

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



EQUALITY

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)

No.33A, 2nd Cross West, Anna Nagar, 4th Street, Marakanam Road, Tindivanam - 604001, Vilupuram District, Tamil Nadu



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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,

Adv. Pandiyan
Director - SASY



Welcome to Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) Annual Report 2018-19

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.



Summary:

Though India has abolished the practice of ‘untouchability’ in the constitution, still it persists due to its systemic character of Caste System in the form of Culture, beliefs and Social norms. It has been 30 years since the Indian Parliament enacted the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, followed by the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules in 1995, which was further amended in 2015 and 2018 to put an end to targeted caste and ethnicity-based Crimes against Dalits and Adivasis by non-Dalits and non-Adivasis. The experiences show that caste atrocities is unleashed on Dalits by dominant caste communities either to reinforce socio-economic and power inequalities or to suppress their assertion and claims to entitlements and opportunities for socio-economic development, such as land, living wages, education and employment.

In the State of Tamil Nadu, the total number of cases filed under the SC/ST PoA Act since 2014 (SC) 1519, 2015- 1752 and 2016 – 1304 and (ST) are 2014–18, 2015-25 and 2016–19 and among them 4062 cases are still under pending trial. Totally 76 cases were convicted and 906 cases were acquitted. The conviction rate is very low and it is still remaining at 7.7% and pendency is 80.6%. Totally 144 perpetrators were punished among male 140 and female 4 but totally 2405 perpetrators were set free among male 2271 and female 134. In these situations the Supreme Court Verdict on arrest of the accused under the SC/ST PoA Act was really diluted the main objective of the special Act. Also the crimes against the SCs/STs are rampant and are increasing every day in various forms including brutal murders, gang rapes, sexual violence against adolescent girls, Dalit women, untouchability practices in Educational Institutions and Caste Cruelty Murders.

Despite the protective measures, there is an increase in atrocities committed against Dalits and Adivasis by 5.5% and 4.5% respectively in the year 2016 over the previous year. The country reported 40,801 cases of atrocities against the Dalits in 2016 compared to 38,670 cases in 2015. Similarly, for Adivasis, the cases of atrocities increased from 6,276 in 2015 to 6,568 in 2016. The incidence of violence against SC women also remains persistent in different forms. The two top reported crimes with a maximum number of cases committed against Dalit women are ‘Assaults on women with the intent to outrage her modesty with 3172 cases (7.7%), followed by rape with 2541 cases (6.2%) in 2016.

One Year Journey of SASY!

Access to Justice: (SASY is committed to strengthen access to justice system for increasingly access to the Dalit communities with the right to equality and dignity)

SASY is engaging in protection and promotion of the rights of Dalit and Adivasi communities by responding to the incidents of caste atrocities and providing legal support to the survivors to access Justice. SASY had undertaken about 82 fact finding missions in heinous crimes by effectively addressing in the districts of Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruppur, Erode, Coimbatore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Theni, Tiruvannamalai and Tanjore in the state of Tamil Nadu during April 2018 to March 2019 are as follows



High Lights – Access to Justice:

1. 82 Fact finding missions were undertaken and among them 72 FIRs were lodged under the new Amendment Act 2015 through the critical Intervention and various strategies adopted by SASY;
2. Uploaded 27 cases in ATM website and generated 222 SMS and 220 Emails to the concerned authorities and accused persons were arrested.
3. About 62 survivors of caste atrocities had received legal assistance through SASY's Legal Resource Centre and advocate forum;
4. INR 50,75,885 was received as interim compensation in 4 districts under the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015 to 48 survivors of caste atrocities;
5. 9 petitions were filed at the Madras High Court seeking directions for reinvestigation and cancelling the bail petitions of the accused persons in the cases to better access to criminal justice system.
6. 20 change makers from Schools and Colleges along with about 112 CSOs and CLOs from 4 districts were capacitated on Gender Equality Campaign. This activity gave a clear perspective on monitoring Sustainable Development Goal – 5 and to reduce incidences of gender based violence and discrimination in Educational Institutions.
7. In each district about 52 Dalit advocates were capacitated on the effective implementation of SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018, IPC & CRPC and created a space for the innocent Dalits and Adivasi communities to better access to criminal justice system.
8. SASY had provided counselling to more than 9 child Survivors (Rape survivors), their families and dependents to cope with their agony, stress and to move forward with the legal proceedings of the case

Engagement with Human Rights Redressal Institutions:

18 survivors of caste atrocities and police atrocities in Tamil Nadu were facilitated to submit their petitions to the National Commission of Scheduled Castes – Chennai and file a follow up complaint in person regarding the illegal arrest. SASY critically followed and monitored all the concerned officials, commissions, media and submitted representations to Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Director General of Police, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, State Human Rights Commission, Superintendent of Police and Collectors in all the Fact Finding cases.

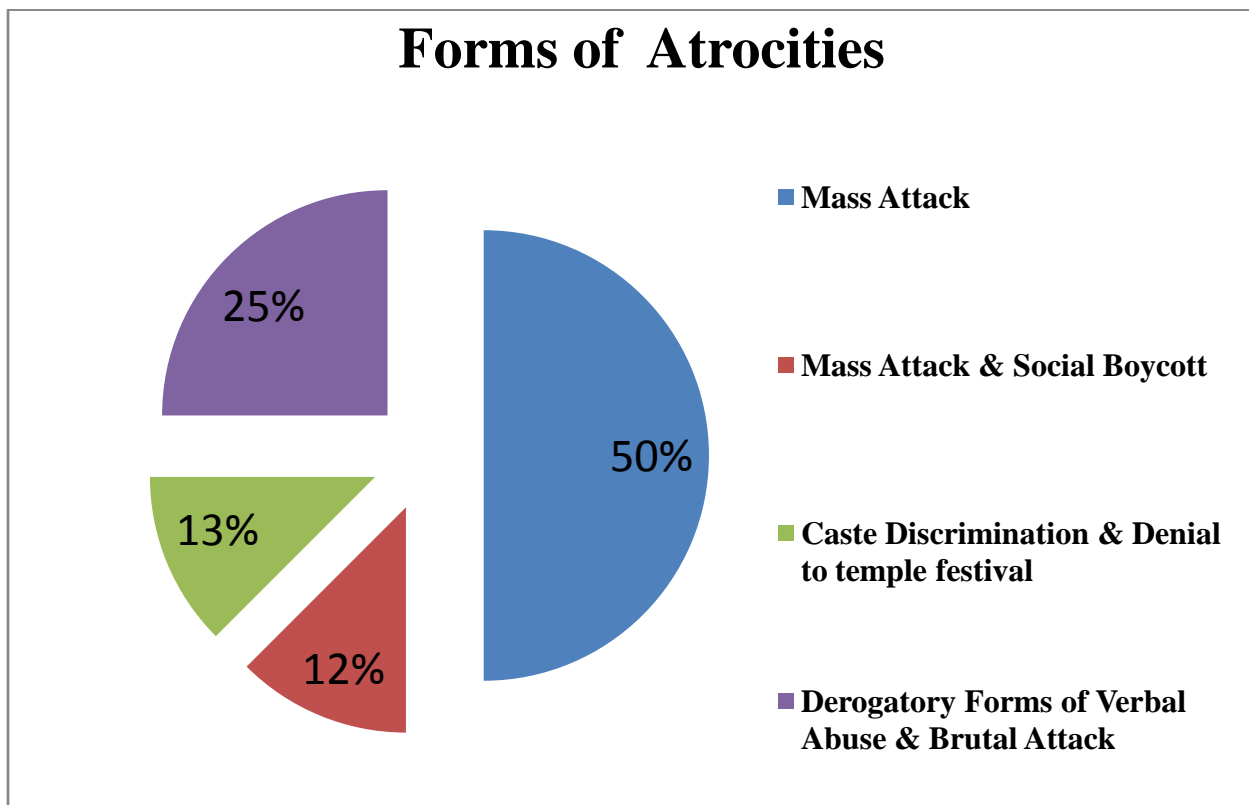


Strengthening Special Courts & Gaining Special Public Prosecutors:

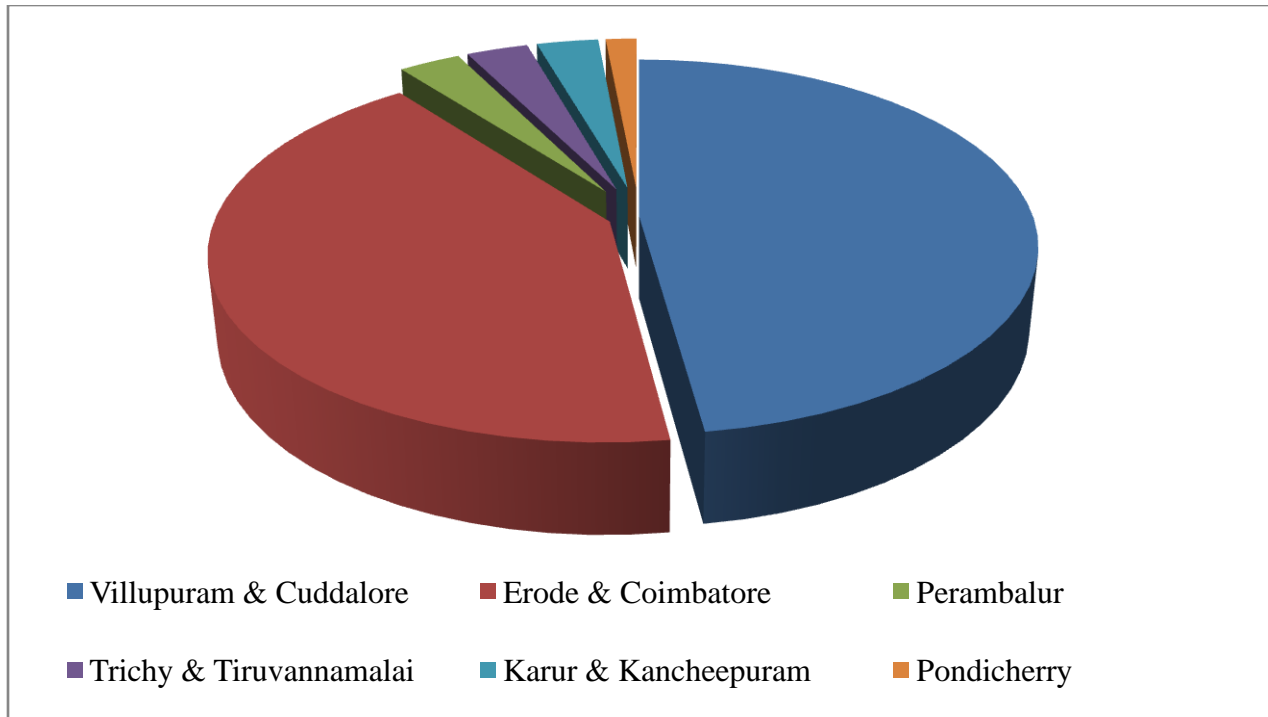
SASY has found one of a significant strategy of empowering survivors of caste atrocities through conducting legal clinics in 4 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts in the state of Tamil Nadu.

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 engaging Special Public Prosecutors in the Special Courts under Rule 4 (5) of SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018 by empowering the Survivors of Caste atrocities. It has gained significant results and built a great model for strengthening the special courts to increase more convictions under SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018 and gain Justice for the Survivors of Caste Atrocities. Totally 27 SPPPs in 67 cases have been engaged and this is the highest number of SPP gained under Rule 4 (5) in India and found an effective strategy to ensure justice to the survivors.



Atrocity Tracking & Monitoring System: (ATM)

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 and statutory commissions urging to take appropriate measures under the SC/ST PoA Act.

SASY has been effectively using the ATM web portal and uploading the atrocity cases to fill the gaps in the implementation of the SC/ST PoA Act and demand appropriate action in a stipulated time.

No. of Cases Uploaded	: 27
No. of SMS Alerts Generated	: 222
No. of Email Alerts Generated	: 220
No. of Accused arrested	: 23

Strengthening Human Rights Defenders & Advocates Forum:



The atrocity against Dalits and Adivasi communities are of common phenomenon and it has been increasing every day. The experiences of addressing the caste based discriminations by the Dalit Human Rights Defenders are becoming great challenge in the recent years with the rigorous emergence of the casteist movements against the Dalit and Adivasi communities. In this context, the protection for the Dalit Human Rights Defenders is very much important and SASY had formed HRD & Advocates Forum in 4 districts of Tamil Nadu aimed to protect the Dalit Human Rights Defenders and ensure the support system of Human Rights Defender and the survivors of caste atrocities.

State Level Training of Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders:

The State Level Training of Dalit and Adivasi Human Rights Defenders was organised in the month of August 2018. 72 persons were capacitated on Dalit Human Rights Monitoring mechanisms to undertake fact finding missions and paralegal intervention to protect and promote the rights of Dalits. The capacitated human rights defenders are accompanying with the HRDs in undertake human rights monitoring in their locality and nearby areas. This training program has focused on intensive training on human rights monitoring mechanisms and adjudication.



Capacity Building Training for the Advocates:

SASY had capacitated 68 advocates in 4 districts of Tamil Nadu and enhanced their capacities on prosecution and conducting trial in the special courts. It had yielded significant number of good judgements in favour of survivors of caste atrocities. The trained advocates are helping the survivors of the caste atrocities in legal intervention, speedy trial, receiving compensation and thereby accessing the Criminal Justice System.

Legal Clinics:

4 district level legal clinics were conducted for analyzing the collated case evidences of 25 heinous Dalit and Adivasi related atrocity cases for legal intervention and survivors experiences in accessing justice. SASY had identified critical cases of atrocities and have provided survivors and witnesses an opportunity to directly and fearlessly communicate the status of their cases to an expert panel of advocates. This legal clinic provide a space for the survivors and witness an opportunity to gain the Special Public Prosecutors for their respective cases with their choice stated under the Rule 4 (5) of the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018.



State Level Tribunal on Caste Atrocities against Dalits and Adivasis:

A State Level Tribunal was held at Chennai in the month of October 2018 on Caste Atrocities committed against Dalits and Adivasi communities. It is a State Level People's Tribunal where different forms of caste atrocities on Dalit and Adivasi communities at State Level were deposed before the jury of eminent/prominent personalities. 21 cases were deposed by 56 survivors, witnesses and their dependents which provided an alternate platform to the survivors to depose their cases. This Tribunal had witnessed the systemic failures and injustice meted out to the survivor, thereby push for strengthening and effective implementation of access to justice mechanisms.



Promoting the SDG Goal 5:

SASY had identified the change makers from Schools and Colleges in the respective 4 districts and conducted One Day Training for CSOs and CLOs on Gender Equality across the state of Tamil Nadu. 132 participants across 27 districts including CSOs, CLOs, Human Rights Defenders, Social Activists and College students were participated in the training program. The

crux of the training sessions are mainly focused on understanding the about gender equality, gender and its effects in society, the concept of transgender rights and the problems faced by them in the society and promoting Gender Equality Campaign in Schools and Colleges.



(Session Facilitated by Ms. Aruna – South Indian Transgender Federation)

The session had also included providing inputs of how to promote gender equality campaign in schools and colleges and to ensure discrimination free environment in Educational Institutions. At the end of the training a concrete action plan was evolved by the participants in promoting Gender Equality Campaign at the grass root level and for the betterment of the communities.



Livelihoods & Empowering Women:

The rural women in Tamil Nadu as well in other part of the states are mostly uneducated, socially and economically weaker section and dropout from the schools. This kind of rural people is mostly depending upon her husband or father for their needs. Also the women face persistent gaps in access to resources, knowledge and services, all underpinned by persistent inequalities in rights. So, despite repeated public commitments to gender equality, governments have by and large failed to meet even the most fundamental rights.



SASY had provided vocational training and skill training to more than 50 rural women in Sewing & tailoring for sustainable livelihoods to rural women in Cuddalore District. With this

vocational skills training women live with dignity by earning themselves. During this training, beneficiaries will learn and develop skills in Sewing and tailoring work where they can earn Rs. 4000-5000 every month. The economic development of these capacitated women had increased and they are socially empowered and are participating in decision making process. This had also led to long term impact with sustainable income generation and brought equality, dignity among the lives of the marginalised women.

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.



Capacity Building Training for Children on Child Rights and Redressal Mechanisms:

85 children from the Kuravar community participated in 2 days capacity building training focusing on Child Rights and Redressal Mechanisms. They were provided legal awareness trainings to protect themselves from the brutal forms of police torture, arbitrary arrest, illegal detention and false charges. This training had helped the children trained people to work effectively in their community and assist the survivors of police torture to get justice.



JAI BHIM Children Activity Centres:

SASY had initiated JAI BHIM Children Activity Centres in 4 Districts and JAI BHIM Youth Centre in Villupuram District. About 25 Children are there in the centre and they meet once in a month and share their experiences in school to the DHRDs, volunteers of SASY. This model is replicated in Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts.



SASY found a gap where the children were unaware of the abuses committed by their neighbours, relatives, siblings and well-wishers. This JAI BHIM Activity centre had created a platform for the children, youth to share about their experiences encountered at their schools and claiming justice.

Inclusive Disaster Rehabilitation Measures– Cyclone Gaja: (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 Nagapattinam District to the devastating Gaja Cyclone in November 2018.

1. Undertook immediate need assessment survey in worst affected districts
2. Identified the potential beneficiaries with the help of Youth Volunteers and Community Leaders
3. Provided WASH and hygiene kits to 1436 worst affected families in 19 villages of Nagapattinam District.



After the post-disaster, SASY has recorded caste based discriminations and exclusion in various forms which led the community to face the social, economic and political discrimination. This still gives a psychological trauma to the marginalised communities in the worst affected villages of cyclone, flood, rain and storm



1. SASY had conducted a study and conducted Household Survey in 2598 households on the damages and discrimination of Dalits in villages affected by the Gaja cyclone in Nagapattinam and Pudukottai districts.
2. SASY has strengthened a strong movement of Dalit/Tribal youth, community leaders, CSOs and CLOs to engage in lobbying and advocacy with the district and state authorities to access land, housing and rehabilitative measures.



Success Stories

High Court Judgment Gained Special Public Prosecutors under rule 4 (5) of SC/ST PoA Act 1989:

I am Mayilsamy, S/o Mr. Nachi resident of JJ Nagar, Arachalur of Erode District. I belong to the Hindu Arunthathiyar Community (Sub caste of Scheduled Castes). On 05.07.2017 I was



subjected to brutal forms of attack and verbal abuse by the Soundarajan and his friends. SASY immediately under took fact finding and provided legal assistance in my case. The DHRD Palanisamy and the SASY team had accompanied with me for the last 1 ½ years to the SP office, District Collectorate for obtaining interim compensation of Rs. 1, 50,000/-. By the continuous intervention and engagement with the High Court for gaining of SPP Adv. Ruban rule 4(5) of SC/ST PoA Act-1989 Rules 1995 on Erode district. Finally on 19.02.2019 the Madras High Court gave a judgement and it took more than 18 days to intervene with the district authorities and state authorities in gaining Special Public Prosecutor in my case. Thanks to SASY team for their continuous journey with me in getting Justice.

Model in Implementing Contingency Plan:

A clash between Chellaperumpulimedu Vanniyar youths and few Dalit youths in Puliyarabakkam Lake were they usually play cricket and other sports activities. Later it became a mass attack which led to the murder of Dalit youth named Venkatesan, property destruction and social boycott against Dalits in the village. FIR was filed under against 32 persons;

SASY took up this case and made continuous engagement with the concerned departments and sensitized them on the provisions of the Contingency Plan 2017 under the SC/ST PoA Act focusing on the Relief and Rehabilitative Measures for the Survivors of Caste Atrocities. It was very challenging process for the implementing organisation on continuously engaging with the District as well as state authorities in implementing the provisions. With

கணக்கு தலைப்பு:-

“2235 சமூகப்பாதுகாப்பும் நலனும் - 01 மறுவாழ்வு - 200 ஏனைய துயர்துடைப்பு நடவடிக்கைகள் - 12வது ஐந்தாண்டு திட்டப்பணிகள் - VI மத்திய மாநில அரசுகள் பொறுப்பேற்கும் திட்டங்கள் - UA கவரத்தால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினருக்கு நிதியதவி - 51 இழப்பீடு - 02 ஏனைய இழப்பீடு (த.தொ.கு.எண் 2235-01-200-UA-5129)”

கணக்கீடு

S.L. No	Month	Basic Pension Amount	DA Percentage	DA Amount	Total
1.	July -2017 (25.07.2017 to 31.07.2017) (7 Days)	1129	5%	56	1185
2.	August - 2017	5000		250	5250
3.	September - 2017	5000		250	5250
4.	October - 2017	5000		250	5250
5.	November - 2017	5000		250	5250
6.	December - 2017	5000		250	5250
7.	January - 2018	5000		350	5350
8.	February - 2018	5000	7%	350	5350
9.	March - 2018	5000		350	5350
10.	April - 2018	5000		350	5350
11.	May - 2018	5000		350	5350
12.	June - 2018	5000		350	5350
13.	July - 2018	5000		450	5450
14.	August - 2018	5000		9%	450
15.	September - 2018	5000	450		5450
Total		71129	-	4756	75885

மேற்படி அனுமதிக்கப்பட்ட ஒய்வூதிய தொகையான ரூ.75,885/- (ருய்யாப் ஏழுபத்தி ஐந்தாயிரத்து எண்ணூற்றி எண்பத்தி ஐந்து மட்டும்) கருவூலத்தில் பட்டியலிடக் கூடிய பற்றொப்பம் பெற்று சீழ்க்காணும் பட்டியலில் காணும் சம்மந்தப்பட்ட நபருடைய பெயருக்கெதிரே குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள அவருடைய வங்கி சேமிப்பு கணக்கில் ECS மூலம் வழங்கிட திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்ட ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நல அலுவலருக்கு அதிகாரம் வழங்கி ஆணையிடப்படுகிறது.

a greater effort SASY was able to obtain the compensation as per the Contingency Plan 2017 on 31.10.2018.

Milestone & Model built in implementing the SC/ST PoA Act in Union Territory:

Mr. Tamil @ Ilavarasan, resident of Pondicherry. He is well known among his locality because of his social works and also well-educated and empowered. Because of his development, the vanniyaar community youth (dominant community) were so jealous on him and was finding an opportunity take grudge against him. On 14.07.2018 at about 7: 30 pm Tamil and his friend Innarasan went to pour milk to the milk society located at Kannuvapettai. Innarasan and Tamil @ Ilavarasan were returning from the milk society and the Caste mob was hiding near the Angalammal temple. Meantime, the caste mob stopped Tamil and brutally attacked and murdered Tamil with sharp edges weapons including knife, iron rods.

SASY undertook a fact finding into the brutal murder and sent complaints to the concerned authorities; 5 accused persons were arrested in this case. SASY had continuous engagements with the DSP, Puducherry for registering the case under SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015; sections were altered with the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act – This is a milestone of filing the FIR under SC/ST PoA Act in Pondicherry PS. Compensation of Rs. 18, 90,000/- was given to the deceased family members and the charge sheet was filed within 60 days of the incident.

VII. Justice to Rape Survivor:

Dalit Kavitha (name changed) resident of Cuddalore District went for open defecation and a man named Dinesh Babu (24 years) came to the place and pushed Kavitha into the human shit, brutally attacked and sexually abused her. A complaint was lodged at the Sethiyarthoppu AWPS and the accused was arrested and kept in Cuddalore Central Prison. **The case was taken up by SASY and was legally followed up. By the continuous engagement of SASY at each stage with the Judiciary helped the survivor to access Justice wherein the accused was convicted with life imprisonment with a penalty of Rs. 25000 on 01.02.2019**