

PROGRESS REPORT

MANUSKI SOCIAL PROJECT (OCTOBER 2014 TO MARCH 2015)

PROGRESS TOWARDS OVERALL GOAL OF THE PROJECT

- Submitted 464 RTI's applications in 17 districts of Maharashtra with the active involvement of 27 activists to get the vital information regarding the implementation of the POA act, 1989, SCSP budget allocation and expenditure and schemes for the rehabilitation of Manual scavengers.
- Trained 79 new activists in Right to Information Act, 2005 through 2 trainings. Among the trained activists 2 RTI activists got selected in districts level and Regional level Government's committees which has been formed to address the issue of atrocity against dalits.
- Sensitise 233 individuals' activists and member of different CBO's to raise voice for achieving economic justice through 2 training workshops and Seminar on the implementation of Schedule Caste Sub Plan.
- Organised event on economic rights of tribal women which is attended by almost 157 women from 6 villages of Nandurbar district. The event resulted into work on livelihood aspects and the rights of women and children through the group of activists from the Nandurbar. A grant application has been submitted to 'TIET Foundation, USA'.
- A new channel has been established of almost 20 Dalit and Adivasi women activists through 2 workshops in order to make them aware about the rights and issues of women who are working in unorganised sector like farmers issue, domestic workers, and construction laborers.
- The scaling collaborative initiatives have been started by Manuski with different institutes like Savitribai Phule, Pune University, organisations like NACDOR, IIDS etc through capacity building program.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Throughout the year Manuski built the technical as well as human rights based capacity of almost 22 dalit and adivasi, NT-DNT organizations and reached to almost 118 activists.
- Due to continuous advocacy in collaboration with other network organizations the survivors in Chandrant Gaikwad murder case received the fund of Rs. 5 lacs from Dr. Ambedkar foundation, Delhi. Succeeded to receive financial support in 17 sexual exploitation cases from Social Justice Department after having meeting with Commissioner and Collector of Satara district.
- Became an active part of Maitri National level Network's awareness program which took place during 25th November to 10 December, 2014 on to prevent violence against women. Mobilise different

stakeholders (direct beneficiary 1020 and indirect beneficiaries 2950) like police officials, Government officials, CBO's, SHG leaders, Members of Panchayat Raj, Panch-Sarpanch, youths and children in 2 districts of Maharashtra namely latur and Kolhapur.

- Wrote 25000 letters to Chief Minister of Maharashtra in Post Card Campaign which held on 1 January, 2005 at Bheema Koregaon with coalition of DA3 and NDMJ, Delhi to establish exclusive special court as per POA Rules and legislate the SCSP Bill.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

In the table below, please outline the activities undertaken during the reporting period towards the achievement of project outcomes (as outlined in the work plan).

OUTCOMES <i>What you were aiming to bring about</i>	(OUTPUTS) ACTIVITIES <i>What you did to bring about the outcomes.</i>	INDICATORS <i>Quantitative and qualitative evidence which measures success.</i>
A. TO MAKE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE		
Making Government accountable to disadvantaged in India through filing of 5 RTI applications in the area of social change and development each year, submitting 6 facts finding reports to NHRC,	<u>1) Participation in seminars and consultations related to the HR issues</u>	
	1.1) Participated in the workshop organised by NACDOR on 15 th -16 th October, 2014 to build the capacity of CSOs on the concept of Affirmatives action and engagement Privet sector Companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understood in detailed the concept of affirmative action and the strategies to get engaged with Private Sector companies. • Felt the need to organize workshop on affirmative action in Maharashtra with the organisations working on dalit, NT-DNT and tribal issues.
	1.2) Had several meeting with Social Welfare officer, District collector and Commissioner of Maharashtra state in order to get government job for the survivors in atrocity and cases of sexual exploitation. However the meeting with Social Welfare Officer on 25 th January just before the Republic day of India resulted into given an order of job in atrocity cases and some fund in sexual exploitation cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a government job order for his wife (survivor) in Chandrakant Gaikwad, Dalit human rights defender murder case (Details followed in case study). • 17 women received Rs. 60000 per as rehabilitation fund in sexual exploitation cases.
	1.3) Participated in consultation on Drought Situation and management in Maharashtra” held	Following Action Plan has been develop to address the issue:

<p>developing campaign for budget rights of Schedule castes.</p>	<p>on 02 February 2015 at TISS, Mumbai. Discussed following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the secondary information on drought situation in Maharashtra and make an action plan to do assessment in drought prone districts of Maharashtra. -To strengthen Inter Agency Group formation in Maharashtra and IEC material for advocacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy with Government to make them accountable for Water, Livelihood, (Policy level work on MNREGA) • Advocacy to do proper implementation in Mid Day Meal scheme, ICDS, PDS, MNREGA for vulnerable groups like women, children, old people etc.
	<p>1.4) Participated in the capacity building training of the organisations which held on 11 February, 2015 organised by Savitribai Phule University Pune University. Main points discussed as follow:</p> <p>I) Need of cultivating reading culture in the society and families II) Providing Life skill education is an important aspect where NGO’s have to come together III) Sustainable and non sustainable development IV) HR Approaches and use of Information Technology V) The role of CSR in sustainable development.</p>	<p>Got connected with the department of Adult, Continuing Education & Extension, Savitribai Phule Pune Vidyapeeth.</p> <p>The received information will be shared with likeminded activists and organizations through the workshop.</p>
	<p>1.5) Representative of Manuski participated in 5th State Level Conference on “Changing Economic Scenario And Its Impact On BAHUJAN” on 7th and 8th march 2015 organised by Karve Institute of Social Service.</p>	<p>The information of the seminar used in the workshop organised on economic rights and Dalit-Adivasi women.</p>
	<p>1.6) Public Hearing on ‘Caste and Patriarchy violence’ at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Actively participated in Public Hearing held on 8th March organised by Dalit Adivasi Adikar Andolan in collaboration with other Dalit organisations from Maharashtra. Around 8 different kinds of cases have been discussed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented 3 cases in which Manuski did joint fact finding and also doing follow up with other Women organisations in Pune for rehabilitation of women survivors. • The panel has decided to do the

	<p>They are as above I)Caste Panchayat members stuffs her private parts with red chili powder II)Daughter raped, Mother stripped and accused of theft in broad daylight III) Niece missing, likely chances of throwing her in trafficking IV)Widow Women molested, harassed and thrown out of her house and village V) Mother of an Army jawan killed VI)Police Torture and sexual exploitation of pardhi family members VII) Devdasi VIII)Dalit women beaten up and paraded naked</p>	<p>follow up in some cases where there is negligence at level of police and judiciary system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel also assured to give all necessary support and guidance in the atrocity cases.
	<p><u>2) Submission of RTI's to concern authorities.</u></p> <p>Submitted 464 RTI's applications under Right to information Act 2005 to get information on regarding implementation of the POA act, 1989, SCSP budget allocation and expenditure and schemes for the rehabilitation of Manual scavengers in 17 districts of Maharashtra.</p>	<p>Received date of 3 districts of Maharashtra namely Latur, Washim and Parbhani. Received information is disseminated in news paper.</p> <p>Follow up with the activists is going on to receive the remaining data.</p>
	<p><u>3) Conducted 2 training on Right to Information Act, 2005</u></p> <p>First training organised on 29th -30th January, 2015 at Kondhanpur and 2nd second training at Pandharpur on 31st March, 2015.</p> <p>The purpose of the training was to provide technical knowledge of RTI, 2005 and raise marginalized communities' voice and to make society and government accountable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of Participants : In Pune : 27 No. of Participants : In Pandharpur 62 (Solapur, Baramati, Pune, Satara, Sangli) Participants felt empowered by receiving thorough information in terms of accessing technical knowledge on RTI Act.
	<p><u>4) Joint fact finding</u></p> <p>Doing follow up in following atrocity cases : I) Murder case of Chandrakant Gaikwad, Pune II) Manik Udage Murder case, Pune district III)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All these cases are submitted to National Human rights commission (NHRC) and also doing follow up with NHRC.

	Nitin Aage murder case, Kharda, Ahmednagar IV) Robbery case - Suryabhan Suryavashi and 7 youths from Usmanabad district V) Assault on Sagar on the issue of celebrated Dr. Ambedkar birth anniversary in Buddha vihar at Bhibvan, Pune district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Udage and Nitin Aage murder case we are following the matter with law and judiciary for appointment of special public prosecutor.
<i>B. DEVELOPMENT OF LOOSE NETWORK</i>		
Development of loose network and working in coalition with other Dalit organisations from diverse caste, of DNTs, and Dalit women activists to create awareness, advocate, and campaign for their rights with special focus on Training and networking of women from marginalised communities in Maharashtra.	<u>2.1 Regional training workshop on SCSP and TSP</u> Conducted SCSP workshop on 24 th -25 th November, 2014. In the workshop discussed on following topics: I) Current status of Scheduled caste sup plan of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Model of SCSP. II) Information regarding how legislation has enacted by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Government III) Need to do advocacy at national level for the enactment of the act in all states IV) Methods to read the budget books like Demand draft book, finance minister speech, economic survey, financial statements, etc	Total No. of participants : 47 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 district level volunteers decided to take responsibility to collect the district level budget information. In first phase information from 22 districts of Maharashtra will be collected through the volunteers. After receiving the information data analysis and further processing will be done.
	<u>2.2 Training workshop on SCSP budget.</u> Conducted 2 nd regional training workshop on 28 th January, 2015 at Latur. The purpose of the workshop was to give information about Maharashtra SCSP/TSP Budget and its implantation, to mobilise all human right defenders on SCSP/TSP Budget. In this workshop most of the participants were from rural areas. First time they received information on SCSP budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of Participants : 74 participants from Latur, Beed, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Hingoli and Jalna Participants got motivated and decided to spread this information in their regions and make sure for proper implementations of the schemes.
	<u>2.3 Seminar on Budget rights</u> Organised a seminar on 28 th March, 2015 at Manuski Centre, Pune to make citizenry aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total no. of participants: 112 activists from Maharashtra.

	<p>for their economic rights and their participation in the development. Disseminated following information :</p> <p>I) Union and State Governments are continuously denying the due share of Dalits and Adivasis under the Sub-plans II) In Maharashtra there are 76 district-level schemes and 52 state-level schemes according to the state plan. In spite of the Constitutional safeguards, the SCs lagged behind the general population in various socio-economic indicators. III) This year the SCSP has been allocated Rs 30,852 crores and the TSP Rs 19,980 crores though the allocations should have been to the tune of Rs 77235 Crores and Rs 40013.82 crores respectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been agreed from the participants that the society at large and particularly the students, CSO's and communities from Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes are mostly unaware of these Sub-plans and provisions made by Social Justice and Empowerment. • It has decided to prepare the note on current status of the SCSP and will send it to Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
	<p><u>2.4 Two training on the economic rights with Dalit and Adivasi women activists.</u></p> <p>Organised 2 days workshop at Kondhanpur on 26th- 27th February, 2015. In the workshop had throughout discussion on the following themes: I) Social, economic and cultural rights of dalit, NT-DNT and adivasi women II) Unorganised sector (women working as farmers, domestic workers, Construction workers, etc) III) Schedule Caste Sub Plan and gender budgeting IV) Women empowerment through Self Help Groups V) Universal declaration and the laws related to women economic rights in India VI) Way forward.</p> <p>This is first kind of workshop wherein the activists got an opportunity to be as a trainer and explain in details there subject to other participants. No special trainer has been invited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total No. of Participants: 25 (activists from Pune, Faltan, Nandurbar, Latur, Kolhapur, Aurgangabad, Nanded) • The attempt resulted in enhance the confidence of the participants and the real capacity building of the activists has been observed. • Due to detailed brainstorming those who are working only one aspect like livelihood are showed their willingness to work for other similar issues also in their region. • The bond between the different women activists has been developed and they showed willingness to guide

	<p>for the workshop. Whole training conducted with the active participation by all the participants.</p> <p>A detailed strategy plan has been developed on how to work more effectively towards achieving economic rights for the Dalit, NT-DNT and Adivasi women.</p>	<p>and take help of each others to grow in their respective field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advocate within Dalit and Adivasi organizations to have 50% of schemes specially designed for women
	<p>2.5 Organised one day program on economic rights of tribal women at Nandurbar 18th March, 2015 and field visits.</p> <p>This workshop turned into big event as no. of participants has increased. In this program the discussion held and guidance given by Manuski Representatives on following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Economic situation of tribal in Nandurbar district 2) Livelihood options in villages nearby Akkalkuva block 3) Implementation of NREGA in villages 4) Social issue : superstition, untouchability, caste system, educational problems 5) Had field visit in Gowari Community to understand their socio-economic issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total no. of Participants: 157 tribal women from 6 villages • The team of 6 volunteers has been built up. • Participants wish to have such kind of programs and workshops on all concerning issues to their villages especially livelihood and education. • A proposal has been developed and sent it to Tiet Foundation, USA. <p>It is also an attempt to develop human rights based capacity of the Nirmal Bahudesshiya organization which is headed by one of the dynamic tribal woman.</p>
	<p><u>2.6)One day workshop on economic rights of dalit women at Faltan, Satara district</u> In collaboration with Avishkar organisation conducted workshop on 24th March, 2015 on economic rights of Dalit women working in unorganised sectors. Throughout the discussion following issues have come forward:</p> <p>I) In Satara district the Faltan, Maan, Khatav blocks are known as drought prone areas. No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total No. of Participants: 25 • This workshop is part of follow up strategy which has developed in the workshop held at Kondhanpur on 26-27 February • First time the Avishkar ngo organised program with Mansuki Trust on

	<p>industrialisation nearby these areas therefore less employment opportunities. Farming is the main occupation; however the productivity of the land is very poor. Most of Dalits don't have their own land and work as labourers. II) Among these 3 blocks almost 800-1000 families are living from last 80 years still don't have the facility of electricity, water and other basic amenities. III) The practice of money lending is much higher in these villages and families are suffering from paying excessive interest for longer period due to not having enough knowledge.</p>	<p>economic rights of dalit women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avishkar organization has developed the action plan on Dalit issues which will be implemented in next year i.e. April 2015 to 2016. Manuski will take up the responsibility of the trainings of activists of their team. • The proposal has been developed and in process to submit to funding organisation.
	<p><u>2.7)Participation in Network meetings with woman stakeholders and contribution in follow up activities :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participated in Maitri National level Network's awareness program which took place during 25th November to 10 December, 2014 on to prevent violence against women. Organised following program at Kolhapur and Latur district. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness Rallies in 2 districts namely Sadoli village and Ichalkaranji block of Kolhapur district and Chakur block and Wadval village at Latur. 2. Submitted charter of demands to government officials in Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji and Latur district, 3. Sensitization program with 50 men activists at Sadoli village, Kolhapur 4. Sensitization program with Police and Government officials at Chakur block, Latur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kolhapur district the Revenue Collector shows her willingness to provide benefit of welfare schemes for the widows and single women. • The Revenue Collector also assured to list out needy families for Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards and to provide them other benefits like vocational training and livelihood. • In Ichalkaranji block 50 SHG leaders are trained in Domestic Violence Act and Sexual Harrasement at workplace act. They assure to spread out this information in their 50 Self Help groups with almost 1000 SHG members. • Almost 50 men activist are sensitized in Sadoli village. They want to create study group and support group in their village. • In Chakur block, Deputy Superintendent of Police assured to provide all necessary support from their department regarding the atrocity and violence cases against

	<p>district</p> <p>5. Training Workshop with 50 Self Help Groups leaders at Ichalkaranji Block of Kolhapur District.</p> <p>6. Sensitization program with 150 Panchayat members, Asha workers, Health workers, ICDS officials and women activists.</p>	<p>women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Wadval village almost 150 women got aware about their rights and information of both the acts. In 5 villages they want to form support group for women. Almost 500 children and women participated in the awareness rally.
	<p>2.8) Organised Post Card Campaign at Bheema Koregaon, Pune. On 1st January 2015 ‘Vijay Divas’ Ambedkarite people gathered at Bhima-Koregaon, Pune from all over India to salute to their brave soldiers who had given their lives for freedom. On this occasion in collaboration of NDMJ, Delhi and DA3 organised Post Card Campaign. In this campaign wrote 25000 letters to Chief Minister of Maharashtra to take action on following demands I) To establish exclusive special court as per POA Rules at Atrocities Prone Areas and at Six Administrative regions of Maharashtra II) To enact and legislate bill on Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan III) To make special budgetary provisions for Denotified Tribes</p>	<p>Total no. of volunteers : 25 activists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strong team of 25 activists has been developed. This was a first kind of effort in which came in contact with more than 25000 likeminded youths not only in Maharashtra but outside of Maharashtra.
C) CAPACITY BUILDING		
<p>Capacity building (Technical and human rights advocacy) of 40 organisations from Dalits,</p>	<p>1) Training on Prevention of Atrocity Act, 1989</p> <p>Organised 2 days training on POA Act on 27th - 28th November, 2014. Trained the victims and activists by guiding on following contents</p> <p>I) Laws, Procedural Laws and Acts : IPC and CrPC in brief , PCR and POA</p> <p>II) Respond to Caste Atrocities : Fact Findings, Media Reports, Filling with NHRC, NCSC,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total no. of participants : 19 To do advocacy for legislate the POA bill it has decided that each organisation will submit one memorandum to district collector An awareness program will be organised and 500 letters will be

<p>DNTs and Manual Scavenging communities.</p>	<p>SCSC, Following complaint and case with victims and witness and false cases</p> <p>III)Following complaint and case with Police : FIR, Investigation, Charge sheet, Committal of charges, Filing of charge sheet</p> <p>IV)Following complaint and case with Administration: Compensation & Rehabilitation, Special Public Prosecutor</p> <p>V) Difficulties faced while legislating the amended POA bill 2014,</p>	<p>written to Chief Minister of Maharashtra.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerged a need to form a group of lawyers to work at judicial level in atrocity cases. • An awareness program will be organised and each activists took responsibility to shoot 500 letters to Chief Minister of Maharashtra from each District
	<p><u>2)Training on Institutional Mechanism to respond caste atrocities</u></p> <p>Organised 2 days training on POA Act on 26th - 27th March, 2014. Main points discussed as above : I)Rights of victims/survivors and witnesses during trail II) Provisions related to compensations III) Problems and challenges faced by the survivors during the follow up of the cases IV) GAPS in the legal procedures; IPC and POA act V) Police Protection & Challenges overcome VI) Monitoring of Judicial process under the PoA Act VII) Provision related to Special Court, Special Public Prosecutors, Status of Special Courts/ SPP in Maharashtra, Best Cases, Critical Cases VIII) State and National Commission for Scheduled Castes IX) State and District Vigilance Monitoring Committee X) Review Report of Police department, Home Secretary, Social welfare Secretary etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of participants 25 • The training attended by the grassroots Human Rights Defenders ,the survivors who were discriminated in Accessing Justice, Human Rights Lawyers and activists • The Participants understood in detail the role of State and Enforcement agencies till the FIR is lodged and the monitoring and accountability mechanism under PoA act at district, state and national level, their roles and responsibilities.
	<p><u>3)Training on voice, accountability and advocacy</u> Manuski with the collaboration with National confederation of dalit organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total No. of Participants : 50 (from 3 States Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

	<p>(NACDOR, Delhi) organized 2 days training on 08th- 9th November, 2014 on capacity of CSOs on the concept of affirmative action and engagement with private sector companies and voice, accountability and advocacy. Main points discussed</p> <p>I) How individual Companies are working on Affirmative Action or / and CSR with CSOs,</p> <p>II) experiences of CSOs in collaborating with private sector companies.</p> <p>III) Entrepreneurship development among SC/ST. The process to become a part of CSR.</p> <p>IV) Concept of Affirmative action.</p> <p>V) Planning for awareness program which will be held at Delhi on 26th November, 2014 to put demand to do advocacy for making provision for proper representation of Dalits, Adivasi in Private sectors</p>	<p>and Chhatisgarh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activists and organisations got an opportunity to get connected with the representatives of well known Companies CSR in India like TATA Motors, CAPGEMINI, TATA Communication, • It has decided that on occasion of Constitution Day i.e on 26 November the activists from 22 districts will mobilise at least 1000 people and meet district collector. • Will submit MOU to district collector and collector will send the MOU to Hon. Prime Minister of India
	<p><u>4)Workshop on Human Rights based approach to development:</u> In collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University organised workshop on Human rights base approach to development on 6th -7th January, 2015. Main points discussed as above</p> <p>I) Importance of Human rights in Human life and role of Indian constitution in protecting the Human rights of oppressed class in India. II) Basic, types, principles of HR approaches and access to justice III) Action Aid & its working strategy to deal the human right issues.</p>	<p><u>No. of Participants :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 participants of different Dailt and Tribal organisations turned to attend the workshop. • Understood the concept of Concept of Human rights model of development, it's structure and limitation, Universality of Human rights, Stages of development, Role of CBO's and NGO's in defending the Human rights.

	<p><u>5)Technical and human rights based Capacity Building workshop</u></p> <p>Conducted capacity building workshop on 3rd & 4th March 2015 at Naldurg, Osmanabad district with the collaboration of Parivartan Samajik Sanstha. In the workshop had detailed discussion on the process of organisation development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Number of Participants:</u> 20 • Established Connectivity with new 20 Dalit NGO's & social workers from Osmanabad t for the first time. Action plan for participant's organisational development has been made.
	<p><u>6)Training in Technical capacity Building for newly identified organizations/activists</u></p> <p>Organised 2 days workshop on capacity Building of NTI Ex-Alumni on 28th & 29th March 2015 at Nagarjuna Training Institute, Nagloka. Main points discussed:</p> <p>I) Understanding how to identify the issue in the field II) Exercise of how to produce impactful result with their work while working in NGO structure that would appeal people. III) Exercise of understanding the professional status of own organisation IV) Role of NGO's in social work, NGO's planning, type of planning, Theory of community mobilization V) Importance of NGO documentation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Number of Participants:</u> 12 (Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha) • Established Connectivity with new NTI Alumni's and added new vision of development into them through this workshop • Basic theory has been applied to strengthen their professionalism in social work at field. The growing demand is noted for more capacity building program for NTI Alumni's for their organisations from different states of India.

CHALLENGES-CONTEXTUAL, PROJECT SPECIFIC AND/OR ORGANISATIONAL

- To organise the trainings/ workshops in collaboration with grass root level organisations at district and regional level have resulted into extending the Manuski Network. It is helping into mobilising the resources and building capacity of new activists, other professionals and influential stakeholders in the working area of the hosting organisation.
- Through the active participation in Maitri National Women Network's Program, it has understood that it is necessary to organise series of events for mobilising the mass on the Dalit, NT-DNT and tribal Women's issues at least once in a year. Such an events have multiple advantages like enhancing the

confidence and spirit in activists and organisations, opportunity to meet numerous likeminded people and raise the voice against evil practices unanimously.

LESSONS LEARNED

The activists involvement is limited to the few sections of the POA Act especially offences, compensation and relief and rehabilitation and not recognized that various provisions could be used to monitor the Act and implementing authorities and hold them accountable. Even within the Act and Rules, the role of various authorities under investigation, prosecution mechanisms and monitoring and accountability mechanisms, are spread over and not handy. Therefore, there is a need to expand the engagement of the activists towards a Rights Based Access to Justice. It is important to understand the strength and weaknesses of our existing judicial mechanism and address the challenge of access to justice.

FUTURE PLANS OF THE PROJECT

- Manuski has started to develop the project proposal in collaboration with grass root levels organisations. It will help both the organisations to strengthen their technical capacity and to get access with the funding opportunities.
- To explore different CSR's for the prospective of relationship building of Manuski and its networking organisations to open the doors for accessing grants.

CASE STUDIES

A BRUTAL MURDER OF A DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER CHANDRAKANT GAIKWAD AT PUNE-MAHARASTRA

Deceased Chandrakant Gaikwad, who was an active Dalit Human Rights Defender belonging to the Matang (Dalit) community, was shot dead in Indapur block of Pune district, Maharashtra by perpetrator Satpal Rupnavar and others, all belonging to the Dhangar community (dominant caste). Since last three years, as an active Dalit Human Rights Defender, Chandrakant Gaikwad used to support the victims of caste-based discrimination and atrocities in registering cases against the perpetrators and helped the similar victims to access justice. In the course of his work, Chandrakant filed an atrocity case against the accused Satpal Rupnavar, who perpetrated a crime against Dalits in Indapur Block, Pune district in 2011 under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. In this case along with present accused Satpal his 6 other members including his family members were involved and arrested. Deceased Chandrakant was also one of the witnesses for two other robbery cases (FIR Nos. 25/12 and 161/12), which were filed against the same accused in the year 2012 at Walchand Nagar Police Station.

Hence, on 12 February 2013 around 9 to 10 am, when Chandrakant went to visit Dada Shivaji Jadhav at Mahalaxmi dhaba in Jamb village the accused Satpal along with his supporters, reached there in a white bolero having wall watch picture of NCP Party on it, attempted to shoot both Chandrakant and Dada Jadhav. While Dada Jadhav managed to escape, Satpal and four other allegedly fired at deceased Chandrakant Gaikwad from their revolvers and then fled from the spot. Around seven rounds of bullets were fired on the deceased body, four on his head, two on back and one on his leg which caused his death at the spot itself.

Immediately after the incident, within 20 to 30 minutes the Police officers of Baramati PS reached the spot of incident but shockingly failed to arrest the accused, even they haven't attempted to chase and arrest all the accused. Thereafter police took the dead body to Rural Civil Hospital at Baramati, Pune for post-mortem.

Following are the intervention and current status of the case:

- FIR is registered under sections u/ss 302, 307, 143, 147, 148, 149 of IPC; 3, 25 Arms Act, 135 Bombay Police Act, 3(2)(v) of PoA Act and 7(1)(D) of PCR Act vide FIR No. 46/2013 dated 12/02/2013 at about 12:45 pm. at Walchand Nagar Police status .
- Total six accused are arrested on different dates and granted PCR.
- Compensation & rehabilitation of victims at all as per rule 12(4)1, 50,000 rupees is paid to the victims dependents.
- Due to continuous advocacy in collaboration with other network organizations the survivors in Chandrant Gaikwad murder case received the fund of Rs. 5 lacs from Dr. Ambedkar foundation, Delhi. This is the first case in Maharashtra in which we are succeeded to receive the compensation from Dr. Ambedkar foundation and also his wife got government job.
- Succeeded to appoint of Adv. Vijay Sawant as a special public prosecutor on the demand of the Dalit activists, organizations and different networks. He is very sensitive to handle atrocity cases in Maharashtra. Due his appointment the hope to get justice has raised. Though Rules of PoA mentions appointment of SPP, it was not an easy task. Number of correspondence with Law and Judiciary Department and Home Ministry. When the first application was made, the Law Department straight away rejected, saying such provision does not exists. Thereafter we made fresh application citing the rules and precedent. Further they asked to produce Chargesheet and requisite documents personally in the department, following that Adv. Priyadarshi Telang visited Mumbai and hand over the documents and papers to the concerned section officer. Again further letter was received for the consent and fee of Special Public Prosecutor, which was submitted on the letter head of Adv. Vijay Sawant and send it back to Law Department. We thought now all formalities have been completed and order will be issued, but to our surprise, the same section officer send another letter giving a limit of 15 days to submit a affidavit that either our organization or complainant will pay the fee of Public Prosecutor. To which we wrote another letter to the department and copy to Chief Minister and Law Minister, citing government order and rules of PoA, that how administration and government is acting against the letter and spirit of Act, and payment of fees to be paid by the government itself. For which we also had a hearing with Chief Minister and Home Minister at Mumbai around 3 times, and finally SPP is assigned. Getting lawyer for a case is the right in criminal justice system, but to have SPP in case of Chandrakant it took more than a year, thus giving chance for perpetrators to go for bail and manage other concerned persons to weaken the case.