

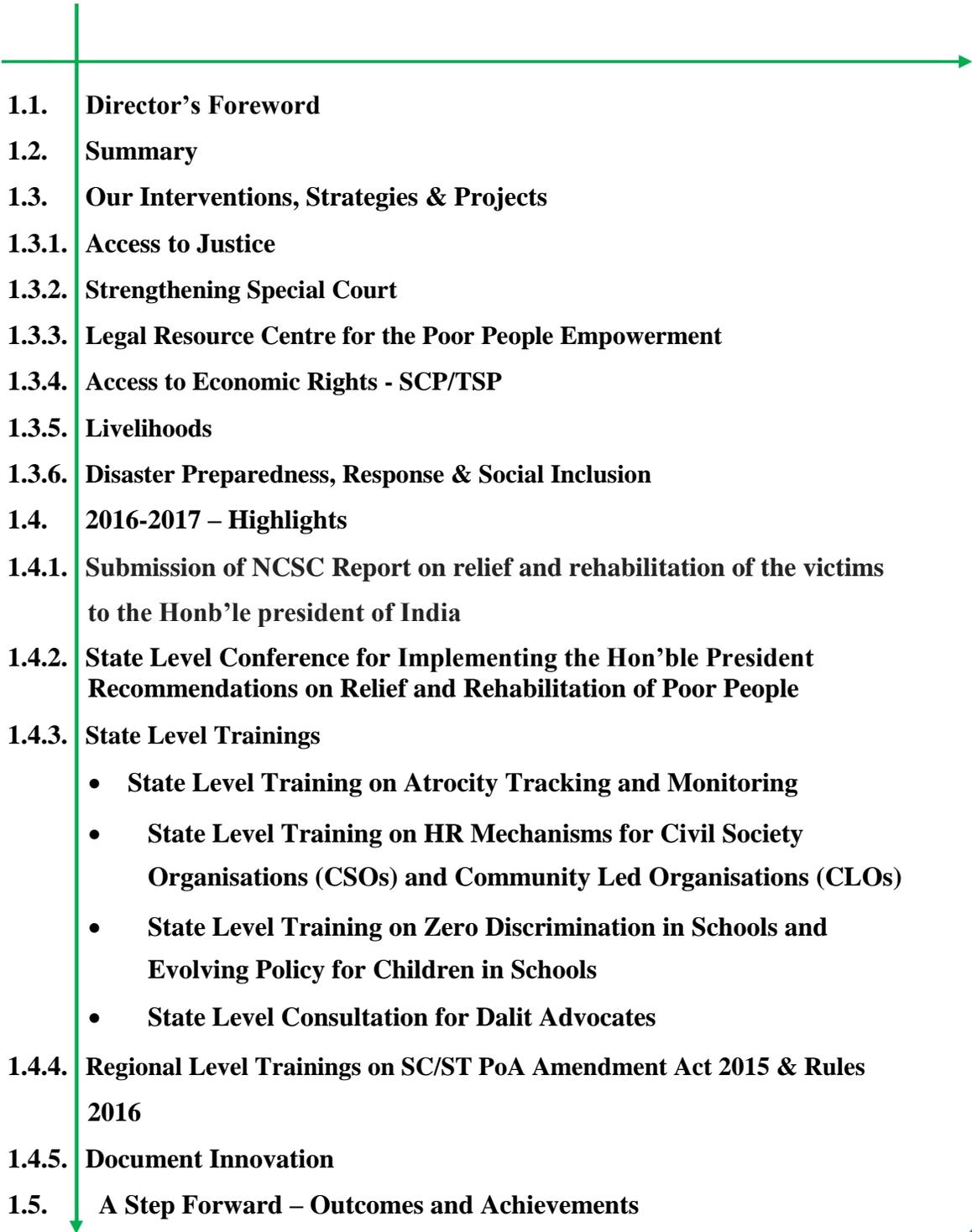
Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)

Annual Reports

2017



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1.1. Director's Foreword

We found a reason to celebrate in fiscal year 2016 after several significant interventions to empower the most poor affected Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Poor People to better access to justice with equality and dignity. Any form of discrimination, inequality are a great challenge to attain equality with human dignity, therefore SASY has played a lead and critical role contribute to eradicate any form of discrimination and its paved way to achieve better access to Justice to the most poor and marginalized Dalit and Adivasi communities. The consistent efforts has empowered the poor



Dalit and Adivasi, women and Children are access to economic entitlements and enabled them sustainable livelihood that contributed to the overall development to the poor people. The continuous efforts, accompaniment with the Dalit and Adivasi students have gained rights to educational assistance from the government which contributed towards generational changes within the community and increased literacy and reached higher education. The consistent efforts of strengthening Access to Justice, lobbying and effective engagements with the state has brought over all change in the policy and legislations which benefitted 200 millions of Dalit and Adivasi communities. The right to equality education to the children of Dalit and Adivasi communities have empowered the children, built leadership and enabled better future. Human Rights monitoring trainings to the Dalit youth, women, Advocates and children built skills and capacities to resolve their problems by themselves which is a most significant achievement with community participation. The survivors of caste atrocities have empowered with legislations and contributed towards judicial activism and accountability to better access to justice. A consistent engagement with the statutory commissions which brought significant change in the enforcement system and the innocents are free from torture and cruel forms of punishments. The Disaster affected Dalit and Adivasi communities were provided relief assistance and empowered them to access entitlements of relief and rehabilitation from the state with inclusive approach to ensure equality with human dignity. The indigenous communities were capacitated and accessed to land title which contributed for increasingly access to sustainable livelihood and employment. I take this an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude

to all the concerned government authorities, donors, stakeholders, community members and etc for their extensive support and guidance to achieve significant results and it contributed for overall changes and development in the lives of most poor and marginalized communities in the past. Once again I thank you very much for your continuous support to take this forward to sustain the impacts and bring multiple changes in the lives of most poor and marginalized communities.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Pandiyan', written in a cursive style.

I. Pandiyan
Director - SASY



Welcome to Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) Annual Report 2016-17

This report provides an overview of our work in the areas of Human Rights Monitoring, & Interventions, Livelihoods Initiatives and Disaster Response & Social Inclusion. It also highlights our work on access to economic Rights, Enacting Sub Plan Frameworks, Capacity Building Workshops & Campaigns, Partnerships and other key initiatives. The latter part of the annual report focuses on each of the thematic areas of our work, along with success stories on accessing justice from the field.

OUR DONORS



1.2. Summary

In India, torture remains an entrenched and often routine law-enforcement strategy, despite India's status as the world's largest democracy. In the name of investigating crimes, extracting confessions, and punishing perpetrators, torture is inflicted not only upon the accused, but also upon bonafide petitioners, complainants, informants and innocent bystanders. Frequent police practices include assault, physical abuse, custodial death, rape, threats, psychological humiliation, and deprivation of food, water, sleep, and medical attention. Torture is also inflicted on women and girls in the form of custodial rape, molestation and other forms of sexual harassment.

There are social economical and political reasons for history of oppression and crime against Dalits and Adivasis. Nowhere in the history of mankind is there any system like as we possess it in India. This caste system alone has created a section of sub-human beings in this country in the form of Dalits, whose human rights have been trampled systematically for ages. Under this mysterious system, these subhuman beings are safe as long as they have to face the eternal war of extermination, which is silently operating in the form of atrocities.

In rural Tamil Nadu, Dalits are prevented from most common social activities such as sharing water, food and drinks. They are barred from wearing shoes when meeting high caste Hindus. They are not allowed to cycle through village streets in which higher caste people live. They can be publicly dehumanized by small crimes such as shoeing away a chicken, dogs, and other pets that belong to higher caste people. They are discriminated against, denied access to land, forced to work in the most degrading conditions, and are routinely abused by the hands of the police and higher caste Hindus who enjoy government protection. Most Dalits continue to live in precarious conditions and are not allowed to use the same well, visit the temples, drink from the same cups in tea stalls or even cannot claim the land that legally belongs to them. Most Dalits continue to live in extreme poverty, without land, and they lack opportunities for better employment and education.

Access to justice is indeed a facet of right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Citizen's inability to access courts or any other adjudicatory mechanism provided for determination of rights and obligations. SASY's interventions under the Project are focused on strengthening access to justice for the poor, particularly women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and minorities. The Project seeks, on the one hand, to improve the institutional capacities of key justice service providers to enable them to effectively serve the poor and disadvantaged. On the other hand, it aims to directly empower the poor and disadvantaged men and women to seek and demand justice services.

1.3. Our Interventions, Strategies & Projects

1.3.1. Access to Justice

Access to justice is the foundation of all the human rights work that Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) does today. It has set the standard for professional monitoring through scientific fact findings and information collection at incident sites. District Human Rights Defenders (DHRD) is placed in each of the state of Tamilnadu's 4 regions. They function as SASY's local engagement officers, undertaking fact-finding missions in the cases of police torture, encounter death, custodial death, caste abuses & atrocities, violence against women, corporal punishment and violence against minorities. The fact-finding reports generated by the DHRDs form the basis for all subsequent action to bring victims due remedy and justice. The Monitoring Unit also conducts trainings to provide human rights defenders with monitoring skills. Our team also does state and district level engagement & lobbying in cases of human rights violation.



SASY had responded to the incidents of caste atrocities by taking adequate measures by the state to render justice to the survivors of caste atrocities. The DHRDs are able to overcome all the difficult situations through their previous experiences, using legal safeguards and other tactics. In these light SASY has undertaken 76 fact finding

missions on various forms of caste atrocities occurred against Dalits and Adivasis and effectively addressing the districts of Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruppur, Erode, Coimbatore and Tanjore in the state of Tamil Nadu during April 2016 to March 2017 are as follows:



1.3.2. Classification of Incidents of Caste Atrocities occurred against Dalits through Fact Finding Missions:

S.no	Forms of Atrocities	Total
1.	Murder	6
2.	Attempt to Murder	4
3.	Rape & Murder	1
4.	Gang Rape	2
5.	Attempt to Rape	2
6.	Caste Discrimination & Brutal Attack	11
7.	Mass Attack	5
8.	Denial of public properties	1
9.	Caste Discrimination	14

10.	Police Torture	16
11.	Custodial and Judicial Deaths	5
12.	Abetment to commit suicide	2
13.	Corporal punishment	5
14.	Duty negligence leading to death	1
15.	Social boycott	1
	Total	76

1.3.3 Highlights of DHRM Interventions in 4 Districts:

- Totally 76 incidents of caste atrocities are professionally documented in the form of fact finding missions to assist the survivors of caste atrocities to access criminal justice system , ensure relief, rehabilitation and justice under the SC/ST POA Act 2015.
- **80%** of the cases have been registered under the SC/ST POA Act 2015 with relevant sections. The proactive interventions by the DHRDs are made them accountable and filed the cases under proper sections of SC/ST PoA Act 2015.
- **56** Complaints have been sent to the State and National Human Rights Commissions, National Scheduled Caste Commissions, National Commission for Women, National Child Rights Commission, similarly to the state level commissions and to the appropriate government authorities for their effective interventions and appropriate actions.
- **Rs. 73, 33, 000** has been secured as an interim compensation under SC/ST POA Act 2015 and **Rs. 1, 25,000,000** from the state government of Tamil Nadu and engaged an effective lobbying and engagement with the bureaucrats to provide relief and rehabilitation measures.
- **183** accused have been arrested by the police in more than 22 cases through our effective interventions and continuous pressure on the state.



- In **90%** of the cases the commissions are directed the police department to file the charge sheet and recommended compensation. It was effectively impacted the police in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu for filing charge sheets and submitting compensation proposals to the district administration.
- **2** children have been removed from the FIR through the commission recommendations and the children are mainstreamed.



- 7 fact findings were jointly undertaken by SASY and HRF organisations;
- 7 trainings were conducted to 40 panchayat presidents; also they were given training to conduct regular gram sabha meetings;
- SASY along with Action Aid undertook a study on the existing forms of untouchability practices and published a report on prevailing forms of untouchability practices in villages;

1.3.4 Strengthening Special Court Monitoring:

SASY has found one of a significant strategy of empowering survivors of caste atrocities through conducting legal clinics in collaboration with National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) in 4 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts in the state of Tamil Nadu. SASY has identified major cases such as rape, murder, brutal attack, caste atrocity against children and etc which are pending under trail in the special courts. The potential and sensitive Dalit/non Dalit Advocates have invited for this legal clinic where the survivors of caste atrocities and the advocates met together and discussed about the cases thoroughly. The legal advises and possibilities of justice have been explained to the Survivors.



SASY has built a model of appointing Special Public Prosecutors in the Special Courts under Rule 4 (5) of SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 by empowering the Survivors of Caste

Atrocities. Totally 20 SPPs in 43 cases have been appointed and this is the highest number of SPP appointed under Rule 4 (5) in India and found an effective strategy to ensure justice to the victims.

It has gained significant results and a great model for strengthening the existing special public prosecutor (SPP) to increase more convictions under SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 and gain Justice for the Survivors of Caste Atrocities.

1.3.5 Legal Resource Centre for the Poor People Empowerment:



SASY initiated Dr. Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre in Villupuram District on 17th July 2015 to fight present day injustices. Dalits are not only vulnerable to atrocities committed by non-dalits but also victims of State Violence. Due to existing caste prejudice, majority of the Dalits are detained and imprisoned for alleged crimes. Victims and Witnesses are less aware of the legal mechanisms and access to criminal justice system. It is inevitable for the Legal Resource Centre to provide legal assistance to the victims.

Dr. Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre is providing necessary legal support to the survivors to access the criminal justice system to seek justice. The Legal Recourse centre also provide assistance to the Victims and Witnesses in registering their FIR, invoking proper section of SC/ST (POA) Act in FIR, Charge Sheet, appointing competent investigating officer, ensuring fair and speed investigation, ensuring compensation.



Dr. Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre consecutively organizes quarterly trainings to equip the advocates with legal perspectives and latest judgments to introduce legal changes to the advocates and to hone their skills. Every prosecutor forms a building block of the prosecution services. Therefore, training prosecutors and equipping them with all relevant knowledge and skills will serve to enhance the development of prosecution services as a whole.



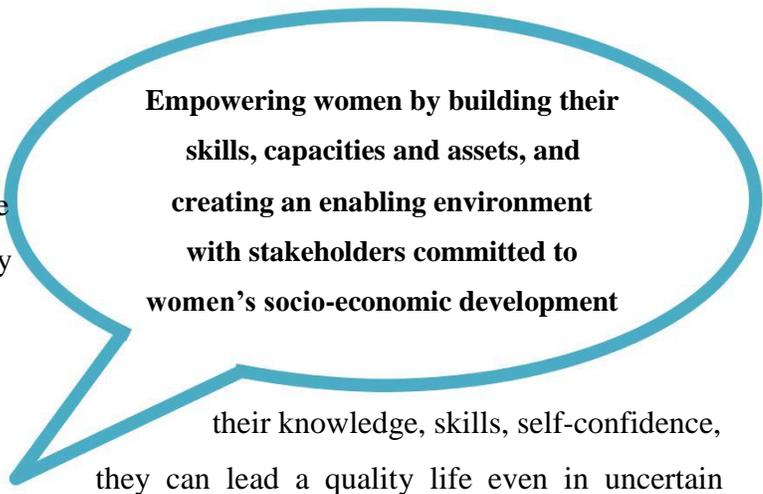
1.3.6 Access to Economic Rights -SCP/TSP:



Caste based discrimination continues to be an influential factor in the education system of the country which leads to exclusion of SC/ST students in higher education. Higher education for students of marginalized communities comes through great struggle especially in terms of access to scholarship schemes. In this context SASY played a vital role and ensured 1037 students access to Post Matric Scholarship during last one year. Scholarship amount facilitated was Rs.1,37,40,000. SASY has been involved extensively with communities, policy makers and executives for creating awareness and effective implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan in the state of Tamil Nadu. SASY focuses mainly on strengthening the communities in accessing schemes and entitlements.

1.3.7 Livelihoods:

SASY's livelihood programme encompasses a range of innovative initiatives that help women build secure and resilient livelihoods and sustainably climb out of the poverty trap. We work with women from marginalized communities to augment assets and social networks so that



Empowering women by building their skills, capacities and assets, and creating an enabling environment with stakeholders committed to women's socio-economic development

their knowledge, skills, self-confidence, they can lead a quality life even in uncertain

times, producing more, working with dignity, and earning higher and stable incomes to fulfill their aspirations. We work towards creating an enabling environment for women and their collectives to manage their assets and resources collectively and sustainably, protecting and risk - proofing them from shocks and stresses related to climate, markets and from the possible loss of earning members.

- Organised over 500 women into various collectives operational across sectors.
- Opened access to over 1320 women to financial products and services like savings, credit, micro insurance and micro-pension.
- Capacitated over 250 Dalit women to practice sustainable livelihood practices.
- 250 women turned into entrepreneurs with the required enterprise management capacities and resources

Challenging Stereotypes:

Vathasala Devi is a Dalit woman worst affected during the Tamilnadu Floods 2015 and almost lost all her belongings. She is residing in Kongarayanpalayam village with her husband along with her 4 sons and 2 daughters. She is a member in the SASY federated women Self Help Group. During the floods she lost all her belongings and had nothing to live with. SASY identified potential beneficiaries and Vathasala Devi received skill training from SASY and presently she is a tailor stitching more than 60 blouses for a month and earning Rs. 3650/- per month. She claimed that her father in law, mother in law are now providing her a space to speak, and ask for her decisions in important issues and she told that her right to participation had increased after receiving training and earning with the help of SASY. Also she is constantly advocating for women's empowerment in group meetings, and is a guide and a living example for other women and their groups on how social change process is important while pursuing economic empowerment



1.3.8 Disaster Preparedness, Response & Social Inclusion:

Apart from addressing the immediate vulnerabilities of the affected communities, SASY's humanitarian interventions are predominantly in the areas of Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and livelihood restoration during

SASY has been responding to emergencies for more than two decades and is recognized in the State as one of the major actors in humanitarian response

Vardah Cyclone 2016. SASY implemented these interventions directly as well as through local NGO partners. Experience has shown that one of the key determinants of SASY's effective and efficient humanitarian operations is the capacity of SASY and its local implementing partners in terms of systems and procedures, staff skills and expertise.

- Undertook Immediate need assessment studies across 54 villages of the worst affected districts namely Tiruvallur, Chennai and Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu



- 950 worst affected households were provided with non-food items for shelter and WASH



in the flood response programme across 16 villages of Tiruvallur District during the Cyclone Vardah in December 2016.

- 950 households received relief kits; the emergency kits have reduced the severity and the



intensity of the harsh weather and provided protection to the affected people especially for kids and elderly. Also the wash and hygiene kits had greatly helped them in improving their safe drinking water and protection from water borne communicable disease.

1.4 2016-2017 Highlights:

1.4.1. Submission of NCSC Report on relief and rehabilitation of the victims to the Honb'le president of India



SASY had addressed the incidents of police torture to National Commission of Scheduled Caste during its visit to

1st 2014. The Honorable Member Kamalamma understood the heinous forms of police torture and conducted a special

hearing. They invited the victims of police torture on 24th September 2014 and the victims deposed their cases. NCSC also sent notice to the DIG Mr. Pari to appear before the committee and the committee found the gross human rights violations committed against these communities. Hence NCSC constituted a 3 member committee to prove the alleged forms of human rights violations.

The 3 members committee was included:

- Dr. V. A. Ramesh Nathan General Secretary, National Dalit Movement for Justice – National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights – New Delhi,

- Advocate B.S. Ajeetha – Tamil Nadu
- Mr. P. Ramasamy, Assistant Director & Head of Office NCSC, State Office Chennai.

The 3 member committee visited 11 police stations and met the victims, witnesses in their respective places. The committee documented all the statements and found 32 brutal forms of police torture. They collected 17000 pages from the police station and victims. Finally the committee submitted its field visit report to the NCSC and made recommendations including relief, rehabilitation, counseling and action against the police authorities.

The report was submitted by the Honourable Chairman Dr. P.L. Punia and it was a very successful intervention by SASY through NCSC on Police Atrocity against the Kuravan Communities, the NCSC has found the truthful evidences against the police and found guilty against the police. The NCSC has made several recommendations to the state of Tamil Nadu and submitted a special report to the Hon'ble President of India on 17-08-16 on Police Atrocity. It is very critical time to SASY to follow the recommendations made by the NCSC through engaging with the state authorities like Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, DGP and Adi Dravidar Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu to implement the recommendation for the benefit of the victims of police torture.

1.4.2. State Level Conference for Implementing the Hon'ble President Recommendations on Relief and Rehabilitation of Poor People:

SASY had organized a state level meeting on September 9th 2016, by mobilizing like-minded groups, civil societies across the state of Tamil Nadu following to the NCSC submission of the Kuravan report to the Hon'ble President of India on August 17, 2016. This meeting was organised demanding that the recommendations made in the NCSC Report to address police abuse and torture be implemented.



The members of the Kuravan community which was one of the 150 tribes treated as criminal tribes until the Criminal Tribes Act” was repealed; still they continue to suffer because of the bias and subjective treatment by the police. More than 300 Kuravan



people, civil societies, likeminded groups backed the demands and recommendations made during the state level meeting.



The outcomes of the demonstration were:

- The recommendations made by NCSC should be implemented immediately;
- To stop the false cases and fabricated charges that are slapped on the Kuravan community youth and are sent to jail;
- To ensure social welfare for the Kuravan community and provide proper legal representation;
- The myth of Kuravan community as born criminals, habitual offenders was broken from the minds of the political actors.

1.4.3 State Level Trainings and Workshops:

The overall objective of the capacitation training aims to contribute in assisting fragile civil society actors dealing with the problems in a wide area of human rights protection and enhancing pluralism of civil society organizations towards bringing a positive change on a democratic scene. The specific objective of the action is to develop capacities of the DHRDs, CSOs, CLOs

and activists to strengthen the existing ones for successful implementation of their role in consistent fighting for respect for human rights and public life standards through establishing a sustainable mechanism of monitoring and control.

I. State Level Training on Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring:

Atrocity Tracking Monitoring system (ATM) is an interactive website created at the national level by the National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) which is very much effective in sending alert messages to the government officials including the district magistrate, district superintendent of police, deputy superintendent of police, inspector, sub inspector and other higher officials urging to take appropriate measures under the SC/ST PoA Act. This website was launched in the month of March 2014 at Delhi and about 52 organisations are registered members of the ATM website.



With these backgrounds, the South Regional Follow up Training Program on Atrocity Tracking Monitoring (ATM) was organised on 27 & 28 of June 2016 at ICSA, Chennai to Dalit Human Rights Defenders who have been engaged in who have been engaged in Dalit Human Rights Monitoring. ATM is a website developed to track the cases at different levels with regard to the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015. This is a very first time that the Dalit organisations using information technology (IT) to combat caste based discriminations and the effective

implementation of SC/ST PoA Act. There were 64 participants from 11 states across the country attended the two days training programme.



II. State Level Training on HR Mechanisms for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Community Led Organisations (CLOs):

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) along with National Movement for Justice, (NDMJ-New Delhi) is engaged in networking with organizations, networks, activists, advocates and other professionals working on Dalit civil and political rights violations. SASY and NDMJ jointly with their tremendous conducted State Level Training on Human Rights Mechanisms for CSOs, CLOs on December 2016 and January 2017 at Chennai and Erode Districts respectively.

Courageous and effective Dalit activists working for the rights of Dalits and Adivasis often face great risks in the state as well as in the country where basic human rights are still ignored. This capacitation training has added one more phase in their work to combat caste based discriminations, untouchability practices by undertaking effective strategies in advancing the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable communities across the state and national with human

rights standards and UN mechanisms. The civil society organisations expressed their willingness to network with the implementing organisation in taking forward the HR engagements in their districts as well as at the state.



III. State Level Training on Zero Discrimination in Schools and Evolving Policy for Children in Schools:

SASY along with NDMJ conducted the state level consultation to promote children led campaign towards “Zero Discrimination and Violence in Educational institutions in India. This consultation is primarily organized among the school going children, teachers, parents and civil society organizations to identify the forms of discrimination and violence against children in educational institutions and evolve strategies to end those violence and discrimination.



This is a one day event held at Erode and Chennai whereby to promote discrimination and violence free environment and to evolve policy in school education institutions in India for ensuring quality education for all children with special focus on socially excluded children. More than 120 participants participated in the training.



IV. State Level Consultation for Dalit Advocates:

SASY had conducted State Level Training for Dalit Advocates accompanied with developing a



manual on human rights mechanism on June 1, 2016 at Chennai and on 11th February 2017 at Villupuram District. More than 67 advocates participated in the preparatory consultation. The participants along with the trainers made road map and workable strategies to prevent and effectively address the police violence across 11 districts of Tamil Nadu networking with about 15 civil societies mainly in addressing police violence and caste based discrimination and atrocities that are newly emerging in the state of Tamil Nadu against Dalits and Adivasi communities.

1.4.4 Regional Training on SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 & Rules 2016:

The prejudice, denial, untouchability practice, suppression of Dalits & other excluded communities inundated for centuries together and could not be put to an end with individual



strengths. Also the magnitude of the malevolence is profound and hence a consistent, and coordinated efforts are made by the Dalit headed organisations and solidarity groups.

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)- Tindivanam, Evidence – Madurai, Vanmuhil, Vizhuthugal -Erode, Social Justice - Madurai and READ- Erode potentially collaborated in conducting Regional Training for Human Rights Defenders on SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 and Rules 2016 across the state of Tamil Nadu. These collaborated organisations jointly conducted two days regional training on SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 and Rules 2016 from the month of September to November 2016 across 6 (Villuppuram, Chennai, Madurai, Sivangangai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore) districts of the state.



More than 85 participants including Human Rights Defenders, Advocates and Social Activists were participated and capacitated in the training program. The main crux of the training sessions were mainly focused on understanding the concepts of equality, equity and inclusion with regard to the constitutional provisions and the provisions in international law; providing an over view of anti-touchability legislations; the road to amendment in the SC/ST (PoA) Act and the role of different sections including the parliament and the special features, key components of the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015.

The session also includes providing technical inputs of how to use information technology (IT) to combat caste based discriminations and the effective implementation of SC/ST PoA Act through Atrocity Tracking Monitoring System (ATM) - a website developed to track the cases at different levels with regard to the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015. At the end of the two days regional training a concrete action plan will be evolved by the participants in implementing the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act at the grass root level and for the betterment of the disadvantaged and excluded communities.



1.4.5 Document Innovation:

- SASY along with NCDHR presented a memorandum of the Kuravan Study report to the Honourable President of India by National Commission for Scheduled Caste on August 17, 2016. The president of India had received the report and made a representation in his report.
- SASY had published a booklet on the forms of atrocities, police torture and violence (Illegal Detention, Arbitrary Arrest) on the Forced Migrant Labourers and Kuravan community. The booklet was published on September 9, 2016
- SASY had translated and published a manual on “**Human Rights Mechanisms and Standards for CSOs and CLOs**” (Tamil Version) on December 29, 2016.
- SASY undertook immediate damage and need assessment study soon after the Vardah Cyclone 2016 in 58 worst cyclone affected villages in Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts and came out with a “**Study Report on the Social Exclusion of Dalits and Adivasis in the Cyclone Relief Response by the State**” (Assessment and Monitoring Responses towards Affected Dalit and Socially Excluded and Marginalised Communities in Vardah Cyclone 2016)
- “**Broken Promises Faded Hopes**” - Cyclone Vardah 2016

1.5 A step forward – Outcomes and Achievements:

- **Cases Received Conviction:**

1. Mr. Muthu @ Muthulingam (34), S/o Mr. Kuppusamy is a resident of 24, Riverbed Street, Cuddalore Port of Cuddalore District. Muthu was picked up by the police on 30.09.2011 (Friday) in connection with the theft of 25 sovereigns of gold following a complaint Subramani of Aruppukottai that 25 sovereigns of gold and Rs. 12,000 cash were stolen from his hotel room. Vadapalani police registered a case on August 7, 2011 and arrested Shahul Hameed of Tanjore on 30.9.2011 for his involvement in the theft. Hammed confessed to commit the theft with the help of Muthu and hence the police arrested Muthu. They took Muthu to Virukambakkam PS and on Saturday (01.10.2011) night Muthu's family members got a call from the police station that his son died in the station due to giddiness and chest pain. The victim Muthu was beaten to death and he died in the police custody. Date of conviction: 17.06.2016 – After the trial, the XVI Additional Sessions Judge convicted the three persons and sentenced them to life imprisonment. The accused (A1to A3) were found guilty and liable to punishment, convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for life with a penalty of ten thousand (each); the accused (A4 and A5) were found innocent and the court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each on them. The judge acquitted Ashok Kumar (A4) and Rajmohan (A5) from the charges.
2. Govindasamy was resident of Seerpanathal colony, Rishivanthiyam Block of Thirukovilur Taluk of Villupuram District. He was working as a tree cutter and on 11.04.2008 he was brutally attacked and derogatory referred by caste by dominant caste men. This case was identified through the legal clinic and the case was legally monitored by SASY. Adv. Rajarajan was monitoring this case along with SASY. On 05.04.2017 the 4 accused men in the case was convicted to 1 year imprisonment.

- **Success Stories:**

1. Kaviyarasan (name changed) living with his family and his father Kolangi owns a pig slaughter house and his mother Rukmani at Naynarpalayam village near Chinna Salem

of Kallakurichi Taluk of Villupuram District. His elder brother Manikandan (20) got married a year ago and living separately. As they belonged to the Denotified tribal community his father Kolangi was arrested in more than 5 theft cases in Villupuram and Cuddalore districts 8 years ago. But he was acquitted in all the cases recently. On 31.10.16 by 2:30 am in the morning four policemen came to his house and took away Kaviyaran along with them. While two were in uniform, and the other two were sporting civilian clothes; after finding that his father was out of station the police officers detained the boy to trap his father. By the intervention of SASY and through the telephonic conversation made by the Director – SASY and the State Coordinator Babu the boy was immediately released the same night from the illegal detention.

2. Anandh, +1 student was allegedly slapped and man handled but a teacher in the presence of head

master and other students at school premises. He was slapped four times and his head was slammed against the door by the NSS teacher for not attending the NSS camp on September 24 to October 4 2016.

Fact- finding was



undertaken and complaints had been sent to the concerned authorities seeking to take action against the DSP-Neelakumar, Pollachi under sec 4 of SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015. News coverage has been made by Indian Express, Times of India, The Hindu and Dhinathanthi, Dinakaran and filed an RTI petition to Pollachi sub division asking for the investigation report under SC/ST PoA Act 7. Also critical interventions were made with school management and the student was admitted to the back to the same school on 13.10.16.