigyan Bhavan, in New Delhi.





### DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH

([www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.org](http://www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.org))

In order to chalk out specific strategies to demand the entitlements of the Yamuna flood affected people in 2010, a preliminary meeting of all concerned organizations and individuals was arranged by NDW, on January 7, 2011, at NCDHR office.

Prior to this, a survey was conducted to ascertain the extent of inclusion / exclusion of Dalits in relief and rehabilitation measures during the Yamuna floods of 2010. The survey was undertaken in the areas of Vijay Ghat, Shastri Park and Mayur Vihar phase I & II, from October 19-25, 2010. The findings revealed that despite most victims of the flood turned out to be Dalits and other marginalised sections. Despite the major loss of crops and other belonging, the Delhi government has not yet announced any compensation to the agricultural labourers cultivating the river bed for years on lease basis. Moreover, no damage assessment has been carried out by the government post flood, which has led to the exclusion of victims from their rightful compensation. With this meeting, the process from gathering of representation/applications from the victims to their submission and meeting with the authorities was mutually decided upon.

**Community consultation** with the community surveyed at Shastri Park, on Jan 29, to inform them of further planned actions, following the above meeting. IGSSS representatives attended the meeting.

**In Karnataka**, NDW works collaboratively with the Human Rights Forum for Dalit Liberation-Karnataka on disaster risk reduction. On January 8, 2011, HRFDL-K organised a state committee meeting to discuss the activities and strategies for the long pending rehabilitation of (2009) flood victims. It has been decided to carry out the programme in three worst affected districts of Bijapur, Raichur and Bellary (Sirgoppa), covering specifically two Panchayat areas.

#### Advocacy and lobby by Dalit Watch-Andhra Pradesh

- Engaging with the political party floor leader for raising the issues of dalits in disasters; Dalit MLA's for a meeting on Disaster Management and to discuss issue of inclusive disaster management;
- Facilitation of Mehboobnagar ('09) flood victims' (those in the DW-AP list of victims) meeting with the Tehsildar. The Tehsildar has sent a request letter for their compensation (copy in possession with DW-AP) to the district collector noting down their damages;
- Facilitation in formation of a union of the victims of '09 flood in Kurnool district and their meeting with the collector.
- From January 22, 2011 onwards the excluded victims have been voicing their issues/grievances in the Racha Banda programme, organised by the Govt. of AP. This is attended by the elected representatives, ministers, officials, and also the Chief Minister, who visit the villages to listen to their grievances and act on them thereon.
- The unionisation of members in flood affected villages in the mandals of Kollapur, Alampur, in Mahaboob Nagar district and the Erramatam and Muchumari villages of Kurnool district have taken place.

### NCDHR-DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)



A Press Conference was held by DAAA's Rajasthan team on January 8, 2011, after having meticulously analysed past 3 years implementation of the Special Component Plan/Tribal Sub Plan. The news was carried in the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Danik Navjyoti, Dainik Bhasker, Daily News etc. The analysis

ones again highlighted the issue of non-opening of Minor Codes 789 and 796 in SCP and TSP, respectively, by most government departments. Additionally, the demand for improvement in facilities run in Hostels for SC/ST children and an increase in the Income Ceiling for availing Post Matric Scholarship from 1 lakh to 2 lakhs. Subsequently, the government raised the income ceiling to 2 lakhs.

**Mapping of SC Settlements in Delhi**-The SCP funds are either diverted or misused when it comes to implementation. This is what happened even in the Grand 'Common' Wealth Games (CWG), in which the Government of Delhi affirmed that Rs. 744.354 crore from the SCP fund were utilized for the Commonwealth Games, 2010. In order to bridge the divide between real needs of the people and policies of the government, DAAA with some partners has embarked on assessing the need of the SC community. The exercise of mapping SC settlements in the Delhi started in January 2011, wherein, 15 SC settlements were identified. This initiative is expected to evolve Community Plans based on their needs and generate demands through community participation and hence, would be recommended under the SCP funds that are to be brought back by the Delhi government. It will create awareness among the communities in these colonies and capacitate them in utilizing the resources available under the SCSP for their economic and educational development.

Periodical follow up visits have been made to the surveyed areas to organise the communities for further action for securing their compensation. The communities have come forward in this initiative.

NCDHR was visited by about 25-30 students of BSW & MSW from IGNOU and teachers of the Jamia Miliya Islamia University, on January 22, 2011. This was an orientation visit for them to a human rights organization, to gain perspective on Dalit human rights, the work done, issues and challenges faced at work, together with gaining an understanding on the organisational structure, its functioning and systems.

NCDHR-DAAA's prime focus is the Economic Social Cultural Rights (ESCs) of Dalit communities. It makes strategic intervention in budget planning, scheme and policy formulation, implementation and monitoring thereof all ESC Rights. Also, National Dalit Watch of NCDHR-DAAA has been striving to respond to the exclusion of Dalits in the context of disasters by recognizing and countering such exclusion and securing entitlements of survivors. It undertakes advocacy, networking and campaigns at the national and state levels to ensure inclusion of Dalits in Relief, Rehabilitation, Preparedness and Risk Reduction. It works collaboratively in states of AP, Bihar, Karnataka & Assam.



### NCDHR

#### NCDHR-NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

**A training of the Police at Orissa Police Academy-** the Director General of Police invited NCDHR as a resource agency for an on-going training of 200-300 Sub-Inspectors and three IPS police officers in Orissa Police Academy, Bhubaneswar. On 29th January 2011, senior most representatives of NCDHR-NDMJ addressed 158 Cadet Sub Inspectors on "Implementation of SCs & STs (PoA) Act, 1989 and Role of Police", at the Academy. They shared various techniques of implementation of the Act in their respective beat areas. The academy has also prescribed the study of the Act under their "Human Rights" curriculum.

On the same day, a *state level NGO forum meeting to monitor the SCs & STs (PoA) Act and SCP & TSP in Orissa* was convened on January 29, 2011 at ActionAid office in Bhubaneswar. A unanimous decision was taken on selection of district level NGOs to monitor the cases, link them to the local police station and activate district and state level vigilance monitoring committees by involving the local MLAs and MPs, and strengthening the Dalit and Tribal headed NGOs along with involving Bureaucrats and police administration.



A state level consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Civil Society Organizations was organized on 20th January 2011.

This was followed by the release of Oriya Report Card on 20 years of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, in collaboration with OMASA (Odisha Manabika Adhikar Surakhya Abhiyan), in Bhubaneswar. The objective of the consultation was to review and evaluate the status of implementation of 21 years of the Act and bring necessary amendments for effective implementation of the Act in the state of Orissa. MLAs, an Ex-MLA and a former Union Minister from different political parties were present in the programme, besides over 125 participants (Advocates, Law students, CBOs and Activists, Electronic & Press Media personnel, Academicians etc). They also assured to raise some questions in the forthcoming Assembly session on the issues of SCs and STs.

NDMJ anchored the *deposition of Dalit Human Rights Defenders before Ms. Margret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defender*, on January 15, 2011, at the UN Conference Hall. She has been mandated to report the various violations of rights of Human Rights Defenders in various countries. She heard numerous testimonies about human rights defenders who had been killed, tortured, threatened, arbitrarily arrested, detained, forcibly displaced and more because of their work, while working for justice to Dalits. Ms. Sekaggya pointed out that Dalit human rights defenders faced particular risks and ostracism and that the central and state government as well as the National Human Rights Commission must do more to protect the rights of human rights defenders.



#### RTIs filed in Jan 2011 by NDMJ

1. To District Magistrate / Collector for Monthly Review of District Magistrate of review the position of cases registered under the Act every month as per rule 4(4)
2. To District Magistrate / Collector for Minutes and Action Taken Report of District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee every quarter as per rule 17(3)
3. To District Magistrate / Collector for Review of the performance of Special Public Prosecutor every six months as per rule 4(2)
4. To Director General of Police for Monthly Report of SC & ST Protection Cell on Action Taken / Proposed to be taken w.r.t. provisions under Rule 8 every months as per rule 8(1)(xi)
5. To Nodal Officer for Quarterly Review of Nodal Officer every quarter as per rule 9
6. To Home Secretary for Quarterly Review on position of all investigations done by the Investigation Officers every quarter as per rule 7(3)

7. To Secretary (Social Welfare Department) for the Minutes and Action Taken Report of high power State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee every six months as per rule 16(2)
8. To Secretary (Social Welfare Department) for State Government Annual Report on Measures taken for implementing provisions of the Act & various plans framed by it every year as per rule 18
9. To Chairperson of District Legal Service Authorities for information on legal aid provided to SCs & STs who are victims of atrocities, spreading of legal awareness and organising Lok Adalats.

The responses have been consolidated in a 'Master Sheet' as a preliminary document for preparation of an Alternate Report to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.



## National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

### About Us

The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) started its work in 1998. Since its inception, it is committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination based on caste. It collaborates with various groups led by dalit women and men activists, with support and solidarity from organizations, academicians, individuals, people's organizations and institutions who are committed to protect and promote human rights. Its main aim is to strengthen the institutions delivering justice to Dalits and build peoples capacity to access their rights and entitlements. NCDHR emphasizes on:

- ▶ Dalit women's rights to access justice and economic entitlements,
- ▶ Budget tracking and enabling Dalit communities to utilize the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan towards their development,
- ▶ Responding in a systematic manner to the scenario of exclusion Dalit communities face during disaster and post
- ▶ disaster in the processes of relief & rehabilitation,
- ▶ Strengthening the criminal justice administration and streamline its access to the vulnerable sections among Dalits.
- ▶ Monitoring election procedures and ensuring equal & fair participation of Dalits; &
- ▶ Strengthening the land and livelihood rights of Dalits.

### **The Movements of NCDHR**

- ▶ Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (*Dalit Economic Rights*)-DAAA – National Dalit Watch
- ▶ National Dalit Movement for Justice -NDMJ
- ▶ All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (*All India Dalit Women's Rights Forum*)-AIDMAM

Dalits - a people, a culture, a history