

Dalit Sthree Sakthi

16th
Annual Report
2021

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CONTENTS

	Foreword	4
--	----------	---

1	Dalit Women Marching Towards Progress	6
---	--	---

15th Annual State Conferences

2	Capacitation of Dalit Women Collectives and Youth Leaders	14
---	--	----

Training on Special Acts in Andhra Pradesh

Training on Special Acts in Telangana

Advocates Meet

Zoom Training Important Laws

3	International Campaign on Violence against Women	27
---	---	----

4	Atrocities Unabated	45
---	----------------------------	----

Follow up through Representations to Concerned Officials and Institutions

District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Meetings

5	The Ordeals in Accessing Justice	65
---	---	----

Legal Clinic

Round Table Conferences

6	Girl Children Situation in Times of Pandemic	73
---	---	----

Youth Camps

Awareness Camps

Educate and Empower the Dalit Girl Children

Indian Republic – Proclamations and Realities

Dalit Women Share in the Economic Resources

Tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 130th Jayanthi

75th Independence Day Celebrations

Individual Liberty – Constitutional Institutions

Women Equality Day

Foreword



Equality as a human right is meaningless without gender equity. Goal 5 of UN Sustainable Development Goals declares to ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Since the signing of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995 – the most comprehensive policy agenda for gender equality – the world is yet to progress to reach the goals and in India the situation is still far behind. More so when it comes to dalit women and girl children. Violence on dalit women is continuing unabated. The worst form of casteist thinking surfaced in the recent times when dalit men and women were persecuted/killed when they married from other castes, akin to khap panchayats of Punjab/Haryana.

The first task in promoting gender equity is breaking the traditional mores and stereo types of gender roles. It is necessary to instil a new mode of thinking among the women and men, raise the awareness on gender roles. This task is easy said than done. There are many feminist organizations who are voicing for gender equity, but much of their work is among the elite and more focussed on sensational and symbolic events. Organizing and educating the rural poor, particularly dalit women is not on the agenda of many of these organizations. DSS has been attempting to fill this vacuum by devoting full time to organize dalit women in the villages in to Women Collectives and training them on gender, human rights and capacitating them to fight against all forms of violence on women.

DSS has been resolute for the past 16 years in its persistent work at rejuvenating dalit women and galvanising them to raise voices for rights and entitlements. We completed 15 years of our journey with significant outcomes. A decade and half in the service of dalit women is a poignant moment for any organization and last year, DSS celebrated its 15 years journey in empowering dalit women and brought out a souvenir entitled: “One Woman”, signifying the unity achieved by the dalit women during the time. The work done during the 15 years was enormous quantitatively and qualitatively. With the inspiration of 15 years journey, DSS continued its efforts this year with the same vigour and commitment.

But the years 2020 & 2021 will go down in the history of mankind for the terror created by Covid-19. The COVID-19 pandemic, the lock-downs, gave rise to multiple problems that affected everyone’s life. Unforeseen and hitherto never imagined ways of living emerged in the wake of Covid-19. Public meetings, large scale gatherings for religious, political and social events were forgotten. This lack of public activity provided a free hand to the governments to act they like.

As the COVID-19 pandemic deepened, economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, gender-based violence increased exponentially. According to the UN study, the pandemic has led to a steep increase in violence against women and girls. ‘With lockdown measures in place, many women are trapped at home with their abusers, struggling to access services that are suffering from cuts and restrictions. Emerging data shows that, since the outbreak of the pandemic, violence against women and girls – and particularly domestic violence – has intensified. The year 2020, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, was intended to be ground-breaking for gender equality. Instead, with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic even the limited gains made in the past decades are at risk of being rolled back.’

New forms of interaction like online education or judiciary, has brought about major transformation in education and judiciary. But, again the benefits from these transformations were limited to the elite because

of the gap in the digital connectivity of our country. The prices of all essential commodities sky rocketed and dalits are driven to starvation due to lack of purchasing power to buy daily needs. The women lost employment as wage labor due to the crisis in agriculture.

Dalit children were the worst sufferers. Schools, colleges, private and government hostels and all other educational institutions remained closed for about an year. Online education was carried on by private schools and colleges, but not by government schools or village zilla parishad schools. Even where online education was carried on, it could be accessed only by the middle and upper middle class sections but not by the village dalit poor. Dalit families could not afford to purchase smart phones for their children's online education nor could they guide or monitor the online classes of their children. In fact, for most of the families it became difficult to properly feed their children in the absence of mid-day meals at the school. These children in the villages had nothing to do except play with peers. Most of the children lost touch with their subjects and quite a number of them even became undisciplined due to lack of school going routine. In the small percentage of families where they could provide smart phones to their children, it only aggravated the problem as it led to misuse and access to porn and other sites.

Despite all odds, DSS carried on its activities to the extent possible and conducted annual general body. DSS was quick to adopt to the new situation. We developed whatsapp groups and interacted with dalit women collectives, youth and team. DSS provided relief to the needy dalit families and mobilized such relief from government and other sources. Despite the Covid threat, during 2021 we addressed more than 100 incidents of atrocities on dalit women and girl children and followed up the cases. DSS could conduct Legal Clinic and Round Table Conferences with reasonable gathering, taking all covid precautions. Trainings also could be carried on as usual except one training through Zoom. Other programmes like, gender campaigns, conferences also were conducted physically by taking necessary precautions.

It is gratifying to look back at the successful and arduous journey for the past sixteen years. Though the achievements and successes are many, we are humble enough to be aware that the support of various sections of people, the media, the intellectuals, government officials, and other democratic minded organizations is behind the success of DSS. We are thankful to each and every one that supported and strengthened DSS in multifarious ways. We commit ourselves to the continue the path of dalit women empowerment and appeal to all democratic forces to extend their support in future also.



Jhansi Geddam

National Convener

Dalit Women Marching towards Progress

15th Annual State Conferences

Annual State Conferences of both the States were held in February 2021. Annual State Conference is an occasion for all dalit women, women collective leaders of both the states to gather at one place, greet each other, review the work done and plan for the year ahead. The state level meet provides an occasion for all the women to look at their collective strength and it helps in boosting their collective confidence. Over the years, the dalit women got used to travel all the way from their villages to the venue of the conference with lot of enthusiasm and vigour.



Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) has been continuously fighting for the equality, dignity and self-respect of dalit women and for their equitable share in the resources. In all activities of DSS our focus has always been to boost the self-confidence of Dalit women and raise their awareness levels. During the past 15 years dalit women of the area learnt to work co-operatively and also realized the need to monitor the legal system to end violence. All these years the dalit women underwent many trainings and are equipped ideologically. Though, the dalit women and women collective leaders are continuously trained on various concepts and laws, state conference is yet another occasion to enlighten everyone on various subjects. With this perspective, a relevant theme is selected for each Annual conference and the gathering is educated on the theme with high level dignitaries/intellectuals as speakers. This year, the annual conferences of both the State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were held on the theme of **“Dalit Women Marching Towards Progress”**, thereby indicating the progress of dalit women on both social and economic fronts.

A Souvenir On 15 Years Progress:

Added to the general importance of the annual conferences, this year is more significant as DSS completed a decade and half of its journey in empowering dalit women and is conducting its 15th Annual Conference. Fifteen years of continuous, unrelenting work towards the goal of empowering and liberating dalit women is not an easy task. DSS crossed many cross roads and is marching ahead with clear vision and commitment. The quality and quantity of work turned out during the past decade and half, the consolidation of dalit women, the leap in their level of awareness are no mean achievements. The fifteenth annual conference, is definitely a fitting event to recapitulate the entire journey in retrospect. As the special and unique occasion demands, DSS brought out a distinctive publication on the 15 years journey, titled **“We are One Woman-15 Years Journey”**. This publication, which was brought out as a souvenir, portrays a bird’s eye view of the arduous and committed work of DSS, its major achievements during decade and half. Consolidated outputs of various activities, their impact, the exceptional quantity and quality of work and present situation are depicted in the souvenir. The souvenir will be a handy summary of DSS from inception till now.

In addition to this souvenir, a brief introduction of the Constitution of India in the form of a handy booklet in Telugu was brought out in commemoration of the decade and half journey of DSS.

Covid Situation:

As narrated above, every year annual conferences are held as carnivals of dalit women. It was always a big fete, a time for celebration and rejoicing along with learning. More so this year as it is 15th Annual Conference. But alas, due to the Covid situation, there was a gloom and all-round fear of spreading the virus. Further, there are restrictions on gatherings as per the government’s protocol. Added to this, the speakers, who are high dignitaries, were also a little hesitant to move among large gatherings. Keeping all this in mind, DSS

restricted the attendance to a few women from each village and they were all instructed to wear masks, use sanitizer and travel safely and not in groups. The halls selected were also sanitized and care was taken for air circulation. Seating was arranged maintaining as much distance as possible and sanitizers were provided at the halls. Everyone wore masks. The dignitaries were explained about the precautions taken and requested to attend in time and address the gathering. Thus, the conferences were held in both the states with all care and precautions and no unfortunate event took place. Spread of virus was not reported by anyone so far and nothing untoward happened either to the dignitaries or to the participants.

Telangana State Conference

The 15th State annual conference of DSS for the state of Telangana was held at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad on 17.2.2021. Jhansi Geddani, National Convener of DSS presided over the meeting and the other dignitaries on the dais were Padmasri Narra Ravi Kumar, National President of the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sri Dilip Reddy, Executive editor of Sakshi, Sri Sudharani, Director of DBRAOU, Sri PSN Murthy, IDAS, (VR), Sri Kalpana, Officer of CMO, Rajendra Kumar, Retd Bank Employee, Sri Vanajakshi, Entrepreneur, Dr Siddoji Rao, Convener of IAS,IPS officers forum/ Helpdesk and Sri Bhagya Lakshmi, Telangana State Coordinator.

Jhansi Geddani in her presidential remarks elaborated on the initiatives taken up and challenges faced by the organisation over the past 15 years. She briefly outlined the developments of the decade and half's journey. When DSS commenced its work in 2006 there were hardly 10 women, but now DSS has 10,000 odd cadre



who have been working constantly towards ending violence against women at home and outside, besides improving the lives of Dalit and Adivasi children. She said that DSS plans to shape at least 1,000 dalit women as able leaders in various sectors.

Sri. Dilip Reddy, senior journalist and Executive Editor of Sakshi daily, outlined how the market forces are being helped by Governments. He opined that Governments are strengthening the market forces, thereby weakening democracy. Dalit men and women should become conscious of their rights and demand for their share in the resources

and development. He shared his life and childhood experiences and narrated that he always questioned the ill treatment and unequal treatment meted out to Dalits by his family during childhood.

Sri. Narra Ravi Kumar, appreciated the activities of DSS for the past 15 years and welcomed the initiatives of the organisation in economically empowering the dalit women. He suggested that DSS should include economic empowerment of dalit women in its core agenda. He felt that Dalits should shed all traditional and superstitions and march ahead as entrepreneurs. He emphasised that Dalits should embrace knowledge, technology and new ways of living. He said that



knowledge and transformation are the key words and the only way forward. The 15th Annual Report of DSS was released by Sri. Narra Ravikumar.



Sri. PSN Murthy, spoke about Ambedkar vision of women and appealed to the gathering to study the works of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar seriously and educate the children on the ideology of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He reminded the gathering that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar toiled for the emancipation of women not only through movements but also by drafting suitable laws. He appreciated the untiring work of DSS for the past 15 years in empowering dalit women and girl children.

As DSS completed 15 years, Mr.G. Ravi, Ms.Swaroopa, Ms.Swapna and several members of women collectives who were part of DSS earlier also attended the conference and shared their memories and how they developed perspectives, knowledge and capabilities from DSS during the period when they were part of DSS.



The meeting convened to mark 15 years of the organisation also resolved to focus more on personality development aspects apart from education, and to take up a campaign to address the issues resulting from traps in the name of love.





Andhra Pradesh

15th Annual State Conference was held on 24th February 2021 at Ambedkar Bhavan, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

The theme of the General Body was: ***“Dalit Women Marching towards Progress”***. Eminent personalities were invited to elaborate on the selected theme and inspire the gathering.



DSS Women Collective leaders and the team members along with the Convener of DSS and dignitaries Sri Usha Kumari IAS, Dr Lavanya and others first garlanded Ambedkar statue, Buddha Statue, Babu Jag Jeevan Ram Statue and SR Sankaran statue, in the compound of Ambedkar Bhavan. Then the dignitaries and participants proceeded to the Meeting hall. Inside the meeting hall the photos of Dr BR Ambedkar and Savitribai Phule were garlanded by Dr Lavanya and State Women Collective Leader Sri Mary Nirmala before they occupied their respective seats on the dais.

The chief guest of this conference is Sri Kaki Sunitha, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt of AP, Social Welfare Department, while the other dignitaries were: Sri Usha Kumari, IAS, Retd, Govt of AP, Sri L. Jayashree, Law Professor, (Retd) Acharya Nagarjuna University, Dr Lavanya from Ayush Hospital, Dr N Siddoji Rao, Convenor, SC, ST IAS/IPS Officers Forum, Sri Kiran Kumar, General Secretary, APTRANSCO, Sri Prasad, Auditor General of Municipal Corporation, Sri Koteswara Rao, Senior Journalist, and special invitees of the meeting were Sri Syam Sundar, Resident Editor, Hans India and Sri Viswanatha Reddy, State Bureau, Sakshi.



Sri Jhansi Geddham, National Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi presided over the meeting. Jhansi Geddham, in her inaugural speech said that Dalit Sthree Sakthi was striving for the last 15 years for the welfare and uplift of Dalit Women. She said that it has achieved successes, faced challenges and overcome troubles during one and a half decade. DSS has trained 10,000 women who can tackle issues of violence and oppression both at home and outside. She outlined the growth of DSS during the past 15 years and its accomplishments.

Sri K. Sunitha IAS, Principal Secretary of Social Welfare Department addressing the 15th annual conference of Dalit Sthree Sakthi called upon the dalit women to concentrate on the education of their children keeping in view their bright future. Sunitha said that it was highly regrettable that only 20% of women from scheduled caste families are getting the benefit under the Amma Vodi scheme, which is given only to the mothers of school going children. She asked



them to take initiative to get benefit of all the government schemes. Likewise, the dalit women are lagging in getting scholarships from the government for the future studies of their children. Sunitha complemented the Dalit Sthree Sakthi's tremendous work and its National Convener Geddam Jhansi for their relentless work for the upliftment of Dalit Women. She released the souvenir **“We are one woman – 15 years of Journey”**.



Sri Usha Kumari, IAS narrated the difficulties faced by committed officers who are working hard for the upliftment of Dalits and how they are being harassed. However, despite hardships and harassments the committed officers are still working to achieve goals. She released the 15th Annual Report of DSS.

Dr Lavanya, Viswanath Reddy from Sakshi, Syam Sundar from Hans India, Prof Jayashree, Kiran Kumar, Rajesh, Prasad, Seshu and others also addressed the gathering and motivated the dalit women. Coordinators from the two Telugu states, Dalit women leaders of various districts also participated and spoke their experiences, hurdles and achievements.

Another publication of DSS, titled “Brief Introduction of the Constitution” in Telugu was also released on the occasion by Dr. Lavanya.

AP state Coordinator Hemalatha proposed vote of thanks. DSS cultural team inspired the gathering with emotional songs on Ambedkar and songs on dalit lives.



Capacitation of Dalit Women Collectives and Youth Leaders

Most of the poor including Dalits are mostly steeped in their daily earnings and will not have much time to learn about the society, economy and what is happening around the world. Since the poor are always in need of money and almost everyone is debt ridden, the political parties try to lure them with schemes to corner their votes. When a political party announces a few schemes the poor think as if that particular party is in their favour without knowing that it is the government money that is being given. Further, the poor are not aware of the billions of amounts that is cornered by the political mafia, and the billions of rupees the government is giving to industrialists. When compared to the billions of rupees that is doled out to industrialists the amount given to the poor through various schemes is like a small drop in the ocean. Dalits have to be made aware of this unjust economic distribution. If the dalits are made aware of the unjust system they will be ready to change it and resist any unjust policies of the government. When compared to the dalits and other poorer sections, the farmers are more knowledgeable. During 2020-21 the farmers of the country, particularly, of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. exhibited their solidarity and courage against farm laws of the Union Government.

The farmers unrelentingly agitated for one year until the farm laws were repealed. This they were able to do simply due to their awareness of the law and hidden objectives of the farm laws. The farmers knew well that these laws were meant to turn them as serfs for the corporate lobby and benefit the corporate sections. It was this knowledge that made them firm to stand up even for one year and they could not be deceived by anyone. It is necessary for dalits and other poorer sections also to gain such critical knowledge of economy, politics and law, so that they can struggle for their emancipation. DSS has been training the dalit women collective leaders, youth and human rights defenders about human rights, Constitution, laws, Ambedkar ideology and women related Acts to equip them with critical knowledge.

Through its decade and half long continual trainings, campaigns and sensitization programmes, DSS was able to make the cadre, activists, dalit women collectives to know the structure of Government, local authorities, court and government procedures, government policies, important laws and how they are implemented, the responsibility of the police and other law enforcement agencies. DSS is quick to impart trainings on new laws and amendments.

Trainings to Women Collective Leaders and Team

DSS conducts trainings every year as planned. Trainings are very important in equipping the team and particularly the women collective leaders. Since the main objectives of DSS is mainstreaming dalit women and girls, monitoring human rights and gender issues, trainings are concentrated on the relevant subjects. Most important of all is to raise the awareness of the women on gender issues and equip them with the knowledge of constitution and laws relevant to dalit women. Trainings are customised to the specific context. Now, in the context of challenges to Dalits existence itself in the form of nullifying the SC, ST (PoA) Act, new demands for scrapping reservations, it is important to enlighten the dalit women about the happenings in the country. The dalit women should be made aware of the all-round attack by the reactionary forces and inspired to be vigilant in protecting the existing rights and fight for further rights. It is necessary to train the dalit women on question of equality and gender so that they can stand up and protect others against domestic violence, claim equal rights and due share in the economic resources. With these objectives, the following trainings were conducted.

Training on Special Acts in Andhra Pradesh

A training on Special Enactments was conducted by Dalit Sthree Sakthi for the Women Collective Leaders and Youth leaders on 6th and 7th August 2021 at Hotel Grand Nagarjuna, Guntur. A total of 35 leaders participated in the training. Experts in the subject were invited to deliver lectures on these Acts. Ms. Hemalatha, State Coordinator of Andhra Pradesh acted as the moderator of the trainings.

1. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989

Jhansi Geddiam, Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi explained about the advantages of SC/ST(POA)Act and its privilege to Dalit community. It is the only Act which is used to protect Dalits from the atrocities committed by the dominant caste perpetrators. All the individual sections in the Act have been defined and she clearly explained to the trainees in the easiest way through a PPT. Several examples have been taken, explaining each section using real time case scenarios with factual data and she pointed out the discrepancy in the implementation of the Act which is primarily due to lack of knowledge of police and judiciary. After 2015 amendments of SC/ST (POA) Act it is necessary to file the charge sheet within 60 days, but charge sheet is not filed even in a single case within 60 days. Further, as per the latest position, trial has to be completed within another 60 days after filing the charge sheet and she explained that even this is not done even in a single case. She then, narrated how the Act clearly mentioned about victims and witnesses in separate chapters which is also flouted in all cases

because no one understood these provisions. Only the first phase compensation is being paid to the victims and neither the rehabilitation nor Ta & Da are paid in actual practice and this is also a clear violation of the Rules. She analysed, the punishment methodology and fine with respect to each crime in the SC/ST POA Act. She mentioned about the need for translating the laws into simple Telugu so that semi-literates and illiterates also can know the important laws. In this context she mentioned, how DSS has been consistently bringing out different laws in Telugu concerning the rights of Dalits.



2. SCSP/TSP Act and Schemes:

Sri AV Patel, General Manager, District Industries Department, explained in detail about the Act and various government schemes. He called upon the dalit women to utilise the schemes and start earnings and gain financial independence. Only with financial independence a dalit woman can get respect in the family and society. But unfortunately, there has been no change in entrepreneur life of dalit women despite different schemes and programmes initiated by the

government. He quoted Ambedkar that a dalit women should be treated with respect by her family as well as by the society. And this only can happen through economical development and thereby gaining stature in the society. He offered to help every dalit women from the District Industries Centre and encouraged them to set up new businesses and grow as entrepreneurs.



Sri Krishna Kishore, Assistant Director, District Industries Department, Guntur further explained about all the schemes available like PMEGP scheme, Stand up India, YSR Jagananna Badugu Vikasam, Mudra etc. He explained about the process of taking a bank loan, purchasing a vehicle, and applying for a subsidy to establish a small-scale transport business. He clarified that a person can take any number of loans and apply for any number of subsidies. A single person can take a subsidy up to one crore if the subsidy is applied at the right time. He also mentioned that all these advantageous schemes are not being utilised by Dalits but are being used by binami names by other communities.

3. Personality Development:

Sri Jhansi Geddiam spoke about personality development and various aspects of positive attitude. Personality development involves the process of enhancing one's personality and developing various skills like communication skills. She explained that since most of the dalit women come from rural and poor background, they feel shy and lack initiatives in dealing with society. It is necessary for them to equip with knowledge and communication skills so that they can develop self-confidence in dealing with others. It is necessary to develop children also on these lines. Further, it is important to have the will to work hard and be honest in all aspects to have an all-round development of personality.



4. Domestic Violence Act:

Sri Bhagya and Ms. Hemalatha, State Coordinators of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh elucidated on the law relating to prevention of domestic violence. They gave a PPT presentation and explained the law with illustrations and case studies. There are 37 sections in the Act dealing with rights and duties, various orders that can be given by the court, procedures for complaining, role of protections officers and counselling etc. The advantage of the Act is that a woman can get a residential order to continue to live in the house and claim maintenance. They explained about various remedies that a woman can seek including under Section 498A of IPC and Section 125 of Cr.P.C.

5. Safeguarding Mechanisms:

Jhansi Geddiam, explained about the need for safeguarding procedures in any organization. She presented PPT and explained about the concept of safeguarding and the measures to be taken to prevent various harmful practices that may occur. She narrated various types of harm that may be caused to the people, community and visitors and how to identify the same. One should know what type of behaviour is acceptable and what is not acceptable. She gave illustrations. It is necessary to report any harm caused to anyone and the need to have mechanisms of reporting. It was clarified about various forms of harmful behaviour and the chief functionaries to take care of complaints and action to be taken. Then it is necessary to protect children below 18 years and others likely to be harmed, people who come in touch with our work, volunteers etc. She explained all types of harm with illustrations and case studies.

6. Legal Interventions:

Jhansi Geddiam, National Convener, Bhagya Lakshmi and Hemalatha, State Coordinators explained the need to follow up the cases that are being dealt with by DSS. They pointed out that due to Covid situation many cases are getting stagnated and now it is the time to study each case and its stage for further follow up. We need to monitor the case with the police, social welfare department and concerned personnel.

7. Interactive Session:

In the interactive session everyone shared and discussed various aspects of the organisation, the need to strengthen women collectives and future course of action. National Convener and State coordinators clarified the practical doubts raised by the participants about their individual village issues.



Training on Special Acts in Telangana State

A training on Special Enactments was conducted by DSS for the Women Collective Leaders and Youth leaders on 10th and 11th August 2021 at The Cent Hotel, Lakadika Pool, Hyderabad. Important Acts which are pressed into service to protect and promote the rights of dalit women were selected for the training. A total of 35 leaders from three districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Vikarabad participated in the training. Experts in this subject were invited to deliver lectures on these Acts. Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi, State Coordinator of Telangana State acted as the moderator of the trainings.

1. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989:

Prof. Karanam Murali, who is teaching law in the prestigious NALSAR University of Law was spoke on the subject. Prof. Karanam Murali explained the practices of discrimination and untouchability suffered by scheduled castes and analysed the constitutional provisions of equality under Article 14 and how various aspects of discrimination are prohibited under Article 15. He traced the developments in reservations in employment under Article 16. He analyzed the developments of law with regard to abolition of untouchability, first in 1955 under the Untouchability Offences Act and how it was later transformed into Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1976 and now the SC / ST (PoA) Act Originally

only physical injuries were regarded as offences but later even insult and abuse is considered as an atrocity. He touched upon various disabilities faced by scheduled castes like temple entry and how different laws removed those difficulties. Commenting on the implementation of the Act he pointed out that the convictions are only in 6% of the cases, due to the failure of the personnel administering the law. He narrated how the scheduled castes are boycotted in various ways, but earlier the law recognized only two types of boycotts, while now after 2015 amendments 10 varieties of boycotting the scheduled castes is made punishable. He spoke extensively on the subject, highlighting the provisions of the Act before and after 2015 amendments.



He enlightened the participants about the intricacies of various sections and the case law on the subject. Participants who faced various practical issues in dealing with the police in the implementation of the law raised their doubts which were illustratively clarified by Prof. Karnam Murali.

Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS who is also qualified in law and who has lot of practical experience in the actual implementation of the Act and hurdles faced in its application elaborated how certain provisions are circumvented. She clarified citing actual cases of atrocities how the Act is being applied improperly and how the procedures for getting compensation are flouted. She narrated the participants the actual procedure to be followed by the police and government departments in releasing compensation under the Rules. Both the resource persons presented PPT of the lecture for the benefit of the participants.



2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act:

Ms. G. Keerthi, Advocate spoke on the topic. This is yet another important Act which can be pressed into service by the victims of domestic violence. She explained the provisions of the Act in detail and the practical aspects of it citing cases. She said that the Act contains a total of 37 sections of which 4 sections are important. Sections 4 to 10 lay down the rights and duties under the Act. Section 12 lays down the procedure for making an application to the Protection Officer, to the court or direct police complaint. She pointed out that now victim women are referred to Sakhi centers in the

place of Domestic Violence Cells. She narrated the various forms of violence like physical harassment, sexual harassment, emotional/verbal harassment and monetary harassment like not giving necessary money. She analyzed the details of reliefs like Protection Order, Residential Order, monetary relief, compensation order under Sections 18,19,20 and 22. She said that it is mandatory to dispose of the case within 6 months.

3. Ambedkar Thought:

Sri. PSN Murthy, IDAS (VR), explained elaborately about Ambedkar's way of thinking and functioning. Imparting Ambedkarism and the ideology of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar is a continuous process and is of utmost need to free the dalit women from the unconscious influence of superstitious beliefs and demeaning traditions. Ambedkar thought is needed for gender sensitiveness also. He narrated how Ambedkarism has to be made part of daily life and the responsibility of everyone to propagate the thought. He narrated in detail the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar from the days of his schooling to his post-graduation and Ph.D in Columbia University. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar submitted to Columbia University, his anthropological thesis on origin and



development of castes in India. In recognition of Ambedkar's intellectual acumen, Lehman Social Sciences Library, the 2nd biggest library in Columbia erected a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Later Ambedkar did his research in economics at London School of Economics and also did his law. He practiced as a lawyer in London for a while. In 1926 he was elected as Member of Legislative Council of Bombay legislature. During 1930s he organized temple entry struggles at Nasik and further struggles for the liberation of depressed classes. He appealed to the participants to emulate the ideology of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar.



4. Personality Development:

Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener of IAS/IPS Officers Forum, Help Desk, inspired the participants on the topic of personality development. He stressed the need for positive thinking as part of one's personality. He analysed the personality of an individual as having two components of talent and intelligence. Of these two aspects, talent is genetic while intelligence can be acquired by anyone through hard work and study. He further explained that the people can be divided into two categories, namely, traditional and modern. The

traditional category of people blindly follow the existing social patterns of living without questioning, while the modern category of people try to understand and analyse their way of life. It is this second category of people who contribute for the development of the society. Most of the people claim rights while forgetting responsibilities. But a balanced person first thinks of responsibilities and such people are willing to work hard, sacrifice and contribute. For gaining knowledge and insights, it is necessary to understand and analyze an issue and study it deeply. He advocated that everyone should cultivate scientific spirit, democratic values and show empathy towards others, particularly the marginalized sections in a humane way.

5. POCSO Act:

P. Syamala Devi, former Chairperson of CWC gave a detailed picture of POCSO Act and various provisions of the Act. She said, for the first time a special law has been passed to address the issue of sexual offences against children. Before the enactment of this law, sexual offences were covered under IPC only and the sections in IPC didn't cover all types of sexual offences against children. There was no distinction in IPC between an adult and a child victim. Under the POCSO Act clear definitions of offences like, pornography, sexual assault, sexual harassment has been given which did not exist under the earlier laws. She explained that as per the POCSO Act, a

child is any person below the age of 18 years and the law covers all forms of sexual assault like touching and non-touching behaviors or gestures. She explained through PPT all sections in the POCSO Act. She analysed the need for child friendly procedures to be followed in all cases. She gave details of punishments for various offences. She narrated how various sexual offences are being committed and the prevalence of child sexual abuse and appealed to the participants to be aware of the law and procedure to give complaints.



6. Fact Finding Skills:

Jhansi Geddani, National Convener of DSS enlightened the participants about the methods of fact finding and how to collect data from the victims and villagers when we go for enquiring an atrocity. She clarified how a fact-finding report has to be written and how the details have to be mentioned in order and the requisite attachments like FIR copy etc. She stressed the need for being totally truthful in presenting the data and also the need to encourage the victims/witnesses to be truthful about facts.



7. Safeguarding Mechanisms:

Mr. Satyacama Jabali explained about the need for safeguarding procedures in any organization. He presented PPT and explained about the concept of safeguarding and the measures to be taken to prevent various harmful practices that may occur. He narrated various types of harm



that may be caused to the people, community and visitors and how to identify the same. One should know what type of behaviour is acceptable and what is not acceptable. He gave illustrations. It is necessary to report any harm caused to anyone and the need to have mechanisms of reporting. He clarified various forms of harmful behaviour and the chief functionaries to take care of complaints and action to be taken. Then it is necessary to protect children below 18 years, others likely to be harmed, people who come in touch with our work, volunteers etc. He explained all types of harm with illustrations and case studies.

8. Interactive Session:

After the two days training, the state women collective leaders and youth members discussed and shared their practical experiences. They became confident about the training and assured that they will explain to the people in their respective villages about what they learnt here.



Advocates Meet

Dalit Stree Sakthi conducted “Advocates Meet” on 28th August 2021 at Ravindra Bharathi Conference Hall, Hyderabad. About 65 advocates from the Bar Associations of Vikarabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal, Hyderabad and Mahboob Nagar districts attended the conference. Two retired district judges participated in the Meet. The participants seriously discussed about the violence taking place on Dalits in the Telangana State and the lopsided implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. All the advocates expressed serious concern about the unabated atrocities occurring on Dalits and shared the methods to prevent the atrocities. A consensus emerged that lawyers should play active role in protecting the rights of Dalits and defend the victims. Towards this objective everyone agreed that lawyers should intervene whenever an atrocity takes place and do all necessary activities like conducting fact finding of the incident, monitoring the police investigation, assisting and monitoring the prosecution, assisting the victims and witnesses with regard to getting compensation, deposition of evidence at the trial etc. It was unanimously resolved by all that advocates should form into a team in every Bar Association and monitor the implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. Brief outline of the speeches is as given below:

Jhansi Geddam:

Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS presided over the meet. She explained what is meant by Rule of Law and commented that the administration in general and criminal justice administration is not adhering to Rule of Law. Autocratic tendencies are growing and administration is being carried as per their



whims and fancies flouting rule of law. If anyone points out violation of Rule of Law they are being viewed as enemies and illegal actions are being taken against them. She cited the recent incident of lock-up death of Mariamma as an example of blatant violation of Rule of Law. She was tortured and killed brutally in violation of all norms, criminal law, criminal procedure, Supreme Court directives and directives of NHRC etc. Still no action is taken on the concerned SI excepting dismissal from service. He was not charged for murder nor was he arrested so far. If any ordinary person beats another person causing death, police would have immediately arrested him and charged under Section 302 of IPC. But the same is not done with regard to those who killed Mariamma by indiscriminately beating her all night. The departmental investigation is also not done in accordance with the Rule of Law. Enquiry by the Executive Magistrate, inquest, post mortem and every other aspect is not done in accordance with the Rule of Law. She suggested that all advocates should play active role in monitoring Rule of Law in cases of atrocities on Dalits.

Sri. Ramdas, Retired District Judge and Special Magistrate of Ranga Reddy District:

Sri Ramdas spoke about the present situation of ruling and said that now the uneducated are ruling the educated. He called upon the advocates to develop their legal knowledge, drafting skills and communication skills in English. He advised the advocates to be assertive. He recalled the sacrifices and services of Sri. Bojja Tharakam and explained the way he served the Dalits to his last breath and appealed to the advocates to emulate Sri. Tharakam. He touched upon the subject of how the lands of Dalits are being grabbed by others first by getting an



injunction order and then occupying it. Due to lack of legal knowledge, legal resource and financial problems, Dalits can't go to court and loose the land. In such situations the interventions by advocates would help the Dalits. Likewise, with regard to mass attacks and other clashes, due to lack of legal knowledge of right to self-defence, Dalits usually run away without attempting to defend themselves. He called upon the advocates to take lead and impart legal knowledge to Dalits in the villages. Speaking about



the ethical standards to be maintained by the advocates, he advised the lawyers to gain the confidence of their clients that they will stand by them without any collusion with other parties. This image is important for an advocate. He said it is necessary for the lawyers to express freely even if they are not very well versed with the language.

Sri. Jaya Surya, Retired District Judge:

Sri Jaya Surya encouraged the lawyers to be courageous in facing the situations and solving the issues. He said a coward dies many times before actual death while a courageous person dies only once. He said while he was working as a judicial officer in Kareem Nagar, a large number of poor people from the caste of Budaga Jangam approached him with regard to the problem faced by them in not getting the caste certificates. The concerned officer is not issuing the caste certificates and due to lack of caste certificate they are unable to pursue their studies after Xth class. As a judge he directed the concerned officer to issue the certificates. He felt that more than the politicians, it is the bureaucracy which is creating problems to the poorer sections and stalling their progress by not discharging their duties properly. He pointed out that most of the Dalits are economically backward and the system is not functioning properly. He cited the incident of lock-up death of Mariyamma and noted that the SC, ST Commission of Telangana State has not taken up the case and render justice.

He appealed to all advocates first to reform themselves and develop the personality. He advised all lawyers to act as social engineers to help the dalit community.

A large number of advocates spoke on various points and the gist of all their speeches is as follows:

- * SC/ST advocates will have to form into teams to serve the Dalits in accessing justice.
- * In Hyderabad and surrounding areas, the lands of Scheduled Castes and Tribes are being occupied by dominant castes.
- * Accused in atrocity cases are not being arrested due to political pressures.
- * There is no representation for scheduled castes in appointment of public prosecutors.
- * Women are not being respected in their own homes.
- * People should be educated about Mariyamma case.
- * A special wing has to be created in every Bar Association to defend the rights of Dalits.
- * There should be district units to solve the problems of scheduled castes and tribes.
- * We should cultivate the habit of respecting each other.

- * We should monitor atrocity cases and see that charge sheet is filed without delay.
- * We have to help ourselves by gaining knowledge.
- * There are many rights provided to the victims after 2015 amendments to the SC, ST (PoA) Act which are not implemented properly. Advocates should monitor the cases to see that they are properly implemented.
- * There is lot of delay in filing the charge sheet and we should monitor to see that charge sheet is filed in time.
- * Dalits are not fully conscious of their oppression and a few Dalits are acting as enemies to the community by joining hands with the dominant castes.
- * Women should be educated to stand up and struggle for the women.
- * Atrocities are growing due to ego and political power.
- * DSS should be appreciated for bringing advocates together and motivating them to work for Dalits.
- * No one is using Sec 4 of the SC, ST (PoA) Act. It is necessary to use that section to pressurize the officials to properly implement the Act.
- * A network of lawyers should be formed.
- * Dalits should read important books and improve knowledge.
- * Dominant castes are able to use Dalits due to lack of unity.
- * Religion, caste and gender discrimination are the real enemies of Dalits.

Resolutions:

- * Teams of Dalit advocates should be formed in every Bar Association to take up the cases of atrocities on Dalits, assist the victims and monitor the proper implementation of SC, ST (PoA) Act in all aspects.

All advocates enthusiastically involved in the session, and appreciated DSS' initiative. They decided to form a WhatsApp group to plan future course of action. Later Telangana State Coordinator Bhagya Lakshmi concluded the meeting with vote of thanks.



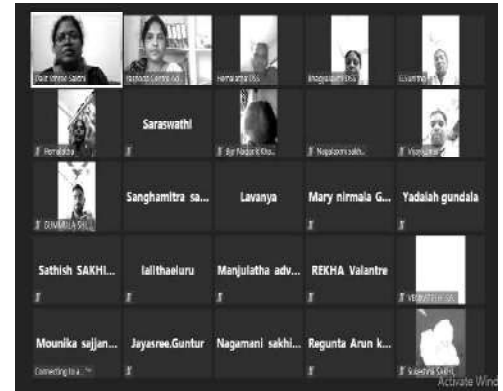
Zoom Training on Important Laws

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 serious, almost all public activities and normal social life came to a halt. In this situation of lock-down when activities involving travel, group meetings and gatherings are dangerous, DSS has been in touch with the staff and activists through WhatsApp and video calls. DSS thought to 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 participated in these Zoom trainings.

Resource Persons:

Dr. K. Murali, Professor, NALSAR University, Hyderabad:

Dr. Murali is professor in renowned NALSAR University, Hyderabad, where he teaches law. Formerly he was teaching in Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. He was very active in human rights movement and specialized in human rights law. He did his research on rights of prisoners and jails. He has to his credit number of publications and contributes regularly to reputed dailies like Andhra Jyothi on various topics of public importance.



He spoke on the topic of dalit rights and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. In his two-hour lecture he traced the rights of Dalits, constitutional provisions and the evolution of laws to protect the human rights of Dalits.

He analyzed the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and its implementation. He explained the loopholes in the implementation and the latest amendments. He gave illustrations of incidents and narrated how the Act was applied. The lecture was followed by question/answer session. Participants raised doubts and got clarifications.

Dr N. Siddoji Rao, Convener, SC, ST IAS/IPS Officers Forum:

Dr. Siddoji Rao is highly educated and committed person to the cause of dalit empowerment. He did his doctoral studies in Australia and now is heading the forum of SC, ST IAS/IPS officers forum. He has been associated with DSS for long and is a regular participant in the activities of DSS. He is an expert in training youngsters in personality development. He gave lecture on Personality Development on 8th June 2021. He explained in simple Telugu all relevant concepts of personality and the need for change in thought process. He explained how commitment and sincerity is part of personality traits. Only when a person having the zeal to know and work more than for what he was asked can prosper and raise up in the profession. His lecture is illustrative and practical. All the participants raised several doubts which he clarified.

Sri B Girija, Advisor, Centre for People's Forestry, Hyderabad:

Girija is a noted and experienced intellectual and gender analyst. She is advisor to the NGO, Centre for People's Forestry. She spoke on 8th June 2021 on the topic Juvenile Justice Act. She analysed the latest JJAct, the Rules and the changes brought out in the JJAct. The analysis of each section of the Act and the implications for children was explained systematically.

Dr K. Sudha, Assistant Professor, DSNLU, VSP, AP:

Dr. Sudha is Assistant Professor in Damodaram Sanjeevaiah National Law University, Visakhapatnam. She is a gender analyst and human rights activist. She is at present State Secretary of Human Rights Forum, an organization to defend the human rights and question all violations of human rights.

She did her LL.M, Ph.D in Law and is working as Assistant Professor. She published many articles and books. On 9th July 2021 she explained Domestic Violence Act, systematically and analytically. She analyzed the provisions of the Act and pointed out various loop holes in the Act.



Dr N Vasanthi, Professor, NALSAR University, Hyd:

Dr. Vasanthi is one of the senior teachers and a professor in the prestigious National law School in the country, namely, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. She explained the gender concepts on 10th June 2021 by touching up on all aspects of gender, sex and how the gender is a social construct. She analyzed how the patriarchal social structure institutionalized the gender oppression and the need for everyone to be aware of the unconscious influence of institutionalized gender roles. She touched upon the various legal provisions while explaining gender concepts and roles.

Dr. L. Jayashree, Dean of Law (Rtd), Acharya Nagarjuna University, A.P.

Prof. L. Jayashree was senior faculty member of Post Graduate Department of Legal Studies & Research, Acharya Nagarjuna University. She was Dean of the Faculty of Law. She is now retired and is giving lectures as resource person to various institutions. She has expertise in criminal law and procedure. As such she spoke on the Rape Laws on 10th July 2021 in the afternoon session. In her lecture, she explained the provisions of IPC concerning rape, its definition and various amendments made to the law. She analyzed the rape law in practical context and explained the various loopholes in the prosecution of rape cases. Her lecture was lucid and was in simple language with illustrations. All the participants actively participated and understood the subject.

Archana, CWC Member, Medchal, Telangana State:

Ms. Archana is a child rights activist and is now associated with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). In view of the importance of protecting and promoting the rights of children, it is necessary for all the staff and activists to be fully aware of the provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Ms. Archana spoke on the POCSO Act on 11th June 2021. She explained the Act and its implications provision by provision. Her lecture was inspiring and all the participants gained clear knowledge of the POCSO Act and the punishments under the Act. On the whole the training was a grand success and refreshed the knowledge of all participants.

Review of Women Collectives activities

Women collective members and leaders meet at the mandal and district level and at the state level. Review meetings provide opportunity to appraise the work, results and plan for the future. State level meet helps in assessing the work and take guidance from the national convener and state coordinators.

State Women Collective Meet

Telangana State Women Collective members of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Medchal Districts review meeting was conducted on 21/1/2021 at DSS State Office, Hyderabad. National Convener Jhansi Geddam presided over the meeting. State Coordinator of Telangana, Bhagya Lakshmi, Hyderabad district Coordinator Hema Latha reviewed the work done and discussed present situation and pending issues.

Jhansi Geddam, pointed out the crisis due to Covid and said that due to the pandemic, everyone is stuck up in houses most of the time. Now the situation is slightly better. Last year, due to Covid, the children lost academic year and all learning process as the schools were closed and it was dangerous to go out. Though,

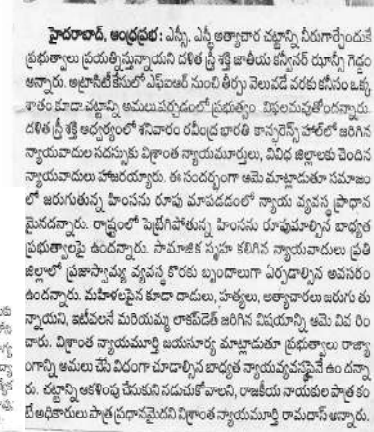


online classes were held it was difficult for the dalit families to have good equipment and internet to access the online teaching. In view of these developments, it is necessary for the women collective members to watch their condition, and monitoring the families as well as children. She stressed the need for dalit women to strengthen economically, socially and politically. She condemned the slavish political activities like, affiliation to one or the other ruling dominant caste parties and going around for propaganda of that party and dominant caste political leaders. She emphasized the need to leave slavish political activities and adopting dalit agenda and Dr B R Ambedkar Ideology and his thoughts.

We, should educate all our people and strengthen our community and children. SWCs should continuously organize review meetings, observe the present situation and intra community issues.

Later, Bhagya Laxmi asked identified issues area wise. It was decided that after General Body meetings, plans should be drawn to prepare representations issue wise and submitting the same to concerned officials. State women collective members should monitor the atrocity cases likewise every day and shall thoroughly read the newspapers for information.

All members spoke about the inspiration of DSS and they decided to work in the future systematically.



International Campaign on Violence against Women

(16 DAYS ACTIVISM)

Despite advances in human rights discourse and adoption of many conventions on the rights of women, still the violence on women is continuing unabated in all countries at various levels. UN Women has been concerned to end violence on women and adopting various programmes to achieve the objective of ending violence on women. Every year, UN Women calls for an intensive campaign to end violence on women and titles the programme as 'orange the world' to signify the safety of women. This call of UN Women is implemented only by a few NGOs and so far, the government has not taken up the programme. But DSS implements this call of UN Women with all seriousness and utilizes this 16 days activism to sensitize the society on the prevailing violence on dalit women and girl children.

End Violence on Dalit Women

Dalit Sthree Sakthi conducted gender campaign for 16 days from November 25th 2021 to December 10th 2021 in response to the call by UN Women. This is an annual feature and this year also DSS implemented the call by UN Women. Meetings, seminars, conferences, awareness camps, rallies, human chains, group discussions, youth camps in schools and colleges etc were conducted throughout the 16 days on the theme of gender equity and stopping violence on women. Meeting were held in villages, mandal headquarters, district centers, slums, schools, colleges. Everywhere, the officials from social welfare department, women and child welfare departments, police officials, intellectuals from varied fields, other mass organisations were involved in the campaign. In all the events the oppression of women, the ongoing violence on women and girls, the patriarchal ideology, various laws and international conventions protecting the rights of women and girl children was analysed and awareness created among the people in general and students and women & girls in particular. The legal and practical measures to be taken for prevention of violence on women was explained in every discussion. Wherever the campaign was conducted the details of glaring instances of violence on women that occurred at those places, the reasons for such violence, the measures taken till then to render justice was discussed with people and officials.

The campaign was inaugurated with the formation of a human chain of women and girls on November 25th 2021 at the Alankar centre of Vijayawada at about 11.00 a.m. The women and girls that gathered there carried flexi, posters highlighting the UN theme and raised slogans against all forms of violence on women. Then the gathering proceeded in a rally to Ambedkar bhavan at Lenin centre, where a public meeting was conducted. The event attracted the attention of the public and was widely covered by the media. State level officials spoke in the meeting enlightening the audience about various aspects of gender equity.

The campaign, thus commenced continued up to 10th December and concluded with a Round Table Conference at Hyderabad, Telangana State. During these 16 days, campaign was conducted in 60 villages of 10 districts, 5 colleges, 25 schools, 8 hostels covering a total population of about 15000. Throughout the campaign for 16 days the state coordinators of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh B Bhagya Laxmi and M Hemalatha led and participated in all the events. Details of main events are briefly narrated below:

Krishna District

25/11/2021: Campaign was inaugurated on 25-11-2021 with formation of a human chain at the busy Alankar centre of Vijayawada, in which about 70 women collective leaders from across the state participated. Posters, flexis were displayed on the theme of gender equity, violence on women and girls. The gathering raised slogans. Then the women and girls marched in a rally to Ambedkar Bhavan where a meeting was conducted.



The meeting was presided over by Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of Dalit Stthree Sakthi who explained the context of launching this campaign in response to the call of UN Women, which titled the campaign as “orange the world” to connote positive change towards eradication of all forms of violence on women. Then she narrated how DSS has been conducting these 16 days activism every year to sensitize the society about the unabated violence going on women, particularly, dalit /adivasi women and girl children. She explained that DSS had chosen to focus on the atrocities committed on dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. She stressed the need for gender equity and analysed how gender is a social construct based on religious and patriarchal perspective. She called for the women and men to break free from the psychological shackles of traditional way of thinking. She delved on the need for educating the dalit/Adivasi girl children so that they may grow with confidence, knowledge and skills to settle down as empowered women in future.

Sri. Akunuri Murali, IAS, Retd. was the chief guest of the meeting, while Sri. AV. Patel, Executive Director of APMSME, Sri. A V Kiran, Secretary General of SC/ST Employees Union of Electricity Department, Sri. Anjana, Programme Director of Tribal Welfare Department, Jelli Wilson, Ex-MLC and others spoke as guests of honour. Sri. Prakash, Sri. Ramesh and others representing various organizations also participated in the meeting.



After the Conference the team campaigned on gender equality in the slums of Ranigarithota, Tarakarama Nagar, Kanur and Sing Nagar.





26/11/2021: On 26th November 2021 constitutional day was celebrated by DHPS at Vijayawada on the theme of proportionate representation of scheduled castes in the higher judiciary. Jhansi Geddamm, National Convener of DSS participated in this meeting as Guest. Other participants were: Sri. Dasari Srinivasa Rao, IAS, Retd., Jelli Wilson, Ex-MLC, Sri. Gurrappa, Retd. Judge and representatives of various Bar associations and dalit organizations.

On the same day evening Seminar on gender equality was held for the employees of electricity department, at Ibrahimpatnam. Firstly, Ambedkar statue at Kondapalli was garlanded by the gathering and then everyone proceeded in a rally to the NTPS conference hall, the venue of the seminar. Sri. Kalyan Kumar, D.E., Sri. Padma Sujatha, Chief Executive Engineer, Sri. Kiran, General Secretary of SC/ST Electricity Employees Union chaired the Seminar. Jhansi Geddamm explained the gender issues and about various provisions of law regarding sexual harassment at work place and other legal rights of women. About 80 employees seriously debated about the gender concepts.



On 26th November, afternoon an awareness camp on gender equity was conducted to 500 girls of A.P. Minority Welfare Residential School, at Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada.



West Godavari district

27/11/2021: A public meeting was held at Chodimella village, West Godavari district on 27-11-2021. Women Collective leaders, villagers from the nearby hamlets of Kandrika Gudem, Sunkara Gudem etc attended the meeting. About 70 women participated and raised slogans about women equality. They garlanded Ambedkar statue and all the women took out a rally.

Later, an awareness camp on gender equality was conducted at Pina Kadimi village. In this camp about 30 women collective leaders and villagers participated. Sri. Sujatha, MPTC also participated in the meeting.

Another meeting on gender equality was conducted at Vatluru village. About 100 women comprising, Asha workers and anganwadi teachers and villagers participated in the meeting.

In all the meetings the women enthusiastically debated about the gender concepts, oppressive practices of women at home and in the society.



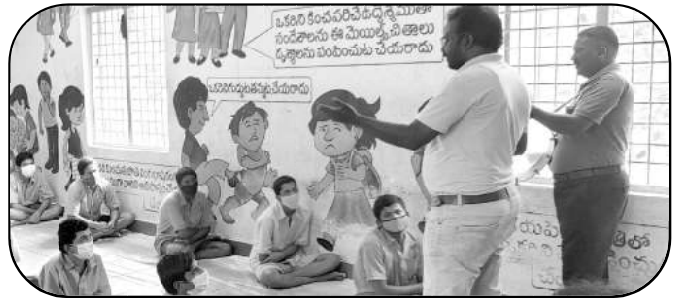
Guntur district

28/11/2021: On 28th November 2021 an awareness camp on gender equality and about violence on women was held at Sivanagaraju Colony, Pattabipuram and A.T. Agraharam. About 250 women collective leaders and others attended the meetings and listened to the speeches attentively.

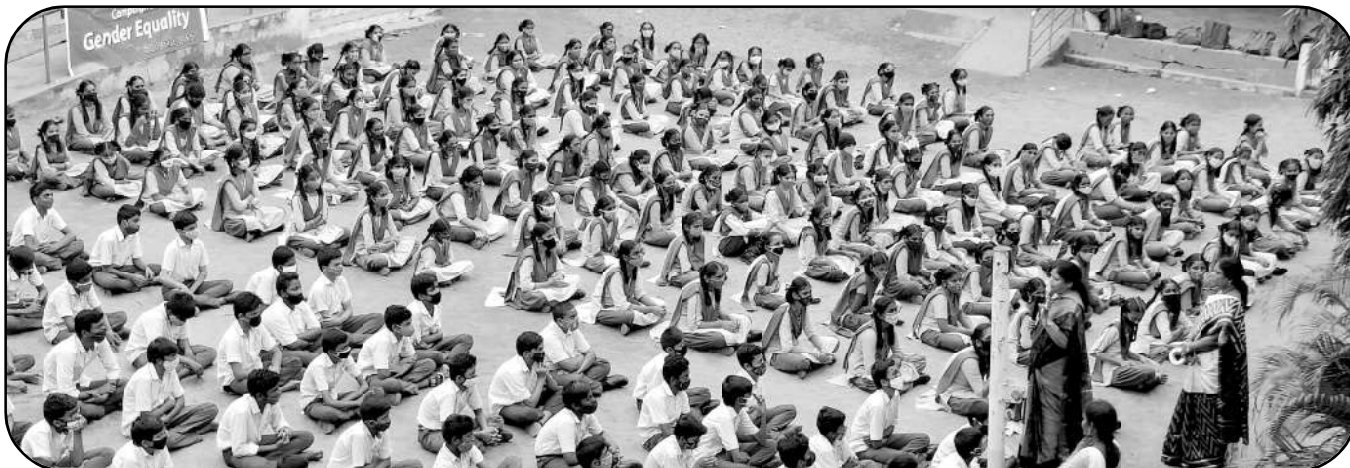


29/11/2021: Youth camps on gender equity were held to educate the college and high school girls and boys in Vijayawada on 29th November as follows:

- * Government Junior College at Radha Nagar, Payakapuram where about 600 attended.
- * TVSRMC High School, Kandirka where about 500 students attended.
- * Juvenile Home at Kabela centre with 30 juveniles.
- * VSR Colony High School with 584 students.







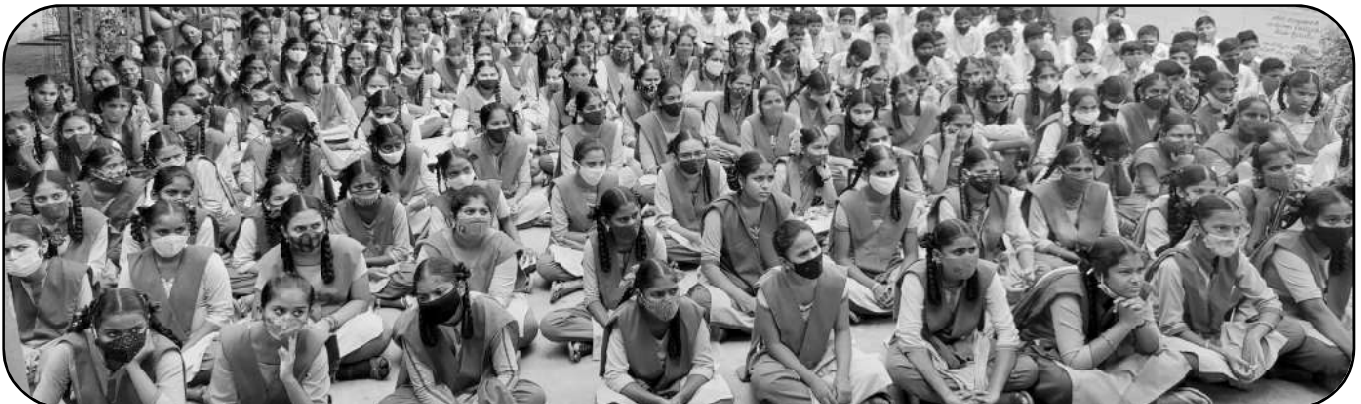
30/11/2021: On 30th November a human chain was held at the premises of Zilla Parishad office of Guntur with about 100 dalit women collective leaders and dalit women. Slogans were raised against violence on women and posters depicting messages against violence on women were displayed. Thereafter a meeting was held at the Conference Hall of Zilla Parishad in which Jhansi Geddani, National Convener of DSS and Sri. Krishnaveni, Assistant Project Director of Women and Child Welfare Department participated as guests. State Coordinator Hema Latha, presided over the meeting. Women collective leaders, youth attended the meeting. Immediately after the meeting Human chain and a rally was taken.





1/12/2021: Awareness camps on gender equality were conducted to the boys, girls and youth of various high schools in the district on 1-12-2021 as follows:

- * Government High School, Nambur village with about 600 students.
- * Government High School, Peda Kakani, with about 500 students.
- * Lurdhu High School, Bongarala Beedu, with about 350 students.



Khammam District

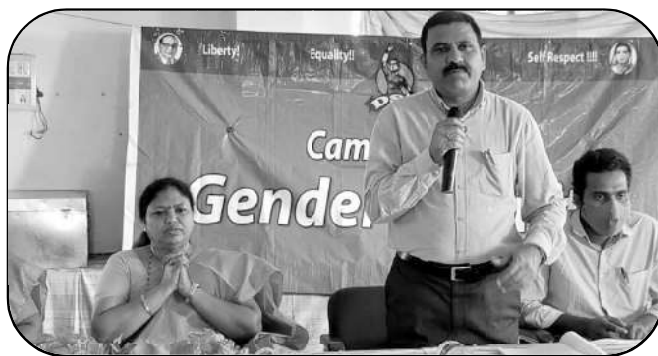
2/12/2021: Awareness camp to the youth was conducted at Government Junior College for girls at Khammam on 2-12-2021 in which 940 girls attended. The principal, teaching and non-teaching staff also participated in the camp. Vijaya Laxmi, President of Women Lecturers association initiated this program. Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS was the Chief Guest. She enlightened the girls about gender concepts and inspired them to think above routine traditional patriarchal ideology. The college administration felicitated Jhansi Geddam.

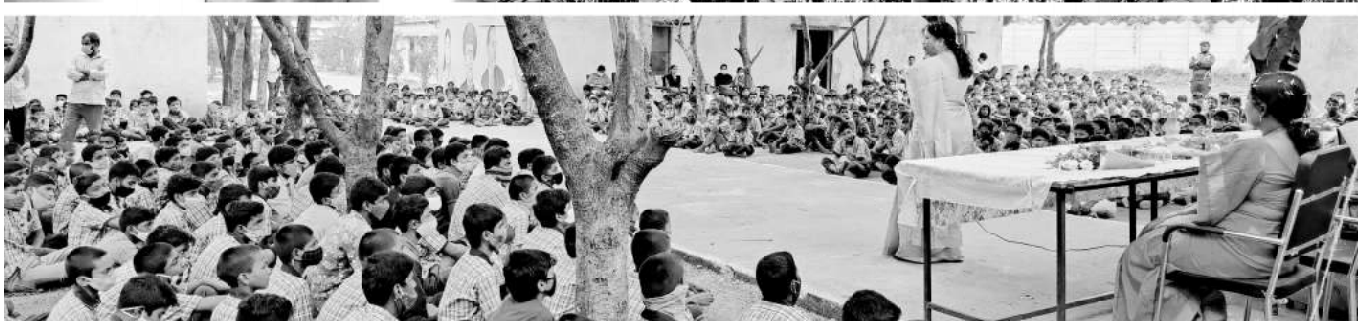
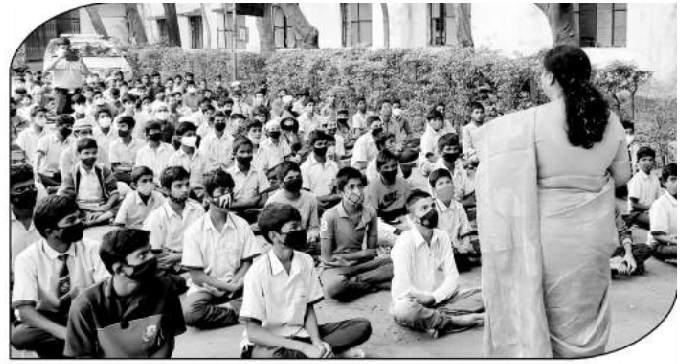


Ranga Reddy District

3/12/2021: Youth awareness camps on the theme of gender equality were conducted at the following educational institutions on 3rd December 2021.

- * Social Welfare Residential School, Bantvaram mandal, Vikarabad District with 350 students.
- * Social Welfare Residential School, Chevella, with 450 Students.
- * Momin Pet, Social Welfare Residential School with 343 students.
- * Kodangal, Tribal Welfare Boys School with 426 students.
- * Peddamul, Social Welfare Boys School with 446 students.
- * Kodangal, Social Welfare Residential School with 428 students.
- * Rajendra Nagar, Minority Welfare Residential School with 356 students.





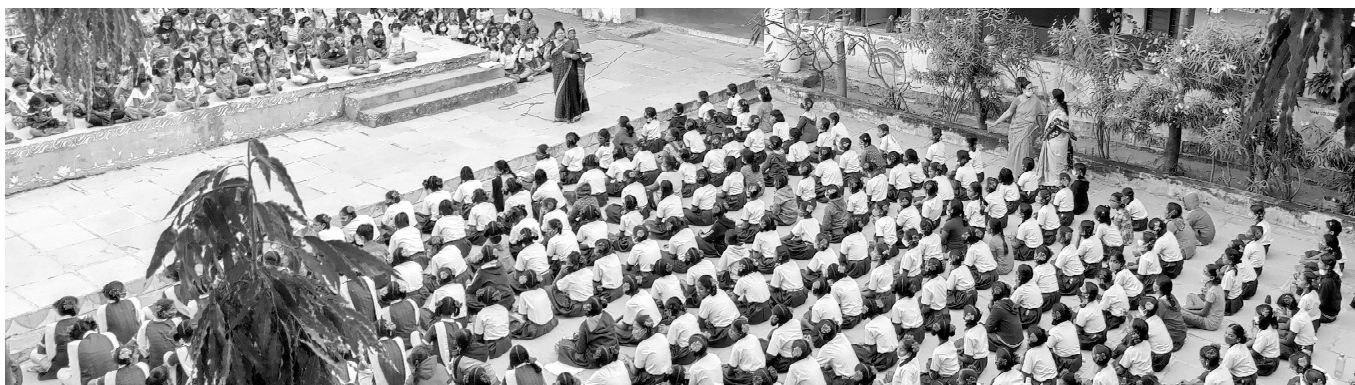
Vikarabad District

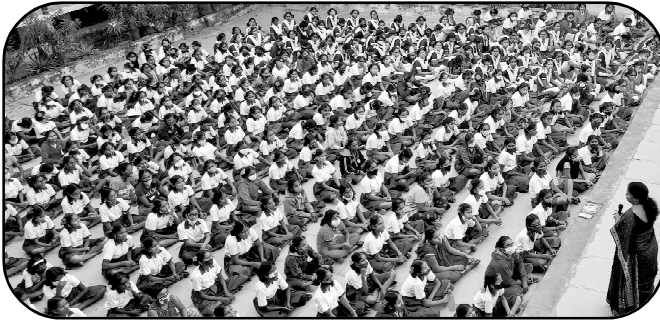
4/12/2021: On 4-12-2021 Awareness meetings on Gender equity, UN Women were conducted to the villagers at Vikarabad, Ethirajpalli, Madi Reddy Palli and Ella Konda of Vikarabad district in which about 300 villagers participated.

Hyderabad District

5/12/2021: On 5-12-2021 Awareness camps on gender equality were conducted in the slums of Hyderabad. Meetings were held at Khairtabad, Chintala Basti, BJR Nagar and Veer Nagar with about 350 members. Gender sensitization classes were conducted in the following schools on 6-12-2021 at Hyderabad:

- * Zilla Parishad High School at Maredpalli with 356 students.
- * Upper Primary School at Khairtabad with 60 students.
- * Zilla Parishad High School at Khairtabad with 52 students.
- * Master Talent High School at Maruthi Nagar with 412 students.
- * Youth Meeting was held with 686 students of Telangana Social Welfare Residential School & College.





Adilabad District

7/12/2021: On 7-12-2021 Sakhi/one stop centre organized a conference on the theme of eradication of violence against women. Sakhi Centre Administrator presided over the conference in which Jhansi Geddam spoke on the gender equality and the UN call for 16 days activism. The district Collector participated as Chief Guest in this conference while heads of various departments attended as guests of honour. A signature campaign also was conducted at the event. The conference was a big success and a large number of students from various colleges actively participated in the conference. It is estimated that about 800 students attended the event.





District Conference

8/12/2021: A district conference was held on Gender equality and prevention of violence on women at the district headquarters of Ranga Reddy district on 8th December 2021. About 100 people attended the conference. Local member of Civil Supply Committee Sri. Ravi, President of Ambedkar Youth Association Sri. Praveen, BJR College Lecturer Sri. Roopa participated in the conference as guests of honour. Before the commencement of the conference the guests along with DSS functionaries garlanded Ambedkar statue and then proceeded to Ambedkar Bhavan, the venue of the conference. A human chain was formed by joining hands after the conference.



Atrocities Unabated

DSS has been working for the empowerment of dalit women and girl children in various ways, but the priority has always been to protect their right to life. The very right to life of dalit women and girl children is under continual attack and taking new forms. DSS team and women collective leaders in the target area actively monitor all the violations of human rights like human rights defenders. All the cadre are well trained in fact finding skills and representing to the concerned authorities.

In the target area of DSS, over the past 15 years we are able to establish that all cases of atrocities will be monitored and followed up resulting in prosecution and trials. Continuous monitoring and follow up ensures arrest of the accused in all cases. This is done to break impunity among the perpetrators of crime. The efforts of DSS in fact finding and follow up helps the victims and witnesses to stand up and preserve evidence, send the victims to medical examination in time, arrest the perpetrators of the crime before they flee or threaten the witnesses, boost the morale of the victims and villagers to stand up against the crime, draw the attention of the officials to the incident.

Despite all efforts, atrocities in new forms are taking place. Dominant caste youth are cheating the young dalit girls in the name of love. These girls are seduced in the name of love and marriage. The man marries her in a temple just by exchange of garlands or in other sham way, wins her confidence that she was married and then sexually exploits her for a few days/months and abandons her. Even in cases where he marries a dalit girl and lives with her for some time, his parents harass her, abuse her in the name of caste and throw her out of house. This type of cheating dalit girls is on the rise. In all such cases, DSS helped the victim to book a case of cheating and if she gets pregnancy, establish paternity of the child. Most of these cases are arduous and the culprit cannot be prosecuted for rape, but only cheating. During the year under reporting many incidents of violence including murder, caste abuse has taken place. Of a large number of caste-based atrocities, details of a few cases are given in the pages that follow. Further, with regard to caste-based violence DSS conducted various activities aimed at redressal for the victims, sensitization of society and concerned departments. These activities include conducting Legal Clinic, Round Table Conference with all concerned, Representations to officials and Human Rights Commissions.

M Anusha - Cheating in the Name of Love and Caste Abuse

Details of the Victim

Name of the Victim /Age	: Musunuri Anusha/20
Caste	: SC, Madiga
Village	: Chebrolu, Abbireddyvari street
Mandal	: Vunguturu
District	: West Godavari
State	: Andhra Pradesh

Details of the Accused:

Name of the Accused / Age	: Marrisetti Naveen Kumar, Kusuma, Gauthama Kumar, Manisha Vali
Caste	: OC Kapu
Village	: Chebrolu, Abbireddyvari street
Mandal	: Vunguturu
District	: West Godavari
State	: Andhra Pradesh

Details of the Incident:

Date of Incident/Time	: 3/7/2021, Evening 5.00 p.m
Place of Incident	: At the house of Anusha
Type of Atrocity	: Cheating in the name of love and caste abuse
Date of lodging the first complaint	: 03-07-2021
Date of FIR	: 03-07-2021
F. I. R No	: 262/2021
Police Station	: Chebrolu

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C	: 417, 376 (2)N, 506 r/w Sec 34
SC, ST (PoA) Act	: 3(2)(v) of SC, ST (PoA) Act

Details of the Incident:

Musunuri Jayamma and Venkateshwara Rao are wife and husband. They have three daughters, Rani, Suneetha and Anusha. Venkateshwara Rao died long ago when the daughters were still small children. Jayamma brought up the children with her earnings as agricultural labourer. First two daughters were married. Jayamma's health is also not well and the last daughter, Anusha used to stay home and take care of her mother. They were staying in the house of one Ms. Saraswathi in Abbireddyvari street, Chebrolu. Anusha was working as labourer in a thermocol factory for family needs. There was one Mr. Marrisetti Naveen who also used to work in the same thermacol factory as van driver. Naveen is related to Ms. Saraswathi, the house owner where Jayamma and Anusha. Ms. Saraswathi is step mother of Naveen and as such he used to regularly visit Saraswathi's house. In course of time Naveen developed friendship with Anusha and that friendship turned into love. He used to say the usual statements of lovers that he loves her and that he would die if she doesn't agree for marriage. Though, Anusha was reluctant initially, over a time with his continued goading she believed him and agreed to love him and marry him. He convinced Anusha to have sex with him before marriage on the pretext that their parents would be compelled to agree for their marriage if she gets pregnancy, otherwise they may not agree for marriage as she belongs to Madiga caste. Anusha believed him totally and had sex with him and became pregnant. During her 4th month of pregnancy, Anusha insisted for marriage at the earliest. Then, Naveen came out with his real colours and said, "What do you think of yourself. You Madiga women are useful only for sexual gratification and not for marriage. Immediately go for abortion otherwise it will not be good for you." With the reaction of Naveen, Anusha was shocked and hurt. Meanwhile, parents and relatives of Naveen came to know of the affair of Naveen and pregnancy of Anusha and they all came to attack Anusha. Naveen's mother Kusuma, his brother, his sister-in-law Gautham Kumar, Manisha – all came and abused Anusha in filthy language insulting her in the name of caste. They said: "you Madiga bitch, you are useful for sex only not for marriage. You get abortion or else we will kill both you and your mother." In these circumstances Anusha complained to the Chebrolu police about the cheating by Naveen and the threat to kill by his mother and relatives. Despite her complaint, the police have not responded properly. Anusha approached DSS to help her as the police are not evincing interest in doing justice to her.

Interventions:

- * Conducted fact finding.
- * Procured FIR.
- * Following up the case.

Present Status:

- * Naveen was arrested, but the relatives not arrested so far
- * Under Investigation
- * Compensation yet to be paid

N Ramya - Brutal Murder

Details of the Deceased:

Name of the Deceased /Age : Nallapu Ramya/20
Caste : SC Mala
Village : Paramayakunta, 1st lane, Guntur
Mandal : Guntur
District : Guntur
State : Andhra Pradesh

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age : Kunchala Sasi Krishna/24
Caste : BC, Vaddera
Village : Mutluru
Mandal : Vatticherukuru
District : Guntur
State : Andhra Pradesh

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time : 15/8/2021 at about 10am
Place of Incident : Near Srinivas Vilas hotel
Type of Atrocity : Murder
Date of lodging the first complaint : 15/8/2021
Date of FIR : 15/8/2021
F. I. R No : 446/2021
Police Station : Old Guntur

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C : 302
SC, ST (PoA) Act : 3(2) (va)

Details of the Case:

N. Venkat Rao and Jyothi are wife and husband, belonging to S.C. Mala caste. They are natives of Amruthalur village, Amruthalur mandal, Guntur district. But for the past 16 years they have been living in Paramayakunta area of Guntur town and working as agricultural labourers. Jyothi hails from Chilumuru village, Kolluru mandal. They have two daughters Mounika (21 years), studying B. Pharmacy and Ramya (20 years) studying B.Tech. They are both studying in St Mary's College, Chebrolu. Their parents Venkat Rao and Jyothi shifted to Chilumuru for agricultural labour work as well as for cultivating a piece of land taken for lease. They are also looking after a piece of their own land at Amruthaluru. Hence, both the daughters are staying with their grandmother in Paramayakunta, Guntur and going to college. But due to Covid there is no college for the past two years and both daughters also shifted to Chilumuru and staying with their parents. Ramya is good at studies, calm type of girl and loves her parents well. While staying with parents at Chilumuru they used to visit the college whenever there is some work to do. Recently with the re-opening of the colleges, they both shifted back to Paramayakunta, Guntur. Sometime during January 2021 one Mr. Sasi Krishna came in touch with Ramya on Instagram. Sasi Krishna hails from Mutluru village and belongs to fisher men caste. He procured the phone number of Ramya and started calling her and forcing her to love him. She rejected his advances and blocked him on phone and also on Instagram. He visited Chilumuru village during April and called her to come out and meet him. But she didn't respond. Later, he waited to meet her at the college and saw her on 14th August 2021. Then also she quickly went away without responding to him. He waited in the afternoon also but as the college was only for half a day Ramya didn't turn up in the afternoon. Having learnt that she wouldn't come to college, he consulted his friend and took a knife

from him. Then, on 15th he went home and as per the request of his father dropped him at Guntur over bridge center and proceeded to Paramayakunta area where Ramya lives. There he saw Ramya who came out to bring food for the family. He argued with her to love him. She outrightly rejected his advances. Then he dragged her and grabbed her phone. Ramya went home and came out to take back her phone. Then he threatened her to come on his motorcycle for a discussion. She point blank rejected his proposal and took away her phone started going back home. Sasi Krishna got furious at her rejection and chased her and stabbed her on neck, back side and on thighs more than 6 times. After stabbing several times, Sasi Krishna fled away on his motor cycle. Ramya fell down bleeding. The scene was observed by some people in the hotel and they informed Mounika about the incident. Mounika rushed out of the house and with the help of one Mr. Nagur, a local, she carried Ramya in an auto to Guntur Government Hospital. By then Ramya died and the doctors at GGH declared her as brought dead. After the formalities of postmortem etc. Ramya's body was handed over to the parents on 16th August 2021. The case became sensational in the state and large-scale protests took place demanding severe punishment of the culprit. DSS also participated and organized protests and demanded the government to take swift legal action against the accused. The Chief Minister responded with an exgratia payment of Rs. 10/lakhs and the accused were arrested and case booked.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused arrested
- * Chargesheet filed
- * Rs 14,50,000/- compensation paid

S Vani - Gang Rape and Robbery

Details of the Victims:

Name of the Victim /Age	: Sankar Vani/21
Caste	: SC Mala
Village	: Subbaraju Nagar, Vijayawada
Mandal	: Vijayawada
District	: Krishna
State	: Andhra Pradesh

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age	: Ramalingam Prasanna Reddy @ Venkata Reddy S . Krishna Kishore
Caste	: OC, Reddy
Village	: Tadepalli, China Ganjam
Mandal	: Tadepalli, China Ganjam
District	: Guntur, Prakasam
State	: Andhra Pradesh

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time	: 19/6/2021 at about 8.45pm
Place of Incident	: Sithanagaram, Puskarghat area
Type of Atrocity	: Ganga Rape and robbery
Date of lodging the first complaint	: 20-06-2021, Midnight 12.30
Date of FIR	: 20-06-2021

F. I. R No : 697/2021
Police Station : Tadepalli

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C : 342,376D,384,323,506 r/w 34 IPC
SC, ST (PoA)Act : Section3(1)(w)i and Sec 3(2) (va)

Details of the Case:

Sanker and Durga are wife and husband. Sanker works as a watchman in a bar and restaurant at Raja Rajeswari Pet, Vijayawada. They have 5 daughters and a son, namely, Bhavani, Latha, Ramachandra Rao, Adi Lakshmi, Jyothi and Vani. Of all the children first 5 of them were married and only Vani the youngest daughter remains to be married. She is now 21 years old and works as a nurse in old Government Hospital at Vijayawada. She has been employed there for the past 3 months and been regular to her duties. As part of her regular routine, Vani went to her duties on 19-06-2021. It was afternoon shift for her on that day, which is from 2.00 p.m. tonight 8.00 p.m. On that day she completed her duties and at 8.45 she went to Pushkar Ghats on Krishna River bank along with her friend and would be husband Mr. Nani on his motor cycle. Mr. Nani hails from Katuru village and she had been in love with for some time and their marriage is fixed to take place in near future. They both spent some time on the river bank and were returning around 8.45 p.m. As they were coming like those two unidentified persons accosted them and forcibly took them to the nearby railway track by threatening them with knife. There, they took away the uniform of Vani from her bag and knotted her boy friend Nani's hands and legs with that uniform. Then they dragged him to some distance and left him to lie there. They tied the hands of Vani also and forcibly pulled away her phone, ear rings, bangles and other gold ornaments. As Vani was protesting, they strangulated her neck and assaulted her on face and other parts of the body. They threatened to kill her and tore of her clothes and raped her one after the other. While one of them was raping her the other kept guard of Nani. After raping her, they said to her that they like her and she should come to them whenever called and fled away leaving both of them. After they left, Nani and Vani gathered strength and approached Tadepalli police and complained the matter. Both Vani and Nani told the police that they can identify the culprits. The police searched for the culprits and caught hold of them and the victims recognized them. They are identified as Ramalingam Prasanna Reddy alias Venkata Reddy and Seru Krishna Kishore.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Strengthened the victim and her family members
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused arrested
- * Under investigation
- * Chargesheet yet to be filed
- * Rs. 5,25,000/- compensation paid

Komaragiri Malleswari - Caste Abuse, Attack and Humiliation

Details of the Victims:

Name of the Victim /Age : Komaragiri Malleswari/35
Caste : ST Chenchula
Village : Manchikallu
Mandal : Renta Chintala
District : Guntur
State : Andhra Pradesh

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age : Undavalli Suresh/41& Pingali Srinivas Reddy/48
Caste : Rajaka & Reddy
Village : Manchikallu, Macherla
Mandal : Renta Chintala, Macherla
District : Guntur
State : Andhra Pradesh

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time : 9/5/2021 at about 6.30pm
Place of Incident : Near Erra Kaluva, Manchikallu
Type of Atrocity : Caste abuse, Attack and Humiliation
Date of lodging the first complaint : 15/5/2021
Date of FIR : 15/5/2021
F. I. R No : 63/2021
Police Station : Renta Chintala

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C : 306, 324, 323, 341, 114 r/w 34
SC, ST PoA Act : 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s), 3(2)(v), 3(2)(va)

Details of the Case:

Komaragiri Malleswari and Vandanam, are wife and husband, belonging to ST Chenchu caste and are residents of Manchikallu village, Renta Chintala Mandal, Guntur district. They have two sons. The elder son completed graduate course while the second one is in his X class. They live by fishing as their profession. On 09-05-2021 Vandanam, as usual fished in the nearby Erra Kaluva (canal) and after fishing had spread his net on the nearby bridge for drying. Shortly afterwards, a forest guard of Macherla, by name Undavalli Suresh was coming that way on his scooter. Vandanam requested him to drive carefully on his net that was spread on the road of the bridge. To this, Suresh reacted wildly and abused Vandanam in a filthy language, saying, “you fellow, who are you? Why did you dry the net on this road?” Having shouted like that he went to one Mr. Srinivasa Reddy, who was standing nearby and loudly told him, “These Chenchu bastards don’t have senses, this fellow is drying his net on the bridge, we should teach him a lesson”. Then, both of them picked up sticks and beat Vandanam and abused him in filthy language. Vandanam pleaded with them that he had put the net only for drying it and would take away in no time and pleaded not to beat him. Despite his pleadings, both Suresh and Srinivas Reddy beat him with sticks, hand and legs. They dragged him to the nearby tree and tortured him for about an hour. They threatened him not to disclose this to anyone or else face dire consequences.

After a while, one person by name Nagireddy came that way and greeted Vandanam. Then, Vandanam, went along with him to home and told his wife and brother about what happened and how he was beaten, abused and humiliated. Vandanam felt deeply hurt and humiliated that he didn’t move out on 10th May

2021. On 11th May, when his wife Malleswari went out on some work, Vandanam consumed pesticide to commit suicide. When Malleswari returned and noticed him, she shouted for help and with the help of neighbors, Vandanam was taken to Sudhakar Reddy hospital in Macherla. There, he was treated for some time and for a better treatment, he was shifted to Jayalalitha hospital in Sattenapalli. While undergoing treatment Vandanam died on 15-05-2021. Malleswari complained to the police that her husband committed suicide due to the torture and humiliation by Suresh and Srinivasa Reddy.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Strengthened the victim
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Under investigation
- * Accused arrested
- * Rs. 4,25,000/- Compensation paid
- * RFSL Report pending

Gurralla Manjula - Cheating in the name of Love

Details of the Victim:

Name of the Victim /Age	: Gurralla Manjula/22
Caste	: SC, Madiga
Village	: Kesampet
Mandal	: Kesampet
District	: Rangareddy
State	: Telangana

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age	: Bayyagari Chandra Sekhar Rao Ji & Others
Caste	: BC, Are Katika
Village	: Kesampet
Mandal	: Kesampet
District	: Rangareddy
State	: Telangana

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time	: 22/1/2021 at about 2pm
Place of Incident	: Rented house in Shadnagar
Type of Atrocity	: Cheating in the name of love
Date of lodging the first complaint	: 22/1/2021
Date of FIR	: 1/2/2021
F. I. R No	: 16/2021
Police Station	: Kesampet

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C	: U/s. 493, 376(2)(n), 420, 109r/w 34 of IPC
SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989	: 3(2)(v)

Details of the Case:

This is a case of cheating in the name of love. Gurralla Yadamma and Balayya are residents of Kesampet village, Kesampet Mandal, Ranga Reddy district. They belong to S.C. Madiga caste and are wage laborers.

Though, they are poor, they wanted to get their children well educated and their children, a daughter Manjula and son were also faring well in their studies. Manjula got 1st rank in 10th class in her school. She completed her Intermediate also and joined Teacher Training Course (TTC). She was attending the college from her home. In the year 2017 on a day when she returned from the college, she found her mother was not in the home and learnt that she went to the local RMP doctor, Mr. B. Ravinderji. She immediately went there and found her mother taking rest after some treatment for her stomach ache. The doctor Ravinderji told her about the health problem and then appreciated Manjula saying that he knows that she was good at studies and secured rank. He asked her to give her number to him and his wife so that they may seek her guidance whenever their son requires in his studies.

Thereafter, one or two times they called her made enquiries regarding some academic doubts. Later, their son, Mr. Chandra sekher Raoji, took their father's phone and went to Bangalore for some coaching. Chandrasekher Raoji found the number of Manjula in his father's phone and started giving messages to her. Manjula did not respond to the messages but he used to call her often. He pleaded her to talk to them and over a time, she yielded and responded to his calls. Thus, they developed friendship on phone. In course of time the parents of Chandra sekherji came to know about this and complained to the parents of Manjula and made an issue. After that, Manjula did not respond to Chandra sekherji and cut off with him. She joined as Vidya Volunteer in Kunayipalli village government primary school. Even though Manjula was not responding, Chandra sekherji went around her work place, on the way and convinced her to resume friendship. He told her, that anyway the entire people of the are known about their relationship so it is better they get married.

Manjula agreed for the proposal and they decided to inform their parents and get their consent. Then they both tried to convince their respective parents, but both the families disagreed for their marriage. In such a situation Manjula and Chandra sekherji decided to elope and they rented a small house of one Mr. Anjaiah on 06-12-2020 at Shadnagar. Then they escaped to Shad Nagar on 07-12-2020 and on 8-12-2020, they married in the rented house only. Having married on 8th, they approached the Kesampet police on 9th December 2020 and informed the police about their marriage. The police called their respective parents and informed them about the marriage. Parents of Chandrasekherji tried to influence him to leave her, but both of them reiterated in the presence of the police that they married voluntarily.

Since both of them are majors, the police again got them exchange garlands in the police station and told everyone to leave the matter there. Then onwards, Chandra sekherji and Manjula started their family life in the rented house at Shadnagar. Now and then, Chandrasekher Raoji used to call his parents from the phone of Manjula. Chandrasekher Raoji, had no work and everything for running the home was looked after only by Manjula. While so, on 18-01-2021 Chandrasekher Raoji was asked by his parents to come home as his parents wants to celebrate the marriage in a grand way.

When Chandrasekher Raoji told this to Manjula, she said she also would accompany him. One Mr. Ramchandra Rao, who came on behalf of the parents of Chandrasekher Raoji took both of them on his motor cycle to Kesampet. That person, Ramchandra Rao straight went to the house of Chandrasekher Raoji and left him there, but he forcibly took away Manjula and left her at her parents' house. At the home of Chandrasekher Raoji, his parents tried their best to convince him to leave Manjula and assured him of a good marriage within their caste. They told him that Manjula is a Madiga woman and that they can be persuaded to settle for some money.

At about 11.20 in the night Chandrasekher Raoji rang up to Manjula and told her that his parents are forcing him and confined him. Manjula approached the police and asked them to talk to Chandrasekher Raoji. The police told him to come to police station in the morning. But he did not turn up at the police station in the morning, instead he went to the rented room at Shadnagar and rang up to Manjula. He told Manjula that he escaped from his parents as they were forcing him and fled away to Shadnagar. He asked her to come to Shadnagar. Manjula believes him and goes to Shadnagar.

When Manjula reached their rented room at Shadnagar, Chandra sekher Raoji shouts at her and abuses her for going to police station. He said: “You Madiga caste people, you behave like that only, you want money and for money you approach police and blackmail us.” Abusing her like that he bet her severely. Manjula, was shocked at his behaviour and asked him why he was being so rude suddenly and what happened. He bet her further, despite the fact that she was pregnant by then. He came out with his true colors and further abused Manjula, saying that: “I am not interested in you anymore. You are a Madiga caste woman and your job is to sweep outside the house and you don’t deserve to enter or stay in the house. I have decided to marry a girl of our caste settled by my parents with much dowry. My parents will give you enough money. You get abortion and go away with that money”. Having clashed with her all the day on 19th January 2021 up to midnight. He slept then up to 4.00 p.m. of 21-01-2021 and tried to go away. Manjula stood in his way and didn’t allow him to run away. He again bet her for stopping him. Thus, they both clashed continually from 19th to 21st and on 22-01-2021 he again clashed with her saying that he will not stay with her and will go back to his parents. On 22nd at about 2 to 3 p.m. he took away her sacred thread (talibottu) from her neck and cut it down. After that they both took a bus to Kesampet and reached the house of Chandrasekher Raoji. There, Ms. Shoba Rani, the mother of Chandrasekher Raoji and his grandmother stopped Manjula at the gate itself saying: ‘You are a Madiga caste woman, you should not come inside the house’.

Thus, Manjula was kept outside and nobody talked with her. In the evening the mother, father and other relatives of Chandrasekher Raoji insulted her and told her that: ‘You are a Madiga woman, you bitch, you should mind your status, you are meant to sweep outside our houses, you are not eligible to come inside the house, do not try to enter the house.’ The brothers of Chandra sekher Raoji also joined in abusing her in filthy language. Later they took away Chandrasekher Raoji outside and Manjula followed him, fell on his feet and pleaded with him. But he ignored her and proceeded. Meanwhile, his maternal uncle took Chandrasekher Raoji on his bike and rode fast. Manjula tried to run after the speeding bike and fell down. Her pregnancy got aborted when she fell down with force. After all these events she complained to the Kesampet police the same day i.e., 22-01-2021, but the police registered the case on 01-02-2021.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Counselling the victim and her family members
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused 1 arrested
- * A2 to A 8 not arrested
- * Compensation paid
- * False complaint on the victim was registered

Recommendations:

- * Remaining Accused to be arrested
- * Conduct Speedy Trial
- * False case registered on the victims should be closed as false.

Ramavath Munnamma- Murder on Suspicion of Theft

Details of the Deceased:

Name of the Deceased / Age : Ramavath Munnamma /28
Caste : ST Lambadi
Village : Balaji Nagar 133, MIG
Mandal : Kukatpally
District : Medchal
State : Telangana

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age : 1. Naga Kumari/46, 2. Swathi/26
Caste : BC, Avusula
Village : Balaji Nagar 133, MIG
Mandal : Kukatpally
District : Medchal
State : Telangana

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time : 09/04/2021
Place of Incident : House of the deceased
Type of Atrocity : Murder
Date of lodging the first complaint : 09/4/2021
Date of FIR : 10/4/2021
F. I. R No : 345/2021
Police Station : Kukatpally

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C : 302 r/w 34,
SC, ST (PoA)Act : 3(2)(v)

Details of the Case:

Ramavath Munnamma and Ramavath Tirupathi are wife and husband, belonging to ST, Lambada caste and are residents of Balaji Nagar, 133 MIG, Kukatpally, Medchal district Telangana State. They are natives of Sainpet village, Lingala Mandal, Nagar Kurnool district, Telangana state. They have one son and two daughters. All the children are studying. Four months ago, they shifted to Hyderabad in search of livelihood and joined as watchman at the house of Nagakumari, 133, MIG, Balaji Nagar, Kukatpally. They are residing in a small room allotted to watchman. Nagakumari, the owner of the house and her daughter in law, Swathi always used to quarrel among themselves. In the first week of April gold bangles in their house were found missing and both Nagakumari and her daughter in law quarrelled over that issue. Initially they quarrelled among themselves but later both of them developed suspicion on Munnamma. They accused Munnamma that she had stolen the bangles, to which Munnamma pleaded innocence and asked them to search her house. Yet, on 09-04-2021 both Nagakumari and Swathi entered the house of Munnamma when she was alone and threatened her to confess that she had stolen the bangles.

They threatened her that they would burn her alive if she doesn't confess and return the bangles. Not only they threatened her but they actually poured on her thinner used to mix in paints which they brought along with them and lit fire. They did this before Munnamma could realise what was happening and she could not ward off them. The thinner caught fire and within short while Munnamma got engulfed in fire. Both Nagakumari and Swathi ran away.

Neighbours and others who saw the smoke and fire rushed to the spot and took Munnamma to Osmania Government Hospital where she was admitted. Munnamma's husband Tirupathi who came later learnt everything from the ailing Munnamma and complained to the police on 9th April itself about the incident. The police obtained statement from Munnamma at the hospital and registered a case on 10th April 2021. Munnamma who was burnt severely died on 12-04-2021 while undergoing treatment.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Counselling the family members of the deceased
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused arrested
- * Compensation yet to be paid
- * Charge sheet yet to be filed

Recommendations:

- * Conduct Speedy Investigation
- * Immediate compensation and rehabilitation

Tejavat Pulamma – Murder

Details of the Deceased:

Name of the Deceased /Age	: Tejavat Poolamma/40
Caste	: ST Lambadi
Village	: Lotukunta, old Alwal
Mandal	: Malkajgiri
District	: Medchal
State	: Telangana

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age	: Srinivasa Chari/49
Caste	: BC, Avusula
Village	: Bhoodevi Nagar, Alwal
Mandal	: Malkajgiri
District	: Medchal
State	: Telangana

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time	: 26/6/2021 at 10am
Place of Incident	: In deceased's hut
Type of Atrocity	: Murder
Date of lodging the first complaint	: 26/6/2021
Date of FIR	: 26/6/2021
F. I. R No	: 447/2021
Police Station	: Alwal

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C	: 302
SC, ST (PoA)Act	: 3(2)(v)

Details of the Case:

Tejavat Pulamma, w/o Sreenu, (40) belongs to ST Lambada caste and is resident of thatched shed near PJR Statue at Lotukunta, old Alwal, Malkajgiri mandal, Medchal district. Her native village is Bandaru Tanda,

Mangalavari Pet, Khanapur Mandal, Warangal district. Pulamma was married to Sreenu 20 years ago in their village. They lived amicably for about 4 years but disputes developed between them and they got separated after that. Later, about 12 years ago Pulamma migrated to Hyderabad in search of livelihood. She lived in thatched shed near primary school at PJR statue, for 8 years. Later she shifted to nearby place to Lakshmi Kala Mandir and stayed there for about 3 years, then again, she came back to her old thatched shed at PJR statue in January 2021. Now she is residing there. She works as domestic servant in a few households. She also does the business of chits.

Pulamma who was living alone developed extra-marital relationship with one Mr. Srinivasa Chari and has been in relationship with him for the past 8 years. Both of them used to carry on the chit business together. They used to lend money to other to the tune of lakhs of rupees. Pulamma has one brother and two elder sisters. One of her elder sisters passed away 6 years ago and Pulamma was taking care of the education and other needs of her son Anil Kumar. She used to take care of all members of the family. As part of her money lending business, Pulamma gave loans of Rs.4/ lakhs to Manjula, Rs. 6 lakhs to Vinoda, Rs.2/ lakhs to Yakamma, who are all her neighbors. These neighbors joined in her chits and used to repay her loans. This type of business has been going on for the past 7 years.

Meanwhile, Pulamma promised to give money to her brother Yakub who lives in her village for marriage purposes in their family. As she needs money for this, she demanded Manjula, Vinoda and Yakamma to repay the loans. Srinivasa Chari doesn't like Pulamma giving away such large amount to her family members and she clashed over that issue. Pulamma's sister son Anil Kumar came to know about this dispute. He never liked Srinivasa Chari and his relationship with his mother Pulamma. For this reason, only he never stayed with Pulamma and lived on a private job somewhere else in Ameer Pet. While so, on 26-06-2021 at about 11.00 a.m. Anil Kumar got a phone call from one Mr. Raju, a neighbor of Pulamma and he conveyed the message that Pulamma was murdered by someone. Immediately, Anil Kumar rushed to the place of residence of Pulamma and found her dead. There was blood on her face. There were injuries on her eyes and it appeared that her eyes were pierced with a crowbar.

There were other injuries also on her face. Anil Kumar suspected Srinivasa Chari as the culprit and enquired about his whereabouts. It was learnt that Srinivasa Chari visited Pulamma's house in the evening of 25-06-2021. Anil Kumar complained to the police that he suspected Srinivasa Chari. Later, after seeing CC footage, Anil Kumar suspected others like Manjula, Vinoda and Yakamma who took loans from Pulamma.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Counselling the victim and her family members
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused arrested
- * Compensation yet to be paid
- * Charge sheet filed

Recommendations:

- * Conduct Speedy Trial
- * Compensation should be paid immediately

Madiga Peddakka - Caste Abuse and Attack

Details of the Victims:

Name of the Victim /Age	: Madiga Peddakka/42 and others
Caste	: SC Madiga
Village	: Nizampet
Mandal	: Bachupalli
District	: Medchal
State	: Telangana

Details of the Accused

Name of the Accused / Age	: Mohan Goud/55; Nagarjuna Goud/26; Siva Goud/26
Caste	: BC, Goud
Village	: Miyapur
Mandal	: Sherlingampally
District	: Ranga Reddy
State	: Telangana

Details of incident /FIR

Date of Incident/Time	: 22/6/2021 at about 12noon
Place of Incident	: Hill County, near Bachupalli
Type of Atrocity	: Caste abuse and attack
Date of lodging the first complaint	: 22/6/2021
Date of FIR	: 27/6/2021
F. I. R No	: 509/2021
Police Station	: Bachupalli

Sections applied in the FIR

I. P. C	: 324, 506
SC, ST (PoA)Act	: 3(1)(s), 3(2)(va)

Details of the Case:

Madiga Peddakka and her husband Bazari are residents of thatched sheds near Hill County dumping yard, Bachupalli mandal, Medchal district. Their native village is Chinna Vulli village, Pattikonda mandal, Kurnool district. They have a daughter and two sons. Daughter Rajani was married. They have migrated to Hyderabad in search of livelihood along with their sons, Raji and Ranga Swamy. The family of Sujatha, younger sister of Peddakka also came to Hyderabad along with them. Both the families erected thatched sheds near dumping yard at Nijam Pet and were eking out living as wage labourers. At their work place Sekher, husband of Sujatha, sister of Peddakka befriended one Mr. Mohan Goud. This Mohan Goud and his family are in the profession of collecting waste. Mohan Goud told Sekher that he had lot of areas from where he collects waste material and proposed to give a part of those areas to Sekher and their families, so that they can also earn profits. Sekher told the proposal in his family. Both the families accepted the proposal as they were not getting sufficient wage labour work and further that waste collection job is much easier and profitable.

As decided by both families, Sekher told Mohan Goud that it was agreeable for them to collect waste and requested him to allot the areas as promised. Mohan Goud collected Rs.1,45,000/ (one lakh forty-five thousand rupees) and gave a bond on Rs.100 stamp paper allotting them the area near Sri Chaitanya College. From then onwards, both these families were collecting all waste in the nearby areas of Sri Chaitanya College. But Mohan Goud prevented them from collecting waste from the vacant places, large housing colonies and vasavi group urban constructions. He said that he allotted them only Sri Chaitanya College only and that they have no right to collect from any new places nearby. Thus, he raised a dispute. Mohan Goud asked them to come to a tree near their thatched sheds at Nizam Pet on 22-06-2021 to discuss and resolve the dispute. There he assembled with his son Siva Goud, son-in-law Nagarjuna Goud and a mediator Tirupal. Thinking that it was for dispute resolution, Peddakka, her husband Bazari, sons Raju, Ranga Swami, Sujatha, sister of Peddakka and her husband Sekher, all went and assembled there at the tree nearby their

thatched sheds. This was at about 12.00 noon on 22-06-2021. There, Mohan Goud and his sons told Peddakka and his family that they were given rights to collect waste from only Sri Chaitanya College and they are not entitled to collect waste from any other area other than Sri Chaitanya College. Mohan Goud started abusing them without reason, saying : ‘I will see how these Madiga bastards can collect waste from the area other than Sri Chaitanya College’. To this Peddakka said how could it be and that they paid a large amount for the entire area and how could such big amount be collected only for one college. While she was saying her version, Mohan Goud got enraged and stood up saying, ‘you Madiga bitch’ and dragged Peddakka by dragging her hair. She was pushed down and beaten up by Mohan Goud. Peddakka’s husband Bazari intervened and tried to rescue Peddakka, but he was beaten up by Nagarjuna Goud with a stone injuring his head. Bazari’s got head injury and heavy bleeding.

Similarly, Raju who tried to protect his father also was injured on his ear. Ranga Swamy, Sujatha were also beaten up and pushed down. They were all beaten up with hands and stones. Mohan Goud shouted at them in abusive language and said, ‘I will see how you can collect waste from the area. You Madiga bastards, I will see who will come to your rescue. If you dare to collect waste, I will kill you. Your Madiga caste can’t do anything to us’. Terrified with the attack, Peddakka, Bazari, Raju, Ranga Swamy and Sujatha immediately approached Bachupalli police station and complained about the attack. It was at about 1.00 p.m. on 22-06-2021. All the victims had bleeding injuries and the police noticed the visible injuries. Despite such clear attack on them, the police didn’t register the case. Instead, they called Mohan Goud, his sons and son-in-law Siva Goud and Nagarjuna Goud and told them not to clash further and to be amicable as they were earlier. Case was not registered. They were all sent away after the counselling.

Peddakka and all others of the family took medical treatment from Mamatha Academy of Medical Sciences Hospital, Bachupalli. After taking immediate treatment from the hospital Peddakka and her family approached the Station House Officer of Bachupalli and asked him why he didn’t register the case. The SI replied that: ‘we told them to resolve the dispute through negotiations. You do that way and don’t come to the police station again’. Then Peddakka family approached CP, Cyberabad and complained the matter. Upon reference from the CP, Bachupalli police registered the case on 27-06-2021.

Interventions:

- * Conducted thorough fact finding
- * Counselling the victim and her family members
- * Penal and Pecuniary follow up of the case

Present Status:

- * Accused arrested
- * Compensation paid to one victim
- * Charge sheet yet to be filed

Recommendations:

- * Conduct Speedy Investigation
- * Pay Compensation immediately to remaining victims

Mariayamma Lock-up Death

This lock-up death occurred in the Addagudur police station, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District of Telangana State. The deceased Ms. Mariyamma, a dalit woman and her son Udaya Kiran were brutally tortured in Chintakani and Addagudur police stations resulting in the death of Mariyamma on 18-06-2021 and hospitalization of Udaya Kiran. The events leading to the lock-up death are as follows:

Ms. Ambadipudi Mariyamma, a widow aged 43 years is resident of Komatlagudem, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana State. Her husband Mr. Yesu passed away 4 years ago. She has two daughters Sujatha (24) and Swapna (22) and a son Udaya Kiran (20). Both the daughters are married and have children. Elder daughter Sujatha lives in Nalgonda district, with her husband Nagaraju, who is employed as warden in an orphanage. Younger daughter Swapna reside in Konicharla.

Mariyamma and her son live in a small hut in Komatlagudem and eke out living as wage labourers. While so, about 3 months back Mariyamma joined as servant maid in the house of a RCM Father by name Mr. Bala Shouri, (O.C. Kamma caste) at Govindapuram village, Addagudur Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Mariyamma's son Udaya Kiran stayed alone in Komatlagudem and he used to visit his mother now and then. Udaya Kiran, along with his friend Mr. Shanker, belonging to B.C. Vaddera Caste came to Mariyamma at Govindapuram on 3rd June 2021.

On 5th June 2021 the RCM Father Bala Shouri left for Hyderabad in connection with some church related work and came back to Govindapuram on 7th June 2021. Upon arrival on 7th June, Mr. Bala Shouri opened the chest in house to take money for disbursement to laborers in the church construction. He noticed that the chest was opened and Rs.2/lakhs were stolen. He suspected Mr. Udaya Kiran and his friend and summoned Udaya Kiran and questioned him. Udaya Kiran denied that he committed theft.

Bala Shouri rang up to Udaya Kiran's friend Shanker, but he did not answer the call. Bala Shouri rang up to Mr. Nagaraju, the son-in law of Mariyamma and informed him about the occurrence, to which Nagaraju assured to enquire and respond. Mariyamma left Bala Shouri's house in pursuit of her son and on 8th June morning she rang up to Bala Shouri and told him that she reached Khammam in pursuit of her son and that she would come back after knowing from her son as to what happened regarding the money.

On 15th June Mr. Shanker called Bala Shouri on phone and told him that he did not commit theft. On the same day, Udaya Kiran also rang up to Bala Shouri and threatened him for making allegations of theft on him and his mother Mariyamma. He told Bala Shouri that his mother was deeply hurt and disturbed due to the theft allegation and that she said, she would commit suicide. Udaya Kiran warned Bala Shouri that if his mother dies, he would be responsible. After this happened on 15th June, Bala Shouri complained to the police on 16th June. The same day Addagudur police went to Komatla Gudem and took Mr. Udaya Kiran and Mr. Sanker in to custody. They were brought to Addagudur police station where they were stripped of their clothes and beaten up indiscriminately.

Due to severe torture by the police Udaya Kiran told that the money is in the house to get respite from torture. Then the police took Udaya Kiran to Komatlagudem in chains on 17th June, while leaving Sanker at police station. There, the police searched the house throwing away everything and shattering the house. Finding nothing in the house, the police took back Udaya Kiran and they picked up Mariyamma also. The police dragged them.

Udaya Kiran was brutally beaten with lathis while being dragged in the presence of the villagers. They were then taken to Chintakani police station. Knowing about the events, Ms. Swapna, the younger daughter of Mariyamma rushed to Chintakani police station where the police were brutally beating her mother and brother. Swapna cried and pleaded the police not to torture her mother and brother. But, in her presence, the SI and 6 constables indiscriminately beat Mariyamma and Udaya Kiran with lathis, hands and shoes. The

police were abusing them in filthy language while beating them. While they brutally tortured Mariyamma and Udaya Kiran, they spared Sanker and he was not tortured. Sanker gave the police Rs. 60,000/ and two newly brought cell phones purchased with stolen money and told them that, he didn't have any thing more than that. Police let off Sanker. They took Mariyamma and Udaya Kiran to upstairs of the police station and they were again beaten. Swapna, who was there was not allowed to come upstairs, but she was listening the horrific sounds of beating and the screams of her mother and brother. Swapna was continuously pleading the police to spare her mother and brother.

Though, all this torture happened at Chintakani police station, the concerned SI Ms. Uma or constables of that police station were not present there. After severe torture on 17th June, Mariyamma and Udaya Kiran were shifted to Addagudur police station at about 4.00 a.m. on 18th June. All the time Swapna was there and accompanied them to Addagudur. Then, the police asked Swapna to go away from the police station. After she left the police station and reached home, within no time she got a call from the police to come immediately, as her mother Mariyamma was admitted in Government Hospital, Bhuvanagiri.

Swapna rushed to Bhuvanagiri hospital along with her husband, only to know that her mother died. In fact, she died in the police station and her body was then taken to the Government hospital. Postmortem was conducted on 19th June 2021 and the body was handed over to the family members. The body was fully wrapped in plastic sheet and only her face was visible, obviously to cover the torture marks on the body. None was allowed to see the body before the postmortem or during the post mortem. They were able to see Mariyamma's body only after the entire process of postmortem and wrapping of the body was done. While the postmortem was going on the important elders of the caste, Sarpanch, deputy sarpanch of Komatlagudem, RCM Father Bala Shouri and two circle inspectors had compromise talks in the nearby traffic police station. It is learnt that the villagers demanded Rs.30/lakhs and after negotiations a deal was struck for Rs.9/ lakhs. It is learnt further, that the elders were handed over Rs.5/ lakhs as advance. Police shifted the severely injured Mr. Udaya Kiran to Khammam government hospital.

At the time, this fact-finding team visited the family of Mariyamma, the family members were incessantly crying and are in a state of terrific trauma and fear. They are terribly afraid of everything and were pleading all to leave them alone.

Findings:

- * It is a clear case of lock up murder and Mariyamma died due to indiscriminate torture by the police.
- * The police tortured Mariyamma and her son very brutally with rage and hatred obviously as they belong to scheduled caste, while sparing Mr. Sanker who belonged to BC caste.
- * Though both Mariyamma and Udaya Kiran were both beaten very severely and indiscriminately, Mariyamma succumbed as she was a woman and bodily weak, while Udaya Kiran survived as he was relatively strong and young.
- * NHRC guidelines, directives of Supreme Court and Section 41 of Cr.P.C and other laws were violated in arresting and arrest of a woman, interrogation.
- * NHRC guidelines were violated in conducting inquest and autopsy.

Recommendations:

- * The concerned SI and police should be immediately arrested and charged for murder under SC, ST(PoA) Act.
- * Postmortem report and inquest report should be made public and checked if the postmortem was done as per the guidelines of NHRC and SCST(PoA) Act in case of custodial deaths. If the guidelines are not followed, the concerned medical officer should be dismissed from service and criminal prosecution should be initiated under relevant provisions of law.

- * Magisterial enquiry under Section 176 Cr.P.C. should be done publicly and the district collector should conduct serious enquiry, record all evidence by summoning or meeting the family members, villagers and all other concerned. After examining the postmortem report, if necessary, re-postmortem should be done by exhuming the body of Mariyamma.
- * Immediate compensation, relief and rehabilitation as per the Rules under SCST (PoA) Act should be disbursed to Udaya Kiran and daughters of Mariyamma.

Follow Up through Representations to Concerned Officials and Institutions

Meeting and representing about various issues like pending arrests, trials, compensations and relief is regular activity as part of follow up. DSS team, women collective leaders meet officials, human rights institutions and submit representations. Usually when we meet and explain the situation and justness of the cause the higher officials issue instructions to the concerned staff to solve the issues. DSS was able to solve many problems through representations to officials. In Guntur, representations were submitted to the Director of Social Welfare Department and the Superintendent of Police regarding sanction of compensation, arrest of the accused in connection with a few cases.

Similar representations were submitted to the District Collectors of Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Hyderabad and Medchal for sanction of compensation/relief and arrest of the accused.

In Ramya murder case representations were submitted to National Commission on Scheduled Castes and all district and State officials concerned.

In the cases of lock-up death of Mariyamma, rape and murder of Preethi, police torture of Veera Sekhar, representations were submitted to National Commission for Women, National Commission on Scheduled Castes, Director General of Police, Chief Justice of High Court.







District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes (DVMC)

In Guntur district DVMC meetings were held on 28/6/2021, 29/9/2021 & 15/12/2021.

On 28/6/2021 the DVMC meeting was organised on Zoom. District Collector Sri Vivek Yadav, District Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Sri Madhusudan Rao and Addl SPs, DSPs and various department heads Participated in the Zoom. DD – SWD explained about the details of cases and payment of Compensation. Along with other members Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinator, Hemalatha also attended the meeting and gave data about the pending cases for payment of compensation.

ON 29/9/2021 the DVMC meeting was organised in SR Sankaran Hall, Collectorate, Guntur. District Social Welfare Department Deputy Director, Sri Madhusudan Rao and Vemuru MLA Sri Merugu Nagarjuna, Joint Collector Dinesh Kumar, Addl SPs, DSPs, RDO and various department heads and DVMC members Participated in the meeting. DSS State Coordinator Hemalatha presented and explained about land grabbing case of a dalit woman Mary Nirmala. She pointed out that the case has been pending for a long time while three DSPs were transferred and that each time the victim along with DSS represented the same matter along with evidence, but still no action was taken as the accused is dominant and has political power. Later she explained devadasi's situation and implementation of Act. JC Dinesh Kumar assured to take steps.

On 15/12/2021, DVMC meeting was conducted in SR Sankaran Hall, Collectorate, Guntur. District Collector Sri Vivek Yadav, SPs Sitharamaiah and Gangadhar, District Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Sri Madhusudan Rao and Addl SPs, DSPs and Tenali Sub Collector Meena, various department heads Participated in the meeting. DD – SWD explained about the case details and he said that in 2021, all cases compensation was paid. Collector asked about the past meeting minutes, pending issues and reasons. Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinator Hemalatha again pointed out the land case and that it was not resolved and that the police issued letter to the victim that it was a false case. She explained the unfair attitude of police and explained that the case was genuine. Immediately Collector ordered Tenali Sub Collector to study the case and has to submit the report with in two days. Later Collector ordered ED SC corporation to pay Rs. 60,000/- compensation in each person identified as devadasis.



ಆಂಧ್ರಜ್ಯೋತಿ

గుంటూరు • మంగళవారం 17 ఆగస్టు 2021

మృగాళ్లను ప్రభుత్వమే కట్టడి చేయాలి

● వామపక్ష, దళిత సంఘాల నాయకుల డిమాండ్

గుంటూరు(తూర్పు), ఆగస్టు16: నగరంలో జరిగిన దళిత యువతి హత్యను వామపక్ష ప్రజాసంఘాల నాయకులు ఖండించారు. ప్రేమోన్మాది చేతిలో బలై యువతి కుటుంబానికి రూ.కోటి పరిహారం అందించాలని సీపీఐ రాష్ట్ర నహాయ కార్యదర్శి ముప్పాళ్ల నాగేశ్వరరావు డిమాండ్ చేశారు. జీజీహెచ్ మార్పులలోని యువతి మృతదేహాన్ని సోమవారం సీపీఐ నాయకులు పరీక్షించారు. నిందితుడిపై ఎస్సీ, ఎస్టీ కేసు నమోదు చేయాలని సీపీఐ తూర్పు జిల్లా కార్యదర్శి పోషం రామారావు డిమాండ్ చేశారు. సడిలోడ్డు మీద ప్రజలందరూ చూస్తుండగా జరిగిన దళిత యువతి హత్య ఘటన నేటి సమాజ విలువలకు అద్దం పడుతుందని దళిత స్త్రీశక్తి జాతీయ కన్వీనర్ గెడ్డం రూప్సీ అన్నారు.

12

ఆంధ్రపభ

మంగళవారం
17 ఆగస్టు 2021

దళిత స్త్రీలపై దాడులను అరికట్టాలి

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Delitto di... 1908-1917

Dalit atrocities cases languish in courts sans conclusion:DSS

HAND NEWS SERVICE
VILVAMANA

THIRU is an inordinate delay in fixing the orange shirt and investigation of cases and also implementation of the recommendations of the Atrocities Act survey in the 98-ate, continued a Dutt body to the National Commission on Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Tuesday.

A team of Dutt State Sahiti headed by State coordinator Hemalata in a memorandum submitted to the six-year-old Kargi Bhadr of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) pointed out that the delay in the implementation of the recommendations of the survey report have been taken up in the judicial courts with the delay in the implementation of the Act. Moreover, the facility of the rehabilitation, transportation of the victims and the privileges of the witnesses are not being implemented. The delay in fixing the orange shirt and investigation of cases and also implementation of the recommendations of the Atrocities Act survey in the 98-ate, continued a Dutt body to the National Commission on Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Tuesday.

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST 2021 | AMARAVATI |

Ramya murderer should be brought to justice: DSS

Hand News Service

DAIT Sihree Sukthi (DSS) team headed called on the family members of Ramny, who was brutally hacked to death on Sunday, and consoled them.

The DSS team coordinator M Hemalata along with Mary Nirmala and Gujara demanded the government to put an end to the atrocities and attacks on Dalits.

The DSS team coordinator M Hemalata along with Mary Nirmala and Gujara called on the family members of Ramny and consoled them. Hemalata said in a statement here on Monday that in spite of the repeated attacks on the Dalit

The government should organise awareness camps in the villages to avoid such brutal attacks in future. This is the minimum the government could do in the present circumstances, she said.



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DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 29 AUGUST 2021

DSS TO FORM LAWYER TEAM FROM DALITS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Dalit Stree Shakti (DSS) has called for forming teams comprising lawyers from the Dalit communities from local bar associations in each district to effectively combat atrocities and violence against Dalits. The call for action came at a meeting of lawyers and retired judges organized on Saturday by the organisation.

Addressing the meeting, DSS national convener Jhansi Geddam said the legal profession has a serious responsibility to end atrocities on Dalits and lamented that implementation of laws protecting Dalits in the state left much to be desired.

The government was not paying attention to proper implementation of the SC, ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act right from the stage of registering First Information Reports to pursuing cases to their logical conclusion in courts.

The meeting was attended among others by retired ACB special judge Jayasurya, and retired special magistrate Ranga Reddy district Ramdas.

ఈనాడు

బుధవారం ఆగస్టు 25, 2021

రమ్మ కుటుంబానికి న్యాయం చేయాలి

దళిత, గిరిజను సంఘాల విజ్ఞప్తి



భూ నిమగ్నము పూర్తిగా ముని పరివృతంచాలని కమిషన్ సభ్యుల
ఎదురు ఓ బాధకుడి కావడం

[illegible][illegible]

బుధవారం
5 ఆగస్టు 2021

ఆంధ్రప్రభ

దళితులపై దాడులను వెంటనే అరికట్టాలి

దళిత స్త్రీలకు రాష్ట్ర కో ఆర్డినేటర్ హేమలత



మాట్లాడుతున్న దళిత స్త్రీశక్తి రాష్ట్ర కో ఆర్డినేటర్ హేమలత

గుంటూరు, ఆగస్టు 24 (ప్రభుత్వస్వస్థి : జాతీయ ఎన్నిక కమిషన్ వైస్ చైర్మన్ అరుణ్ హల్దీని మంగళవారం దళిత స్త్రీ శక్తి రాష్ట్రకే ఆర్టిస్టేట్ హేమలత కలిసి దళిత స్త్రీల సౌఖ్యమును, వారిపై జరుగుతున్న దురాగతాలను వివరిస్తూ వినతిపత్రం అందజేశారు. హేమలత మాట్లాడుతూ ఆత్మానందాల నిరోధక వస్తు అమలు తీరును, బాక్స్ పీట్ దాఖలు చేయటంలో విచారణ జరపటంలో తీవ్రం జాప్యం నెలకొంటుందన్నారు. సంతకృష్ణులు, రోజుబడి కేసులు విచారణ కు లోనుకాకుండా మృగుతున్నారన్నారు. నాడు, నాడు రాష్ట్ర కమిషన్ చర్యకూ వ్యవహారించగలిగితే దళితులపై జరిగే దాడులు తగ్గుతాయన్నారు.

The Ordeals in Accessing Justice

Despite all the laws and constitutional rights, atrocities on dalit women are taking place continually. Activities aimed at ending violence on women is one of the core activities of DSS and we have been continuously addressing all instances of inter and intra caste violence/ atrocities committed on dalit women and girl children. Whenever an instance of violence on dalit women is reported or otherwise comes to the knowledge of DSS, the team immediately plunges into action.

Addressing an issue starts with fact finding and monitoring to see that the police book FIR with proper sections of law. Once the case is booked, pressures start from the accused, the police and middlemen to withdraw the case. Victims are openly or in a veiled way threatened, induced with monetary offers. In quite a number of instances, the caste elders mediate between the accused and the victim for settlement. If the victims are left alone, they get tempted towards the offer of money.

DSS and its women collective leaders play crucial role at this stage. It is necessary to instil confidence in the victims and they are encouraged to stand up against all pressures. They have to be educated about the general trend of atrocities, the ways to prevent them and the need for effective implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The victims should be made to appreciate the importance of their role in inspiring others to stand up.

Once, the victims and witnesses are ready to stand up and face the arduous, long drawn battle of accessing justice, it is necessary to assist the victims at each stage of the case. DSS takes up monitoring and follow up of the case to see that the accused are arrested, compensation prescribed under the law is paid, charge sheet is filed, trial is commenced. In each of these steps representations are made, rights commissions are approached for implementation of the law.

As part of the follow up, a few glaring cases are taken up for presenting in Legal Clinics and Round Table Conferences. Both are intended to solve the bottlenecks in accessing justice by bringing the issues to the notice of concerned higher officials, intellectuals, like minded organizations and media. In Legal Clinics and Round Table Conferences, the victims and witnesses who have been fighting for justice and the concerned higher officials are made to interact with each other. The primary objective of these events is to access justice and punish the accused. Other objectives are:

- * These events provide platform for the higher officials to know the ordeals faced by the victims/ witnesses.
- * Boosts the confidence of the victims to pursue their struggle.
- * Focusses about how, in reality, the Act is being implemented by the criminal justice administration.
- * Getting compensation and relief sanctioned by the officials on the spot.
- * Sensitizing the officials, heads of CBOs/CSOs and media about the actual implementation of the law.

Since Legal Clinics and Round Table Conferences serve many purposes, we have been implementing this activity without fail in both the states every year. This year a Legal Clinic was conducted in Andhra Pradesh and a Round Table Conference was conducted in Telangana.

Legal Clinic

Legal Clinic on Violence Against Dalit Adivasi Women and Girl Children was held on 14th September 2021. DSS has been continually monitoring the atrocities committed on dalit/Adivasi women and girl children. Though there is a stringent law, namely, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, atrocities and caste humiliation is going on unabated. While some sections are accusing the dalits that the Act is being misused, it is the experience of DSS that the Act is not implemented properly and justice not delivered to the victims. DSS has been conducting Public Hearings, Legal Clinics, Round Table Conferences to assist the victims of violence in accessing justice. In all these events it becomes clear that the Act is not implemented properly and justice has always been eluding. With this background, DSS conducted Legal Clinic on 14th September 2021. Thus, the chief objective of the Legal Clinic is to give a fillip to deliver speedy justice by bringing together the Victims, Witnesses, Human Rights Defenders, Advocates, Social Welfare Department, Police Department, Director of Prosecutions, State & National SC Commissions so that a concerted effort can be initiated by all concerned. Such a joint sitting of all concerned will provide an opportunity to the jury to perceive directly the distress and predicament of the victims and witnesses and they can remedy the situation. In this Legal Clinic DSS selected 30 incidents of various types of violence and presented the victims before the jury so that they can evaluate the penal & pecuniary action taken and recommend for necessary further action till logical end.

The Legal Clinic was conducted at Ambedkar Bhavan, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Jhansi Geddham, National Convener of DSS presided over the meeting, while the State Coordinator, Hemalatha acted as facilitator. The dignitaries that attended as jury members were:

1. Sri. K. Suneetha, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department
2. Sri. Anuradha, I.P.S., Principal Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department
3. Sri. Subbulakshmi, Joint Director of Prosecutions
4. Sri. Raghuram, Director, Social Welfare Department
5. Sri. A. Murali, I.A.S., Retired
6. Sri. Ratna, S.P. CID

Several representatives of mass organisations, intellectuals from various fields, press reporters and others participated.

Thirty victims of various atrocities along with details of their cases, the stage of the case and the difficulties they are facing were all explained in detail in a booklet of jury kit. This jury kit was given to all officials in advance.



Jhansi Geddham, explained the purpose of the Legal Clinic and narrated the background to the enactment of S.C. & S.T. (PoA) Act 1989, the latest amendments and the spirit of the Act. The Indian Constitution came into force with the avowed objective of providing equality and justice in all aspects. Dalits who were subjected to centuries of suppression and denial of equality hoped for a new lease of life with dignity and abolition of untouchability in all forms. But to the dismay and disappointment of all, neither the constitutional provisions nor the laws like Untouchability Offences Act, Protection of Civil Rights Act of 1950s and 70s didn't deliver the promises. The oppressed dalits launched struggles across the country and achieved the enactment of the S.C. & S.T. (PoA) Act 1989. Thus, the Act was an achievement of united Dalit movement. After a lapse of 25 years of the enactment of the law, the Dalit forces across the country had to rise again for plugging the loop holes in the Act and successfully achieved the amendments to the Act in 2015.

She reminded that the existence of the law is not enough and it should be remembered that the society is totally divided on caste lines and at each stage of the case from FIR to trial one has to monitor the case for getting justice. It is necessary to complete the trial under the Act within 30 days. This provision was intended to deliver speedy justice and to protect the victims and witnesses from undue pressures and inducements. Despite this provision cases are being dragged on for long time for various reasons. She stressed the need for spreading awareness on this law in the public, particularly, the dominant classes and government personnel. The officers of criminal justice administration system should be given special trainings about the Act.

She pointed out how various political leaders and mediators are intervening whenever an atrocity takes place and how they are trying to induce the victims and witnesses to compromise the case. These elements are doing lot of injustice to the victims. Then she narrated the special features in this Act, like, an investigating officer should be not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, that there should be a Special Public Prosecutor and a Special Court in every district. Likewise, the Act provides relief, compensation and rehabilitation to the victims/family members of the deceased and further specific action has been prescribed in the Act against the wilful negligence of the duty bearers.

Sri. K. Suneetha, I.A.S., expressed her concern at the pitiable situation of the victims and said she was moved by the difficulties faced by the victims. She assured to render justice to the victims and said they are putting efforts to make the law more effective. She pointed out that the Supreme Court laid down that it was not compulsory to provide a job to the victims of rape cases, but the government is providing jobs to the rape victims. She said that the government will take care to provide compensation within 7 days and further that the Government is contemplating new GOs in this regard. She assured to see that the GOs are issued and implemented at the earliest. She narrated the provisions of the law and rights of the victims under the special law. She stressed that all the cases under the law should be video recorded. She assured to see that district vigilance and monitoring committees are held every 4 months and said that instructions are being given to the district collectors in this regard. Further, she said a special website will be hosted for all the cases under this special law.



Sri. Anuradha, said after listening to the woes of the victims she was grieved and assured to render all possible help. She advised the victims to properly and intelligently depose in the courts. She encouraged the young girls who are victims of cheating, rape etc to start building their careers while dealing with the case and not to get disheartened with life. She stressed that the young girls should seriously study and concentrate on education for a better future. She inspired the young women to stand up against the men who cheated them and never to allow him in their lives. **Sri. Raghuram,** assured to coordinate with all relevant departments to render justice to victims.

Sri. A. Murali, I.A.S., highlighted the need for monitoring civil liberties in every district and recording all violations. He felt that with such monitoring, the government personnel can be alerted to come to the rescue of the victims. All the officials appreciated the efforts of Dalit Sthree Sakthi in assisting the victims and for organising the Legal Clinic.



Round Table Conference

As part of 16 days activism Round Table Conference (RTC) was held on the last day of the campaign on December 10th Human Rights Day. Round Table Conference is a device in which a face-to-face meeting of the victims, witnesses and officials of concerned departments is arranged. This helps the officials to listen to the narrations of the victims as to the difficulties faced by them in the justice delivery system. Thus, the officials will have an opportunity of knowing the snags in the implementation and will be able to solve the issues on the spot or instruct the concerned lower officials to resolve the issues. The RTC is attended by not only the victims/witnesses but also the media and other network organisations who will all learn about the reality of working of law. Thus, it helps in sensitizing everyone concerned directly and the people at large in general as the entire event is reported in the press/media.

In this RTC held on 10th December 2021, DSS presented 30 select cases of atrocities. The victims and witnesses of these 30 cases one by one explained their difficulties in getting justice/compensation/security problems/non-arrest of the accused/loss of land etc.

The RTC was held at Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadika Pool, Hyderabad from 11.00 a.m. onwards. The Jury for this RTC were:

- * Ambassador Vinod Kumar, IFS Retd.
- * Sri. PSN. Murthy, IDAS, VR, Chief Advisor of PBI.
- * Charulatha, Scientist
- * Dr. Rama, Associate Professor, NIT Warangal.
- * Sri. Narasimha Rao, ACP, Crimes, Cyberabad Commissionerate.
- * Sri. Naga Lakshmi, S.P., PCR CID
- * Sri. Rama Devi, Additional Director, SCDD.
- * Sri. Surender, Additional DoP.
- * Sri. Anjaneyulu, Regional Manager, Action Aid.
- * Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener, Help Desk.
- * Sri. Vijaya Krishna, High Court Advocate.

Jhansi Geddarn presided over the RTC while B. Bhagya Lakshmi, State Coordinator of Telangana presented the cases. The jury was apprised of the present status of each case and the work done by DSS in each case. The jury listened to each case attentively and noted the points to be resolved. The jury commented as follows:

- * The victims deserve to be appreciated for their persistence in standing up for justice and coming all the way to Hyderabad to attend the RTC.
- * The jury members opined that the social perspective of looking down upon women is the causative factor for all forms of violence on women.
- * The victims were assured that their cases will be examined and the victims will be helped until the accused get convictions.
- * The women should be aware of their rights and only through their empowerment violence can be stopped.
- * DSS was appreciated for coordinating between victims and the concerned departments and bringing them together to share the lapses and the status of each case.
- * It was felt that after the amendments to the SC, ST(PoA) Act in 2015 many changes were brought and due to the heavy load of cases, courts are not able to complete the trials faster and dispense speedy justice.

- * Public Prosecutors are being trained on the latest laws on every fourth Saturday.
- * The higher officials who are not aware of the discrimination and ill treatment of victims by the lower officials have learnt the real situation through this RTC.
- * The jury felt the lack of education and poverty are the reasons for the ill treatment and violence that is going on the women.
- * The jury pointed out that as per the reports of NCRB violence on women is increasing in the State of Telangana and noted that the role of officials is important in preventing violence on women.
- * It was felt that there are three important aspects to be implemented under the SC, ST (PoA) Act, namely, immediate relief, proper compensation and rehabilitation.
- * More than payment of compensation, it is important to see that the accused are convicted in as many cases as possible. It is convictions that deter the accused and help in preventing further atrocities.





Girl Children Situation in Times of Pandemic

Every year, DSS monitors Anganwadis, Government schools and social welfare hostels for the safety and quality education of dalit girl children. Monitoring schools and hostels improves the conditions in these institutions. DSS was able to identify many issues in these institutions and bring them to the notice of the authorities for suitable remedy. During the past DSS was able to solve many problems concerning infrastructure in the schools, hostels through regular monitoring. We could train the girl children to report any abuse, oppression and about quality of education. The dalit women collective leaders also were trained to monitor and report issues to the concerned authorities. This activity of monitoring the educational institutions could not be done during last year due to pandemic. Due to Covid pandemic all schools and hostels were closed and children became worst sufferers as they missed education for a two-year period.

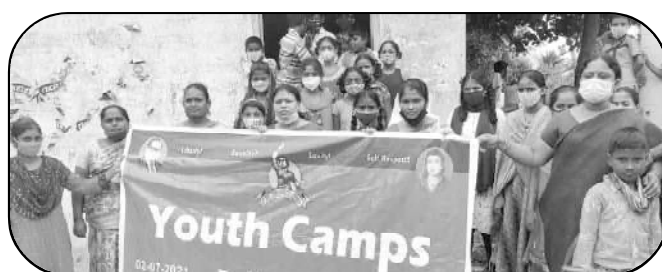
Youth Camps

DSS conducted Youth Camps on 2nd July 2021 in the villages of Tenali and Pedakakani mandals, with children. Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS and State Coordinators of A.P. and Telangana State, Ms. Hemalatha and Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi attended these youth camps and inspired the children with their speeches. Children participated in the camps enthusiastically and interacted with DSS team.

Jhansi Geddam enquired the children about their situation which as narrated by them is very horrible. As children they are missing classes and education due to the closure of schools. They are unable to join together and play due to covid restrictions of maintaining physical distance. They are missing food provided in the schools and in most of the families due to poverty and loss of earnings, the family is unable to feed them properly. There is no online facility in most of the places and even when it is available also, the children have no smart phones. In some instances, a few grown up children who have smart phones, they are using it for watching porno and other vicious programmes and not for learning. She suggested that the elders should intervene and see that the books in the local village library are distributed to the children and see that they read the books. Everyone felt there is need for coaching the children in the villages by private teachers. It came out from the discussion that such a coaching is necessary even after the schools reopen, as an aid to the teaching at schools.

The women collective leaders of the respective area participated in the camps. Mary Nirmala, Sujatha, Samrajyam, Prasanthi, Santosh, Manohar and others participated.

After the pandemic, now the schools and hostels are opened. DSS team renewed monitoring the educational institutions as before.



Awareness Camps

DSS conducted awareness camps in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State on 1st July and 6th July 2021. The villages covered are: Katevaram, Nandivelugu, Bongarala Beedu (Guntur slum) in Guntur district and other villages and slums in Guntur district. In Hyderabad district: Veer Nagar, Chintal Basti, AC Guards. In all the awareness camps, Dalit women of the villages and slums participated.

Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS, AP & Telangana State Coordinators, Ms. Hemalatha and Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi attended and spoke in all these awareness camps. Due to lock-down and restrictions on public movement due to Covid-19 second wave the dalit women were facing lot of difficulties in earning for their livelihood. The Convener enquired and learnt the difficulties of the women in these villages. The dalit women explained their woes of making both ends meet. They lamented that they are unable to find work and earn minimum for just living. They expressed that, 'it is with great difficulty that we are keeping alive'. They further narrated that: 'due to closure of schools, our children are unable to have daily food and are having whatever we are able to provide, which is not nutritious. Further, due to lack of education children are spending the whole day in wasteful activities. As we don't have facility of Wi-Fi / internet/smart phone / laptop, we are unable to engage our children in online classes. Thus, the children are deprived of food and education'.

After learning all the difficulties and the prevailing situation from the people at villages and slums, Jhansi spoke to the villagers. She said, that this Covid-19 has disarrayed everyone and all sections of people. But the rich and dominant caste people are able to sustain and continue their lives without much difficulty, as they have savings of money and property, but it is only the poor and Dalits that are facing lot of difficulty in making both ends meet.

She advised the women to be careful about how they spend time during Covid-19 lock-down. Due to lock-down most of the women are addicted to watching TV and neglecting children, thereby allowing children to indulge in mischievous activities without study or useful activities. She motivated women with the sayings of Ambedkar who suggested that women should gain knowledge of the situation and about themselves and try to grow with self-identity. She further pointed out how the Covid times has contributed for the growth of domestic violence, child marriages, kidnaps and rapes of children. It is necessary to be conscious of these developments and guard against all vicious culture.



Inspirational Days

As part of continuous education and motivation, the dalit women in particular and society in general, are reminded of the importance of certain inspirational days like International Women's Day, Savitribhai Phule Birth Anniversary, Ambedkar Birth Anniversary, Independence Day etc. UN declares certain days and calls for their celebration world over. It is a reminder and a powerful advocacy tool. International days are occasions to educate the general public on issues of concern.

Each international day offers people and organizations the opportunity to organize activities related to the theme of the day. Since a few years, apart from the regular significant days declared by UN, DSS had been celebrating the birth anniversary of Savitri Bhai Phule etc, to give impetus to the activities of DSS for quality education to dalit girl children.

On these significant days, instead of celebrating the day in a routine way, DSS chooses a theme to educate the gathering. The celebration of these significant days are designed in such a way that it works out to be another training on an important aspect. Intellectuals in the concerned subject are chosen as resource persons to present their views on the subject. The themes chosen for each year are varied and relevant to motivate the dalit women and youth. The following significant days were celebrated during the year under reporting.

Educate and empower the Dalit Girl Children

DSS has been continuously streamlining the dalit girl children so that they may be empowered. If dalit girl children are educated they will become enlightened women when they grow up and will be assertive to question all forms of oppression on them. With this objective in mind, DSS has been utilising all possible occasions to focus on the importance of educating dalit girl children.

The birth anniversary of Savitri Bhai Phule is one such occasion to campaign on the need of educating dalit girl children. With this view, DSS organized a conference on “**Educate the Dalit Girl Children and Empower Them**” at Press Club, Vijayawada on the eve of Savitri Bai Phule Jayanthi on 4th January 2021. The dignitaries on the dais were Sri Usha Kumari, IAS, Sri. Kasturi, Joint commissioner of I&PR, Sri. Medipalli Vara prasad, Deputy Director of Municipal Corporation, Sri. Koteswara Rao, senior journalist, Sri Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS, Ms. Hemalatha and Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi, coordinators of Andhra and Telangana and Kote Prakash Kumar and District Women Collective leaders from West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur districts have participated.

Sri Jhansi Geddam, National convener of DSS gave a clarion call to all dalit women and men to focus on the education of their girl children. She said that if the girls are educated now, they will grow up as talented and skilful women of future. Then only they can challenge the oppression, atrocities that are committed on dalit women. She abhorred the idea of confining girls to home or early marriage. She visualized a future society where dalit women occupy respectable and responsible positions and this can be achieved only if



the girl children are now provided quality education. Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary is an appropriate occasion for every dalit man and woman to take a solemn oath to educate their girl children.

Sri. Usha Kumari, IAS, pointed out that dalit women are doing lot of physical labour but despite their hard work they are neither receiving proportionate financial benefits nor recognition due to lack of education and skills. Hence it is necessary for dalit women to concentrate on acquiring skills through education.



Sri. Kasturi, Joint commissioner of I & P.R. goaded all the dalit leaders to educate the dalit women of villages as is being done by DSS. She reminded that it is everyone's responsibility to transform the institution of



family, break the outmoded norms and concentrate on the education of dalit girl children. She said it is everyone's responsibility to annihilate the caste system.

Sri. Medipalli Vara prasad, Deputy Director of Municipal Corporation stressed on the importance of education and emphasized that education is the only panacea for all ills of the Dalits. He lamented at the process of rapid privatisation of everything and suggested that all resources should be under the government.

Sri. Koteswara Rao, senior journalist called upon all the dalit leaders to campaign in the villages and enlighten the dalit community. He narrated the great work of Savitribai Phule in educating the downtrodden women.

Hemalatha and Bhagya Lakshmi, coordinators of Andhra and Telangana States acted as moderators. Later Ms. Hemalatha conveyed vote of thanks.



Indian Republic – Proclamations and Realities

Dalit Sthree Sakthi organised 72years Republic Day celebrations on 26th January 2021 at Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram on the theme of “Indian Republic – Proclamations and Realities”. The meeting was presided by Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener, Help Desk while the opening speech was delivered by Jhansi Geddham, National Convenor, Dalit Sthree Sakthi. The main speakers at the meeting were Sri P.S.N Murthy, IDAS(VR), Prof. K. Y Ratnam, HCU, Prof. Sudhakar Babu, HCU, Sri. Vinaya Kala, OSD, TSWREIS, Sri Vanajakshi, Industrialist, Women Collective leaders and representatives of various organisations participated.

Sri Siddoji Rao spoke about the theme and said that people are mostly unconscious of their rights and are steeped in traditional and superstitious way of life. Scientific perspectives and modern way of life has to be cultivated by the people and constitution helps in modern way of life. It was Dr. B R Ambedkar who wrote the constitution and declared India as Democratic and Sovereign republic.



Prof. Ratnam from Central University explained that republic means a representative government of all the people. He lamented that the Right to Equality provided by Dr B R Ambedkar is not implemented anywhere now. He said that Dr. K R Narayanan, in 2002, expressed the feelings that the country is being run against the constitution. Today, the situation is bleak and nobody knows where the country is being led into. He called upon the people to observe the constitution in letter and spirit.



Sri PSN Murthy said that Constitution should be respected and it is more sacred than Bible, Bhagavad Gita and Quran. Political leaders and all officials should serve the people in accordance with the constitution. Constitution belongs to the entire people and not just to the majority. Freedom of speech, right to life are the basic fundamental rights.



Sri Vanajakshi and Vinaya Kala called upon the backward castes and oppressed sections to develop economically and liberate themselves.

Sri Jhansi Geddham, Convenor of Dalit Sthree Sakthi opined that Dalits and Women have not so far tasted the fruits of Democracy. It is necessary to eradicate the inequalities based on caste and religion. She motivated the dalit women to come forward to protect the Constitution.

State Coordinator of Telangana, Sri Bhagya Lakshmi presented vote of thanks while the state Coordinator of Andhra Pradesh, M. Hemalatha, Hyderabad Coordinator Hemalatha, WC leaders Rukmini, Laxmi, Anitha, Sunitha, Keerthana and dalit women leaders participated in the meeting.



Dalit Women Share in the Economic Resources

Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) celebrated International Women's Day on 7th March 2021 at Prabuddha Bharat International Hall at Lakadikapool. The event was celebrated as International Shramik Women's Day. The conference theme was "Share of Dalit women in the Economic Resources". The conference was presided over by Jhansi Geddham, National Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi. Chief Guest was Sri. Narra Ravikumar, Recipient of Padma Sri Award, President of DICCI, South India, and other Honourable guests were: Sri. PSN Murthy, IDAS, Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener, Help Desk, Sri. Vanajakshi, Director, Aditya Entrepreneurs, Sri Gaurav Gupta, Sri. Aruna, Sri. Krishna Veni. Representatives of DICCI from various states also participated and spoke on the occasion.

Jhansi Geddham explained about the importance of International Women's Day. She explained that originally International Women's Day was symbol of working-class women only. She explained that actually, it all started in Soviet Union in February 1917 when the working women from all factories and agricultural labour revolted against exploitation. This revolt of the women was the milestone which paved way for the later successful October revolution in 1917. In due recognition of the contribution of women, it was later decided to celebrate March 8 as women's day and in the beginning, it was referred to as International Working-Class women's Day only. Later, the UN declared March 8th as general women's day and named it as International Women's Day. Keeping in mind the historical background, DSS conducts March 8th as Working Women's Day, as DSS is working for the empowerment of dalit women. She pointed out that the Dalit women are the most oppressed and hard worker in every field but they are denied their just share in the economic resources of the country and due recognition. For this reason, to focus on this issue, for today's conference DSS selected the theme of Dalit Women's share in economic resources.

Sri. Narra Ravi Kumar, DICCI Chairman spoke on the importance of good qualities for successful business. He stressed that consistent hard work, high discipline and commitment are required for success in business. Micro observation and research is necessary before starting a business and once the business is started one should go ahead with solid commitment, then only one can succeed. In the past the banks had a negative view of Scheduled Castes as defaulters but DICCI erased that perspective of the banks and established that Scheduled Castes can run a business successfully and repay the loan in time.

Gaurav Gupta explained that if farmers form into cooperative society, they can get lot of benefits from the government in running businesses like milk and dairy products etc.

Other speakers also stressed on the need for dalit women to claim their share in the economic resources and motivated them to take up various businesses.

DSS coordinator Sri. Bhagya Lakshmi spoke about the need for dalit women to turn into entrepreneurs. Activists of the organization from Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Vikarabad and Medchal participated in the program. Some of them spoke about their entrepreneurial aspirations in chosen fields.



Tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 130th Jayanthi

Dalit Sthree Sakthi organised 130th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on 14th April 2021 in both Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In Telangana, Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi, B Bhagya Laxmi, State Coordinator of Telangana, Youth and State Women Collective leaders garlanded Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund, Hyderabad.

On the occasion, Jhansi Geddam spoke about the need for taking to heart the ideology of Dr B R Ambedkar and called upon everyone to study writings of Ambedkar. She emphasized that Ambedkar is to be emulated by everyone and not just Dalits. One should note that Ambedkar belongs to all and it was Ambedkar who drafted the constitution of India with democratic values and concepts of liberty, equality and fraternity. These values are to be adored by all and the constitution belongs all Indians.

Baghyalaxmi said that we need to build a nation without caste, class, religion and gender disparities and save our nation from all sorts of evils. Therefore, all the likeminded forces need to come together and fight against the undemocratic forces.



In Andhra Pradesh, M. Hemalatha, State Coordinator along with State Women Collective leaders garlanded Dr B R Ambedkar Statue at Lodge Centre, Guntur.

Andhra Pradesh State Coordinator Hemalatha presided over the function. The State women collective leaders, along with the youth leaders, had earlier laid flowers at the statue and set up a long human chain. Speakers appealed to promote Ambedkar's way of thinking and chanted slogans like Jai Bheem etc. Hemalatha gave a briefing to the media in which she lauded the great work of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the constitution which is a great boon to this country. It is because of the rights provided in the Constitution that the women are able to fight for their progress. She recollected how Ambedkar had worked all his life for the betterment of the downtrodden and weaker sections. She pointed out that all countries of the world are recognising the greatness of Ambedkar, but unfortunately, in our country his name is being used for political gain. Mary Nirmala, the State women collective leader also spoke and she said that Ambedkar was a man who worked for the betterment of the country beyond caste and religions. He said that Ambedkar's policies were the only way to eliminate inequalities in the present society. She reminded everyone to groom their children with Ambedkar's way of thinking. The event was attended by women activists Jayashree, Jayamma, Youth Leaders Benjamin, Ashok and Akash among others.



75th Independence Day Celebrations

Individual Liberty – Constitutional Institutions

Dalit Sthree Sakthi and Prabhudda Bharat International celebrated 75th Independence Day on the theme of “Individual Liberty – Constitutional Institutions” on 15th August 2021 at Ambedkar Resource Centre, Lakadika Pool, Hyderabad. Various themes under the above main theme were divided and experts on the subject spoke on each topic. Sri. PSN Murthy, IDAS Retired, Chief Advisor of Prabhudda Bharat International Presided over the meeting.

1. Individual Liberty – Legislature:

Sri PSN Murthy, Chief Advisor of PBI spoke on the topic. He explained that legislature is the foundation for personal liberty and gave details of how it is being implemented. Legislature which enacts various laws should be consisting of intellectuals having concern about the welfare of the people and nation. Today if we see the composition of our legislatures, we find that most of the members are rich, not having concern about people and majority of them have criminal background. How can such people make laws for the people. If the legislatures are composed of ordinary people with character, then only, we can expect good laws. In this sense, this primary institution which has to protect liberty has turned out to be a failure. He felt that the present governance is on autocratic lines as in the past. Unless a real separation of powers takes place, we can't expect democracy and rule of law. He lamented that in addition to the three institutions of the state, even the media also turned out to be undemocratic and not representing peoples' aspirations.



2. Individual Liberty – Executive:

Dr. Sunkari Satyam, Professor, Council for Social Development spoke on the subject. He commented that the Executive whose duty is to implement the laws is actually violating the laws and thereby violating the liberties of the people. He pointed out that today executive has become dominant and is overriding legislature and interfering with judiciary.



3. Individual Liberty – Autonomous Constitutional Bodies

Prof. K.Y. Ratnam, professor of Hyderabad Central University explained the subject. He pointed out that even after 75 years of independence an ordinary dalit woman like Mariyamma was killed in police lock-up in the State. This shows that we didn't get any liberty. Then he analyzed about the autonomous institutions like universities and other educational institutions like IIT. He cited the instance of a professor of IIT abusing dalit students openly and shamelessly and commented that this is the type of liberty that is being seen in autonomous institutions. Autonomous institutions are given freedom with the idea that they will exercise



powers in consonance with constitutional values, but they are using this freedom to curb dalit students and scholars. This is what is happening after our 75 years of independence and even today Dalits have not become Indian citizens in the full sense.

4. Individual Liberty – Peoples' Movements

Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener, IAS/IPS Officers Forum spoke on the theme of people's movements and liberty. He said that people are steeped in traditions and pointed out how the traditions determine our thought process and ideas. As on today everyone is steeped in the mindset of caste and caste hierarchy. As such they are not able to raise above caste prejudices and think independently. Everyone speaks about freedom but they suppress the freedom of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and women.



Sri. Anand Bolimera, CEO of PHIA Foundation, New Delhi who attended the conference spoke about the lack of freedom of Dalits, due to social and economic inequalities even after 75 years of independence. Though everyone talks about democracy and rights, they exist only on paper and Dalits are denied those rights in each and every phase of their lives.

Sri. Narra Ravi Kumar, Padma Sri Awardee, who attended the conference also spoke. He appealed to Dalits to reflect on the achievements and failures on the occasion of 75 years of independence. He felt that though there might be some achievements the majority of failures are due to our own mindset. He said that most of us gained only religious knowledge but not knowledge of constitutional rights.

Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi spoke about the present political situation. She pointed out that now there is lot of space for Dalits to play critical role in capturing political power. Dalits should utilize this situation and capture their share of the political power, instead of being followers of one or the other dominant caste parties. She said that Dalits should be dynamic and reflect seriously to become rulers instead of being ruled.





Women Equality Day

On 26-08-2021 Women Equality Day was celebrated by the State and District Women Collective leaders in Tenali. Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinator Hemalatha presided over the meeting. All the participants expressed the view that women are no way inferior to men and that we should strive for equality in all aspects. Further, the violence on dalit women was discussed and the women collective leaders asserted that under the banner of DSS we should address all instances of violation of rights and follow up every case till its logical end. Ms. Mary Nirmala, Ms. Sujatha, Ms. Jayasree, Ms. Jayamma, Ms. Anusha, Ms. Siva Nageswari and 40 others participated in this meeting.



దళిత బాలికలు విద్యావంతులైతేనే మార్పు

ପଠକ ପ୍ରୀତି ଜାଣିବା ନିମ୍ନୋକ୍ତ ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥ ଉପାନ୍ତ

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ಆಂಧ್ರಜ್ಯೋತಿ

మంగళవారం 5 జనవరి 2021

విద్యతోనే పేదరికం నుంచి విముక్తి

విజయవాడ సిటీ: దళిత బాలి

కలు విద్యాపంతులైతేనే పేదరికం
నుంచి విముక్తులవుతారని పలువు
రు పక్షాలు పేర్కొన్నారు. సావిత్రి
బాయి మాజీ జయంతి సందర్భంగా

దళిత బాలికలను విద్యావంతులను చేద్దాం, వికాసపంతులుగా చేద్దాం' అనే అంశంపై దళిత స్త్రీ శక్తి ఆధ్వర్యంలో గాంధీనగర్‌లోని ప్రెసిక్టబుల్ సోషువారం సమావేశం జరిగింది. దళిత స్త్రీ శక్తి జాతీయ కన్వీనర్ ఝాన్సీ గెడ్డం సూర్యదుర్గ విల్లలను అన్ని రంగాల్లో చైతన్యం చేయాలన్నారు. ఆయుష్షే శైలికర్ కుమారి, ఎం.పరప్రసాద్, ఐఆండ్‌పీఆర్ డిప్యూటీ కమిషనర్ కన్నూరి పాల్గొన్నారు.



మాట్లాడుతున్న ఉషారాణి

అంబేద్కర్ సిద్ధాంతాలతో దళిత స్త్రీలు ముందుకు సాగాలి

శ్రీరామన్, అన్నది 13 ప్రభావములు రాత్రియిం
నెట్టాత రా.టి.అసి.అసి.మీర్స్ నిర్మాతలలో ముం
మిర్జా నగర్ వీధిలో కలెక్షన్ కలెక్షన్ రాత్రియిం
నెట్టాతలు, మేమున్న ప్రతి రూ. నెట్టాతలయిన
కర్నం చేసుకుని నాన్వెయిట్ సానిటేషన్లున్నప్పుడు
నెట్టాతలలో మాన్యు సాన్వెయిట్లనుండి నెట్టాతలు
నెట్టాతలున్నప్పుడు కేరళ, నెట్టాతలు అక్కడ
కేరళలోనెట్టాతలలో, నాన్వెయిట్ అయిన నెట్టాతలలో
మీర్స్ వాన్వెయిట్ నెట్టాతలలో నెట్టాతల రానెట్టాతల
కేసం అనేక కన్వెయిట్లను చేసే వాన్ అయిన కేసం
మిర్జా కన్వెయిట్లను చేయడం దాదాపునగర్, అయి
కు నెట్టాతలను మెరుక్కు రాన్వెయిట్ల నెట్టాతల
కన్వెయిట్లను వాన్వెయిట్ల కలెక్షన్ ట్రీ కి
కన్వెయిట్లలో సాన్వెయిట్ల కాన్వెయిట్ల రెండు కేరళ
నెట్టాతల వాన్వెయిట్ల, రంగునెట్టాతల, నెట్టాతల
కన్వెయిట్ల రెండు 35 మంది మహిళా, యువక

యూనియను ప్రత్యేక పద్ధతులపై క్లిష్ట ఆగిరిగింది. ఈ క్లిష్ట కార్యక్రమంలో ఎన్సీ, ఎన్టీ ఎఫ్ఓ (అధికార నిర్వహణ) నెలకొన గల యూనియన్ల ప్రాధికార కలహం ముందే, చరణ శ్రీ శక్తి శాఖయ ప్రతినిధుల గడ్డం రూపొందించిన ద్వారా క్లిష్ట అందించారు.

గుంటూరు పీఎస్ సుందర్ రెడ్డిల పట్టుపై న్యాయవాది శ్రీ శక్తి, అంబేద్కర్ సిద్ధాంత యంత్ర అందేద్యుర రెనాల్డ్స్ సెంటర్ ఛీఫ్ ఆఫ్సర్ లు అరెస్టు చేయించిన విషయాలపై మూర్తి ప్రకాశం, ముక్తివర్తి విశాఖం ఆనీ అంశంపై వెల్లూర రెన్సెల్ ఛీఫ్సర్ల దా.సిద్ధికొండూ, టోకాల్ పట్టుపై శ్యామలా దామె. రెడ్డిల సుందర్ రెడ్డిల శ్రీపత్తామాకాదార్, సినిమార్థరెడ్డిల గడ్డం రూపొంది క్లిష్ట అందించారు. చరణ శ్రీ శక్తి రాష్ట్ర కే-ఆఫ్సర్ల ద్వారా లక్షి సమగ్రతాపై ముగించారు.

సోమవారం, 8 మార్చి 2021

దశివ స్త్రీలు ఆర్థికంగా ఎదగాలి: గడ్డం రూఢాన్వీ పిలుపు

స్వప్నాచార్య, మార్చి 7 ప్రభాతవాస: దళిత స్త్రీలు అన్ని రంగాల్లో ప్రముఖమవుతున్నప్పటికీ ఆర్థిక వనరుల్లో వారికి దక్కవలసినంత న్యాయమైన వాదా దక్కడం లేదని దళిత స్త్రీ శక్తి శాఖీయ కన్వీనర్ గడ్డం రమాణి అవేదించి సమీక్షించారు. ఈ అంశాన్ని వెలుగులోకి తీసుకురావడానికి ఈ ఏడాది అంగరంగుత్తయి మహా దినోత్సవాన్ని 'అర్థిక వనరుల్లో దళిత స్త్రీల వాదా' అనే అంశంపై నదస్సు ఆదివారం నాడిక్కిరిస్తూ నదస్సు నిర్వహించడం జరిగిందన్నారు. సర్రా రవికుమార్ ముట్టాడుతు వ్యాపారానికి నిరంతరం కృషి, నిబద్ధత, క్రమపద్ధతి అవసరమన్నారు. సాక్షి పరిశీలనతో వ్యాపారాన్ని ప్రారంభించడానికి కోటతో ముందుకు నేపకమ్మడే విషయం సాధించగలమున్నారు. గతంలో ఎప్పులంటే బ్యాంకులకు చిన్న చూపు ఉండేదని, డిక్కి సంస్థ దాన్ని తిరగరాసి వ్యాపారంలో కొత్తకాన్ని తీసుకువచ్చిందన్నారు. గారేవీ గుప్తా ముట్టాడుతు రైతులకు సంబంధించి ఒక సామూహంగా ఏర్పడితే ప్రభుత్వం నుంచి మంచి అవకాశాలు వస్తాయన్నారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో దళిత స్త్రీ శక్తి రాష్ట్ర కో-అర్డినేటర్ భాగ్యలక్ష్మి పాల్గొన్నారు.

Joining Hands with CSOs/CBOs

Dalit women struggle for liberation, though primarily, is the task of dalit women themselves, cannot be conceived of in isolation or without the support of larger sections of the society. Hence, it is of fundamental importance to mobilise the support of likeminded organizations, individuals and institutions. DSS always tried its best to convince everyone, including dominant castes to support the just cause of dalit women. DSS has been approaching democratic minded individuals and other organizations to come and participate in the activities of DSS. Whenever Public Hearing, Legal Clinic or Round Table Conference are conducted, DSS invited and involved all available CSOs/CBOs, officials to participate and give suggestions. Likewise, DSS participated in the struggles, conferences etc of other organizations expressing solidarity with them. Over a period DSS acquired all round recognition, credibility and reputation that in all important events organized by any CSO/CBO in Hyderabad, they make it a point to invite DSS to participate. In the recently held protest dharna held by a farmers organization, namely, RytuSwarajya Vedika, DSS was invited to be part of their jury panel and a guest of honour. The government of Telangana nominated DSS to be a member of the expert panel to draft the Juvenile Justice Rules for the State of Telangana.

Last year DSS participated and joined hands with various CSOs and CBOs in their activities. Some of the events are detailed below:

Savitri Bai Phule's 190th Jayanthi celebrations

3/1/2021: Telangana parents' association of Telangana Gurukul schools conducted Savitri bai Phule's 190th Jayanthi celebrations on 3/1/2021 in Nagireddyguda village, Moinabad Mandal of Ranga Reddy district. Teachers of various Gurukul schools and Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinator B. Bhagya Lakshmi participated in the programme and spoke on the occasion. Bhagya Lakshmi said that Savitri Bhai Pule was a great educationist and a visionary. She propagated about the need for education about 150 years ago and motivated the downtrodden to get educated. Savitri Bai started schools and taught the poor despite many odds and attacks on her by the dominant castes. She should be emulated and every one of us should educate our children for their future. The organizers honoured the guests.



Sixth Prabhudda Bharat Utsav Celebrations

31/1/2021: Prabuddha Bharat International (a global network of Ambedkarites) and DICCI jointly conducted sixth Prabuddha Bharat Utsav on 31 January 2021 at Jalavihar, Necklace Road, Hyderabad. Main leaders of PBI and DICCI, Padmasri. Milind Kamble, founder President of DICCI, Padmasri Narra Ravi Kumar, National President of DICCI, State Chapters Presidents of various states and PBI President, Rajendra Kumar and Advisor, PSN Murthy attended the Utsav. With the presence and active participation of all these dignitaries, the celebrations were very grand. The dignitaries narrated the vision of PBI and DICCI and displayed the documentaries of the activities of PBI and DICCI. Eminent personalities like Sri.KK Raja, Sri. Gandham Chandrudu and others participated in the function and lauded the efforts of PBI and DICCI in

promoting the ideology of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Sri. Jhansi Geddam, National Convener of DSS, Sri. Bhagya Laxmi, Coordinator of DSS for Telangana State, Dalit Women Collective Leaders of Hyderabad, Sri. Hemalatha, Rukmini, Lakshmi, Anitha, Sunitha, Keerthana and others of DSS participated in the function as special invitees.



Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Centenary Jayanthi Celebrations

14/2/2021: Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Centenary Jayanthi celebrations were held under the leadership of Sri Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS on 14th February 2021 at IAS Officers Guest House near Pragathi Bhavan. This meeting was presided over by Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener of Help Desk and other dignitaries were: Dr. Prasada Rao, Cardiologist, K.V. Rao, IRTS, PSN Murthy, IDAS, Narra Ravi Kumar, DICCI, Prof. Krishna, Bala Krishna, Jhansi Geddam from DSS and other eminent personalities. Everyone paid rich tributes



to Damodaram Sanjeevaiah and offered floral tributes at his portrait. Everyone who spoke on the occasion lauded Damodaram Sanjeevaiah's honesty, commitment in politics and administration as Chief Minister. Speakers called up on to propagate the life and achievements of Damodaram Sanjeevaiah among the youth and stressed the need for producing a documentary on his life. The speakers advised the dalit leaders of the present-day political parties to study the way of life of Damodaram Sanjeevaiah and to emulate him.

Achieving an Equal Future

8/3/2021: Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) organised International Women's Day celebrations on March 8th 2021 at Park Hotel, Hyderabad. In this meeting Chief Guest Smt. K. Kavitha, M.L.C. and other dignitaries, Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Sri. Rahul Bojja, IAS, Jhansi Geddam, National Convener, DSS, Smt. PV. Padmaja, DCP, Smt. Malavat Poorna and other attended. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Aruna Dasari and Smt. Narra Vanajakshi monitored the proceedings.

The chief objective of this meet was to know all the details and intricacies of the Government of India's policies for MSME, opportunities for women entrepreneurs, government schemes and policies, business opportunities in corporate world and banking. The meeting was attended by officials of SBI and they explained about the schemes.

K. Kavitha appreciated the efforts of DICCI in making the women as entrepreneurs and commented that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar would have felt happy at the promotion of women in this manner. She opined that age old oppressive practices of domestic violence, sati and other anti-women traditions are still lingering in the society and felt that if women achieve economic independence, then only these practices can be ended.

Jhansi Geddam called for equal education and equal opportunities for women and appealed to dalit women to chose the path of education and grabbing entrepreneurial opportunities. She felt that woman should have all-round liberty for progress. She called the dalit women to leave traditional thinking and join the main stream and participate in the national economic activities. It is the responsibility of the government and the society to encourage the oppressed women to take part in the economic activity, so that the national economic progress can be achieved.

After the meeting Jhansi Geddam and all other speakers were felicitated.



Dharna against MLA Kethireddy for his Indecent Remarks

18/3/2021: A dharna was organised at Vijayawada Dharnachowk on 18/03/21 at 11 a.m. against Dharmavaram MLA Kethireddy for his insulting remarks against Dalit Collector, Anantapur. Leaders of Dalit, tribal and Bahujan associations demanded that the government take immediate action against Dharmavaram MLA Kethireddy Venkataramireddy for making indecent remarks on Anantapur District Collector Gandham Chandrudu.



Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinator Hemalatha who participated in the dharna, condemned the words of MLA Kethireddy. She said that Gandham Chandrudu is a man who is working for the downtrodden and towards justice. He is working with honesty and commitment with a vision that it is possible to create another world without caste, religion and class exploitation. During his 15 months as Anantapur Collector he brought about many radical changes in the administration and brought administration to the door step of poor. Kethireddy was publicly warned for making indecent remarks on such a person for his personal works. Korivi Vinay Kumar, Malem Bhagya Rao from DBF, Malyadri from KVPS, Vidyasagar, P Ramesh and leaders of various communities participated in the dharna.

23/3/2021: A training the trainers programme was conducted for 3 days from 23-03-2021 to 26-03-2021 through Zoom conference. This ToT was organized by NCDHR/NDMJ. The theme of the ToT was “Strengthened HRDs Protection and Ensuring Continued Access to Justice”. Intellectuals in the field with lot of experience from across the country delivered lectures as resource persons and enlightened all participants.

DSS coordinators, Ms. Bhagyalakshmi and Ms. Hemalatha participated in this training. The training covered all aspects of responsibilities of HRDs and the difficulties faced by HRDs.

The training touched upon various existing mechanisms to protect the rights at national and international level, such as NHRC, SHRCs, EU Human Rights Policies and other aspects. Details of the visit of UN Special Rapporteur to India and the feedback was also explained. Lot of analytical details of human rights and their application was narrated in an easy and lucid manner, thereby enriching the knowledge of the participants.

The resource persons inspired the trainees to be insightful in their working with the marginalized and motivated them to dedicate for the protection of the rights of dalit/Adivasi men and women. The trainees were equipped with an all-round knowledge of human rights mechanisms.

Meeting on Implementation of SC, ST (PoA) Act by the Govt of A.P

30/3/2021: The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh organised a meeting on the proper implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, on 30/03/2021 at SC Corporation Conference Hall, Tadepalli, Vijayawada. The meeting was presided by Sri Harsha Vardhan, Director, Social Welfare Department. Sri Raghuram, Additional Director, SWD, Sri Srinivasan, Joint Director also coordinated the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to review the implementation of the Act and devising the means to strengthen mechanisms for proper implementation. All noted

organizations working on dalit interests and dalit activists were invited to participate and share their views. On behalf of Dalit Sthree Sakthi State Coordinators Hemalatha and Bhagya Lakshmi attended the meeting. The representatives of DSS pointed out the need for implementing the recommendations of Justice Punnaiah Commission which are long pending. Further, it was brought to the notice of meeting that pensions and rehabilitation measures are not implemented since long, despite the



provision for the same in rules. It was pointed out that one of the major significances of the new amendment was to provide for special protection and assistance to the victims and witnesses by providing various rights, but unfortunately no one in the administration ever implemented it. It looks as though no one knows about this special chapter. It was suggested by DSS that special awareness camps and trainings should be conducted periodically to all concerned personnel on the letter and spirit of the SC, ST (PoA) Act.

Unveiling of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue at Gundala Village

Ambedkar Belongs to All

11/4/2021: Ambedkar Youth Association of Gundala, Village, Chevella Mandal, Ranga Reddy District is a local active youth organization of dalit youth. They were trained with the ideology of Ambedkar and gender concepts by DSS. Those youth mobilized everyone in the village in a friendly manner and erected Ambedkar statue in the village of Gundala, in an exemplary and unique way. The youth organization invited DSS National Convener, Jhansi Geddarn, to be the Chief Guest and unveil the statue. The event of unveiling, followed by a public meeting took place on 11th April 2021.

The meeting was addressed by Sri. PSN. Murthy, IDAS(VR), Advisor, PBI, Dr. Siddoji Rao, Convener, Help Desk, Sri. B. Bhagya Laxmi, State Coordinator of DSS, Telangana.

Usually, Ambedkar Statue is erected with the initiative of Dalits and in the residential area of Dalits in the village. On most of the occasions it goes as the programme of only Dalits and other castes of the village remain aloof. But in the village of Gundala, all castes including, the dominant caste Reddies, backward castes, Muslims and everyone without exception contributed and participated in the event. The statue was erected in the centre of the village and was unveiled by Jhansi Geddarn, National Convener of Dalit Sthree Sakthi. Not only all castes, but all political party representatives set aside their affiliations and unitedly conducted the programme under the auspices of DSS. Local M.L.A. of TRS Sri. K. Yadaiah also participated in the programme. The Reddies and other castes of the village shared the dais, wore the badges of DSS and spoke about the great vision and struggles of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and the work of DSS. They joined in chorus in giving slogans of ‘Jai Bheem’.

This unity was the result of continuous work and counselling of DSS in the village during the last decade. Long ago there was a dispute in the village. It was in 2011, DSS took up a case of land grabbing of Dalit’s

land by Reddies and filed a case. But DSS involved the RDO and others staff of revenue department in the issue and solved the issue. There afterwards, DSS continually educated the villagers about the constitutional values and the concept of equality. The dominant castes were educated about the fruitlessness of unjust acts and the problems to be faced by everyone if peace is disturbed by domination and unjust acts. Reddies were convinced about the futile attempts of domination by explaining the ordeal of Reddies as well as other communities in Tsundur for a long duration of more than 20 years due to clashes. They were enlightened about the peaceful and harmonious life that the village can have if the upper castes can shed their caste ego and domination. As a result of continuous goading, now the dominant communities shed their caste and political egos and joined hands with Dalits. This is a unique and constructive achievement of DSS. It is necessary to forge harmonious and mutually conducive atmosphere in the villages everywhere so that everyone can progress without mutual bickering. This needs a broad and constructive outlook in addressing the issues. Thus, Gundala village sets an example for everyone to emulate.



Unveiling of Ambedkar Statue at Narepalem

17/4/2021:DR B R Ambedkar statue was unveiled at Narepalem Village, Koduru Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh on 17th April 2021, under the leadership of the local Ambedkar Youth Association. The village youth were inspired to organize the function in a non-political way and the unveiling was done by Sri. Moka Satti Babu, Additional S.P., Vijayawada. Other honourable dignitaries that participated in the event were, Sri. T Anandababu, Director Irrigation Department, Shri Sirivella Raghava Rao, Sevaratna, Ambedkar National Award Recipient, Mrs. Jhansi Geddam, Dalit Stree Shakti National Convener, and leaders and advocates of various associations.

After the formal unveiling of the statue and garlanding it, a public meeting followed. The meeting was presided over by Shri Dowari Kirti Raju.

Sri. Moka Sattibabu spoke about the importance of education and exhorted everyone to get educated. He reminded the audience that Dr. B R Ambedkar studied and grew to greater heights at a time when there were no reservations or other facilities for Dalits. He explained how the father of Dr. B.R Ambedkar continually helped Ambedkar to study hard and how he bought various books for Ambedkar. Ambedkar's father used to wake up Ambedkar at 4.00 a.m. in the morning for his studies. He encouraged Ambedkar to go for higher

studies. Every parent should emulate the father of Ambedkar and train their children to study without wasting time. He lamented, that despite many opportunities and facilities, now the youth are not studying at the desired level. Sri. **JhansiGeddiam**, motivated the youth to get educated by emulating Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar studied with seriousness and grew as a great educationist, economist and a great jurist. He did all this hard work not for any personal gain but only to uplift the oppressed sections.



Sirivella Raghava Rao, narrated how he was inspired by Ambedkar ideology and he resigned to service to spread the ideas of Ambedkar. He was instrumental in seeing that the portrait of Ambedkar is set up in every office and he has been campaigning the ideology of Ambedkar. He said that there is no use in simply having the name of Ambedkar to the children or doing other symbolic things without actually reading and digesting the ideology of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Zoom Meeting on SC Subplan

23/5/2021: Swadhikar & NCDHR held a Zoom meeting on 23-05-2021 on the subject of SC sub-plan in the A.P state annual budget. Budget analysis was done in the meeting. State coordinators Bhagya Lakshmi & Hemalatha participated in the meeting.

Press meet to Protest the gang rape of Ms. Sankar Vani

20/6/2021: A dalit woman by name Ms. Sankar Vani was gang raped on 20-06-2021 near Sitanagaram, Tadepalli mandal, Guntur district. She was admitted in Government Hospital, Guntur. DSS Coordinator Ms. Hemalatha visited the victim on 21-06-2021 and spoke to the press, condemning the gang rape and demanding speedy justice. Ms. Vasireddy Padma, Chairperson of Women Commission, members of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee also participated in the press meet.

Round Table Conference Demanding Justice in Mariamma Lock-Up Death

11/7/2021: A Round Table Conference Demanding Justice in Mariamma Lock-up Death was held at Press Club, Somajiguda on 11th July 2021(Sunday) from 2.00 p.m. onwards.

The criminal justice system has not moved swiftly, the way it should, in the case of lock-up death of Mariamma. Despite the fact that she was murdered by torture, the culprits were not arrested nor an FIR against them lodged even after 3 weeks, in stark contrast to what would be done if a murder is committed by an ordinary person. In this connection, concerned persons felt the need to take stock of the situation and decide on further course of action.

Accordingly, all concerned individuals and organizations were invited to attend a Round Table Conference on 11th July 2021. There was overwhelming response and about 115 persons participated the Round Table Conference, representing various organizations and in their individual capacity. All newspapers sent their representatives to cover the event. Apart from the organisers, other noted individuals/organizations among the participants are: G. Shanker, a senior most leader of welfare associations; AV. Kiran, National Secretary,

Indian Labour Union, M. Ramdas, District Judge, Retired; Nimma Narayana, District Judge, Retired; B. Lakshmaiah, KANPS; P. Shanker, DBF; D. Rajitha, Lecturer; Sandhya, POW; Devi, Women Activist; Addanki Dayakar, Bellayya Naik, LHPS; Anjaneyulu, Voice of Dalit Collective; Gnaneswar; Venkata Reddy, MVF; Munna, and Gopi Swamy, HCU; Nityanand, AIDRF; Khalid Parveen, Narsinga Rao, ASPC; PV Ramana, ST Employees Association; K. Ramulu, Ex-NCSC member and others.

Jhansi Geddam: The Round Table Conference was chaired by Jhansi Geddam, National Convener, DSS. She first explained the purpose of calling this meeting and the need for everyone to unite and chalk out a concerted action for justice.

Akunuri Murali, IAS, Retd.: He outlined how inhuman and illegal activities took place in the events leading to the death of Ms. Mariyamma.

Dr. M.F. Gopinath, pointed out the murder of Mariyamma and other atrocities earlier to this, from karamchedu, Tsundur to recent Pranay murder. He felt that atrocities on Dalits are recurring and continuous. He questioned why the SI and police are not arrested? Is there any separate constitution and law for the police?

Surepalli Sujatha, pointed out that no action is being taken on atrocities committed on Dalits in various incidents and the larger society is also not responding when Dalits are murdered. Women Commission has not reacted so far to the murder of Mariyamma.

Ramdas, Retired District Judge, questioned why the police have not registered FIR against the SI and others and called for action to see that the case is registered.

Nimma Narayana, Retired District Judge, lamented that the Constitution and SC, ST(PoA) Act is not being implemented and called for unity.

Vijayalakshmi, Lecturer, Women's College, Khammam, pointed out that there are few human rights defenders who are frontline warriors and they are continually fighting for the rights of Dalits, dalit women and children. Every one of us should firmly stand behind these frontline warriors and support them.

The Round Table Conference continued up to 6.30 p.m. and everyone present spoke about the blatant violations of law in the lock-up death and the inaction of the government in not arresting the accused. All participants spoke about the need for unity and continued action till the logical end.



Challenges in Implementing the Act

31/7/2021: Workshop for CSOs in Telangana on the topic of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 was held on 31-07-2021 by Centre for Law and Policy Research, in which Jhansi Geddham was invited to speak. Jhansi Geddham spoke on the theme “Challenges in Implementing the Act”. She spoke on the topic elaborately giving illustrative cases and how the hurdles were tackled.

Awareness program on women’s rights

26/8/2021:BJR Government Degree college invited Jhansi Geddham as resource person to deliver lecture to their staff and students on the occasion of a webinar organized by International Quality Assurance cell and International Complaints Committee. The Seminar was held on 26-08-2021 through Zoom conference. Jhansi Geddham, National Convener of DSS spoke on the topic of “Awareness program on women’s rights.”

Atrocities Tracking and Monitoring

26/8/2021:NCDHR/NDMJ conducted Zoom meeting on 26-8-2021 to give guidance to all organizations to upload the cases of atrocities to ‘Atrocities Tracking and Monitoring’ (ATM) website. State Coordinators, Bhagya Lakshmi, Hemalatha and National Convener Jhansi Geddham participated in this Zoom meeting. The status of all cases was discussed and decided to upload them.

Training on TOTs

11/9/2021:Swadhikar and NDMJ conducted a two day South Regional Training to Trainers on Human Rights Protection Mechanisms on 11th& 12th September 2021. State Coordinator Bhagya Lakshmi and women collective leaders Rukmini, Suneetha, Swapna, Hemalatha and Sumathi participated from the state of Telangana. State Coordinator Hemalatha and women collective leaders Divya, Mary Nirmala, Anusha and Sujatha participated from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Press Conference on School Education:

4/9/2021: A press conference was held by Social Democratic Forum on the situation of school education and the participants demanded for immediate remedial action to improve the existing pitiable situation of school education in the state of Telangana. Mr. Akunuri Murali presided over the press meet. National Convener of DSS Ms. Jhansi Geddham spoke on the subject. Other members of the Social Democratic Forum also participated.



Eradicate Violence on Dalit and Tribal Women

25/9/2021:A round table conference was held in Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram, Baghlingampalli on the issue of growing violence on dalit/Adivasi women and girl children in the State. The round table conference was attended by Sri. Akunuri Murali, IAS, Retd., Convener of Social Democratic Forum, Jhansi Geddham, National Convener, DSS, D. Prakash, CRPF, Telangana, PV Ramana, National President, All India ST Employees Association, Gopi Swami, ASA, HCU, Someshwar, AISP President, Dr. Siddoji Rao, Officers Forum, Vinod Kumar, Ambedkar Vighraha Parirakshna Committee, Surepally Sujatha, G. Sanghameswar, Advocate, Telangana State SC Welfare Association, PSN Murthy, Retd., IRDS, P.Shanker, DBF and others. All these representatives of various organizations met and deliberated about various incidents of violence that took place on dalit and Adivasi women in the state, during the recent past. The members expressed concern about



the inaction in rendering justice to the victims. An open letter to the Chief Minister of Telangana State was submitted through media in which concern about the pending cases was mentioned and the CM was demanded to take immediate steps to render justice to the victims and take further preventive steps to stop recurrence of such violence. This Round Table Conference was presided over by Jhansi Geddham, National Convener, DSS. B Bhagya Laxmi, State Coordinator of DSS proposed vote thanks.

Pre-budget consultation

26/10/2021: On 26-10-2021 a meeting to discuss the pre-budget consultation was organized by DBRC at Hotel Royal Park, Guntur. Sri. A. Deva Kumar of DBRC presided over the meeting. Sri. N. Paul Diwakar, Sri. K. Vinay Kumar, Sri. Jhansi Geddham were the main speakers in the event. Representatives from various mass organizations participated and shared their views about the budget allocations.



Jhansi Geddham spoke about the despicable situation of Dalits and the need to economically empower Dalits. She pointed out that the poor among non-Dalits suffer only economic hardships while the poor among Dalits suffer caste oppression, untouchability and social segregation in addition to economic hardships. Dalits should be united to struggle against all forms of oppression. There is lot of domestic violence going on dalit women. Every dalit should be educated about gender equality. Men should be made aware of the need for gender equality and should be motivated to respect the dignity of women. Since all grown up men are steeped in patriarchal ideology, it may be difficult to transform them. Hence, we should concentrate more on enlightening the children from an impressionable age about gender concepts and free them from the patriarchal mindset. Towards this objective, it is necessary to take up all activities including change of syllabus in the schools, colleges to educate the children and youth about gender equality. In view of these needs she stressed that there should be budget allocations for education, women entrepreneurship, gender campaigns etc.

Birth anniversary of Sri. S.R. Sankaran

22/10/2021: Preparatory Meeting of the Organizing Committee to Celebrate Sri. S.R. Sankaran's Birth Anniversary: A preparatory meeting was conducted to plan for the celebration of the birth anniversary of Sri. S.R. Sankaran. The preparatory meeting was held in Ambedkar Bhavan in which Mr. Jelly Wilson, former MLC, Mr. Melam Bhagya Rao, DBF, DAPS leaders discussed to conduct the anniversary meeting on 22 -10-2021.

Accordingly, a meeting was conducted on 22nd October 2021 in Ambedkar Bhavan to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri. S.R. Sankaran. In the meeting Sri. Bezwada Wilson, Magsaysay Awardee, participated as Chief Guest. Government officials, district collectors, peoples' representatives participated in the event

and spoke high about the sacrifices and commitment of Sri. S.R. Sankaran. State Coordinator of DSS, Hemalatha proposed vote of thanks.

Speedy Justice to Women by addressing the lacunas in execution of Acts

10/11/2021: A meeting was organized by the State Women Commission Chairperson, Ms. Vasireddy Padma, on the issue of ‘Speedy Justice to Women by addressing the lacunas in execution of Acts, programmes, schemes etc’ on 10-11-2021, at the office of the State Women’s Commission. Several representatives of women organizations, judicial officers, officials, peoples’ representatives participated and expressed their views. This meeting was attended by Ms. Hemalatha, State coordinator of DSS and submitted various suggestions.

Public Hearing

16/12/2021: RytuSwarajya Vedika, an organization working for the welfare of farmers organized a public hearing on the issue of farmers suicides on 16-12-2021. This organization studied on the question of suicides of farmers and the problems faced by the families of those farmers who committed suicides. The government issued several orders, particularly, G.O.No.194 which provides for relief and rehabilitation to the families of farmers that committed suicide. Despite clear directions in the G.O., the families of farmers that committed suicide were not paid any relief. Rytu Swarajya Vedika collected all details of such families and mobilized the families to ventilate their grievances in the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was conducted at the dharna chowk near Indira Park, on 16th December 2021. Prof. G. Haragopal, Intellectual and Human Rights Defender; Ms. Sandhya, POW, K. Kavitha, Farmers Struggle Activist and Jhansi Geddham, National Convener of DSS were the Jury members of the Public Hearing.

Jhansi Geddham spoke on the occasion and analyzed how the farmers are driven to suicides due to debt burden, which is caused by factors such as high cost of inputs, low prices, market exploitation, government’s failure to extend support price, the compound interest charged by the money lenders etc. She called for the government to immediately implement the G.O.s and support the destitute families of the farmers that committed suicide.

Launching Help Desk

20/12/2021: On 20-12-2021 National Help Desk of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India conducted a meeting on the theme of Prevention of Atrocities.

- * Sri. Bharat Lal Meena explained about the important changes brought about by 2015 amendments to the SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.
- * It was suggested that State – National Commissions should allocate Rs.500 crores budget annually.
- * It was pointed out that about 127 FIRs are being registered every day.
- * The purpose of Help Line, its implementation and problems likely to come up are explained.
- * Complaint can be given to Help Line on all aspects like, FIR, Compensation, rehabilitation, negligence of police, delay in courts etc
- * Central website voice call number: 1800-202-1989, toll free number short code is: 14566.
- * These numbers are functional 24 hours and the moment if one calls these numbers, it will register the call and record a docket number.
- * Once a call is made it registers the number and calls back. At present this facility is located in Delhi and it is planned to open such call centers throughout the country at 36 centers.

The State Coordinators Ms. Bhagya Lakshmi and Hemalatha participated in the meeting and noted the points.



“మాయదారి కరోనా భయం కన్నా ఆకలి బాధలే లభిగాలన వర్గాలకు శాపంగా మారాయి. పెరిగిన నిత్యావసర ధరలు పేదల పొలిల మృత్యువాతాలుగా మిగిలాయి” అంటారు ‘దశక స్త్రీ శక్తి’ జాతీయ కన్వీనర్ యూన్సీ గెడ్డం. అంటరానితనం కొద్దీ నిసికలేషన్ కేంద్రాల్లోనూ రాజ్యమేలుతోంది అంటున్న ఆమె కరోనా కష్టకాలంలో దళితులు ఎదుర్కొంటున్న సమస్యలు, వాళ్ల జీవితాల్లో నిలకొన్న దయరీయ పరిస్థితుల గురించి సమీక్ష చేస్తున్నది.

ఆంధ్రబిజ్నెస్ నవ్వు 9 కుటుంబ కదంబం

పచ్చడి మెతుకులూ బుల్దే!

“కరోనా వల్ల సకం అసంతా ఇబ్బంది పడుతున్నారు. అంతట మింగి పేదవర్గాల వాళ్ల మనం ఇబ్బందులు ఎదుర్కొంటున్నాం. ఈ సెకండ్ వేవ్ మన పొలిల ఒక ఆకలి పొతుంటా దాపురించింది ఇది మామూలు నిబ్బానూ పేద ముక్కువదగింది బాగా కుంగిపోయింది. ఉపాధి, ఉద్యోగ అవకాశాలే దారామంది ఇప్పుడు దుర్లభ జీవితం గడుపుతున్నాం. అందుకు పల్లె, పల్లెడం తెచ్చారు అణగారిన వర్గాల పరిస్థితి మరి పెనంపేద నుంచి బియ్యంలో పడ్డట్టు అయింది. ‘దళిత్ స్త్రీ శక్తి’ అంధ్రా, తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రాల్లో పది జిల్లాల్లో పదిహేనేళ్లగా పనిచేస్తోంది. ఆ అనుభవానికి తోడు జీతావక మూడు, తర్వాత కేత్ర స్థాయిలో రేటు పెంచుతున్న పరిణామాలను కల్లారా చూస్తున్నాం. ఇదివరకటి కన్నా గ్రామాల్లోని దళిత్, పేద ప్రజల ఇంటింటు అగమ్యగోచరంగా తయారయ్యాయి. అడుక్కోవాల్సిన ప్రభుత్వాలు ఆద మరదాయి. రెండవ లాక్డౌన్లో స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థలు సైతం పాపామృతాల అంకితా సాయం చేయలేకపోయాయి.

పల్లెటూరలలో జీవనం...

లాక్డౌన్ వల్ల దారామంది పనులు లేక ఇంటికి పరిమి తమయ్యారు. అందరూ అప్పుడంత మందికి అపొ విధాని పనుల అందడంతో అదే తెలంగాణలో పనులు అంత హాల్లెనా చేతన చేసికే రాలేదు. పువసాయ ముందుకొచ్చింది నుంచుం కాదామి. దాంతో రెక్కాడితే కానీ దొర్తామి పల్లె తమిల నాగుల వేళ్ల నోట్లొక్కడ దయనీ అయ్యింది. అందులోనూ కరోనా

అయినా, పొలమంట మట్టడం లేదు. రేపన ద్వారా వీయం ఇస్తున్నాం అంటారు అదొక్కటి సరిపోతుండా. ఆకలి దాపలను నిలువరించేందుకు ప్రత్యామ్నాయం ఆలోచించకుంటే ప్రమాదమే. గ్రామాల్లో సరైన సైన్స్ పాఠశాలలు లేవు కానీ పరీక్ష కోసమే, వ్యాక్సీన్ కోసమే గుంటుకొద్దీ క్లూలో నిర్మాణ కొందరు సొమ్మనీలైన మకునలు న్నాయి. ముందులా సరేమంగా పంపిణీ చేయలేకపోతున్నారని. ఇంకా చూస్తుంటే, కెప్టైన్ నాలుగేళ్ల స్వాతంత్ర్య బాంకలో మనం సొంతించిన ప్రగతి ఇవేనా అనిపిస్తుంది.

గుట్టుపట్టుకుంటున్నాం కాకుండా పెట్టెల్లో...

కరోనా కష్టకాలంలో బాలల హక్కులు ఆత్మంత విస్తరణకు లోనయ్యాయి. పిల్లలంతా డడు వేకు దూరమయ్యారు. మనో నివాసానికి తోడ్పడే వాతావరణం అందుబాటులో లేకుండా పోయింది. ఇక పిల్లల ఆరోగ్యం గురించి పట్టించుకోక బాలకార్యకర్త పెరిగింది. ఇదివరకు ఇదేకేరే వసం నీళ్ల దారు, కోడిగుడ్డతో మద్యాపానం తోడమైనా పనిచేశారు దళిత్ ఇప్పుడు అదీ లేకపోవడంతో కాలల్లో కొద్దిగావరకే లోపం కొట్టొస్తున్న కుటుంబాల్లో, స్కూలుపోన లేకపోవడంతో అన్లైన్ తరగతులకు హాజరుకాని పిల్లలు దారామంది ఉన్నారు. ఒకేకే పెద్దవాళ్లను వీడించి మరీ, అపోసపోవడం చేయించి మరీ స్కూలు పోన కొనపించినా, ఆ పిల్లలు పొందే ప్రమాదం ఇంటర్నెట్లోనే గడుపుతున్నారు. ఇదే అదనం ఆవి

కొట్టడం వంటి మకునలు ఇదివరకటి కంటే ఇప్పుడు ఎక్కువ చూస్తున్నాం. అమ్మాయిలపై లైంగిక దాడి కేసులూ మా ధృష్టికి వస్తున్నాయి. మేము పనిచేస్తున్న ప్రాంతం లోనే తనకు కూతురు పరనయ్యే పదకొండేళ్ల పాపమేద మామూలానికి తెగిందన్నారు ఒక దుర్మార్గుడు. సైగా వీషయం బంగిట బుక్ రెవీజ్, చంపెన్నెనని అమ్మాయిని వెదరందాడు. ఆ కేసులో దోషిని అరెస్టు చేయించగలిగాం. కానీ ఇంత వరకు అమ్మాయికి పనిలో సొకర్లం కల్పించలేక పోయాం. మరొక కేసులో దళిత్ అమ్మాయిని ద్రేమించి, పెళ్ల చేసుకుంటానని చెప్పి తన ఇంటికి తీసుకెళ్లారు దళిత్తర అమ్మాయి. ఆ పెళ్ల ఇప్పుడు లేని ఆ కుర్చాడి పెద్దలు అమ్మాయిని మరొక ఇంట్లో బంధించి, ఎంపమిదవకాయలతో పోగొడి మరీ పొంపించారు. దివ రికి అమ్మాయి వాళ్ల చెర నుంచి

తప్పించుకొని మమ్మల్ని కలిసింది. ఆ కేసులోనూ న్యాయం కోసం బాధితురాలి వజ్రాన పోరాడుతున్నాం. ఇలా మరికొన్ని కేసులను పోలీసుల ధృష్టికి తీసుకెళ్లాం.

అంద్రాలో గందరగోళం...

ఈ మధ్య కాలంలో దళితులమీద దాడులూ పెరిగాయి. మామూలు రోజుల్లోనే అలాగినే కేసులను పోలీసులు నీరు గారుస్తుంటారు. అలాంటి ఇప్పుడు దొరికిందే దాన్ని అప్పుట్లాగా బాధితులు పిర్రాడు చేసినా, ఆశ్చర్య పడ్డంతవరకే చేరు. మా లాంటివాళ్లం ఇంటింటి ప్రశ్నిస్తే, కరోనా కేంద్ర కూడా ఎంతో మేడం అంటూరు రంగురెడ్డి జిల్లాలోని ఒక గ్రామంలో దళితులకు పెరిగిన పనినించి పిర్రాడు చూపింది

విశాల దృక్పథంతో...

దళిత్ స్త్రీల అధిక సామాజిక, రాజకీయ సమావేశం సాధన అద్దంగా 2015లో ‘దళిత్ స్త్రీ శక్తి’ సంస్థను నెలకొల్పారు. గుంటూరు, కృష్ణా, తూర్పుగోదావరి, పశ్చిమగోదావరి, విశాఖపట్నం, రంగారెడ్డి, హైదరాబాద్, మేధూర్, విశాఖవాడ, అనలావాడ జిల్లాల్లో దళిత్ బాలికల, మహిళలపై దాడులకు పూరికంగా పనిచేస్తున్నాం. ఈ క్రమంలో ఎన్నో ఎన్టీ అలాగినే కట్టించుతూ అవగాహన కల్పిస్తూ, వివక్ష అణచివేరకుల పూరికంగా ఉధృతుస్తున్నాం. ఇప్పుటి వరకు సుమారు పదివేల అలాగినే కేసులమీద పోరాడం. కరోనా సమయంలోనూ అన్లైన్ వేదికగా రెండు రాష్ట్రాల్లో యాభై అలాగినే కేసులను సంబంధిత ప్రభుత్వ ఉన్నతాధికారుల ధృష్టికి తీసుకెళ్లాం. బాధితులకు చట్ట ప్రకారం సరేపరచరల అందించా చూస్తున్నాం. ప్రేమ పెరుతు మోసాయి, లైంగిక దాడి, దళిత్ మహిళలపై హింస తదితర సమస్యలమీద ప్రధానంగా పని చేస్తున్నాం. తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రాల్లో దళిత్ స్త్రీ శక్తి కి పదివేల మంది కార్యకర్తలున్నారు. గ్రామీణ యువక కోసం సామాజిక అంశాలతో పాటు చట్ట లన్న అవగాహనా కరగతులు నిర్వహిస్తుంటారు. తండ్రి ప్రామాన్యమైన విలువలను ప్రధానం చేస్తున్నాం. కుటుంబాలకు అతీతంగా మేదామేలు, ప్రగతిశీలకాలు, పౌర సుహృదుల విశాంధృత్యంతో చక్కకారావరణ ద్వారా పనిచేయాలి. అప్పుడే సామాజిక జ్వాలాలను నిర్మూలించగలు



వచ్చినవాళ్ల పరిస్థితి మరి పెరుగు స్వరచగా వాళ్లకంటే ఇబ్బందిలేదే రోజుల్లో అయింది. సరైన పోషకాహారం లభించక ఇలా కోలుకోవడాల్సి వచ్చింది. ఇప్పుడు, అలాంటి వాళ్లకు మా లాంటి సమూహం, సంస్థలు చేసే సాయమూ అంతంతవరకేమీ! ఒకప్పుడే నిత్యావసరాల దళిత్ అవగాహనలూ, రోజుకి మేడం లేదా రెండు మేడం రూపాయల కూరతో కుటుంబాన్ని నిబ్బకొక్కే కడు పెరుగు సూచివేస్తున్న కొంగడగి పరిస్థితుండా! ఇప్పుడు చచ్చడి మెతుకులూ అంటే కరోనా కన్నా ఆకలి పొలిల మంది చంపిస్తుంది. పెట్టేలు, డీజిల్ రేటు పెరగడంతో దిగుబోలకు తీవ్ర ప్రమాదాలు మరింత పడిపోతున్నాయి

కానీ కొందరు గుట్టుపట్టుకుంటున్నాం బాల్యనివాసాల చేస్తున్నాం. లాక్డౌన్లో సుమారు పది బాల్యనివాసాలను అద్దకగలిగాం. ముఖ్యంగా చిన్నా, చింత వ్యాధిరాలల్లో చికిత్స పోయిన కుటుంబాల్లోని బాల్యనివాసాలు ఎక్కువ ఇరుగు కున్నాయి. స్కూళ్ల తరవాత అవకాలం దాడి అపవృష్టిన కర్త పెట్టాల్సిన అవసరమైతే చాలా ఉంది.

గృహ హింస పెరిగింది...

మిగతా రోజులలో పోలీస్ లాక్డౌన్లో గృహహింస కేసులు ఎక్కువయ్యాయి. కాగడం కోసం దబ్బులిమ్మని బాధ్యను వేధించడం. లాగడ్ల గడవచేయడం, బాధ్యను

అల్లమించుకున్నాడు సైగా అందులోని పరిణామాల అల్లమంగా తీసుకెళ్లారు దానిపై ఉన్నతాధికారులతో పిర్రాడు చేశాం. అయినా, స్పందన లేదు. ఇక అంద్రాలో పరిస్థితికన్నా అంతా గుండరగోళమే. దళిత్, అమీనియేత రక్షణ కమిషనరీ ఉంటే ఎన్నో ఎన్టీ అలాగినే కట్టించి ప్రభుత్వం చెప్పితిస్తోంది. సామాజిక అవగాహన నిర్మూలనకు అయిదేమైన అలాగినే యాభై వేల రాకెట్ల రంగు పురుసుతున్నారు. ఇది దళితులకు మరంత వేదన కలిగిస్తుంది.

• కె. వెంకటేశ