

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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From Director's Desk



It is my great pleasure to speak to you about the our journey of achieving the rights of equality of Dalits, Adivasis, Women and Children with human dignity by undertaking various efforts including Human Rights Monitoring, Campaign, Advocacy and Lobbying, engagements with the Statutory Commissions, Women Empowerment, Promoting Women and Men federations for ensuring sustainable livelihood, small and medium size trade engagements, Entrepreneurship, capacity building training for elected representatives of local self-government, Advocates, Human Rights Defenders.

We are able to accomplish the positive outcomes with the great support of the staff team and solidarity groups who have collaborated with us and forming joint action initiatives in overall accomplishments of the tasks have designed.

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.

I take this an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the donors, stakeholders, community members, all the solidarity groups, networks, campaigns, collaborative initiatives and other likeminded groups 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 in our past one year journey towards achieving the right to equality, justice of Dalits, Adivasis, Women ,Children and other marginalized groups.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adv. Pandiyan'.

Adv. Pandiyan
Director - SASY



Welcome to Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) Annual Report 2017-18

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



Overview:

In India, caste-based discrimination against Dalits is the open to various forms of violence against them, which include public humiliation, torture, rape, beating, and killing and so on. The untouchability is the basis for atrocities and violence, denial of basic needs, land rights, legal discrimination, infringement of civil liberties, inferior or no people status, de-humanizing living and working conditions, impoverishment, mal-nourishment, bad health conditions, high levels of illiteracy and continuing social ostracism is continue to the reason for human rights violations against Dalits.

In 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 shooing 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 and 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.

Tamil Nadu has accounted for the maximum number of cases of atrocities against Dalits in the country since 2014. At least one in every six cases registered with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) was from Tamil Nadu and Pudhucherry. Of the total 32,000 registered cases, nearly 5,300 were reported during the last three years. Article 7 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law”. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.” Despite these anti-discriminatory human rights standards the caste atrocities and discriminations against Dalits are rampant and widespread.

PROGRAMME GLIMPSE

Access to Justice:

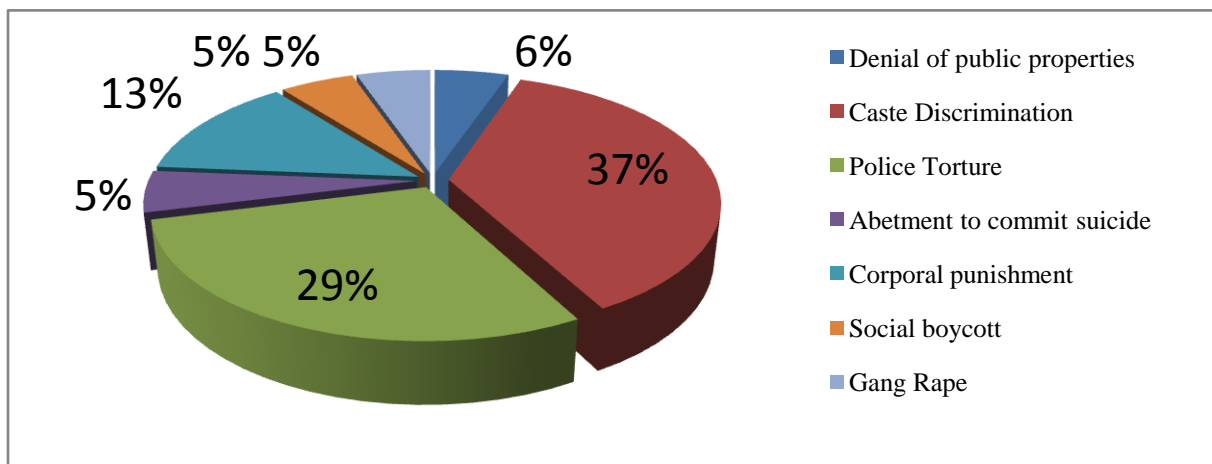
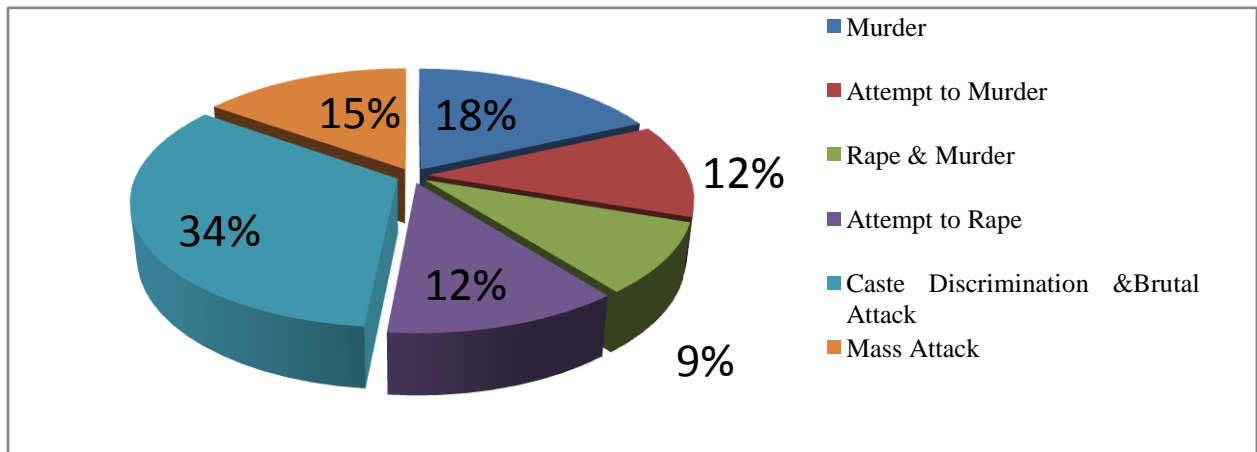
(SASY is committed to provide access to justice to marginalized communities with the right to equality and dignity)

SASY aims to hold the state accountability by responding to the incidents of caste atrocities by taking adequate measures by the state to render justice to the survivors of caste atrocities. It is highly difficult task undertaken by the DHRDs since the perpetrators, police and other government officials are from the dominant caste and they are often caste biased. But 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 71 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,



Ariyalur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai and Tanjore in the state of Tamil Nadu during April 2017 to March 2018 are as follows:

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



1. 71 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.
2. **80%** of the cases have been registered under the SC/ST PoA Act 2015 with relevant sections. It is common that the police are often caste biased and willfully neglected their duties under SC/ST PoA Act 2015 especially they have not been registering the

complaint and even they filed the cases under improper or irrelevant sections intentionally to escape the accused. The proactive interventions by the DHRDs are made them accountable and filed the cases under proper sections of SC/ST PoA Act 2015.

3. **61** 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.



4. **78** accused have been arrested by the police in more than 39 cases through our effective interventions and continuous pressure on the state.
5. **Rs. 74, 43, 500** has been secured as an interim compensation under SC/ST POA Act 2015 and engaged an effective lobbying and engagement with the bureaucrats to provide relief and rehabilitation measures.
6. **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.

Access to Higher Education & Economic Justice:

(SASY engages in providing post matric scholarships for marginalized students and tracking budgetary allocations and accessing economic rights)



SASY has engaged with access to economic rights project in order to ensure and provide public entitlements. Its core areas are Post Matric Scholarship, Panchayat Raj Institutions and Horticulture Schemes

Monitoring State Budget Higher Education:

SASY organized various students meetings and built rapport with the SC/ST students who are in need of scholarship to pursue their Diploma, Bachelors, Masters, M.Phil and Ph.D. These

meetings were conducted majorly in districts of Villupuram and Erode. More than 1000 students were enrolled in the academic year of 2017-2018 all over Tamil Nadu. Continuous meetings with the parents, students, colleges and Universities as well as follow up with Adi Dravidar Welfare Committee helped way forward to promote the students to pursue their higher education.

Panchayat Raj Institutions:

District wise at panchayat level on monthly basis, meetings with Panchayat leaders were also conducted. To know about the welfare and provisions given to the SC/ST communities who are in need of clean water and sanitation, street lights, water tanks, road, transport facilities, electricity etc. The Panchayat leaders and members are responsible for creating livelihood opportunities to the people. SASY organized PRI meeting in the month of October 2017 and more than 22 PRI leaders participated in the meeting and were empowered.

Horticulture Schemes:



SASY's core and thematic idea is to empower Dalit and Adivasi women. Therefore in order to attain the goals, SASY had empowered more than 650 women during the last year.

Livelihoods & Empowering Women

SASY's livelihood sector had identified and works with women from marginalized communities who are engaged in small

SASY works to ensure that rural women from the most marginalized communities are empowered live in dignity, and their households and communities have secure and resilient lives and livelihoods

business ventures. We have reached out to more than 288 women directly and more than 470 indirectly through 11 different livelihood initiatives across the 52 villages of Cuddalore district.

Outcomes reported during the year:

An integrated approach to promote women's collectives, sustainable livelihood, market engagements practices resulted in:

1. 758 poor households having additional economic opportunities and income, improving access to food, education and health
2. 92 women have availed bank loans and enlarged their business ventures
3. 28 incidences of caste based discriminations were reported by the Dalit women to the concerned village administrative and police department.
4. 700 women and adolescent girls gained knowledge on their rights

Promoting Justice through Children Participation & Community Awareness:

Daily, tens of thousands of children in Central Asia have their rights violated including their right to health, their right to quality education and their right to be free from abuse, violence and exploitation. Yet, only a fraction of children and families are able to challenge the decisions in court and to have access to a fair, timely and effective remedy in other words, only a fraction have access to justice and certain groups such as women, minorities and people with disabilities generally face more challenges than others. Due to their dependent status, children are particularly vulnerable.

The concept of 'child participation' is derived from international standards, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 12 of the Convention provides for the right of the child to be heard and to have his or her views taken into account.

Based on the UN convention SASY organized community awareness meeting across 4 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts. More than 60-70 school girls and boys participated in the community awareness meeting. The main aim of the meeting is to promote the participation of children and to increase the access to justice. The children participated in the community awareness meeting and had formed into JAI BHIM CLUBS in each district. The club members will have regular meetings, will intimate the child rights

violation cases to the District Human Rights Defenders and will undertake fact findings along with the DHRDs.



Disaster & Social Inclusion:

(SASY helps communities build their capacities to cope with emergencies. During and after emergencies, SASY provides immediate relief, addresses the needs and provides rehabilitation support.)

SASY considers disaster preparedness and response as a critical aspect of its organizational mandate and has a “Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy”. It also maintains Emergency Response teams at coastal regions of Northern parts of Tamil Nadu.

SASY had responded to key emergencies across the six districts of the State of Tamil Nadu to the devastating Ockhi Cyclone in December 2017.



Key strategies of Immediate Needs Assessment and Monitoring:

To understand the vulnerable situation of Dalit community and their needs during post cyclone situation the survey was done on the basis of informal group discussion with the community people. SASY team had prepared with various volunteer groups in each district and Household survey was done accordingly. The report is based on the information and details collected through “focused group discussion” and quantitative method by framing certain questionnaire to collect the data related to basic information, trends of loss and approach of government authority.

1. Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) with affected community
2. Interviews with survivors

3. Meetings/ interaction with authorities and Panchayat leaders



Key Interventions:

1. Undertook Immediate need assessment survey in worst affected districts
2. Identified the potential beneficiaries with the help of Women Federation Members
3. Provided WASH and hygiene kits to 300 worst affected families in 4 villages of Cuddalore District.

Highlights of the Year 2017-18

(Workshops & Training)

State Level Consultation Evolving Policy for Zero Discrimination in Schools:

SASY along with National Dalit Movement for Justice conducted one day State Level Consultation on Evolving Policy for Zero Discrimination in Schools on May 6, 2017. About 89 (Male: 59; Female: 30) including children, professors, school teachers, SMC members, CSOs and CLOs participated in the consultation.



The objectives of the consultation is to promote discrimination and violence free environment in school education institutions in India for ensuring quality education for all children with special focus on socially excluded children and to form a working committee and launching on campaign on Zero Discrimination Policy.

Sustainable Development Goals (Dalit & Adivasi Sector):

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations. The broad goals are interrelated though each has its own targets to achieve. The SDGs are also known as "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

This is to develop the strategical Indicators to Monitor and achieve the Goals with regard to Dalit and Adivasi Communities in the SDGs 2030 - 17 Goals. SASY is functioning as SECRETARIAT for the DALIT AND ADIVASI FOCUS SDGs Goals 2030 and it was collectively proposed by all the organizations who have participated in the SDGs Watch TN held at Chennai.



SASY had organised a strategic planning meeting for the CSOs who are working among the Dalit and Adivasi communities for many, many years and this will be an another opportunity for us to work as collective force to ensure JUSTICE and all other entitlements to our Dalit and Adivasi communities. This meeting had resulted to develop focused and critical indicators to monitor the SDGs goal with regard to Dalit and Adivasi focus.

Capacity Building for CSOs and CLOs on Understanding Budget Allocations Entitlements towards over all Development of Dalit and Adivasi Children:

SASY conducted Capacity Building for CSOs and CLOs on Understanding Budget Allocations Entitlements towards over all Development of Dalit and Adivasi Children on December 4, 5 2017 at Chennai. More than 48 persons participated in the capacity building training. The participants are trained on budget basics and new skills are acquired on the topics elaborated by trainings; the participants were capacitated on various budget allocations, entitlements and ensured to monitor Anganwadi centres in their working villages, ICDS, and nutrition schemes for adolescent girls in schools.

State Level Training of Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders:

SASY organised a one day State Level Training for Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders -



Tamil Nadu for defenders, Survivors of caste atrocities, Witnesses and Advocates on February 25, 2018 at Villupuram District. About 73 members participated in the State Level Training and were capacitated on the constitutional safeguards, the rights of victims/ witnesses and understood about the state violence occurring in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Capacity Building Training Program on Human Rights Redressal Mechanisms:

SASY conducted two days Capacity Building Training Program on Human Rights Redressal Mechanisms for defenders, Survivors of caste atrocities, Witnesses on February 16, 17, 2018 (Friday & Saturday) at Pillar House, Madurai District. About 64 members (51 male; 13 female) participated in the Capacity Building Training Program.

The crux of the sessions included 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 and complaints handling mechanisms.



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 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. The participants had ensured access to rights and entitlements for the protection of their human rights. The trained human right defenders from the communities also assured that they will determine the sustainability and effectiveness of the programme.

Capacity Building Training for the Children on Monitoring Child Rights:



SASY conducted two days Capacity Building Training Program for the Children on Monitoring Child Rights - Tamil Nadu for Children from 4 Districts on March 3, 4 of 2018 at PMDS, Villupuram District. About 25 Children (14 male; 11 -female) participated in the Capacity Building Training Program.



The training sessions included understanding child rights violations in schools and other places, addressing those violations. The children also learnt to draft complaint petitions and also learnt about the State/National and International Human Rights Commissions and other bodies. The capacitated children ensured and had formed JAI BHIM Clubs in their respective villages of 4 Districts and they assured to monitor the discrimination in their respective schools and write complaint petition to the concerned authorities.

State Level Public Hearing on Identity Based Discrimination and Violence against Dalits and Adivasi Children in Schools:

The State level Public Hearing being held at Ganapathi Hotel, Villupuram District on 29th December 2017 on Identity Based Discrimination and Violence against Dalits and Adivasi Children in Schools. It is a State Level Public Hearing event where different forms of violence on Dalit and Adivasi children in state level were deposed before the jury members. It proved a stocktaking event to access to analyze the role and performance of the Tamil Nadu state to



ensure Zero Based Caste Discriminations in schools particularly the Chief Education Officers, District Education Officers, Teachers and other concerned Stakeholders regarding legitimate

commitment to bring Justice, Equality and Dignity to redressal mechanisms to the Dalit, Adivasi Children and 16 cases of rights violations were deposited before the jury members.

Though Dalit and Adivasi children in Tamil Nadu study in schools with the support of poor economic background parents, a few dominant caste teachers in schools discriminates the Dalit



and Adivasi children. So, children are dropped out from schools and forced to work as child labour in different industries and are becoming victims of caste based discriminations. The Public hearing focused on discrimination free schools in Tamil Nadu by addressing violence against Dalit and Adivasi Children with advocacy of NCSC, NCPCR and SCPCR and promoting children are becoming as defenders.

Legal Clinics & Special Court Monitoring:

SASY had organized Legal Clinics and Special Court Monitoring Programmes in Villupuram District on 24th March 2018 and 14th May 2018 respectively. The legal clinics and special court monitoring efforts aims to abridge the potential and pro-Dalit lawyers and the survivors of caste atrocities and Witnesses. This platform enabled the Victims and Witnesses to share their experiences about the court proceedings and impediments in accessing justice. Totally 22 Dalit

advocates participated in this programme and 63 survivors of caste atrocities were benefitted by this legal clinic programme.



Capacitation of Dalit Lawyers:

The Dalit advocates were given comprehensive training on various aspects of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocity Act 1989, and Rules 1995; Drafting petitions under IPC and Cr.P.C and on appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (SPP) in Special courts. The trained advocates formed into a state-level forum to assist the survivor's caste atrocities in the respective areas. The consistent capacitation and mentorship efforts for the young Dalit Lawyers and for the victims and witnesses have significantly empowered to seek appointment of Special Public Prosecutors with the choice of survivors of caste atrocities.

National Resistance Day:

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY), part of the National Coalition for Strengthening SCs and STs (PoA) Act (NCSPA) which has more than 500 Dalits and Adivasis civil society organisations, communities, leaders and activists observed A One Day Peaceful Demonstrations on 01st May 2018 i.e, International Labour Day as "National Resistance Day

against the Supreme Court Judgment on SCs and STs (PoA) Act 1989” in all Districts as well as in State.

The protest at Chennai was headed by Adv. Pandiyan – State Convener, NCSPA – Tamil Nadu at Valluvar Kottam, Chennai on May 1, 2018. More than 1000 people participated in the protest



and various speakers participated and condemned the recent SC judgment and dilution in SC/ST PoA Act 1989.

Women’s Day Celebration:

On 8th March 2018, SASY conducted Women’s Day Celebration along with Women Federation Leaders and Members in B. Mutlor, Cuddalore district. About 120 women leaders and members participated in the celebration programme. The village officer, medical officer and an advocate was invited and delivered their welcome address. They spoke about the struggles, challenges each woman had faced and now empowered in almost all the fields across the globe.

Various cultural programmes were organized by the rural women and the self-help group leaders



and rural women discussed their achievements by various self-help groups during the last year and made a resolution to engage in more entrepreneurial activities to realize the wholistic development of the women.

Success Stories:

I am Anandh (16 years) resident of Pollachi, have completed 11th standard in Government School, A. Nagoor, Pollachi Taluk of Coimbatore District. On 05.10.2016 morning I went to school after completing my quarterly holidays and as soon as I entered the school I was slapped by the drawing teacher and in the presence of head master, other students at school premises. I was slapped four times and my head was slammed against the door by the NSS teacher for not attending the NSS camp on September 24 to October 4 2016.

SASY undertook Fact Finding and collected the facts from me and the school management. On the basis of caste and the case was investigated by DSP Neela Kumar and he closed the case referring as Mistake of Facts (MF). The DHRD Palanisamy took me and my friend (witness) to

the DVMC member Selva Kumar and explained the facts of the case. He extended his support and finally the case was presented before the District Collector on 13.07.2017; the facts of the case, the call recordings were presented to him and the collector Hariharan IAS, found there was injustice and caste discrimination committed to the victim boy and issued an order to reinvestigate the case. **Presently the facts were proved and the case is pending trial in Principal Sessions Court, Coimbatore and the bail of the accused was denied 4 times based on the consent of me. I am sure that the accused persons will receive conviction. I am very happy and I am grateful to SASY for their tireless work in supporting victims and helping them to access justice.**

I am Sakthibalan (27 years) residing in New Street, Eraiur P.O, Vepanthattai Taluk, Perambalur District. At present I'm working as transport clerk in a sugar factory at Eraiur, Perambalur District. I belong to Dalit Community. I have obtained 53% in my SSLC Board examination and 70% in Higher Secondary Public Examination, 54% in BBA. I joined my Post graduation MBA in Thanthai Hans Rover Arts and Science College in 2011. Along with me 860 Dalit students from in and around villages of our district were also applied the scholarship for their education. We received our scholarship amount and successfully completed our first year course. But, my college has been denied Post Matric Scholarship during the academic year 2012-2013. We got the scholarship for the first year i.e. 2011-12. However the college didn't give refund for the fees paid for the second year.



On 22.02.2017 through Dalit Students Federation I met Adv. Pandiyan, Director of Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) and in detail I explained about the scholarship which has given to us and later denied by our college. Mr. Pandiyan wrote a petition to the Director of Welfare department referring G.O:92 of Adi Dravidar Welfare department dated 11.9.2012 clearly states that if fees collected from the students during the academic year 2012-13 by colleges, should apply to Adi Dravidar Welfare Department about the student details and refund to students. We were taken to Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi to state our scholarship issue to the National Council, in which SASY contributes the Post Matric Scholarship details and how far it has reached the Dalit students in the State of Tamil Nadu. I thank Social Awareness Society for Youths and Dalit Student Federation and who are empowering Dalit and marginalised communities in education revolution. After three long years we received our scholarship amount only because of the guidance, support and initiation given by these organisations.