



JOINT ENDEAVOURS

National level strategy meeting, May 9, 2011, IIC, New Delhi



**Conference on Scheduled Tribes Women and Children:
May 30 – 31, 2011, New Delhi**

The general secretaries of DAAA and NDMJ attended this two day conference on “Scheduled Tribe Women and Children: Issues and Challenges for Development” at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The objective of the conference was to identify the challenges faced by ST women and children. It took stock of the status of various policies, legislations, programmes and schemes and identified the extent to which their benefits are reaching the intended beneficiaries, identified the gaps in their reach and the reasons thereof; the remedial measures required to fulfil their needs and entitlements. The conference deliberated on the achievements and challenges particularly in the fields of education, health and nutrition, land shares, rights in forest lands and its produce and the implementation of various schemes. Additionally, it also discussed the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal women and children including issues of atrocities and exploitation. Awareness on Tribal Sub Plan to ST activists and gaps to the Ministry were highlighted.

In the backdrop of Addressing Caste based discrimination in India, and UN Strategy for Engagement, NCDHR along with WGHR initiated a discussion panel, on May 9, as a preparatory meeting to the Geneva Conference, on June 25. The discussion focused on the different positions taken by India; the failures of the government’s in eliminating caste practices; steps to be taken by human rights organizations regarding this, and engaging with different national and international bodies, which will eventually help encountering impunity against discrimination based on caste.

**International Colloquium on Caste, Religion and Culture
in Cochin, Kerala, May 1-4, 2011,**

The last decades of the twentieth century witnessed unprecedented attacks on Christians in many parts of India by the Hindu fundamentalist outfits. Many state governments in Indian promulgated anti-conversion laws giving excessive powers to the governments and police under the pretext of saving Indian culture and tradition. All these events showed the need for understanding a different kind of politics developing in India which was not an accidental phenomenon but something which is nurtured in the name of a deadly cultural nationalism. It is in this larger context that one needs to situate Dalit studies that problematise resistance in its multiple forms, along with other aspects of social life that are definitely important problems to be enquired into.

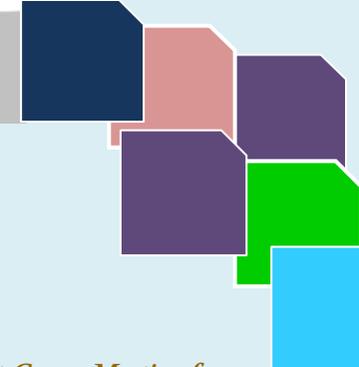
N. Paul Divakar, Gen. Secretary, DAAA pointed out in his presentation the real current challenge of the Church, which is to blur the line ‘untouchability’ and create a community of touchables, serving one another irrespective of caste, colour and occupation. How women and men can become a real community, something like the basic Christian communities! This is the annihilation of Caste that Ambedkar talked about. This takes courage to protect from forces that breed hatred, that divide, that marginalise others and exclude. It has to be proactive and swift to action when these forces affect the community.

Prof. Vimal Thorat, the Convenor of AIDMAM, participated in the 3-day National Conference of Dalit Women of Nepal, organised by Dalit Feminist Organisation (FEDO), at Kathmandu, from 11 -13 May. The conference witnessed attendance of Dalit women activists from 75 districts of Nepal, Human Rights Activists, constitutional assembly members, representatives from the UN and bilateral agencies and NGOs, delegates from India, Bangladesh, Sweden, U.K, Hongkong and Denmark. The supreme focus of the conference was the demand of inclusive policy and social transformation of the Dalit community. The Convenor spoke of the similarity of Caste discrimination and exclusion of the Dalit women in India and Nepal. The 'badi' system in Nepal is the same as Devdasi system in India besides other similar forms of exclusion and discrimination. Therefore, Dalit women put forcefully put forth the demand for equal distribution of the resources of the country.





NCDHR



NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (AIDMAM)

Inauguration of state office –Haryana, 16 May 2011



The newly instituted AIDMAM office situated in Valmiki Community area in Panipat, Haryana, was inaugurated on 16th May amidst the Dy. Superintendent of Police of the district and advocates at the occasion. The DSP spoke about the Dalit cases and laws against atrocities on Dalit women. Some of the youth shared the problems they faced for being dalits.

NCDHR- DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)

Study on SCSP & TSP for UNDP, 2011

This year, DAAA and CBGA jointly commissioned a study, supported by UNDP, on SCSP and TSP. We examine the implementation of Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) fund earmarked for SC and STs and the amount placed under separate budget heads/sub-heads for each ministry/department for implementing the schemes and programmes.

As it's known, the SCP and TSP were started in 1979-80 for the targeted benefit of SCs and STs to bring them at par with general community. However, many government reports reveal the fact that SCP and TSP have not been implemented in true sense and the opportunity to develop these communities has been missed.

In order to bring them out to know the existing situation and gaps in the policy, this joint study on Implementation of Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan at Union and in 5 states sponsored by UNDP has been conducted.



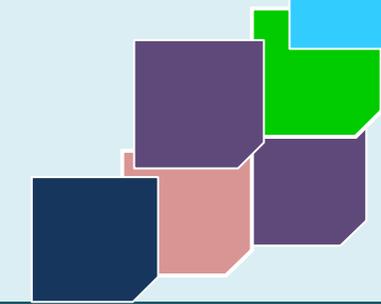
Following the suggestions given by Expert Group Meeting for Delhi Mapping

Following the suggestions from Expert Group meeting held at YMCA last month and to enrich the ongoing study, which is planned to be published in the form of a mapping report consisting of the findings

from a comparative survey- in all possible areas, including entitlements, education, employment, entrepreneurship, health, and housing, while focusing on the situation of SCs in Delhi, a team of NCDHR workers and interns visited selected bastis to collect required qualitative information/data between May 21 and 31. The team visited selected pockets in areas, namely, Bhalswa (on May 21 and 23), Jahangirpuri (on 25 May), Tigri (on May 27-28) and Baljeet

Nagar (on May 30-31). For collecting information, the team members relied on discussions in informal ways as far as their interaction with the community was concerned. Also, Focused Group Discussions and the capacity of observation were used to the fullest in the process.

We are happy to welcome two new members to AIDMAM this month, Ms. Ambalika Roy, as legal consultant and Ms. Anju Singh, as Programme Assistant at the National Secretariat, New Delhi





Global Budget Movement for Transparency and Accountability- IBP Initiative: In India, over the last two decades, civil society organisations have started engaging seriously with budgetary policies and processes at different levels of governance. Consequently, several budget analysis and advocacy organisations in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and America along with IBP are planning to initiate a global process of collective advocacy by CSOs for budget transparency, participation and accountability, for which it has sought the support of CBGA, NCDHR and many other CSOs from different countries. As a first step towards collective advocacy, a set of questions have been sent to a few selected CSOs in India, which are directly engaging with issues pertaining to government budgets to get their views and suggestions.

NCDHR- DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH
www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.com

Planning meeting for Yamuna flood victims' Compensation & Entitlements, May 13, 2011

To share the status of work done and strategise further action, a second round of meeting of the core group members was called in NCDHR office. The core group members brainstormed to devise further strategies and actions to seek redress to the long pending issue of compensation and entitlements to the flood survivors.

It is to be noted that no entitlements have been announced by the Delhi government for these survivors. Moreover, their shacks are being demolished without any prior notice. Of the surveyed areas, Mayur Vihar and Vijay Ghat have already witnessed demolition recently. It was also decided to make this issue into a broader campaign, linking it up with issues of urban displacement on accounts of eviction; getting at least 2-3 Hindi newspapers to write editorials on the Yamuna flood issue; writing to the Urban Development Ministry, Delhi SC Commission and the Chief Minister seeking an appointment with her, and filing individual RTI applications on behalf of victims to create pressure on authorities.

Delhi mapping study peer review and article by Jayati Ghosh in Front line

The Delhi government has already been systematically under spending on providing essential services to Dalits. More than 90% of SCs in Delhi live in jhuggi clusters, resettlement colonies, unauthorised localities and construction sites. Behind the facade of a thriving city are the abandoned scheduled caste population of Delhi. Columnist Jayati Ghosh raises a voice against the manoeuvring of public resources earmarked for the socio-economic rights of Dalits who continue to live a life of deprivation and extreme poverty in India's capital.

Read full article on: <http://southasia.oneworld.net/opinioncomment/delhis-dalits-await-their-rights>

Update of work on Yamuna flood victims' compensation & entitlements

Following the submission of mass application in April, and filing of RTI in May to gather information on action taken by the authorities, the officials from the SDM office of the Shastri Park area visited the community on 25-26 May, to physically verify the victims staying there.

Training of task force members on Vulnerability Mapping (VM) - Inclusion Monitoring (IM) in Karnataka and Assam

In continuation to the training conducted in March for the state frontline staff so that the trained personnel is able to further train the identified volunteers (task force) from the selected districts in each state, workshops were held in Bijapur, Yadagir and Raichur districts of Karnataka from 12-19 May and Silapathar in Assam on 26-27 May. On an average, 25 volunteers have been given the training in each district of Karnataka and Assam.

The objectives of the workshop were (i) to develop a clear conceptual and practical understanding of exclusion of Dalit communities in disasters and learn methods to monitor and record such practices of exclusion; and (ii) to equip the cadre of volunteers to in inclusion monitoring during and after disasters.





NCDHR in news:-

NCDHR-NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

National Fact Finding to Muzaffarnagar – Uttar Pradesh, 2 May 2011

On 2 May 2011, a National level Fact Finding mission was organized by NDMJ, Dynamic Action Group and PUCL – UP at Muzaffarnagar, where a Dalit was shot dead and the corpse was tied behind a cycle and taken around the village, because he denied working in the Jat's land, due to non-payment of previous wage. After the joint fact finding mission, the team met with the Senior Superintendent of Police (S.S.P.). The Fact Finding report was then put to public knowledge through a Press Conference on 6 May 2011 in Lucknow.



Completion of the draft Communal Violence Bill

Dr. Prasad Sirivella, Gen. Secy of NDMJ was the member of the drafting committee of the National Advisory Council for drafting of the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011. After a long toil, the drafting of the Bill has been completed this month. On 20 May 2011, the National Advisory Council has placed the Bill in public domain for comments till 4 June 2011.

UPCOMING EVENT

NCDHR together with IMADAR is organizing a week of Decade of Dalit Rights from June 24 to 28, 2011, for review of current situation and strategizing interventions ahead as well as advocacy with Special Rapporteurs and Country Missions in Geneva. This will involve key stake holders of Dalit and Burakumin platforms from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Japan and Dalit solidarity bodies from Dalit Solidarity bodies from Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden and other countries.

NAC's Communal Violence Bill draft ready: (The Hindu, 20th May 2011)
<http://www.hindu.com/2011/04/28/stories/2011042867391400.htm>

Three Police companies deployed at Mirchpur: (The Pioneer, 31 May 2011)
<http://www.dailypioneer.com/341180/Three-police-companies-deployed-at-Mirchpur.html>

Khap panchayats' diktats must be ruthlessly stamped out: Apex court
<http://www.legalindia.in/khap-panchayats-diktats-must-be-ruthlessly-stamped-out-apex-court>

"Nyay Ke Liye Kadi Suraksha Kee Maang" – Manisha Bhalla (Outlook – Hindi)
<http://issuu.com/ramanawasthi/docs/olh01042011/32>

"Mirchpur probe set to miss extended deadline" – Nishu Mahajan, Chandigarh (The Pioneer)
<http://www.dailypioneer.com/324322/Mirchpur-probe-set-to-miss-extended-deadline.html>

Funds for SC/STs to come under separate sub-heads
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/665217.aspx>

"Govts watch blockades silently" – Dhananjay Mahapatra (The Times of India)
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govts-watch-blockades-silently/articleshow/7398798.cms>

Share of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Budget 2011-12
<http://www.naidunia.com/Details.aspx?id=224565&boxid=30320338>

For feedback and detailed information on our initiatives, write to us on info@ncdhr.org.in