



In Memory of Suvash Darnal, a great Dalit Activist



We are stunned to hear the sad news of the passing away of Suvash Darnal- a close friend of NCDHR and a great Dalit Activist. He had an inspiring spirit, asserting rights and was capable of mobilizing the wider Dalit community. He was someone who exuded great positive energy that was contagious. His loss at such a young age has grieved us all and this is not only a loss to his family but to the entire Dalit community. His commitment to the Dalit cause will surely live on.

Suvash Darnal was the Executive Director of Samata Foundation, was engaged in policy research and advocacy for the rights of marginalized people, particularly the Dalit community, with the goal of promoting inclusive democracy and ending discrimination in Nepali society and politics. He was also the founding chair of the Jagaran Media Center that advocates for the protection and promotion of rights of Dalits in Nepal. He also served as Chairperson for the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) an umbrella human rights organization that seeks to strengthen Nepali democracy through programs advocating for accountability, peace, and human rights.

He reached out to the Dalits across South Asia especially to India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka We hope his fine memory will be of some comfort to all of us who knew him well and had an opportunity to share space with this great gentleman. He was and will always be known to us as a great liberator who achieved so much at such a young age. We hope to carry his great spirit and vision forward to liberate Dalits from the clutches of this wretched caste system.

At this moment though we do not understand why this has happened at this stage; and though we feel this is unfair to all of us specially to his family, we do somehow hope that his inspiration and spirit will continue to inspire all of us who knew him. We specially remember his family, colleagues, friends and members of the movement and hope that they have the fortitude to face this tragedy and keep the movement on.

Saluting him and what he stood for!





NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR MANCH (AIDMAM)

Fact finding at Barwani, Madhya Pradesh

AIDMAM has become a part of the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR). As a part of the alliance, AIDMAM joined the team for fact finding in Barwani district in Madhya Pradesh on 26-27 August. Barwani, an area mostly inhabited by Dalits and Adivasis, and the district has suffered 22 maternal deaths in 8 months.

The fact finding team found that the hospitals have a shortage of sweepers, due to which, sometimes when the Dalit women who undergo delivery in the hospitals, their families are forced to be engaged in sweeping and swabbing the hospitals. AIDMAM intends to focus on the exclusion and discrimination of dalit women within the public health systems and the attitude of the doctors, nurses, sisters and compounders towards the socially excluded communities.

NCDHR-DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)

National Level Consultation on SCP and TSP Implementation at Union and State Levels, New Delhi, August 26, New Delhi

National Level Consultation was organised on Implementation of Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan at the Union and State Levels, at Constitutional Club, New Delhi, by NCDHR and Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability (CBGA) support by UNDP. Study report conducted by NCDHR and CBJA on the status of implementation of SCP and TSP at Union and states like Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa was presented. The study revealed that:

- Even though states have started allocating SCP and TSP fund according to the guidelines, the nature of allocation is dubious and violates principle of SCP and TSP.
- Most of the allocations are notional and are not directed to the people.
- The study shows that institutional mechanisms and monitoring mechanisms are lacking in all states and at union level.





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DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH

(www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.org)

District level consultation, Mehboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh, August 29

About 20 organisations besides peoples' movements representatives gathered on the occasion, and resolved to take forward the issues taken up by DW-AP and also make visits to the villages surveyed by DW-AP during the 2009 floods and further talk to the excluded beneficiaries, to find out how many received compensation after the submission of representations to the authorities. It was also resolved to hold block level programmes with the excluded survivors, after the completion of this revisiting process by NGOs. The representatives also met with the Collector enquiring about representation made till now.

Vulnerability Mapping and Inclusion Monitoring exercise in Andhra Pradesh

After the successful completion of the VM-IM workshop for the volunteers in the first week of July, the actual pilot application of the VM-IM tool started in the identified village/s of districts of Mehboob Nagar, Kurnool, Vijaynagaram and Prakasham in August. Issues and awareness which came up with just the pilot application have resulted in public action in different districts spilling across the month.

"VM-IM" exercises at village levels, Assam, by Rural Volunteers Centre-NDW

"VM-IM" exercises are being conducted by the trained volunteers in the villages, namely, Bhuramora in Jorhat District and Puthimarhi in Lakhimpur district, respectively, scheduled to be concluded by October 10. Some of the initial findings of these exercises have revealed that (i) the awareness camps conducted by the Government in the pre-flood period are restricted to the road side areas thus the riverine SC community of the villages fails to participate; (ii) people of these villages reflected that social security schemes like PDS, ICDS, NRHM etc. have become non-functional; (iii) they have to bribe the Govt. officials to avail the benefits under various Govt. schemes; (iii) they are often left out from the evacuation plan of the Government and ultimately from evacuation; & (iv) Government's assessment process to list the flood affected villages often exclude the Puthimarhi village. Actions are to be further built on these findings for building back better in real sense of the term.



Sit-in in Kollapur district, Andhra Pradesh, August 22, 2011

45 SC/ST families from Molachintalapalli village, submitted representation to the Revenue officer on the issue of non realization of the allotment of land, done by the SC Corporation few years back, on paper. The local panchayat is yet to give possession of land to these families which were affected by 2009 floods. This issue surfaced during the VM-IM pilot exercise with the villagers.





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A mass action was organized on August 26, in Allampur block of M'nagar district. The non-compensated victims demanded proper housing entitlements for themselves since some were still living in temporary sheds provided at the time of 2009 floods. In the monsoon of 2010, these families suffered damage to their existing houses. About 200 SC/ST/BC families are suffering for want of housing entitlement from the government. They continue to live in the fear of impending monsoonal uproar. Representations have been submitted individually by the victims facilitated by DW-AP.

NCDHR-NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

PIL in AP High Court, August 24, 2011

A Public Interest Litigation was filed in 2006, vide petition No -W.P. No. 1019 of 2006, challenging the inaction and ineffective implementation of the SC & ST (POA) act of 1989 and Rules 1995, seeking directions to the State, Centre and State Executive in implementing the spirit and objectives of the said Act in order to protect the rights of the victims of atrocities. Since then Hon'ble High Court passed 12 interlocutory orders directing the state executive to implement the Act and expressed serious concern over the pathetic situation prevailing in the state of Andhra Pradesh, in implementing the Act, such as the role of investigating officers, the role of State Executive District Collectors, District Vigilance and Monetary Committees, State Vigilance Monitoring Committee, Chair of Chief Minister and Chair of District Collector.

In 2011, subsequent to such orders, a survey was conducted to assess the implementation of some cases. On August 24, a miscellaneous petition was filed with a purpose to reveal that there is no change in the nature and attitude of the state in practically implementing the Act and Rules. The above Miscellaneous Petition is scheduled to come on board on September 2, 2011.

National Consultation on Supreme Court PIL August 20, 2011

In the year 2006, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Centre for Dalit Rights and Sakshi Human Rights Watch, filed a **Public Interest Litigation (C.W.P. No. 140 of 2006)**, on the **non implementation of the SCs and STs [PoA] Act 1989 and Rules 1995**. The Supreme Court had directed Union of India, all State Governments and UTs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, NHRC and SC Commission to file their responses. So far, Union of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Home Affairs filed a joint affidavit and 16 States and UTs have filed their counter affidavits. On the other side, many of the major states with huge number of atrocity cases have not filed their affidavits till date. In this context, to activate the ongoing PIL, one-day National level Consultation was organised in Delhi on August 20, to evolve a strategy to follow-up the PIL both at the State and National levels. Around 40 CSOs from 13 States (Orissa, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura) discussed the status of implementation of the Act and the possible way forward.

Based on the discussions on non implementation of various mandatory provisions of the Act and Rules, all the states agreed to provide the data available with them on the various gaps, which will be accumulated. Later, based on the data available, an additional affidavit will be filed in the Supreme Court.





NCDHR making news:-

Initiation of and Lobbying for Samajik Nyay Lokpal – August 26– 27, 2011

Realizing that the draft Lokpal Bill being debated does not define corruption suffered by Dalit population and lacks representation of Dalits in the suggested Lokpal Committee, NCDHR - Coalition and related movements - AIDMAM, NDMJ and DAAA initiated this discussion and facilitated discussion among the civil society organizations and representatives to organize a consultation on August 23, to launch a Social Justice Forum for Lokpal. Under the documentary guidance of Mr. P. S. Krishnan (ex-secretary of the government of India), drafted suggestions for 'Samajik Nyay Lokpal Bill'.

In the run-up to the historic parliamentary debate on August 27, 2011, NDMJ met and dialogued with many of the parliamentarians to explain the stand of the 'Social Justice Forum for Lokpal' and our suggestion in the proposed Lokpal Bill. As fallout of this, while some parliamentarians like Mr. Sandeep Dikshit acknowledged the receipt of our suggestion, some major parliamentarians including Mr. Ramvilas Paswan, Mr. D. Raja, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. P. L. Punia, and Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav raised the issue and perspective during their speech at the parliamentary debate on August 27.

[4,311 cases pending in SC/ST police stations in Bihar, July 29, 20](#)

[Can anticipatory bail be granted in atrocity cases? July 29, 2011](#)

[The Dalit groups give political warning to UPA over SC status, July 28, 2011](#)

[MCD demolishes 20 houses in Karol bagh, GovernanceNow, July 29, 2011](#)

[Karol Bagh settlement demolished, New Delhi, July 29, 2011, The Hindu](#)

[NAC's Communal Violence Bill draft ready: \(The Hindu, 20th May 2011\)](#)

[Three Police companies deployed at Mirchpur: \(The Pioneer, 31 May 2011\)](#)

[Mirchpur Kand: Tarachand ki patni ne 81 aaropi pehchaane: \(Dainik Bhaskar, 30th April 2011\)](#)

[Witness identifies 81 accused in Mirchpur caste violence case: \(The Hindu, 5th May 2011\)](#)

["Nyay Ke Liye Kadi Suraksha Kee Maang" – Manisha Bhalla \(Outlook – Hindi\)](#)

["Mirchpur probe set to miss extended deadline" – Nishu Mahajan, Chandigarh \(The Pioneer\)](#)

[Funds for SC/STs to come under separate sub-heads](#)

[Share of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Budget 2011-12](#)

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