



Annual Report

2017-2018



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About the Organization

We are a social justice organization working for the rights of the tribal “Adivasi” people of Andhra Pradesh, India and for the protection of the natural resources and ecology of the Eastern Ghats (hills). Samata started working in a small tribal hamlet in 1987 with a group of tribal and rural youth, to mobilize tribal communities against exploitation by outsiders and by government. Samata was formally registered as a non government organization in 1990.

Our vision is to help build an India in which tribal and scheduled castes, adivasi groups, the poor and other disadvantaged minorities can fully participate in a healthy Indian democracy, enjoy the benefits of economic development and retain their rights, their culture, and their history. Our mission is to advocate for the voiceless, to hold government accountable to its promises, to enable minorities to fully achieve and exert their rights, to promote sustainable development while defending against environmental abuses and to aid the human development of the disadvantaged. We believe the best way to achieve our mission is through adherence to nonviolence, community empowerment and adherence to the democratic process.

Support to mm&P

Executive Committee Meeting

Three EC meetings were held from April’ 2017 to March’ 2018. Discussions were held on Illegal Mining Issues of the respective states, Children and Mining, Environmental Issues and Pollution, Vth & VIth Schedule areas, Thermal Power, Flagship programs of mm&P held throughout the year, Action Plan for the upcoming year etc.

- 1) 11th – 12th April’ 2017 – Dabbanda, Visakhapatnam
- 2) 25th July ‘ 2017 – New Delhi
- 3) 8th – 9th January’ 2018 - Dabbanda, Visakhapatnam



Children and Mining Workshop

5 State Level and 4 District Level Workshops on Children and Mining were conducted in Gujarat, Karnataka, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Panjim(Goa), Paderu(Andhra Pradesh), Asansol (West Bengal) and Dumka(Jharkhand). The purpose of these workshops has been to bring to the notice the various issues faced by children working in the mines and affected by mining.

Children are the most affected in the mining areas. Those who work as mine laborers are the victims of child labor. Their health, education and wellbeing are adversely affected. For the children living close to the mining areas the situation is equally worse. Lack of clean drinking water, pollution, lack of basic education forces the children into menial jobs either in the mines or elsewhere. The workshops were addressing some of the legal aspects of how child labor can be curbed in mining areas and how child rights can be protected. The workshops saw participation from grassroots activists and mining affected people.

State Level Workshops:

Serial no.	State/UT	Venue	Date
1.	Gujarat	Mandvi, Surat	11-06-2017
2.	Karnataka	Bellary	18-07-2017
3.	Puducherry	Anandha Inn, Puducherry	11-12-2017
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Dabbanda, Visakhapatnam	15-12-2017
5.	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	17-02-2018

District Level Workshops:

Serial no.	District	State	Date
1.	Panjim	Goa	21-07-2017
2.	Paderu	Visakhapatnam	25-09-2017
3.	Kabitirtha, Churulia	West Bengal	21-02-2018
4.	Dumka	Jharkhand	23-02-2018



Vlth General Assembly

The 6th General Assembly of the mines, minerals & People (mm&P), organized from 13th May to 15th May 2017 at Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu, witnessed the participation of about 236 volunteers, coming from dozens of struggle groups representing 17 states across the country. People from various paths of life- activists, journalists, lawyers, environmentalists, students, farmers and women participated in the meet. The Assembly was attended by eminent persons- Mr. **K.V Krishnamurthy** the former Deputy Director of Geological Survey of India, Mr. **Rajendra Singh** popularly known as 'water man' of India, Mr. **CR Bijoy**, an expert on PESA in India, Prof. **AK Sinha**, **Rahul Basu** from Goa Foundation and **Leo Saldanha** from Environment Support Group. The General Assembly provided a platform for people to share their experiences and express concern on issues of community rights over natural resources.



Change in the Employee Structure

There has been a change in the organization structure in the current year. One Director, Mr. Bibhu Mahapatra has joined the Delhi Office from August' 2017 onwards. Research Associate, Ms. Harica got transferred to Delhi Office and Senior Research Associate, Mr. Sushant Panigrahy had joined the Visakhapatnam from August' 2017. Later Mr. Sushant Panigrahy has left the organization in January' 2018.

Delay in Conducting Programs

During the period from July to October' 2017, there was a delay in receiving the funds so programs planned during that period of time got delayed.

Lobbying with Parliamentarians (July' 2017)

The Lobbying with the Parliamentarians Program is an attempt by Samata and mm&P to reflect the state specific issues and challenges faced by the local community people living in the mining areas, especially to take cognizance of the severity of the problems faced by children and initiate suitable measures to minimize the same by bringing it to the notice and knowledge of honourable state and central ministers and address the same.

In this regard A delegation from 17 states across the country has met with the parliamentarians from various political parties to submit its memorandum in New Delhi from 25th to 28th July' 2017 .The delegation led by Mr. Ravi Rebbapragada, ED of Samata & Chairperson of mines, mineral and People, Mr.Ashok Shrimali, Secretary General from mines, mineral and People. The delegation met with senior political leaders and Member of Parliaments across the parties such as Mr. Sharad Yadav from Janta Dal (U) from Bihar, Tribal affairs Minister, Juel Oram , Piyush Goyal ,Minister of State, Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Mansukhbhai Vasava, (BJP) Senior Member of Parliament from Gujarat, Mr. D. Raja(CPI), Senior Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Kantilal Bhuria (INC), Member of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Tiruchi Shiva, (DMK) Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Jairam Ramesh(INC), Member of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, Jitendra Choudhury(CPI), Member of Parliament, Tripura East, Mr. Kamal Nath (Congress), Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, Faggan Singh Kulaste, (BJP), Minister of State- Health and Family Welfare, Rajeev Gowda (INC), Karnataka, K. Kavita (TRS) Member of Parliament from Telangana, Mr. Godam Nagesh (TRS) Member of Parliament from Telangana, Mr. Shripad Yasso Naik (BJP), Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) from Goa and requested the ministers and parliamentarians to take up the issues, raise them in the parliament and demand for appropriate actions.



Lobbying with Parliamentarians (December' 2017)

A delegation of Samata & mm&P from across 8 states of the country has met with the parliamentarians from various political parties to submit its memorandum in New Delhi from 19th to 22nd December' 2017. The delegation was lead by Mr. Ashok Shrimali, Secretary General from mines, mineral and People.

The delegation met with senior political leaders and Member of Parliaments across the party such as Mr. Harish Rawat, ex- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand (INC), Tribal Affairs Minister, Mr. Jual Oram (BJP), Dr. Heena Gavit, Member of Parliament (BJP) from Nandurbar, Maharashtra, Prof. Rajeev Gowda, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (INC) from Karnataka, Mr. Arjunlal Meena, Member of Parliament (BJP) from Udaipur, Rajasthan, Mr. K.K.Ragesh, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha [CPI(M)] from Kerala, Mr. Mansukhbhai Vasava, Senior Member of Parliament(BJP) from Bharuch, Gujarat, Mr. Oscar Fernandes, Senior Member of Parliament (INC) from Karnataka, Mr. Jitendra Choudhury, Member of Parliament, CPI(M) from Tripura East, Senior Politicians Ms. Brinda Karat, Member of Parliament [CPI(M)] Rajya Sabha from West Bengal and Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge, Member of Parliament (INC) from Karnataka, Honourable Minister of State for Steel and Mines, Govt. of India & Member of Parliament Mr. Vishnu Deo Sai from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, ex- Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Vice Chairperson, National Commission of Schedule Tribes, Mr. Ramappa from INC & and Schedule Tribes Front requested the ministers and parliamentarians to take up the issues, raise them in the parliament and demand for appropriate actions.



World Indigenous Day Celebrations

The United Nations 'International Day of World's Indigenous People' is observed on August 9th each year with an aim to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous people. This year the International Day of World's Indigenous People was celebrated in Borra Panchayat. Samata also organised a walk from Borra Girijan Ashram Patashala to Borra Caves to celebrate the indigeneity of the people and the surroundings. At Borra Caves school children took oath to protect their forests and their natural resources. Samata provided study materials to school children.



Children on the Move

Kalajatha Program on issues related to migration and children was conducted in collaboration with National Environment and Educational Development(NEED) and by the support of Samata & Navageevana Bala in Salur, Pachipenta mandals of Vizianagaram District on 24th September' 2017. The workshop was conducted as part of the Children on Move project of Samata. The main focus has been child education and eradication of Child Labor, to reach the every child to enrol them in School and enjoy their child hood without discrimination.

Kalajatha programme on Safe migration was organized in three migrated villages i.e. Guruvunaidupeta, Goruguvalasa and Pudi in Pachipenta mandal of Vizianagaram District.



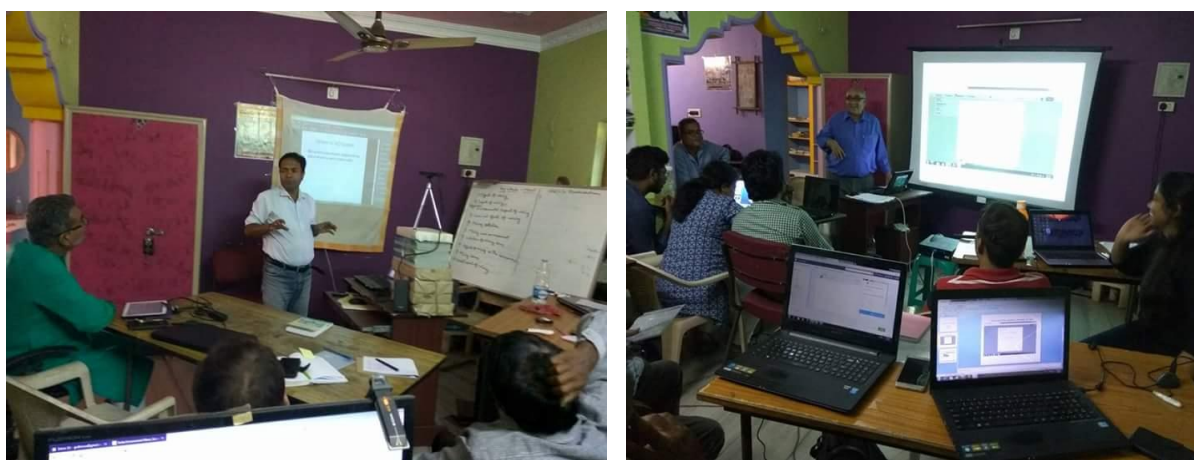
Volunteer Program

This year 1 student from National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru(Karnataka), 2 students from TISS Hyderabad(Andhra Pradesh) and 4 students from Dhirubhai Ambani University, Ahmedabad(Gujarat) had come to volunteer at Samata. They had visited various field areas like Borra and Katiki and carried out certain research

work on “DISABILITY AMONG THE TRIBES A DOUBLE DISADVANTAGE AND AN IMPLICATION” & “TOURISM AND ITS EFFECTS ON BORRA AND KATI KI VILLAGE.”

Social Media Training

Training on Social Media was given by Mr. Loknath Swain, Founder & CEO – PR Jankari Digital Marketing Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai from 4th to 7th January’ 2018 at Visakhapatnam. The training included sessions on Web essentials & Digital Media like Face book, LinkedIn, Twitter, Content Writing, Content Posting, Blogging, SEO, Social branding of Campaigns, Designing Campaign Branding Strategy, Crowd Funding etc.



Youth Counselling

As part of Samata's youth outreach program, we have conducted 8 counselling sessions at Tribal schools and hostels. The idea was to understand the issues that are weaning them away from pursuing education for better livelihood opportunities and also to orient students on the socio-cultural aspects of transitioning from rural area to cosmopolitan cities and towns. Approximately 1100 students between the age group of 12 to 17 years participated from 8 different schools, colleges and Tribal hostels.

Serial no.	Place	School/College	Date
1.	Aruku Valley	Govt. Junior College	29-01-2018
2.	Hukempeta	Govt. Junior College	30-01-2018
3.	Hukempeta	Kasturiba Gandhi Balikala Vidyalayam	30-01-2018
4.	Pedagruvu, Dumbriguda	Government Tribal Welfare Asram School for Girls	31-01-2018
5.	Chintapalli	CAH School for Boys Chintapalli	14-02-2018

6.	Chintapalli	Govt. Tribal Welfare Ashrama School for Girls	14-02-2018
7.	Kottaballuguda, Araku Valley	Govt. Tribal Welfare Ashrama School for Girls	18-02-2018
8.	Borra, Gatevalasa	Govt. Tribal Welfare Ashrama School for Boys	19-02-2018



State Level Consultation(Both Ends)

Two State Level Consultations on Children & Mining, Illegal Mining, Status of Tribals, District Mineral Foundation, Migration, Future Generation Fund, FRA, PESA, Vth & VIth Schedule areas etc. were held at Madurai, Tamil Nadu on 11th February' 2018 and Raigarh, Chhattisgarh on 17th February' 2018. Total 120 people had participated in the consultations.



Tribal Desk

Nimmalapadu – Cooperative Mining Issue

Katiki – Road Issue

Borra – Guides Issue

Samata from years has been running a Tribal Outreach Desk in the above mentioned areas on the respective issues and addressing them with constant dialogue and meetings with the villagers and local govt. authorities.

Guest Lectures and meetings

1. Mr. Ravi Rebbapragada gave a guest lecture at National Law School Visakhapatnam on 23rd October, 2017. He spoke about the various legislations in the Vth Scheduled areas.
2. Tribal Sub-Plan meeting- Divisional level Tribal Sub-Plan meeting was organised in Paderu. Samata was invited for the meeting. It was attended by Mr. Ravi Rebbapragada, Ms. Sayantani and Mr. Satish from Samata.
3. May Day Event- On the occasion of May Day on 1st May, 2017, a public meeting was held at Pedda Mallapuram in Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Ravi Rebbapragada was invited as speaker for the event.
4. He was invited as a panellist for the event on Land Rights Initiative organised by Centre for Policy Research (CPR) at Delhi.
5. Mr. Ravi Rebbapragada was invited as a Resource Person at the Puducherry University – Winter School French Institute in December' 2017. He spoke on Samata Judgement and about the activities of mm&P.

6. Ms. Sree Harica represented Samata and mm&P in the Pre Budget consultation with Ministry of Finance held on 6th December' 2017.
7. Mr. Ravi attended the workshop conducted by Oxfam India on “The current situation of NGOs in India” in January’ 2018.
8. He was invited as a Resource Person on the silver jubilee celebration of Adivasi Ekta Parishad at Rajpipla, Gujarat in January’ 2018. There he spoke about Samata Judgement.
9. Mr. R. Ravi was invited as a Resource Person for a Dialogue on Transition to Clean Energy conducted by Lawyers Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) at Delhi from 19th to 21st February’ 2018.
10. He was also invited to attend the ESCAP United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, global problems and their local solutions at Bangkok, Thailand from 22nd to 25th Feb’ 2018.
11. Mr. R. Ravi attended a seminar on International Financial Institutes in India as a panellist. He spoke about mining scenario in the country, Samata Judgement and role of IFIs.
12. Ms. Sree Harica represented Samata and mm&P in various conferences on land, tribals, governance and policy making.