



# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Jai Bhim & Johar!

We are living in unprecedented times, where on one hand the covid 19 has struck and on the other hand there is an economic downturn and people, specifically members of the marginalised communities, have lost their jobs. But despite these difficult times, Swadhikar-NCDHR and the teams on the ground have continued to take the work forward more so during this lockdown. This report is a look at that work and how we have been able to do it for the last one year!

Let us acknowledge the courage and resilience shown by the frontline workers mostly coming from the Dalit and Adivasi community who has extended tremendous service to society. Many Dalits, Adivasi and other activists have shown extreme courage to reach out to women, children and migrant workers in a remarkable fashion. Even though many of us were shocked by the intensity of the Pandemic and were anxious in the initial stages, we in Swadhikar-NCDHR have sprung to action to respond to the challenges and reached out to thousands of women, men and children during the lockdown period.

We were inspired by the courage shown by the migrant workers, our colleagues in the field, and other frontline teams who were sharing news and images from the villages and urban locations. Although many sad and depressing news came flooding in, yet teams woke up every morning and worked against the tide to support, help communities who were suffering due to the pandemic.

I am proud to say that Swadhikar was able to reach out to 1,63,000 Dalit women, men, single women, women affected by violence, children and youth in 12 states. The relief kits included dry ration and sanitary items, targeting the most marginalized and vulnerable sections, prioritizing the women-headed households and families with the aged and people with disabilities, among the daily wage earners. We also developed the *WeClaim* mobile App to map the realisation of entitlements. Engaging with Government officials on providing relief and access to schemes.

NCDHR Organised webinars on the Impact of COVID-19 on Dalits in India. It mainly focused on six thematic issues i.e Caste-based violence & access to Justice, Impact of COVID19 & Lockdown on Dalit Children and Youth, Dalit and Migrant labour issue, Multiple Impact of COVID19 on Dalit Women, Impact of COVID on Frontline - Sanitation Workers, Government Policies and Entitlements pertaining to impact on Dalit community because of Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown. The webinar highlighted the aggravated vulnerabilities caused to Dalits because of Covid 19.

The pandemic also accentuated the inequalities that already existed. These inequalities are not just in the area of health and wellness but also in accessing entitlements. In many instances, they were faced with violence denying access to justice. Many financial packages were announced but migrant workers could not access entitlements. Proud to say that the entire team –All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, National Dalit Watch and National Dalit Movement for Justice with all its partners have reached out to the length and breadth of this country to strengthen the community across.

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch continues to build Dalit Women Leadership and enables access to Justice. They released a status report, “Dalit Women Rise for Justice” highlighting the issues of violence and atrocities and analysing the NCRB data, this report has been well received.

National Dalit Movement for Justice continues its quest for justice for Dalits through Fact-finding missions, legal clinics and interventions. In this time of the pandemic, the team conducted 211 Fact-finding missions for legal action and case monitoring in critical cases of atrocities and heinous offences such as murder, mass attack, rape, massacre etc. against the SC and ST communities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan continues its great work in demanding economic rights. This year the special focus was on post-matric scholarship. The government's plans to scrap the post-matric scholarship met with a lot of resistance from DAAA and they mobilised successfully various networks and organisations to demand the continuation of the post-matric scholarship. The centre not only agreed to continue with the post-matric scholarship but also increased the amount.

I am thankful for the partnerships that we have built and this has helped in ensuring a larger reach to the people on the ground. I take this opportunity to thank the donors who believed in our cause and continued to support and all the partners, networks and individuals who remain committed to the work. Thankful to the staff of Swadhikar who tirelessly work towards achieving the goals and of course to the community that withstands the storm to stand strong!

Jai Bhim!

**Beena Johnson**  
Secretary, Swadhikar

## DALIT WOMEN'S RIGHTS (AIDMAM)

### About AIDMAM:

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM) was established in 2006, an autonomous unit of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and is a national platform to escalate and amplify the voices of India's Dalit women. AIDMAM envisions building a dynamic collective of Dalit Women Leaders which would lead a mass movement for regaining and establishing the human dignity, rights and security of Dalits and other marginalised communities. The organization is currently operating in 7 states of India with its head office in Delhi. We are operating through 40 women Dalit Human Rights Defenders in Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

We firmly believe that leadership among Dalit women is the only key to end caste and gender-based violence and ensuring the human rights of Dalit women. AIDMAM aims to support and strengthen Dalit women to address violence in accessing justice and economic rights through networking, enhanced skills and leadership at district and state levels, and create visibility at a global level and promote their socio-political, economic and cultural rights at large.

### Interventions to address Caste and Gender-based Violence:

1. Monitoring/Fact-finding missions
2. Advocacy & Lobbying
3. Legal intervention & advocacy
4. Psycho-social support to the survivors
5. Media engagement
6. Leadership development
7. Awareness generation
8. Networking with rights-based CSOs/individuals
9. International advocacy

### 1. Training and Promotion of Youth Leadership

Training and building youth for leadership is one of the major objectives of AIDMAM. This year we have successfully trained **113 youth leaders** from the states of Bihar and Haryana. The meetings were conducted on **30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020** and **26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2021** respectively.

Youth Leadership Trainings mainly focuses on Human Rights, advocacy and monitoring, role of activists/youth leaders in Monitoring VADW (Violence against Dalit Women), Ambedkar's ideologies, social media training, the importance of taking initiative and leadership in the 21st century. The participants are young Dalit women identified from the communities by our state coordinators. They were sensitized about the issues of Dalit women such as; forms of violence & discrimination inflicted upon Dalit Women in the society and even within their own households; Dalit women's legal rights against caste and gender-based violence; biased & judgmental attitude of the officials towards Dalit women issues, etc.



### 2. Fact-Finding and Legal Interventions:

The State Coordinators and Defenders are actively monitoring the incidents of atrocities in their respective states and are proficiently applying multi-pronged strategies in securing justice. They have built strong relationships with state and national human rights institutions, CSOs and enforcement authorities responsible for the implementation of the SCs & STs (PoA) Amendment Act 2015 and the strategies for creating a wider impact.

Fact Findings were conducted in **180 cases** during this reporting period out of which FIRs were registered for **170 cases**. The charge sheet has been filed in only **50** of these cases as yet and **67 accused have been arrested** during this period. An amount of **Rs. 82,28,000/-** has been disbursed by the State in these cases as compensation during this period.

In some cases, the cases of the accused persons are filed before the cases of survivors just to harass and trouble them and weaken their cases. Our field teams have taken legal action to provide immediate relief to the survivors in the form of case registration, compensation, protection from perpetrator threats, arrest of the accused, medical assistance, and recording statement of rape survivor u/s 164 CrPC, among other things. Court interventions were also made to condemn the arrest of the convicted, to secure the release of survivors held in false cases, and to prevent counter-blasts.

### Intervention in the Hathras case:

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, a 19-year old Dalit girl from Hathras in Uttar Pradesh was gang raped and murdered by four men from the dominant caste. She was gravely injured and was brought to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi for treatment after about 15 days of the incident. She succumbed to death in Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

On **16th October 2020**, an **eleven-member fact-finding team** consisting of members from all the units of National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights - All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM), National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) and Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA) facilitated a fact-finding visit to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh to meet the victim family and to ascertain the facts of the case. Based on the findings of the team, representations were made at various platforms to ensure speedy justice to the survivor's family. On **11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**, a team visited the victim's family for the follow up of the case. The team consisted of the General Secretary, National Programme Coordinator and Documentation officer of AIDMAM. We met the family and discussed the current status of the case. We also met with the local advocate to assist in the case and got the update in the trial in the Special Court (SC/ST Cases), Hathras, UP.



We are in contact with Advocate Seema Kushwaha for the follow-up of the petitions and applications filed in the Supreme Court, High Court Allahabad to transfer the trial, to provide a house to the victim's family and job to one of the family members and to conduct the trial on a day-to-day basis. AIDMAM is committed to assist her legally or in any other way for the benefit of the family through a continuous dialogue with her.

**National call against the rising atrocity cases:** AIDMAM organized community level demonstration on 9th October, 2020 in 14 districts of the 7 operational states of AIDMAM including Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh where 1292 people participated. Memorandums addressed to the President were submitted to the respective District Magistrates of districts of all these states, requesting to address the increasing atrocity and violence against Dalit women in the Hathras gang rape case. Further in the day, silent physical demonstrations and candle marches were organized in all the districts. On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020, a physical campaign was organized in New Delhi, with respect to the Hathras rape case, to register our physical demonstration against the rising violence against Dalit women and to reclaim their dignity, voice and justice.

## 3. State Level Interventions:

### a. State Dalit Women Consultations:

To ensure human rights, social justice and safety to the Dalit women and girls, policy change is required, for effective implementation of the existing stringent legislations and constitutional safeguards. We aim to include all categories and identities of Dalit women like advocates, social activists, youth girls, government employees, media persons, students, Anganwadi workers, health workers, sanitation workers and elected representatives.

In this connection, AIDMAM organized a state-level Dalit women consultation in **Madhya Pradesh** on **31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021** where **40 Dalit women leaders** participated from seven districts namely **Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Devas, Hoshangabad, Sagar and Raisen**. Another state-level Dalit women consultation was organized in Youth hostel, Patna, Bihar on **15<sup>th</sup> February 2021** with **35 Dalit women from 9 districts in Gaya District** including **Arwal, Aurangabad, Rohtas, Munger, Patna, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Jahanabad**. In Bihar, the consultation was conducted in the esteemed presence of Mr Jogendra Paswan, a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Caste, New Delhi.



The objective of the conferences was to create a working group of Dalit women leaders at the state and district levels to highlight the issues of Dalit women living and working in various adverse situations. These working groups would advocate with the state machinery in cases of atrocities and address their issues at the district and state levels. The participants themselves identified the challenges and hardships faced by them such as discrimination while accessing education, lesser opportunities, sexual harassment, biases of journalists and media, incoherence with the mainstream feminist movement, etc. The participants suggested few remedial actions to combat the caste and gender based discrimination and challenges flagged out in the group discussions. It was suggested that-



- a. Dalit girls should focus and acquire higher education as Dr Ambedkar always urged to. We should also mobilize and educate more and more women at block level through SHG groups.
- b. To promote more Dalit women to opt for professions like lawyer, journalism and in policy making.
- c. Equal education, love, care, nutrition, facilities and opportunities to both son and daughter in the family.
- d. Dalit women should participate in the Panchayati Raj as public representatives.
- e. Gender education to the men and boys in the family and society.
- f. More and more education on laws and rights of women by AIDMAM at grass root level.

#### b. State Level Advocates Forum consultations:

AIDMAM held a one-day advocate conference in Bihar at the A.N.Sinha Institute of Social Studies on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with 45 participants, including 40 Dalit men and 5 women advocates from nine districts. Mr Jogendra Paswan, a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in New Delhi, presided over the case, which was also attended by a number of other well-known persons. The objective of this conference was to discuss the role of Dalit advocates in addressing caste-based violence and discrimination against Dalit women and minor girls in the state and to also share important legislation to legally assist Dalit women and girls in their cases and to provide Dalit lawyers with prosecution skills. Participants learned about different experiences of their peers, the struggles of Dalit advocates in the special court, and the role of advocates in assisting Dalit women in their cases as major lessons from the event. Some of them revised the SCs & STs (PoA) Act again after receiving instruction.



The focus was given on the special provisions of SCs & STs (PoA) Amendment Act and rights of the victims and witnesses; important laws relating to the woman such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Criminal Amendment Act 2013 and 2018; POCSO Act; Constitutional Safeguards; Indian Penal Code 1860; Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act etc.

As the way forward, a working group of Dalit advocates was constituted at state level to take up the cases of Dalit women. The objective of this group is to assist in the cases of caste-based violence against Dalit women as Special Public Prosecutor under the Rule 4(6) of PoA Act. The members of this group holding 7 years of standing experience would be appointed as SPP by way of applying before the District Magistrate. In the follow up of this training, 5 district level working groups have formed in five districts consisting of 5 to 10 advocates.

## 4. Advocacy Interventions:

### a. National Advocacy:

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Parliament of India called upon AIDMAM to submit the paper on “Atrocities and Crimes Against Dalit women and Children” in the prescribed questionnaire in the month of January 2021. The document highlights the challenges/problems faced by Dalit women with the support of NCRB 2017-2019 data; we also suggested few remedial

actions on the part of state; status of implementation of PoA Act; recommendations to bring Dalit women in mainstream of society; Biased/tardy/unfair and inaction of police in cases of atrocities and role of NGOs in combating atrocities.

Also, a **national demonstration** was organized in **New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021** for standing in solidarity with the family of the victim of Hathras gang rape case which was joined by around a **100 people**. The gathering was followed by a press release with our demands which was covered by national media later.

#### **b. International Advocacy:**

In November 2020, AIDMAM and IDSN delegations jointly presented a paper on the increasing violence against Dalit women in India and their situation during Covid, in the presence of **Mr. Gilmore, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights**. The virtual meeting was organized with the objective of making a representation to the European Union to **advocate with the Indian government and further the dialogue to improve Dalit women's human rights situation in India.**

AIDMAM also contributed to a thematic report on violence against women, its cause and consequences, on rape as a grave and systematic human rights violation and gender-based violence against women as per a call for submissions by the **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (SRVAW) on 31/12/2020**. AIDMAM represented the issues of **sexual violence against Dalit women in India and laws and policies on gender-based violence, including sexual violence and State accountability**. AIDMAM took the lead and collectively submitted this paper along with fifteen Dalit Human Rights organizations working in India including **Ambedkar Lohia Vichar Manch, Centre for Dalit Rights, Dalit Sthree Shakthi, Social Awareness Society for Youth, Jogini Vyavastha Vyatireka Porata Sanghatana, National Dalit Movement for Justice, etc.** Based on the submissions of the paper, the UN Special Rapporteur intended to provide recommendations to States and other stakeholders on key international human rights standards that should be integrated into national criminal justice responses in order to harmonize them with accepted international standards; to provide access to justice and support for victims of rape; to break the cycle of impunity; and to prosecute perpetrators, ensuring that they are not protected by hidden domestic norms that are still part of criminal law or criminal procedure.'

## **5. Research & Analysis:**

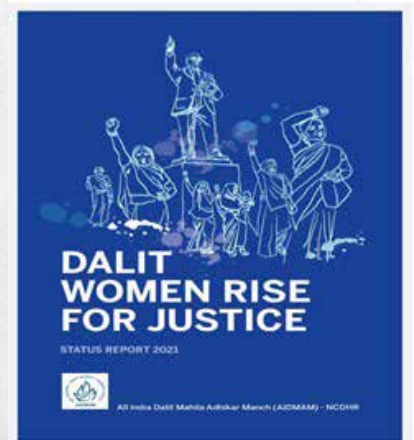


It is one of the key strategies of AIDMAM to create papers and studies on caste dynamics, violence and atrocities in specific areas by collecting the data & first-hand information from ground and publishing them to reach out to masses. AIDMAM has developed a Status Report which focuses on plight of Dalit women in India affected by caste and patriarchy.

The report includes an intensive **analysis of the NCRB data of incidents against Dalit women; response of the police and courts in the cases of atrocity against Dalit women for the period of six years from 2014 to 2019**. The report also includes the factors which effect the socio-economic status of Dalit women and expose them to violence, national and international advocacy on Dalit women issues and all the relevant laws and legislations to protect the rights of Dalit women. **Along with this, a critical analysis of 81 cases from the state of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Rajasthan and success stories along with the challenges faced**

**during the course of intervention are also included in the report.**

The report was released in a **National Convention on the occasion of International Women's Day i.e., on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Constitution Club, New Delhi with 120 social activists, volunteers, research scholars, students, media persons, advocates and representatives of different organizations from Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh and Delhi**. *Ms. Sarika Chaudhary*, Member, Delhi State Women Commission, New Delhi chaired the event along with other eminent speakers like *Mr. S.K. Thorat*, Former Chairperson for University Grant Commission & Chairperson Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, *Ms. Beena Pallical*, General Secretary of Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan-NCDHR, The Convener of SC&ST Monitoring and Strengthening Committee, Karnataka, *Ms. Yashoda*, *Ms. Judith Anne*, Researcher and Programme Associate, NDMJ-NCDHR, *Ms. Annie Raja*, General Secretary of National Federation of Indian Women; *Ms. Annie Namala*, Convener of



Wada Na Todo Abhiyan; Ms. Sunita Dhar, a senior activist; Ms. Pooja Director of International Budget Partnership and Mr. Paul Divakar, General Secretary, Asia Dalit Rights Forum. Leaders from different movements and Mr Paul Divakar; extended their solidarity in their address to the Dalit women's cause and added that we do not only claim justice but equal participation in economy and politics as well.

## 6. Media Advocacy

### a. Press Conference:

AIDMAM closely engages with the media to highlight the issues of the Dalit women and draw the attention of the State towards the issues. During this reporting period, two press conferences were conducted in the states of **Madhya Pradesh** on **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020** and Odisha on **10th February 2021** focusing on some cases of serious human rights violations. The cases of atrocities included serious offences like gang rape, kidnapping, gang rape and murder, prolonged sexual abuse, threatening and impregnation.

AIDMAM representatives, in the Madhya Pradesh press conferences, demanded from the state government to ensure the free, fair, impartial and independent investigation of the matter and also the arrest of all the perpetrators. We also demanded for the proper treatment of the survivors on the cost of the state, CBI enquiry in case the police fail to file the charge sheet on time or to secure the justice to the Dalit family, police security to the family of the victims as the perpetrators are very powerful.

In the 4 cases from Odisha presented in the press conference, cases we specifically demanded security and protection to the survivor family; to provide monetary relief to the survivor family as per PoA Act; medical care, nutrition, shelter and other requirements of the rape survivor; strict departmental and disciplinary action to be taken against the erring police and administrative officials for deliberate negligence of the statutory obligations prescribed under the PoA Act as per section 4 and to take preventive measures to avoid the repetition of such incidents.

### b. Press Releases:

To increase our reach to a larger population, we have made continuous efforts to engage with the mainstream media and alternative media at the National, State & District level. Dalit population, mainly the Dalit women must know about these exclusive platforms which available for them to speak out for their rights and entitlements; discriminatory practices towards them; incidences of violence inflicted upon them and also to make the government machinery, constitutional institutions, judiciary, academicians, and parliamentarians aware about it. Few of the success stories and actions of AIDMAM were also covered by the media.

On **10<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**, a physical demonstration was organized in New Delhi, with respect to the Hathras rape case. About 100 people joined the protest in accordance with all the Covid restrictions. The demonstration was followed by a press release which was circulated among the print media. The news was covered by the esteemed national newspaper, **The Indian Express** on **11<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**.

On **13th April, 2021**, Abirami Jotheeswaran, general secretary of AIDMAM highlighted the Dalit women issues and focuses on the kind of violence and discrimination they are facing by highlighting the Hathras case.



## 7. Networking and Campaigns:

AIDMAM has been an active participant in the online national campaign 'If We Do Not Rise' during the past year. The campaign aims at uniting voices against targeted attacks on the constitutional rights of the people of India. More than 400 women's groups, LGBTQIA collectives and human rights organisations across the country initiated the campaign on September 5, 2020 which marked the third anniversary of the assassination of Gauri Lankesh.

Along with AIDMAM, the campaign is supported by many social activists and representatives of national networks and organisations including Anhad, NFIW, AIIDWA, AIPWA, One Billion Rising, NAPM and Indian Christian Women's Movement. AIDMAM has



associated and participated in the campaign during the following different activities such as press conferences, online campaigns, supported the release of Charter of Demands including a Fact Sheet on Dalit women in India, solidarity in the protest against the gruesome rape of a Dalit girl in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh' by If We Do Not Rise campaign, represented the organization at the webinar '**Hathras Gangrape: Intersectionality of Caste and Patriarchy**' organized by If We Do Not Rise Campaign, participated in the online national demonstration with live online videos from AIDMAM team. Also, Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary was celebrated across our functional states in association with the If We Do Not Rise Campaign while opposing the regressive amendments in the Farmer's Bills and National Education Policy. Pictures and small video bytes including people's opinions on the same were shared on social media during the day.

## 8. Emergency Interventions - Dalit Women Leaders' Response during Covid-19 Lockdown

AIDMAM-NCDHR has monitored the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown against the marginalized communities with a special focus on Dalit women in India. Our State members took the roles of active enablers & mediators during the times of Covid and collected information about the instances of injustice and discrimination and played an active role in the intervention process keeping the broader picture in mind of providing vulnerable communities relief during the lockdown, access to entitlements & access to justice.

### a. Relief Distribution Work

Though the government has provided relief support such as dry rations and minimum income support, although only to those registered under government schemes, Dalits have not been able to access and realize these schemes due to social hierarchy. In order to support them in the tough times we organized relief campaigns in 6 states namely **Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra & Haryana**.

AIDMAM team members were involved in identifying over **4220** vulnerable SC Dalit women families in its operational states. The majority of the identified families are headed by Dalit women, who are widows, single women, employed as daily wage laborers, domestic workers, sanitary workers, etc. living in poverty. The relief kits comprised a 21-day dry ration kit including personal hygiene items and sanitary pads. Ration items were determined based on local food habits across the project states. Our state team distributed the relief kits to **4220** households in five states namely: **Bihar- 1659 kits, Madhya Pradesh- 800 kits, Odisha- 780 kits, Uttar Pradesh- 561 kits, Maharashtra- 220 kits, Haryana- 200 kits.**



A total of **21,100** beneficiaries were supported with the relief during the past year.

### Access to Entitlements:

#### Intervention through "WeClaim" mobile app

NDW-NCDHR launched the mobile app "WeClaim" to identify SC, ST, denotified tribes, OBCs, Minorities and other marginalized communities/households that have not received the entitlements that are they were supposed to receive and also facilitate the process of application for relief on behalf of the respondents and refer the data received to the local administration or through the partner organization's presence in the districts.

AIDMAM team members oriented 76 volunteers from 4 states about the usage of the app and through the support of these volunteers; we are able to conduct the survey of 13,500 households. Based on the survey analysis memorandum were submitted to the respective District officials to take the necessary measures.

## 9. Community Events:

Many community events were organized on a variety of occasions to raise awareness about crucial issues such as the SCs & STs (PoA) Act, women's rights, and socio-welfare schemes. Community programmes that are specific to the needs of the community were also organized such as collecting information about recent incidents of caste-based violence in the region, collecting data regarding their socio-economic condition and other related information.

The following community meetings were held in this reporting period-



**Savitribai Phule’s birth anniversary:** On the occasion of Savitribai Phule’s birth anniversary, AIDMAM issued a national call of action on January 3, 2021, in solidarity with the national campaign “If We Do Not Rise”, opposing the National Education Policy 2020 and demanding that the government repeal the regressive and corporate anti-farmers’ laws. Participants were made aware of Savitribai Phule’s contribution & history of girls’ & women’s education in India. More than 2500 youth girls and women from 21 District of AIDMAM’s seven operational states were educated about Savitri Bai’s ideology and constitutional values.



**Human Rights Day:** AIDMAM organized community meetings in 9 districts in which 329 people participated on the occasion of Human Rights Day. The aim of the event was to educate people about their constitutional rights and responsibilities, as well as to encourage them to take action against all forms of discrimination based on caste, class, or gender.

**Constitutional Day:** On the occasion of Constitutional Day on November 26, 2020, AIDMAM held community meetings in 14 districts in which 830 people participated. The day is celebrated as a mark of tribute to B.R Ambedkar, who played a pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution and on this day, the Indian Constitution was completed by the Drafting Committee. The focus of the event was to promote Constitutional values among community people.

**Ambedkar Jayanti:** On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, 2021, AIDMAM held community meetings in 7 districts in which 1490 people participated. The participants were educated about the constitution, its importance, about Dr Ambedkar, SCs & STs (PoA) Act and the status of Dalit women.

**10. Publications:**



**Success Stories:**

1) **Intimate Partner Violence and Mass Attack:** On 13/07/2020, a 47 year old Dalit Women was sexually assaulted by her dominant caste intimate partner and physically assaulted by a mob of dominant caste people of her village in Sirsa District of Haryana. The case is registered under section 323, 34, 376 (2) (n) IPC & section 3 SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 under Women Police Station, Sirsa on the same day. When the members from the AIDMAM team, Haryana got the information about the case, they reached the place as soon as possible and with their assistance proper sections were added in the FIR. Despite the intervention, there was no significant progress made in the investigation process of this case by the Police. To address the issue, our members along with other 20 local Human Right activist in Sirsa, organized a demonstration in front of the Women Police Station of Sirsa & the District Court, Sirsa. They also demanded the suspension of the Investigation

Officer and submitted a written complaint to the Superintendent of Police and Inspector General of Sirsa, stating that the Investigation Officer was trying to manipulate the case by building pressure on the survivor family to compromise. With our members' consistent efforts, the Investigating Officer in this case was changed and the accused was arrested. The survivors had also received an amount of **Rs. 4,12,000/-** as compensation.

2) **Prolong Sexual Abuse of Dalit Minor Girl & Impregnated:** A 15-year old Adivasi Minor was sexually abused and impregnated by an Elderly dominant caste man (80 years) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The FIR was registered on 02/11/2020 under the section 376(3), 506 of IPC; Section 6 of POCSO; 3(1)(r)/3(2)(v),3(2)(va) of SC & ST PoA Act; 14-A C.L. of Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act under P.S. Balichandrapur, Jajpur, Odisha. The girl was working as a child-labor at BMC Deputy Commissioner's house in Bhubaneswar, who had kept her as a house-help illegally against the laws of child-labor. The perpetrator was the father-in-law of the BMC Deputy Commissioner and abused the minor for a year-long period. It was a high-profile case, the accused tried their best to dilute the case by giving it the angle that the perpetrator was psychologically challenged and should be transferred to some psychiatric hospital in a bid to put a lid on the severity of the crime the perpetrator had committed. Due to our members' consistent intervention and visits made to the respective duty bearers such IIC Jajpur; Crime branch, Bhubaneshwar etc. for taking effective and speedy action towards the case. Our members submitted a letter to the Women & Child Commission, Odisha to look into the case and provide necessary support through their intervention the minor was sent to a rehabilitation centre with her child. An amount of **Rs. 7,00,000/-** has been sanctioned in this case and but the family has not received the amount yet as the survivor did not have sufficient authentication documents. Our team are following up on the case and helping the family in the process of making the documents with the district administration's support.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

- *During the reporting period, the Dalit woman leaders conducted fact-finding in **180** cases covering seven states, including the cases of atrocities against Dalit minor girls. The forms of violence addressed are Murder, Gang Rape, Rape, Attempt to Rape, Sexual Assault, and other types of violence. Out of **180** fact-finding cases, a total No. of FIRs registered are in **170** cases. Charge sheets in 50 cases have already been submitted and **67 accused have been arrested**. Total compensation was paid out under the SC & ST (PoA) Act was **Rs. 82,28,000/-**.*
- *In this reporting period, the team has successfully connected with **113 youth leaders** despite the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown in Bihar and Haryana. Our focus was to educate & orient them on various constitutional rights, legal & advocacy aspects, human rights and encourage them to develop the leadership skills to become 'Agents of Change'.*
- *For the purpose of advocacy on Dalit women and challenges faced by our grass-root human rights defenders and youth leaders in the last six years, the incidents inflicted upon them NCRB data, legal provisions, AIDMAM has developed and printed the Status Report-**Dalit Women Rise For Justice: Status Report 2021**.*
- *AIDMAM allied with other campaigns and organizations for creating visibility and to amplify the voice of Dalit women. In this connection, we were associated with the 'If We Do Not Rise' campaign and highlighted our issue as **AIDMAM was one of the sole organizations to speak for Dalit women**. The campaign consists of support and solidarity of more than 400 groups organizations and collectives including Anhad, NFIW, AIDWA, AIPWA, One Billion Rising, NAPM and Indian Christian Women's Movement.*

## ECONOMIC RIGHTS (DAAA- DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN)

DAAA is a socio-economic movement within SWADHIKAR that works on the economic right of Dalit and Adivasi communities with a focus on public entitlements regarding education and entrepreneurship. We track government budgeting patterns at the state and national levels, provide analysis, advocate for policy changes and ensure its implementation at regional levels. As a movement led and run entirely by the stakeholders from regional to national levels, we enable Dalit communities to utilize the Special Component Plan towards their development. We capacitate for self-advocacy and needful interventions at the various institutional levels that they interact with accessing their rights. 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 reach 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 and ST communities. DAAA works in 16 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Telangana, Punjab, Jammu and 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 mobilizing 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. The four major areas that DAAA has been emphasizing on are:

- Advocacy for Change
- Budget Research Community Mobilization and Campaign Building
- Capacity Building
- Outcome and Impact

### Research And Budget Analysis:

This year's budget analysis was distinguished from the budget analysed in the past years. The global pandemic covid-19 has impacted the economic condition of the country in an unfavourable manner, especially of the Dalits and Adivasis. Misery spread across the marginalised communities with the blow of the pandemic, as they lost their jobs and returned back to their native places. Dalits and Adivasis, especially children dealt with starvation and faced extreme scarcity of resources too. Considering the bloodcurdling situation, the poorest of the poor section expected a sigh of relief via monetary or non-monetary measures from the government. Unfortunately, all that they received was a disappointment.

“The government, led by the Prime Minister, stretched its resources to deliver for most vulnerable sections of our society – the poorest of the poor, the Dalits, Tribals, the elderly, the migrant workers, and our children (sic),” announced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1st February, while presenting the Union Budget for the FY 2021-22 in the parliament. Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, while analysing the allocation for SC ST in the Union budget 2021-22 revealed that there is a total gap in the allocation of Rs 1,12,863 Cr under SC Budget and Rs 60,247 Cr under ST Budget. Surprisingly, out of the total budget allocated for SCs, Targeted schemes received only Rs 48,397 Cr that accounts (4.5%) and for STs, it was Rs 27,830 Cr (2.6%). Most of the schemes are sham or very general in nature whose implementation barely impacts SCs directly.



The Dalit Adivasi budget analysis report 'DABA 2021-22' was released on 2nd February 2021 in the Press Club of India, New Delhi through a press conference. The event was attended by more than a hundred people including journalists. Almost 3000 copies of DSBS 2021-22 have been printed and distributed among 750 Parliamentarians across Party lines, All Ministers including Union and Minister of States including Prime Minister of India, His Excellency President of India, and NITI Aayog.

### **State Budget Analysis:**

Apart from the Union Budget analysis, DAAA is also involved in state budget analysis. The state teams of DAAA worked tremendously hard to prepare an analysis of the budget allocated by the government to SC ST communities in different states namely Kerala, Delhi, Odisha, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Press conferences were arranged nationwide in different states discussing the allocation gaps in budget 2021-22 for states. This dip in the budget allocation for SC and ST will further weigh down their already fragile socio-economic condition. The press conferences were covered by a large no. of media houses including online and offline media. Mainly there were two demands raised by state teams regarding the state budget:

- The funds of SC and ST budget 2020-21 that are diverted to other items should be returned to SC and ST budget.

- Plans should be made for the direct development of Dalits. SCP / TSP Guidelines should be strictly followed.

### **Conducting Baseline:**

The baseline data collection includes the identification of new districts, Blocks, Gram Panchayats, and SC and ST concentrated villages. The team also started engaging with Govt officials responsible for the implementation of livelihood and entrepreneurship schemes in the states. The project team identified the geographical location of three operational states namely, Rajasthan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The project team have also identified 214 PRI members who '[conducted series of activities like facilitating communities to apply for livelihood and entrepreneurship entitlements/schemes, conducting PRI training, CSO/CLOs training, conducting the preparation of people's budget, Pre-budget consultation, organizing district and village level camps for scheme application, conducting village-level community meeting to sensitize them on different entitlements and schemes meant for them under SCP and TSP budget.

### **Pre Budget Consultations:**

In the months of January and February, pre-budget consultations were conducted with law enforcement agencies, bureaucrats, civil society organization members, social workers and govt officials. As many as 171 members from Rajasthan and Kerala participated in the consultations to draw out different measures as to how SCP/TSP budget legislation could be brought in the states. Diverse ground-level experiences were shared which further enhanced the content of the consultation.

### **Assisted applicants of livelihood and entrepreneurship schemes:**

The state partners, PRI members and CSO/CLOs in Kerala and Rajasthan had conducted approximately 50 village-level camps and meetings to spread awareness regarding livelihood and entrepreneurship schemes and facilitate the application of those Dalits and Adivasis who had difficulty accessing the mode of application. Surprisingly, more women engaged in the training process than men in total.

### **District level camps:**

District level camps were set up in coordination with the government officials of the concerned areas to facilitate the submission of forms of the eligible beneficiaries in various states namely Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha etc In the process, login IDs were generated and hard copies of the application forms were submitted to the concerned authorities after uploading required documents. Trained PRI leaders monitored the entire process and ensured flawless execution.

### **Annual State level capacity building training:**

The 73rd Amendment paved the way for a fundamental change in the way public goods are delivered in rural areas

in India. Through the structure of the Panchayati Raj, local councils directly elected by the people are responsible for making decisions on an array of public good decisions. Twice a year, the councils must also convene village meetings (Gram Sabhas), where the villagers must approve their plan and their budget. Eventually, the Gram Panchayats are supposed to be given control over an even broader array of social services, including basic education and primary health care. These Panchayats receive a budget that needs to be disbursed adequately. Numerous CLOs/CSOs in the respective states and districts were trained and capacitated regarding their rights and share in the Panchayat Budget. The trainers focused on enlightening trainees with budget understanding and analysing so the marginalized communities can benefit from the panchayat schemes.

Process involved-

- Community training - training on SCP/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
- Submission of applications for accessing government schemes
- Evidence building and research – RTI and complaints
- Policy engagement – national/ state authorities

### ***RTIs (Our Right To Information):***

Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in a real sense. It goes without saying that an informed citizen is better equipped to keep necessary vigil on the instruments of governance and make the government more accountable to the governed. For the same purpose, state coordinators are trained every year to seek accountability from the implementing agencies and duty bearers. A total no. of 378 RTIs were filed from Kerala and Rajasthan in 6 months. Gram Panchayat level committees were formed for monitoring the budget allocation and implementation of schemes for SC-ST. The Gram Panchayat team comprises of CSO/CLOs and PRI representatives who can take the lead role to file RTIs.

### ***Nationwide Media Engagement:***

DABA 2021-22 was launched in The Press Club Of India in the national capital through a press conference on 2nd February. The event was organized and handled by Mr Paul Divakar, Convenor, Adrf; Ms Beena Pallical, General Secretary, NCDHR; Ms Pooja Parvati, Country Director, IBP and Mr Adikanda Singh, National Coordinator, DAAA. The press release was a great success and received mainstream media coverage by over 25 channels. In a similar manner, press conferences for the release of state-level Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis were arranged on 4th February'21. More than 10 states engaged in the process and a good number of media personnel covered it.

### ***PRI Trainings and Community Meetings:***

In the months of January and February, a series of PRI training were conducted in the operational states. The resource persons present in the training included several government officials, panchayat members, members of advisory committees, bureaucrats etc. More than 90 PRI members were trained and capacitated within a period of 6 months. Apart from the PRI trainings, several village and district level meetings were also conducted to help build a stronger awareness, sense of community and solidarity. The main objective of these trainings and community meetings are to capacitate the marginalized sections to take benefits from the schemes and rights granted to them by the constitution. Also, this will further enhance their will to apply for livelihood and entrepreneurship schemes. A total of 30 village camps were successfully arranged and conducted.

### ***College Level Camps for Student Volunteers:***

The post-Matric scholarship scheme is meant to support the education of students studying at the post-secondary or post-matriculation levels. The students who are looking for financial support to fund their higher education from class 11th to postdoctoral level apply for a post-matric scholarship. The Government of India and other state

governments run a number of post-matric scholarships for students belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST). Due to barriers in digital access for the students of Dalit and Adivasi communities, they lack in applying for the schemes. To cut the hurdles down, and spread awareness about the PMS scheme, 17 camps in 4 states were set up, where students were assisted to apply for the scheme. A total of 4,634 students successfully applied for PMS.

## 22 Parliamentarians submitted Memorandum to Prime Ministers on SC & ST Budget:

As an immediate outcome of our engagement with Policymakers in the national Capital, 22 parliamentarians from different political parties led by Dr L. Hanumanthaiah, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha have already written a Memorandum to the Prime Minister of India on budgetary gaps and allocation in different schemes. The team has deposited the memorandum in the office of the Prime Minister for further follow up and due references. The MPs belonged to different political parties including Indian National Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK, CPIM etc.

## #SavePMS Campaign

The PMS scheme is one of the largest Central government schemes to support higher education for SC students. It provides financial assistance at the post-matriculation or post-secondary stage level to allow them to enroll in colleges and pursue higher education. Only those students, whose parents or guardians have an income from all sources that does not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh annually are eligible for the scholarship. The scholarship covers expenses towards compulsory non-refundable fees and a maintenance allowance of Rs 380-1,200 per month for hostellers and Rs 230-550 per month for day scholars.

In the month of December 2020, the #SavePMS campaign was led by NCDHR-DAAA which demanded the continuation of the Post Matric Scholarship which benefits more than 62 lac SC/ST students in pursuing higher studies. At the start of the financial year 2017-2018, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, revised the guidelines of centrally sponsored Post Matric Scholarship to SC/ST students for a tenure of 3 years. This meant that the total amount of the scholarship would become a committed liability upon the State which earlier was at a ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State governments respectively. Almost all the financial responsibility of the scheme was transferred to the States by the central government, which then started funding only about a 10% share of the incurred expenditure in many states, and even none in those that were unable to shell out the 'committed liability' amount. Following this, the budget of the PMS came down to Rs. 3000 crores and the actual amount released by the central govt to the 'Post Matric Scholarship' scheme dropped to a mere Rs 406.01 crore in the financial year 2019-20.

NCDHR-DAAA started the #SavePms campaign taking up several activities such as writing letters to the Prime Minister, advocacy, press conferences in various states, online petitions, social media campaigns etc. With these efforts and extensive follow-ups, the whole #SavePMS campaign gained momentum and resulted in restoring the earlier 60:40 share formula and increased investment of Rs. 59,058 crores for the next 5 years with Rs. 35,534 to be Centre's share. However, it was found within the yearly Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis of the Union Budget 2021-2022, that only Rs. 3416 crores were allocated to the PMS scheme which directly benefits the SC/ST students against the committed Rs.7000 crores.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IBP:

Last year has been very challenging considering several challenges faced both within and external to the organization. The outbreak of the Covid -19 pandemic stood as one of the major challenges across both the national and states. Several activities couldn't be completed because of the restrictions posed by the state and



the central government in conducting any major gatherings and meetings from March 2020 onwards. Henceforth many of the activities like student consultation, public hearing, coalition meetings had to be strategized differently keeping in mind the current context. At the state level, many college-level activities such as PMS application camps, student meetings etc. further were also challenging. However, as a strategic move and as COVID response, we involved students to take up other issues like access to entitlements pertaining to livelihood, PDS, health, rather than focusing only on higher education, particularly post-matric scholarship. This had a huge impact in building the campaign and having the students as representatives of their community. Students have now started working within their community, village and block and also mobilizing the local community in support of their work. It also improved the receptiveness of the state actors towards students as they are not just the students but also have started representing their own communities. To monitor the access to public entitlements during the covid period, NCDHR created a *We claim App* exclusively to assess the impact of COVID-19 on SC/STs. Additionally, the student volunteers and leaders also organized relief camps in which many families have been given basic amenities like food grains, medical-kit for their immediate needs and also registered them in the “we claim monitoring tool across all the reporting states. For instance, in Jharkhand, in interior forest areas, many families were not able to access the public entitlements during this period, relief was organised in all such areas.

### **Major Work In Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh:**

#### **Jharkhand:**

- The PDS training helped in getting complaints registered
- People were unable to access the National Food Security Assistance (NFSA). 3,000 people from the SC/ST community were able to apply for the Green card under this scheme due to NCDHR's interventions
- The livelihood scheme training resulted in 50 farmers being able to access the *Birsa Munda Baghwani Yojana (horticulture) scheme* for which they were able to plant 5,000 mango trees
- The online training workshops on the Higher Education Survey was organized for student volunteers across the three project states. This helped students effectively carry out the survey even amidst COVID-19 lockdown restrictions
- The Niti Aayog established a CSO committee, where NCDHR's state partners in JH were members of this committee
- From awareness generation to helping the community members file applications and advocating with the Block Development Officer (BDO) to ensure the inclusion of the most marginalized ST community - the Korba tribe
- The online training workshops on the Higher Education Survey organized by NCDHR helped put things in perspective for students. While learning how to conduct a survey for the first time, students also were equipped with advocacy and social media skills which helped advance the campaign efforts across all three states
- NCDHR organized and anchored all the capacity building workshops for student volunteers and CSO/CLOs enhancing their capacities to take forward the campaign's advocacy goals
- The team's collaboration with the other networks namely NREGA Watch, Right to Food Campaign, Jharkhand Jan Adhikar Manch, Adivasi Social Activist Network, Akhil Bhartiya Adivasi Mahasabha led them to be part of the CSO committee formed by the Niti Ayog.

#### **Andhra Pradesh:**

- In AP the continuous student engagement and advocacy with the District Collector led to the release of the 1st instalment of Rs.671.45Cr for the Jagananna Vidhyaa Deevana scheme which will benefit 979445 students.
- The state team organised all the students' meetings and yatra enhancing the capacities of the students regarding the scheme guidelines and application process.
- In AP, the 'Domestic Workers Relief Forum' was able to facilitate access to relief for domestic workers. The 'Education Justice Group, worked with the Labour Deputy Commissioner and reached out to help the Labour Dept. identify construction workers who had lost their employment due to COVID19 lockdown restrictions. 1,052 application for access to relief was submitted and is under process by the State Labour Dept.

- In AP, the Chief Minister launched the *Jagananna Deevena Scheme* in June 2020 where they have merged PMS and Reimbursement of Tuition Fees scheme (RTF) under this scheme. Also, there have been huge cuts in budgetary allocations under this scheme compared to PMS allocations. Therefore, NCDHR mobilized all its local and state-level networks, such as the Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre, People's Monitoring Committee, AP Budget Centre and other groups in order to advocate with the Government to revoke the new scheme.

#### *Uttar Pradesh:*

- In UP, NCDHR was instrumental in creating awareness around job cards and MGNREGA work. The application was drafted by student volunteers and submitted due to which the work was MGNREGA was initiated. The scheme access efforts were led by student volunteers, thereby resulting in enhanced community leadership and self-advocacy.
- A total of 70 applications/memorandums were filed by the student group, of which 20 were related to various issues of PMS and 50 were during the COVID19 period on other issues like PDS, MGNREGA, Pensions and others, done in the last six months.

#### **Three most significant highlights:**

- Strengthened agency and increased capacity of students:** Over the course of the year, Dalit and Adivasi students have mobilized on their issue of access to student scholarships and higher education across all the 3 states. They are taking leadership in advocating for their educational rights, learning online applications and follow up processes, and helping fellow students for the same. Through the several trainings and meetings, this has strengthened their capacities, given their exposure and knowledge of the governance and fiscal processes and prepared them to deal with challenges in the long run for themselves as well as representatives of their marginalized communities. Students are becoming aware of their rights, which in turn builds their capacity and enhances their agency. For instance in UP -: For the first time, a state-level campaign has been started demanding SCP/TSP legislation. The campaign is not only led by students and channelized by CSO/CLO members but is also operational on social media. We have used social media as an important tool for the dissemination of information, awareness building and mobilization. Similarly in Jharkhand - Moreover it is also seen that colleges/universities bring hurdles in the application process. In a case study of Yogesh Kumar at National Law University, Ranchi, the university was not allowing him to fill up the application for a scholarship to which he is eligible. The team filed an RTI and followed it up by which he could apply for it. We can also see in AP students initiated and anchored a press meet following the release of the union budget 2021-22, particularly on the reduced allocation for the Post Matric Scholarship (Annex 13).
- Collectivization of CSO/CLO members across districts:** With the consistent engagement of the state team of DAAA-NCDHR, we have been able to mobilize and build a network of CSO/CLOs across all the states who have been engaging with us for almost all the major activities including advocacy. For instance – In UP a huge network of 35 CSO/CLO members across 20 districts in the state have been formed. They are our key strength in advocacy, mobilizing Dalit and Adivasi communities, monitoring access to government schemes, and running state and district level campaigns.
- Advocacy initiatives leading to change in PMS process:** Advocacy and continuous engagement with the policymakers and community members have made the PMS process more transparent in PMS mechanisms – for instance in Jharkhand - the monitoring system of “E-Kalyaan” has also been upgraded where the details of “total registered students”; “total verified applications” total sectioned applications” and the “total amount disbursed by the government” are available. This shows the increasing transparency in the governance of the PMS mechanisms in Jharkhand. Also Noticing the pattern prior to 2017, the government has kept the duration for application less than one month. With the continued demands and follow-up from the work of CSOs and student’s leaders, it has been seen that from 2017 onwards, the application process sustains for more than 1 month. For example, in 2019 the application process was functioning from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and similarly, in 2020 the application process was functioning from 10<sup>th</sup> December to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. By this many students can now apply and they can access the scholarship. Similarly in AP, one of the demands submitted through the pre-budget consultation was that the tuition fees or RTF applicable for the students who have availed for PMS should directly go to the students’ account and not to the college administration. In several cases, especially in private colleges, it has been found that the colleges forcefully collect the tuition fees from students also, henceforth burdening and pressurising the SC/ST students. After several rounds of engagement and representations made to the Principal Secretary of the Social Welfare Department, the CM announced that the RTF or the tuition fees will be deposited to the



Student's mother's account which will be further paid to the college and will not go to the college directly. This has reduced a lot of burden for the students and also brought more accountability and transparency in the RTF process.

### **Empowering Dalit and Adivasi children to access their rights and entitlements:**

Through the implementation of the KNH (Kindernothilfe) project, the budget has become a matter of public discussion. With this project, a total number of 1350 community members, directly have gained awareness on the budget entitlements meant for SC/ST children and the accountability system in disaster management through village level meetings and training. The trained 33 CSO's and CLO's have actively participated in the interventions and advocacy process designed by the NCDHR-DAAA with the state governments and district level authorities and particularly participated in the press conference pertaining to the budget. Moreover, the problems related to child budgets have been discussed with the community through regular meetings. Conducted COVID-19 Relief Inclusion Assessment was conducted to examine the extent of realisation of the key social protection schemes in 8 states (AP, TN, Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, UP, MP, Maharashtra) including Odisha which is the project state. The purpose of the inclusion assessment was to enable greater inclusion and demand robust social protection cover and release of COVID-19 entitlements to the marginalised communities especially the children who are the most affected. This was done by sharing real-time information and appeals with the district and state authorities for urgent action. This assessment to understand the extent of realisation of the key relief entitlements was conducted across 25,032 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in India. This study has laid the basis of advocacy, giving real-time data on the effects of Covid 19 on SCs and STs and for demanding expeditious uniform social protection coverage of the SC and ST households with assistance to secure the required documentation; release of the public entitlements, both goods and services in-cash and in-kind as provided in the relief package, and adoption of additional or special measures to address the special needs of the marginalised communities are critical to inclusive recovery and disaster risk reduction. Since the announcement of the lockdown, the lives and livelihood especially of the Dalit and Adivasi community has been hugely impacted during the Covid crisis. But due to the Covid pandemic and the lockdown, the prolonged suspension of the educational institutions/schools, the implementation of the MDM scheme was suspended for a long period and the children didn't receive any nutritional food support from the government. Considering the issue the team had engaged with the Delhi education department, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and CM Office to provide dry ration as an emergency food supply for children under the Mid-day meal scheme during the Covid crisis. As a result of this engagement, the department paid the food security allowance to the children in lieu of the Mid-day meal to the eligible students.

### **Moderated a virtual event with the IMF :**

IBP hosted a well-attended, high-profile virtual event, "*Getting it Right: Promoting Equity and Accountability in the COVID Response*" featuring IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, Indonesian Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati, US Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, IBP's Executive Director Warren Krafchik and **moderated by Beena Pallical, General Secretary of NCDHR-DAAA**. The event focused on promoting equity and accountability AND addressed head-on the lack of diverse leadership in public finance space in the global COVID-19 response.



**Success Stories:**

- **#SavePMS Campaign:** The central govt. decided to completely scrap the centrally sponsored Post Matric Scholarship scheme, covering more than 6 million students belonging to the poorest of the poor Dalit families across the country, whose annual income falls below Rs 2.50 lakhs. NCDHR, along with other organisations took immediate steps in this regard and started mobilising activists and students across the nation on the grassroots level. We started an online campaign as #SavePMS and raised various demands. Memorandums were also drafted and sent by numerous organisations, students and activists to the Prime Minister. We created thunderous pressure on the Central Government with our constant efforts and they had to bow down to our demands and roll back their plans. Not just that, the government returned back to the 60-40 formula and also increased the funding to Post Matric Scholarships to Rs. 59,048 Crs compared to our demanded Rs.10,000 Crs for 4 years with Centre's share being 60%.
- **Sanction of Crop Loans to 200 SC beneficiaries:** The loan waiver schemes for financial assistance to farmers directs crop loans to farmers sanctioned by district cooperative banks. However, in the Beed district, Maharashtra, the state banks refused to sanction loans to Dalit farmers on the ground that they will not be able to pay back. As this was a clear case of caste-based discrimination, the state team of NCHDR, led by social activist Rajesh Ghode, intervened to act against this. Rajesh met with the concerned bank authorities, Block Officer, Deputy Collector, and informed them about this discrimination. The Block Officer – Majalgaon, Pratibha Patil directed the Bank Officer to take prompt action on this. The crop loan was finally sanctioned for 200 Dalit farmers.
- **11 Cr released for construction of community halls in Beed district, Maharashtra:** When it comes to construction work in Dalit bastis, not much is allocated for construction that directly benefits the Dalit community. The influence of our state team and the Dalit communities associated with us is strong on the district administration. We filed an application for the same, followed up for the entire August and September, met MLAs during the COVID-19 pandemic and kept on making requests. As the village head signed the NOC for the same, the application was finally approved for 41 villages in Beed district and 11 Cr were approved and released for the same. For the first time in Maharashtra, such a huge amount has been released for the construction of community halls in Dalit bastis.
- Construction of dug wells under Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Krishi Swabhiman Yojana, awarded to 27 beneficiaries (Rs. 2,80,000 per beneficiary). Total sanctioned amount Rs. 75.6 lakhs.

# NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

## 1. National and State Training and capacity buildings

### 1.1 National Level Trainings

#### a) Two-day National Level Training programme of Dalit Human Rights Defenders on Child Rights Perspectives and Legal Framework.

The training was organized from 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi to build a capacity of more than 50 DHRDs from eight states of India. The training aimed to strengthen the perspectives of the defenders on child rights while working on caste-based discrimination and locating 'Children' as the crosscutting area in NDMJ programming. The programme started with its objective presented by Ms Sweta Ghimirey, Programme Coordinator. Mr N.Paul Divakar, General Secretary, Global Advocacy and Networks from NCDHR presented the keynote address for the session. Dr V.A.Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary of NDMJ-NCDHR specifically addressed the vulnerability of Dalit and Adivasi children and the need for the programme to strengthen child participation and leadership.



The contents of the training included international and national laws and legislation governing the rights of children. Provisions and mechanisms of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Rules and specific rights of Dalit and Adivasi children, The Bill on prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against children in educational institutions, Status and struggle of Dalit and Adivasi children, the impact of Covid-19 on Dalit and Adivasi Children were deliberated. Adv. Sneha Mukherjee facilitated the session on the legal framework of safeguarding children, through POCSO, JJ, RTE, etc. She highlighted the inter-sectionality with legal framework on the Rights of Dalit and Adivasi Children, with practical experiences. Ms Rachel Thomas, Project Officer from Kindernothilfe focused on International L,- JJB, CWC and other stakeholders, engagement with the judiciary at the district courts and higher courts were also taken up by Dr Judith Anne and Advocate Sanjay Kumar. Dr C.Jim Jesudoss, Child Rights Practitioner & Child Development Consultant, Executive Director, of SAKTHI – VIDYAL took an elaborate session on Child Participation and Building Child Leadership, through various activities, where he emphasized that child leadership can only be possible with regular child participation at various stages. Other important sessions included monitoring atrocities against the children vis-a-vis adopting a child-friendly approach facilitated by Mr Naveen Gautam Programme Coordinator-NCDHR, documenting child experiences and success stories facilitated by Ms Suchita Kumari, Documentation Officer-NCDHR, child budgeting facilitated by Ms Beena Pallikal Secretary SWADHIKAR, children in disaster preparedness facilitated by Ms Lee Macqueen, Sr Programme Coordinator – NDW-NCDHR.

#### b) Two-day National Level Training programme of Dalit Human Right Defenders on Social Media Tools, from 19th – 20th March 2021, at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi.

Dr V.A Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary, inaugurated the two-day National level training programme on Social media. He remarked on the need for social media for the human rights defenders, to be used to network globally to bring Dalit and Adivasi issues, challenges, and also Dalit culture to the forefront. He also emphasized the content and authenticity posted on the various social media platforms, marginalisation of Dalits and Adivasi in various sectors of society, Dalit and Adivasis' exclusion in the media and the under-coverage of Dalit and Adivasi issues as a prominent feature and restrictive approach towards Dalits and Adivasis' by most mainstream news channels, newspaper and media sources. The programme began with an activity to assess and understand the perception of Social media facilitated by Ms Suchita Kumari, Documentation Officer -NCDHR. The programme was followed by a session on an overview of the major social media tools and their effectiveness by Ms Sanjukta Basu, Editorial

Consultant, and the National Herald. Ms Basu explained the significance of social media tools, the process of account creation in different social media platforms and privacy settings and identifying platforms for specific content and issues. She explained how certain platforms can be much more useful than the other for the Human Rights defenders for voicing out their opinion. Mr Srijan Nandan, Founder and Director, Jhola Wala Film took the session on Developing Video content for Social Media Tools on the last day of the training programme. He illustrated video as an important tool that can be used by Human Rights Defenders. He started with the basics of videography, basic thumb rules of video-making, and further he held an activity, asking the participant to make a short video, which was further analysed in the workshop. The participants were also guided to use social media keeping in mind the legal implications and ethics for avoiding any kind of violations.

c) **Training of Trainers on “Strengthened HRD Protection ensuring sustained Access to Justice”** NDMJ in collaboration with HRDA (Human Rights Defender Alert) organized the Online Training programme on protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRD). The online programme was scheduled from 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021 to 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 wherein more than 60 Human Rights Defenders participated. The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen the HRD protection mechanism, ensuring sustained access to justice for the most vulnerable. NDMJ and NAWO focused on the Capacity building of HRDs. The training programme capacitated HRDs on instruments and tools pertaining to using domestic legal mechanisms and international advocacy mechanisms to further strengthen their work with the most marginalised communities, as well as for their own protection in cases of reprisals in the forms of threats, attacks, legal charges, and assaults. HRDs working on Dalit rights was capacitated with the knowledge and practical inputs on functioning and powers of the national and state commissions vis a vis Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes(Prevention of Atrocity)Act, 1989.

## 1.2 State Level Trainings

### a) State Level Trainings of Dalit Human Rights Defenders on Legal mechanisms and International Frameworks

Training of Dalit Human Right Defenders was organized in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar. These training programmes were intended to build the capacities of defenders on the status of Dalits and Adivasis in the respective states and the implementation of the PoA Act. The training further focussed on key features of SCs and STs PoA Act/Monitoring and Accountability Mechanism, Caste-based discrimination against Women- Understanding Vulnerability



and Related laws, Caste-based discrimination and atrocities against Children- Understanding Vulnerability and Legislation, Advocacy related to Quasi-Judicial Bodies-Understanding role of NHRC, SC Commission, Information Commission and others. In Himachal Pradesh, the training was held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 55 defenders participated in the training programme (25 women and 30 men). The training programme specifically focussed on land rights of Dalits and Adivasi's in Himachal Pradesh. In Maharashtra, 58 defenders participated in the training programme, including 15 women and 43 males. In Maharashtra, along with other atrocities and Dalit and Adivasi issues, forest rights was discussed in detail in the training programme that was held from 20-21 February 2021. In Bihar, 54 Dalit human rights defenders, 10 women, and 44 men participated in the training programme held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Issue of labour right in the context of covid 19, especially for Dalits and Adivasis was an integral part of the training programme. In U.P DHRD Training was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at Jaunpur, covering 51 participants (36 men, 15 women). In Rajasthan, DHRD Training was organized on 20.10.2020 where 48 DHRDs participated. In Andhra Pradesh DHRD Training was organized in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh on 28.10.2020, covering 32 DHRDs. In the training, DHRDs were trained on the human rights monitoring and legislative skills

b) **Two-Day State Level Training of Volunteers on Dalit and Adivasi Child Rights & SC-ST PoA Act**

NDMJ in collaboration with Ambedkar Lohiya Manch organised Two-Day Training of State Level Training of Volunteers on Child Rights & SC-ST PoA Act in Odhisha on 09<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Chagala Baba Ashram, Arilo (Apuja), Adaspur, Cuttack, Odhisha. The primary objective of the training programme was to capacitate the new recruits and volunteers to work on Dalit and Adivasi children, overview the status of Dalit and Adivasi children so that they have the access to justice, socio-economic entitlements and disaster preparedness. The training programme was facilitated by Ms Suchita Kumari, Ms Sweta Ghimirey, Ms Sangram Mallik and Ms Manju Dhal, CWC Member. Total 82, volunteers participated in the training programme, 32 Female, 50 male. The training programme focused on Dalit Child Rights & Child Participation, Child Sexual Abuse and POCSO, Leadership Skills, SCs & STs (PoA) Act, and the Bill on prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against children in educational institutions and the role of the community in this regard.

c) **Advocates Training in Tamil Nadu:** Mr Rahul Singh, Director, National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ-NCDHR) trained advocates from Tamil Nadu on SCs and STs (PoA) Act 1989 in a State Level Training Program of Advocates on 13.02.2021 at Erode, Tamil Nadu. The training was organised by SASY, Tamil Nadu. Around 40 advocates participated in the training. The objective of the training was to build their prosecution skills and escalate the number of appointments of advocates as SPPs and built a stronger platform for Advocates. Dr V. A Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary of NDMJ Enlightened the lawyers strengthened their skills in order to access justice to the Dalits Adivasis against all kinds of injustice & atrocities.

d) **Training of Dalit Women and Leaders:** Training of Dalit women leaders were organized in Bihar, H.P, Odisha and U.P on Law related to Dalit women, Rights Perspectives and State Schemes. The trained Dalit women defenders were active throughout the year in programmes such as awareness on Covid prevention, distribution of relief kits to community worst affected, intervention in caste and gender-based violence, engaging with the authorities on the same. As well as undertaking a survey on the accessibility of government relief measures to the Dalit and Adivasi households in Kangra, Cuttack, Saharanpur, and Allahabad.

## 2. Consultations and Webinars

**2.1. NDMJ-NCDHR jointly with DAAA, AIDMAM and NDW organised a Webinar on the 'Impact of COVID-19 on Dalits in India: Voices from the Ground' on 6th July 2020** for raising awareness on the worse impact of Covid 19 on Dalits. The Webinar focussed on six thematic issues pertaining to the impact on the Dalit community because of Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown. The webinar highlighted the aggravated vulnerabilities caused to Dalits because of Covid 19. The themes were -Caste-based violence & access to Justice, Impact of COVID19 & Lockdown on Dalit Children and Youth, Dalit and Migrant labour issue, Multiple Impact of COVID19 on Dalit Women, Impact of COVID on Frontline - Sanitation Workers, Government Policies and Entitlements.

**2.2. A Webinar for launching the Status Report- Quest for Justice.** The status report was prepared and launched on the 30th Anniversary of the enactment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and the 25th Anniversary of the Rules on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. This status report presents the findings of our comprehensive research and analysis on the nature, scale, and magnitude of violence against Dalit's and Adivasis and implementation of the SCs and STs (PoA) Act 1989 and Rules 1995 as over the last ten years (2009-2018). The reports, factsheets and status reports were used by the SCs and STs ministers to raise questions and express concern on the increasing violence against Dalits and Adivasis and on poor implementation of SCs and STs (PoA) Act, Contingency plan, vigilance committee, the status of compensation and job provided to victims, rehabilitation of the victims, SCSP/ TSP, budget.

**2.3 National Consultation on CSO's Alternate Report on UNCRC to Committee on Rights of the Child** was organised online on 24th November 2020 with diverse Civil Society Network, Experts from UN and Child Rights National Dalit



Movement for Justice (NDMJ)-NCDHR initiated and prepared the First Draft of the CSO's ALTERNATE REPORT on UNCRC TO THE COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS OF THE CHILD on the "STATUS OF DALIT AND ADIVASI CHILDREN (Based on The Committee's Recommendations in 2014)". With Over 94 participants nationally and internationally; the report was widely appreciated and received endorsement. The report is being finalized with the key Recommendations received.

**1.4 Advocates consultation:** Advocates consultation was done in Andhra Pradesh U.P, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh through virtual platforms. A total of 150 advocates participated in the consultations. During the consultation, the status of implementation of the SCs and STs (POA) Act was discussed. Also, the review was done on Special Court Monitoring. In Haryana, in 04 cases, In U.P in 04 cases , Maharashtra-02 applications for SPP Appointments have been submitted

### 3. Dalit Human Rights Monitoring

#### 1.1 Fact-finding and legal interventions

In this year 211 Fact-finding missions are undertaken for legal action and case monitoring in critical cases of atrocities and heinous offences such as murder, mass attack, rape, massacre etc. against the SCs and STs communities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh,.The fact-finding report is prepared based on the fact obtained from the survivors of caste atrocities, witnesses, perpetrators and government officials such as Police, Revenue, Judicial, doctors etc., All these cases, have been provided legal aid and are being persistently followed up in the trial courts for accessing justice. A total amount of INR 283793000 was disbursed as compensation.

Forms of Violence	Total Cases
Abduction and Rape	9
Attempt to Rape	6
Rape	10
GangRape	22
Rape and Murder	11
Murder	28
Physical Assault	57
Sexual Assault	18
kidnapping	2
Mass Attack	8
Caste Abuse	10
Custodial Death	4
Domestic Violence and cruelty	5
Others	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

Men	83
Women	59
Children	55
Others	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

**3.2 Legal Clinics** - To facilitate detailed interaction between the survivors, defenders, witnesses and advocates for recording statements, reviewing the selected atrocities cases and providing expert legal recommendations for case documentation and further follow up legal clinics were organized in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh wherein a total of 72 cases of violence were presented. In all of the above clinics, advocates gave their suggestions for the speedy trial of the cases and follow up including appointment of SPP of victims choice under rule 4(5) of PoA Act

**3.3 Intervention in Gruesome Cases:** Before the lockdown, NDMJ-NCDHR intervened in few grave massacre cases and

received positive outcomes because of continuous follow up with communities, advocacy and judicial intervention. A) In one of the most heinous cases of atrocity in Sonbhadra massacre case, fact-finding was done by a national team, A committee was formed to follow up the case in the name of 'Adivasi Vikash Seva Samiti, Ubbha ' with 16 elected members Public Interest Litigation was filed by victims and Advocates to Allahabad High court for judicial enquiry and three application was prepared for filing an application for Special Public Prosecutors appointment. A memorandum was given to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh through District collector Varanashi for justice, relief and rehabilitation of the victims. As a result, the Government promised to provide Rs.18.5 lakh (including compensation of Rs.8 lakh and 25 thousand under SCs & STs (PoA) Act as well as Kisan Samman Nidhi) to each deceased, but provided only Rs.14 lakh to each deceased 69 accused were arrested, Charge sheet has been filed u/s PoA Act. Because of continuous advocacy, the Government has promised to provide Govt job to one of the family members of the deceased. b). In another mass massacre case, 12 accused were convicted and life imprisonment was pronounced in atrocity cases in Solapur Maharashtra. In another case, a life conviction order was made to 04 accused in a murder case. In Bihar Sitamarhi, Bihar, 07 accused were convicted and life imprisonment was pronounced in fast track court. In another case of gang rape in Bihar, the accused were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of INR 20,000.c) A national fact-finding team was formed to conduct fact-finding in a mass attack on Dalits perpetrated by Thakurs in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh on 18.02.2020. In this incident, the victims were attacked on their heads with axes, legs, buttocks and waist by sticks, They were attacked by legs on their private parts, Women were locked in the room by deception and beaten with Lathi and Molested. As a result of continuous follow-up meetings with the officials, raising demand for prompt action, organising press conferences etc. The Government of Uttar Pradesh released INR 24 lakhs as compensation to the victims and the 15 accused are arrested.

**3.4 Interventions in Rising Gang Rape and Murder cases - NDMJ along with AIDMAM organized a call for raising voice against rising Brutality on Dalit women and girls.** As many cases of Gang Rapes and Murders were reported during Lockdown and the prevailing COVID Pandemic. NDMJ and AIDMAM (NCDHR) issued a Press Release on the Hathras case of '**Gang rape, Brutal Murder and Forceful burning of the victim's body**' and many other gruesome cases of atrocities on Dalit women and girls that were being reported in UP and other states.



## 4. NDMJ Intervention in COVID-19

**4.1 Relief Distribution:** The Covid 19 and Lockdown pushed many families to starvation. Many families struggled to receive rations and other necessities. After assessing the situation, NDMJ state coordinators were actively engaged in facilitating the affected communities to access rations, entitlements and schemes for migrant's labourers. They also generated awareness on prevention measures of Covid-19. In Maharashtra, 230 relief kits were distributed. Amidst the pandemic, volunteers managed to cover five districts of the state which included Thane, Washim, Buldana, Solapur and Sangli. In Uttar Pradesh- 385 kits were distributed. In the Saharanpur district, 100 kits were distributed, 200 in Sonbhadra, and 85 in Varanasi. Haryana- 360 kits were distributed in total. 120 were distributed in the village of Mirchpur in the Hissar district. Our volunteers made the effort to reach out to the victims of various past mass atrocity cases. 50 Kits were distributed to Bawana Victims, in the Hissar district. Lastly, 190 kits were distributed in Panipat to the other marginalised families in the district. Himachal- 30 families benefited from the relief kits distributed. Kits were distributed in Baij Nath village of Kangra district. In Bihar- 200 kits were distributed by NDMJ. In the West Champaran district, 72 kits were distributed, and in the East Champaran villages, 128 kits were distributed. Orissa-In the Puri district of Orissa, 145 kits were distributed. Apart from relief distribution, the NDMJ team at the ground level supported the community to access entitlements and also conducted local advocacy for their safety and relief distribution.

**4.2 We claim Survey:** To support the Dalit and other marginalized communities during the outbreak of Covid-19 to access relief packages and monitor the discrimination in the distribution, National Dalit Watch developed the 'We Claim' mobile app. WeClaim mobile is an NCDHR initiative to map communities that have not received covid-19 entitlements and facilitate their realisation through applications to District Administration and follow up by capacitated volunteers.

The state coordinators of NDMJ were involved in a phase-wise data collection for inclusion assessment of the awareness, enrolment, and the extent of realisation of COVID related national and state relief entitlements announced by the Central Government, by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes across the states in India. This is done by sharing real-time information and appeals with the district and state authorities for urgent action. The COVID-19 relief inclusion assessment was primarily undertaken to identify the excluded households and enable them to realise the relief entitlements Secondly, to advocate for inclusive coverage and access to all entitlement. The assessment was conducted in selected geographies across 14 states.



## 5. Advocacy Interventions

### 5.1 National

Quest for Justice: Status report on Implementation of SC/ST Act, 1989 was launched on 11th of September 2020 by Retd Chief Justice K.G Balakrishnan and in presence of other esteemed guests. The report was sent to more than 150 Members of Parliaments through emails as due to Covid, it was difficult to meet them physically. Also, the report was relaunched and circulated in the states of Himachal, Maharashtra, U.P, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka.



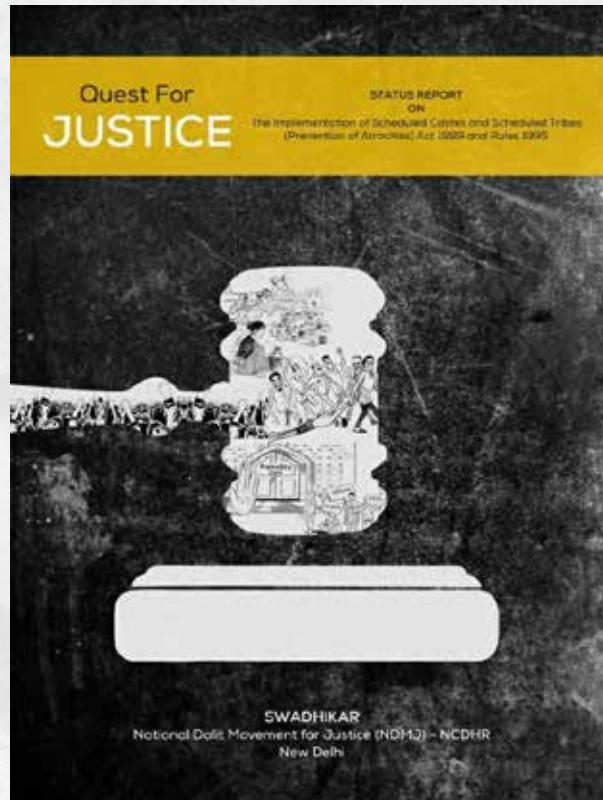
### 5.2 International:

- Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva”: National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)-NCDHR brought out the Mid-Term report to the recommendations given during the 11th Universal Periodic Review (2017). This submission sets out some of the key concerns about violations of Universal Principles of Human Rights vis-à-vis fundamentals rights enshrined in the Constitution of India with regard to one of the most vulnerable communities i.e, Dalit and Adivasis. This was done jointly with the working group on Human Rights. The member states made a total of 250 recommendations of which the Indian government accepted 152. Out of these 15 recommendations were specific to the promotion and protection of rights of the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. 11 recommendations were accepted.
- NCDHR along with other Dalit Rights organisations appealed for the need to move away from using the stigmatising concept of “social distancing”, which has been commonplace across UN agencies during the Covid-19 pandemic, and replace this with the term “safe or physical distancing”. As Dalit activists explained, the term “social distancing” feeds directly into notions of untouchability, purity and pollution and is exacerbating caste discrimination in South Asia.
- Dr Judith Anne, Research and Programme Coordinator, NDMJ (NCDHR) was invited as a Panelist to the 29th Human Rights Webinar organized by the International Movement Against Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) and Steering Committee of the 29th Human Rights Seminar which was held on **11th September 2020**. The Webinar focused on *Pandemic and Systemic Discrimination in the US, India and Japan*. Dr Anne majorly traced the issue of “Intersectional realities of Dalit women during Pandemic and Lockdown in India” - Assessing the rising caste and gender-based violence against Dalit women and girls and the inefficient system to tackle the issue of caste and gender-based violence. She also addressed the aspect of economic and mental health impact on Dalit women during the Pandemic and Lockdown.
- National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)-NCDHR along with All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM-



NCDHR), Dalit Stree Shakti and other Dalit women-led organizations have prepared and submitted a report to the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (SRVAW) in December 2020. The Report referred to the Rising Violence based on Caste and Gender in the Country. The report highlights specific recommendations at various levels to bring about systemic change addressing the issue of uprooting patriarchy and caste

## 6. Research & Analysis



### Publications

- NDMJ-NCDHR started the publication of the Quarterly Newsletter to inform the interested stakeholders on the current issues impacting Dalit and Adivasis communities. Total Four newsletters of the National Dalit Movement for Justice covering the current important issues of Dalits and Adivasis and interventions made by the National Dalit Movement for Justice-NCDHR was printed and disseminated.
- NDMJ-NCDHR prepared, printed and disseminated the Status Report -Implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Act 1989 and Rules 1995 as amended in 2018. (2009- 2018). This status report presents the findings of our comprehensive research and analysis on the nature, scale, and magnitude of violence against Dalit's and Adivasis and implementation of the SCs and STs (PoA) Act 1989 and Rules 1995 as over the last ten years (2009-2018).
- Booklets and Pamphlets have been prepared in 3 languages, English, Hindi and Oriya on Children Safety Covid-19, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children), POCSO. The Booklets and Pamphlets are given to the Defenders, Volunteers, Facilitators, Children of different states.

## 7. Success stories (the case detail , strategy or methodology adopted, intervention & outcome).

- In this year, it is most evident that the worst impacted population are the Dalit labourers because of the outbreak of Covid 19. In this critical time, the NDMJ team came forward to support the migrants in multiple ways. In each of the working states, it was ensured that the relief material reaches the migrants returning from the cities. Applications were submitted to District Administration for distribution of rations (Public Distribution System), enrolment in PM-JAY, NREGA, Pension and other schemes. Many stranded groups of migrants were identified and support was

facilitated for reaching back to their homes. In one such instance, a group of Indian Dalit migrants belonging to Bihar were stranded in Kathmandu, Nepal. Due to lock down and loss of work, the people were in very miserable condition. Knowing the fact that their condition is worst and it's getting difficult for them to survive as they have no source of livelihood. The state coordinator of Bihar after receiving the information initiated advocacy for their repatriation. On 15.05.2020, Emails and letters were sent to the Prime Minister of India, Foreign Minister, and Indian Embassy in Nepal informing on the status of Migrants labourers stuck in Kathmandu and requesting their quick repatriation. Prompt action was taken by the ministries after receiving the mail. As a result of this request, on 19.05.2020, Nepal opened the border for few days so that the Migrants labourers stuck in Nepal can return to their homeland.

- A Landmark Judgement Under Section - 4 (2)(b) of SC/ST PoA Act -1989, Pronounced by Delhi High Court Directing Session court to Prosecute Mr Fatehpur Beri, SHO, who refused File FIR. In a wonderful Judgement dated 28.04.2020 from the Delhi High Court, as a reprimand to Delhi police, has directed the trial court to initiate proceedings against police officers who refused to register a complaint of a Dalit man alleging abuse and harassment. The single-judge bench of Hon'ble Justice Suresh Kait, while noting that the Dalit man ran from pillar to post to get his complaint registered, directed that action be taken against the police officers, especially the SHO of the police station, Mr. Fatehpur Beri under section 4 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. NDMJ has been following this case from the beginning and provided expertise to Mr Kapil Modi. He is one of the examples for Documenting evidence properly under section 4 of the act to prosecute against Duty beaters who neglect their duties particularly Police Official.

# NATIONAL DALIT WATCH (NDW)

## Inclusion in Disaster Response & Risk Reduction

April 2020-March 2021

### (I) COVID-19 Response

#### (i) Inclusion Assessment of the COVID-19 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana Package



The COVID-19 induced lockdown impacted the poorest and marginalised SCs and STs and other economically weaker sections disparately. Most of them work as daily wage workers and migrant workers in the informal sector, with little or no social protection. In order to assess the reach of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), among them. National Dalit Watch conducted a remote mobile-app based inclusion assessment, covering 25,032 households and 8000 households in two phases, together with the civil society organisations. The second phase happened in collaboration with IGSSS and Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network. Following the assessment, applications were processed to the district administration for enabling access to COVID-19 relief entitlements. The findings were released in a webinar, in September 2020. Humanitarian organisations including the ECHO, UNDP and independent experts shared their reflections and responses to the findings and community voices. The factsheets titled **‘Delayed and Denied: Injustice in COVID- 19 Relief’** can be accessed online.

#### (ii) Emergency Relief Distribution in Odisha

In response to the COVID-19 crisis and the need for emergency relief from the communities that had lost their livelihoods post the nation-wide lockdown, NDW together with its ally, Ambedkar Lohia Vichar Manch (ALVM) provided relief kits to 360 families, at Alarpur, Katakpada, Bentapur, Jagannathpur and Kamalnayanpur villages of Brahmagiri Block in Puri, Odisha. The relief kits included dry ration and WaSH items, targeting the most marginalized and vulnerable sections, prioritizing the women-headed households and families with the aged and people with disabilities, among the daily wage earners. The report is available online under the COVID-19 section.



### (II) Campaigns and Training

#### (iii) National & State-level campaigns on inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

The state-level campaigns on inclusive DRR were undertaken from February to April in Bihar, Odisha and Tamil Nadu covering 135 villages, 6 districts and 17 blocks. Covid appropriate behaviour was also part of the awareness programme, besides the ‘Dos and Don’ts’ in floods and cyclones, preparing household level emergency preparedness kits, the disaster relief entitlements and placing demands before authorities and so on. Village meetings, street plays were held as part of the campaign. About 6851 people were directly covered by the campaign.



#### (iv) Annual 3-day Budget Training on DRR and CCA Budget Monitoring

A training on budgets was conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of February, at New Delhi. The workshop-oriented the team on Union Government Budget, special budgetary allocations for the SCs and STs, budget codes for tracking fund flow, utilisation and diversion of funds; and identifying special allocations or absence of it in the Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation budgets. The fellowship holders and NDW team were the trainees to facilitate action planning and demands at all levels of governance for responsive and beneficial programmes for the communities.

### (III) Formation of the Task Forces

#### (v) Constitution of the State Level Task Forces

The state-level task forces have been constituted in Odisha, Bihar & Tamil Nadu. The task force in each state consists of 15 members from the civil society, grassroots people’s federations; lawyers, former government officials, community members. The SLTFs are formed to take forth the advocacy efforts with the policymakers and duty bearers in the states on the locally prioritised issues in disaster risk reduction and preparedness. In Odisha, the SLTF identified the need for demanding DRR funds under the SC Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan). In Bihar, the SLTF has prioritised social protection for preparedness and resilience; while also amplifying demands on the provision



of homestead land and secure livelihood for sharecroppers and landless workers. In *Tamil Nadu*, the *SLTF* has identified floods and cyclone-resistant housing and land rights as the top priority for disaster risk reduction. In the coming days, memoranda will be evolved for submission to the authorities and leaders across party lines.

### **Follow-up and networking engagements by the Task Force Members**

About 162 community leaders were voluntarily engaged in facilitating rights and entitlements for their communities in Bihar, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. With their involvement, the most-impacted and marginalised SC and ST communities were able to receive social security, development and DRR entitlements worth INR 3, 35, 85,448 (over 30-million) in Bihar, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. Additionally, 87 women collectives in Tamil Nadu were engaged in demanding the entitlements for disaster resilience, post COVID-19 lockdown and disasters in general in the states. The community leaders and collectives have been actively involved in community mobilization for regularising and demanding ward-level meetings and gram sabha under Panchayati Raj Act.

### **Case Study: Story of Sustainability and Impact**

#### **(vi) Road with a bridge constructed near a school in a flood-prone area**

Dharmendra Sada and Dipnarayan, Community Task Force members in Dighiya village, Dubiyahi Post, Kishanpur block in Supaul district, were trained and involved in village-level vulnerability mapping. During the exercise with the community members, they identified the need for having a concrete road and a bridge for children to be able to safely commute to the school from the village, which poses a grave risk and difficulty during rainy seasons and floods. They took the proposal to the Panchayat (village council) for the construction of a proper road before the monsoon season. As a result of consistent dialogues and follow-up, and a collective demand from the community, around 300-feet PPC road and approximately 15-foot long bridge were constructed under the Village Development Plan. The construction was completed in June. The road and the bridge helped the villagers to cross over to safer locations with their belongings, young and the aged and pregnant women during the floods in August.

Dalit hamlets are usually deprived of well-constructed concrete roads and sturdy bridges. With their dwellings are in low-lying areas, the children and adults face transportation challenges on regular days travelling to schools, healthcare centres and other facilities by road. The uneven muddy pathways get submerged in the rains and make it more challenging and unsafe for use. Besides, the presence of concrete roads in Dalit hamlets leading to schools, healthcare centres and other essential public service institutions are not a common sight. Therefore, post the vulnerability mapping exercise in 2019, priority services and agenda were identified by the community for petitioning the local authorities on monsoon preparedness. This case study is an illustration of empowerment-based access to development services for disaster preparedness.

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