

SWADHIKAR

ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

About NCDHR

Message from President

MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Dalit Women Assertion	12
Economic and Cultural Justice	18
Equity in Disaster Aid	24
Access to Justice	29
Global Dalit Advocacy	36
Financial Overview	

About Swadhikar (NCDHR)

Swadhikar is a registered organisation under the Society's Registration Act, 1825. It was registered in 2005 and supports the activities of NCDHR. Swadhikar (NCDHR) is a campaign committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. It collaborates with various groups led by Dalit rights advocates, with support and solidarity from academics and people's organisations, individuals and institutions. It recognises that economic entitlements are equally important as social justice where Dalits and Adivasi communities are concerned. It aims to strengthen the service and justice delivery mechanism and capacitate these communities to access them as rights and entitlements. It also focuses specially on the needs and protection of Dalit women.

Interventions of Swadhikar (NCDHR) pertain to Dalit Women's Empowerment and Assertion; Economic Justice and Cultural Rights; Equitable and Inclusive Disaster Aid; Civil and Political Rights; and Global Dalit Rights Advocacy. Three autonomous movements below spearhead these broad areas of commitments,

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM) – a forum of Dalit Women committed to challenging the nexus of patriarchy, caste, culture and class oppression, and exploitation and marginalisation of Dalit women.

National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) – a movement that engages in criminal justice administration systems to address issues in access to justice for those affected by caste atrocities and violence, the main vehicle being the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA) – a campaign that looks into reforms in the economic rights of Dalits and Adivasis along with their entitlements

regarding education and entrepreneurship. It uses the Union and State budgets to track schemes and entitlements of the groups. It advocates with policy makers and executives in strengthening the existing policies and in budget monitoring for accountability and transparency.

Within the DAAA, a dedicated initiative since 2009, called the **National Dalit Watch (NDW)**, monitors caste based discrimination (CBD) and exclusion in Disaster Response and Risk Reduction (DRR), to enable inclusive and policy regime. It emerged from an informed recognition of the rampant discrimination and exclusion in relief and rehabilitation faced by Dalit communities during the Bhuj Earthquake, Indian Ocean Tsunami and Bihar Kosi floods in India.

Beyond these specific movements, the International Advocacy (IA) desk within Swadhikar-NCDHR anchors Dalit rights advocacy globally, feeding the national experiences to human rights mechanisms and international solidarity communities. It focuses mainly on the United Nations (UN) mechanisms to address social exclusion through several Treaty bodies and Charter based measures. It supports several solidarity bodies initiated in over 6 countries to advocate for the rights of the excluded and vulnerable groups in the UN as well as European Union (EU).

Swadhikar-NCDHR's primary target population group are the socially excluded and caste discriminated communities, across the 19 states with a growing need for social inclusion, the focus of the organisation is to ensure the benefits of programmes reach the poorest of the poor.

MILESTONES
ACHIEVED

Message from the desk of the General-Secretary, AIDMAM



On behalf of the collective of brave Dalit women leaders representing All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, I am pleased to present this brief report which highlights some of the significant milestones which the movement has crossed over the past year. We believe this is an important time in the history of our collective struggles, in which Dalit women have shown incredible strength in breaking the shackles of caste and patriarchy.

India, as a nation, is getting away scot free. In the belly of India's economic development story, lie horrific crimes against women born in the lowest castes. Ranging from untouchability and verbal abuse, to heinous atrocities like stripping, naked public-parading, sexual assault, gang rape and murder - the whole spectrum of violence continues unabated everyday across the country. The constitutional guarantees, legal provisions, and development schemes mandated to protect women of our community remain as mere rhetoric without bringing justice to our lives.

This report brings to you testimonies of women leaders from this movement. You will read about how India's caste epidemic is not about single cases or individual assaults, but is a systemic problem that requires systemic solutions. The ground reality is instead backlash violence, threats and surveillance by the same state institutions that are mandated to protect us.

Our attempt has been to invite others to learn about the Dalit women's struggle and how we go beyond looking at India's caste problem as a mere by-product of cultural history; instead recognize it as a violent intersection of caste, gender, economic injustice and hetero-patriarchy.

We have embarked upon multiple strategies of engagement to bring this movement from the rural villages of India to the world stage. We have re-organized our teams at national level and state levels, by bringing in new young leaders and groups of volunteers who naturally usher in new strength and vigour into the process.

Broadly, our interventions for Survivor Support have reached new levels both in the intensity and scale of operation. Major focus has been on Grassroots Activism through which AIDMAM aims to mobilize communities towards larger structural change. The strategy to embody an intersectional movement addressing

the urgent needs of the people speaks to AIDMAM's larger principle of understanding violence as a socio-economic and political structure. Dalit women leaders, including village leaders, are trained in to demand for transparent and accountable governance, including the implementation of Dalit-centered development initiatives like the government issued Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).

Further, AIDMAM is laying the groundwork for profound systemic change by providing a learning space for Dalit women to acquire the necessary skills to bring long-term socio-political change. Identifying, nurturing and training Dalit women a leaders is a key component of our work. In building these women leaders, we aim to impart skills that will help them annihilate caste, break patriarchy and put an end to impunity. Caste-based violence against women is perhaps the most silenced of issues, often by dominant discourses within feminist movements. It is time to stop fooling ourselves that we can achieve a gender-just world without dismantling institutions that are reeking with structural injustice. Whether this is by design or by default is a question we need to ask ourselves as we continue to seek freedom for ALL women.

How can we all be free if millions of India's untouchable women continue to live in the shackles of caste, patriarchy and poverty?

The time to ask and answer these questions is NOW!!

Asha Kowtal
General Secretary, AIDMAM

Dalit Women Assertion: AIDMAM



The genesis of AIDMAM is rooted in an attempt to address severe vulnerabilities faced by 80 million Dalit women and girls who lie at the bottom of caste, class and gender hierarchies in India. AIDMAM is committed to challenging the nexus of patriarchy, caste, culture and class oppression, exploitation and marginalization of Dalit Women. AIDMAM aims to support and strengthen Dalit women to address violence and access justice and rights through networking, enhancing skills and leadership at district and state levels, and creating visibility at global level. AIDMAM work with Dalit women towards strengthening their voice and agency to seek justice, engaging in advocacy and improving governance.

AIDMAM has played a crucial role in bringing in the caste and gender perspective into the discourse on social justice and gender justice in particular. The challenges faced are innumerable; however, the indomitable spirit of Dalit women across the country accelerates the collective to forge ahead. The participation of Dalit women within civil society is also gearing up with greater momentum. Not limiting to representation, but challenging discourses and placing the framework of intersections has seen an incredible response in the recent past.



I. Resisting Violence Against Dalit Women— Seeking State Accountability

a) Fact finding across six states

In 2014-15 AIDMAM conducted 60 fact-findings of cases of sexual violence against Dalit women. AIDMAM's work has expanded and covered more than 60 districts across 6 states in the country. In every district AIDMAM based on the fact-finding submitted petitions to the authorities on behalf of the survivors. The team monitored the response of the authorities through RTIs and community

mobilisation. AIDMAM facilitated survivors direct interaction authorities, thus emboldening the community to claim for their rights, which are denied to them.

AIDMAM followed up these cases in district court with the help of lawyers. However, this has proven to be a challenge without adequate institutional resources. Many of these cases are followed up through the collaboration with Human Rights Law Network.

The work has invited threat and intimidation to the Dalit Human Right Defenders working on women rights. This also includes risks of being under surveillance of the perpetrators of crimes as well as the state apparatus.

Dalit Swabhiman March'

Dalit women have constantly undergone violence such as threat against them and their families, denial of livelihood and basic services and physical attacks. Dalit and marginalised women in India over the last few decades have emerged as fundamental catalysts for change by protesting against, and challenging caste-based discrimination.

The All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch organises 'Dalit Swabhiman March'. The march strives to engage with people and community en-route to dismantle the structures of caste and patriarchy that oppress women and deny them their dignity. Through the march linkages are established between violence on the lives of women and (Dalit) communities assertions over land, water and other resources including access to political power.

Launched in March 2014, the march completed its second phase in September 2014. In the first phase, the march focused on sexual violence and challenging state impunity, and in the second phase emphasised on building Dalit women's leadership. The rally sought accountability of state, institutions and mechanisms mandated to protect Dalit women and end the culture of state impunity. These marches brought forth Dalit youth, both boys and girls to voice out the injustice they faced and provided them with a platform to raise their voices in order to end violence against Dalit women.

b) Appeal for Justice- Demonstration in front of Bihar Bhavan

AIDMAM took forward its work with the victims of Shankar Bigiha massacre last year. Shankar Bigiha massacre took place 16 years ago, where in 23 Dalit men, women and children were shot dead. The 24 accused persons were part of upper caste militia Ranvir Sena, which is responsible for many caste massacres in Bihar during the 90s and early 2000s. The district court in January acquitted all 24 men accused of being involved in the massacre. The demonstration organised to raise a voice against this blatant violation of law and perpetuation of caste violence by the institution of the state. AIDMAM organised a demonstration in front of Bihar Bhavan in New Delhi and strongly condemned the acquittal of the 24 accused. AIDMAM appealed for justice for the victims of the massacres and urged that the perpetrators from the upper caste militia Ranvir Sena not be allowed to go free.

II. Community Organising — Seeking Rights and Entitlements

a) Community Mobilisation

AIDMAM through its work aims to mobilise communities towards larger structural changes. Dalit women leaders, including village leaders, are trained in skills such as budget tracking and organizational management. This equips communities in their demand for transparent and accountable governance, including the implementation of Dalit-centred development initiatives like the government issued Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).



AIDMAM has been actively organising communities through village level meetings, women's groups, discussion with youth and students in colleges as grassroots intervention. AIDMAM's teams hold regular meetings with communities and conduct need assessment through participative discussions. Further, information on available Govt. schemes and programmes is provided. The community is motivated to seek for their rights through interactions with the authorities. Information of schemes for scholarships, education programmes, health programmes, housing schemes etc. is discussed.

In addition, the Panchayat budget is reviewed and the community members become more conscientized to seek for their share of the financial resources that are allocated. Special focus is given for schemes and allocations made under Special Component Plan. Budget tracking and monitoring is done through advocacy and campaigns. For example: in Haryana, there is no SC hostels and none for Dalit girls. The team has filed RTI applications to understand where the money meant for hostels was misappropriated.

b) Leadership Building— Advocacy and Campaigns

AIDMAM is laying the groundwork for profound systemic change by providing a learning space for Dalit women to acquire the necessary skills to bring long-term socio-political change.

Identifying, nurturing and training Dalit women leaders are a key component to its work. In building these women leaders, AIDMAM aims to impart skills that will help the women leaders annihilate caste, break patriarchy and put an end to culture of impunity.

The trainings include human rights monitoring with focus on Dalit-specific legislation like the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Prevention of Atrocities Act (SC/ST PoA Act), self-defence trainings, fact-finding investigations and political advocacy training.

In addition, trainings are organised regularly to professionalise their writing, communications, computer and media work. The Dalit women are regarded as resources in our community, and AIDMAM is actively training the next generation of movement leaders.

c) Training on Preparing Dalit and Tribal Leadership

AIDMAM participated in five-day-zonal level orientation training on 'Preparing Dalit and Tribal Leadership' organized by Church of North India in February 2015 in Nagpur and Chattisgarh. The programme emphasised on untouchability, discrimination and atrocities on Dalits and Adivasis communities especially as they struggle for their rights and entitlements to land, access to natural resources and livelihood.

d) Training on Legal Mechanisms

In order to build convergence between the existing laws for all women and specific legislations for Dalit women addressing the special needs of Dalit women, AIDMAM conducted a three-day legal training for Dalit women Human Rights defenders in October 2014. The training aimed to build the capacity of the Dalit women Human Rights defenders on the legal mechanisms and proper implementation of the new and the existing laws. The training was intended to enhance the conceptual understanding and leadership capacities of Dalit women leaders and trainers so that they could conduct similar trainings across the country. The training emphasised legislations for women and children based on Justice Verma Committee Recommendations. It saw participants from different states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan.



III. Exploring the intersections of caste and Patriarchy— Learning and Evolving as Women Leaders

a) State level Public Hearing

AIDMAM team has conducted state level public hearing and programmes in Bihar, UP, Rajasthan and Haryana highlighting the barriers justice for Dalit women survivors of violence. Based on the contexts of each state AIDMAM team have conducted candle marches, rallies, press conference and interactions with the competent authorities. Memorandums have been submitted and the teams are actively following up on the cases seeking justice for the survivors.



b) Dalit Women at PSAARC

Dalit women leaders participated in the PEOPLE'S SAARC held in Kathmandu. It was a part of exposure, learning, sharing of experiences and also regional advocacy.

Common issues were identified with Dalit women from Bangladesh and Nepal. We also conducted a side event which was well attended and inputs were provided to the drafting committee of the declaration at the summit.

c) Women in the World Summit

AIDMAM general secretary, Asha Kowtal and Thenmozhi Soundararajan, an American director, singer, writer, and trans media artist shared their insights on the discrimination and violence that Dalit women face in India at the Fifth Women in the World summit in New York in April 2014. Asha in her discussion, drawing from the work AIDMAM does in different parts of the country emphasised on the problems that Dalit women face with widespread state impunity in cases of crimes against Dalit women, highlighted the issues Dalit women face while filing cases against upper caste perpetrators of violence. She stressed that caste based violence is a human rights crisis that has been propagated throughout centuries.



AMBEDKAR AWARD FOR MANISHA DEVI, DALIT RIGHT ACTIVIST

Manisha Devi, a Dalit rights- activist from Haryana working with AIDMAM was honoured with the Ambedkar Award 2014 in Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh. Her vision as a Dalit woman leader is to build Dalit women leadership in Haryana. She has been in the forefront of the Dalit Swabhiman March and has been courageously working against Dalit atrocities. She has been part of various activities for defending the rights and strengthening the position of Dalit women in India. Friends for Education International (FFEI), a US based NGO, instituted the award in 2003 as part of Ambedkar Scholarship.

Message from the desk of the General-Secretary, DAAA



Dear Friends,

We have yet again completed one year, looking back, this year has been historic with the new shift in the political landscape; to steer the boat in uncharted waters was a challenge in itself. Having said this, there has been significant work carried out under these trying times with a strong team and will power to surpass these challenges. Our vision remained undeterred by these challenges.

Dalit Economic Rights has come a long way and I am proud to say that the evidence building exercises has been the core of the work that we do, has proved extremely useful through our pre-budget consultations with the ministries. The new phase of engagement with institutions like the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) seemed like a good way to start the year, this is the first time that any CSO has engaged with the FFC. This was also the year when we launched CADRE 2201, Campaign of Adivasis and Dalits for Rights on Education", while "2201" represents the major head code of higher education in the official budget books of the Union Government. CADRE 2201 is a National Campaign of Adivasi and Dalit students, faculties, youth and student organisations and Community-led organizations to demand educational rights through justifiable and effective implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub plan (TSP) especially in higher education.

The Earthquake in Nepal was a disaster un-paralled to none, National Dalit Watch responded with an immediate Needs Assessment and Monitoring towards the affected Dalit Communities in Nepal earthquake and advocated for inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction. This year has been a demanding one in which critical decisions have been made to face the realities, but at the end I believe that we are a stronger collective. For this I would like to thank our resource partners, action partners across the country and all well wishers without whom we could not have achieved what we set out to do. Thanks to the indomitable spirit shown by the community that continues to inspire us to do what we do. I thank and appreciate the team for the commitment and tireless work to make all this happen and I hope and wish strength to walk boldly to access Cultural Economic Justice! I am sure the year ahead will bring with it a mix of opportunities and challenges but with justice on our side we can only firmly go ahead with a deeper conviction.

Jai Bhim

N. Paul Divakar

General Secretary-Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

Economic and Cultural Justice



DAAA- Dalit Economic Rights campaign has moved a step forward in taking the issue of budgetary demands of SCSP and TSP into a campaign for legislating SCSP and TSP and its implementation at community level. The campaign towards effective SCSP/TSP implementation has been widened by the broad support of Network groups across the country. This support has further sharpened the demand of SCSP/TSP legislation and effective implementation through sensitive and proactive involvement of civil society groups throughout the Nation.

At community level efforts towards ensuring rights and entitlements of Communities have resulted in positive ways through Dalit Budget Facilitation centres, Capacitating local groups to do effective monitoring of schemes under SCSP & TSP, Organising Dalit and Adivasi women in the intervention area to give special focus and attention to the needs of Dalit and Adivasi women. This period has also been vital in terms of policy level dialogues, submission and people oriented demands. The reporting period has also been significant in efforts for equity budgeting for SCSP and TSP through Civil Society Engagement and Policy level Dialogues, the whole effort has been supported by Community Outreach.

I. State Campaign for Demanding SCSP/TSP Legislation

(Sau Mein Pacchis Haq Humaara Campaign)

a) State Level Campaign in Madhya Pradesh

In Bhopal a consultation was conducted for building campaign strategies towards the effective design and delivery of the schemes for the Dalits and the Adivasi. The group collectively strategized to bring the voices of Dalit and Adivasi in order to build a strong campaign for the legislation of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. The consultation resulted in formation of an adhoc working committee to take forward the campaign. Furthermore for the effective implementation of the SCSP and TSP a Post Card campaign was launched to remove the socio-

economic deprivation faced by the SC/STs. Around 1500 post cards were signed to demand under this campaign.

In addition to this several round of workshops, engagement with officials, community meetings, state level processes in Andhra Pradesh Telengana, Kerala, Odisha, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and National processes have taken place for demanding the legislation on SCSP/TSP.

b) Community leaders Meeting on Rightto Budget in Barwadih, Jharkhand

Barwadih, a small town in Latehar district, Jharkhand witnessed a public rally helmed by over thousands of adivasis and activists who had come together to demand their rights in the budget that have been denied to them by the Modi government. The adivasis came with a strong resolve to question the vilence perpetrated against them by the state government and the central government both of which are advancing benefits to the corporate houses. The people gathered at the meeting shouted out slogans of '100 Mein Pachees Haq Humara', 'Adivasi-Dalit Ladega, Desh bachega', 'Ladenge Jeetenge' 'PESA Kanoon Lagoo Karo'. Various social activists as well as adivasi residents of villages across the state of Jharkhand addressed the gathering, highlighting the pressing need to resist the governments' anti- adivasi, anti-dalit policies that deny the dalits and adivasis of their rights to land, water and forests. The budget that was presented by Finance Min. Arun Jaitley clearly conveyed the message that the present government is not bothered about the rights of dalits and adivasis. In FY 2015-2016, allocation under SCSP is a mere Rs 30851 Cr. and that under TSP is a measly sum of Rs 19980 Cr. which otherwise should be Rs 77235 Cr. under SCSP and Rs 40013 Cr. under TSP.



At the meeting, the chief guest Mr Paul Divakar, chief functionary-NCDHR who said that all the past governments has violated the budgetary rights of dalits and adivasis. The government levies taxes on us and denies us basic rights to water, electricity, education and livelihood. He urged people to not stay quiet and demand their educational, entrepreneurial and budgetary rights from the state. His address was received with resounding applause and raising of slogan of 'Sau Mein Pacchees Haq Humara'. Abhay Xaxa, National Convener, NCAR, emphasized on the crucial role of budgetary rights of adivasis under TSP for effective governance in Jharkhand. Until real participatory rights are not given to adivasis in policy-making and monitoring their budgetary allocations, development of the community will remain a distant dream.

c) Meeting in Bhubaneswar, Orissa

In Bhubaneswar the consultation focussed on the misuse and diversion of the SCSP and TSP funds for different other purposes than stipulated the guidelines. In August 2014 a group of 60 civil society organisations and networks met in Jaipur, Rajasthan demanding and strategizing for the proper implementation the SCSP/TSP legislation. To concretise, these consultation brought out the specific needs of Adivasi and Dalit and brought out the strategies for taking up the issue on the larger platform.

II. Dalits Budget Resource centres (DBRC) in selected districts of states for ensuring access of SCSP and TSP schemes.

Currently DAAA is running 12 Dalit Budget Centres in the states of UP, GUJ, AP, TEL and HAR for assisting the communities, individuals in accessing the benefits of the schemes under SCSP and TSP. As a result of increased connection with communities and civil society's huge numbers of Community people are coming to take assistance from the centres. The Centre coordination team has been assisting the communities in applying, awareness and monitoring for the scholarship, hostels and other scheme. Apart from this the team is also organizing village wise meetings and for proper awareness and effectiveness of the campaign. In addition to the work at ground level of assisting the communities there has been a continuous engagement with the Officials, Local Leaders, Community leaders, MLAs and, MLCs for the purpose.

III. Budget Research and Advocacy

a) Fund Flow Analysis of SCSP /TSP budgets for specific budgetary allocations of National / Sub national / and Community Level

In the reporting period Dalit Economic Rights work has continued engagement in Fund flow analysis of the SCSP and TSP budgets from the national/state to community level has resulted in three major aspects which is as follows.

- 30 New Groups have been associated and trained for effective fund flow of the SCSP and TSP implementation
- Specific Process have been carried out for Monitoring of schemes under NRHM, NRLM, MSDP, MHRD, MOTA and MSJE
- In the reporting period the budget research has been advanced up to scrutinizing the SCSP/TSP budget analysis through the tools and framework of Human Development Index Indicators.
- There were major publications have been brought out in the period for reflecting the allocations under SCSP and TSP
- The DAAA has also progressed in terms of preparing sector wise policy briefs and submission of the same to various ministries/ PCI / Finance commission etc
- Monitoring of fund flow of flagship schemes such as IAY, SC/ST Hostels, Scholarships, In-dramma, PHCs, MGNREGA and NRHM and other schemes under SCSP and TSP have evidenced the better delivery/procurement of services in the areas of interventions.
- As the communities and larger civil society were engaged in the overall fund flow analysis there is now a larger awareness amongst these groups. As a result of these efforts DAAA-NCDHR has capacitated several NGOs
- Specific monitoring of Budget allocation under NRHM and SSA

b) Engagement with the Fourteenth Finance Commission: Planning the Unplanned

A meeting between representatives of Swadhikar-DAAA with representatives of the 14th Finance

Commission took place on 25th July. As a matter of fact this was the first time the 14th Finance Commission met with a Civil Society Organization discussing the issue of resource allocation for the SC/ST population of the country, since it is usually the state government and various ministries of the central government submitting their memorandums to the Commission. It was however positively noted that the time of submitting the memorandum by Swadhikar-DAAA was very appropriate due to the fact that the Commission was in the stage of consolidating feedback and recommendation received from stakeholders.

During the meeting the representatives urged the 14th Finance Commission (FFC) to advise the states to make provisions for adequate resources and lay framework for proper utilisation of resources, prevention of under-utilisation and diversion of resources. The Secretary of the 14th Finance Commission, Mr A.N. Jha agreed to the points made. He furthermore stated that the memorandum would be placed before the Chairman and if he desires for another round of discussion, DAAA would be intimated accordingly. The channels of communication are opening between these institutions that were out of bounds earlier on and the community lead organisations, this is a good indicator and the FFC was extremely open to the idea of the recommendations, however very gently cautioned that it has to be discussed and placed before the rest of the commission members before it is adopted as part of the recommendations. This is a historical event as for the first time Dalit and Adivasi networks/organisations have engaged with the Finance Commission to ensure that the aspect of inclusion is taken into account while preparing the commission's report.

c) Detailed Analysis of SCSP / TSP of Union budget and state budget

In the reporting period detailed budget analysis of SCSP / TSP allocation has been with the following objectives

- Sector wise analysis of the Allocations for SCSP/ TSP
- Scrutinizing the Actual expenditure versus budget allocated in MHRD, MOTA, MSME, MSJE and various departments at state level.
- Preparation of policy briefs and other reference material to be used for SCSP / TSP legislation campaign
- Creating proposals for major ministries at state and union level for better allocations under SCSP / TSP

d) Safeguarding the right to adequate water and sanitation

In the context of the growing discrimination against Dalits and other marginalised communities in terms of lack of basic amenities like water and sanitation, a conference was conducted in Delhi in December 2014 on "All India Interface Conference: Towards inclusive and equitable rights to water and sanitation". The conference strongly articulated the need to legalise the right to water and sanitation for Dalits and other marginalised communities with adequate budget allocation. The conference directed towards the elimination of manual scavenging and their proper rehabilitation.

e) State Adivasi Women Conference

In January 2015 the first state level Adivasi women conference was held in Kerala. The daylong State Adivasi Women Conference started with the Adivasi women's struggle for survival. A long articulation of a list of inhuman treatments (violence, atrocities and grievous body harm) meted out by the other communities and the state. There was a discussion on the importance of safeguarding and protecting the dignity of Dalit women is very important and we need to strengthen

the PoA Act, but also need to look at their economic well being. If any at any of the Human Development Indicators, Dalits and Adivasis rank the lowest in all the indicators including malnutrition, infant mortality rate, morbidity etc, which too leads to their rampant exploitation.

The sub plans are a great way for ensuring economic liberation. However, there seems to be no political will. At the national level, there is about Rs 1 lakh crore available for the development of SCs and STs, but how much of it has been used?



The conference brought to light the situation in Kerala, where the population of Adivasis is about 1.6 per cent and the budget allocated is about 3 per cent, which is Rs 20,000 crores. But when one looks at the amount spent in 2014-15, it is only Rs 665 crore! With 65 days left for the financial year to end, how and when will the state utilize the rest of the 47 per cent of the budget is anybody's guess.

The equitable delivery of basic services is central to the goal of reducing discrimination and inclusive growth. Therefore, equitable access to quality healthcare and equal participation in the planning process is crucial. Also, the principle of non-discrimination in budgetary allocation—mainly schemes relating to agriculture, education, preserve culture and livelihood— will further reduce the disparity. Also, all the six Adivasi communities in Wayanad cannot be treated as one entity or as a homogenous group as there are discernible differences among the communities in terms of economic activity, level of income, etc.

f) CADRE 2201

CADRE 2201 is abbreviated form of "Campaign of Adivasis and Dalits for Rights on Education", while "2201" represents the major head code of higher education in the official budget books of the Union Government. CADRE 2201 is a National Campaign of Adivasi and Dalit students, faculties, youth and student organisations and Community-led organizations to demand educational rights through justifiable and effective implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub plan (TSP) especially in higher education. This group commits to fight for ensuring better allocations and implementations of various scholarship programmes, hostels and overall student support for SC & ST students in higher education, whether it is post-matric, graduation, research, professional or post doctoral courses. CADRE 2201 is envisaged as a federation of all like-minded student groups, Adivasi and Dalit organizations and activists who are working on the issue of higher education across the country.

Dalit and Adivasi Students in higher education have been repeatedly and systematically cheated by various governments of their educational rights. Various important scholarships and educational budget schemes have been drastically deducted. CADRE 2201 called on the ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to heed the pleas of the Dalit & Adivasi students and ensure timely delivery of the scholarships and also increase the scholarships of the students.

g) Advocacy to Ensure Budgetary Entitlements & Demand Legislation

In Jharkhand our partners have met the secretary to the CM twice and submitted memorandums. In Jaipur we met with the Chief Secretary and handed over the memorandum of demands; National Level meeting has been organised to understand the various Issues and building strategies for strengthening SCSP and TSP coalition; Complaint Letters to ministries regarding the gaps in SCSP and TSP allocation has been dispatched. This process has definitely brought some focus back on SCSP and TSP among the new ministries; Meeting with newly elected Ministers of the current NDA government - NACSTL has met with several MPs of the new government and also met with the minister of Social Justice Mr Thaawar Chand Gehlot, MoTA Minister Mr Jual Oram and they have shown positive interest towards the effective implementation of SCSP TSP and also the need for a legislation; Over the last one year about 109 MPs were met individually from various parties BJP, BJD, RJD, SP, Cong(I), NCP, AIADMK, LJP to inform them of the current status of SCSP and also demand for a legislation on SCSP TSP.

IV. Monitoring of schemes

Regular monitoring of schemes like NRHM, NRLM, IAY, SC/ST Hostels, Old Age Pension, Scholarship, SSA has taken place in the states of AP, Telangana, MP, Harayan, Gujarat, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan And Bihar. Monitoring of schemes has resulted in an increased mobilization of civil society organizations in the intervention areas. New groups have trained and are engaged in the monitoring of the flagship schemes

Highlights of the interventions

- Community stake holders are now aware of all the guidelines under SCSP and TSP
- In the states of AP, TEL, MP, HAR, GUJ, ODISHA, UTTAR PRADESH, RAJASTHAN AND BIHAR regular interaction with GOVT officials, departments and MLAs has resulted in created positive ambience of SCSP and TSP implementation in villages

V. Awareness on SCSP/TSP

To raise the community concerns and also to push the demand from community level for an effective implementation for SCSP and TSP, DAAA-NCDHR along with network partners have done several awareness efforts AP, TEL, MP, HAR, GUJ, ODISHA, UTTAR PRADESH, RAJASTHAN AND BIHAR of UP, Haryana and Delhi.



Highlights of interventions

- Regular community meetings had been conducted to create awareness on SCSP and TSP schemes in almost 200 villages of intervention areas
- A new cadre of community volunteers have emerged out the awareness programmes
- Several district level meetings and regional level meeting were organized to push forward our demands effective SCSP /TSP.
- Leaflets/pamphlets containing information on several SCSP and TSP schemes had been distributed among the communities

Equity in Disaster Aid

NDW engages in monitoring CBD in disaster situations, conducts evidence based advocacy for inclusive policies and guidelines by undertaking research, developing methodologies, participating in public dialogues for greater inclusion in disaster management.

I. Promotion of Inclusion in Disaster Management practices, policy and Guidelines

a) Submission of Peoples Centric SDRF-NDRF Norms of Assistance to 14th Finance Commission

In relation to the effective revision of norms of assistance for Disaster affected communities with people centric approach. NDW has submitted its demands and proposed version of SDRF-NDRF norms of Assistance 2016-2020. The people centric demands have been prepared after series of consultations, engagement at community level and brainstorming engagements with experts across the Nation.



b) Initiation of Alternative Disaster Management plans at District and block level in Assam, Odisha and AP

During the intervention period NDW with the help of Network partners, associates and task force members have started preparing alternative District Disaster Management Plan and Model Block Disaster Management plan. The complete process have been progressed in the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Mahboobnagar, Kendrapada and Bijapur Districts of Assam, Tel, Odisha and Karnataka respectively.



c) National Consultation on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

National Dalit Watch in partnership with Sphere India and Oxfam organised National Consultation on Inclusive DRR on 18-19th December 2014 with Parliamentarians from various political parties, experts and frontline personnel from Bihar, AP, Telangana Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttrakhand, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat. As part of the Convention the discussions at the convention focused on assessing current DRR and disaster management processes in India and focused on strategizing Dalit inclusion in the future course of actions. The consultation was also aimed to propose Amendments in National Disaster Management Act 2005 in order to ensure inclusion of socially excluded sections in Disaster Response and Risk Reduction.

The complete process of demanding inclusion has been supported by MPs from all the parties and 3 MPs have participated in the Consultation. Participants from major National and International Humanitarian agencies, academic institutions and other important stakeholders have given their valuable suggestions and inputs.

d) State level Consultations in AP, Odisha & Karnataka on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.

In furtherance of demanding and promoting inclusion in State disaster management actions policies and guidelines National Dalit watch in collaboration of state level partners, community organisations, experts have organised 3 state level consultations in Odisha, Karnataka and AP. The main objectives of the consultations were demanding equity. The consultation was called to strengthen disaster management in the states. More than 150 NGO leaders participated in the meetings, besides personnel from the Inter Agency Groups AP, Karnataka, Odisha and had in depth discussion on the inclusion of Dalits in DRR. In AP and Karnataka Representatives from SDMA's were also present during the consultations.



II. Engagement with Various Humanitarian Agencies, Actors and Academic Institute on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

a) Regular engagement with Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Role of Academicians and Institutes is one of the important factors to promote inclusion in DRR actions in India. The period has been significant is vital engagements processes, steps and outcomes towards establishing the agenda of inclusion through Academic Institutes. NDW team has successfully participated in the round table conference on 31st March in TISS on the issue of Inclusion. Additionally TISS is faculty members have contributed active inputs to NDW's advocacy agenda for DM Act, Climate change, IVM-MPDR tool and amendments to NDRF/SDRF compensation norms.

b) Engagement with UNDP, ECHO & Sphere India

In the year 2014 the efforts towards Inclusive DRR have been acknowledged by Sphere agencies and other humanitarian players like UNDP and ECHO by way of including SC/ST in the revised Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA) formats.

Echo as a major Humanitarian actor in India has made more emphasis on Inclusion of Dalits and other marginalized communities in all its interventions.

III. Facilitating Disaster affected Dalit Communities in Major Disasters

In the reporting period, there have been massive floods, cyclones and drought in several states. National Dalit Watch team along with its network partners associates volunteers have helped the affected communities of Hud cyclone, Bihar Flood Alerts, Odisha Floods, Jammu And Kashmir Floods, Assam Floods & Karnataka. Drought in the states of AP, Odisha, Kar, J&K, Assam and Bihar. In this complete process the team of volunteers and network partners have helped the communities in following ways

- Assisted affected Dalit Villages and connected with the local officials for their proper rescue, relief and early recovery
- Training of local team members for undertaking inclusion monitoring survey and helping the victims in claiming entitlements announced by Govt.
- Helped local officials to conduct survey and assist the communities with govt relief and compensation packages.
- Public meeting and representation to the District Magistrate / Collectors.
- Bihar CM has assured proper action on the demands of Volunteers and Task force members on Ensuring Inclusion in DRR

IV. Promotion of Inclusive Vulnerability Mapping and Monitoring post disaster response Tool

a) Regional Trainings in AP, Odisha, Assam & Rajasthan with local CBOs, IAG members and front line personnel

In continuation to promotion of Inclusive Vulnerability Mapping and Monitoring of Post Disaster Response (IVM-MDR) tool for the Inclusive disaster risk reduction for Dalits and Other excluded groups on the popularizing the tool successful workshops have been organized in the states of AP, Odisha, Assam and Rajasthan.

b) Strengthening of Task force members in Assam, Odisha, AP, Jammu, Bihar on IVM- MPDR tool

Several rounds of trainings and sessions have organised to capacitate new volunteers on the issue of IVM-MPDR tool. Additionally efforts were made to capacitate existing volunteers in the intervention areas.

V. Efforts towards Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction –

a) Awareness Campaign in the form of Yatra in AP, Odisha

- Coverage of 50 villages in Coastal AP, and 6 Blocks of Kendrapada District of Odisha.
- More than 150 village meetings, 10 Block level meetings and 4 District level meetings held during the yatra.
- Village level volunteers, victims and CBOs have come together to raise their voice on demanding better DRR for their communities.

b) Village level exercises for promotion of CMDRR – Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

15 villages of Odisha, 15 villages of AP and 10 villages of Assam have done village level disaster risk reduction planning for any future disasters

c) Launch of District Disaster Management Forum

NDW launched District Disaster Management Forum in Odisha. DDMF was launched at the District Level People Convention on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for Dalits and Marginalised Communities in Kendrapara, Odisha. At this convention 200 community leaders and CSO demanded their due share in DRR.

Message from the desk of the General Secretary, NDMJ



Dear Bheemrades!!

As I look back I am overwhelmed to realize Swadhikar – National Dalit Movement for Justice has achieved the impossible in thriving relentlessly for the rights and dignity of our community. The year was marked by significant strides, successes, renewed strength and hope. However, it also witnessed accelerating acts of violence against the Dalit and Adivasi communities, particularly against the Dalit and adivasi women and children. NDMJ has made new inroads into various thematic interventions such as towards zero discrimination in educational institutions, building a national campaign for constitutional amendment in the Panchayati Raj Institution, sustained advocacy with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on the status of police torture against the Kuruvar community in Tamil Nadu, Special Court Monitoring and the development of an innovative web based technique - Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring system on uploading and tracking atrocity cases.

It was also eventful in realizing our main objectives. Rigorous campaign was organized for passing of 'The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocity) Amendment' Ordinance during December 2013-March 14 and as a result SCs and STs (PoA) Amendment Ordinance was passed on 06.03.2014. After the new government came into power in May 2014, we rigorously engaged with the newly elected parliamentarians and MJSE –Ministers, as a result we witnessed the replacement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Ordinance, 2014 with the introduction of "The SCs and STs (PoA) Amendment Bill, 2014", which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing committee for further review on 16.07.2014. As a result of our collective engagement with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, the committee came out with its review to the amendments and submitted its report on 19.12.2014, with recommendations in line with the proposed amendments without any dilution. We are spirited that the amendment bill will be passed in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

The entire process was a momentous journey as thought and actions were put together to reclaim dignity and rights of Dalits and Adivasis by the team in the secretariat, our partners and activists in the field. I express my heartfelt gratitude towards our communities, leaders, and partners for having trusted us; the coalitions for coming together with a shared vision to collectively being engaged in the struggles; the authorities for engaging with us on issues and accepting our constructive inputs and criticism; and also the solidarity groups and individual in India and abroad for providing us with much required platforms. In solidarity,

Dr. V.A. Ramesh Nathan
General Secretary
Swadhikar
National Dalit Movement for Justice

Access to Justice

NDMJ fundamentally focuses on the right to 'access to justice' by Dalit and Adivasis communities in the country. Acts of violence against SCs and STs have been officially recognised as atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. To deter the occurrence of such crimes, higher penalties are awarded. These crimes occur on account of the ascribed caste in case of Dalits and ethnic identity in case of Adivasis and because, inter alia, they are minorities. Women from these two communities are particularly more vulnerable to violence. In this process strengthening of the SC/ST PoA Act becomes crucial to curtail atrocities subjected on Dalit and Adivasis communities. Through the Act we aim to strengthen justice delivery institutions and mechanisms with regular engagement with the Executive, Judiciary, and Policy makers in bringing the voice of the survivors to prominence, to ensure trial and justice. NDMJ's methodology of work can be systematically grouped into four major action plans namely, – Dalit Human Rights Monitoring for improved Implementation of SC/ST PoA Act, Campaign on Strengthening SC/ST PoA Act, Capacity of communities and CSOs and Publications.

I. Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights monitoring for effective implementation of SC/ST PoA Act, 1989

a) Fact Finding

135 fact-findings were conducted in the year 2014-15. Out of which 104 cases are followed up for proper implementation of SC/ST PoA Act including compensation, relief and rehabilitation. Total compensation received in the cases amount to Rs/- 77,29,000. These fact-findings have assisted more than 600 victim/survivors in pursuing these cases. The fact-finds were followed-up by the trained Dalit Human Rights Defenders in 14 states (henceforth, DHRDs). The cadre of DHRDs through the process generates awareness on the provisions of SC/ST PoA Act and its amendments. As well as, building a local level movement to promote and protect human rights especially for Dalit and Adivasi communities.

b) Atrocities Tracking and Monitoring System (ATM)

NDMJ in order to monitor the implementation of the PoA Atrocity Act formulated a 'Tracking & Monitoring' web based technique to upload and track atrocities being perpetrated on Dalits and Adivasis in the country. In 2014-2015, 25 users have registered themselves on ATM website, 123 atrocities cases have been reported from 12 states. Based on which 385 short message service

(SMS) alerts and 386 email alerts were generated to the officials. Additionally, 114 queries were received on the website by visitors. 1096 case studies have been uploaded in the ATM in the past year.



c) Right to Information and Fact Sheet

RTIs have been used by the movement over the years to obtain information regarding the status of implementation and assess sensitisation levels of the officials. In the year 2014, RTI applications were filed in 52 Ministries/Departments and 202 replies were received. These RTI were analyses to assess the status of functioning of State Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. A factsheet on the status of SC/ST PoA act implementation has been prepared for the state of Punjab. With an analysis of the responses received from RTIs, Factsheets we filed a Public Interest Litigations in the Supreme Court on Non-Implementation of PoA Act. We are able to utilize these mechanisms as effective tools in seeking justice and demand effective implementation of SC/ST PoA Act and Rules.

d) Public Interest Litigation

6 Public Interest Litigations (PILs) were filed and followed for the better enforcement of the SCs and STs [PoA] Act 1989 and Rules 1995 in several states and also in the Supreme Court of India in the year 2014-15.

- **Follow Up of the Public Interest Litigation in Supreme Court of India (Civil No.) 140 of 2006** SLP filed in Supreme Court in PIL of Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur High Court No. 3318/10 have been clubbed together with the above Supreme Court PIL)- **Pending**
- **Follow Up of PIL on Mirchpur Carnage in WP [Civil] No – 211/2010** Followed the PIL on 04/04/14, 03/07/2014, 26/08/2014, 22/09/2014, 08/10/2014 On 26.08.2014 the government of Haryana and the Petitioners are asked to identify land for the rehabilitation of the victims, still residing at the farm house. Next listed on 09/12/2014
- **Writ Petition Criminal No- 184/2012 (Sushil Kumar and Anr. Vs. State of Haryana in Supreme Court** - Last date of hearing was 15/09/2014 and the matter is posted for another 6 weeks.
- **Appeal in Laxmanpur Bathe Massacre** – Criminal Appeal 645-665 /2014 in Binod Paswan vs. State of Bihar filed in Supreme Court of India on behalf of Victim Mr. Binod Paswan on 13.01.2014. Pending for disposal and clubbed with the appeal filed by the government. To come on regular course of hearing.
- **PIL on Untouchability Practices in Supreme Court** - Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).751/2014-NDMJ vs. Union of India and Ors. Admitted and listed on 25/08/2014 before Justice T.S. Thakur and Justice R. banumathi. Notice issued to the respondents for reply and listed for further orders in regular course of hearing.
- **PIL on non-Implementation of PoA Act and Rules in Tamil Nadu** - W.P.No.11028 of 2014. Listed for Judgment on 02.07.2014 with orders to the respondents to comply with the said provisions scrupulously without fail. This PIL is a success story of our intervention.

NDMJ in partnership with HRLN has been engaged in regular follow up of the above stated PILs filed.

NDMJ in collaboration with Video Volunteer, and HRLN in April-May 2014 drafted a Writ Petition to be filed in the Supreme Court of India against the old, evil practice of 'untouchability'. The framers of the Constitution abolished the practice in the statutes of the Constitution. The aim of the petition is to root out untouchability from the society. In relation to the same, material evidence of practice was submitted in the Apex Court.

e) Advocates Consultations and Formation of Advocates Forum

Advocates consultations were held at state level in three states of Haryana, Odisha and Maharashtra. Following which Advocates forum (henceforth AF) were formed in the above mentioned states. Maharashtra AF organised a conference titled "State Level Dalit-Adivasi Lawyers Conference" and was attended by 55 lawyers who completed at least 7 years of practice, and around 35 activists working with SC/ST PoA Act, participated from 25 districts. Similarly advocates forum in Odisha and Haryana are also collectively raising awareness around the low conviction of rate in cases pertaining to SC/ST PoA Act. AF actively monitors the functioning of special court.

f) Legal Clinics

Legal Clinics were organised in the states of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Odisha with the objective of monitoring the implementation of SC/ST PoA Act. The cases presented in the legal clinics were provided with legal support. In the legal clinic organised in Odisha 20 individuals participated and attended the program, 10 cases were presented by the victims. In Tamil Nadu, 15 cases were presented, with 25 victims and witnesses and 20 advocates. The advocates suggested recommendations to the victims. In Rajasthan 10 cases were presented with 2 advocates. The follow up of legal clinics has ensured filing of charge sheets and legal proceedings.

g) Election Watch

Dalit Election Watch

NDMJ-NCDHR monitored Violence and Discrimination against Dalits and Adivasi during General Elections of 2014. With limited resources we started the process with drafting Dalit Election Manifesto and handed them to the political parties – inclusion of Dalit agenda in the party manifestos. Jointly worked with People's Manifesto and met main political leaders – Rajnath Singh, Jairam Ramesh, PA Sangama, YogenderYadav, Brinda Karat, SitaramYechuri, etc. Therefore, NDMJ monitored the following states during the election, namely, 3 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, 3 in Bihar, 15 constituencies in Rajasthan, 3 in Tamil Nadu and 3 in constituencies in Odisha.

- Intimidations before the elections by dominant caste, and forcibly expelled from the election booth.
- Dalit were not allowed to vote by the dominant caste and few political parties.
- Dalit voters' were not included in the voters list (Odisha-in Raikia block 1000-1500 Dalit voters excluded)
- Dalits were forced to vote for specific political parties in certain constituencies.
- Dalits subjected to Physical attack and caste abuse.

h) National Tribunal

On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, NDMJ organised a national tribunal where cases of caste atrocities were heard. The cases concerned discourse on CBD. The jury comprised of Human Rights Activists, Henri Thipagne, senior bureaucrat, P.S. Krishnan and women rights activist, Dr. Fatima Burnad. The cases included, atrocities committed against the community in Avkhed Khalsa Village in Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district and rape of a woman in a Jat neighbourhood in Haryana. The jury commented those efforts that are being made need to ensure that practices discriminating against persons based on their caste were countered. It further stressed on the need to form special investigating team to investigate the case and area and deemed that the area is prone to caste atrocities.



i) Judges Consultation

In September NDMJ organised a national level workshops for judges at the National Judicial Academy. 35 judges from different states participated in the workshop. Speaking at the workshop the General-Secretary of NDMJ focused on the role of special courts in the effective implementation of SC/ST (PoA) Act.

j) Advocacy with National Commission for Schedule Castes

NDMJ has been supporting the Kuravar community to stand against the police atrocities by engaging with NCSC. "Kuravar" community is one of the sub-castes of the scheduled caste community, which lives in Tamil Nadu state of India. During the British rule, they were notified as 'Habitual Offenders' and brought under the British regime. Although the Criminal Tribes Acts were repealed across India in 1952, these communities continue to carry with them the stigma of criminality. The members of the community, including men, women and children, are subjected to systematic, continuing, ruthless treatment in the hands of the police. It has become handy for the police to catch hold of the "Kuravars" and foist false cases on them. Once taken into illegal detention they are subjected to inhuman treatment. By use of brute force the police tend to extract "confessional statements" from the innocent "Kuravar" to crimes that they had not committed. The community in the fear of detention and arrest has to flee and hide in forest areas and lead an absconding life without dignity.

NDJM facilitated the visit of the Kuravar Community Victims of Custodial Tortures and Death in September 2014. The visit was aimed at raising the concerns and issues around Kuravar's freedom and liberty, as the state police tortured the community persons on false cases. To meet this end NDMJ facilitated their interaction and visit with Members of the Parliament, namely, Keeping this in view we took them to Dr. Udit Raj Hon'ble Member of the Parliament and the member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment. The victims deposed their cases before him and he immediately wrote to MSJE Minister Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Director General of Police Tamil Nadu.

NDMJ facilitated the hearing before Ms. P M Kamalamma, Member of National Scheduled Caste Commission scheduled on 24th September 2014. The meeting with Ms. Kamalamma turned out to be very useful.

Based on the grievance submitted by "Tamil Nadu Kuravan Makkal Sangam" on the alleged police atrocity against the Scheduled caste Kuruvan community in Tamil Nadu, The Hon'ble member NCSC (National Commission for Scheduled Caste), New Delhi summoned the Deputy Inspector General of Police, SJ and HR, Chennai to NCSC, Headquarters and directed the state office to submit a report on constituting committee to study the entire issue with special reference to police atrocities against the Kuruvan community in Tamil Nadu.

In order to support the committee formed by NCSC to study the problems of Kuravar community. A Facilitation team was formed. That conducted the field visit and met around 29 petitioners/victims and took their statements regarding the Police atrocities against them and collected the documents that were available with the community. Based on which the three member committee prepared a study report was prepared for submission to the NCSC.

II. Campaign on strengthening SC/ST PoA Act

a) Advocacy with Parliamentarians

NDMJ and the coalition partners intensively kept up the sustained lobbying to engage with the Parliamentarians to introduce necessary amendment to the SC/ST PoA Act. To meet this end several meetings and consultation with the Parliamentarian, Policy makers and Institutions were organised. As a result Mr. Thanwar Chand Gehlot, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment introduced the SCs and STs (PoA) Bill 2014 on July 16, 2014, replacing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Ordinance, 2014.

NDMJ provided the MSJE with a note on Justifications to the PoA Act and updated them on the process of amendments till it was tabled in the parliament. Once the bill was tabled in the parliament by the new government, we intensified our advocacy meetings with the ministers and parliamentarians.

b) State Level Round Table on PoA Act Amendment Ordinance

A daylong 'Round Table Conference' was held in Bhubaneswar in May 2014. The purpose of organizing the conference was an understanding on the amendment ordinance among the lawyers, social activists, academicians and police personnel in order to create pressure groups to oversee the implementation of ordinance in the State. As many as 60 - Dalit rights activists, police personnel, academicians and representatives of Action Aid were present and actively participated in the discussion on the PoA Amendment Ordinance-2014.

c) Meeting of National Coalition on Strengthening of Prevention of Atrocities Act

NCSPA met in February to strategize their advocacy with respect to the amendment to Prevention of Atrocities Act; The meeting had a threefold agenda

- To strategies programmes which ensure the passage of the Amendments.
- To contextualise strategies in the light of change of government at the centre.
- Further, to strategies programmes for the dissemination of information with respect to the amendments once the bill is passed by the parliament.
- The future of the coalition once the amendment is passed.

III. Capacity Building & Consultations

a) Training Programmes

3 days Advanced Training on Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Monitoring was organized by NDMJ from 17th to 18th June, 2014 at VishwaYuva Kendra, New Delhi. This training was in continuation of the trainings undertaken during the year 2013. This training workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs) in the State especially in the area of access to Justice. HRDs underwent extensive trainings on Dalit and adivasi human rights monitoring of cases in their respective states. The training program was attended by 46 different activists along with 36 (HRDs) off which 10 females and 26 males from across 14 Indian states.

b) National Level Consultations

- Towards Inclusive and Equitable Right to Water and Sanitation for Dalits, New Delhi, December 2014 to address human rights violation to access Safe Drinking water and sanitation. 80 people participated in this workshop including CAG Members
- CSOs Consultation was organised in New Delhi in June 2014 to strengthen Dalit human rights monitoring at state and national level. 30 selected CSOs for the Consultation and 53 representatives from 27 CSOs participated in the consultation along with 43 DHRDs.

c) State Level Consultations

Seven state level consultations were conducted in six states of Odhisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to strengthen the PoA Act and for the enactment of amendments proposed in the legislations. More than 2000 participants attended these consultations.

d) Cadre building

NDMJ has undertaken the task of training young Dalit men and women on Dalit Human rights with the objective of raising Dalit rights movement at local levels. The cadre will generate awareness on the provisions of SC/ST PoA act and its amendments as well as also motivate other Dalit youths to build local level movement on Dalit human rights. A total of 230 Dalits youths have volunteered as cadre in the states of Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. These youths are trained as change actors; they are raising awareness on Dalit and Adivasi human rights at grass root level.

e) ATM Training

NDMJ conducted in Northern Regional Training on Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring (ATM) System

in March 2015 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. The training focused on capacitating the DHRDs in utilizing technology to upload and track cases of caste based crimes. The training had a good strength of 86 participants. We plan to hold a similar capacitation endeavour by conducting Southern Region ATM training.

j) Internships

Internship is one of the components of training. In the year we engaged 6 interns in different areas of our work. We had four Female and two Male interns. Ms. Rajni an intern undertook a detailed study of five cases in State of Haryana and prepared the People's Manifesto with guidance and assistance from NDMJ. Many activists while lobbying with political parties on Dalit concerns during the Haryana state elections used the manifesto. Similarly, Mr. Suresh Phulgujju was engaged in preparing the parliamentarians forum and undertook intensive policy dialogue on Dalit issues.

Global Dalit Advocacy

International advocacy aims to provide a global voice for Dalits, working for the adoption and implementation of international covenants that protect and benefit all Dalit children, women and men. Sustained and coordinated interventions have brought the issues related to CBD to the centre stage of debate and discussions, strengthening the fulfilment of national and International Human Rights mechanisms that have been ratified by the Government of India.

I. Advocacy with UN-bodies and mechanisms

a) Representation to the UN-Special Rapporteur

ADRF chairperson Paul Divakar, and NDMJ General Secretary Dr. VS Ramesh Nathan met the UN-Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Maina Kiai during his visit to Nepal in September. They gave a detailed presentation on caste based discrimination and fundamental rights violation against the Dalits community.

b) Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Third World conference on DRR was held in Japan in March 2015. This was conducted towards the adoption of Hyogo Framework for Action II; a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. In the run up to the upcoming framework, NDW and ADRF had been engaged in the processes and consultations giving inputs and making submissions to draft frameworks. In the past, advocacy was done around recognition of caste induced vulnerabilities and risks into the new framework. Interventions around the recognition of caste and ethnicity induced in the Post 2015 DRR framework was made.

Through spaces provided in these above meetings, the humanitarian community including the key representatives of the UN, European Union, and Government of India, was called upon to recognise the disempowering effect of the pre-existing social, viz. Caste/descent and ethnicity induced vulnerabilities of the particular communities across the globe, and especially in India. References were made to the finding of NDW studies, right from the time of Tsunami. The interventions were woven around the zero draft of the new framework (dated 13 March 2015), laying emphasis on unpacking the term 'vulnerability', as required by the "identification of underlying risk factors".

II. Discrimination-Free South Asia

c) Inclusion of Socially Excluded communities in SAARC

The theme of the SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in 2014 was "Deeper Integration for Peace, Progress and Prosperity". Motivated by the focus on finalisation of Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as a core focus of SAARC countries on cooperation in the areas of poverty and social development, ADRF hosted a series of events in November 2014, in Kathmandu, to strengthen the collective vision for deepening Democracy, Social Justice and Peace. Through these work-shops, ADRF was able to influence the People's SAARC on prioritising the need for inclusion and substantive equality and the message of 'Leave No One Behind' as part of the policy drafted in the PSAARC declaration, focusing on the traditionally excluded communities.



Workshops covered the themes, Untouchability – free South Asia; Elimination of Manual Scavenging; Dalit Women's Rights; Access to Justice; Dalit children and Youth; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Dalits & Media; and Livelihood, Land and Budget Resource Allocations.

d) Formation of Asia Dalit Regional Forum

Asia Dalit Regional Forum was formed after years of discussions and deliberations. The forum was formed in a meeting conducted before the commencement of PSAARC meeting in Kathmandu. ADRF is the first regional platform of Dalit organizations, which will be raising the issue of CBD at regional and international level. ADRF will also be pursuing the concept of post 2015 sustainable development goals.

III. Emphasis on Equity and Inclusion in the Post 2015 negotiations

a) ADRF at 2nd World Construction Conference

ADRF delegation at the 2nd World Construction Conference jointly advocated and facilitated the development of Post-2015 framework for the DRR at international forum. Parliamentarians from different countries attended the conference. The delegation raised concerns with respect to caste-based discrimination in disaster management. The delegation was part of the drafting committee; of the outcome declaration emphasised and explicitly mentioned inclusion, equity and non-discrimination as guiding principles of disaster management.

IV. Emphasis on Equity and Inclusion in DRR

a) ADRF at 6th Asia Ministerial Conference

ADRF participated at the 6th Ministerial Conference in Bangkok in June 2014. The conference was jointly organised by UN-Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and Thai Government. ADRF delegation comprised of organisations from South Asia region. The delegation presented a paper on 'Making Disaster Risk Management Inclusive and a study titled 'Equality in Aid Addressing Caste Based Discrimination.' Through these two documents, the delegation brought focus to the need for a caste inclusive approach to DRR. The observations were shared with the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction of UN, Margareta Wahlestrom. The points raised by the delegation were adopted as part of the final statement issued at the conference.

V. Representation at Different International Forums

b) Building International Network with GNDEM

NDEW is a member of Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM). Through a consensus process that included regional election monitoring networks and eventually all member organizations, GNDEM produced the Declaration of Global Principles, for non-partisan election observation and monitoring by citizen organizations and code of conduct for non partisan citizen election observers and monitors that was endorsed by National Dalit Movement for Justice.



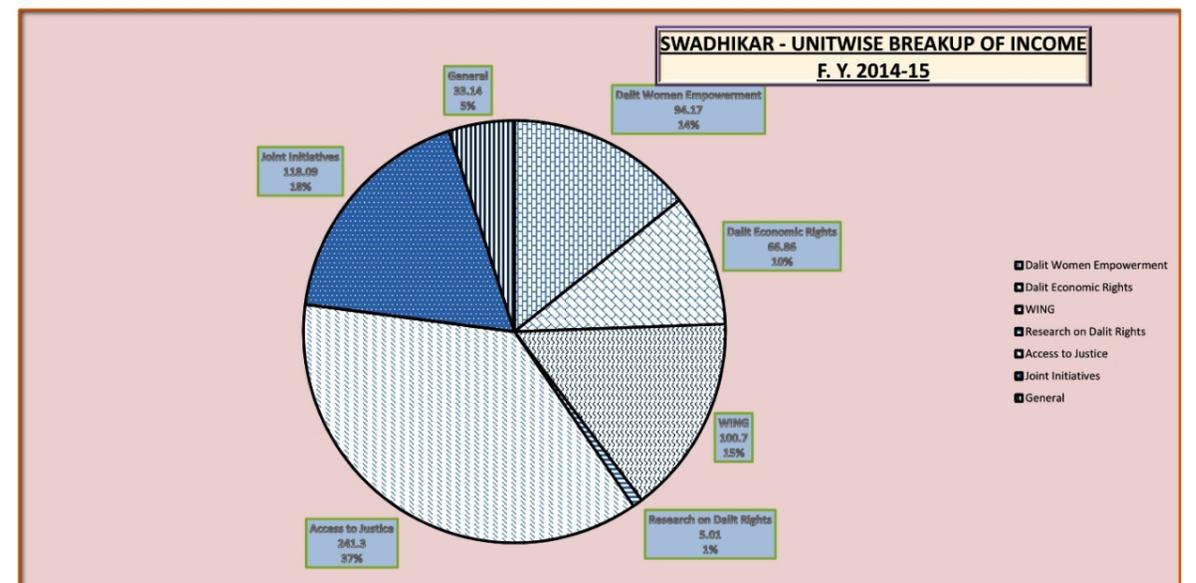
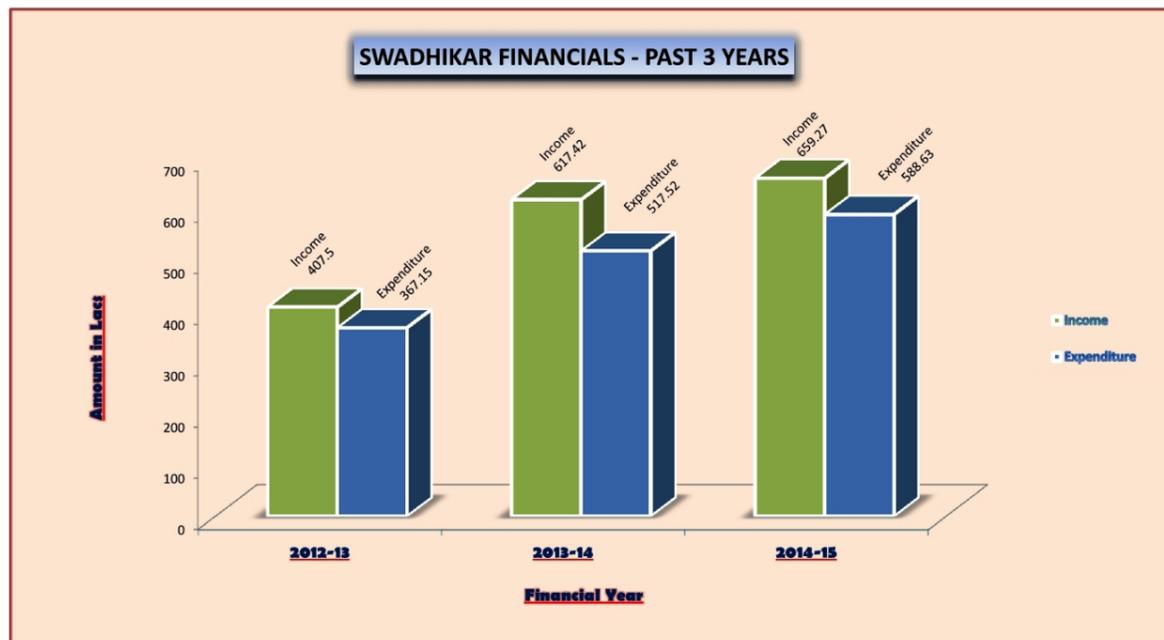
Dr V.A Rameshnathan participated in the citizen observer's programme that reconvened in Mexico City on 2nd and 3rd June 2014 for the second implementation meeting of the Declaration of Global Principles. The discussion resumed on the priority topics and challenges identified by observers throughout the past year and formed working groups to follow upon plans developed during the meeting

c) Workshop in Manila, Philippines

Mr. Kamal Kispotta, NDMJ attended a workshop in Manila Philippines which was organized by National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) Philippines and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) based in the US. Mr. Kamal Kispotta, NDMJ presented on the election process based on the work during elections in India and challenges faced by Dalits and Adivasi communities in exercising their franchise at a workshop in Manila, Philippines organized by National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) Philippines and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) based in US. The workshop aimed to share 31 years of experience for the promotion of free and fair elections.

The workshop was organized to share the 31 years of experiences in working for the promotion of free and fair elections. The Asian Citizen Election Monitoring Organization Workshop, co-hosted by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), had brought together the representatives from approximately eight nonpartisan citizen election monitoring organizations from six countries across Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Burma and Philippines) – in addition to several election observer organizations in the Philippines – for a two-day exchange on experiences and challenges in nonpartisan citizen election observation. The workshop was held at Manila, Philippines. Citizen observer participants in the NAMFREL-NDI workshop were invited to attend and participate in the first day (November 12) of the DoP Implementation Meeting. The panel session focused on cooperation among international and citizen observers, as well as a networking. Mr. Kamal Kispotta presented on the election process in India and the challenges faced by the Dalits and Adivasi communities in exercising their franchise.

Financial Overview



National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights



General Council



