

Interim Narrative Report 2019

Title of the Action: Securing the rights of minorities and people affected by caste-based discrimination in four state in India

- 1.1. Start date and end date of the reporting period: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019
- 1.2. Region & Partner name in which the activities take place- Rajasthan, Jai Bheem Vikas ShikshanSansthan (JBVSS)

Assessment of implementation of Action activities

Executive summary of the Action

Jai Bhim Vikas ShikshanSansthan (JBVSS) in collaboration with ActionAid Association running an action namely “Securing the rights of minorities and people affected by caste-based discrimination in four state in India”, supported by EU-EIDHR. Under this project we work for Dalit, Muslim and DNT community all over Rajasthan, having direct access to three districts of Rajasthan with our offices in Ajmer, Ahore and Sindhri. Our team comprises of:

Post	Number	Male	Female
Community Mobilizer	6	3	3
Program Coordinators	2	2	-
Accountant	1	-	1
Core HRD’s	9	4	5

Our Coordinators work from our Admin office Jodhpur and Ajmer office. With the help of HRD’s and network of alliance of likeminded people, we are operating across the Rajasthan in battle against the discrimination and securing the rights of minorities. In the first year, under the aegis of this project we have conducted 43 fact finding and 15 case have been rigorously monitored against the atrocity case. We conducted 3 Leadership Training for Human Right Defenders and equipped them with the necessary partial and theoretical knowledge needed to ensure access to justice for the victims of violence and different forms of atrocities in the state of Rajasthan. Our annual campaign in 5 Parts had been carried out this year with the intent to create an atmosphere under which the access to justice and reduction in violence and discrimination can

be achieved through community led intervention and monitoring. Public awareness camp/campaign were also organized at Ahore, Sindhari, Siwana and Ajmer to spread the awareness of government schemes within our target population, Dalit, Muslims and DNTs with the special focus on schemes like MNREGA, ICDS, RTE, PDS and health.

➤ **Monitoring of atrocities**

Under the aegis of this project a total of 15 cases of atrocities that came under the purview during the course of the last one year established through the means of fact-finding mission have undergone rigorous monitoring and continuous counseling by the organization. Majority of cases relate to heinous crimes where the victim is economically and socially backward as well as lacks proper education. To aid the victim, we meet the victim and guide them through the process. We draft letters to the concerned departments, commissions (Deputy SP, Additional SP, SP, Collector, IG, National Women Commission), etc. We also approach the legal authorities so that compensation is provided. The delay in the judicial system has compelled us to monitor the cases continuously and rigorously so that justice is served.

Some cases that are being monitored are –

- The complainant, Sangeeta Meghwal had filed a case (FIR No – 150/2019) on 1 August 2019 regarding abduction of her sister. Through our fact-finding mission we found out about the case on 28 September 2019. We approached and wrote letters to the concerned authorities to look into the case but all our efforts were in vain. We finally wrote a writ petition to the High Court and the victim was rescued after Habeas Corpus was enacted. The case is presently being fought in High Court.
- Another horrific case of similar sorts was filed by Suresh Kumar (FIR NO: 0201/2019) on 16/10/2019. The complainant's sister was abducted and is yet to be found. The organization has approached and written letters to various authorities including IG Jodhpur, Collector Jalore, SC commission, National Women Commission, etc but nothing conclusive has been found till now. JBVSS is now planning to approach the High Court for justice.

➤ **Victim support for rehabilitation**

A total of 5 victims have received support for rehabilitation. In all the 5 cases, monetary support of Rs 9000 was provided to the victims. 2 of the cases in which support was provided are:

- The plaintiff Bagda Ram (FIR NO. 0118/2019) reported that his sister was abducted and gang raped by 5 upper caste men. On protesting, he was beaten up and threatened of dire consequences. On filing the FIR, his house was immolated and he was forced to leave the

village. He still lives in fear for his life since he was given a death threat by the accused who indicated that Holi will be the day of his demise.

- The accused, Happy Singh and Hem Pal Singh belonging to Rajput community hurled caste-based expletives and assaulted the victims Sanjay Kumar Mahetar, Inder Kumar Bheel and Inder Kumar Mahetar during Ganesh Visarjan Yatra. Next day, the accused attacked Sanjay using lathi, iron rods and knives. When his wife along with others intervened, the accused insulted her and tore her clothes and broke Sanjay's hand. A year ago, on Diwali the accused assaulted and looted Rs 10000 from Sanjay. The victim is living his life in fear and he's unable to go to work.

➤ Annual campaign and advocacy activities

The activity was being divided in 5 parts covering all the working fields of our project in Ajmer, Barmer and Jalore

1. We conducted Nukkarnataks at 5 places (Sindhari, Siwana, Aahore, Ajmer and Jaipur).
2. Kalballiya Traditional dance were organized to make alive the tradition.



3. Dramas were presented regarding discrimination of deprived communities and atrocities happening in the societies.

4. Through this campaign we tried to make aware the public regarding constitutional rights of India and to abolish casteism etc.

5. We informed the public about various schemes of government.



➤ Study of untouchability and atrocities faced by DNT'S

Case 1: Sheshnath Ki Dhaani is located in Jalore block of Jalore district where Kalbeliya community resides. They are living a nomadic life and have no access to education. Nearest school is 4 km away from their residence because of which their children don't go to school. Only half of the children are going to school, rest are engaged in begging to earn bread for their family. JBVSS team member Hariram Meena made concerted efforts in contacting the Kalbeliya community and made them aware about the importance of education and role of education in

their children's lives. Through Hariram's efforts, he succeeded in linking 12 children of the community to education.

Case 2: The case is related to the Wagari caste residing in Jalore. Hariram Meena, member of JBVSS on visiting this area noticed that

1. That they are living in slum hut.
2. Their children are begging in market and collecting waste plastics, iron etc from bumps instead of going to school.
3. Even adults wear torn old dirty cloths, and are wandering for food each day.

He came to the conclusion that to improve the condition of the community it was necessary to educate the children and was successful in sending 21 children to school.

➤ Advocacy meetings with government and media:

We conducted 3 meeting in Rajasthan on various issues of Dalits, DNT's, minorities, women. We discussed about the various hurdles and challenges faced by them such as untouchability, discrimination, lack of participation in government schemes, lack of participation in social activities, and so on. These issues were also discussed with government officials, data was presented to them and media were told about the problems faced by these communities.

The meetings were arranged at: -

1. Jodhpur
2. Bhilwara
3. Jaipur

The meetings were successful as Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashok Gehlot called a meeting and addressed all the administrative officers.



➤ Leadership trainings for Human Rights Defenders

In this year 2019 we conducted three HRD Training in Rajasthan in which around of 129 people participated. Close to 75-80 HRD's attended the meetings. Social activists and advocated were invited as speakers for the event. The participants were trained to learn the following activities:



1. How to lodge a FIR

2. How to write RTI
3. How to Interact with govt. officials.
4. About various ACTs (ST/SC, POSCO etc.)
5. About different Sections of IPC etc.

Some of the notable speakers were- Mr. Tulsi Das Raj, Advocate Vinod Rajoriya, Advocate Manzoor Khan, Mr. Nasar Mohammed, Mr. Anwar Khan, Advocate P R Salvi, Activist Prakash Meghwal etc.

As a result, we are getting information about the cases of atrocities from all over Rajasthan, because of our HRD's. This is an important tool for generating awareness in the society as all the HRD's interact with the local populace and tell them about the ways to fight discrimination and atrocities. The HRD's are also crucial for close monitoring of the cases.

In other words, the society will be independent and capable enough if maximum number of people may take these types of trainings on such issues.



The details of all the three training is mentioned below.

S.NO.	DATE	PLACE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	28-07-2019	Baba Ramdev Guest House, Jodhpur	47(Forty-Seven)
2	27-09-2019	CASA Udaipur	43(Forty-Three)
3	29-12-2019	Institute of Cooperative Management Jaipur	45(Forty-Five)

Objective and agenda were: -

- To prepare HRDs from Ahore, Jalore, Sindhri, Siwana and Ajmer field from Dalit, Muslims and DNTs community, even all over the Rajasthan state
 - To facilitate Dalit, Muslims and DNTs to get justice from atrocities which they are facing regularly. As in 2018 we did 41 fact finding and doing advocacy for it
 - To approach government schemes by our target population
 - To work on SCSP & MSDP, SCSP for Dalit and MSDP for Muslim
- **Support to core group of 40 HRDs**

Under the aegis of this project we selected about 09 groups throughout the year. (5 females and 4 males). Out of the 10 core HRDs, 7 are Dalits, 2 are Muslims and 1 DNT. They are actively engaged in fact finding and facilitating the process of access to justice and for getting the benefits provided by the government. We have a total of 75 human right defenders in this project covered in four trainings. Due to limited number of HRD's having proper knowledge, we got 24 cases in the last three months.

➤ **Capacity development of community support groups by the HRDs**

The action has formulated 55 community support groups having a total strength of 624 members across the area of operation. The core HRDs and few other HRDs had met with community support groups and built their capacity. Two meetings were done, both in the Barmer district, one in Siwana and another one in Sindhari. At Sindhari, 28 participants took part, in which 6 were female and 22 were male. At Siwana, 40 participants took part, in which 2 were female and 38 were male. Another meeting was done at Siwana, Barmer, where total 38 participants took part, where 2 were female and 36 were male. At Ajmer there were 23 participants in which 16 were female and 7 were male. We also arranged special programs at regional level (Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota and Bharatpur) for some outstanding HRD's.

➤ **Fact finding missions on crimes against Dalits, Muslims and DNTs**

43 fact-finding missions were carried out this year (Minorities -1, SC/ST – 42, DNT-1). Most cases were of atrocities against women. In majority of the cases, the complaint had not been registered, improper investigation was done or compensation was not received. Further the victims were socially and economically backward as well as lacked proper education which made them susceptible to being influenced by settlement or brute force. Firstly, we gather information through various sources and then we embark upon the fact-finding mission. The fact-finding team usually consists of senior activists, lawyers, and female workers who would assess the merits, level of engagement and advocacy needed as well as identify the kind of assistance to be provided.

➤ **Interface with law enforcement and government officials**

On 06-12-2019, topics such as education, PDS, ICDS, MNREGA, Scholarship, Health, Minorities, Muslim etc. were discussed with government officials (Chairman, SP, Dy SP, Principal, District Officers Etc.). Also, a book on government schemes was unveiled.

➤ **Report cards on government departments/public service providers**

The JBVSS is in consultation with Nesar Ahmed (BARC) for the development of report card for ICDS, PDS and RTE for tracking discrimination. This field survey for the same is going on in Ajmer, Jalore and Barmer.

➤ **Compilation of information on funds for SCSP and MSDP**

The JBVSS has hired Nesar Ahmed (BARC) as consultant for the compilation of information on funds for SCSP and MSDP. Through their format, we gather information on budget allotted and expenditure incurred for Social Justice and Empowerment Department, rural development, etc. at village Panchayat, Block and District level.

➤ **Awareness raising on basic public schemes/services**

On 28 Nov, 29 Nov and 22 Dec 2019 an activity was conducted to raise awareness on basic public schemes and services at Sindhari, Siwana (district Barmer), Aahore (district Jalore),



Srinagar (district Ajmer) respectively. AB MGRSBY Rajasthan 2019-20, Shubh Shakti Scheme 2019, Rajasthan Old Age Pension 2019-20, e Dharti, Rajasthan Bhamashah Card Yojana and several other schemes were discussed. We also facilitated Aadhar application of several people. A booklet on major schemes of the government of

Rajasthan was also distributed.

Some issues discussed were regarding problems in applying for Aadhar, ration card (BPL) and distribution issue, scholarship to children, glitches regarding NREGA, land allotment, etc.

MrTulsi Das Raj elaborated on various schemes, policies and provisions of the government. He also told the procedure to avail the same.



➤ **Facilitating access to schemes for the communities**

The target group is the marginalized community who have been unable to avail the benefits of various government schemes and policies. The action has facilitated the access to schemes in MNREGA for 96 males and 164 females. For PDS, the action has worked in facilitation of 55 males and 66 females. For ICDS 46 Males and 85 Females. We were able to enroll 32 boys and 26 girls in various schools. It has further facilitated access to other schemes for 381 males and 489 females during the course of the last one year.

➤ **Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation**

Since a large part of the project by design is predicated upon the level of organic and institutional linkage between the organization, HRDs and other people associated with the project and the state authorities, the organization has tried to develop the relation between the two parties. State is the embodiment of the authority that hold the means of the justice and the bureaucratic process is one of the biggest impediments in the process of access to justice. The action has had a good relationship with the various state authorities over past but with the nature of the work being done via this project has pushed the duo closer to each other.

The action has developed a network of likeminded people, organizations, alliance and NGO which are the part of the various facets of the work being carried out under the aegis of the project viz. Centre for Dalit Rights (CDR), Dalit Adhikar Network (DAN), Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC).

➤ **Visibility**

The work of the HRDs has been extensive documents during the year. They have had their work represented in different local and regional news paper while doing the fact-finding and advocacy work for the cases of atrocities and ensuring the access to justice.

The action has made an institutional tie up with an academic institute “Central University of Rajasthan, Department of Social Work” for the conduct of study on the untouchability and Atrocities faced by the DNT in the state of Rajasthan. The action has also made the Central University and the students’ part of the capacity development and leadership building of the HRDs and help in building a momentum fin the society in making the access to justice for the victims and services for the marginalized society not an aberration but a genuine right of the people. The action has also produced Brochure, Banner, pamphlet for the dissemination of information that have been used extensively across the different program that the action has conducted throughout the year.

Current scenario

Government has launched several schemes. Policies and activities to help the marginalized and social backward classes. These include PDS, ICDS, MNREGA, etc. but the benefits of the same are not reaching the targeted populace. The government has also passed several acts such as the SC/ST act, POCSO, Bonded labor act, etc. to help the deprived and to empower them. The schemes and acts are being exploited by some people and authorities are also not enforcing the schemes in its true spirit. This results in the benefits not reaching the ground level to the people who need these schemes the most.

Conclusion

The government schemes are not reaching the intended beneficiaries. Ground level reach is inhibited because of improper implementation and prevalent exploitation. We, at JBVSS, are working towards making the benefits available to the needy by being in direct contact with them and working at the ground level.