

SWADHIKAR

Annual Report



2018-2019



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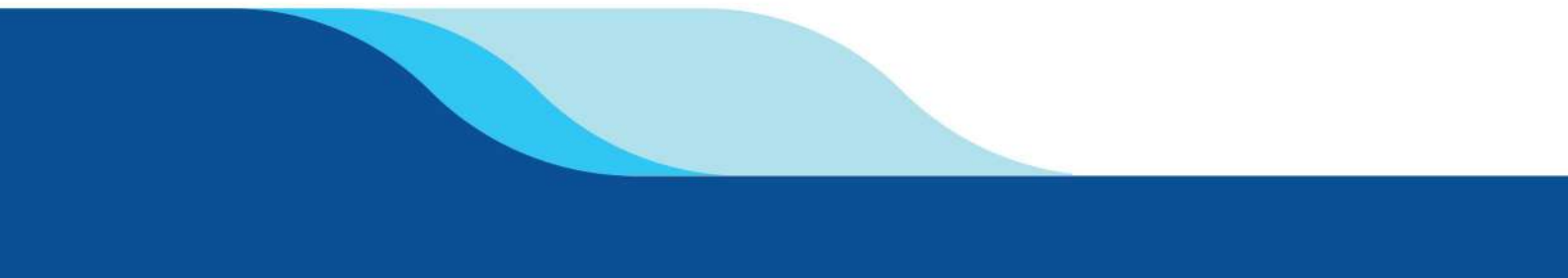


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Message from President



The Annual Report is meant to serve as a tiny time capsule of the major activities and activism that the Swadhikar has been involved in this past year. Swadhikar in the last few years has developed policies and systems for good governance. The values of good governance- accountability, transparency and democracy are central to the work that Swadhikar does. Annual report of Swadhikar is one such instrument to be transparent and accountable.

It has been an eventful year for Dalit movements and politics across the world. As we undertake this critical review of our actions and motivations for the year of 2018-2019, we are more balanced, more aware, and closer to our goal - to spearhead the articulations and demands of Dalits and Adivasis to national and international arenas. The path has not been easy for our leaders and the community but we continue to push back against the challenges, embrace the victories and are filled with a deep awareness about the magnitude of our fight and the strength and conviction required to continue.

This year, the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch pushed us to recalibrate the way we present Dalit narratives, to enable our women to talk, write, and own their stories. Piece by piece, we have taken on the behemoth of social media to document our experiences and bring our truth to the people. Often the enormity of the work that has been cut out for our community leaders threatens to consume us, we forget that our leaders too are survivors of the oppression and require physical and mental support to keep the resistance strong. It is also our effort to ensure that Dalit women leaders and the community remain lively, vibrant, strong, and good-humoured in the tough fight to claim their agency, rights and entitlements.

The Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, has continued to empower the oppressed by reinforcing their economic rights with a particular focus on public entitlements regarding education and entrepreneurship. Each year, as we achieve new milestones, we push the bar further, get more organised and more strategic as we empower the community by raising awareness and building a comprehensive vocabulary that enables us to express our oppression. The team has worked to not only simplify the complexities of the budgets and entitlements that have been prescribed for Dalits and Adivasis, but ensured that they were also given access to a better chance at education, and livelihood through these provisions that for each oppressed individual can be brought down to a very stark difference between existing and living. The National Dalit Watch successfully been able to intervene in the Kerala floods where no one dared to challenge God's own country and its ways of handling the humanitarian crisis, where NDW successfully brought to the fore case stories of exclusion during distributing aid and relief.

Through fact finding missions, legal clinics, and interventions the National Dalit Movement for Justice community has grown to support the oppressed at their most vulnerable. The NDMJ has evolved to become the first line of defence, building a cadre of Dalit human rights defenders coming to the rescue of those who have been victims of atrocities and caste-based discrimination. The group has also protested several attempts by the mainstream to hijack the narrative of Dalits - a petition was filed to ensure the proper implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, they also pushed back when an effort was made to ban the use of the word 'Dalit', or the outcry against the Supreme Court order that tried to evict tribals, Adivasis and other forest dwellers from the place that they have called home for generations.

Internationally too, Dalit rights and that of other similarly oppressed communities are at the forefront of movements for justice. There are more than 220 million Dalits who don't fit into any given category or constituency, people who are discriminated against based on their caste in social, economic and political standpoint. In that context the recognition of Dalits as a constituency creates a focused niche for the community and ensures our rights are addressed and honoured as part of the SDGs in the Asia Pacific region.

We live in a time where more Dalits are speaking out and the fault lines that have existed for generations are being exposed. More and more young people are being drawn in to the movement and they come carrying with them the dream of a united social justice movement. We have, in essence, begun the building of a citadel, strong with critical feedback, strategic planning, and an eye on the future. We are paving the future of the Dalit movement and Dalit community and it is an exercise that renews us with hope and vigour to end caste-based discrimination and violence.

The Annual Report is also a fitting opportunity to thank every single one who contributed to the resistance, our supporters and friends who have stood with us in solidarity both online and offline. I would like to thank our donors, volunteers, and well-wishers who gave us their time, money and energy, to those who led us to opportunities and gave us light in the moments that we were pitched in darkness, to those who continue to fight in their daily lives refusing to let Dalit voices be silenced, we are grateful to you all. We are fuelled with great confidence and strength by your continued, relentless support.

For Dalit and Adivasi people, our stories are our birth right, and despite the challenges we face every day we continue to grow strong and sure. Every setback is an opportunity to do more and every victory is a commitment to fight towards freedom and dignity for all. We re-affirm our commitment and passion to build a more robust movement that will build a world that brings healing, hope, happiness and justice.

Jai Bhim and Johar!

Vijay Parmar

President

Swadhikar



DALIT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

(AIDMAM)



" Amplified voices of Dalit women, ranging from the frontline of the movement to spaces all over the world is a significant step towards correcting the historical injustice done to our community. It is a young, vibrant and energetic voice - challenging structural violence and seeking to build alternatives that will usher in human rights and freedom for all."

Asha Zechariah

General Secretary

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM) is a platform for (by) Women from Dalit Communities in India. It is committed to challenging the nexus of patriarchy, caste, culture and class oppression, exploitation and marginalisation of Dalit Women. AIDMAM aims to create a critical mass movement led by Dalit women leaders to effectively challenge, tackle, and solve caste-based violence, discrimination and the culture of impunity.

A collective of 40 Dalit women activists and volunteers spread out over 6 states, it has been covering an operational area of 120 districts in North India through-out the years. The intersectional oppressions of caste and gender have relegated Dalit women to the bottom of the social hierarchy in India. AIDMAM aims to eradicate caste to ensure the full humanity and happiness of all women. The collective has been able to conduct intense monitoring of the implementation of special legislation in the country with the focus on Prevention of Atrocities

(SC/ST) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences [POCSO]. AIDMAM has been able to build young Dalit women leaders to challenge both patriarchy and casteist forces and use the existing mechanisms to hold both the state as well as society accountable.

Our Key Areas of Work and Strategies



Training and Capacity Buildings

Social Media Training: Impact and Assessment



The All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM) in collaboration with Video Volunteers conducted a social media, photography and videography training for our activists in March 2018. The objective of this training was to strengthen our movement to increase the visibility of caste violence globally by enabling our network of Dalit women activists from various parts of the country

to build a stronger presence online and acquire the skills needed to tell their own stories.

On May 30 and 31, the team met for a review meeting in Delhi to gauge the impact of the social media training. Out of the 12 activists who received the training in March, eight were posting regularly on social media with the appropriate use of our hashtag #DalitWomenFight. Many have shown a marked increase in followers with regular posts about caste violence and discrimination in their respective states. In April, in Rajasthan, we led the Dalit Adivasi Womens' Self Respect March that was supported and publicised by the activists on social media. In that month, the Twitter handle @DalitWomenFight gained more than 1000 new followers.

It is our impression, that we are perhaps the single organised collective of Dalit women on Twitter. The added significance to this collective process is that Dalit women leaders at the forefront of this struggle have embraced technology and overcome, to some extent, the barriers of access to internet and allied tech. This is a great example of simple investments with a dream of being able to break boundaries. Today, we have over 26.1k Followers and still counting.

In June, we led a side event at the UN Human Rights Council #DalitWomenFight against caste based violence. As part of this event, we hosted a successful Tweetathon with Ms Rita Izsak, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Paul Divakar, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Ms Asha Kowtal General Secretary, AIDMAM and Mr Henri Tiphagne, People's Watch.

The Tweetathon and the live tweets from the UN event supported by the recently trained activists of our team saw over 7500 Twitter profile visits and over 600 new followers in the month of June. More than 15 Indian media houses published articles about the event that was led by AIDMAM as a result of our social media outreach.

We are happy to see a huge improvement in usage and accessibility of social media in the work of our activists. We announced a prize as incentive for the most active person on social media from the team and are thrilled that one of the youngest team members, Rubina (@Rubina06631711) from Haryana won the

first round. We would like to thank you for your continuing support and solidarity for our Dalit Women's Movement in India.

Writing Workshop

AIDMAM organised a three-day writing workshop on July 14 to 16 in Delhi conducted by Vijtha Kumar, a professor from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore and a Dalit writer. Through the workshop the team produced short stories, fiction, non-fiction and other different styles and formats of writing, and also helped the team develop individual Wordpress blog pages.

International Level Interventions

UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, June 21



In the past, there has been several references to caste violence made by the UN treaty bodies including Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Universal Periodic Review, and UN Special Procedures. In her statement, the Former UN High Commissioner, Navi Pillay pointed out,

'Due to pervasive sexism combined with their caste status, women from discriminated caste groups have limited access to land, inheritance and other economic resource and their usually higher illiteracy rates further exacerbates their economic vulnerabilities.'

The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, reiterated the urgent need for state accountability to address the underlying causes of inequality and oppression to bring justice to the women subjugated on account of caste. The European Parliament had also passed several resolutions and condemned the rise in caste violence in India and made a strong call of solidarity to survivors of caste-based sexual violence in particular.

Dalit movements in India have been relentless in their struggle to ensure that domestic legal mechanisms offer some respite to a community that continues to be brutally assaulted and stripped of life and dignity. This includes monitoring of specific legislations, lobbying for amendments to the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act in 2015 and the recent uprising against the Supreme Court judgement which dilutes this powerful legislation. Dalit women in particular, have been organising and stepping up the ground level campaigns, initiating new processes for supporting survivors and demanding state accountability in cases related to caste-based violence, apart from lobbying with international mechanisms.

At the event, activists from India released a campaign video and a report titled 'Voices against Caste Impunity: Narratives of Dalit Women in India'. The campaign has presented barriers to justice encountered by survivors and their families through witness accounts of few cases from Haryana and Rajasthan. The event presented before the international human rights community about the unchallenged state impunity in India, challenges and proposed strategies for the way forward.

The event attempted to identify new footholds for Dalit women to actively engage and build pressure within the UN system. Rita Izsak, during the Tweetathon hosted by @dalitwomenfight, reiterated the need for communities, activists and campaigns to constantly engage with special procedures and treaty bodies. The UN and other allied human rights organisations can help to create a thrust under which government policies can be shaped and improved. She observed that the only way to break the silencing is by pushing harder and new tools and strategies.

Through this event, Dalit women from India have made a strong call to international human rights organisations to break the silence on issues related to caste. Dalit women are seeking support and solidarity from allies towards building a global campaign to end violence and discrimination.

European Development Days, Brussels, June 5-6, 2018

Asha Kotwal attended the three-day event organised by the European Commission, to bring the development community together to share ideas and experiences that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

"Over 8000 people registered for the event and needless to say, I was taken aback by the massive scale of organising such a programme. The primary issues focused on gender equality by showcasing various models of work supported by the UN and the EU. It included many innovative projects concerning entrepreneurship, climate change and alternative energy, sexism, poverty, migrant communities and other initiatives across the world. It was a good time to listen and learn from many women activists from across the world."

"One of the workshops that I attended was about women human rights defenders and the protection models that are being used by various activists. This session brought stories from countries like Kazakhstan and Mexico by organisations that are supporting many activists who face serious threats. They all spoke about the increased risks especially in the time of shrinking spaces for civil society. The women leaders also shared the internal challenges within movements, leadership crises and the need for adequate mentoring within collectives. They brought in the aspects of trauma, lack of psychosocial care for self and family, medical needs, need for safe spaces and relocation or evacuation if required. Women activists often are single mothers and are bearing the financial needs of the entire family; children in particular, and the speakers highlighted the economic and financial needs to sustain one's self and family."

"As Dalit women leaders, we often face similar, if not worse situations. However, given our limited resources compounded by our history of oppression, we tend to avoid looking closely at ourselves. We have been unable to prioritise self-care in order to be prepared for the long-term resistance that we envisage. Constant fire-fighting without adequate support systems has completely drained us and it is imperative that we learn about methods to sustain ourselves and the movement. Need for creating systems to address emergency situations, build close-knit collectives that offer support and stocking up on adequate resources is crucial for Dalit women."

"A lively, humorous and energetic workshop led by five African women revolved around their experiences of telling engaging yet dignified stories of women and girls. They threw out the narrative of victimhood and narrated complex stories of power. They highlighted the need to be 'compassionate engagers' with the narrative and challenged the appropriation by anyone who attempted to steal their stories. They have harnessed the power of the internet, created alternative platforms and are documenting their stories to change the narrative within their own communities. It is not about what others think of them, but what needs to change within their own country/community. The session was linked in every way to our movement, while we are already on this path, we lack a proper system in place. This could be largely attributed to our lack of resources and access. However, @dalitwomenfight is a great example of our effort to document stories of Dalit women and it is something we need to build upon. We need to bring more Dalit women online and narrate their stories and alter the narratives that are already out there."

International Consultation for the Elimination of Descent-Based Discrimination, Osaka, April 9, 2018



Asha from AIDMAM presented a paper at the International Consultation for the Elimination of Descent-based Discrimination - at the launch of the UN Guidance Tool, held in Osaka, on April 9, 2018. Her paper outlined the specific issues faced by Dalit women in India, highlighting the barriers to justice in the context of deeply biased institutions of our country. She made an appeal to UN, member states, and solidarity groups to join a global call for action to end caste-based discrimination, violence and impunity against our people.

#UNstoppableWomen UN Event, New York

At #UNstoppableWomen, an event that was held in New York in July, women representing over 20 regions addressed special rapporteur Michel Forst and other UN officials on the situation of women's human rights defenders and the dangers they face in a time of rising authoritarian rule and violence. From AIDMAM, Asha Kotwal presented at the event and made a statement about what it means to be a human rights defender in the country regarded as the most violent against women.

"Our work is not a job, it is our deep commitment to protect life and our communities. Violence is being normalized in society. People are being killed for falling in love or for eating beef. Just last week five activists who were raising awareness about child abuse were kidnapped, gang raped, and left to die. Fundamentalist and right-wing forces are on the rise and this is a global phenomenon."

State-Level Interventions

Dalit Adivasi Mahila Swabhiman Yatra, Rajasthan, April 23 to May 2



In the last week of April, AIDMAM organised and led the Dalit Adivasi Mahila Swabhiman Yatra in Rajasthan covering the districts of Banswara, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Chittodgarh, Bilwara, Tonk, and Jaipur where they concluded with a state consultation that included human rights activists and students on May 2. The consultation addressed issues like health, malnutrition, education, atrocities, scholarships for SC/ST students, and hostel accommodation for SC/ST students during the yatra. It was an important event in the history of Dalit womens' movements in Rajasthan as the commonality in the

<https://mailchi.mp/urgentactionfund/whrds-live-join-us-tomorrow-as-unstoppablewomen-storm-the-un-3300109>

exclusions and violence faced by our Adivasi sisters in these areas came to the forefront. The event also pressed the need for a concerted, combined effort by Adivasi and Dalit women against the systems of oppression.

Round Table Meeting, Bhopal, November 22

In November, the team from Madhya Pradesh organised a Round Table Discussion with civil society groups, advocates, media, state commissions, local activists and retired officers. Around 45 people participated in the event that was held in Bhopal, just before the state election, to discuss the failure of the state government, pending cases and a strategy for the way forward.



Advocate Rahul Singh from NDMJ, presented the Madhya Pradesh fact sheet and statistics, and compared the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data that underreports the number of Dalit atrocities. He also talked about the amended SC/ST POA Act and how the current government has failed at following the amended law and failing oppressed communities by not filing FIRs on time, no follow up of cases, and diverting the laws.

Asha Kotwal talked about how the government has failed to protect Dalit women, and the increase in violence against Dalit women in the last five years.



A youth panel shared their experiences of how the government schemes are working on ground, and of their experiences working with local administration and local groups. At the end of the day, the participants collectively came up with a strategy for the upcoming elections, we decided to conduct a social media campaign, with a team that would go to field and do live reporting, conduct short interviews and upload videos of Dalit people about the issues they have faced and the changes they have seen, and to raise awareness among people to exercise their right to vote and to use it wisely.

Ambedkar Mission Yatra, Bihar 13th- 28th April'2018

Young Dalit women leaders from Bihar led the Ambedkar Mission March through six districts of Bihar and conducted several community meetings, awareness camps, visited SC/ST girls' hostels. The march inspired several young girls to join the movement, who also initiated the formation of district committees in all six districts. Post the Ambedkar Mission Yatra, they have also conducted month-long legal awareness camps, and visited the six districts and met district committee members giving them training on basic human rights, SC/ ST ACT, and how to register an FIR.



Film Screening

Dalit Women Self-respect March, a film by #DalitWomenFight, was screened in Jaipur on January 20 at Kishan Bhawan, and on February 15 at St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, on February 17 in Chennai at Asha Niwas Social Service Centre. The film follows the women of AIDMAM on their political journey through Rajasthan.

Dalit Women Conference on Dalit Women in Media and Dalit Women in Politics

Two days conference on Dalit women in media and Dalit women in politics was organised in Chennai on February 17 to 18. Dalit women in politics this discussion was very important at this point of time, Senior dalit women leader Ruth Manorama was the key note speaker on the same and Cynthia Stephen, Sujata Surepally, Gowthama Meena, Shalin Maria, Semmalar, Aiswarya Rao, Aruna, Vedhanayagi, Grace banu and Asha Kowtal was the main panellist

Inauguration of Legal Centre in Jhansi, Bundelkhand

29th July AIDMAM has inaugurated a Legal centre in Jhansi, Bundelkhand region Uttar Pradesh. This Legal centre was much needed in Bundelkhand, within one-month period team has collected 119 cases of caste violence and also form the advocate team, now the advocate team has working on the cases which was collected by the team.

Awareness Camp, Haryana

A team of young people from Haryana led a five-day camp in four districts of Haryana - Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, and Kurukshetra. Through this campaign they have cover 16 villages, conducted community meetings, discussed AIDMAM workshop, Dalit politics, and the SC/ST Act among other caste-based issues.

Youth Team, Madhya Pradesh

Youth team of AIDMAM is active on filed and addressing local issues and monitoring violence. They are working on several government schemes like Ujjawala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and scholarships. More than 30 Dalit women has received a gas connection under Ujjwala Yojana and five Dalit families and six tribal families received funds to build a house under the Awas Yojana in Madhya Pradesh.

Fact Finding Missions

Within one year we have conducted more than 105 fact finding investigation in six states and total 13,072,000 compensation has been received by the survivors' families



S. No.	STATES	FACT FINDINGS	COMPENSATION
1.	Haryana	18	3,7,62,500
2.	Madhya Pradesh	5	375,000
3.	Uttar Pradesh	30	2500000
4.	Bihar	30	35.00000
5.	Odisha	7	24,97000
6.	Rajasthan	15	437,500



ECONOMIC RIGHTS

(DAAA)



" The need of the hour is to ensure planning has to come through the participation of the Vulnerable & oppressed communities and hence not only to demand a fair share of the budgets but shape the planning from their needs and perspectives. As SCs and STs form the core of the most vulnerable communities, the Scheduled Caste Component and Scheduled Tribe component (now named as AWSC Allocation for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and similarly for AWST) are devised specifically for this purpose. DAAA, therefore, attempts to challenge non-allocations to the SCs and STs per the Governments own policies and addresses the practice of the government which do not sufficiently allow of the participation of the SC/STS in the planning process. In particular, DAAA demands Economic justice through effective implementation of the sub plans. Education, livelihood, health and other basic amenities are critical to the overall development of the SCs and STs."

Beena Pallical
General Secretary
Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA) is a movement that works on the economic rights of Dalits and Adivasis communities with a particular focus on public entitlements regarding education and entrepreneurship. The key emphasis is on budget tracking and enabling Dalit communities to utilise the Special Component Plan towards their development.

Using economic rights as its focus and budgetary allocations as a medium of holding governments accountable, the team works to ensure that the rights and public entitlements for the community reaches them, makes strategic interventions in budgeting, planning schemes and policy formulation, does advocacy and research, implementation, and monitoring of funds under a special component plan for the SC/ST community. DAAA works in 16 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Telangana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. We work on the inclusion and promotion of Dalits and Adivasis in the economy of the country - from panchayat to international forums. Our efforts have resulted in mobilising the community in demanding their due share and have been instrumental in bringing the implementation gaps that exist in these component plans to the mainstream discussions and discourse. Due to the advocacy efforts of DAAA and other networks we have been able to influence the allocations and increased allocation of budgets under the special component plans. Our focus has been on ensuring that Dalit and Adivasis community are capacitated on budgetary rights and public entitlements, particularly women, and developing their capacities as community leaders.

The four major areas that DAAA has been emphasising on are:



Advocating for Change

Engagement with the Secretaries, Higher Education

Taking forward our advocacy on access to higher education and for the effective implementation for higher education schemes under SCC/STC DAAA had continuous engagements at both centre and the state level with the government officers and policy makers. In the course of the year we had engaged with the Secretaries, Higher Education including Smita Srivastav, Director, and Subrahmanyam, Department

Secretary, Higher Education to discuss about the issue of fund deviation between the approved budget and fund utilization in UGC fund (University Grant Commission) meant for Scheduled Caste under Scheduled Tribe under the SCC and STC (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Component Plans) from 2012-2017.

Press Conference

Following the release of Union Budget 2019-20 on February 1st 2019, a Press Conference was organised at the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) on February 2nd 2019 to release our analysis with the media. At the press conference panel included Paul N. Divakar, Ravi Duggal, Beena Pallical and Abhay Xaxa who put forward DAAA-NCDHR's analysis of the 2019-20 budget. The meeting highlighted the denial of the budgetary rights of the Dalits and Adivasis and stressed on the need to have appropriate allocation for the development of the SC and ST community. Press conference was organised across 10 states. Our analysis was widely covered both at the national and state level.

Engagement with the Secretary, Ministry of Finance

In the course of the year DAAA had been invited by the Secretary, Ministry of Finance to have discussion on budgets from the perspective of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Component Plans. The team of four members including Paul Divakar, Beena Pallical, Abhay Xaxa, and Adikanda Singh attended the meeting. There was a detailed discussion on Dalit and Tribal Budget 2018-19 emphasising on the budgetary gaps and challenges. In response, the Director, Vijay Kumar, Ministry of Finance suggested measures to monitor the budget allocation and utilizations.

RESEARCH & BUDGET ANALYSIS

Analysis of SCSP/TSP at the Union and State Level: 2019-20

Union Budget 2019-20 was released on February 1, 2019. The Finance Ministry presented an interim budget this year, a full-fledged budget will be presented after the house reassembles after the general elections. NCDHR-DAAA's analysis of the Union Budget 2019-20 shows that the allocations for SCs stands at Rs. 76,801 crores and Rs. 50,086 crores for STs, which by all measure is the highest benchmark till date for any budget, general or interim. For the first time, an unbelievable 315 schemes for SCs and 324 schemes for STs will benefit, from Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste (AWSC) and Allocation for Scheduled Tribes (AWST). There are now nine new ministries/departments for SCs and three for STs which are set to implement new programmes. If it was not for a budget preceding general election, we could have easily labelled this as an 'aggressive development strategy'.

Another striking feature of the 2019-20 budget is the systemic undermining of dozens of critical schemes by starving them of necessary funds. It is also unprecedented that the allocations for nodal ministries i.e. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been significantly reduced compared to last year. Apart from this, the other critical ministries with a downward trend of allocations in SC development are Rural Development, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and Drinking Water & Sanitation. Similarly, from the ST perspective, the critical ministries of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and Drinking Water & Sanitation are the biggest losers, whereas there is only a marginal increase in allocations for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In a scenario where the overall increase in allocations are as high as 36% and 28% for SC

and ST respectively, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) are subjected to major budget cuts despite the existing NITI Aayog guidelines. The trend of non-targeted allocations both in statement 10A and 10B continues unabatedly. Good schemes are getting starved and irrelevant schemes allocation keep increasing. NCDHR-DAAA released its detailed Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis 2019-20 on February 2, 2019.

Study on Present Socio- Economic Status, Gap Analysis and Measures to be Taken for Bridging the Gaps & Upliftment and Holistic Development of Scheduled Caste Communities in Andhra Pradesh

DAAA is conducting a study with the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance Cooperation Limited to determine the overall socio-economic status of Dalits vis-à-vis other social groups in Andhra Pradesh. The team is examining the development gaps across geographical regions and communities and will also compare the findings with states such as Maharashtra and Kerala. The study emerges from our work at the field level in accessing public entitlements and is rooted in our experience at the community level towards accessing these entitlements and also mobilising communities to access justice through strengthening the implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act. The study is being conducted in nine districts of Andhra Pradesh and is a combination of both primary and secondary research.



Study on Budget Credibility: Explaining Budget Deviation

DAAA with International Budget Partnership (IBP) conducted a study on budget credibility examining the extent, nature, causes and consequences of deviations from approved budgets. In this series, part of the IBP's Assessing Budget Credibility Project, 24 civil society partners in 23 countries probed a specific area in which execution of the national budget repeatedly diverged from the approved plan to learn whether adequate reasons were provided for the deviation. The study emphasised on lack of access to higher education scholarships and diversion of the budgets meant for Dalit and Adivasi students.

DEVELOPING CAPACITIES

Training on Understanding Budget Rights, Policy and Advocacy: Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Component Plan & Gender Budgets

In order to train and facilitate the community on the budgets especially the SCSP/TSP, DAAA organised a four-day training programme on "Understanding Budgets, Policy and Advocacy: Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Component Plan & Gender Budgets" in May 2018. The training unpacked the various dimensions of budgets and evolved a shared perspective on budgets as an approach for more decisive realisation of one's human rights. The training brought together 24 participants from across the country from diverse backgrounds and sectors namely health, housing, tourism, livelihood, education, bonded

labour, water and sanitation, women's rights, and entrepreneurship in order to promote conceptual understanding on the budgets, policy, advocacy and gender budgets. The training presented a combination of participation from six states namely Karnataka, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu who shared their perspective on budgets policy and advocacy.



The broad thematic areas covered in the four-day training programme were budget basics concepts and processes in the budget formulation, budget enactment process, codification of budgetary items, number reading, budget analysis, gender budgeting, RTI, budget tracking, tax policy, transparency portals and advocacy cycle.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION & BUILDING THE CAMPAIGN

DAAA is anchoring three major campaigns focusing on accessing public entitlements by the community with the objective of ensuring access to public entitlements available and targeted towards the community. The campaigns focus on capacitating the community and community leaders, generating a demand and need for the schemes and policies, and filling applications and conducting advocacy with the concerned officials at national and state level. Of these three campaigns, 2019-20 was the third year for the Shiksha ka Nyay (Education as a Right) campaign and Humara Panchayat Humara Hissa (Our Panchayat Our Right) is in its second year since initiation, while Humara Budget Humara Adhikar (Our Budget Our Right) took a more concentrated and coordinated effort this year.



Humara Budget Humara Adhikar (Our Budget Our Right)

The corner stone of DAAA's work has been to advocate for budgetary allocations in line with the guidelines issued by the erstwhile Ministry of Finance along with NITI Aayog. To this end, over the years, a cadre of Dalit and Adivasi leaders have been capacitated to track, monitor and analyse budgets. In the run up to the Union and State Budget 2019-20, coordinated efforts were made to raise demands towards proportionate allocation, legislation (in states that don't have a legislation), proper implementation of sub plans and higher education was made in various state pre-budget consultations and union pre-budget consultation. However, this being an interim budget, many states didn't have pre-budget consultations.

Following the release of Union Budget on February 2, 2019, press conferences were held in most states that were widely covered by national, regional and online media. The national press conference was live-streamed. Following the release of state budgets, press conferences were held across the country with a preliminary analysis.

Shiksha Ka Nyay (Education as A Right)

DAAA has played a very critical role in increasing the access to higher education for Dalit and Adivasi students. In its third year the campaign sought to solidify its work, expand it to other states and continue the process in the existing ones. Access to scholarships have played a critical role when it comes to representation of Dalit and Adivasi students in higher education. This campaign was initiated for enabling increased access to budgetary provisions and schemes by the Dalit and Adivasi groups, especially in higher education, run by the students and addressing the existing gaps in accessing Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) by SC& ST students. The campaign currently is on-going in 11 states, namely - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Haryana. This campaign was designed to make necessary intervention in all these states.

Process

- Students meeting - identifying and making visible the existing gaps
- Capacity building of students and CSO/CLO networks on application filling process
- Engagement with external stakeholders/ network organisations
- Evidence building and research - RTI and complaints
- Filing of scholarship applications
- Policy engagement - national/ state authorities

Through this process, a total of 6432 applications were filed in the year 2018-19. Of these, 1442 applications were for female students and 4202 were for male students. To further assist the information gathering and compilation, RTIs were filed both at the central and state level to gather information on the status of application and disbursement of funds around a number of schemes; a total of 275 RTIs have been filed on higher education. We have also filed for the first appeal in many cases where RTI is delayed. We managed to collect very pertinent data through our RTI application on the release of funds, information that was key to our advocacy campaigns. A total of 215 meetings were conducted with the participation of 8377 students to encourage SC & ST students to file applications for accessing their rightful entitlements in terms of scholarship. Due to constant engagement with the students and different student group from last two years; we were able to mobilize students to apply for Post Matric Scholarship (PMS).

As a result, the cabinet approved the release of pending PMS arrears of Rs. 6824 crores at the central level and have directed the MSJE to immediately disburse the amount and to the state government to further transfer the funds to the beneficiaries at the earliest. A total of Rs. 484.64 crore of pending PMS funds, particularly the PMS scholarships, were released in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. In Rajasthan, the advocacy intervention resulted in mobilizing the release of the central fund of Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 33 lakhs towards the pending PMS scholarship of 2017-18 which indirectly benefited many SC and ST students. Website issues were fixed and problems related to the filing of applications were resolved by setting help centres in universities and colleges.

Humara Panchayat Humara Hissa (Our Panchayat Our Right)

In 2017-18, a campaign towards access to public entitlements by the village community was initiated. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) are local government mechanisms that found constitutional backing through the 73rd amendment in 1993. The PRIs were envisioned to decentralised local self-government institutions and making them participatory in nature. The structure of the PRI was to ensure empowerment, and make the panchayati raj representatives accountable for development with social justice and efficient delivery of services. Further, the 14th Finance Commission, made a significant shift in the fund allocation to the local bodies. According to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, funds were to be directly transferred to the panchayat. As per the new recommendations, grants were to be made in two parts- basic and performance. Basic grant comprises 90% of the grant amount. These grants are directly responsible for basic services, 50% of the grant is released to the state as the first instalment at the beginning of the year, the remaining basic grant is released later in the year with the performance grants. The state is expected to release the funds within 15 days of receiving them

The campaign was initiated to ensure that money reaches the smallest unit of governance where by law, the community has reservation of seats to be capacitated to demand their entitlements. Through this campaign we have been trying to improve the participation of elected Dalit-Adivasi representatives, especially women elected members in local government under the PRIs and make public institutions socially inclusive. The campaign currently is on-going in 11 states, namely - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Process

- Community trainings - training on SCSP/TSP and working of PRI
- Engagement with external stakeholders/ network organisations (CLOs)
- Community meetings - identifying and making visible the existing gaps
- Capacity building of PRI members
- Filing of applications for the schemes
- Evidence building and research - RTI and complaints
- Policy engagement - national/ state authorities

All the states focussed on organising community meetings in order to understand the problems faced by the community in accessing schemes. In total, 226 meetings were organised with PRI leaders that saw the participation 3246 members, and 169 meetings with CSOs and CLOs were organized, 274 community meetings were conducted across eight states with the participation of 17091 community members. Due to capacitation and mobilization, a total of 5338 applications were filed for accessing baskets of schemes by SC and ST households in this year. In addition, to make public institutions socially inclusive, demands were put up in the form of complaints, RTIs, memorandum to concerned authorities. All these interventions enabled the community in accessing baskets of schemes by receiving of Rs. 17.41 crores, which benefited a large number of SC and ST families. Each state identified a basket of schemes on the themes around livelihood, entrepreneurship, housing, land, horticulture and skill development, that way they were able to tap into the needs and available schemes to best reach the community.

Access to Higher Education

As a result of continuous advocacy and engagement at various levels, more than 40 questions were raised by MPs and MLAs in parliament, filing of RTIs, complaint and memorandum by PIAs; the issue of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) has been made more visible. This process supported effective implementation of the scholarships schemes both at the policy level and also in accessing the schemes by the students. As result of very robust and regular advocacy efforts, the state governments are releasing PMS funds for SC and ST students. On 4th May, 2018 Finance Ministry by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced clearing the disbursement of funds worth Rs. 6824.51 crores.

In Odisha, a total of 546 (439 renewal + 107 fresh) students from BJB autonomous college, Bhubaneswar have applied for the PRERANA Scholarship for the year 2017-18 through the facilitation support by Swadhikar and Mulnivasi Youth Front, Bhubaneswar. 265 SC applications have been sanctioned and students received Rs. 56,54,672 lakhs and Rs. 4,68,325 lakhs for 281 ST students.

In Rajasthan our advocacy intervention resulted in mobilising the release of central fund of Rs. 479.64 crores in two instalments towards pending PMS applications from 2017-18 and indirectly benefited many SC& ST students.

Access to Public Entitlements Related to Horticulture, Entrepreneurship, Livelihood

Due to various actions of the partners along with the coordinators supported by PRI members and CLOs (community led organisations) has enabled the community in accessing baskets of schemes by receiving Rs. 15.50 crore, which benefited the large number of SC and ST families. Accessing of basket of schemes has impacted migration - where previously families who would migrate for livelihood, they are now able to find employment in their own villages and districts. Creation of productive assets and income-generating opportunities has enhanced quality of life by providing basic amenities in SC and ST localities.

In Bihar, 32 landless Dalit women are approved annual land of 0.96-acre land for cultivation of any produce. Additionally, due to constant advocacy, under the 20-point programme, Rs. 35 lakhs was approved and will benefit 565112 SC and ST families

In Manika block of Jharkhand, a honey processing plant worth Rs. 80 lakhs, has been approved by the forest department. The Birjia community, who come under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who collect forest minors including honey, are the beneficiary of this plant and a cooperative society has been set up, run and managed by the Birjia community. The product is sold in the name of Tenhar Honey with support of the forest department. The state coordinator with support of Division Forest Officer (DFO) worked to mobilise the community and help in the administrative operation of the cooperative society.

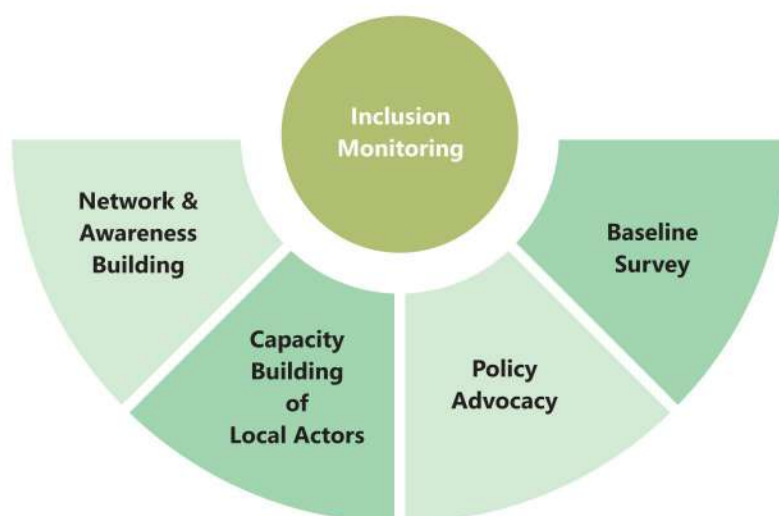
Towards Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Justice

Discrimination by default' is as much an issue as discrimination by norm and intent and is prevalent both within civil society and administration. Being aware of this fact, National Dalit Watch (NDW) was instituted within Swadhikar, which emerged from an informed recognition of rampant caste discrimination and exclusion faced by Dalit communities during the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 and Bihar flood in 2007 & 2008. The NDW is a specialized wing within Swadhikar that addresses and counters caste-based inequality in disaster response, and advocate inclusive and responsive Disaster Management policy, legislation and guidelines to systematically combat the same for overall resilient building of Disaster Affected Communities.

NDW visions at ensuring rights and entitlements to Dalits through inclusive disaster response, risk reduction and building of resilience, with Dalit voices and experience informing the processes of climate change adaptation and climate justice.

Area of Work

NDW core belief is to monitor systematically the extent of Dalit inclusion in specific disaster situations and deploying that evidence to influence policy, law and guidelines both at the national and international levels thereby facilitating equity and inclusion in DRR, and decisive participation in Climate Change Adaptation processes. It works collaboratively with organizations striving for the protection of human rights, and those particularly working for Dalit human rights, in disaster situations. NDW has developed tools and methods to identify, expose and document caste-based discrimination and exclusion in disaster management. Based on the primary evidences gathered from inclusion monitoring studies, the process of advocacy and mobilization is initiated to get the State and humanitarian aid organisations to take corrective steps and institute favourable policy. NDW advocates for recognition of caste induced vulnerabilities and inclusive programming with Humanitarian stakeholders, inclusive of the State.



The first quarter of the year was spent in preparing for and participating in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in the UN, NYC. Personnel from NDW along with ADRF drafted the paper 'India and sustainable development goals through the perspective of Dalit Inclusive DRR' and released it both at New Delhi and New York with a view to making an impact on the deliberations around the SDGs in the HLPF. For the first time NDW was able to agitate the issue of Dalit Inclusive DRR based on a decade of evidence-building on Dalit exclusion in Disaster Response of the State and Civil Society Organizations, and DRR. NDW-ADRF personnel organized as well as participated in a number of side events and also participated in significant UN group meetings.

The second half of the year was occupied by the intervention in Kerala following the catastrophic floods and landslides there. Along with the Dalit Rights CSO RIGHTS, NDW monitored inclusion of Dalit, Dalit Christian and Adivasi communities in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki and Wayanad Districts of Kerala. The inclusion monitoring instrument used in Kerala was for the first time administered in a digital format through a mobile based application. It was geo-tagged, thus making the evidence value of the data/information collected, very high. Despite the dominant discourse of Kerala having faced the catastrophe as one and engaged in rescue and relief in a united and inclusive manner, the NDW study brought out the real situation of the marginalized communities; discrimination and exclusion was rampant.

The study was submitted to the CM's office, along with a fact sheet that summarized the conclusions and recommendations. The fact that the study used the geo-tagging technology made it irrefutable for the government, and the superimposition of the locations of the sample villages on the hazard maps for those blocks made it all the more evident how those households surveyed were still living in the most hazardous zones, with houses and livelihoods destroyed. The release of the report in a civil society function followed by a consultation in Thiruvananthapuram was attended by key stakeholders from Government and leaders of the Humanitarian sector. Key recommendations came both from the state as well as civil society actors which would be followed up by people's committees across the affected districts. The fact that the District Collectors have been engaging with RIGHTS and NDW to identify those excluded from entitlements in order to ensure their inclusion, speaks volumes of the impact of our interventions in Kerala. The second phase of our intervention would be a Dalit-Adivasi led advocacy for an inclusive "Rebuild Kerala - Recovery with dignity". This would be one of NDW's key action plans for the coming year.

Developing and consolidating new partnerships for resource mobilization and forging national/international alliances has demanded a significant amount of time and effort in NDW this year. This also has stimulated a process of strategy building, especially considering the need for a National Task Force of Community leaders that drive the process of inclusion in DRR while building community and institutional resilience in the context of the emerging imperatives of Climate Change Adaptation.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

(NDMJ)



"I strongly believe that consolidation and promotion of rule of law provide the necessary tool for fostering of more equality, dignity and justice to Dalits and Adivasis. The unbiased justice system has a central role to play, as it is the institutional guardian of the enforcement of the rule of law. The violence against Dalit and Adivasi, sexual violence against girl children are rampant over the years. When the judicial system fails to address the issues of marginalized, impunity takes over and undermines democracy, the rule of law, people's trust in institutions, as well as opportunities for development, compounding the discrimination and vulnerability they are facing. The recent judicial trends is an example of this where by the apex court diluted the key provisions of SCs/STs (PoA) Act 1989 instead of reviewing the effective implementation of the Act and again the apex court failed to review the effective enforcement of Forest Rights Act and recognize the rich culture and specific vulnerabilities of Adivasis, passed an order to evict whose applications have been rejected by the officials under this Act. The state also failed to recognize the self chosen identity of "Dalits" and refrained media from using the word "Dalit". On the other hand the judiciary itself has been controversial over the last few years in terms of appointment of Judges, transparency in allocation of matters and recent sexual harassment case against the Chief Justice of India.

These issues have clearly brought out entrenched caste based mindset and lack of transparency within the judicial governance. Thus, the justice administration and law enforcement agencies should explicitly implement the legislative safeguards in an unbiased manner for the marginalized communities ensuring equality and dignity .

Dr. V. A. Ramesh Nathan,

General Secretary

National Dalit Movement for Justice

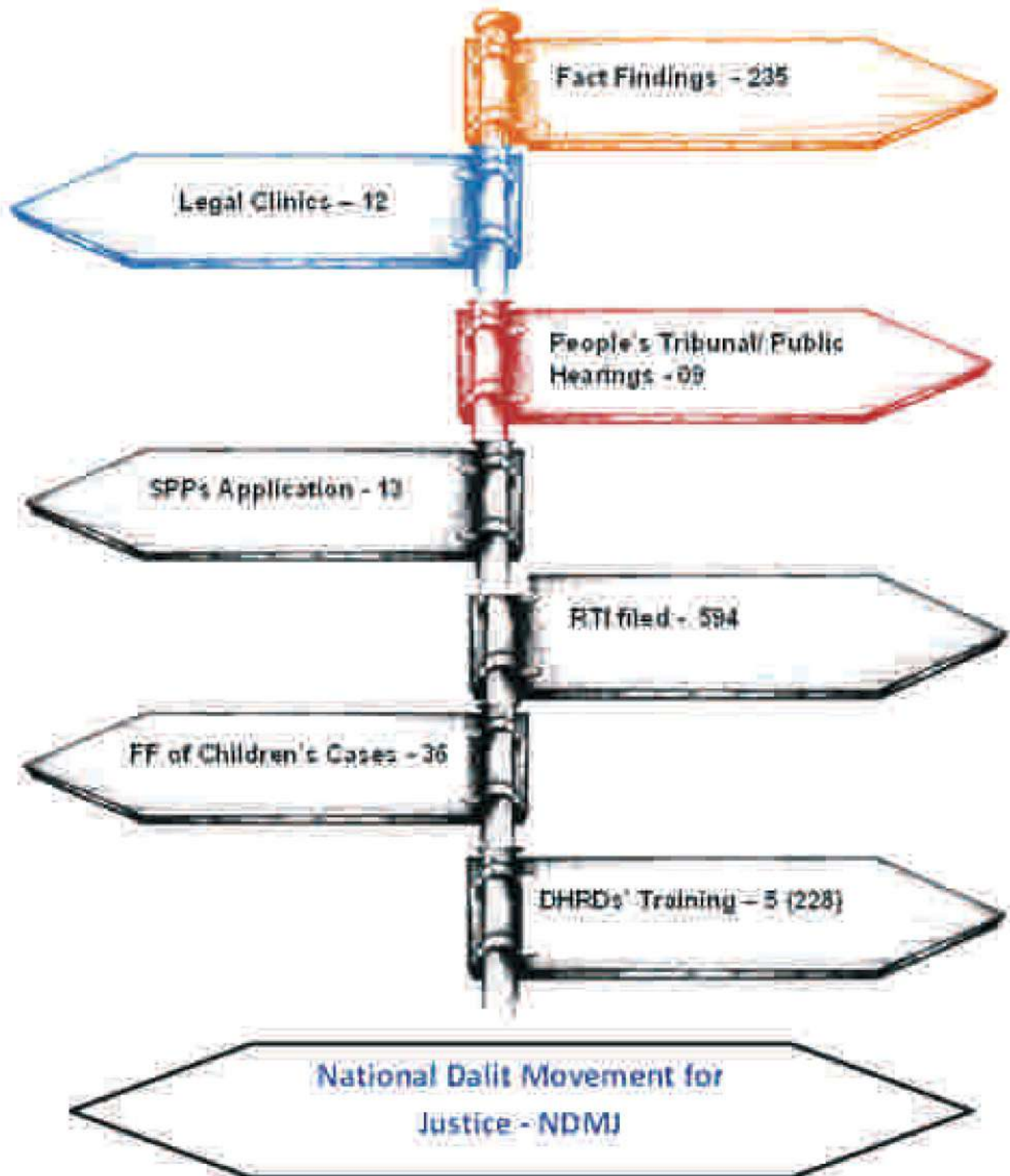
National Dalit Movement for Justice

National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) is spearheading a nation-wide movement for asserting the civil and political rights of Dalits and Adivasis in India. It is a democratic, secular, non-partisan movement of Dalit survivors, defenders, academics and organisations headed by Dalits, to initiate, advocate, and mobilise mass action against caste-based discrimination and violence to ensure dignity, equality and justice. NDMJ works with the executive, judiciary, policymakers and communities for protection and promotion of the human rights of Dalits and Adivasis. Using a multi-pronged strategy, NDMJ intervenes at multiple levels to ensure access to justice to those affected by atrocities and discrimination in 20 states of India.

The year 2018-19 was a challenging year for Dalits and Adivasis in India, as a result NDMJ deepened its interventions across the six identified themes during the organisational development process (2017-2022) and sharpened its strategies for more positive impact. With the rise in atrocities against Dalit and Adivasi women and children, this year NDMJ adopted a woman and child-centric approach to unpack the multiple layers of vulnerabilities. Efforts were also directed towards responding and challenging Supreme Court orders on *Dr Subhash Kashinath Mahajan v State of Maharashtra* that contained directives to prevent the alleged abuse of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and eviction of Adivasis and forest dwelling families under the Forest Rights Act.

With the general elections scheduled in 2019, there were other political gimmicks like the introduction of the 124th Constitutional Amendment Bill in January to provide reservation in jobs and education for the economically weaker sections, including dominant castes. NCDHR opposed the amendment on ideological grounds and emphasised rather on poverty alleviation strategies. Similarly, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting direction to the media to "refrain from using the nomenclature Dalit" and, instead, use only the constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste'. NDMJ continued to respond through legal route to resist the attempts to weaken the Dalit rights movement in India.

Quantitative Achievements



Dalits Human Rights Monitoring and Legal Interventions

Fact Finding Missions

Monitoring the violations of Human Rights of Dalits and Adivasis has been the basis of NDMJ's interventions and conducting Fact Finding Missions is our core strategy. This supports evidence building as well for legal interventions in the judiciary. In the process of fact Findings and legal follow ups the survivors of the Caste Based Discriminations (CBD), Advocates, Dalit Human Rights Defenders are empowered and strengthened. They expanded the networks with Criminal Justice delivery systems and institutions.

TOTAL NO. FACT FINDINGS	226
TOTAL COMPENSATION RECEIVED	Rs. : 1,19,14,500/-

Types of Atrocities	No.
Cheating in the name of Love	1
Attempt to rape	1
Rape	12
Murder	36
Attempt to murder	6
Caste abuse and physical assault	24
Mass attack	10
Property destroyed	2
Land grab	3
Minor raped	20
Trafficking of a minor girl	2
Minor Dalit girl murdered	1
Sexual harassment	17
Minor gang raped and murdered	8
Physical assault & harassment of dalit woman	10
Caste abuse/ untouchability/ social boycott	14
Gang rape	12
Institutional violence/ discrimination	5
Defenders attacked	1
Police torture	3
Acid attack	1
Abetment to suicide	1
Bonded labour and physical assault	27
Rape and murder	3
Others	6
TOTAL	226

Advocates Forums and Legal Resource Centers (LRC)

NDMJ is bringing committed Dalit and Adivasi advocates across the state together and forming state-level advocate forums to build expertise and solidarity. These forums are effective platforms to intervene in cases of atrocities against Dalits and to counter caste-based discrimination in courtrooms.

Strengthening the State-level Advocates Forum

● Application in Himachal Pradesh, 2 in Maharashtra filed for SPP Appointment in selected atrocity case
● 1 State-level Advocates Consultation was organised in Himachal Pradesh on 20.05.18 in which 10 men advocates and 12 DHRDs participated
● 3 District Advocates meetings (Hardoi, Allahabad and Jaunpur) was organised in Uttar Pradesh (78 men advocates, 3 women advocates).
● In Haryana 2 meetings (Bhawani, 23 men and 2 women) and (Jind 15 men) were organized for strengthening District-level Advocates Forum.
● 1 Advocates Forum meeting was organized in Bihar

The Advocates Forum became a platform to discuss issues like the challenges faced in the courtrooms during prosecutions, the Supreme Court order, strengthening district advocates forums, amendments on SCs and STs (PoA) Act and newly appointed SPPs shared their experience on the cases. To promote the Advocates Forums, Legal Resource Centres (LRC's) were established in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with state partners to support Dalits and Adivasis advocates.

The LRCs have provided a new dimension to the prosecution with its innovative strategies and robust comprehensive legal action. The LRCs are not only playing an instrumental role in the access to justice continuum but restoring the dignity of the vulnerable survivors and witnesses against a hostile and apathetic police and judiciary. LRCs have also greatly benefitted associated advocate groups with their regular, interactive meetings, knowledge generation with the availability of rich law books and materials, and expert guidance from experienced lawyers. They provide opportunities to young associated advocates to appear in case and to help them enhance their legal knowledge and prosecution skills. The LRCs have become a convergent point for advocates, survivors, witnesses and defenders provides an excellent platform for collecting significant opinions from all stakeholders, building coherent strategies and action plan in consonance with the survivors in critical cases. In the past three years the advocates have developed strong legal sharpness and prosecution skills and have demonstrated admirable capability for ensuring justice to the Dalits and Adivasis survivors.

Special Public Prosecutors (SPP)

A major milestone has been the Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (Section 15 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 and Rule 4(5) of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995) for intervening in special courts. This is very significant measure as it empowers the Dalits and Adivasis survivors to file petitions for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (SPP) of their choice in critical atrocity cases. NDMJ used the provisions of the amendment act to intervene in the courtroom and challenge the nexus among police, judiciary, and administration in cases of atrocities.



National Training of SPPs

In collaboration with the American Bar Association (ABA), Washington D.C, NDMJ organised a three-day national training programme for SPPs and advocates between 14 and 16 December, 2018, at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Around 42 advocates and 10 human rights defenders from nine states participated in the training; three advocates from Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka also joined this initiative. The objective of the training program were to capacitate and motivate the Special Public Prosecutors, who have been appointed as per Rule 4(5) of PoA Act, and potential Special Public Prosecutors in prosecution, skills to be at par with public prosecutor to render justice.

Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring System (ATM)

The web-based ATM system proved to be an effective tool during atrocity case interventions. Around 150 DHRDs and CSOs were capacitated through regional and national-level trainings to upload and track atrocity cases, and to increase awareness about the SCs and STs (PoA) Amendment Act 2015 and laws related to women and children. Over the years, DHRDs have become more proficient in uploading atrocity cases and regularly updating the status of follow up cases.

The ATM tool generated 1697 email alerts and 2702 SMS notifications that were forwarded to the concerned authorities for proper and timely legal interventions. In many cases, the notification generated through ATM compelled enforcement agencies for prompt action, and solidified the ATM system as an authentic and reliable tool.

People's Tribunal

With special focus on cases related to children, 10 People's Tribunals were organised at the state-level where 192 cases were deposed and represented to concerned officials.

Right to Information Applications

Of the 594 national-level RTI applications filed in NCRB, the President's Office and MSJE received only 14

STATE TRIBUNALS – 2018 – 2019	
STATES	CASES DEPOSED
1. Andhra Pradesh	30
2. Bihar	29
3. Jharkhand	15
4. Maharashtra	25
5. Odisha	20
6. Rajasthan	19
7. Tamil Nadu	21
8. Uttar Pradesh	13
9. Madhya Pradesh	20
Total cases	192

responses; 1264 responses were received at the state-level, and 840 were received at the district-level.

Based on the above RTI responses, fact sheets with the data from Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh were published, which is widely used as an advocacy tool demanding better implementation of the PoA Act. These fact sheets were disseminated in the training programmes and community meetings.

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT WOMEN

In this year NDMJ identified issues of women affected by triple forms of discrimination that are not

THE INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FOR SUBJECTS/ HEADS	NO. OF APPLICATIONS FILED
Rule 17(3)	33
Rule 4 (2)	92
Rule 4(4)	46
Rule 8(1)(xi)	30
Rule(9)	231
Rule14(1)	30
Rule16(2)	30
Rule 3, 4 & 18	30
Rule 17(1)	44
Refiling and Appeal	13
NCRB seeking segregated data of Crime against Children belonging to SCs and STs	13
The President of India seeking update on the status of expert committee report from NCSC on Kuruvan communities (Tamil Nadu)	01
MSJE Delhi seeking the State Reports under Rule 18 SC/ST(PoA) Rule 1995 (as Amended 2016)	01
Total no. of RTIs Filed	594

sufficiently addressed in the broader human rights movement and initiated separate and integrated capacity building programmes for developing leadership and legal expertise to ensure women are the central part of intervention.

Media Campaign

AIDMAM invited NDMJ to collaborate for a training of Dalit women activists on social media and digital security. AIDMAM has promoted #DalitWomenFight on social media, which is the first Dalit hashtag on the internet and now has thousands of followers on twitter.

Capacity Building

Training for Dalit Young women defenders was conducted in collaboration with AIDMAM in Haryana during March, 2019, for responding to the increasing violence against women and girls through legal mechanisms and advocacy.

Supporting and Strengthening Dalit Women Leaders

NDMJ is supporting and strengthening Dalit women leaders in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, who are effectively working at organising Dalit women and helping them access justice.

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

This year, NDMJ prioritised and systematically intervened in the issues faced by children belonging to Dalit and Adivasi communities. Children were identified as a critical target group as there has been strong evidence on the widespread discrimination and violence against children of Dalit and Adivasi communities.

Fact Findings

Close to 105 complaints have been sent to the concerned authorities in 16 fact finding cases conducted during this year. Apart from this, 45 child rights cases are documented for case interventions. 36 cases of violence and atrocities against children has been undertaken for fact findings, 30 cases of children taken from secondary sources have been documented, and 10 cases of child rights violations have been represented in NCPCR, NCSC and at the state-level.

The campaign towards zero discrimination in school education provided learning on the multi-layered and intersectional forms of violence and discrimination faced by Dalit and Adivasi girls in schools. The perspectives on gender and caste-based violence at school was built among the defenders and activists. This learning was translated into a separate bill 'Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment Based on Gender identity in Educational Institutions' in the Prevention of all Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against Children in Educational Institutions'.

TYPES OF CRIME	NO OF CRIMES
Rape	9
Gang Rape	7
Rape and Murder	1
Gang Rape and Murder	4
Sexual Assault	2
Murder	6
Attempt to Murder	
Accident	1
Suspicious Death	1
Attack	1
Trafficking	1
Attempt to Rape	1
Bonded Labour	1
Other Crimes	1
Total	36

National Convention

A national convention was held on September 28, 2018 at the Constitution Club of India, wherein the Draft Bill was released by the Human Rights Commission members from National Commission for Scheduled Tribes - Chairperson Nand Sai Kumar, Minorities Commission - Member Anastasia Gill, Retired IPS Dr. P.S. Krishnan, Ms. Annie Namala, Director Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion, A. Erskine Murugan, Interim Director - Children Movement for Climate justice, Children from across the states in India, Dr. Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary NDMJ - NCDHR and Paul Divakar, Chairperson Asia Dalit Rights Forum.



Engaging with Commissions

The objective of the Draft Bill on Prevention of Discrimination and Violence in School Education and the Study Report - Exclusion in Schools was shared with the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairperson - Dr. Stuti Kacker and Member on Education. There are 12 cases that are being keenly followed with NCPCR regarding the issues related to discrimination in school admission, sexual violence and child labour, state violence against Dalit children. Children working in brick kiln industry are being pursued through National Commission for Scheduled Castes. The Bill has been shared with National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.



Engaging with Delhi Government

The Bill is also being submitted to Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam, Minister Social Welfare Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, and Sr. Anastasia Gill, Member Minority Commission Government of NCT of Delhi who promised us for an exclusive discussion on the Bill.



Media Coverage of the report

- <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/jul/07/coalition-for-dalits-to-submit-guidelines-on-discrimination-in-schools-1839816.html>
- <http://twocircles.net/2018oct01/426278.html>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/882-tribal-children-die-in-state-run-residential-schools-across-the-country/articleshow/51871201.cms>

Trainings for Human Rights Defenders on Protection and Promotion of their Fundamental Rights

The defenders are the first line of interface with the communities, they are familiar with the people, aware of the local situation, and sensitive to the cause of protecting and promoting Dalit human rights. As a result, they are also the most vulnerable to threats and intimidation while supporting the victims and survivors in their fight to access justice. These defenders are always at risk of physical injury, rape (especially if they are women), and murder. This year there were many incidents where defenders working on Dalit and Adivasi rights were attacked, injured and implicated in false cases. This is also a formidable challenge to address because of the absence of a legal mechanism that protects and promotes the rights of DHRDs.

In this period, the focus was on training defenders on their protection and rights and improving the participation of women defenders in the training programmes. In collaboration with the Human Rights Defenders' Alert (HRDA), state-level trainings were organised to strengthen the defenders. The training was focussed on helping them understanding the importance and need to protect and

In Uttar Pradesh 47 men defenders and 22 women defenders; in Tamil Nadu 55 men defenders 05 women defenders; in Rajasthan 37 men defenders and 08 women defenders, in Maharashtra 31 Men defenders and 03 women defenders and in Andhra Pradesh 21 women and 4 men participated in the training programme. (Total: 228)

promote the rights of human rights defenders, Dalits, Adivasis, women and children, challenges faced by human rights defenders, understanding the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, UN Special Rapporteur, important international organisations, national human rights institutions, important legal provisions, complaint mechanisms and networking. The defenders have formed state-level defenders' fora after the state level DHRD training were conducted in the five states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, committed defenders were selected for the formation of the fora.

Defending the Rights of Criminal Defendants and Undertrials



The wrongful detainment and incarceration of Dalits and Adivasis is an area of blatant human rights violations by the state. SCs and STs make up an approximate of 25.2% of the Indian population according to the Census of 2011 but their share in India prisons stands at 33.3%. They are easily accused of crimes because of the deeply embedded prejudice and discrimination in the law enforcement machinery. Dalits are particularly vulnerable to arrest under draconian security laws. Dalit activists are also accused of being "terrorists," "threats to national security," and "habitual offenders," and frequently charged under the

National Security Act, 1980. Dalit activists are often subject to specious prosecutions, falsified charges, and physical abuse and torture following arrest. Mostly, Dalits are indigent people and too poor to seek legal counsel and therefore spend too long a time behind bars, unable to seek justice even when they might be innocent.

In this reporting period, we did research and surveyed the Dalit and Adivasi undertrials and convicts in collaboration with SASY, Tamil Nadu, Centre for Dalit Rights, Rajasthan, and NDMJ Maharashtra. The study "**Criminal Justice in the Shadow of Caste**" covered 21 prisoners who are out of jail (either after conviction or acquittals or on bail) and have experienced discrimination and impediments in accessing justice right from their entry inside jails. The study covered prisons in the three states of Rajasthan (Alwar and Dausa Jails), Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore and Villupuram Jail) and Maharashtra (Washim and Yerawada Jail) were covered in this study. The study was released on December 14, 2018, at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Media Coverage of the report " Criminal Justice in the Shadow of Caste"

- <https://kractivist.org/criminal-justice-in-the-shadow-of-caste-on-discrimination-against-dalit-and-advasis-prisoners-and-victims-of-police-excesses/>
- <http://thewireurdu.com/tag/criminal-justice-in-the-shadow-of-caste/>
- <https://www.newsclick.in/how-caste-plays-out-criminal-justice-system>
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- <https://idsn.org/report-finds-entrenched-caste-discrimination-in-indias-criminal-justice-system/>
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Campaign and Advocacy

Supreme Court Judgement and Advocacy Efforts

In March 2018, the Supreme Court of India passed a judgment on an appeal in the case of Dr Subhash Kashinath Mahajan v State of Maharashtra that contained directives to prevent the alleged abuse of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.

The judgement led to severe unrest and tension among the Dalit and Adivasi communities as the judgement diluted the essence of the Act. The judgement dawned a new awakening for the communities, literature on the provisions of SCs and STs (PoA) Act was widely disseminated and the Dalit communities organised and held protests and demonstrations across the country.

A Bharat Bandh was declared on April 2 by Dalit groups, unfortunately during the bandh nearly 20 Dalits youths were shot by police on instruction from the police department. At a great cost, the bandh was successful in exerting pressure on the government who intervened in the matter. As a result, the government filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against the judgement. The Supreme Court rejected the Centre's demand for a stay on its ruling on the SCs and STs (PoA) Act. Thereafter, it was placed in parliament for discussion on the judgement and the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) unanimously passed a Bill to reverse the effects of the Supreme Court and restore the original provisions of the Act.

National Resistance Day (May 1, 2018)

The National Coalition for Strengthening the SCs and STs PoA Act (NCSPA) and NCDHR called for a National Resistance Day against the ruling. Individuals, activists, experts, Adivasi and Dalit human rights organisations and movements from various states contributed to the success of "National Resistance Day" held on May 1, 2018. The event was organised in 80 districts of 22 states to generate awareness among the community on the impact of the judgment. Memoranda and Representations against the judgment were submitted to the governors, chief ministers, district magistrates, ministers, and Ministry of Social Welfare Justice and Empowerment.

Advocacy with Government

In another collaboration, NDMJ and NCDHR engaged with the ministries to nullify the ordinance of the Supreme Court directions on the PoA Act and filed an intervening petition on behalf of NCSPA.

Similarly, Centre for Dalit Rights, Jaipur took a special effort and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister and 50 MLAs and MPs for the release of Dalits and Adivasis who were arrested during the Bharat Band. The Chief Minister has announced that after scrutinising the cases the people will be released.

Meanwhile, the order from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the media to "refrain from using the nomenclature 'Dalit' and, instead, use only the constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' has caused more resentment among Dalit activists. The activists have criticised the order and called it an attempt to fragment Dalits and weaken the Dalit rights movement. The word 'Dalit' has, for years, been used to identify those who fall outside the caste system in the Brahmanical social order. However, the term has acquired a political connotation, being associated with the radical movement of the oppressed classes in recent times. The term Dalit unifies these people, and organises the movement towards equality and invokes a sense of pride.

In another major incident, five civil rights activists were arrested for their alleged link with Maoists in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon violence. Civil society across the nation condemned the arrests and termed them a blatant violation of constitutional rights. Some said that the move was a "virtual declaration of emergency", across the nation activists declared that the government was suppressing dissent.

Revoking the order of the Supreme Court on the SCs and STs (PoA) Act, NDMJ submitted a memorandum to Thawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, Minister of State Social Justice & Empowerment, and Ram Vilas Paswan, Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and the President. They also organised an advocacy meeting with 40 SC & ST MPs to reinstate the SCs and STs (PoA) Amendment Act 2015. In Bihar, the memorandum was submitted to the Governor, former Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, and MLAs. In Odisha, the memorandum was shared with MPs from the Rajya Sabha. These efforts led to a discussion in the respective state assemblies and as a result, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, was introduced on August 3, 2018, in Lok Sabha by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Mr. Thaawarchand Gehlot.

An NCSA consultation was organised on April 6, 2018 in New Delhi, to strategise action on the Supreme Court judgment on the PoA Act. Approximately 90 participants from CSOs, media, activists participated in the consultation. A state-level conference was also organised in Uttar Pradesh on April 23, 2018, for effective implementation of the Act. A total of 4200 community members participated (men 3000, women 1200). The discussions highlighted the status of the Dalit community in Uttar Pradesh, constitutional and legal safeguards, the impact of Supreme Court Judgement and planning Resistance Day.

RESPONDING TO SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Asserting the Rights of Adivasis in Solidarity with their Struggles for Retaining the Forest Rights Act 2006

In a national-level consultation on Supreme Court Judgment on Forest Rights Act that forcefully evicts the tribal forest dweller and other forest dweller communities from their ancient habitats. The National Consultation on March 4, 2019 at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi, was jointly organised by the National Adivasis Solidarity Council (NASC), National Campaign on Adivasis Rights (NCAR), National Adivasis Alliance (NAA), National Advocacy Council for Development of Indigenous People (NACDIP), NDMJ, and the National Coalition for Eradication of Bonded Labour/ Human Trafficking (NCEBL/HT), and National Forum of Forest Producers' Association (NFFPA) to involve a few collective actions to challenge the Supreme Court Order that directs the states to evict more than 11,27,446 families of Adivasis, traditional forest dwellers, and other traditional forest dwellers from the forest land whose claims were said to be rejected.

The two key outcomes of the national consultation were:

1. The formation of the National Committee for Adivasi Justice (NCAJ) with nine members, one national convener, and two co-conveners, assisted by a national coordinator
2. 45 organisations and individuals were networked for collective action across states

Some of the immediate action plans that emerged from the consultation are:

- RTI filed seeking information on the process of claims being rejected and considered
- Writing letters to the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous People
- Pushing for the ratification of ILO Convention 107
- IEC material like flyers to be published in local languages
- Networking of Adivasi and non-Adivasi organisations at panchayat, districts, state, national and international levels
- Protest petition to be filed in the Supreme Court or the high courts of pro-Adivasi states
- Advocacy efforts with members of parliament and members of legislative assembly to be carried forward.

At the consultation, there was an in-depth process of sharing and learning that took place with prominent speakers like Dr. PS Krishnan IAS, former secretary to the government of India, Dr Bhupinder Singh IAS, a key architect of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, Somona Khanna, advocate at the Supreme Court, Dr V A Rameshnathan, General Secretary, NDMJ - NCDHR, Paul Divakar, General Secretary, Global Networking and Advocacy, Dr K Krishnan, Dr Abhay Xaxa, Dr. Ruby Hembrom, and other eminent participants.

Legal Consultation

Responding to the judgement of the apex court on the eviction of STs, and other forest dwellers, NDMJ also challenged the order in the Supreme Court and held a legal consultation with the advocates of iProbono.

MONITORING THE VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO FRANCHISE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN EXERCISING DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

NDMJ has been monitoring the violation of the right to vote and has consistently upheld the significance of the democratic rights of the community. In doing so, the Dalit Election Manifesto was developed and released on December 10, 2018, and was disseminated to all the national political parties and major state political parties across the states. The changemakers have been advocating for a charter of demands at the state level :

- The Dalit Election Manifesto has become a tool for the networking of networks that engaged with the drafting of the election manifesto by different civil society stakeholders and political parties
- The Indian National Congress called NDMJ for the consultation that was held for the drafting of their Manifesto at Jawahar Bhawan, Delhi, and the Bharatiya Janata Party had sought the Dalit Manifesto directly.
- A representation to the Election Commission of India was made on issuing guidelines for implementing the provisions of SCs and STs PoA Amendment Act, 2015
- A charter of demands along with simpler versions of the election manifesto were disseminated to volunteers and partner organisations

- NDMJ briefed the press about the Dalit Manifesto at the Press Club of India in a press conference organised at the national level
- Eight state-level events were organised for the release of Dalit Manifesto by partner activists and organisations.
- With the Dalit Manifesto, NDMJ was able to effectively push forward Dalit agenda by participating in different consultation meetings organised by network groups, and CSOs in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat.

FILING PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATIONS

With the help of iProbono, NDMJ has identified emerging issues and their relevance, and accordingly filed Public Interest Litigations in the Supreme Court of India.,

- Intervening Petition filed on the implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- Intervening Petition filed in the Supreme Court of India challenging the Amendment of SCs & STs (PoA) Act seeking to revoke the Amended Act 2015 in its originality
- Writ petition filed to use the "Dalit" nomenclature in the media and other documents
- Intervening Petition filed in support of reservation to Dalits and Adivasis as per the Constitution of India

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

NDMJ-NCDHR has been organising sustained advocacy with international human rights institutions to recognise caste-based discrimination as a serious human rights violation at the global level. In this year, we engaged with the United Nations, and the European Union to increase visibility and enhance the ability of Dalit activists to pressure and influence the Indian government to implement their national and international human rights obligations for protection and promotion of Dalit rights.

- Dr. V A Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary, participated in 'Hearing on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in Third Countries' and presented a paper on Consumer Products: Free from Contemporary Slavery on October 11, 2018, in Brussels, which was organised by the sub-committee on Human Rights at the European Parliament, Brussels.
- Judith Anne participated in the 20th EU NGO Forum in Brussels from November 20 to 22, 2018 that organised by IDSIN.
- Dr. V A Ramesh Nathan, also participated in the General Assembly and Strategic Meeting for 2019 - 2023, organised by IDSIN which was held in Geneva between November 26 to 27, 2018. He also presented a brief note on international advocacy.
- Dr. V A Ramesh Nathan presented on 'Caste Violence and Access to Justice' during the International Consultation for the Elimination of Descent-Based Discrimination organised by International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism on April 9, 2018 in Osaka, Japan.
- Dr. V A Ramesh Nathan, participated in 'Equal Access to Justice for All: Using Law to Dismantle Caste-

based Discrimination in South Asia', a conference that was organised by the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission Nepal (NHRC), Social Science Baha (SSB), and Open Society Justice Initiatives (OSJI). The conference was held in Nepal, between 13 and 15 August, 2018. This three-day regional conference was attended by parliamentarians, NHRI Commissioners, human rights experts, Dalit leaders, and those in solidarity from across the globe, including South Asia, Europe, USA, UK, and Japan.

- Dr VA Ramesh Nathan participated in the PyeongChang Global Peace Forum 2019 (PGPF) in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, organised by Ari-rang TV and the PGPF Organizing Committee in partnership with the Government of Gwangwon Province and PyeongChang Municipality and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The event was held between February 9 to 11, 2019, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the PyeongChang Olympics and Paralympics.
- Dr VA Ramesh Nathan participated in the Joint Action on SDG 8.7: Modern Slavery, Trafficking, Violence against Women and Caste organised in Bangkok, Thailand, by ADRF and contributed to the APPFSD Workshop on 'Gender, Caste and Intersectionalities for Challenging Inequalities and Accessing Developmental Justice'.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS THROUGH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Involvement with students and young social activists is facilitated through the internship programme. NDMJ is able to impart awareness, knowledge and skills by welcoming young student social workers not only from India but also from across the world. NDMJ during this year received five Interns from Chennai, Delhi and the United States of America. The interns were oriented towards Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Monitoring, legal follow up and advocacy follow up.



GLOBAL ADVOCACY & NETWORKING





As we move towards a more polarised world with a shrinking civil society space, it is but imperative to connect to various groups, communities to build solidarity and together address the cause of injustice. We need to move forward to strongly connect and work with similarly discriminated groups based on work and descent (DWD) around the world specifically in Asia, Africa, Europe & Latin America to eliminate Discrimination based on Work and Descent, modern forms of slavery to build a robust and discrimination-free world

N Paul Divakar

General Secretary

Global Advocacy & Networking

Global Advocacy & Networking

The Global Dalit Rights since 2001 has notified the world about the intensity of the exclusion faced by caste and descent-based groups. In the last year, Global Dalit Rights have tried to network with various other communities who are discriminated by work and descent (DWD) in Japan, Malaysia and Africa. The focus of the Global Dalit Rights was towards identifying these communities and knowledge sharing for bringing these communities together towards addressing the discrimination based on work and descent.



Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) continued its work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2018-19 and achieved a remarkable achievement of carving out a space for Dalit rights to be addressed in the SDGs in the Asia Pacific region. As part of the delegation attended the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) 2019, Asia Dalit Rights Forum members participated towards addressing the inclusion and non-discrimination in SDGs in the Asia Pacific.

Realising Dalit and DWD Constituency Within the APRCEM

The Dalit and DWD constituency was adopted as the 18th Constituency (Stakeholder) for the SDGs for Asia Pacific under the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM). The process of selection took place in the General Assembly on the third day (March 26, 2019) of the Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development.

The selection process was hosted by Joan Carling who requested ADRF Chair Paul Divakar to make his statement in favour of why it is important to consider Dalits as a constituency within the APRCEM mechanism. Paul Divakar made a compelling argument stating the exclusion of Dalits who don't fit into any given category or constituency, while there are more than 220 million Dalit people who are

discriminated based on their caste in social, economic and political standpoint.



The adoption of the constituency was met with overarching support from the participants and other constituencies unanimously voting in favour of the 18th official constituency under APRCEM and thus providing a seat among the major stakeholders in Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

The call for a constituency for Dalits was requested by ADRF members including Paul Divakar in 2016, Deepak Nikarthil in 2017-18 and Beena Pallical in 2018 before the decision was placed in front of APRCEM secretariat for consideration. Appeals were also sent to the members of the secretariat by Sushil BK (2017), Pradeep

Pariyar (2018), and ADRF members through oral and written requests. In 2018, Paul Divakar and Deepak Nikarthil wrote a petition for inclusion of Dalits in APRCEM and was followed up by Bhakta Biswakarma and Zakir Hossian.

After three years of engagement with the APRCEM, the constituency was finally adopted and will be part of the coordination committee from 2020 onwards for the APPFSD and other events planned for the region.

Internationalising Dalit Rights

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 was focused on inclusion and resilient communities, a forum



where ADRF participated with members from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. One of the possible highlights was the selection of ADRF Chair Paul Divakar as the designated speaker on the issue of intervention on the progress of Access to Water and Sanitation (Goal 6). Paul represented the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM), which was introduced as a new stakeholder in the HLPF. However, he was unable to speak as the session fell short of time.

Another key highlight of ADRF involvement was Bhakta Bishwakarma's (ADRF Nepal) intervention in HLPF session on LDC and LLDC, from the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM) constituency on 11 July, 2018.



GCAP co-convenor Beckie Malay, and Executive Director Ingo Ritz proposed that the ADRF hold the convenorship of the Socially Excluded Task Force (SETF) with Dalit issues as the main focus. ADRF chair Paul Divakar and ADRF members has agreed to hold the SETF constituency as well as plan for inequality under the larger theme of DWD. The focus would be not only from South Asia, but planned for an integrated approach with similar communities from Africa and Latin America for a more inclusive and participatory process. He also proposed an assembly of socially excluded groups in the world with participation from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe (Romani) during HLPF 2019.



The first of two side events of ADRF was focusing on the Inclusion and Resilience of Communities Discriminated by Work and Descent Including Caste and Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction through SDGs was held on 10 July, 2018 in American Scandinavian Centre. The side event looked at the inclusion of DWD communities in DRR and its intersectionalities with the SDG goals, especially looking at SDG 11. The side event was divided into two panels, the first looked at the challenges and hurdles that the Dalit communities face in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, the second discussed the strategies for inclusion and effective participation of these communities in DRR as well as SDGs for development.

The side event on Inclusion in SDG 6: Water and Sanitation - A Debate on Abolishing Manual Scavenging and other Caste-based Labour was held on July 12, 2018 at the American Scandinavian Centre. The side event was divided into two sessions, the first looked at impact of safe and affordable water for DWD and Dalit communities; second looked at efficient sanitation for the communities with special focus on manual scavenging.

Future Strategies

The core committee meeting of ADRF was held on 23 March, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting focused on the future strategies for ADRF to undertake as the network. The core committee decided to work on six thematic areas, which were also discussed in the ADRF council on March 22, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. The focused six areas are:

Access to Justice

- Strengthening the intersectional focus of access to justice in South Asia with focused approaches towards ensuring mechanisms in all the South Asian countries to effectively address violence against Dalits.
- Reports from each country are to be released on the access and challenges for Dalits in justice and services.
- Each country is to have a public hearing on accessing justice for the Dalits, especially Dalit women.
- Capacity building of young lawyers including on incarcerations, jail reports, and engagement for effective law advocacy and implementation in the countries.

Dalit Women and Gender Justice

- Building of young Dalit women from each country on human rights and accessing development.
- Online campaigns to highlight the importance of inclusion of women in the SDG monitoring and review in countries and region.
- Regional level Dalit Women's Conference in South Asia on ensuring human rights and accessing development and a regional meeting together of the young Dalit women aimed for coming year.



Public Finances and Budgets

- To ensure that due public resources are ensured for the development of Dalits and Dalit women in the countries
- A training of Dalits and Dalit women has been planned for the coming year. As a result, the trained Dalits/ Dalit women are to monitor and evaluated the allocation of money for their development in their respective countries.

Dalit Youth

- While Youth have already been an active stakeholder in the SDGs, Dalit youth are often left behind in developmental programmes.
- Build capacities of youth Dalit leaders to participate in the SDGs events
- Engagement with the other stakeholders including states and UN agencies for ensuring inclusion and participation of them in SDGs and national developmental programmes.

Sustainable Development Goals

- ADRF in coming years would strengthen the DWD and Dalits voices at the global level
- Strive towards getting a stakeholder-ship in the Global SDG mechanism
- ADRF will focus on localising SDGs through capacity building programmes for Dalit men, Dalit women, and young Dalit leaders in all the countries for future engagement

SWADHIKAR

ABRIDGED RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING ON 31.03.2019

RECEIPTS		Amount INR (Lacs)	PAYMENTS	Amount INR (Lacs)
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>				
Balance at Banks	42.26		CURRENT PAYMENTS	
Cash in Hand	1.05		- EXPENDITURE	
TDS Recoverables	2.31		- FOREIGN FUNDS	739.80
Fixed Deposits	99.58		- LOCAL FUNDS	<u>69.58</u>
Programme Advances / Expenses Payable	<u>(3.41)</u>	141.79		809.38
<u>CURRENT RECEIPTS</u>				
- GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS			<u>Closing Balances</u>	
- FOREIGN FUNDS	671.00		Balance at Banks	42.50
- LOCAL FUNDS	<u>70.88</u>	741.88	Cash in Hand	1.26
			TDS Recoverable	2.60
			Fixed Deposits	55.74
- INTEREST EARNED			Programme Advances / Expenses Payable	<u>(14.86)</u>
- ON FOREIGN FUNDS	12.45			87.24
- ON LOCAL FUNDS	<u>0.50</u>	12.95		
		896.62		896.62



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