



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

## Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)

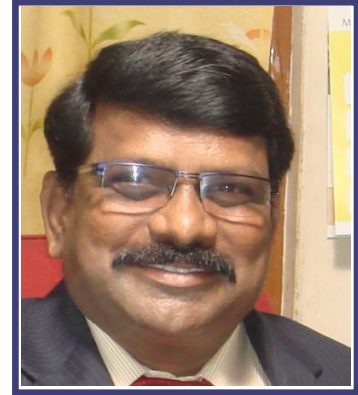
No.33A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross West, Anna Nagar, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Marakanam Road, Tindivanam - 604001, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu  
- India; Ph: +91 4147 250349; Web: [www.sasy.net.in](http://www.sasy.net.in); Email: [rameshnathan@sasy.net.in](mailto:rameshnathan@sasy.net.in)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Num</b>
• <b>Access to Justice</b>	5
• <b>Social Promotions &amp; Empowering Women</b>	13
• <b>Ensuring Child Rights &amp; Promoting Zero Discrimination Campaign in Schools.</b>	15
• <b>Social Inclusion in Disasters.</b>	17
• <b>Empowerment of Women &amp; Children (Mahalir Sakthi, Madurai) in the Slums of Madurai.</b>	20
• <b>Program for Education Awareness Building (PEAB, Mathuranthagam).</b>	21
• <b>Project on Initiative to Ensure Socio-Economic Rights of Excluded Community in Minority Institutions.</b>	21
• <b>Highlights of the Year 2019 – 2020</b>	22
• <b>Journey of Success</b>	28
• <b>Publications</b>	29

## 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 community, women federation members, staff team and solidarity groups who have collaborated with us and forming joint action initiatives in overall accomplishments of the tasks have designed. 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.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to Adv. Pandiyan – Program Director, SASY for his earnest support and acknowledge his contribution in these last 5 years from December 2013 to October 2019 as Programme Director in SASY and working for the marginalized and vulnerable communities.

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

**Dr.V.A. Ramesh Nathan**  
**Director**

## Overview:

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) has relentlessly engaged in protecting and promoting the rights of the marginalized, vulnerable communities to lead life of dignity and self-respect. It has consistently worked towards bringing a human rights-centered approach, as well as towards creating human rights awareness and sensitization amongst public authorities and civil society. Since its inception, SASY been actively engaged in affirmative actions towards social, economic development of SC and ST communities

The present Annual Report for the year 2019-2020, of the Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) describes at length, the important activities of SASY and its numerous initiatives undertaken to robust protection and promotion of human rights of the Dalit and Adivasi communities.

The chapters deal, inter alia, with the range of issues concerning the protection of human rights in areas affected by caste based discriminations, atrocities, custodial violence and torture; the systemic reforms and criminal justice system; the rights of women and children, the rights of vulnerable sections of society, particularly SC/ST, children. In addition, the report deals with the efforts of SASY taken to ensure appropriate action on the complaints addressed to it, summaries being provided of some of the principal cases handled during the period under report.

# One Year Journey of SASY

## Access to Justice: (Enhancing Equality & Countering Discrimination)



Caste is a historical truth of the Indian subcontinent to which it remains an ordering principle in our society. Caste is present in a massive way in most of India and caste-based discrimination and violence takes place across the nation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2017 the crimes against the Scheduled Castes are reported as 43,203 and crimes against the Scheduled Tribes are 7,125. The rate of crimes has been increasing every year and the SCs; STs are facing newer forms of violence and atrocities every day.

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. 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 122 fact finding missions on various forms of caste atrocities occurred against Dalits and Adivasis and effectively addressing the districts of Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tirupur, Erode, Coimbatore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Tanjore, Dindigul, Salem and Namakkal Districts.

## Type of Atrocities:

### Type of Atrocities - 122 Fact Findings undertaken during 2019-2020



- Custodial Death
- Caste Cruelty Murder
- Attempt to Murder
- Defaming the image/portrait of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- Denial to access the public properties
- Land Acquisition
- Caste discrimination through social media
- Atrocities related to corona virus

## DHRM Program Glimpse:

1. SASY had undertaken 122 fact findings and FIRs were lodged 108 cases under the amendment act through the critical Intervention and various strategies adopted by SASY team;
2. Generated complaints to the concerned district authorities and statutory commission in 91 cases;
3. Uploaded 46 cases in ATM website and generated 628 SMS and Emails to the concerned authorities and 34 accused persons were arrested
4. SASY had facilitated the survivors of caste discriminations to access the interim compensation under the SC/ST PoA Act and around INR 1,64,25,885 were received by survivors of caste atrocities.



## Legal Intervention & Gaining Special Public Prosecutors:



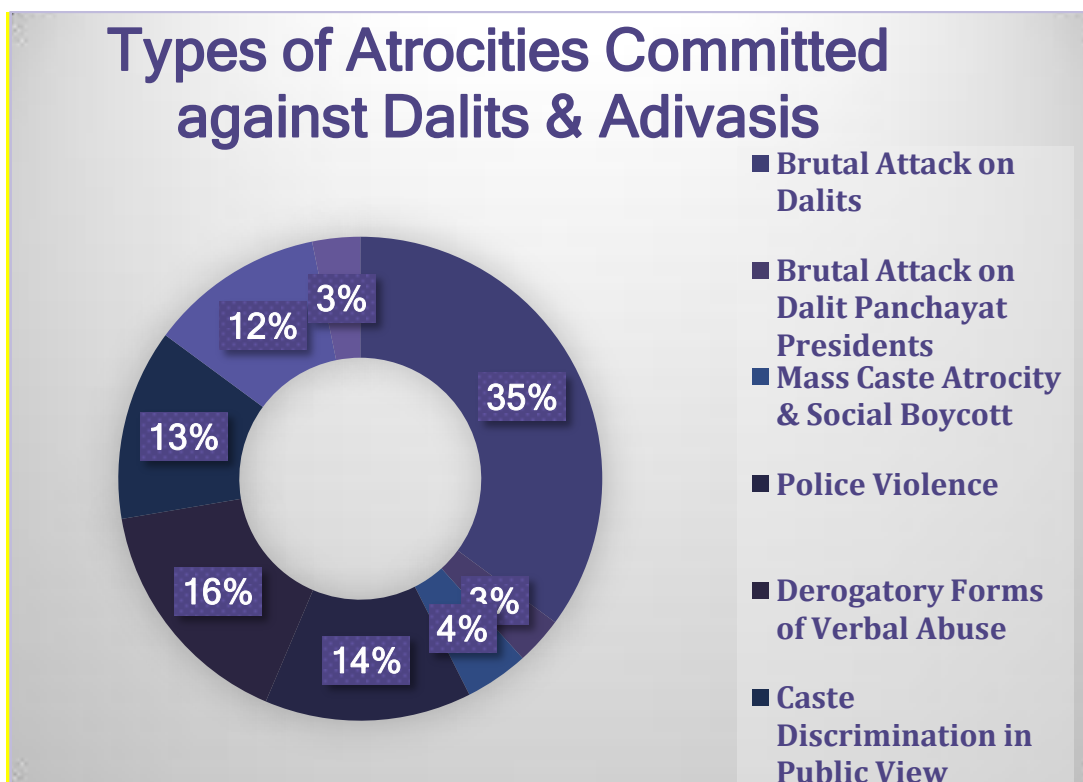
SASY aims to provide legal interventions to end caste discrimination and violence and improve access to justice for Dalit and Adivasi communities. SASY works with Dalit human rights defenders, survivors, civil society organisations, professionals and academics across the state of Tamil Nadu to

build legal capacity; conduct strategic fact-finding, monitoring and litigation; challenge “untouchability” practices and strengthen legal and policy implementation.

SASY meticulously provides legal assistance and follow-ups with the atrocity cases along with the committed and dedicated lawyers who advocate at the Special Courts, Sessions Courts, Mahila Courts and High Courts. Out of 122 fact findings around 68 cases are pending in the court with different stages.

SASY adopted strategies of implementing provisions of SC/ST PoA Amendment Act and had filed 12 petitions at high court in cancelling the bail of the accused persons and had received directions not to grant bail to the accused persons, seeking directions for reinvestigation and cancelling the bail petitions of the accused persons in the cases to better access to criminal justice system.

In order to support the victims to seek justice through free and fair trial, SASY had identified committed advocates to conduct effective prosecution in the Special Court on behalf of the survivors under Rule 4(5) of PoA Act which empowers the Survivors to choose the advocates in their own choice. 37 applications have been submitted and about 27 cases have gained 11 Special Public Prosecutors and the cases are pending at different stages in the court.





## Access to Justice to the Survivors of Police Torture:

Kuravan community, sub sect of Scheduled Caste is considered as “Habitual offenders” and as notified community by the British during the year 1871 and it is extended to British regime in the year 1911. They are subjected to various forms of police violence, illegal detention and illegal arrest.



SASY had diligently engaged in advocacy with the National commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in Delhi to implement the relief and rehabilitation program for the victims of police torture.

SASY had deposed in the open court during the NHRC public hearing held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 at Chennai regarding the study report of NCSC and the recommendations made to the Tamil Nadu Government in implementing the recommendations of NCSC on Police Torture cases. The Hon’ble commission ensured to pressure the TN state government in implementing the recommendations of the NCSC.

## Model Cases/Best Practices:



SASY had effectively intervened at the atrocity cases and have gained positive outcomes to the survivors of caste based atrocities and police violence.

### Case – 1: Election Violence & Mass Caste Atrocity, Ariyalur District



Mass caste violence occurred in Ponparappi village during the election. SASY made a model where the Ariyalur District collector to implement the relief measures stated in the Contingency Plan. 80% provisions of SC/ST PoA Act and Contingency Plan was implemented. The survivors were provided dry ration for 1 month. The damaged houses, the EB connections, bore wells, water connections were repaired within 2 days. 12 survivors were provided immediate relief within 7 days.

**Case – 2: Death of Manual Scavengers in Coimbatore District:**

Two manual scavengers were forced to clean the sewage and no safety measures were provided to them. The obnoxious substance and gas emission from the sewage resulted in the death of two manual scavengers.



The critical intervention and engagement by SASY team, FIR was altered with appropriate sections of the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2015. The deceased family members were provided compensation within 7 days and the deceased persons wives were provided government job stated under the SC/ST PoA Act as cook in mid-day meal scheme nearby their village and Office Assistant in Panchayat Office on 18.08.2019

**Case 3: Caste Cruelty Murder, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore District**

Dalit minor girl Vanitha (name changed) was brutally murdered by caste Hindus for having fallen in love with dominant caste man in Mettupalayam, Coimbatore District. Both were brutally murdered by the Caste Hindus.

SASY adopted various strategies and intervened with the case. It accurately followed the case proceedings with the appropriate sections of SC/ST PoA Act and Contingency Plan. INR 4,12,500 compensation was provided to the deceased family within 7 days and by the continuous engagement with the district collector and the deceased girl's mother was provided government job as cook under mid- day meal scheme within 30 days.

#### **Case 4: Brutal Murder of Social Activist, Puducherry:**

Social activist Tamil @ Ilavarasan was brutally murdered by caste Hindus and the case was legally followed up by SASY. SASY effectively implemented the provisions of SC/ST PoA Act and contingency plan in enhancing the compensation for the deceased family members.

## **Combating Discrimination & Violence against Women & Children:**

Violence against women & Children in India is systematic and occurs in the public and private spheres. It is underpinned by the persistence of patriarchal social norms and inter- and intragender hierarchies. They are discriminated against and subordinated not only on the basis of sex, but also on other grounds, such as caste, class, ability, sexual orientation, tradition and other realities.

Even in the Independent and democratic society they suffer with multiple forms of discrimination as Dalits and are subjected to various forms of social exclusion and exploitation. According to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data 2017, about 6,348 crimes are committed against Dalit women and Children. And the highest crimes fall under the Rape, Sexual Assault of SC women and SC children.

SASY had undertaken 14 fact findings on the violence committed against Dalit women and children and had provided legal assistance, moral support and counseling to the child survivors. INR 25,22,817 has been received as interim compensation under the SC/ST PoA Act and POSCO Act by the women and child survivors.

Types of Atrocities	Nos
Rape & Murder	1
Gang Rape	3
Brutal Attack on Dalit women	4
Corporal Punishment	2
Sexual Abuse	3
Brutal Attack for Inter Caste Marriage	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>



## Social Promotions & Empowering Women:

**(SASY works to uphold rural women of the most marginalized communities to live with dignity and secure resilient lives and livelihoods)**

Women are the oppressed of the oppressed in this society. It is this oppressive phenomenon that the sociologists define as "It is the Dalit women of the Dalit society who face all three - social oppression, Patriarchal oppression and the class based economic oppression.

But SASY's livelihood sector had identified and works with women from oppressed, vulnerable and marginalized communities who are engaged in small business ventures. We have reached out to more than 382 women directly and 540 women indirectly through 15 different livelihood initiatives across 52 villages of Cuddalore district.



### Significant Outcomes:



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

1. 175 Dalit women have engaged in 10 livelihood promotions and having additional economic opportunities, income generations, improving access to food, education and health.
2. 275 women have availed bank loans and enlarged their business ventures
3. 20 incidences of caste based discriminations were reported by the Dalit women to the concerned village administrative and school department.
4. 750 women and adolescent girls gained knowledge on their rights.

## Ensuring Child Rights & Promoting Zero Discrimination Campaign in Schools:

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.

Dalit and Adivasi children are subjected to various kinds of caste-based discriminatory practices, boycott and oppression in schools. Affected as they are by these cruelties at a very young age, they bear the pain of these practices well into adulthood. Many students discontinue their studies on account of the violence they are forced to endure.



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 had

conducted community awareness meeting across 4 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts.

Around 110 school girls and boys participated in the community awareness meeting. The ultimate crux 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 and CHILDREN GROUPS in their respective district. The children are having regular meetings, intimating child rights violation cases to the District Human Rights Defenders and based on which the fact findings are undertaken by the DHRDs.

SASY has capacitated children, child resource centre teachers, volunteers, facilitators on strengthening and promoting campaign on zero discrimination in schools through fact findings, school and hostel visits, conducted community awareness meetings, consultations with the stakeholders.



SASY's CRC children and women federation leaders organized rally on March 15, 2020 on the creating awareness on the provisions of RTE Act, zero discrimination campaign and on child rights. They had rally in Vadakuthurai village and around 150 children, women leaders participated.



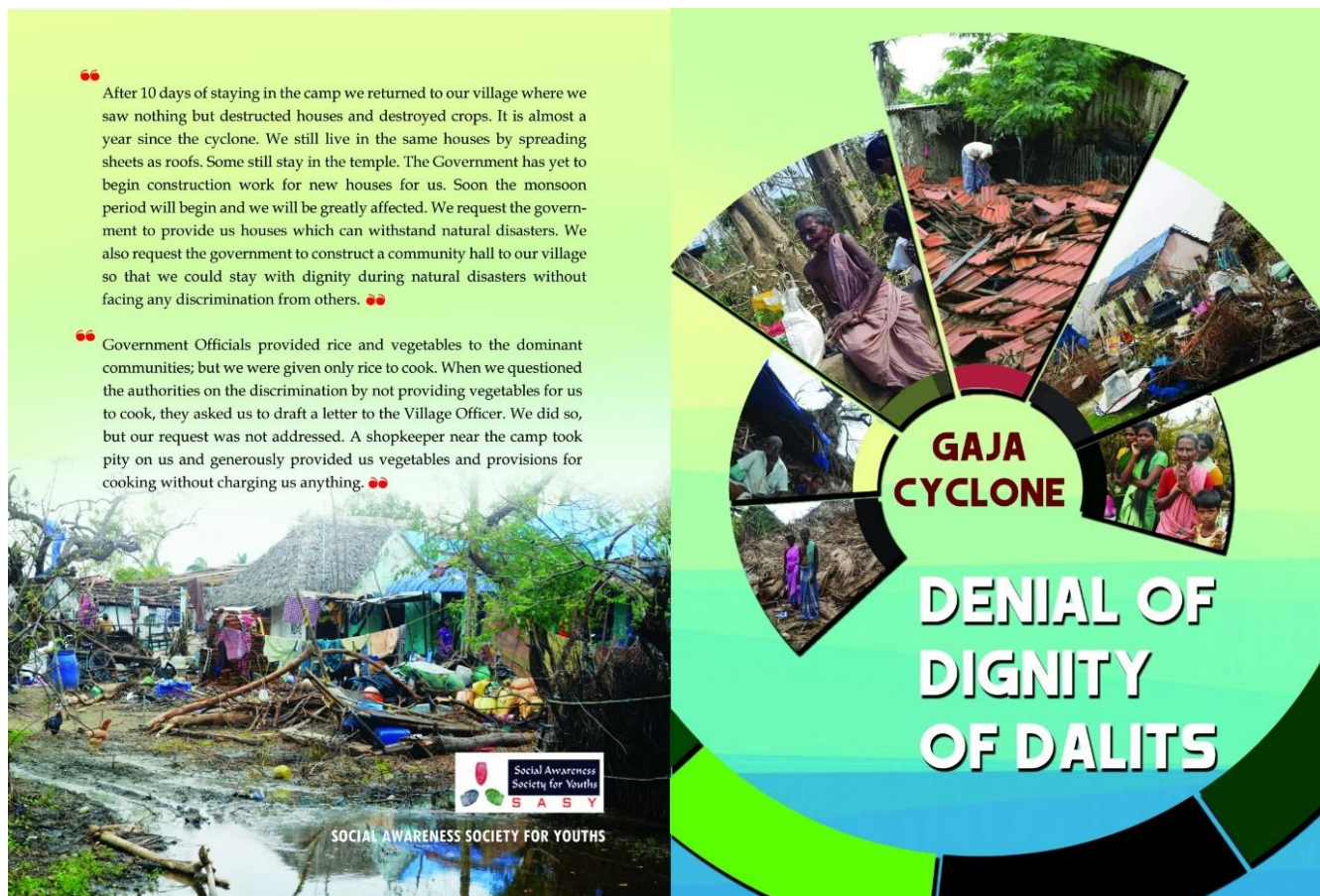
## Social Inclusion in Disasters:

**(SASY aids Dalit and Adivasi communities to build their capacities to cope natural, epidemics, man-made disaster situations. During and after emergencies, SASY provides immediate relief, addresses the needs and provides rehabilitation support.)**

Caste based discrimination (CBD) is internationally recognized as discrimination based on work and descent, as typically associated with the notion of purity and pollution and practices of Untouchability. This kind of discrimination leads to multiple marginalization of Dalits suffering with their identity and origin based discrimination, resulting in systemic exclusion in social, economic and political spheres, including humanitarian assistance, through discrimination by default.

They have been facing systematic forms of exclusions, discrimination, denial of fundamental Human Rights, and targeted for brutal forms of caste atrocities by the so called dominant caste groups in India. The systematic exclusions and discrimination has originated through the religious and birth identity and it has been built and practiced over 3000 years and more.

Caste based discrimination falls under wider notions of non- discrimination and impartiality; the right to receive humanitarian assistance is an inherent element of the right to Life, Equality, Dignity. It encompasses the right to adequate standard of living, including adequate food, water, clothing, shelter



After 10 days of staying in the camp we returned to our village where we saw nothing but destructed houses and destroyed crops. It is almost a year since the cyclone. We still live in the same houses by spreading sheets as roofs. Some still stay in the temple. The Government has yet to begin construction work for new houses for us. Soon the monsoon period will begin and we will be greatly affected. We request the government to provide us houses which can withstand natural disasters. We also request the government to construct a community hall to our village so that we could stay with dignity during natural disasters without facing any discrimination from others. ●●

Government Officials provided rice and vegetables to the dominant communities; but we were given only rice to cook. When we questioned the authorities on the discrimination by not providing vegetables for us to cook, they asked us to draft a letter to the Village Officer. We did so, but our request was not addressed. A shopkeeper near the camp took pity on us and generously provided us vegetables and provisions for cooking without charging us anything. ●●

**GAJA CYCLONE**

**DENIAL OF DIGNITY OF DALITS**

Social Awareness Society for Youth  
S A S Y

SOCIAL AWARENESS SOCIETY FOR YOUTHS

and the basic requirements for good health guaranteed in the international laws. It sets out the responsibility to ensure the humanitarian assistance is available to all those people in need, particularly those who are most vulnerable or who face exclusion on social, political or other grounds.

Several case studies of India provides deep insights into the situation of Dalits presented through findings from the civil society studies and media reports, which also highlights similar trends of social exclusion and discrimination of Dalits from disaster response across the South Asian countries. It is evidently clearer that the social positioning plays a crucial role in determining the chances of survival and recuperation of survivors during and post disaster. The pre-existing vulnerabilities of Dalits make them easy targets and primary survivors of any disaster.

SASY had responded to key emergencies across 2 districts of the State of Tamil Nadu to the devastating Gaja Cyclone in December 2018. In continuation, SASY had conducted Post – Disaster Study in Gaja Cyclone affected districts and collected facts from 3374 respondents from 41 villages. This study revealed the systematic denial of relief and practice of social exclusions of Dalits in relief camps and in humanitarian response of Gaja Cyclone in Nagapattinam and Pudukottai Districts.

The findings of the study were converted as memorandum and made advocacy with the district authorities in implementing the recommendations of equity monitoring and inclusive disaster risk reduction and ensure the rights of survivors of disaster with equality and human dignity. SASY took immediate and constant efforts in installing water purifier in 5 villages of Nagapattinam district for the people to access portable drinking water.

#### **Training on Entrepreneurship for Youth from Socially Excluded Communities:**

The ultimate aim is to promote entrepreneurship among 100 socially excluded youth leaders and cadres to strengthen their respective Movements was revised post Gaja Cyclone of November 2018, to promote entrepreneurship among Youth Survivors of the cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Karaikal; to form a movement of Survivors to demand relief, rehabilitation and entitlements from the Government; and to sustain the movement to fight injustices and to claim their rights.

#### **Initiation of the Gaja Puyalal Bathikapatta Dalit Makkalin Vazhvirimaikkana Kootu Iyakkam:**

A meeting of 79 Dalit community representatives of 29 affected villages in Nagapattinam and 48 from 12 villages of Pudukottai District was organised in Naluvethapathi and Alangudi respectively in mid-December 2018 to discuss the damages suffered in these villages and to discuss the way forward. It was decided at these meetings to form the Gaja Puyalal Bathikapatta Dalit Makkalin

Vazhvirimaikkana Kootu Iyakkam, with five youth with minimum of two women, from each of the affected villages.

**Training in Entrepreneurship for Youth Survivors:** The training covered Government Schemes like Start Up and Stand Up India; accessing of loans; qualities necessary to become entrepreneurs; as well as the situation of Dalits and need for their empowerment. Around 366 (230 men and 136 women) Dalit youth were trained on the fundamentals of entrepreneurship as well as on the Dalit perspective and around 70 were enabled to start mechanic, cycle repair, tailoring, vessel, and petty shops

Based on the representation made by the Gaja Puyalal Bathikapatta Dalit Makkalin Vazhvirimaikkana Kootu Iyakkam, relief was received in the villages where it was not distributed earlier; debris cleared and village roads repaired; and the details of houses needing repair and reconstruction enumerated.

### **Emergency Response in Epidemic Situation – COVID 19:**

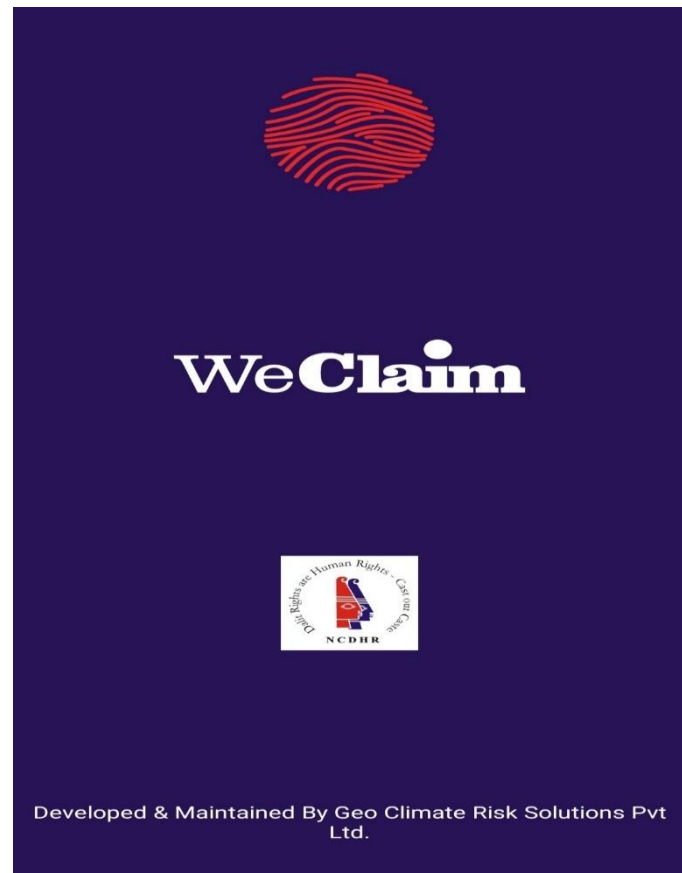
Caste Discrimination & Social Exclusion is severely manifested during the emergency situation of COVID 19 Pandemic (Corona Virus). These communities are naturally vulnerable and are subjected to various forms of social exclusions. It is witnessed during the disaster times and also exists during this COVID 19 Pandemic too. This has affected the loss of livelihood of the people and their daily survival of Dalits, Indigenous groups, women, children etc.

SASY with the support of Christian Aid, Kindernoithilfe, APPI and IMADR had provided relief kits to 1285 marginalized and vulnerable families to tackle the worst situation and for their daily survival. Also SASY along with other non-governmental organisations, civil society had provided relief to more than 1300 families across 6 districts of Tamil Nadu.

### **Monitoring Social Inclusion through We Claim App:**

WE CLAIM APP is a new initiative which was launched by National Dalit Watch (NDW – National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights NCDHR, New Delhi) to monitor the inclusiveness during the COVID 19 Pandemic situation. This app is to mainly locate the affected communities who are yet to receive the relief measures or are not enrolled under the public schemes to avail of the benefits of the State and Central Government.

SASY has along engaged in monitoring the inclusiveness during COVID Emergency Situation. SASY has reached more than 2872 respondents through this app and the findings of the survey are prepared as memorandum and will be submitted to the concerned district and state authorities. Presently SASY is moving to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the survey of collecting the facts of the implementation/reach of the government schemes to the communities during the corona pandemic situation.



### **Empowerment of Women & Children (Mahalir Sakthi, Madurai) in the Slums of Madurai:**

Mahalir Sakthi is committed to serve the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in the City of Madurai Slums. Health, Education and Employment are the focus of ‘Mahalir Sakthi’ and stepping towards forming an egalitarian society.

It has monitored education of 86 students and secured School and college Admissions to 43 students, helped 3 Drop outs to rejoin in School and to continue their education, 4 girls joined in Diploma Nursing, 2 boys in ITI, 8 students in Computer course, Hand crafts with tailoring to 48 young persons, 2 students got school admission under Free Education scheme.

We have provided assistance to 23 students to apply and receive the minority scholarships under the state government. We have provided career guidance support to 13 young person’s for applying the TNPSC group IV exams. Every month we organize youth meeting on various current topics, motivational and personality development knowledge. We have cultivated the importance of reading and 83 students joined membership in Mahalir Sakthi Library and have developed reading practice.

### **Program for Education Awareness Building (PEAB, Mathuranthagam):**

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are living under the below poverty line and therefore they need affirmative action's and support from the various stakeholders and philanthropist to improve their socio economic conditions in addition to the government welfare schemes. The Poor children are inadequate in access to education due to their poverty and less parental care and support. Therefore SASY is providing educational assistance to the poorest children to access education and enhance their knowledge to ensure their better future.

These poor and vulnerable children were adequate care and educational support through the educational support project by establishing 5 tuition centers and these are effectively functioning for the betterment of poor marginalised children in Mathuranthagam. About 25 children attend the tuition centre daily and have acquired academic knowledge, skills, sports and extra-curricular knowledge.

### **Project on Initiative to Ensure Socio-Economic Rights of Excluded Community in Minority Institutions:**

The aim of the project is to combat against the casteism in the Churches and to undertake the mission of engaging with Church leadership mainly through Dialogue- Monitoring, Advocacy and Lobbying- to ensure equality, dignity, space and justice for Dalit Christians. The main interventions/programs are conducting National Core Team meetings, formation and Activities of State Chapters, Youth Orientation Program, Fact Findings Missions and Base Line Data Collection and Documentation.

The National Core Team started with only 7 persons has been expanded and it has grown now to 12 members who hail from different parts of India. It had undertaken 5 fact findings missions across the states in India and provided moral assistance to the survivors of the caste based atrocities. It had sent APPEAL to 319 Christian Premier Higher Educational Institutions with a request to observe the "principle of inclusivism" and admitting Dalit Christian Students in their institutions.

It had also taken part in the took part in 2 consultations in the year under report organised by a Protestant Church group – CISRS- and Ecumenical Institution 'ECC' and BTESSC presented papers/shared lectures on the status of Dalits and Dalit Christians within Society and Church.

## Highlights (2019 – 2020)

### **Follow up Training for CSOs, CLOs& HRDs on Human Rights Redressal Mechanisms:**

SASY had conducted one day Follow up Training Program on Human Rights Redressal Mechanisms and effective implementation of the anti-discriminatory legislations for the Training of Trainers including the CSOs, CLOs, Human Rights Defenders, Survivors of caste atrocities, Witnesses on May 17, 2019 (Wednesday) at Hotel Park Inn, Coimbatore District. About 52 members (29 Male; 23 Female) participated in the Follow Up 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, recent judgment and amendments to the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018 and complaints handling mechanisms.



### **Follow up Training for Advocates on effective implementation of SC/ST PoA Act:**

SASY had organized one day follow up training for the training of trainers. The Dalit advocates who are active agents in their respective areas shared their field experiences. The ToT training was focused with comprehensive manner on the effective implementation of the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018 & Rules 2016, IPC, CrPc and creating space for the innocent Dalit and Adivasi Communities to better access to the criminal justice system. Around 46 Dalit advocates participated in the Follow up ToT.



The eminent lawyers and special public prosecutors were the facilitators and resource persons for key sessions on legal evidence, engaging with the Human Rights Institutions and other statutory commissions. 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.

### **Strengthening Dalit Human Rights Defenders Forum:**

Human rights defenders faced huge challenges, including arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution as a means of silencing them while freedom of expression was censored with draconian laws. The Human Rights Defenders including activists, environmentalists, doctors, journalists, cartoonist, women HRDs are mostly restricted from independently documenting and sharing information about the situation, including allegations of human rights abuses.



SASY has adopted a strategy to protect the Dalit Human Rights Defenders through strengthening of Dalit Human Rights Defenders Forum in districts of Tamil Nadu. 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 there is a need of formation of Dalit Human Rights Defender forum in the state of Tamil Nadu to protect the rights of the human rights defenders.



Around 110 Human Rights Defenders including social activists, RTI activists, CSOs, CLOs, women human rights defenders and Survivors participated in the formation of the state level human rights defenders forum. Among the 110 participants 25 HRDs volunteered to form as a core group and to take forward the human rights interventions in their respective districts. This forum will provide a space to strengthen the HR interventions and will ensure support system to the socially excluded communities.



### **Capacity Building Training on SC/ST PoA Act 2018, Contingency Plan 2017 & SDG-5 Monitoring on Gender Equality:**

SASY had organized One Day Capacity building training on the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act 2018, Contingency Plan 2017 on 13 March, 2020 at Avinashi by combining the CSOs, CLOs, HRDs and Advocates from Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore Districts respectively. Around 45 participants attended the capacity building training from the neighboring districts.



The aim of the training is followed by strategies adopted at the national level in reinstating the provisions of the SC/ST PoA Act and the recent judgments of the special act. The training sessions included with the special features, amendments and recent judgments to the SC/ST PoA Act, along with contingency plan of the Tamil Nadu Government. The training was made with a participatory approach and almost the participants were receptive. And at the end of the training an action plan was



formulated. The capacitated participants ensured to take forward the human rights work in their respective villages and to work collectively with our DHRDs in the 3 neighboring districts.

## **Consultation with Dalit Women Federation on Local Self Government**

SASY has adopted a strategy of the direct political participation of Dalit women in local governance (Panchayat Raj) which is a central human right in itself and enables the realization of other human rights. Political voice and decision-making power concerning basic services, economic development and social justice are critical factors in challenging and transforming structural caste-class-gender discrimination, and enabling Dalit women to realize their fundamental rights.

The political participation also demands accountability from state and non-state actors to guarantee and respect these women's equal political voice and development. This requires a transformation of power relationships both within institutions of governance and in the women's social environment.

SASY organized three consultations for with the women federation leaders of Inaithakaigal Women Federation, Cuddalore District and other Dalit women from Erode, Tirupur Districts in December 2019; around 47 women participated in the consultation. The capacitated women contested and won in the panchayat election held in the month of December 2019. 20 Dalit women have won in Cuddalore - 5



panchayat presidents & 15 – ward members and 10 Dalit women from Erode District - 3 panchayat Presidents and 6 ward members, 1- Union Councilor.

### **Inaugural of Dr. Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre:**

Victims and Witnesses are less aware of the legal mechanisms and access to criminal justice system. In order to support the victims to seek justice through free and fair trial, the legal resource centre need to identify committed advocates who can conduct effective prosecution in the Special Court on behalf of the survivors under Rule 4(5) of PoA Act which empowers the Survivors to choose the advocates in their own choice.

SASY with the support of National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ – NCDHR, New Delhi) inaugurated Dr. Ambedkar Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) on March 2020 at Avinashi, Tirupur District with the aim to provide legal support to the survivors to access the criminal justice system to seek justice. The Legal Recourse centre is providing 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.

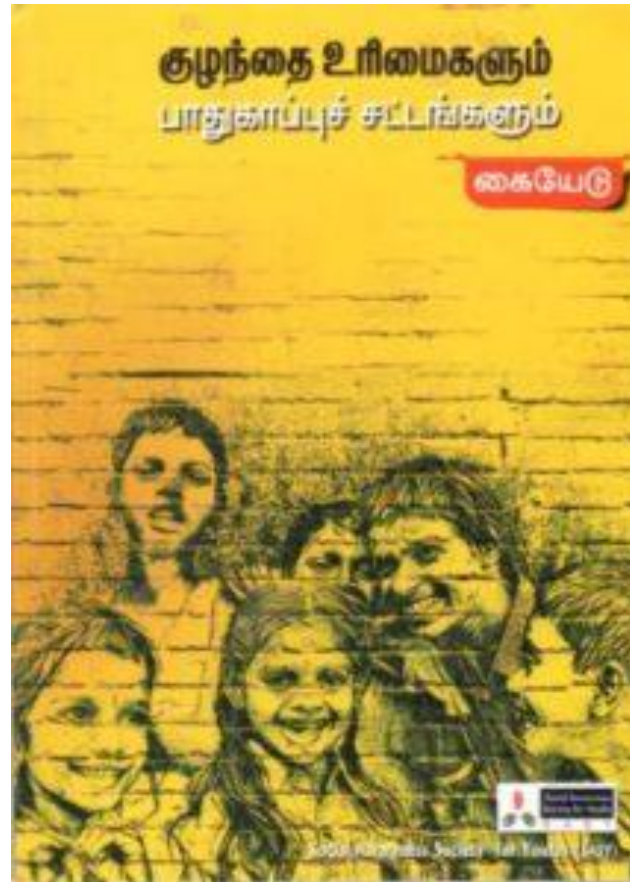
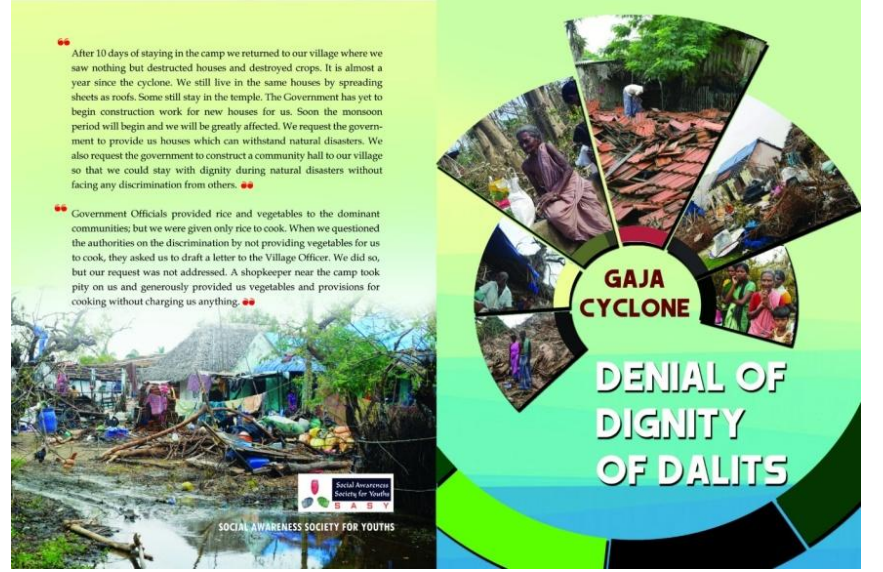
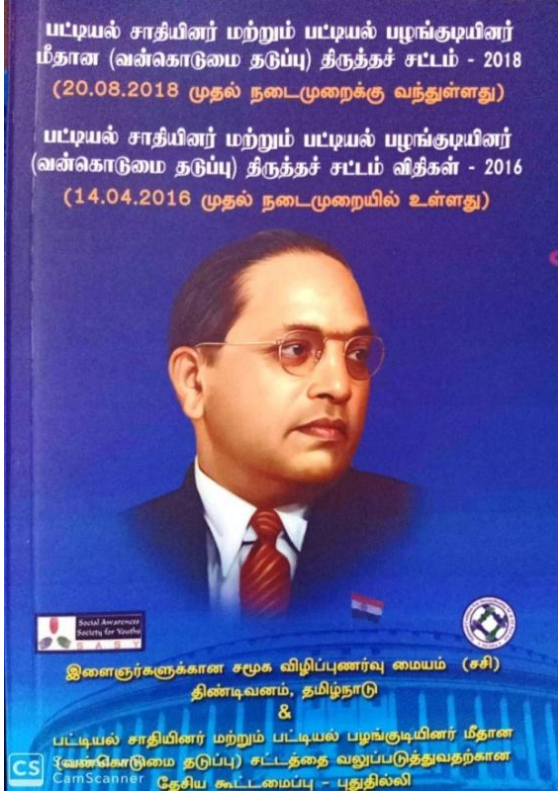
### **Journey of Success:**

SASY had engaged in continuous, meticulous monitoring of atrocity cases and capacitated survivors, witnesses, deceased family members with the appropriate strategies of the SC/ST PoA Amendment Act. Also had legal follow ups with the advocates and special public prosecutors with the case interventions and have accessed justice to the survivors and deceased families.

**Justice to Deceased Dalit Man:** Dalit Mani was electrocuted and brutally murdered by caste Hindu Jayakumar, Rajendranat Manalapadi in Gingee Taluk, Villupuram District on 07.02.2014. On September 2019 the accused persons were convicted with life imprisonment and penalty of Rs. 2,00,000 at SC/ST Court – Villupuram District.

**Justice to Deceased Dalit Girl:** Dalit minor girl was abducted, raped and brutally murdered in Pannimadai of Coimbatore District on February 2019. On 27.12.2019 the accused was convicted under IPC & POCSO Act with death sentence & with a penalty of Rs. 2,000/- at Mahila Court – Coimbatore District.

## Publications:



## Sincere Thanks to SASY's Supporters

**MISEREOR**  
IHR HILFSWERK



**CHANGE ALLIANCE**  
Change Alliance is wholly owned subsidiary of Christian Aid UK

**christian aid**

