

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)



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Foreword:

The struggle for achieving equality and human rights is long way and it is essential to have commitments, passion and conviction. It is always a collective journey investing immense energy, time and resources to realize the fruits of Justice for the most oppressed communities. It is very much important to appreciate, acknowledge and recognize the contribution of each and every one who took part in the last one year journey of March towards achieving the human rights of Dalits and Adivasis communities.



At the outset I take this an opportunity and it is my immense pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to all the supporters, sympathizers and friends including the philanthropic institutions namely Christian Aid, United Kingdom, Kindernothilfe, Germany, Fondation de France, INDIGO Foundation, Australia, SHARE Australia, Action Aid for the extensive financial and moral support to empower the most oppressed communities to get justice and their entitlements.

I would strongly recognize the courage of the survivors of caste atrocities and human rights who stood for claiming justice. The Children Movement for Climate Justice (CMCJ) who had strongly advocated for enabling green environment and disaster risk reduction in the disaster prone area. Their contribution towards preserving nature in past one year is highly appreciable and their efforts need to be continued in future with focal strategies to realize climate justice.

Our works is important and give people voice to the state to enable justice, reduce poverty, and increase quality of education, ensuring climate justice, women empowerment and leadership. In these contexts once again I would express my sincere gratitude to all the supporters, board and the staff team for their extensive contribution and commitment to achieve remarkable changes in the past one year and I would request them to continue their support in the same spirit to sustain the impacts and bring change in the lives of Dalit and Adivais communities.

Dr. V.A.Ramesh Nathan

Executive Director



About SASY:

Social Awareness Society for Youths is a Human Rights organization genesis in the year 1983 based in Tindivanam actively engaging in protection and promotion of the rights of Dalits, Adivasis, Women, Children and other marginalized communities in the state of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry through human rights monitoring, fact-finding mission, adjudications, lobbying and advocacy, networking by accompanying with human rights standards and other anti-discriminatory legislations. SASY effectively addressing the issue of poverty, marginalization and violence against Dalit and Adivasis women through promoting leadership, building Dalit women movements, economic empowerment by Social Impact Investments (SII) and entrepreneurships. SASY has been directly benefitted 634 children and 2057 families in 51 villages of Cuddalore district and indirectly benefitted around 6725706 members of Scheduled Castes in 4 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruppur and Erode districts in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Dalits Situation – An Overview:

The Dalit population is estimated around 3, 71, 89, 229 in the state of Tamil Nadu and 71.4% of the lives under below poverty line (BPL). The Dalits who were considered as ‘outcastes’ being outside the Varna system, historically alienated from the main stream society, and considered as low, impure, and polluting on the basis of their birth and traditional occupations. Dalits are subjected to various forms of discriminations, deprivations, humiliations, harassments, atrocities and injustice. Traditionally they are forced to do menial and degrading labour and denied access to land and natural resources, denied wages or adequate wages and forced to work and live in degrading condition, outside the primary settlements of the so called upper caste Hindu communities. They are deprived of decent standard of living, denied education and excluded from participations in socio-economic-political-cultural spheres. They are kept under perpetual deprivations of basic human civil rights and customary rights, destroying their morale for generations. They are subjected to caste based discriminations, atrocities, social exclusions and violations of human rights.

Article 17 of Indian Constitution, “Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden the enforcement of any disability arising out of Untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law”

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.

Access to Justice: Dalit Human Rights Monitoring:

Caste atrocities and social exclusions are regular phenomenon, prevalent and it seeks greater attention of the state and the civil society to address more effectively in order to ensure equality and justice to the survivors of caste atrocities and ensure peace in the society. The growing anti- Dalit sentiments and caste polarization by the casteist outfits were enormously increased brutal forms of caste atrocities against the Dalits in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Criminal Administrative System (CJS) need to be strengthened and requires focal strategy to eradicate caste based discrimination and atrocities. The poor legal literacy among the Dalits was unable to access the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to gain justice. Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) is proactively engaging in Human Rights Monitoring through undertaking fact finding missions on incidents of caste atrocities, systematic human rights violations, engaging in legal intervention, lobbying and advocacy with the state and the statutory commissions to seek redressal on behalf of the survivors of caste atrocities.



Totally 190 intimations regarding the incidents of caste atrocities were received from the primary and secondary sources including from the survivors of caste atrocities, Dalit movements, Media professionals, Activists and other news sources. These were professionally documented and 53 incidents were effectively addressed based on the gravity of the issue and priority. 109 victims were provided legal assistance apart from the 53 fact finding missions and 186 complaints were sent to the statutory commissions for seeking redressal for the survivors of caste atrocities. Totally 61 FIR has been registered, 119 accused were arrested, 98 survivors of caste atrocities were gained interim compensation of

Rs.71, 82,300 under the SC/ST [Prevention of Atrocities] Act 1989, 18 cases were commuted to the special court from the magistrate court due to engagements with the special court monitoring by the District Human Rights Defenders (DHRD) and the Advocates. 5 litigations were filed in the Chennai High court for seeking directions for appointing the SPP and Public Interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Chennai High court demanding the effective functions of the state level vigilance and monitoring committee under the head of Chief Minister of the state. An auspicious verdict was given by the court and directed the state government of Tamil Nadu to ensure effective functions of the state level vigilance and monitoring committee.



The frequent intervention, follow up of the cases, handholding support to the survivors of caste atrocities were brought immense change and hope of justice among the survivors of caste atrocities. The persistent engagements with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) particularly the special court brought significant change in appointing the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) with the choice of survivors of caste atrocities under rule 4 (5) of SC/ST PoA Act 1989 increasing hope among the survivors to gain justice. SASY was effectively used this provision and found this one of the focal strategy to ensure the effective implementation of the SC/ST PoA Act 1989.

Adjudication:

Legal Clinics and Special Court Monitoring:

SASY has adopted unique strategies in order to strengthen the special court was established under the SC/ST PoA Act 1989 to provide justice to the survivors of caste atrocities. Legal clinics is one of the unique strategies adopted by SASY which enabled a space to mobilize the survivors of caste atrocities, witnesses, sympathizers, Advocates in one platform and bridging relationship to gain continuous support to access criminal justice administrative

system. It was very effective and the survivors of caste atrocities were directly linked with the Advocates in their respective areas to seek legal assistance to gain justice. The legal clinics were empowered the survivors of caste atrocities, witnesses and enhanced the support system at the local level. This process was empowered the Advocates on SC/ST PoA Act and effective prosecution at the special court. Totally 1 legal clinics were conducted and 15 survivors, 25 witnesses and 20 Advocates were participated and mutually benefited.



The survivors of caste atrocities were empowered and realized the special features of the SC/ST PoA Act, particularly appointing the special public prosecutors (SPP) with their own choice which is not been realized for decades under the SC/ST PoA Act in common. Through SASY interventions in the last one year that 7 SPPs were appointed with the choice of survivors of caste atrocities and it is adequately brought the judicial accountability and the district magistrate was empowered to exercise their powers under the SC/ST PoA Act. Totally 27 applications are under progress with the district magistrate for appointing the SPP. The Advocates were empowered through the capacity building training programs and they have been federated as a district and state level forum which is sustaining the legal interventions to hold judicial accountability.

Lobbying and Advocacy:



Effective implementation of the SC/ST PoA Act 1989 is still as a dream even after 25 years of the history of the law enactment in the country. There were several reasons behind obviously the enforcement agency, administration and judiciary has to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Act. SASY was engaged in lobbying and advocacy with the higher police officials, Adi Dravidar Welfare officers, District magistrate and statutory commissions in various occasions while addressing the incident of caste atrocities. The Dalit Human Rights Monitoring team of SASY advocated with the district magistrate through 41 meetings and 86 meetings held with the district superintendent of Police. It was delivered positive results in terms of appointing the SPP, arrest of accused, filing cases under the appropriate sections, interim compensation, protection to the victims, witnesses, filed cases under the ordinance and taken effective measures under the SC/ST PoA Act. The DHRM team engaged in advocacy with the members of district level vigilance and monitoring committee through 21 meetings and it was effectively contributed to conduct reinvestigation of the cases which was referred by the district superintendent of police as mistake of facts. The close engagements with the district level vigilance and monitoring committee was very effective to implement and the realization of SC/ST PoA Act at the ground level.

Campaign on SC/ST PoA Act Amendment Ordinance 2014

The effective campaign and advocacy towards bringing amendments in the SC/ST PoA Act for ensuring the realization of the objectives of the Act after a critical study of the



implementation of SC/ST PoA Act in past 20 years. SASY in collaboration with the national coalition of strengthening SC/ST PoA Act was pressured the Parliament to bring the amendments legislation, but it was achieved in the form of amendment ordinance 2014 due to lack of political will among the Parliamentarians. However it was a great milestone achieved collectively and it was effectively used from its promulgation. 6 state level consultations were organized and the survivors, Dalit movements, civil societies, media professionals, opinion makers, women movements were proactively participated and contributed in this process. The campaign was widely impacted among the Dalits in the state of Tamil Nadu and the country too through several activities and interventions.

The status report regarding the implementation of the SC/ST PoA Act based on the experiences of SASY was published in the form book after the critical study of 531 cases of caste atrocities addressed by SASY. It became the source of advocacy material, training module and research references to many of them who have been advocating for Dalit rights.

Innocent Victims Claiming Justice:

The “Kuravar” community is one of the sub-sects of the Scheduled Castes in the state of Tamil Nadu have been criminalizing for several decades by the Tamil Nadu Police in continuation of the Criminal Tribes Act 1871 in India and it was extended to Madras Presidency in the year 1911. The Act was repealed by the Government of India in the year 1949. But still the “Kuravar” community has been targeted by the police following the caste stigma and their vulnerability. The “Kuravar” community has very strong historical background, culture, religion and custom, but they are stigmatized and polluted due to the caste system.



The “Kuravar” community has been residing in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu and their estimated population is around 9, 00,000 engaging in pig rearing, bamboo basket weaving, sanitary works, construction laborers, agricultural coolies and other menial jobs. They are far behind in literacy, legal awareness and lives in the miserable

conditions due to their poverty and marginalization.

These communities are undergoing systematic human rights violations, torture, illegal detention, filed fake cases; the women are targeted for physical abuses and other forms of torture by the police. The systematic human rights violation was effectively addressed by SASY through effective representation to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), New Delhi.

The commission was constituted an independent study committee followed by a complaint made by SASY to find the facts. The committee was visited 35 police stations, met 22 victims in 10 districts and submitted the report.



The report was eventually witnessed the systematic human rights violations of the police and found many of the persons belongs to the “Kuravar” community were charged by the police are innocent. SASY was made critical interventions to protect the innocent victims of police torture and the issue was effectively addressed through media and the National Magazine Tehalka was published a cover story. But we still go long way to achieve Justice for the innocent victims.

Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring System (ATM)



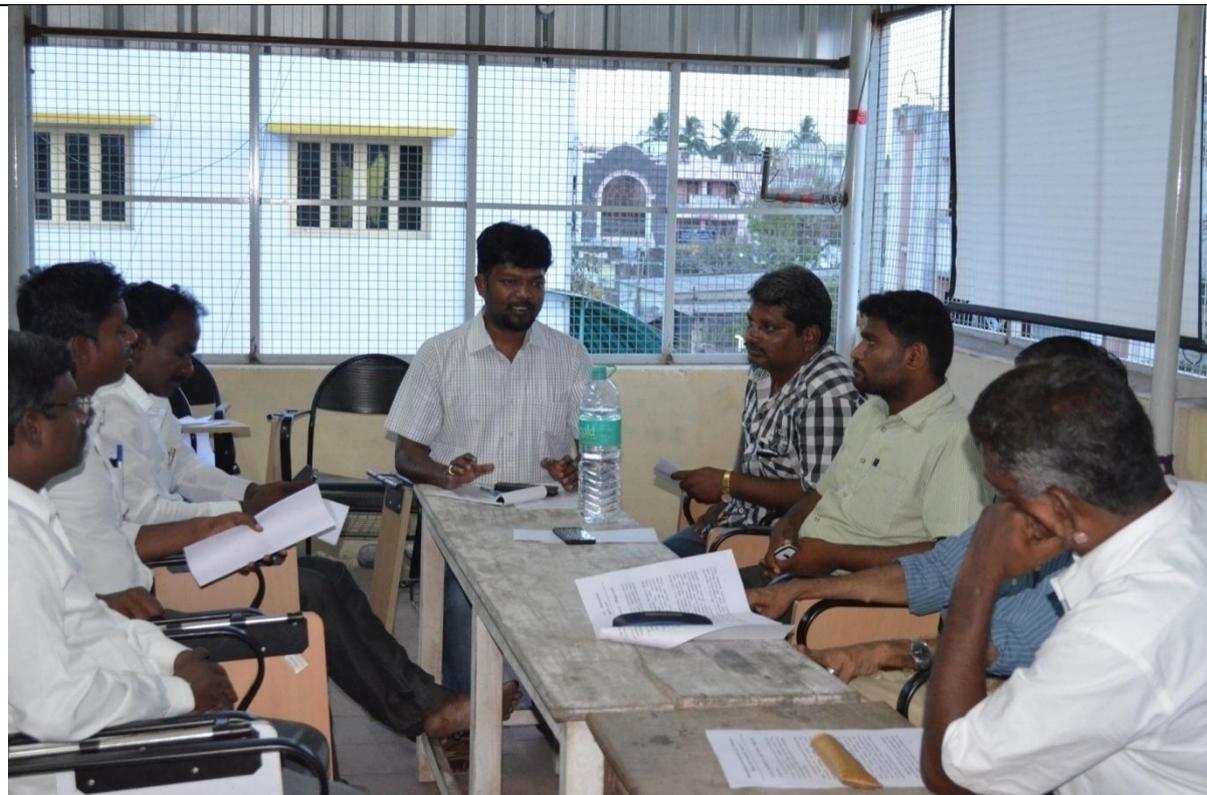
Atrocity Tracking Monitoring system (ATM) is an interactive website created at the national level by the National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) which is very much effective and sending alert messages to the govt. officials including the district magistrate, district superintendent of police, deputy superintendent of police, inspector, sub inspector, other higher officials and the statutory commissions urging to take appropriate measures under the SC/ST PoA Act. The survivors or anyone can send the intimation through the SMS for seeking assistance when they have faced any form of caste atrocities and at risk. It is much effective and contributed to hold the accountability of the duty bearers towards effective measures under the SC/ST PoA Act.

Capacity Building Program

Promoting Community Leaders:

The women leaders and the community leaders were capacitated on Human Rights and redressal mechanisms through 25 capacities building training program. Totally 3400 were capacitated and they were mobilized into a community based organization. They were taken up several incidents of caste atrocities and addressed them effectively with fullest participation and mobilization of the local communities.

Strengthening Advocates and Legal Resource Centre:



The role of Advocates is very much important to achieve justice for the survivors of caste atrocities. SASY was identified potential advocates who are concerned on human rights and their capacities were enhanced through capacity building training programs. These trained advocates were mobilized into a Dalit Advocates Forum at the district level and they were proactively participated in the legal clinics and appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) with the choice of survivors under the SC/ST PoA Act. The continuous legal support brought significant results in accessing justice under the SC/ST PoA Act and the efforts will be sustained through setting up a Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre in Villupuram district and it will be extended to other districts too.

Strengthening Panchayat Presidents and Model Gram Shaba:

Local self-Government is very important institution ensuring democracy at the grassroots level, but it is not effectively functioning due to non-devolution powers to the Panchayat president and maximum powers hold by the district inspector of Panchayat. The situation is very horrible for the women and the Dalit elected representatives. They could not able to perform their duties due to caste oppression and discrimination in several village Panchayats. The women, Dalit and Adivasi people participation is very less in the Gram Shaba and they could not raise any issues affects them in the village due to caste marginalization in the Gram Shaba. Therefore SASY was organized 5 capacity building programs in collaboration with the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF) for the women and Dalit

elected representatives and conducted model Gram Shaba by inviting the women, Dalit and Adivasi communities. It was brought significant results through effective participation of the women, Dalit and Adivasi community participation in the Gram Shaba.

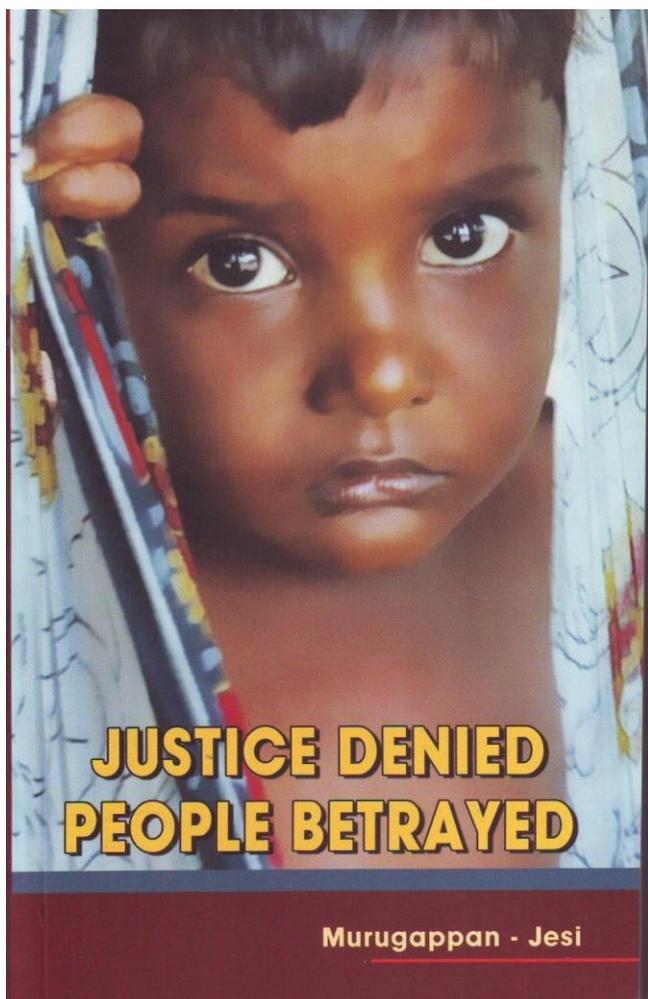


2 National level consultations were organized in collaboration with the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF) and National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) in New Delhi and Bangalore for bringing constitutional amendments regarding Panchayat Raj and Devolution of Powers.

Access to Land for Adivasi

The Adivasi communities in Kalvarayan hills were capacitated on Forest Rights Act 2006 and they were formed into Forest Rights Committee to engage in lobbying and advocacy with the government officials to seek land titles under the FRA Act 2006. Totally 32 FRC were formed and 2907 applications were submitted to the revenue officials to seek lands for 323 families. The land survey was conducted and the land is yet to be distributed to the potential beneficiaries.

Publication



SASY was published an analytical research report on status of implementation of SC/ST PoA Act 1989 in the state of Tamil Nadu in the form of book namely “**Justice Denied-People Betrayed**” in English and “**Norukkapadum Makkalum and Marukkapadum Neethiyum**” in Tamil Language. This book was revealed the status of implementation of SC/St PoA Act from the SASY experiences of addressing 513 cases of caste atrocities. It was also documented the history of series of brutal assassination and caste atrocities since 1921 to 2013. The book became source of reference for research studies, advocacy material and widely used in the training programs.

It was very first time the SC/ST PoA Act amendment ordinance 2014 was translated into Tamil Language and widely disseminated to the community, Dalit Movements, Human Rights Organizations, Professionals and Women Movements to learn the special features of the ordinance. It was brought significant results in the state of Tamil Nadu and 90% of the incidents were booked under the ordinance during that period of promulgation and enforcement.

Dalit Women Claims Entitlements:



Access to entitlements is exceedingly challenging task for the Dalit and Adivasi communities and it resulting caste atrocities and other kinds of structural violence against Dalit communities due to caste system in the society. The last one year the Dalit and Adivasi communities faced numerous caste atrocities while they were accessed to entitlements and casting votes to their favorable candidates in the Parliament election. SASY has promoted 40 Dalit women leaders and mobilized around 20157 proactive Dalit women members into the larger federation namely Inainthakaigal (Joint Hands) which has been proactively engaging in accessing entitlements for the Dalit and Adivasi communities.

Totally 513 houses were gained for the Dalit and Adivasi communities who were affected during the Thane Cyclone hit occurred in Cuddalore district families were accessed to 2006 jobs under MGNREGA scheme, 1277 families were accessed to 675 homestead land 525 women were gained maternal benefits and other benefits due to the continuous interventions made by the Dalit women federation.

Children Movement for Climate Justice Disaster risk reduction and Management

The Cuddalore district is one of the disaster affected area experienced numerous devastation including Tsunami, flood and cyclones. The Dalit and Adivasi communities are lack in accessing information regarding disaster management, risk reduction and inclusion of



socially excluded groups in the relief and rehabilitation program by the state. The Dalit and Adivasi communities were often ignored to get sufficient information and precaution of disaster take places. It was resulted in massive devastation of the Dalit and Adivasi huts and their belongings during the cyclone and flood. They are also behind in understanding of the changing climate and it effects due to their poor literacy and lack of access to information and the situation of children is still miserable. Therefore SASY was sensitized and capacitated the children of Dalit and Adivasi communities on Disaster Risk reduction and Management, Climate change, following disaster and devastation issues to protect from disaster and devastation.

750 children are the active members in the CMCJ movement and proactively engaged in mobilizing the communities towards achieving Climate Justice. The Children were capacitated on Disaster Risk reduction and Management. They were given disaster warning alert messages through the women SHGs in their respective villages to take them into safety places before the disaster hit to be taken place. The CMCJ children cultural groups were conducted 13 cultural programs on climate change in 12 villages and benefitted around 1183 Dalit and Adivasi people.

The CMCJ children started cultivation of minor millet in a small garden offered by the community in 4 villages. The children were given orientation on organic farming and cultivation and they have been using natural manure in the garden maintained by the children. It is very significant that the children were given orientation on organic farming and cultivation and they have been engaging in agriculture after



their school which is found to be a greater achievement in the changing scenario in the educational system and modernization which is alienated value based education for the children.

Children Resource Centre

CRC is a lighting lamp of education of the Dalit and Adivasi children in 20 villages of Disaster affected prone area in Chidambaram Taluk of Cuddalore district. The CRC was enabled conducive environment for the children away from the domestic work and corporal punishments in the family for 2 hours and it was found to be greater time in the children life during 06.00-08.00 in the evening enjoyed their childhood by playing games, singing, dancing, playing music and learning. No teacher to control them in the CRC rather the

facilitators were mentored them in all course of their learning and development 677 benefitted through CRC among 361 girls and 316 boys.

The smoothing and loving relationship with the children and parents were enhanced through children and parent meeting (CPM) in every month where the children talents and their



academic achievements were shared with the children which greatly sensitized them got recognition for children. The child rights and important conventions like UN CRC, OP3 and other domestic laws and issues were oriented to the parents was very much helpful to the parents to understand the importance of children and their related issues. It was significantly contributed in strengthening children and parent relationship and declined corporal punishments in the family against children. The parent and children were sensitized on gender and now the equality is ensured in all the activities both in the CRC and the children family.

50 children was achieved 22 prize in the cultural competitions, 25 sports and 24 children scored 85% in their academic achievements. The children were capacitated on social education and they have a greater perspective on equality and non-discrimination.

Child Protection Policy

The children are the potential victims of all forms of violence and they have been targeted for the brutal forms of violence including child sexual abuse, molestation, rape, murder, corporal punishments, social exclusion, discrimination and etc. SASY was effectively addressed very selective cases of 12 Incidents of violence against children as a way to seek adequate attention to ensure child protection both in external and internal sphere of the society. The external child protection mechanisms are available like laws and mechanisms, at the same time the institutions who are closely working with the children in day to day life are need to be concentrated on strengthening the child protection within the institution, since the children are mostly exploited by the knowing people including by the family members, relatives, friends and the teachers and staff.



Therefore the internal child protection is very much important to ensure comfortable environment for the children feeling safe in the working places. SASY had undergone rigorous training program conducted by KNH Germany on Child Protection Policy (CPP) and it was helped to develop a Child Protection Policy for the organization working among children. SASY was evolved a child protection policy which is mandatory for all the staff, stakeholders, donors, sponsors, community and etc to ensure child protection.

SASY was evolved case management system, redressal mechanisms to address the incident of alleged cases of child abuses occurred within the organization. The complaint boxes were installed in all the working villages, CRC centers and the office premises and the child were capacitated on child protection policy and redressal mechanisms. 24 hours help line mobile number was distributed to the children and they can any time contact the child protection officer to seek guidance, protection, care and report the incident of child abuses.

The children are very happy and the community, stakeholders and the staff were very much motivated on this process and equally contributed to ensure protective environment for children.

Joint Action Efforts

SASY is strongly believes in joint action in strengthening and promoting human rights and it is a value of recognizing plurality and multiple identity of different organizations and efforts working towards achieving of equality and dignity of every individuals in the society. In this light SASY was collaborated with several joint action efforts in past one year and addressed gruesome human rights violations occurred in the state and organized numerous consultations on various issues.

Series Deaths of Children by Stepped into open abandoned Bore wells



It was heartbroken and ransacked the entire society about the series of deaths of children below the age of 2.5- 6 by stepped into the bandoned open bore wells. Totally 561 children were died in different states in the country during the year 2010 -2012. The existing rules and regulations of the bore well regulation and water management acts were not effectively implemented and followed in the country which was claimed more number of deaths of children.

SASY in collaboration with likeminded organizations namely CMCJ, RCPDS and CCRD constituted a fact finding mission to obtain the facts. The high profile team was visited 3

districts, met the parents, witnesses, land owners, bore well owners, government authorities, child protection officers and came up with the report with the facts and legal standers.

The report was revealed about the insensitivity towards rights of children among the parents and in the community. The existing rules and regulations of the bore wells was not effectively implemented and then there was no responsibility was assigned to the implementing authority at the local level, no accountability among the Panchayat presidents and there was no updated



data in the government department about the bore wells, abandoned bore wells both in the private and government erected bore. Therefore the government department and authorities were unable to close down the abandoned open bore wells.

The report was published at Chennai press club followed by a state level press meet and the state assembly was brought amendments in the existing Act followed by our critical interventions with the state. But it was very sad part that even after brining this strict amendment one more child wad died recently in Vellore district. It was eventually witnessed that the enforcing authorities should be adequately sensitized on child rights and to effectively implement the Act to prevent the loss of life of innocent children.

People SAARC Regional Convergence

South Asian people's movements (women, youth, peasants, labour, socially marginalised groups) and civil society organisations organised a regional convergence held from 22 to 24 November 2014 in the form of People's SAARC, parallel to the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal. The overarching theme of the convergence was 'People's Movements



Uniting South Asia for Deepening Democracy, Social Justice & Peace'. The objective of the convergence was to strengthen the people's solidarity in South Asia in tune with the vision and perspectives of an alternative model for political, social, economic, and cultural order that must ensure democracy, justice and peace for all in the region.

SASY was proactively participated in the People's SAARC and it was coordinated and sponsored by NCDHR from India focusing on Dalit Rights. The objective of the NCDHR-Dalit organisations is to eradicate and combat caste based discrimination in south Asia and extend resource cooperation.

Asia Dalit Rights Forum

It was one of the important milestone in the Dalit movement was achieved after long journey and struggle towards achieving of equality, dignity and justice of Dalit communities. The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) is the instrumental of conceived the ADRF and makes it reality now. The ADRF was formally launched in Kathmandu in Nepal and Mr. Paul Divakar is serving as chairperson of ADRF.

ADRF is the global initiative to play a proactive role of lobbying, advocacy, research, campaign, negotiation and other important activities by evolving focal strategy to combat caste based discrimination based on work and descent. SASY is part of the process form the inception and contributing for advocacy at the international level by producing advocacy material from the grassroots reality on caste issues.

State Consultation on Bringing Legislation on SCP/TSP

SASY is proactively engaging in advocacy in collaboration with Dalit Arthick Adikar Andolan (DAAA) a one of the advocacy units of National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), New Delhi to enact legislation on Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure the economic entitlements of Dalits and Adivasis in India. SCP and TSP is one of the very important component and programs evolved by the government of India to empower the Dalit and Adivasi communities and enhance their economic status by promoting various opportunities under the scheme. But this still remains in the paper and it does not reached the Dalit and Adivasi communities, despite the crores of money has been diverted to non- SC/ST welfare programs and development in the country from its inception. Hence the advocacy became inevitable to hold state accountability for effective implementation of the SCP and TSP through bringing legislation at the Central and State.

Media Advocacy:



The recent anti Dalit Campaigns by the castiest and political outfits fanned the hatred feelings against Dalit community and their political polarization increased incidents of caste atrocities against Dalit communities in the state. Most of the media is owned by the political parties and the so called dominant caste groups, thus it never addressed or highlighted the issue of caste discrimination, atrocities and social exclusions. Despite SASY was engaged in continuous media advocacy with the secular media to address the issue of caste discrimination and seek the state attention to take appropriate steps to provide justice to the survivors of caste atrocities and reduce the incidents of caste atrocities against Dalits. Around 106 incidents was effectively addressed through media in the last one year and it was created larger impact among the community towards achieving the equality of Dalits.