



Annual Report

2019-2020



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About the Organization

Samata is 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. We believe in the possibility for development that advances the cause of social justice instead of undercutting it; in the ability of communities to develop and interact with the environment sustainably instead of exhausting natural resources and destroying ecological systems; in the capacity of tribal communities for self- government and their right to control their own land and resources; in the power of an organized and informed community; in the wisdom and the necessity of pursuing our mission through peaceful and democratic means.

Children In the mining affected areas Workshops

5 State Level and 1 Regional Level Workshops on Children and Mining were conducted. 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. The Consultations had discussions on District Mineral Fund (DMF), its formation and implementation in all the states. It was highlighted that despite the Mines Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act of 2015 giving instructions to the respective state governments to form DMF Trust, it took almost 3 years for most of the states to set up the Trust and frame the rules but its implementation is still lagging. Most of the people still do not have any clue about what is DMF and that it exists.

State Level consultations:

1	21/8/2019	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	56
2	24/9/2019	Udaipur, Rajasthan	45
3	26/9/2019	Bhavnagar, Gujarat	86
4	27/9/2019	Badi Padva, Gujarat	78
5	29/9/2019	Palghar, Maharashtra	53

Regional Level Consultations:

1	24/8/2019	Chaibasa, Jharkhand	74
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National Level Advocacy with Parliamentarians (17th-19th July 2019)

Delegates from Samata and Mines, Minerals and People (mm&P) met with parliamentarians from various states to discuss and raise issues relating to illegal mining, Samata Judgment,

children in the mining areas and District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Kirodilal Meena, MP from Rajasthan raised an important issue of the implementation of Samata Judgment in Rajasthan. Samata Judgment 1997, protects the land of the tribal people under the Vth Schedule of the Constitution. Transfer of land in Scheduled Areas by way of lease to non tribals, corporation aggregate, etc. stands prohibited to prevent their exploitation in any form. However, it has been more than 2 decades but the implementation of the judgment in the 10 Vth Scheduled area states has been dismal. The judgment has called for a Conference of all Chief Ministers, Ministers holding the Ministry concerned and Prime Minister, and Central Ministers concerned should take a policy decision for a consistent scheme throughout the country in respect of tribal lands. However, this has not taken place. In this regard, we have urged Member of Parliament Dr. Kirodilal Meena to raise the issue of implementation of Samata Judgment in the entire country which will help in the protection of tribal community.

We have taken up the issue of children in mining areas with Shri L. Hanumanthaiah, and Shri Naseer Hussain, MPs from Karnataka and they assured that they will raise these important issues in the Parliament. Shri Mansukh Bhai Vasava, MP from Gujarat raised the issue of illegal mining in the Parliament. In the reply the concerned minister stated that in the year 2018-19 alone 115492 cases of illegal mining has been registered. The Delegation also met National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Vice Chairperson Smt. Ansuya Uikey and Members Shri Hiralal Damor and Shri Mahesh Vasava to discuss the issues of forest rights violations in the Vth Schedule Areas and other governance issues.



National Workshop on Occupational Health

National Conference on Silicosis was organized by Samata, mines, minerals and People (mm&P), PRASAR, Gravis, Directorate General of Health Government of Delhi, Daang Vikas Sansthan and HEDCON on 30th September, 2019 in Constitution Club of India. The

Conference was attended by medical doctors, social activists, members of trade unions, Delhi Government employees, members of media groups, industry and mine workers, victims of silicosis, widows of silicosis workers and students.



सिलिकोसिस खत्म करने को बनाएंगे नीति: अश्विनी

नई दिल्ली, 30 सितम्बर (ब्यूरो): भारत सरकार के स्वास्थ्य व परिवार कल्याण राज्य मंत्री अश्विनी चौबे ने कहा वह सिलिकोसिस बीमारी को खत्म करने के लिए नीति बनाएंगे और इसको लेकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से भी बात करेंगे। ताकि मजदूरों को इस बीमारी से मुक्ति मिल सके। वह बतौर मुख्य अतिथि राजस्थान पत्थर खान एवं निर्माण मजदूर संगठन द्वारा आयोजित एक गोष्ठी को संबोधित कर रहे थे। मंत्री ने कहा सिलिकोसिस बीमारी को लेकर वह सभी से बात करेंगे और इसमें तत्कालिक तौर पर क्या हो सकता है इस पर काम करेंगे। क्योंकि, यह वाकई एक बड़ी समस्या है इसलिए इसको खत्म करने की दिशा में काम किया जाएगा। ताकि सभी मजदूरों का इससे भला हो सके। इस मौके पर राजस्थान पत्थर खान एवं निर्माण मजदूर संगठन के मुखिया आजाद ने कहा सिलिकोसिस बीमारी करोड़ों लोगों को है और लोगों की मौत तक इस बीमारी से हो रही है। इसलिए केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान इसकी ओर दिलाने के लिए दिल्ली आए हैं।

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National Consultation on Children in Mining Areas, Illegal Mining, DMF, Vth Schedule, FRA, PESA and Samata Judgment

23rd -24th November 2019, Dabbanda, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The National Consultation was organized with the aim to deliberate on issues from across the country on the present situation of children, women, and other marginalized and vulnerable communities in the mining affected areas. Ravi Rebbapragada gave the keynote address and asked for support from all states with scheduled areas to implement the

Samata Judgment. He urged for collective action for recognizing the children in the mining areas as a separate category amongst the children and push for specific policies for such children. The issues of the mining affected community should be mainstreamed and remedies should be reflected in the national policies.



Research study on 'Linkages of Local Markets, Industrialization and Tribal Development'

The Eastern Ghats of Visakhapatnam district is a dense forested area. For administrative convenience, the Agency areas (Schedule V region) of Visakhapatnam are divided into three sub-divisions- Paderu, Chintapalli and Araku Valley. In Visakhapatnam district 52.72 per cent of the total area is occupied by the agency area. The total area of the district is 11,200 sq.kms. The agency area covers 5904.51 sq kms of forests and mountains. The Agency covers 2,312 revenue villages and 3,574 tribal habitations (1,093 PTGs and 2,481 Non-PTGs habitations). The entire Paderu sub-division forms part of the Eastern Ghats. The Paderu Tribal Agency has 11 scheduled mandals and 2 partially scheduled mandals.

Our work in this region suggests that the tribal households in Paderu region earn about half of their income from agriculture. Our research was structured to map the dynamics of local markets (Shandies): their mode of operation, various stakeholders involved, the products and services transacted, consumer demands, income generation, shortcomings, scope of improvement and impact on socio-economic status of the tribals, mapped against existing regional socio-economic and legal scenario. The study document how tribal communities and local economies are affected by local markets and growing commercialization.

Following shandies were selected for the research- Araku Valley, Sovva, Munchingput, PedaBaylu, and G. Madugula,



Policy paper on District Mineral Foundation

The Research Aims to explore the following themes- awareness regarding the provisions of the DMF rules at various levels- local, State and national, transparency and accountability with respect to DMF fund spending, role of community in decision making regarding

spending on specific projects, grievance redressal mechanisms with respect to DMF spending and managing, Broader relationship between private company CSR and local government and effect on gender issues in mine affected communities.

Research Location- Goa, Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gujarat. This will be supplemented by interviews with central government, NITI Aayog and Company CSR.

Link to the Published Report- <https://www.kpsrl.org/publication/district-mineral-foundations-structural-concerns-and-policy-recommendations>



Van Mahotsav Celebrations

On the occasion of Van Mahotsav, tree plantation drive was carried out in Tribal Girls Ashram School in Toruku Village and Tribal Boys Ashram School in Borra in Visakhapatnam district. This was followed by discussion on importance of plants and the need to conserve nature.



సమత ఆధ్వర్యంలో వనం-మనం



వనం-మనం అక్షర రూపంలో విద్యార్థుల విన్యాసం

అనంతగిరి : మండలంలోని బొర్రాగుహలు, బొర్రా, బోకూరు, ఆశ్రమ పాఠశాలల్లో సమత స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో 70వ వనం-మనం కార్యక్రమం చేపట్టారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో సమత కోఆర్డినేటర్ మాట్లాడుతూ రాష్ట్ర ముఖ్యమంత్రి ఆదేశాలు మేరకు ఈ కార్యక్రమం చేపడుతున్నామని, ప్రతి ఒక్కరు మొక్కలు

నాటాడం ద్వారా పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షణకు దోహదపడాలని కోరారు. ప్రతి ఒక్కరు విధిగా ఒక మొక్కను నాటాలని కోరారు. సుమారు 1200 మొక్కలను పంపిణీ చేశామని తెలిపారు. బోకూరు పాఠశాలలో వనం-మనం అనే నినాదంలో విద్యార్థులు విన్యాసం చేసి చూపరులను ఆకట్టుకున్నారు.

సాక్షి

Sat, 14 September 2019

<https://epaper.sakshi.com/c/43562230>



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. This year's theme was "Indigenous peoples' migration and movement". The event began with distribution of saplings to Government Tribal Welfare Ashram Pathasala and the local community of Getu Valasa panchayat, Ananthagiri Mandal, Visakhapatnam. Students and community members took oath at Borra Caves to protect the indigenous community and took out a rally from Getu Valasa to Borra Caves.

Tribal Desk

Nimmalapadu – Cooperative Mining Issue

Katiki – Waterfall development committee

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

June 2019 - attended the Pre-Budget Consultation with Ministry of Finance chaired by Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

June 2019 - attended the Sustainable Energy & Environment Summit organized by ELDF along with Ashok Shrimali

September 2019 - Guest lecture in GITAM University Law School on Samata Judgment

October 2019 - river rejuvenation - Stakeholder consultation meeting at Gateway Hotel Vijayawada on Preparation of Detailed Project Report for rejuvenation of Godavari River & Krishna River through forestry interventions.

November 2019 - interaction with Andhra University Law College students on Samata Judgment and tribal rights

January 2020- attended the national seminar on tribal sub plan by government of Jharkhand

January 2020- Interaction with Students of Deepanam school Pondicherry on tribal issues

February 2020- Participated in the National action plan for business and human rights by CIVIdp and Oxfam in Bangalore

February 2020- Speaker at National seminar on eco-friendly technologies at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Visakhapatnam.

February 2020- Met Secretary of Ministry of tourism and gave representation on Borra Guides issue

March 2020- attended the Asia Pacific Mission on Debt and Development meeting of Indian partners at Kolkata