

Report on

Workshop on Dalit-Adibasi Rights

organized by: Jai BHim India Network

In collaboration with: Human Rights Law Network

Venue: Kashimpur, Chakdah, Nadia, West Bengal

Date: 29.06.2019



The poster is blue with yellow and white text. At the top, it says 'Educate Agitate Organize'. The main title is 'Workshop on Dalit - Adibashi Rights'. Below that, it lists the venue: 'Natun Goara, Kashimpur Primary School, Chakdah, Nadia'. The date is '29th June, 2019, Saturday'. It is organized by 'Jai Bhim India Network & Human Rights Law Network'. There are logos for 'Jai Bhim India Network' and 'HRLN'.

While Indian constitution states every Indian is equal before the law and is entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection, but the reality shows different. Based on our experiences of last 10 years of intervening in the cases of atrocities against Dalits and Adibasis, the lessons that have learnt by us were

full of injustice while atrocities took place against them.

Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished the practice of untouchability in all forms to give effect to this Article. Indian Parliament enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. After that parliament renamed it as “The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955”. In 1977 to implement the Provisions of the Act. the Parliament passed the “Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989”. As we know that the SC ST (prevention of atrocities) Act. 1989 which enable the authorities for taking positive measures to prevent the atrocities against SC and ST.

We noticed that, so many ambiguities exist at every stage of the process to attain justice including at the stage of registration of cases, investigation of cases, charge sheeting, and at the trial stages in the court of law. And also include the inadequate use of precautionary measures, inadequate protection, inadequate and irregular functioning of monitoring committees, inadequacy and delay in providing relief and rehabilitation etc. For that the Dalits and Adibasis have been suffering by the atrocities from years after year and the numbers of atrocities are increasing day by day.

In their annual report (INDIA 2017/2018) Amnesty International reported that “Adivasi communities continued to be displaced by industrial projects, and hate crimes against Dalits remained widespread. Authorities were openly critical of human rights defenders and organizations, contributing to a climate of hostility against them. Mob violence intensified, including by vigilante cow protection groups. Press freedom and free speech in universities came under attack. India failed to respect its human rights commitments

made before the UN Human Rights Council. The Supreme Court and High Courts delivered several progressive judgments, but some rulings undermined human rights. Impunity for human rights abuses persisted". The report also stated that the caste based discrimination and violence, communal and ethnic violence, human rights defenders, indigenous people's rights, refugees and migrants' rights, women's rights came into an alarming point.

It was informed in the parliament by Hansraj Gangaram Ahir the Union minister that 47,338 cases of crime against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled were registered across the country in 2016. As per information provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) a total of 40,774 cases were registered under SC and St (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. 1989 and other sections of law over alleged crime against SC and ST in the year of 2016.

Violation of law and other illegal activities over Dalit and Adibasis have been increasing brutally because of hopeless action of authorities and ignorance of SC and ST about the laws.

In collaboration with Human Rights Law Network, Jai Bhim India Network organized a programme On 29.06.2019 namely "Workshop on Dalit-Adibasi Rights" at Kasimpur village, Chakdah, Nadia to sensitize Dalit-Adibasi men and women on different issues. 98 participants registered their names in this workshop. The Muslim community of Kashimpur



village took the historical decision opening the gate of "EIDGAH MAIDAN" the sacred place for Namaz. The SC ST participants were very pleased receiving warm welcome from the Muslim brothers.

The workshop was started with lighting candle to the honor of Chuni Kotal the first scholar from Lodha Sabar family, Rohit Vemula, Onkar Baridabad, Najib Jangh, Gauri Langkesh, Tabrez and Payel Tadvi who were the victim of institutional murder, committed suicide and mob lynching.

Following that Bajju Orang a member of SARNA SABHA sang a patriotic song.



The discussion session of the workshop started with the Md. Nuruddin a senior journalist and writer. He said Chuni Kotal, Rohit Vemula, Onkar Baridabad and Payel Tadvi were the victims of caste discrimination. "My birth is my fatal accident" it was very painful moment to me when I read the last letter of Rohit Vemula after his committed suicide.

Brahmins know that their population is very little. Therefore they took "divide and rule" policy to dominate others. According to anthropological Survey of India, India's communities are divided into 6748 castes. Dalits are killed for entering MANDIR, women are gang raped. In the name of SALOAJUDUM and GREEN HUNT Adibasis are killing and fetching threats for displacement. On 13 February, the Supreme Court had directed state governments to evict Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers, whose claims over forest land were rejected under the 2006 Forest Rights Act. Mr. Nuruddin clearly said that, the caste discrimination, untouchability, intolerances, dilution of SC ST (prevention of atrocities) Act. 1989, land grabbing, eviction, killing, raping, mob lynching, NRC are the part of brahmanical system. He said that, Babasaheb Ambedkar taught us to educate, agitate and organize. It is a very crucial time to remember him. Hope the workshop will guide the Dalit, Adibashi and OBC to unite for spreading fraternity among themselves.

The poet and the young journalist Mokatar Hossain Mondal emphasized on the humanity of the mankind. He said that the teaching of Brahmanical media is very cunning in manner. They always try to cultivate superstitious belief in the mind of the Dalit and Adibasis. Actually they understood that the teaching of Ambedkar has been awakening the



Dalit-Adibasi for their rights and duties. That day is not so far for a Blue Revolution for the people, by the people and of the people.



Tapas Kanti Biswas WBCS, the Additional District Sub-registrar emphasized on the constitutional rights of Dalit-Adibasi. He introduces Babasaheb Ambedkar as Greatest economist, greatest lawyers, writer, Man of the Millennium, makers of the universe and the Greatest Indian after Buddha. Firstly he mentioned the meaning of SC and ST within the castes, races or tribes as are deemed under Article 341 of Indian Constitution. He mentioned different safeguards for SC and ST referring Indian Constitution such as:

- a) Article 17 to abolish untouchability in the society.
- b) Article 23 to prohibit human trafficking and begging.
- c) Article 46 to promote education and economic interest of the SC and ST.
- d) Article 15(4) it empowers the State to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class of the citizens. This article enabled the State to reserve seats for SCs in educational institutions.

Mr Tapas Kanti Biswas suggested the participants to the read the books of Babasaheb Ambedkar for annihilation of caste system.



Mr. Debangsu Sarkar the revenue officer of Ranaghat-1 stated that the SC and ST are very careless to maintain the proper documents of their land. Even they forget to pay their tax for their home estate and cultivable land. It is a common case that SC and ST communities don't know the process of mutual partitions of their lands. Acquisition of land for industries and other purposes is a master plan of ruling government. Even this land grabbing happened forcefully in the tribal area

also.

Mr. Debangsu Sarkar emphasized on the "The Panchsheel Doctrine" of five fundamental principles devised by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, enunciated tribal development as follows:

1. People should develop along the line of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture.
2. Tribal rights to land and forest should be respected.
3. We should try to train and build up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development.
4. We should not over administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes. We should rather work through, and not in rivalry to, their own social and cultural institutions.
5. We should judge results, not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character that is evolved.

At last Mr. Debangsu Sarkar said that, this kind of workshop is very effective for the people to realize their rights and duties. I will participate the workshop with more data if Jai Bhim India Network continues the activities.

Mr. Krishnendu Mondal WBCS, Deputy District Land Reform Officer and Mr. Avijit Sarkar WBCS, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Society discussed on the various government schemes those can help SC and ST for empowering themselves.



Mrs. Rupa Khan a renowned social worker boldly said that, Babasaheb Ambedkar fought against injustice in his life. He gave us Indian Constitution to establish us as a good citizen. But we are very innocent to achieve our goal. We sought for rights but not capturing the power for empowerment. We have noticed that the present government has been forcefully capturing the Adibashi land, raping the women and increasing the terrorist activities for spreading fear. We have to overcome fear by educating,

agitating and organizing ourselves. The extremist groups of Bengal have been spreading hate, anger, killing, raping. They want riot and genocide. But we know that the genocide takes thousands of life of poor people those who are belongs to SC, ST and OBC. This is completely madness. We have to resist it. We have to organize more workshops to unite our people. We have to teach them the reality of the life. Hope we shall overcome from the situation.



Mr. NC Biswas took a feedback session and expected suggestions from the participants. Most of the participants were very happy with the food cooked by Dalit-Muslim youth. Everyone learnt "JAI BHIM, JAI BHARAT" a symbolic slogan for

SC, ST, OBC and Religious Minorities unity.

Mr. Raju Howladar and Ashim Biswas gave vote of thanks to the participants, resource persons and the members of EIDGAH COMMITTEE.

Reported by: Saradindu Biswas