



Dalit Sthree Sakthi

*Two Decades
The Journey Continues...*

20 2006
2026 *Years
Report*

Published by : **Dalit Sthree Sakthi**

Publication No. : 70

Copies : 1000

Printed in : February 2026

For Copies : **Dalit Sthree Sakthi**

Phone : 9849451849

Email: dss.dalitsthreesakthi@gmail.com

www.dalitsthreesakthi.org

Printed at : **Lakshmi Srinivasa Printers**

Hyderabad

Ph.: +91-99634 80837

CONTENTS

Dedication

Founders Message

01 From Margins to Main Stream **09**

02 Building a Movement **12**

03 From Broken to Blazing **14**

04 Learning to Lead,
Walking to Rise **29**

05 Sixteen Days of Fire,
Forever of Change **40**

06 She is not just the Future -
She is the Present **48**

07 Where Voices became Vision **57**

08 Turning Days into
Declarations **64**

09	Facilitating Dalit Women Economic Empowerment	78
10	When the World Shut Down	80
11	Mental Health Interventions	85
12	Building Bridges and Forging Partnerships	87
13	Publications	94
14	Progress and Impact	96
15	Cultural Activities	98
16	Felicitations, Honors and Recognitions	99
17	Press Coverage - Media Highlights	101
18	Closing Word	

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to every Dalit woman who was told to remain silent, but chose instead to fight.

To the mothers who lost daughters,
to the survivors who refused to bow,
to the field workers who walked dusty roads with empty stomachs but full hearts,
and to those sisters who did not live to see justice.

To the women who were never meant to survive – yet refused to die quietly.
To the girl who was dragged through caste hatred and still learned to lift her head.

To the mother who buried her child and still stood in front of the police station
demanding a case.

To the sister who was ridiculed that her body had no value, but who rose up to break the
impunity.

Your pain built this movement.
Your courage will carry it forward.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Today, we completed two decades of our movement in building unity, resilience and resistance of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. When we started **Dalit Stthree Sakthi (DSS)** in 2006, we did not have an office, funding, or powerful connections. What we had was rage in our hearts and dignity in our bones.

Dalit women were not protected — we were policed.
We were not heard — we were silenced.
We were not citizens — we were expendable.

Courts delayed us.
Police doubted us.
Society blamed us.

They suffered without voice and despite multiple forms of oppression and violence, there was no organisation to exclusively address the grievances of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. We refused to accept this as destiny. In such a neglected context DSS emerged to fill the vacuum and give voice to the Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. So we built Dalit Stthree Sakthi (DSS) from rage, refusal, and relentless love.

This year we completed two decades. When we reflect back, we take pride that during the past two decades, DSS has transformed fear into fire. When, DSS commenced its activities in 2006 we were a small band of 24 people in 7 districts, struggling to gather and consolidate the scattered dalit women for whom it was a strange experience to sit as a group to discuss about themselves. Now, after two decades, DSS is a force to reckon with about 165 women collectives, totalling to 1155 women collective leaders and approximately 1,00,000 Dalit/Adivasi women actively engaged in asserting their human rights and economic entitlements.

In the course of 20 years journey in enabling empowerment and struggling for entitlements, DSS was able to address 1219 major and 13,909 minor atrocities on Dalit/Adivasi women/girl children, conducted 92 Round Table Conferences, Public Hearings and Legal Clinics, campaigned through various means including Radha Yatras. In these 20 years, the total amount of compensation procured by the



victims of atrocities with the assistance of DSS is about 4 crore rupees while another 5 crore rupees was procured in the form of wages in NREGA apart from rehabilitation and other schemes. DSS presented multitude of petitions/representations to various authorities, human rights commissions to the tune of about 5,000 during the past 20 years. Dalit/Adivasi women were trained on gender and other relevant issues through 1062 trainings in the past 20 years. In these two decades we have stood beside survivors when their own families abandoned them. We have consolidated the resilience of Dalit/Adivasi women and transformed them as leaders.

It must be recorded here that our two decades journey in enabling empowerment of Dalit/Adivasi women, DSS was not alone. Like minded organizations, government, media joined hands with DSS in strengthening the movement. I wish to thank the DSS team from top to bottom, all democratic organizations, officials and everyone who helped the cause of empowerment of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children during the past and appeal for the continued support of all in the years to come.

This book is not our achievement report. It is a living archive of resilience and resistance of Dalit/Adivasi women.

The struggle continues — but today, we walk taller.

Every case we filed was a slap to caste power.

Every survivor we stood with was a rebellion in flesh and bone.

We were never an NGO.

We were — and remain — an uprising.

“Born from Pain, Built for Justice”



Jhansi Geddani

National Convener

FROM MARGINS TO MAIN STREAM

FROM THE MARGINS – OUR BEGINNING

Before 2006, Dalit women whispered pain into the walls of their homes.

Today, they roar it into the corridors of power.

In 2006, Dalit women had no safe place to speak. Violence was normalised. Justice was optional. Silence was demanded.

Dalit Sthree Sakthi was born not in conference halls, but in broken homes, dusty villages, police corridors, and hospital wards. It was born from the refusal to accept that Dalit women deserved less humanity.

From one woman listening to another, a revolution began.

Overview and Founding

Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) is a grassroots women's rights and Dalit empowerment organization founded in 2006 with a core focus on Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. The organization emerged to confront caste, class and gender-based oppression, discrimination, exclusion from basic services, violence, and systemic barriers that Dalit/Adivasi women face. Since its inception, DSS has grown into one of the largest and most influential Dalit women's collectives in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

DSS came into existence in 2006 in the context of utter neglect of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children who are at the bottom of the yoke of caste hierarchy. It is the dalit women who are denied basic rights and human dignity and exploited in multifarious forms, like bonded labour, domestic labour, trafficking, prostitution, manual scavenging, domestic violence, rape, murder and other cruel forms. The existing movements were mostly about questioning caste domination and attacks on Dalits. Even dalit movements are basically male rights movements. Though dalit women participate in these movements, the issues of dalit women rights are not addressed by these movements. Not only that, all these dalit movements never recognise dalit women in leadership roles. There is not even one dalit organisation with woman at the leading role or in the leading committees. Likewise, all political parties, including leftist parties, also draw support from dalit women in their gatherings, movements but they never accord even minimum leadership role to dalit women nor do they take up dalit women issues. Thus, one can see the vacuum as far as the



human rights of dalit women are concerned. There were none to positively and exclusively work for dalit women empowerment. In such a context of vacuum for dalit women representation, as a dalit woman and with the help of a few Dalits, the convener of DSS started the organization with the avowed objective of creating an exclusive platform for Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children.

Founding Vision, Mission and Growth:

DSS envisions a society where Dalit women and girls have equality, dignity, rights, and equitable access to resources—challenging deep-rooted caste and gender oppression embedded in social structures.

Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** A society in which Dalit women and girl children have *real equality, dignity, rights*, and an equitable share in resources.
- **Mission:** To capacitate Dalit women and girls with knowledge and skills to fight against discrimination, access justice, secure quality education, claim entitlements, and play leadership roles.

Growth Over Two Decades

From a small grassroots collective in 2006, DSS has grown into a large women's rights network with over 1155 women organized into collectives spanning more than 165 villages across the two Telugu states. This represents an expansive mobilization of Dalit women as community leaders, activists, and human rights defenders.

During the past two decades, DSS successfully addressed all issues of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children in the State of A.P and Telangana, by documenting and raising its voice against inter and intra community violence on dalit women, gender disparities and denial of socio, economic and political rights. In its arduous but successful journey during the past 20 years, DSS has accomplished in giving voice to the hapless dalit women and facilitated them to identify themselves and be articulate. Active leaders were encouraged to form into collectives, unionized at village, mandal, district & state levels and were facilitated to think about themselves and the issues pertaining to them. It has led the dalit women to think about their role as an individual, in the family and society. This made them to shift their thinking towards what is available to them and what is being not given or denied to them and the reasons for denial.

Dalit Girl Children

DSS addressed the rights of Dalit/Adivasi girl children in a big way. Practically dalit girl children are deprived of all the rights conferred by the child rights convention, as if the convention is not applicable to them. Dalit girl children are socialised in the age old ideology of gender stereo types by most of the parents. They are employed as child labor or domestic servants. DSS developed strategic plans to address these issues and endeavoured to give quality education to dalit girl children. As part of the strategic plan, DSS worked to change the existing situation in Anganwadis, Government Schools, and



Social Welfare Hostels. DSS conducted scientific survey of these institutions and systematically monitored these institutions and improved safety and quality of education. DSS conducted trainings to the parents, teachers and girl children in educational institutions to monitor the functioning and check corruption.

Mental Health

In the modern stressful world everyone, including dalit women are subjected to lots of stress affecting their mental health. DSS recognised the growing mental health issues of women, children and others and started addressing these issues, through counselling, education and trainings.

Entrepreneurship

In addition to rights issues it is necessary to focus on economic independence. DSS has been continuously creating awareness to its women collective members on the importance of economic empowerment to bring change in Dalit/Adivasi women lives. In this process the women collective members, youth organizations, Panchayat Raj leaders and team were trained on the Act and various schemes through the concerned department under SCSP/TSP Act. Selected women collective members have been given continuous inputs on the entrepreneurship and other essential aspects.

Thus, DSS, which started addressing only the rights of Dalit/Adivasi women, has grown into an organisation that concentrates on the all-round empowerment of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children and successfully mainstreamed them as leaders and human rights defenders.

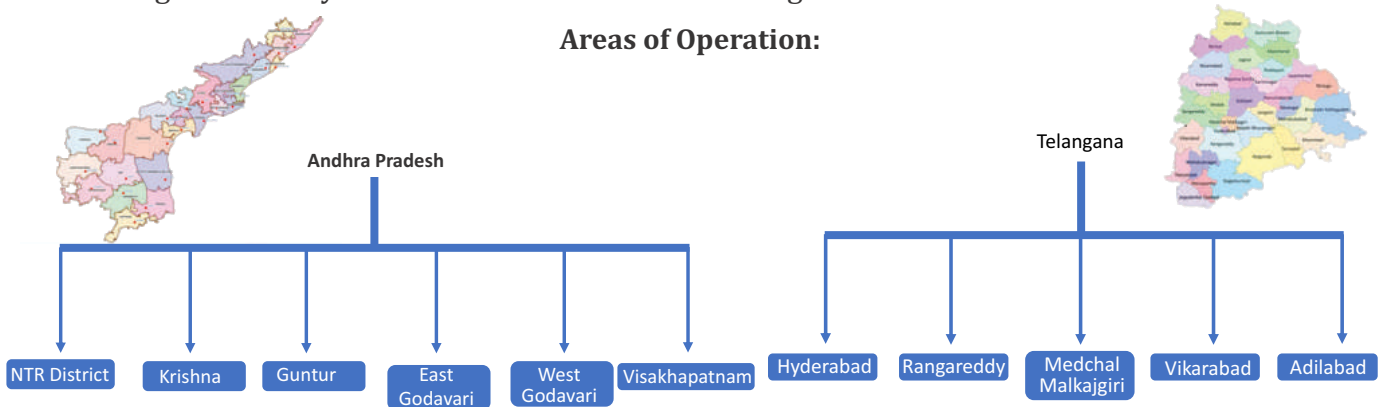


BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Organizational Structure and Ways of Working:

The foremost objective of DSS in consonance with its goal is to enable empowerment i.e. facilitate the inarticulate, unorganized dalit women and girl children, in contrast to stereo type welfare mode activity like giving or promising funds/schemes. The perspective/functioning of DSS, being different, we had to break a new ground and convince people that they should not expect anybody to “give” them but they should fight and “get” what they deserve and what they need. Though it was a bit difficult to inculcate a new culture of “demanding” and “getting”, DSS could successfully inspire the dalit women and girl children to know, to be aware and move on the path of struggle for rights and entitlements. Surpassing a culture of staying indoors and confined to household work, now the dalit women are functioning like an army of volunteers in defence of their rights and entitlements.

Areas of Operation:

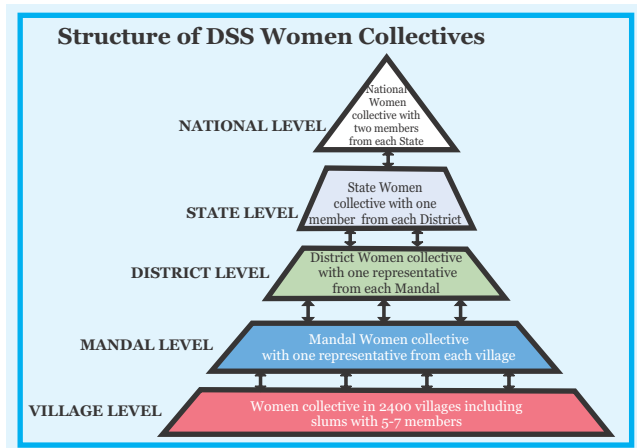


Village Women Collective (VWC) is formed with 5 to 7 members in all the 165 villages including slums spread over 11 districts. Mandal Women Collective (MWC) has been formed with one representative from each VWC of the respective mandal/block. District Women Collective (DWC) is formed with one representative from each MWC. Similarly the State Women Collective (SWC) constitutes of two representatives from each DWC. The National Women Collective (NWC) is constituted with three members from each SWC.

DSS's strength lies in **Village Women Collectives** that serve as local platforms for Dalit women voices to be heard. Organized at the village level and federated across districts, these collectives form the core structure of DSS's grassroots power and social mobilization.

At the core of DSS are **Village Women Collectives** that serve as platforms for Dalit women to come together, discuss issues, and organize locally. These collectives empower women to claim rights and interface with local governance and authorities.

Women Collectives and staff regularly meet and discuss their plan of action and review the work done. As per the plan of action and review, the staff and women collective leaders meet the concerned government officials and try to resolve the issues. In addition to addressing resolving rights and



entitlement issues, the women collective leaders continually monitor educational institutions for the safety of children and quality education. They also regularly intervened in instances of domestic violence and other disputes in the villages.

Rights-Based Framework

Oppression, untouchability, poverty, illiteracy are all intertwined and constitute one vicious circle, where one leads to and forms the basis of the other in the chain. In addition to the caste/gender violence, the dalit women and girl child face domestic violence of the worst sort. This chain of vicious circle has to be broken with a multi pronged approach and the efforts should be to realize the objective of mainstreaming the dalit women and girl children into potential rights activists, leaders and entrepreneurs. Hence, for DSS, transforming social, economic and gender relations are the key words to enable empowerment in objective terms and all our activities are designed with this perspective. DSS's programs are rooted in constitutional values, human rights law, and gender justice, emphasizing capacity building, awareness, and mobilization.



FROM BROKEN TO BLAZING

From Survivors To Leaders

They came to us with shaking voices.

They left us carrying law books, FIR copies, and the fire of leadership.

Today many of our strongest field organisers were once survivors themselves. Now they walk into police stations not as victims — but as human rights defenders. The women who once cried on our shoulders now lead protests, argue cases, and train the next generation.

Delegitimizing Violence and Breaking Impunity:

Dalit women are thrice oppressed. They are subjected to caste/class/gender violence. The normative order of Indian society sanctions caste oppression and untouchability. This discriminatory social structure has been sanctioned by scriptures and is rooted in the age old social practices. The long history of caste discrimination has consolidated the mental perspectives of the dominant castes in such a way that it has become their subconscious mindset. This ingrained prejudice gives rise to impunity among the dominant castes in committing all forms of violence including sexual violence on dalit women. It is wrong to believe that this impunity is felt by the perpetrator of the crime alone, it pervades all around. When a dalit women / girl is raped/ assaulted/ murdered, the police take it easy, the panchayat elders take it easy and say to the girl's parents : “OK, it is over, your daughter will not come back, even if you file a case. We will ask him to give some amount. Take it and settle it.” The police do not take the complaint/book an FIR/, they “advise” (pressurize) the survivors to compromise. If they stand up firmly, then the police register the FIR with all reluctance and loopholes, conduct disinterested investigation. Accused is not arrested and is treated as if he is friend of the police. They sympathise him for the bad luck of facing the case due to the ‘arrogance’ of the victim who refused to compromise. The accused receives support, solidarity and sympathy from other departments also. Ultimately the case comes up for trial without proper charge sheet, proper evidence or effective arguments from the side of prosecution, while the defence advocate takes all care to demolish the case with his skills in ruthless cross examination, counter evidence and arguments. Finally, the case ends up in acquittal for lack of evidence beyond reasonable and probable doubt. Statistics show the high percentage of acquittals and very meagre percentage of convictions. Thus, majority of the perpetrators of atrocities come out as 'innocent'. A propaganda is built up that SC, ST (PoA) Act is misused and innocent persons are being wantonly implicated in false cases. This propaganda is made in such a systematic way that it is established as “truth”. Even the Supreme Court once legitimised this 'truth' in its judgement. This judgement had to be nullified by the parliament when people angrily took up cudgels against this judgement. Thus, we can see a systematic, unwritten caste law operating and overriding the constitution and all laws. DSS understood this logic of caste domination and inspired the dalit women to stand up in accessing justice. DSS had implemented all strategies in accessing justice and monitored the cases from FIR to trial. Support was extended to the women victims of atrocities at every stage in the face of apparently mighty caste domination. Trainings to educate the women, external support helped them to take the steps and go ahead in breaking the impunity. Once they saw the success of their efforts in getting the so called dominant caste perpetrator arrested, it boosted the confidence of the women that they 'can'. Over the last two decades the dalit women marched ahead without looking back and are now stubborn in following up all instances of rights violations to their logical end.

Our Key Program Areas in Fighting Caste & Gender Violence

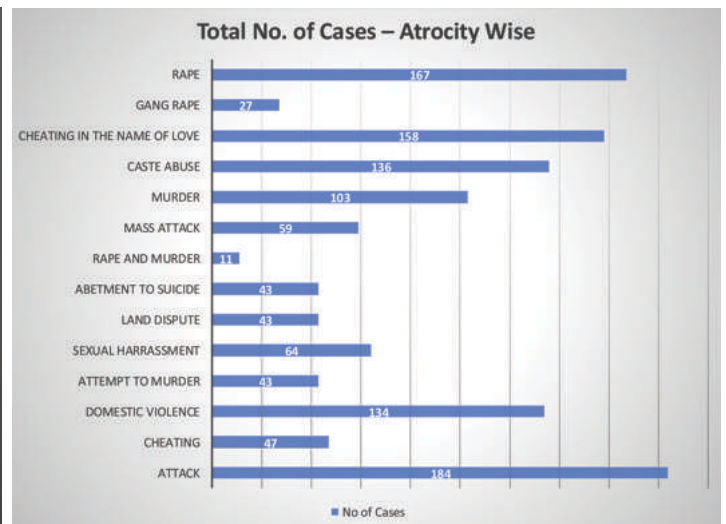
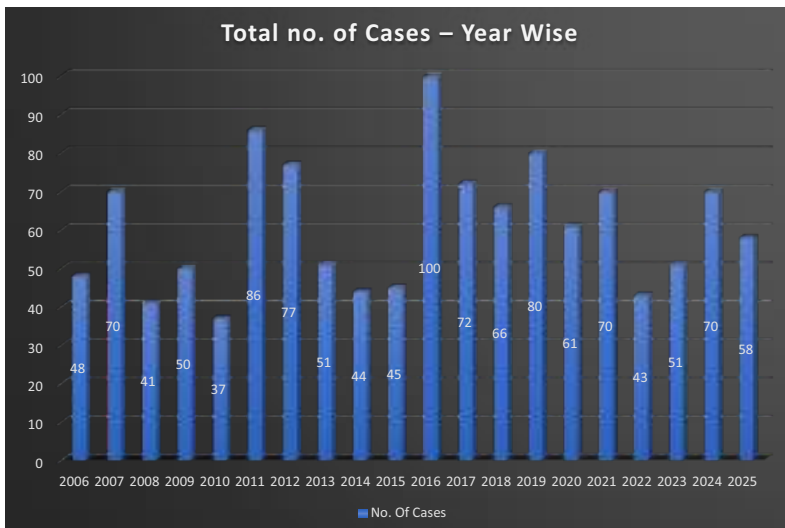
DSS positions caste-based and gender-based violence as interconnected forms of oppression. Accessing justice is the primary objective in addressing the atrocities. The only way to break impunity and ending atrocities is punishing the accused without fail. Hence, DSS employs all strategies and activities in accessing justice. Firstly, it is necessary to fully acquire knowledge of all the facts.

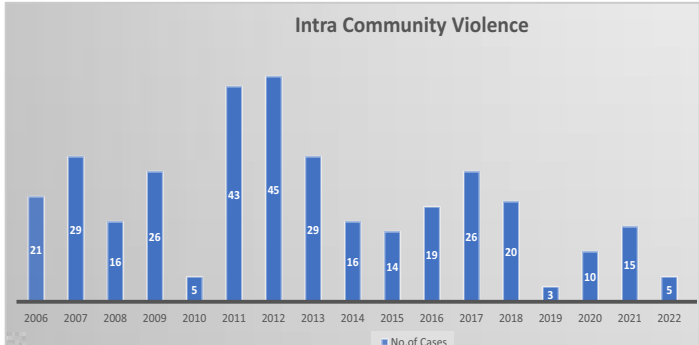
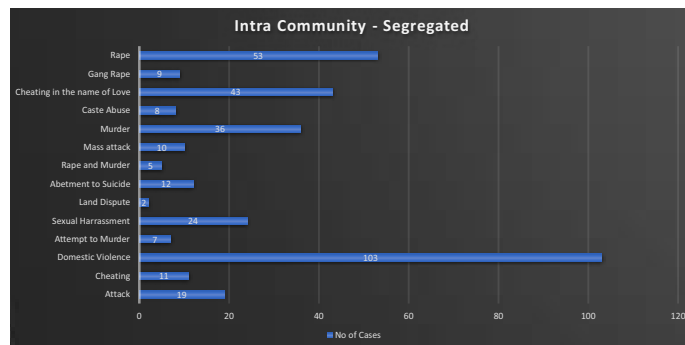
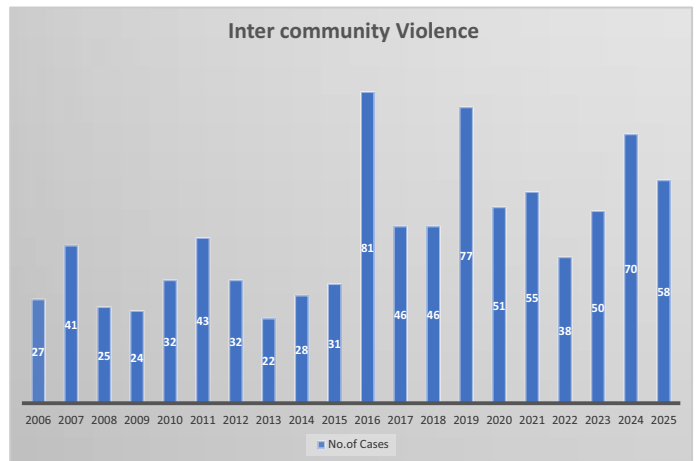
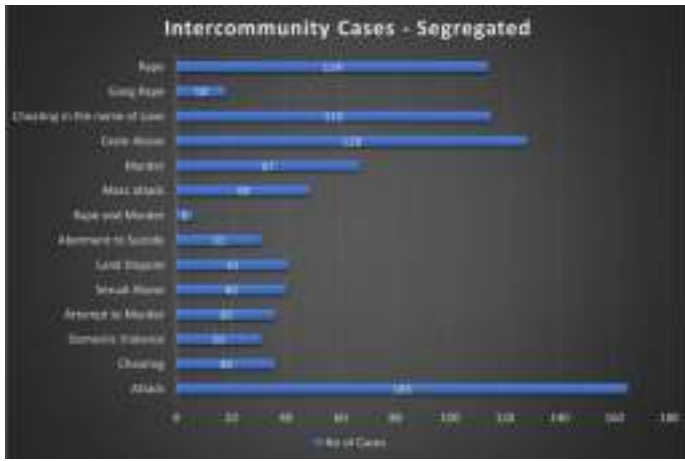
Fact Finding and Registering the Case:

Whenever an incident of atrocity takes place, DSS team rushes to the spot at the earliest possible time and conducts a thorough fact finding. Fact finding is done not just to collect data of the incident but also to know the background of the incident, village etc. Further, it is necessary to console the victims and explain them that justice can be accessed. The victims who are in a shock and terrified situation are mollified. They are given a feeling that they have others to support them in accessing justice. Thus, fact finding serves the purpose of relieving the survivors from shock and strengthening resilience. DSS collects all necessary information and assures the survivors that justice can be accessed and encourages them to stand up without fear. The survivors are explained about the SC,ST (PoA) Act and about the relief and rehabilitation under the Act and Rules. The fact finding team usually approaches the police and verifies the process of registration of the case. Visit of DSS acts as a pressure on the police to register FIR. If the police have not registered an FIR, DSS demands the police for registration of the case under proper sections. In a few instances, where the police have not taken proper action, protest actions like dharna were also conducted to pressurise the police to act in accordance with law.

Atrocities addressed by DSS during the past 20 years:

The graphs below give the figures of various atrocities committed on Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children, year wise, crime wise that were taken up by the DSS.





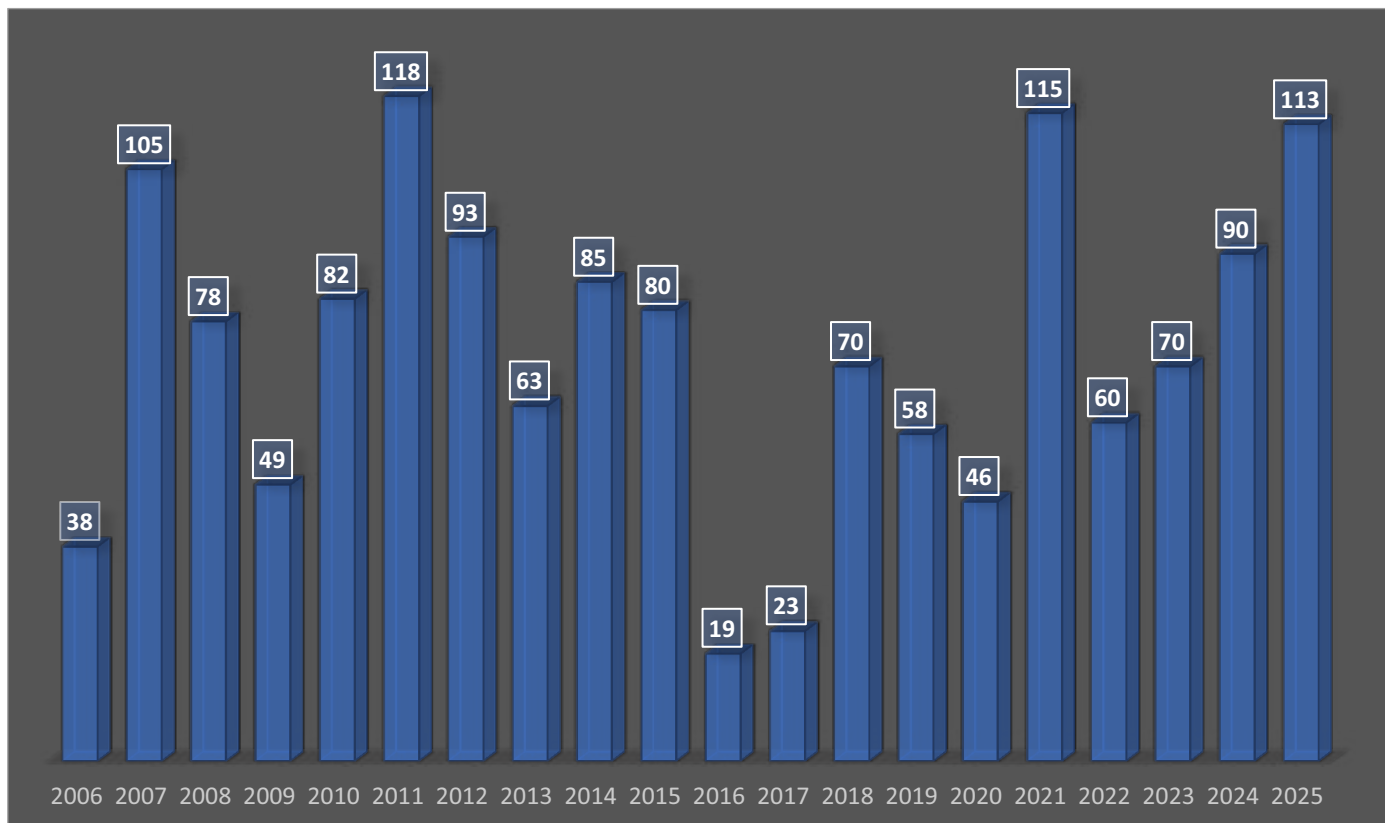


Representation to the Higher Officials and Rights Commissions:

On the basis of fact finding, DSS prepares a representation of the incident and send it to higher officials. If the police and lower officials are not acting properly in accordance with law, the representation to higher officials will help in rectifying the same.

Representations are sent to all relevant commissions, like SC Commission, State Human Rights Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Women's Commission. Usually, whenever a representation is sent to Human Rights Commission, the Commission reacts by sending notice to the police to respond with details of action taken. This acts as a pressure on the police to act in accordance with law. Since DSS sticks to facts and truth, over a time DSS earned credibility in the State Human Rights Commission and in many instances the Commission granted interview to the Convener of DSS to present the victim and submit the representation. During the last 20 years DSS submitted the following representations:

REPRESENTATIONS







Follow Up of Cases:

The cases are followed up from FIR to trial. Most of the survivors can't understand the legal procedures. They don't know what a charge sheet is and what summons mean etc. The survivors keep touch with DSS and at each stage, they call the National Convener or other staff for clarification about the process. DSS assists them at every stage through clarification, counselling etc. In almost all the cases, DSS guides the survivors to go and collect copies of FIR/ Charge Sheets from the police station. When the police refuse to give copy of the Chargesheet, National Convener of DSS calls the concerned police official and explains the legal position as per the latest amendments under the SC,ST (PoA) Act that he is bound to give copies of charge sheet. In a few cases even officials of the rank of DSP/ACP are not aware of the latest amendments to the SC,ST (PoA) Act which ordain that the victims should be supplied copies of charge sheet.

At the time of trial, the survivors and witnesses are not properly trained about how to depose in a court of law. Sometimes the summons are served to them the night before the trial. They are not told about the purpose of the summons. The survivor/witness is confused about what it is and what to do. They contact DSS and they are clarified about the process and their fears are dispelled. Depending on the situation, DSS contacts, the police, public prosecutor to do the needful.



Experience of DSS with regard to payment of Compensation:

In the modern days justice to victims is seen as an essential aspect of administration of criminal justice system. The jurisprudence of victimology developed much in the modern era. In India also a few enactments provide for victim's compensation. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is one such enactment. A committee of all dalit and human rights organisations collected elaborate data of implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and struggled for suitable amendments to the Act for providing these rights of compensation to the victims. Struggle succeeded and the Act was amended. Now the Act and the Rules provide for elaborate scheme of victims compensation and rights and privileges of the victims and witnesses. Though the constitution abolished all forms of untouchability and declared its practice as a crime, worst crimes are still being committed against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Hence, the Act provides for stringent punishments and also for a scheme of compensation. Unfortunately, this constitutional spirit is not digested by the government personnel in charge of implementing the Act and Rules, and they developed an attitude of looking at the payment of compensation as if it is a charity to the victims. Due to this attitude, the victims and DSS had to continually pursue the office to pay the compensation. Further, it is so unfortunate to note that the government has not so far extended rehabilitation under the Act and Rules, as if those provisions are non-existent. Even with regard to compensation, it is the experience of DSS that it is not released for months and years. The victims get letter that compensation is granted, but actual payment is not made on the pretext that budget is not sanctioned. DSS collected data of pending compensation to the victims and presents it in

the Legal Clinic. Sometimes the concerned officials attending the Legal Clinic sanctions the compensation or else, the victims have to keep on going around the offices enquiring the stage of sanction of the amount.

Year	Compensation, Etc (in Rs)
2006	0
2007	400000
2008	350000
2009	650000
2010	654000
2011	601250
2012	660000
2013	435000
2014	62,25,000
2015	1240000
2016	24,52,600
2017	1085000
2018	45,00,000
2019	36,00,000
2020	21,25,000
2021	37,90,000
2022	25,70,000
2023	18,35,000
2024	29,25,000
2025	8,05,000
Total	3,69,02,850



Awareness Camps

Dalit Sthree Sakthi has conducted Awareness camps to Victims and Witness as a preliminary activity to prepare them for judicial procedures. Most of the victims are completely unaware of these judicial proceedings and feel overwhelmed when they are produced directly in the court. These awareness camps enable them to overcome the fear and help to strengthen them. These awareness camps are facilitated by the advocates groups of Dalit Sthree Sakthi.



Legal Clinics, Round Table Conferences and Public Hearings:

The organization addressed every incident of violence and atrocity, conducts fact finding, represents the crime to all appropriate authorities and human rights forums. Later the incidents are monitored from the stage of FIR to Judgement. Public hearings, round table conferences, and legal clinics are held involving all concerned. Every year Legal Clinic/round table conference is conducted with the survivors of atrocities along with all concerned officials etc.

The chief objective of DSS in conducting a Legal Clinic is to assist the victims in accessing justice, while the corollary objectives are: Sensitise the society about the actual working of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Sensitise the higher officials about the functioning of their departments and the personnel in their departments and plight of victims of atrocities, sensitise the society and media in general about administration of criminal justice system. Lot of hard work and elaborate preparation is made before conducting a Legal Clinic. Of all the instances of violence, 40/50 most glaring instances are chosen for presentation in the Legal Clinic. The survivors of atrocities, witnesses are informed and gathered and assembled at the venue on the specified day. All higher officials of police, social welfare, prosecutions, advocates, representatives of various organisations, media representatives are informed well in advance and requested to attend the Legal Clinic as jury members. All jury members are supplied with the jury kit, which is a detailed report of the select cases that are going to be presented. Lot of preparation is needed to prepare the jury kit which contains meticulous details of the facts of each case, details of FIR, arrest of the accused, stage of investigation/charge sheet and trial. Whether compensation was paid in accordance with the Rules or not and if any rehabilitation was extended or not. Thus, the jury kit makes everyone attending the legal clinic come prepared about the cases that they are about to interact. The Legal Clinic commences with the gathering of victims, survivors, witnesses, officials, advocates, representatives of various organisations and media representatives. In every Legal Clinic/Public Hearing that DSS organised so far, officials of the rank of Retired Judges, Principal Secretary, Director of Prosecutions, DCPs, ACPs, Correspondents of news papers, etc attended as jury members. The Chief Editors of leading dailies, former Information Commissioner, Retired Supreme Court Judge also attended the Public Hearing. Thus, these Legal Clinics and Public Hearings bring together all concerned and gives opportunity to the survivors and victims to narrate their woes in accessing justice. In almost all the Legal Clinics held so far, the higher officials reacted and immediately rectified the problems. They immediately cleared pending compensations and relief. The Directors of Prosecutions instructed the PPs to do the needful, while the police officials that attended the Legal Clinic assured to rectify issues in their department. Thus, Legal Clinics helped in accessing justice in many cases. The officials of the government also are very much satisfied with the Legal Clinics. The government officials who attended the Legal Clinic as Jury Members were so much satisfied with the Legal Clinics that the Government of Telangana came forward to conduct the Legal Clinic in 2025 as a Special Prajavani, in the Mahatma Jyothi Rao Phule Praja Bhavan premises. Ms. Divya Devarajan, IAS, Nodal Officer, Prajavani, CEO, SERP took the initiative to conduct the Legal Clinic of 2025 as a government programme and Shri. Chinna Reddy, vice chairperson of planning board & chairperson of prajavani took all care in organising the event and invited all concerned officials to attend the event.

Round Table Conferences were conducted in the district head quarters of various districts also. In view of the growing domestic violence in all families and in dalit families also, DSS conducted a special Round Table Conference of victims of domestic violence in 2017.

So far, DSS conducted 92 Legal Clinics, Public Hearings, Round Table Conferences in these 20 years.









Advocates Meet

In all cases of atrocities, the victims and witnesses need assistance and clarifications and also documents from the court. Further, in atrocity cases victims can take the assistance of advocates in conducting the case. For all these purposes advocates from various courts are identified and motivated to be of help to the victims. They are inspired and trained with regard to the cases being addressed by DSS. Two such meetings of advocates were conducted in 2020 and 2021. About 100 advocates were trained and motivated to assist the victims in court cases.



LEARNING TO LEAD, WALKING TO RISE

Trainings

Dalit Women from villages/urban slums are mostly illiterate or semi-literate. DSS organises them into women collectives to carry on the task as human rights defenders. It is necessary to capacitate these women, so that they can effectively discharge the role of women collective member/leader. Training is the process of enhancing the skills, capabilities and knowledge. Training process moulds the thinking of team and leads to quality performance. It is continuous and never ending in nature. Hence, capacity building is of utmost priority in DSS. Training is given to the existing team members/women collective members to refresh their skills and to new members. Whenever a new special law is enacted, DSS translates the law into simple Telugu and gives training to all concerned. Training was given on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Rules and copies of the Act in Telugu were supplied. When the Act was amended in 2015, trainings were again organised to update the knowledge. Likewise, when POCSO Act was passed and is being implemented seriously, training was given on the law. POCSO Act also was translated and copies in Telugu were distributed. Regular trainings are organized to Women Collective Members, Youth (Male & Female), Children, Panchayat Raj Leaders. A total of 1062 of trainings were conducted during the last 20 years. The topics chosen for the trainings were: Dalit Women Concept, Child Rights, Dalit Women Rights, Penal & Pecuniary Follow Up, Leadership qualities, Government Schemes, NREGA, Gender Concept, Roles and Responsibilities of Women Collectives, SCSP/TSP Act, Domestic Violence Act, SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Women Related Acts and relevant provisions in IPC & Cr.P.C., Fact Finding Skills, History of Movements, Monitoring of Anganwadi Centres, Schools and Hostels, Identification and follow up of Issues, Personality Development, Ambedkar Ideology, Human Rights, Constitution, Rights & Entitlements, Panchayat Raj Act, Hierarchy of Police and Judiciary etc. DSS made it a point to translate all special enactments into Telugu language and published as a compendium 'Mana Chattalu' (Our Laws), which is supplied to all the trainees as a hand book for ready reference. In addition, DSS published booklets on: Constitution – A Brief Introduction in Telugu, songs book, DHRDs Karadeepika, 'Law In Action', CERI book on Electoral Reforms in India, Domestic Violence Act, POCSO Act, SC,ST (PoA) Act, SCSP/TSP Act, Human Rights Declaration and Conventions, model bill on Zero discrimination in schools. Among all trainings, trainings on gender equality, women empowerment and Ambedkar ideology assume significance. In fact these topics are part of every training. Since, gender discriminatory roles are ingrained in the society and have become subconscious part of women's mind, discrimination is taken as normal. Without continuous gender training it is not possible to inspire them to claim equality.

During the past two decades DSS conducted 1062 trainings as given below:











Trainings to Panchayat Raj Representatives:

This was a special programme organized by DSS successfully with the objective of empowering the dalit women in villages.

DSS has organized Workshops for the newly elected gram panchayat Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Ward members and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) members in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The trainings were focused on

1. Panchayat Raj Act
2. Roles and Responsibilities of Panchayat Raj leaders
3. Personality development
4. Gender Perspective
5. Awareness on SCSP/TSP and SC,ST (PoA)Act

These workshops for the Panchayat Raj leaders is significant as they play a key role for the progress of the villages and in implementation of various schemes and works that impact the livelihood of dalit women in the villages. Due to the policy of reservation for women and dalits in the elections for panchayat raj , number of women representatives were also there and it is all the more important to see that the women leaders are allowed to exercise their powers and functions, instead of their husbands. These workshops served this purpose also.



Radha Yatras:

Radha Yatra and pada yatra is a popular method of campaign and its advantage lies in the fact that one can reach the people at their living place. DSS organised Radha Yatra with about 100 dalit women activists traveling in DCM vans in a given route for about 10 days. The route is organized in such a way that almost all important centres of the State are touched. The team of Radha Yatra would reach the specified destinations and address the dalits and general public and enlighten them on the theme, with speeches, manava harams, pamphlets, posters and booklets. The advantage of this unique programme is that we can reach remote villages and dalit colonies and explain our activities and ideology to the people who never go out of the village. Another advantage of Radha Yatra is that it helps in sensitizing the entire society about the plight of dalit women and girl children, as the yatra goes to each town/village and is advertised through posters and pamphlets. Yet another advantage is that at each place in the state the media covers the event, the theme and speeches, thereby focussing the plight of dalit women and girl children continuously for a period of 10 days. This helps in sensitizing the society at large. DSS takes great pride in recording that through Radha Yatras during the past two decades, the team travelled 22,372 kilometres in terms of distance, contacted 5,483 villages, 235 mandals, 9 districts, addressed 376 public meetings, involved 3,99,500 people. During the continuous travel, the team stays at villages. The team stayed in some of the villages where atrocity on dalits took place. This was risky for the team, but it boosts the confidence of the victims of that village who were subjected to atrocity.







Padayatras:

Protest March (Padayatra) – Demanding Justice for Laximpet Massacre

When Dalits were massacred by dominant communities on 12th June 2012 in Laximpeta, Srikakulam District, a Joint Action Committee (JAC) was formed at state level demanding justice. The JAC organised a protest march (pada yatra) demanding justice for the victims and survivors. A 300 member contingent of activists continuously participated in the Padayatra for 4 days covering 100 kilometres approximately. Convener of DSS was the Co-Convener of JAC and was active in organising and participating in the protest march, padayatra. The padayatra went through villages and mandal headquarters, touching more than 20 important places. As part of the padayatra, human chains were organised in the main centres of Srikakulam and was concluded with a public meeting at Ambedkar Bhavan.

Impact:

- For the first time in the history of Andhra Pradesh many dalit organizations have come together and participated in the Padayatra which is an indication that the collective effort will have synergetic effect.
- The Padayatra has sent strong signal to the government that the JAC will not leave until the demands are implemented.
- It has strengthened the victims and witnesses and has increased their confidence levels.
- It has increased the self confidence among the dalits and the youth in all the villages of the district that all these organizations are behind them in their struggle for asserting their rights.





Campaign on Ambedkar - Women

On the eve of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar DSS has organized a campaign in the form of Padayatra in its villages across both the states. The campaign was on the theme “Ambedkar – Women” and it was launched on 1st April at Ranga Reddy district and was concluded on 14th April 2016 at Hyderabad with a public meeting.

The launching meeting was held in Manmarray village of Shabad mandal in Ranga Reddy, with a rally. Sri PSN Murthy IDAS (VR) has flagged off the Padayatra and the Padayatra team was lead by the National Convener of DSS, Jhansi Geddam.

The padayatra was held for 2 days each in the districts of Ranga Reddy, Guntur, East Godavari, Krishna and Hyderabad covering 107 villages & 29 slums spread over 47 mandals.

Meetings were held in villages, slums, towns explaining Ambedkar's ideology in liberating women.

Impact:

- The larger civil society was enlightened on Ambedkar's thought towards the women.
- Panchayatraj leaders got awareness on Ambedkar's ideology.
- Village Women Collective leaders strengthened their leadership.



Campaign on “Let us learn the Constitution and Protect Democracy”

DSS has always been imparting the knowledge of Constitution and various important laws to the Women Collectives, youth, human rights defenders and dalit women of the villages, through trainings, meetings, distribution of booklets in Telugu etc. DSS felt the need to spread awareness of the Constitution among the general public and embarked upon a vigorous campaign, titled “**Learn the Constitution and Protect Democracy**”. This campaign was organised to celebrate Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The campaign was launched from the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, at Guntur on April 1st 2022 with a meeting. The campaign was continued with meetings on the content of the Constitution in various villages, slums and town centres in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for 14 days. The campaign was concluded on April 14th 2022 at Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad. During these 14 days DSS touched thousands of people and sensitized them about Constitution and its importance in protecting our rights and in democratic governance.



SIXTEEN DAYS OF FIRE, FOREVER OF CHANGE

Gender Campaign – 16 Days Activism:

UN Women champions the cause of gender equality. UN Women is the UN organization delivering programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential. To achieve the goal of ending all forms of violence on women, UN Women calls for world wide annual campaign from 25th November to 10th December. This is called 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This call of the UN Women has to be responded and implemented by all governments, NGOs, institutions, and citizens to show how much the world cares about ending violence against women and girls. Now it is more relevant to conduct such campaign in view of the growing rightist forces in the world and in the country, but unfortunately, the response from NGOs is not to the extent it ought to be. In view of the importance of the UN call, DSS has been implementing these 16 days activism for the past 20 years and has been conducting vigorous gender campaign during these 16 days. DSS has been working to empower women and girls to assert their rights and seek help when they experience violence. The annual feature of 16 days activism/ gender campaign by DSS has created impact in sensitizing the society in general and youth in particular about gender issues.

During the 16 days DSS carried on the campaign vigorously in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. DSS conducted Conferences, Legal Clinics, Round Table Conferences, street meetings in slums, human chains, and educative campaigns to adolescents and youth in schools, hostels and colleges in both the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In all the meetings the focus of DSS has been on the plight of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. During these meetings, National Convener of DSS along with the team addressed all meetings and educated them on gender concepts. They are told how to look at everything through gender lens. Each year in all these programmes DSS reaches to about thousands of men/women and children. Thus, over the last twenty years, DSS could reach to lakhs of people and make them aware of gender concepts.

















SHE IS NOT JUST THE FUTURE - SHE IS THE PRESENT

Dalit/ Adivasi Girl Children

Everyone agrees that children are the future of the society and that they should be nurtured lovingly and carefully. In the era of human rights discourse, it is universally accepted by all that, childhood is the period of joyful and healthy growth along with learning. Recognising the need to safeguard and protect the children everywhere, the UN adopted child rights convention which guarantees safeguards for happy and healthy childhood for every child and confers various rights on them. In case of dalit girl children, the UN Child Rights Convention is practically neglected. They are deprived of all the rights conferred by the child rights convention, as if the convention is not applicable to them. To rectify this situation, DSS had embarked upon the programme of mainstreaming dalit girl children, so that they may turn out to be educated, empowered and useful citizens when they grow up as women.

As it stands today, these girl children are being socialized in the age old ideology of gender stereotypes by most of the parents. Due to poverty, the girl child is discriminated in every aspect, particularly in spending money on her education. With whatever money that they can spend, parents send their male child to a private school and not their daughter. The parents get rid of the girl by getting her married at the earliest. Even though there are government schools and social welfare hostels, the quality of education is very poor in these hostels due to neglect, corruption and lack of funds. Apart from poor quality of education, safety for boys and girls at these hostels is lacking. Frequent incidents of girls being sexually exploited by the wardens/other staff are being reported in the media. This atmosphere further frightens the parents of dalit girl children to send their daughters to social welfare hostels.

Since, parents cannot get their girl children educated by sending them to private schools, the need of the hour is to streamline the anganwadis, social welfare hostels and government schools for imparting better education to Dalit/Adivasi girls.

With the objective of monitoring and streamlining social welfare hostels and schools, DSS conducted survey covering 1401 Dalit Girl Children, 760 anganwadi centers, 528 government schools and 46 social welfare hostels in the working area of Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) spread over 8 districts.

The women collectives were trained in monitoring and identifying the problems of these government educational institutions. The team and women collectives of DSS identified hundreds of issues pertaining to the proper maintenance of the social welfare hostels, government schools and anganwadi centres and resolved by the women collectives of DSS. The following are various issues on which representations were given:

Additional rooms, drinking water, water for usage, toilets, building repair, new building, blankets, uniforms, quality food, warden, unhygienic surroundings, compound walls, fans and lights, watchwoman, cosmetics, tutors, drainage, personal hygiene, shifting to better premises, ayah, lack of teachers, time maintenance of teachers, increase of strength etc. The details of representations submitted and issues resolved are as follows:

	No of Issues Represented	No. of Issues Resolved
AWC	13141	7023
Schools	20844	11427
Hostels	724	434



The dalit women collective members were actively involved in school monitoring affairs and in due course few women collectives were also taken into School Management Committees.

DSS played a broader role in transforming school education. Since dalit children are discriminated, forced to do certain chores like cleaning the toilets, cleaning the premises, discriminated in mid-day meals etc., DSS conducted consultation meetings with students, teachers, parents and CSOs on the topic of discriminatory practices in educational Institutions. These consultation meetings were conducted in the districts of East Godavari and Guntur on 15th and 19th of November 2016. The objective of the consultation was to involve the stake holders, discuss with them on the prevailing conditions in the education institutions, know their views and their perspective on what the ideal situation ought to be. The consultation also was helpful in collecting the data and document the discriminatory practices.

The consultation meetings elicited responses from the students, teachers, parents, guest speakers, principals etc on important topics like how should the children behave, teachers behave, parents behave, what should be the environment at school and at home. After the entire data through responses was collected, the gist of findings was recorded and circulated to the concerned.





Public Hearing:

In the year 2017 a public hearing on discrimination & atrocities against dalit children in schools was organised on 15th December 2017 at Press Club, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Higher officials of concerned departments, representatives of various organisations and academicians attended the Public Hearing as jury members. After the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the jury gave their recommendations.

Consultation On Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence against Children in Educational Institutions Bill – 2018:

Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) and National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) has organized a Consultation on Prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against children in educational institutions Bill - 2018 on 6th November 2018 at Hotel Swarna Palace, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Intellectuals, higher officials and representatives of various child rights organisations, teachers, students, parents and Women Collectives of DSS have participated.



Cheating in the Name of Love:

During the last two decades, many minor dalit girls were cheated in the name of love. This type of atrocity is on the rise. The dominant caste men/ boys seduce the dalit girl in the name of love and promise to marry her. With the promise of marriage, he will have sex with her and later refuses to marry her when she pressurizes him to marry. He says that his parents are not agreeable for the marriage. He abandons her and will go to any extent, even facing criminal case for cheating. In some instances, he marries her in a temple, have sex with her for a few days and then abandons her with the encouragement of his family.

In cases like this when police complaint is given, the accused may be arrested but he can be booked only for cheating and breaking the promise. After the enactment of POCSO Act and its amendments in 2019 the Act is attracted if the girl is below 18 years, but in all other cases only cheating is the offence. Since the sex is consensual, there is no rape also. DSS addressed many cases of this type. In cases like this, it is difficult to force the male to marry her by resorting to legal action. Even if this is achieved, i.e. forcing him to marry with the threat of criminal case, the marital relationship continues to be very fragile, filled with hatred and continual abuse, violence and demands for dowry which he lost because of this forced marriage.

In a large number of cases, the girl becomes pregnant and conceives a child leading to further problems. In many instances when the girl is pregnant and if the pregnancy is in early stage, they can go for abortion. But in cases where the pregnancy is advanced and doctors refuse to abort; court has to be approached for abortion. DNA is collected to fix the parent. In a number of cases, DSS helped the pregnant girls in this process. In a few instances, the girl keeps the pregnancy and gives birth to the child. In such cases, they face lot of problems and are struggling with the society and in courts. DSS extended legal support and psychological counselling to such women to placate them. During the past two decades, DSS addressed 158 cases of cheating in the name of love.

Awareness Camps for youth in Schools, Hostels and Colleges:

A recent survey revealed that 91% of children are addicted to mobile phones. The survey found out that 83% of children are watching their phones as a first thing in the morning. These children are using internet to watch porno also on their phones. Due to addiction of social media like facebook, whatsapp, ticktok, PUBG and other applications the children are resorting to misadventures and crimes. Some youth are cheating girls and taking her nude photos and blackmailing her. A few incidents of school children of X class raping their school mate occurred in Mumbai and other places. Alcoholism, pub culture, narcotics is spreading fast in cities like Hyderabad and large number of youth are getting addicted to alcohol and drugs. While rich people are spending their easy money, middle class youth are tempted to commit crimes for having these luxuries. Having observed all these vices and growing vicious culture among the children and youth, DSS had taken up inspiring and motivating the adolescents and youth about the dangers of drug culture in a big way on a continuing basis. DSS conducted youth motivation camps in colleges, schools and hostels, explained the adolescents and youth the pros and cons of consumerism, the evil effects of drugs, alcoholism, the need to transform personal and family financial situation through hard work, entrepreneurship and other right means. They were inspired with the live examples of successful persons in various fields and also the great leaders in the past who contributed to the nation. The youth were explained the shame they and their family will have to face if they are involved in criminal or anti-social activity. It is necessary also to make the youth understand that no one can escape by doing a wrongful acts and will have to face bitter consequences for thoughtless acts if done in temptation. All our camps were appreciated by the concerned college managements.











WHERE VOICES BECAME VISION

Annual General Body Meetings

Throughout the year, dalit women and dalit women collective members will be working within their village and mandal. There is no interaction for them with the other dalit women and collective members of other districts. Annual General Body meeting is an event that provides an opportunity for everyone, from all districts and villages to meet, interact with each other. It is an occasion for them to be inspired with the speeches by renowned persons, state and national level dalit and democratic rights leaders like, Shri Kaki Madhava Rao, IAS(Retd), Shri K Praveen Kumar, IAS, Shri Udaya Lakshmi, IAS, Shri Divya Devarajan, IAS, Shri Kaki Suneetha, IAS, Shri Chaya Rathan, IAS, Shri Budithi Raja Sekhar, IAS, Shri Akunuri Murali, IAS, Shri Gandham Chandrudu, IAS, Shri Chellappa, IAS, Shri Chethana, IPS, Shri PSN Murthy, IDAS, Ambassador Vinod Kumar, IFS, Shri Charulatha Scientist and senior professors of the universities etc. Further, it is an opportunity for the dalit women to look back and review their own work and their accomplishments. Until 2015 these annual general body meetings were held for the entire A.P. state consisting of Andhra and Telangana, which provided a wonderful occasion for all the cultures to meet and interact. Every year, the Annual General Body meetings were held in a festive atmosphere. Famous intellectuals from across the nation and state were invited as speakers to enlighten the gathering. The dalit women from all the districts come to the annual general body in trains/buses, on their own carrying banners and flags in an assertive way. This occasion of large gathering of dalit women at one place is utilized to educate them by arranging inspiring speeches by stalwarts on Ambedkar ideology and women rights.

Usually, the General Body meeting goes on for two days with educative events. On a few occasions, the General Body meeting is preceded by a Public Hearing. Thus, Annual Conferences serves the purpose of educating, boosting the spirit of all women activists and also serve as a show of unity and strength. Every year the Annual Report is released in Telugu and English languages by the guests during the annual conference. General Body event is invariably highlighted and widely covered by the print and electronic media in the districts and states thereby promoting visibility to the dalit women cause.















TURNING DAYS INTO DECLARATIONS

Celebration of Historic Days

Certain Days are considered as momentous by all and they are celebrated by government and private organisations as well. International Women's Day, Ambedkar Jayanthi etc. are a few such significant days. But mostly everyone celebrates these days in a routine way without catching the spirit of it. At DSS, we thought that we celebrate only a few significant days seriously, imparting knowledge to Dalit/Adivasi women concerning the significance of that particular day. Hence DSS selected only those significant days that are relevant to dalit/Adivasi women, such as Savitribai Phule Jayanthi, International Women's Day, Ambedkar Jayanthi, Independence Day and Republic Day. Each year a theme is selected to focus for each significant day. For example, 'Quality education for Dalit Girl Children', 'Inclusive Education', etc were the themes selected for celebrating Savitribhai Phule Jayanthi. Similarly, "Dalit Women in Independent India", "Equality in Independent India" are selected as themes for celebrating Independence Day. Likewise, Ambedkar Jayanthi, Republic Day and other significant days were also celebrated on various themes. Thus, innovative themes relevant to Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children form the core subjects for celebrating any significant day. Once a theme is finalized, the day is celebrated as if it is a training on the subject. For every event, intellectuals of the status of professors, high court and district court judges, IAS/IPS officers, leaders of various organisations were invited as resource persons to enlighten the gathering. Some significant days were celebrated in colleges to educate the students on the theme. Given below are the various events and themes that were celebrated during the past two decades :

Date	Place	Theme	Number of Participants
26/01/2007	Press club, Vijayawada	Dalit Women – Constitution	150
14 th and 15 th of February 2007	Lakshmi pati Gardens, Kavadiguda, Hyderabad	1 st Annual General body meeting	1000
08/03/2007	Press club, Vijayawada	Dalit Women Self Respect Day	200
14/4/2007 to 20/4/2007	24 districts	Rathayatra to campaign on dalit rights	10000
15/08/2007	UTF Hall, Kakinada, East Godavari, AP	Role of Dalit Women in Independent	200
19/1/2008	Ambedkar Bhavan, Guntur	2 nd District Conference	200
21/02/2008	Madina Educational Society, Nampalli, Hyderabad	Round Table Conference on violence against Dalit Adivasi women	80
22 nd Feb. 2008	Mohammadi Function Hall, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.	State General Body meeting	1000
11/12/2008	MDO office, Chevella, Ranga Reddy District, TS	2 nd District Conference	100
14/4/2009	Press club, Vijayawada	Dalit Women – Equal Opportunities	200
25 th and 26 th Feb 2009	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd	3 rd State Conference	1000
18/12/2009	Press club, Hyd	4 th District Conference, Hyderabad	150
23/01/2010	YMCA, Visakhapatnam	60 Years of Constitution & 20 years of SC, ST (PoA) Act - Review	250
25/2/2010	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd	Public Hearing on atrocity cases	1000
26/2/2010	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd	4 th State Conference	1000
6/2/2010 7/2/2010	Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram	State conference on campaign for electoral reforms in india (CERI)	200

1 st to 7 th March 2010	Campaign in districts	Qualitative Childhood To Dalit Girl Children (International Women's Day)	1500
08/03/2010	Press club, Vijayawada	Qualitative Childhood To Dalit Girl Children	150
14/04/2010	Guntur	Conference on Empowerment of Dalit Women and Girl Children	300
01/08/2010	Jubli Hall, Hyd	Review on 20 Years of SC, ST (PoA) Act 1989	200
15/08/2010	Officers Club, Kakinada	Campaign for Electoral Reforms in India (CERI)	500
18/10/2010	HASSS, Hyderabad	Capacitating the Panchayat Raj leaders for effective functioning	100
15 th to 23 rd Nov. 2010	Campaign (Rathayatra)	Campaign on Qualitative Childhood	5000
10/12/2010	MDO office, Ranga Reddy District	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
15/12/2010	Officers Club, Kakinada	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	150
16/12/2010	Revenue Bhavan, Eluru	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	200
18/12/2010	Press club, Vijayawada	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	200
21/12/2010	Vavilala Bhavan, Guntur	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	200
4/3/2011	Indira Park, Hyd	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	1000
5/3/2011	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd.	5 th State Conference	1000
15/08/2011	Press club, Vijayawada	Our children in Independent India	250
06/04/2011	Press club, Vijayawada	Panchayat Raj Leaders - Electoral Reforms	200
30/11/2011	Press club, Hyderabad	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
7/12/2011	Machilipatnam	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
8/12/2011	SC Corporation Hall, Guntur	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
13/12/2011	Jabilee Conference hall, Eluru	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	150
14/12/2011	Officers Club, Kakinada	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	150
15/12/2011	YMCA, Visakhapatnam	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	150
28/6/2011	Ambedkar Bhavan, Chevella	Dalit Women & Ambedkar Youth Associations - Electoral Reforms	220
1/3/2012	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd	Public Hearing on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	1000
2/3/2012	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd.	6 th State Annual Conference	1000

08/03/2012	Press Club, Visakhapatnam	Development of Dalit Women	150
14/04/2012	8 Districts	Anti-Liquor Campaign	2000
15/08/2012	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad	Inequities in Independent India	250
03/09/2012	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad	Campaign on Strengthening of SC, ST Act and Proposed Amendments	200
6 th to 14 th Dec 2012	Campaign (Rathayatra)	Campaign Rights of Dalit Adivasi women	5000
6/12/2012	Pressclub, Hyd	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
7/12/2012	Vikarabad, TS	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
8/12/2012	SC Corporation Hall, Guntur	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
10/12/2012	Medical Association Hall, Machilipatnam	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
11/12/2012	Jabilee Conference Hall, Eluru, West Godavari	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
13/12/2012	Officers Club, Kakinada	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	100
14/12/2012	VJA Press Club, VSP	Round Table Conference on Violence against Dalit Adivasi women and girl children	160
28/2/2013	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd.	7 th State Annual Conference	1500
29/2/2013	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyd.	8 th State Annual Conference	200
08/03/2013	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyd.	Shramik Women – Ways Forward	150
12 th to 27 th Sep 2013	8 districts	Workshops for panchayat Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Ward members	1500
18 th to 26 th Nov 2013	Campaign (Radhayatra)	Campaign on SCSP/TSP Act	3000
04/02/2014	St Ann's Generalate, Hyderabad	Legal Clinic: Way forward to reform the living law	200
22/02/2014	Ambedkar Spoorthy Bhavan, Hyd.	Rallying together civil society forces in support of Dalit women	250
4/3/2014	Ravendra Bharathi, Hyd	Women's Day Celebrations	150
08/03/2014	Rotary Club, Amalapuram	ShramikaStreelu - Sadhikarata	400
15/3/2014	SVK, Hyd	RTC on SC/ST Act amendments	100
14/04/2014	Press Club, Basheerbagh, Hyd.	Dalit Women In Modern India	350
12/6/2014	Ravendra Baharathi Conference hall, Hyd	Judiciary and its functioning	120
15/08/2014	Vikarabad & Kakinada	Role of Youth in the Society	1000
30/10/2014	Amalapuram	Brain storming session on Dalit movement	100
21/11/2014	Officers Club, Kakinada	Victims and Witnesses meet	120
22/11/2014	Press club, Hyd	Victims and Witnesses meet	120

6/2/2015	JC Convention Centre, Vja.	9 th Annual State Conference	1000
28/2/2015	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyd	9 th Annual State Conference	1500
04/03/2015	S.V.K. Hyderabad	Dalit Women – Economic Empowerment	200
6/3/2015	VJF Press club, VSP	Dalit Women – Economic Empowerment	200
14/04/2015	Tank Bund, Hyderabad	Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebrations	150
15/08/2015	SVK, Hyd	Independent India – Development of Women	100
26/1/2016	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyd.	Give Us Our Constitution	250
4 th & 5 th March 2016	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyderabad	Enabling Empowerment: A Decades Journey	1000
10 /3/ 2016	Ambedkar Bhavan, Vizag	Dalit Women – Empowerment	300
14/4/2016	Basheer Bagh Press Club, Hyd.	Ambedkar – Women	350
15/4/2016	HASSS, Secunderabad	Workshop on Entrepreneur Promotion	400
15/8/2016	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyd.	Break the Shackles – March Forward towards Real Freedom’.	300
15 th and 19 th of Nov. 2016	East Godavari & Guntur	Consultations with students, Teachers, Parents and CSOs	400
25 th Nov to 12 th Dec 2016	DSS working areas of 5 Districts	Ending Violence on Dalit Women	700
3/1/2017	DSS Office, Hyderabad	Dalit Women – New Endeavours	100
26/1/2017	Visva Brahmana Conference Hall, Guntur, A.P	Constitution and Caste	200
21 st & 22 nd Feb 2017	SSS Kalyana Mandapam, Hyderabad	Break the Barriers of Dalit Women Empowerment	1500
8/3/2017	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Women – Entrepreneurship	260
11/4/2017	Conference hall, SC Corporation, Guntur	Ambedkar – Women	200
14/4/2017	DSS office, Hyderabad	Ambedkar’s Thought is a Shield to the Country	50
24/5/ 2017	Press Club, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, AP	State Advocates Forum meet	40
8/7/ 2017	Conference Hall, Amalapuram, E.G.Dt. A.P.	District Advocates Forum meet	30
27/9/2017	DSS Office, Hyderabad	State Advocates Forum meet	30
15/8/ 2017	Conference Hall, Ravindra Bharathi	70 Years of Independent India: Inclusion & Exclusion	170
25 th to 10 th Dec 2017	All Districts	Ending Violence on Dalit Women	1000
3/1/2018	Conference Hall, Ravindra Bharathi	Quality Education for All	150
26 /1/ 2018	SC Corporation Hall,Guntur	Constitution and Governance	200
10/3/2018	SC Corporation Hall,Guntur	Dalit Women – Empowerment	250
22/2/2018	Ambedkar Bhavan, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Women – Inclusive Growth	1000

6/3/2018	Conference Hall, Ravindra Bharathi	Dalit Women – Inclusive Growth	180
17/4/ 2018	SC Corporation Hall, Guntur	Constitution of India: Reality	200
1/5/ 2018	All Districts	National Resistance Day	200
15/8/ 2018	Conference Hall, Makineni Basava Punnaiah Vignana Kendram, Vijayawada	Equality in Independent India	300
6/11/2018	Hotel Swarna Palace, Vijayawada	Prevention of all Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against Children in Educational Institutions Bill – 2018	300
Nov 25 th to Dec 10 th 2018	5 Districts	Me Too — Dalit Women Break the Silence International Campaign on Eradicating the Violence on Women	1000
3/1/2019	Conference Hall, SVK, Hyd.	Education without Discrimination	100
26/1/2019	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Reservations: Problems and Prospects	250
12/2/2019	Swarna Palace, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Women Marching Ahead towards Equality	800
20/2/2019	SSS Conference Hall, Hyderabad	Dalit Women Marching Ahead towards Equality	800
8/3/2019	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Women and Development	250
14/4/2019	Car Rally	Propagation of Dr B R Ambedkar Ideology	1000
15/8/2019	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Equality of Opportunities in Independent India	150
25 th Nov to 10 th Dec 2019	All Districts	Women are not Objects – Break the Impunity	10000
3/1/2020	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Education – Gender Equaty	100
26/1/2020	Conference Hall, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyd.	Constitution: Contemporary Challenges	150
12/2/2020	Swarna Palace, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Women Marching Ahead towards Equality	800
20/2/2020	SSS Conference Hall, Hyd.	Dalit Women Marching Ahead towards Equality	800
8/3/2020	Visvaswar Reddy Bhavan, Ranga Reddy District	Shamika Women Self Employment	250
12/3/2020	Viceroy Hotel, Guntur, AP	Shamika Women Livelihood Opportunities	250
25/2/2020	Swarna Palace, Vijayawada, AP	Dalit Girl Children – Access to quality education	700
6/3/2020	Conference Hall, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, TS	Dali Adivasi Women – Sustainable Development	150
25 th Nov to 10 th Dec 2020	All Districts	Campaign for gender equality	2000
4/1/2021	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Educate and empower the Dalit Girl Children (Savitri Bai Phule Jayanthi)	60

26/1/2021	Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad, TS	Indian Republic – Proclamations and Realities (Republic Day)	70
7/3/2021	Prabuddha Bharat International Hall, Lakadikapool, HydResources.	Share of Dalit women in the Economic (International Shramik Women's Day.)	120
17/2/2021	Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad	Dalit Women Marching towards Progress	150
24/2/ 2021	Ambedkar Bhavan, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh	Dalit Women Marching towards Progress	160
14/4/ 2021	Ambedkar Statue, Tankbund, Hyd	130 th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar	50
14/4/2021	Ambedkar Statue, Lodge centre, Guntur, AP	130 th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar	60
25 th Nov. to 10 th Dec. 2021	All Districts	Internation Campaign on Violence against Women (16 days Activism)	4000
15/8/2021	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyderabad	Individual Liberty – Constitutional Institutions (75 th Independence Day)	100
3/1/2022	Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad	Education in Times of Pandemic (Savitri Bai Phule Jayanthi)	50
4 th March 2022 to 10 th March	Working villages of AP	Campaign on Gender Equality (International Women's Day)	150
11/3/ 2022	Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad	Equality of dalit/Adivasi Women is the Foundation for Social Progress	65
16/8/2022	Press club, Vja	Caste and Religious Equality in Independence India	70
6 th of April to 14 th of April	Working villages of AP & TS	Awareness Campaign on Constitution of India (Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanthi celebrations)	400
Nov 25 th to Dec 10 th 2022	AP & TS	International Campaign on Violence Against women	250
03/1/2023	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyderabad	Equal and Free Education (Savitri Bai Phule Jayanthi)	80
26/1/2023	AC College of Law, Guntur	Promote Constitutional Values and Strengthen Democracy	60
2 nd March to 8 th March 2023	AP & TS	Awareness Camps	150
14/4/2023	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyderabad	Reflections on The Present Governance in The Light of Ambedkar's Thought	100
9/8/2023	Press Club, Vijayawada, AP	Caste and religious based violence in Independent India	100
12/8/2023	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyd	Caste and religious based violence in Independent India	100
25 th Nov to 10 th Dec 2023	AP & TS	Gender Campaign	4000

3/1/2024	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyderabad	Quality Education -Still a Battle for the Poor (Savitribai Phule birth anniversary)	80
24/1/24	Press club, Vijayawada	Constitutional Values – Politics (Republic Day)	80
26/1/2024	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Hyderabad	Awareness Program for Dalit/Adivasi Women on Entrepreneurship	50
12/3/2024	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Hyderabad	Women Empowerment is Nation's Progress	100
2 nd April to 14 th April 2024	Campaign in working areas	Save the Constitution – Save India1000	
12/8/2024	Press club, Vijayawada	Freedom of Expression in Independent India	70
25/11/24 to 10/12/24	Working areas	Gender Campaign	4000
8/1/2025	BJR College, Hyderabad	Quality Education- Inclusive Society	100
27/1/2025	Ambedkar institutions, Bagh Lingam Pally, Hyd	Empowered Women - Empowered Nation	100
17/8/2025	Government Polytechnic College, Masab Tank, Hyderabad	Education for Empowerment - Breaking the Cycle of Marginalisation	60
8/4/2025	Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadikapool, Hyd	Saving the Constitution – Future Strategies	80
14/4/2025	Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund, Hyderabad	Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebrations	20
25/11/2025 to 10/12/2025	Working Areas of AP & TS	Gender Campaign	15,000















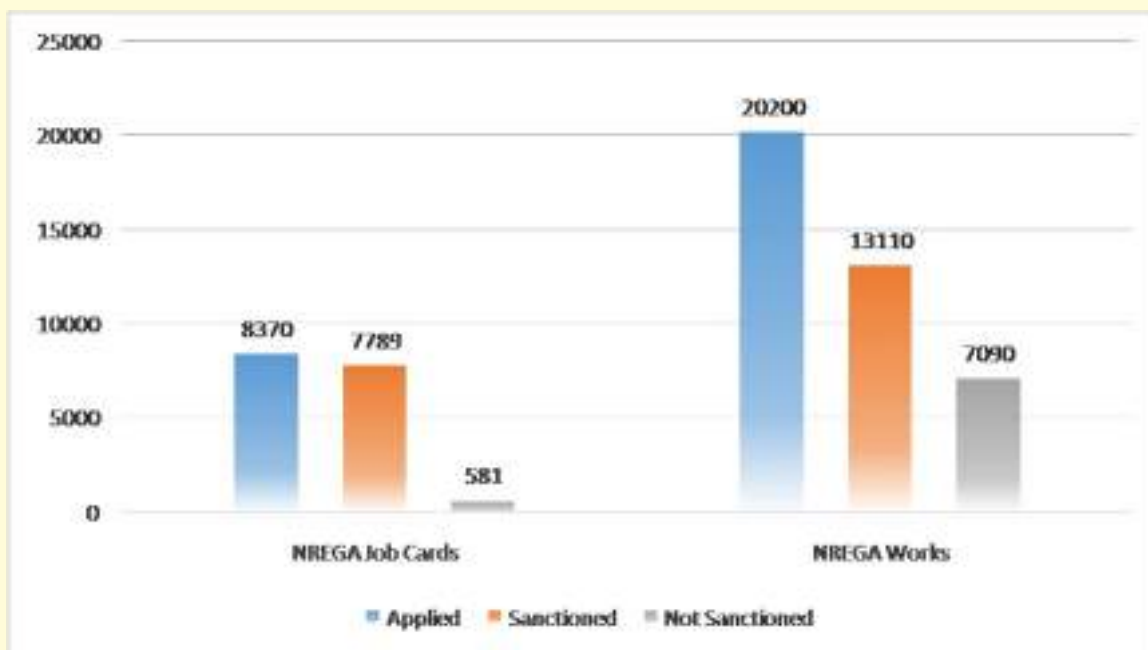
FACILITATING DALIT WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Rights assertion inspires economic Independence and economic independence boosts self assertion. Both are intertwined and one strengthens the other. Hence it is necessary to devise plans for economic independence of dalit women by enlightening them and motivating them to demand for various entitlements.

Women are particularly vulnerable to economic insecurity and financial dependence. Household surveys show that women are less likely than men to receive a pension in old age, and where they do, their benefit levels are usually lower. Hence the women collective members are equipped with knowledge on schemes and identification of schemes. The women collective members of respective villages are instrumental in identifying the beneficiaries and preparing applications, submitting them in the grievance cells and regularly follow up for achieving them. In the process of accessing rights & entitlements they have procured the maximum number of schemes.

DSS, in particular paid attention to the MGNREGA in the target area and conducted survey of implementation of the scheme and lobbied for sanction of maximum benefits to the women of target area, as shown below:

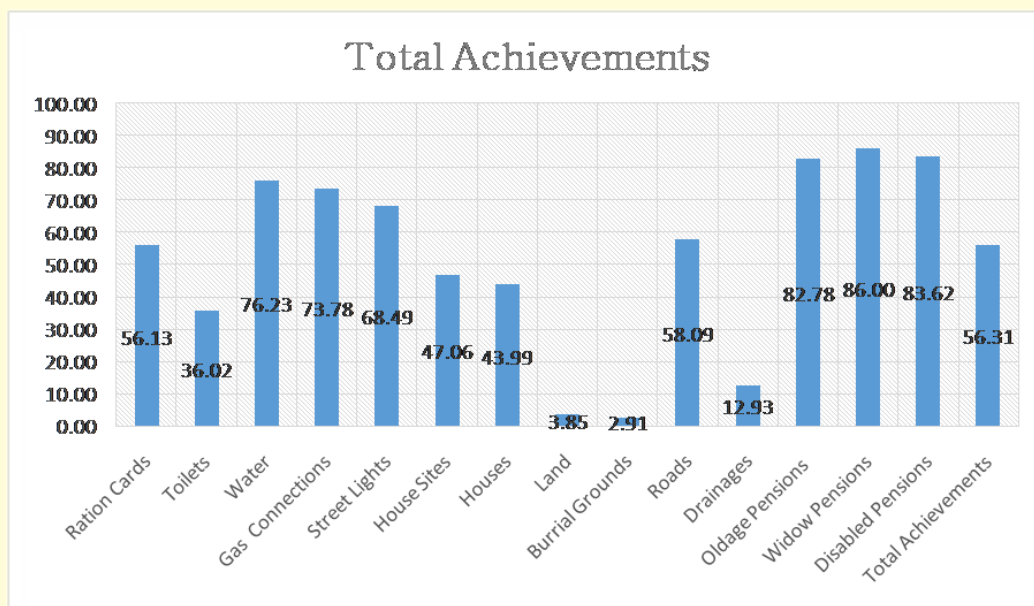
MGNREGA Job Cards and Works Obtained



Amount Received through NREGA

Year	Amount (Rs)
2008	500,000
2009	1,500,000
2010	10,420,000
2011	10,050,000
2012	16,750,000
2013	29,012,000
2014	21,604,000
2015	10,564,000
Total	100,400,000

Various schemes procured by the women in the target area during the 15 years:



Dalit Women as Entrepreneurs

DSS has been insisting for the implementation of SC Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan and has raised its demand for equal budget to dalit adivasi women. It played an active role in getting the SCSP/TSP Act in the year 2013. DSS has translated the Act into local language and campaigned continuously in all its villages. At the end of the year (2013) DSS organized a Rathayatra for 10 days with a contingent of 100 dalit women and campaigned on SCSP/TSP Act in its working area.

DSS has been continuously creating awareness to its women collective members on the importance of economic empowerment to bring change in dalit women lives. In this process the women collective members, youth organizations, Panchayat Raj leaders and team were trained on the Act and various schemes through the concerned department under SCSP/TSP Act.

300 selected women collective members have been given continuous inputs on the entrepreneurship and other essential aspects. All these 300 members have been registered with industries department with all necessary information, documents pertaining to their respective businesses. Similarly for all these 300 members on line application have been filed for the concerned banks seeking loans. Some of the women collective members got benefitted.



WHEN THE WORLD SHUT DOWN!

When The World Shut Down, We Did Not

During the pandemic, when violence entered homes and justice disappeared behind closed courts, Dalit Sthree Sakthi refused to stop its work. DSS changed the methods of functioning.

We took the struggle online.

We trained young Dalit women in digital advocacy.

We built survivor helplines when the world shut down.

We proved again —

Oppression adapts. So do we.

During the pandemic and after, DSS faced hurdles but the work continued, with the same vigour and innovative methods. COVID-19 has caused significant distress around the globe. Apart from the evident physical symptoms in infected cases, it has caused serious damage to public mental health. India, like other countries, implemented a nationwide lockdown to contain and curb the transmission of the virus. During the shut downs all normal activities suffered a lot. Dalits and Adivasis and migrant workers were the worst sufferers.

In both the Telugu States some districts suffered a lot with a greater number of COVID cases. The sudden declaration of lock-down and its brutal implementation affected everyone in various ways. The well to do could purchase all needed essential commodities and stay at home, while the Dalits, daily wage earners, migrant workers and all other marginalized sections were driven to starve at home. Not only the daily wage workers, but the petty traders, small job holders also starved.

What We Did During and After Pandemic:

a) Awareness among the cadre:

DSS created a WhatsApp group with the women collective leaders, youth leaders, district coordinators and state team. All members of the group were in touch on daily basis exchanging information through messages and conference calls so that everyone knows about the situation of all others. Everyone has been given the task of spreading awareness about the need to strictly adhere to the norms of social distancing and other precautions to be taken to protect oneself and the community.

b) Data collection and distribution of relief to the most needy people:

DSS team collected data of the people who are in dire need of essential commodities in the period of lock-down in our working area in the districts of Guntur, Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Chittoor, Visakhapatnam, Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad and Adilabad.

c) Distribution of essential commodities to needy dalit families:

With the limited amount sanctioned by APPI and Christian Aid, the neediest beneficiaries were identified and helped with limited relief package of oil, pulses and vegetables.

Relief was distributed in the villages of Guntur, Krishna and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad and Hyderabad in Telangana.

Apart from distribution out of its own resources, DSS coordinated with government and channelled the relief distribution of the Government to the needy families identified by DSS.

Due to pandemic and lockdown, several other problems cropped up in addition to regular rights violations. Domestic violence increased during lockdown. Despite the pandemic and lockdown, DSS could do as many activities as possible. DSS submitted online representations to the district and state officials.





Zoom Training on Important Laws

The state of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh declared lock-down in the wake of 2nd wave of COVID 19. As the spread of virus during the second wave is much more rapid and the infection also was serious and almost all public activities and normal social life came to a halt. In this situation of serious spread of the virus, it is not safe to implement activities involving travel, group meetings and gatherings. Hence, DSS has been in touch with the staff and activists through WhatsApp and video calls. DSS thought of utilizing this period for intensive trainings through Zoom. DSS contacted renowned resource persons from various institutions and arranged trainings from 7th to 11th of June 2021 on significant laws that are relevant to dalit women. A total of 40 members participated in these Zoom trainings. The resource persons and the topics covered are as follows:

Schedule of Zoom Trainings:

	Date	Time	Topic	Resource Person
1	07/06/21	3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	SC, ST (PoA) Act	Dr K. Murali, Professor, NALSAR University, Hyderabad.
2	08/06/21	1.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	Personality	Dr N. Siddoji Rao, Convener, SC, ST IAS/IPS Officers Forum.
3	08/06/21	3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Juvenile Justice Act	Sri B Girija, Advisor, Centre for People's Forestry, Hyderabad.
4	09/06/21	3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	DV Act	Dr K. Sudha, Assistant Professor, DSNLU, VSP, AP.
5	10/06/21	11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	Gender Concepts	Dr N Vasanthi, Professor, NALSAR University, Hyderabad.
6	10/06/21	3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Rape Laws	Dr L. Jayashree, Dean of Law (Rtd), Acharya Nagarjuna University, A.P.
7	11/06/21	3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	POCSO Act	Sri. Archana, CWC Member, Medchal, Telangana State.

Legal Clinic:

During COVID-19 period, a Legal Clinic was conducted, taking all precautions of wearing a mask, maintaining distance from one another etc., while the Jury consisting of officials participated in Zoom Conference. All the victims concerning the 22 cases of atrocities gathered at a hall in hotel Viceroy, Guntur town and were seated in safe distance wearing masks. The participating officials were: Sri. M. Ravichandra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of A.P., Sri. Rajendra Prasad, Deputy Director of Prosecutions, Government of A.P. and Sri Suez, Director of State Women Commission.

Thus, when everyone and everything was shut down during COVID-19, DSS carried on its activities of trainings, Legal Clinic etc utilising digital methods.



Relief to Flash Floods Victims:

Unpredicted heavy rains during the month of August 2024 year in NTR district affected thousands of families in Vijayawada city of NTR district, Andhra Pradesh. Added to unprecedented rains there was unexpected flash floods of Budameru, near Vijayawada. This flash floods, inaudating many low lying colonies in the city. Thousands of houses were flooded with about 15 to 20 feet water which destroyed the houses, all belongings. People took shelter in flood relief camps. When they went back to their homes after 10 to 15 days after the water receded, their homes were with full of mud, drainage water and no house hold article was usable. DSS mobilised some amount and distributed a relief package. Each package consisted of oil, dals, saree, lungi for men, bed sheet, wasing and bath soaps etc. Relief was distributed to 650 selected families who didn't receive any relief. Everyone appreciated the quality of relief items.



MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

During the period of COVID-19, the isolation and stress created lot of mental health issues in many quarters of the society. These days, the stress of modern society is driving majority to mental health problems. Requisite attention to mental health question was not paid till recently. But twenty first century has brought mental health of the population on the global agenda. WHO declared: “without mental health there can be no true physical health”. This has turned to be true as medical science is acknowledging these days that the cause of almost every disease is due to mental ill health or psychosomatic reasons. According to NCRB, suicides in India increased to 1,70,924 in 2022 compared to 1,64,033 in 2021. Further, as per NCRB data, over 13,000 students took their own lives in India in 2022, thereby accounting for 7.6% of all suicide deaths in 2022. Despite this distressing situation, so far no concrete policy for addressing the mental health of adolescent and youth has emerged. Apart from other reasons, the understanding of what constitutes mental illness need to be transformed so that measures to treat it at individual and social level can be devised. Still the age old understanding of equating 'madness' with mental health is lingering in the society.

Dalit Women Victims - Mental Health Interventions

DSS continuously provides counselling and solace to the traumatized dalit women victims of various atrocities. In the process of fact finding of the incident itself, DSS consoles the victims and infuses confidence to face the calamity and stand up for justice. In the process of facilitating the victims in accessing justice through representations, conducting legal clinics, round table conferences they are mentally strengthened and their confidence is heightened to stand up for justice. National Convener and staff continually keep in touch with the victims and their morale is boosted. The victims, including minor girls are assured help and they are encouraged to call the convener for any problem they face, thereby preventing them from resorting to extreme and desperate actions like suicide. In cases where, minor girls are victims of sexual exploitation and cheating, the girl as well as her parents are enlightened about all aspects. In such cases, the victims face the issues of loss of family image and prestige apart from the problem of pregnancy. The parents are educated about the so-called image of what others think about their family and are assisted in case of termination of pregnancy etc. Thus, DSS can confidently assert that many victims, particularly, minor girls who are sexually exploited and cheated in the name of love were protected from committing suicide because of the confidence infused in them by DSS.

Psychological Counselling:

In addition to the regular counselling and legal assistance by DSS, specialized expert counselling and medical advice was provided to the victims on 11th May 2024 by utilizing the services of Dr. Sindhuri Potturi, Assistant Professor in the Institute of Mental Health, Osmania Medical College. DSS coordinated with her and selected victims of heinous cases and a counselling session was arranged at DSS office. In this day-long session Dr. Sindhuri interacted with each of the victim for about an hour and thoroughly examined their state of mental health. She gathered meticulous details of their psychological situation. Depending on the individual situation Dr. Sindhuri, diagnosed each of the victim, counseled them and also prescribed medicines and other care to be taken.

In 2025 also counselling was given to victims for two times in A.P. and Telangana on 26th September 2025 and on 12th December 2025 with Dr. Sindhuri and Dr. Swarajya Lakshmi.

Trainings on Mental Health:

Trainings were conducted on topics related to mental health. One training on the topic, “Mental health and Modern Life Style” was conducted on 4th June 2025, at St Anns Generalate. About 35 youth and women collective members participated in the training. The resource persons were: Ms. Glory Swaroopa, Director of National Institute of Mental Health, Mr. Satyakama Jabali and Ms. Jhansi Geddam.

Another training was conducted in A.P. on 27th June 2025 at the Conference Hall, Hotel Kosala, Vijayawada. About 25 members attended the training. Dr. Swarajya Lakshmi, Psychiatrist, Government General Hospital, Vijayawada and Dr. Rama Devi, Psychologist were the resource persons.



Need for mental health intervention in the coming days:

The existing situation of stress, growing number of suicides among students and youth, spread of vicious culture etc point to the need of much more expansion into mental health interventions. DSS is embarking on the path of further interventions in the field of mental health, particularly of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children.

BUILDING BRIDGES AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

DSS always believes in joining hands with all like minded organisations and doing collective activities for the protection and promotion of the rights of dalit women and girl children. Working together on a shared objective or mission is necessary for strengthening the movement of dalit women for equity. Hence, DSS always mobilised strategic partners for advancing the cause of dalit women and girl children. In fact, the chief objective of DSS is to sensitize and mobilize the support of all sections of population at the state, national and international levels, to the dalit women movement for rights and justice. With this perspective, DSS made every effort to mobilize the support of all possible sections for the cause of promoting the human rights of dalit women and girl children.

- DSS took initiative and formed a network of likeminded organizations, called State Women's Rights Forum in the year 2008 for the purpose of addressing major incidents of violence against women at state level.
- DSS attended umpteen meetings organized by Dr. Ambedkar Open University, University of Hyderabad, etc.
- When, National Dalit Movement for Justice launched national campaign demanding amendments for SC, ST (PoA) Act, DSS played key role at state and national levels.
- DSS was co-convener of Joint Action Committee demanding justice for the victims/survivors of Laximpet massacre.
- DSS collaborated with CERI on the issue of electoral reforms and conducted meetings in the State and translated and published the booklets pertaining to Electoral Reforms.
- DSS is active participant of Social Democratic Forum and is one of its Co-Conveners.
- DSS is the Core Committee member of Women and Transgender JAC and Ambedkar Memorial Trust.
- During the past 20 years, in meetings organised by other organisations, conferences of other women organisations, seminars, government conferences National Convener of DSS is invited to participate and speak. Thus, the National Convener of DSS spoke in hundreds of such meetings and conferences. Some times, the DSS team participates in such meetings when the National Convener is pre-occupied.













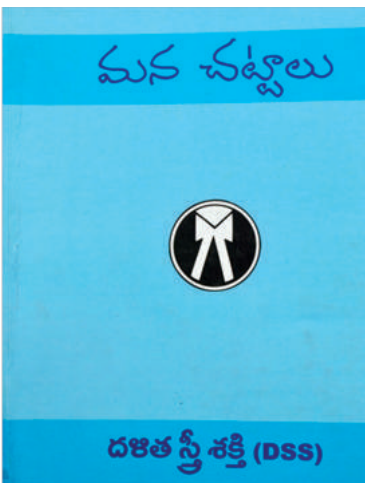


PUBLICATIONS

Documentation is an asset and a must for any organisation. Documentation of the activities, results and impact provide a chance to reflect and improve. It is a historical record. Further, publication and distribution gives an opportunity for others to respond to our work and join hands. Hence it is necessary for regular publication of activities. Ever since DSS was established, apart from quarterly and half yearly reports, we have been bringing out our annual report in a comprehensive shape with all details of activities, statistics, photos and graphs, wherever necessary. So far we published 19 annual reports with all meticulous details. This year we are bringing out a special report of two decades activities. All important laws whenever they are enacted, DSS immediately translates the law in to simple Telugu and publishes it. These booklets in Telugu are very helpful to the women collective members, leaders and human rights defenders in villages. When Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act was passed in 2005, DSS was first to translate the law and publish it. Similarly, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Rules were translated and published in Telugu. When this Act was amended in 2015, DSS immediately published the Act with the latest amendments. In addition to individual laws, DSS published a compendium of all relevant laws in Telugu and this compendium is kept handy by all dalit women activists. Apart from law publications, booklets like 'Law in Action', booklet on electoral reforms, are published and distributed.

DSS in various meetings and campaigns, stressed the need to be aware of the basic provisions of the Constitution. With a view to educate everyone DSS brought out a booklet in Telugu, titled, "Constitution – A Brief Outline". This booklet presented an overview of the Constitution in simple Telugu. It was distributed to all activists, women collectives and students and other organisations. The booklet is appreciated so much that everyone wanted more copies of it and DSS published it again. Apart from distribution of hard copies, all publications are posted in the DSS website for anyone to download. The website of DSS: www.dalitsthreesakthi.org can be accessed for reports, publications and photos of activities.

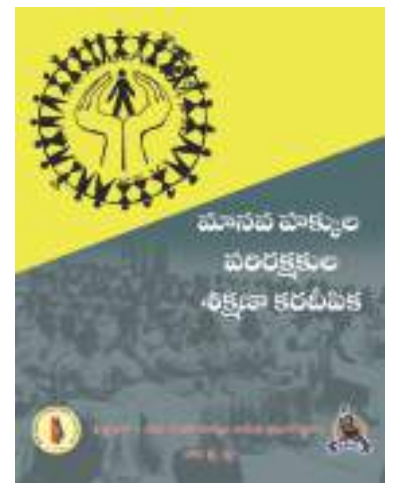
The publications of DSS are given below:



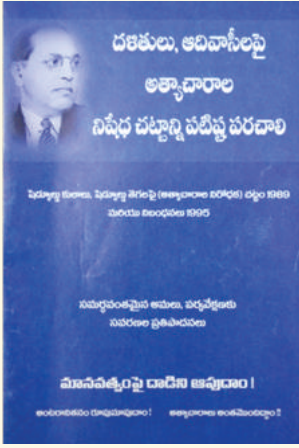
A 427 page compendium of 30 useful Acts relevant to dalit/advansi women published in Telugu 'ManaChattalu'.



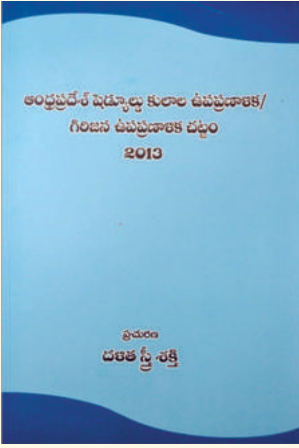
A Study carried out jointly with CID (Police Dept) on implementation of SC,ST (PoA) Act was published as a booklet 'Law In Action'



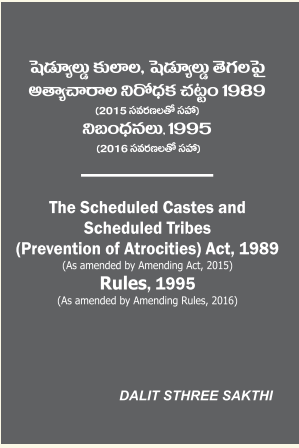
Human rights training manual in Telugu



The proposed amendments booklet of SC, ST (PoA) Act



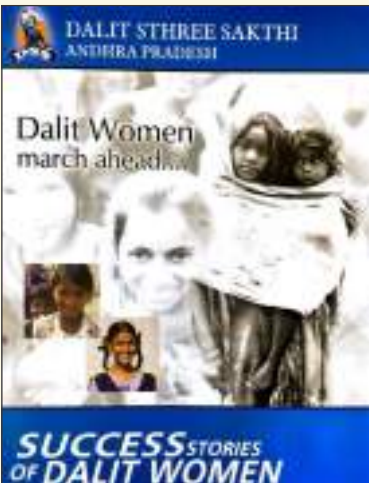
SCSP/TSP Act in Telugu



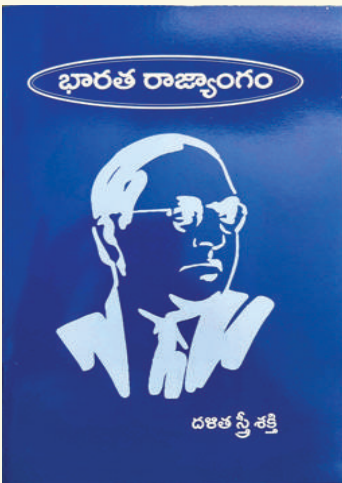
SC/ST (PoA) Act in Telugu and English



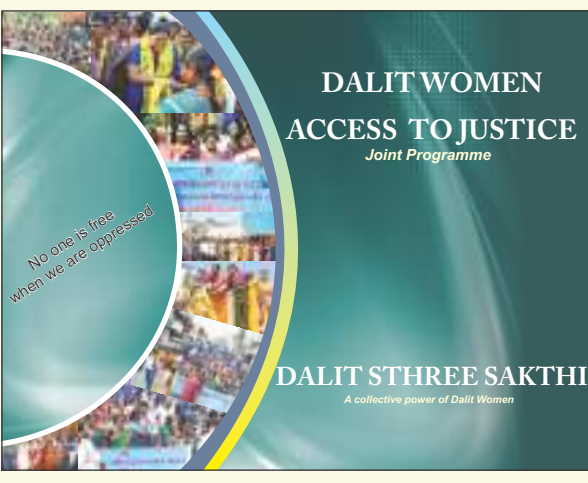
Dalit Songs book



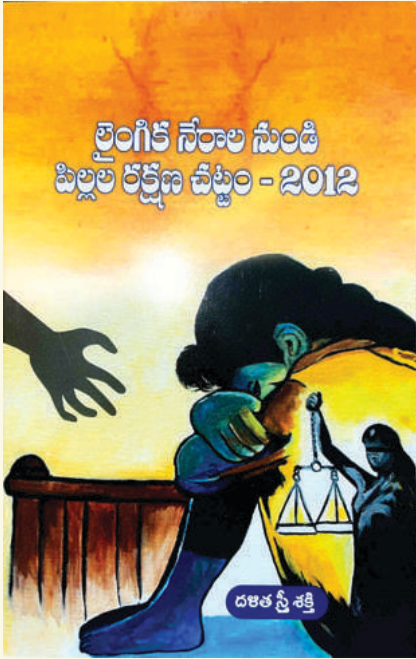
Success stories in 5 years



Constitution A Brief introduction in Telugu



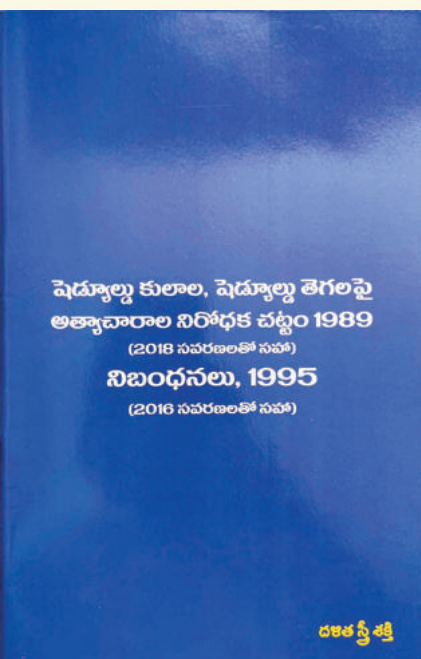
Dalit Women Access to Justice



POCSO Act



Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act



SC,ST Prevention of Atrocities Act

PROGRESS AND IMPACT

When DSS began its work in 2006, even gathering a handful of Dalit women to sit together and discuss their issues was a challenge. Social fear, caste oppression, and gender-based restrictions kept women confined to silence. Over the years, however, sustained organizing and rights-based training transformed that silence into collective strength.

Today, DSS has built a vast grassroots network of approximately 2,400 village-level women's collectives, each with 5–7 active members, federated at mandal, district, state, and national levels. More than one lakh Dalit women now actively participate in DSS programs, campaigns, and leadership processes. Women who once hesitated to speak now travel confidently from their villages to mandal and district headquarters, and even to Hyderabad and other distant cities, to engage with officials, attend public hearings, and take part in General Body meetings.

This visible expansion reflects not only numerical growth but deep qualitative empowerment, rooted in DSS's consistent focus on rights-based education and political consciousness.

DSS trainings on human rights, Special Acts, and constitutional rights have drawn increasing participation from Dalit women eager to understand and assert their rights. As a result, women collectives now independently conduct fact-finding inquiries into rights violations and document evidence. Communities are more aware of the dangers of sending Dalit girls into domestic labour, leading to increased school enrollment and retention of girl children. Women leaders are better equipped to intervene in cases of domestic violence, alcoholism, and social discrimination within their communities.

Through regular monitoring of atrocity cases and sustained follow-up, DSS has helped victims remain resilient throughout the legal process. This has led to a decline in forced or pressured compromises with accused persons. Regular monitoring of atrocity cases with police officials, judiciary and other government institutions increased arrests and rising conviction rates in atrocity cases.

DSS also bridged gaps in the judicial process by organizing coordination meetings between advocates, police officials, victims, witnesses, and prosecutors. These efforts were influential enough that the Director of Prosecutions issued statewide instructions to public prosecutors to handle atrocity cases more effectively. District-level panels of committed advocates further strengthened access to justice for Dalit women. Very recently a Special Prajavani was also held by the Government of Telangana for speedy follow up of atrocity cases. These acts from the government officials shows the impact created by DSS in handling atrocity case with honesty and grit.

The regular presence of Dalit women collectives in all actions and public forums has boosted women's confidence and leadership in villages and slums. This participation projects a united and assertive Dalit women's identity in caste-dominated society. It also impacted to a noticeable reduction in domestic violence in intervention areas.

Women who were once excluded from governance spaces are now active participants. Trained women Panchayat members attend meetings confidently, claim their right to sit alongside others, and work to ensure development schemes that benefit dalit communities. Government of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh nominated DSS as member of vigilance and monitoring committees of various districts.

Through persistent advocacy, media engagement, and official representation DSS has brought widespread attention to atrocities against Dalit women, with strong support from senior journalists and editors who amplified these issues. Public hearings and round table conferences have sensitized both media and state machinery. Senior officials — including those at the level of Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, DGP, DIG, and District SPs — now recognize DSS as a credible rights organization and participate in its meetings regularly.

Compensation awarded to victims has significantly increased, enabling families to resist pressure to compromise and pursue justice with dignity.

DSS interventions have also strengthened educational environments through regular visits and awareness sessions in social welfare hostels, where girls are now more informed, articulate, and confident in raising issues. Youth and adolescents actively attend motivation and leadership camps, showing readiness for social change.

The credibility and expertise of DSS have earned recognition beyond grassroots spaces. The DSS Convener has been nominated by the Telangana Government to serve on an 8-member expert committee to frame rules under the Juvenile Justice Act — a significant acknowledgment of DSS's experience in child rights and protection.

DSS credibility in protecting women is recognised by the government of Telangana, that DSS is appointed as implementing agency to run the SAKHI - one stop centre at Adilabad. Ever since SAKHI - one stop centre at Adilabad was established in 2017 DSS was running it in a dynamic way in protecting and counselling the victims. 1679 Awareness programmes were conducted reaching out to 1,86,753 people. Addressed a total number of 2296 cases of violence on women and extended legal, police and medical support.

DSS has helped transform Dalit women from marginalized victims into organized human rights defenders, legal advocates, and community leaders. Its work has reshaped local power structures, strengthened justice delivery, improved access to entitlements, and built a generation of women who no longer suffer in silence but stand together with awareness, dignity, and collective strength.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In any movement cultural activities play a key role in spreading the ideology and objectives of the movement. In the DSS movement for rights and entitlements of Dalit/Adivasi women and girl children, the cultural team played significant role. The cultural team is part of DSS team and discharged immense responsibilities in conveying the ideology of Ambedkar, through songs and skits. There are many songs on Ambedkar and his contribution and the plight of dalit women and girl children. DSS cultural team was one of the best in singing, dancing and playing drums. The players had special dress to convey the image of village dalit women and they used to powerfully sing songs with themes on Ambedkar, women empowerment, oppression and the ways to come out of it etc. The general public who can't understand theoretical speeches about the economic, political situation are conveyed the same through songs. In the Ratha Yatras, campaigns, trainings, public hearings and during General Body meetings, it is the cultural team that is always at the lime light.



FELICITATIONS, HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

The committed work of DSS for the past 20 years is acknowledged and appreciated by one and all. DSS earned lot of credibility with the government, the press and other like minded organizations. The Commissions, the government and police officials, the media always appreciated DSS and their appreciation is expressed in various ways like, participation in DSS programmes as a measure of solidarity and resolving the dalit women issues. DSS's work got recognition from other quarters also. A few reputed Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies conferred awards on DSS and felicitated the Convener. To mention a few awards:

- DSS Convener was conferred Eswaribai Memorial Award by Eswaribai Memorial Trust and Government of Telangana.
- Convener of DSS was given Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Seva Award which was presented by Sri. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister at A.P. Bhavan, New Delhi.
- DSS is member of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees of several districts.
- DSS is one of the experts in drafting the Juvenile Justice Rules for the State of Telangana.
- DSS is the implementing agency of central/state government's Sakhi, One stop centre at Adilabad.





PRESS COVERAGE - MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

In the present day modern world, newspapers and TV channels play significant role in conveying information about any event. If a meeting is held with 100 people, that 100 people only get educated by the speeches. But if the speech is published in newspapers and telecast in TV channels, the message reaches lot of people. Similarly, the owes of the victims in a Legal Clinic /Public Hearing/Round Table Conference, the speeches in a seminar, a fact-finding report of an atrocity—everything concerning dalit women, if it is reported in the press and electronic media, it will have sensitizing effect on the public in general and the government. Thus, media plays crucial role in spreading the news and canvassing an issue.

In both the Telugu States, DSS associates media also in dalit women issues. A few representatives of newspapers regularly participate in DSS activities and speak encouragingly. Due to the continuous work of DSS on dalit women issues and the march of dalit women movement, dalit women got reasonable space in print and electronic media during the past 20 years. DSS always got reasonable coverage of its activities in media. The women collective members of DSS got the 'Achievement Awards' from TV9 channel. A leading Telugu daily Andhra Jyothi published a full-page interview of the National Convener of DSS.





రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం

ప్రజలకు అనేక అర్హతలు కల్పించిన రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రజలకు అవగాహన పెంచే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం. రాజ్యాంగం అంటే ఏమిట? దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం. రాజ్యాంగం అంటే ఏమిట? దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.



రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది. దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది. దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

Concern over rising atrocities against Dalit women

There is growing concern over the increasing number of atrocities against Dalit women. The government has taken steps to address these issues, but more needs to be done to ensure the safety and dignity of these women.



రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం. ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం. ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

Men's empowerment helps end gender discrimination

Men's empowerment is a key factor in ending gender discrimination. By promoting equality and respect for all genders, we can create a more just and equitable society.



రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది. దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది

రాజ్యాంగం ప్రజలకు అందుకోదగినది. దాని ప్రాధాన్యత ఏమిటి? దానిని ఎలా పాటించాలి? అనే ప్రశ్నలకు సమాధానం ఇవ్వడానికి ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION POUR OUT

Acts of discrimination are pouring out, affecting the lives of many people. It is time to stand up against these injustices and demand equality for all.



రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం. ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం

రాజకీయ పార్టీలకు సహకారం. ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో రాజ్యాంగంపై ప్రచారోద్యమం ప్రారంభం.

Closing Word

The Journey Continues

Twenty years is not merely a measure of time. For Dalit Sthree Sakthi, it is a chronicle of courage—of women who refused silence, of voices that rose from the margins to claim dignity, justice, and life with self-respect.

This journey was shaped by countless footsteps: women who walked long distances to attend meetings, survivors who stood up in police stations and court rooms despite fear, young girls who dared to dream beyond caste and gender barriers, and activists who stayed rooted in the field even when the path was lonely and uncertain. Each struggle, each victory—small or large—has written itself into this collective history.

Dalit Sthree Sakthi was never just an organisation; it became a space of trust, resistance, and healing. It stood beside survivors of violence, challenged systemic injustice, and insisted that Dalit Adivasi women's lives matter—not as statistics, but as human beings with rights, aspirations, and power.

As we turn this page, we do not claim completion. The structures that oppress Dalit Adivasi women still exist. Violence, discrimination, and exclusion continue to take new forms. But so does resistance. So does solidarity. So does hope.

The next chapter calls for renewed commitment—of listening deeper, organising stronger, and dreaming bolder. It calls upon younger generations to carry this legacy forward, to re-imagine justice, and to build a future where Dalit Adivasi women and girls live free from fear and full of possibility.

With gratitude to every woman who trusted this journey, every ally who stood beside us, and every hand that helped shape these twenty years—we move forward.

The struggle continues

The strength multiplies

Dalit Sthree Sakthi marches on