

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

SPANDHANA
Ramanagaram, Karanataka, India

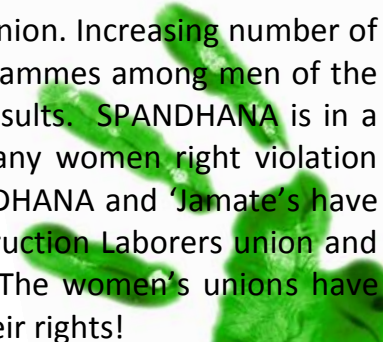


Few Words. . .

It is a remarkable year for SPANDHANA. We are completing a decade, with the completion of the year 2010. This year has witnessed many noteworthy changes and development that has happened within the organization and outside. We have extended our working area and our team. The extension of the work to new areas is not just a geographical crouching but moreover an ideological mission and to address a new set of problems. It was a year with both accomplishments and challenges. Focusing the ultimate objective of 'Gender equality and Social Justice'; SPANDHANA is active among women, Dalit and marginalized sector workers. To add on to the number of families with whom SPANDHANA has a close knit contact, more construction laborers and Beedi rollers have joined the movement.

The 'Right' based intervention among Women and Children have spread to new villages involving more number of families. New groups have been formed among women and children in these new areas. The 'Community development' activities have also spread to new working areas with fresh approaches; basic amenities being the main concern. After a yearlong of struggle, many major issues like public graveyard, public water tank and housing pattas for many homeless have been implemented. These issues stand as an inspiration to address the basic amenities as prime concern, through which we can organize mass at grass root level for a greater objective and better tomorrow.

The strategic programme, implemented with a dual approach to address the impact of fundamentalism on Muslim women and their labor rights is thriving with organizing more members to the union. Increasing number of active cadres in union is another promising factor. SPANDHANA is also organizing programmes among men of the community to involve them in gender sensitization process, which is yielding better results. SPANDHANA is in a constant negotiation with the religious courts of Muslim community 'Jamate' and many women right violation cases that came to the notice of 'Jamate' have been bought under the notice of SPANDHANA and 'Jamate's have also included the team of SPANDHANA in many major counseling and judgments. Construction Laborers union and mid-day meal workers unions have expanded with more members and programmes. The women's unions have painted the streets 'red' with their protests and processions several times demanding their rights!



We Planned!



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY	CHILD RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	UNIFICATION OF UNORGANISED SECTOR WOMEN WORKERS
<p><u>Objective : 1: Extending the work to Initiate a mass struggle towards Social change and Development.</u> <u>Extending works to 100 villages in 24 Gram Panchayaths.</u></p> <p>50 Groups formation among Families, women, children and youth in these 100 villages and strengthening the existing groups.</p> <p>Ensuring the women, youth and Children’s participation in Gramasabhas. And preparing them to raise questions and to participate in the debate with sufficient info and facts relating to the projects sanctioned to the village.</p> <p>Initiating the groups collectively to demand the government for basic facilities and essential project for a better living. Issuing applications to offices concerned regularly per month and arranging protest if applications fail to implement.</p>	<p><u>Objective: 1: Focused intervention on child right issues with special concentration on girl children and young girls.</u></p> <p>Intervention with children has been bifurcated into 3 categories on the basis of age group like 0-6, 6-14 and 14 to 18.</p> <p><u>Activities relating to 0-6 age-group</u></p> <p>Special attention to pregnant women mainly relating to their health, hygiene, quality of living. Sex discrimination this is in concern with female feticide incidents occurring in villages. Therefore this includes regular anganwadi visits, essential data maintenance relating to number of pregnant women, birth rate and child death rate and special focus on female child birthrate and female feticide.</p> <p>Awareness meetings for pregnant women and for anganawadi teachers about food and nutrition and also about the importance of female child birth. This will also include counseling and mental support for pregnant women who are facing domestic harassments.</p>	<p><u>Objective: 1: Increase 250 memberships in both Beedi rollers Union and Construction laborers Union</u></p> <p>Filed campaign in 20 Slums and 20 Villages in Ramanagara District to organize Beedi rollers and Construction workers in two years.</p> <p>Formation of groups at area level. Each area will consist of many workers in both arenas in respective working areas. A small group of workers will be formed at area level then they will be brought under district level unions.</p> <p><u>Objective:2: To pressurize government to implement women friendly legislation and policies and also to make effective the implemented policies at grass root level.</u></p> <p>Gathering the information regarding any available new policies or welfare programmes by the local enforcement machineries. And fighting for the effective implementation of the same. And campaigning for the protest.</p>



Dealing with Land Rights issues and fighting for the land less.

Addressing the caste issues and caste discriminations in different taluks focusing on that particular issues and incidents. And organizing protest or any other effective action as situation demands.

Objective : 2: Cadre and Capacity Building among youth and children with special focus to Girl children
Organizing 4 awareness programs on essential Laws and Right to Information Act. Per Year 4 cadre camps.

Awaking mass regarding the local and state budget, functions of the Local and State Bodies and Sensitizing on the importance government policies and pursuing the facilities.

Ensuring more Dalit, Muslim, youth and Women Participation in the programs. 3 women including at least two dalit, 1 youth and 1 dalit male from each village.

Workshops to the teachers, officers and other who works on the flip side. 4 workshops, 3 workshops in village level focusing one school as venue and 1 at Taluk level.

Sex and caste discrimination in Anganawadies, infrastructure and facilities in Anganawadies and extending the number of required anganawadis in a particular area and ensuring that all kids will attend without fail.

Activities relating to 6-14 age-group children

Working on the concept of 'Aata- Paata- Uta': This is trio concept to get more close to children and to deal with their problems. Under 'Aata' (**Right to Participation**): The programmes will b focused on the formation of children's collectives in schools during their game period and also in the working areas. Here skits, games, discussions and other curricular activities according to the 'children's module' prepared by SPANDHANA will be held.

'Paata (**Right to Education**)': is specifically focused on the educational aspect of the children. Under this, activists will have a direct contact with the school and also with teachers aiming at educational reforms, discrimination in the class on the basis of class, caste and gender. Infrastructure of the school including separate toilets for girl children, slope for handicapped children etc... will be addressed.

Workshops and meetings will be organized for teachers on educational reforms and common school systems.

4 protests at taluk level demanding the job security and equal wage implementation under NREG Scheme for women in construction workers union

Two Exposure Trips (As yearly once to 30 cadres)

Objective: 3: To improve the ideological perception and promote intellectual growth among workers:

Organizing 24 awareness programmes as monthly once on the basis of a systematically designed syllabus focusing on "Gender and Labor Rights" and 2 exposure trips to 15 selected cadres from each union.

Objective:4: Providing counseling and justice to the victims of right violation:

Conducting meeting with the local 'Jamate' representative.

Providing counseling, legal aid and follow up of the cases till they get justice

International women's day and May day celebration

Organizing 2 issue based protests. 1 at Taluk level focusing at least 500 participation and 1 at district level concentrating to organize at least 2000 members.

Choosing the cadres from the groups and intensive training and workshops to these people at the local and Taluk levels.

Distribution of books, reading materials and group discussions on Human Rights, Children's Right, and women rights etc... And on Post independent economic policies in the modern era. Including globalization, neo liberalism etc... making sure that cadres will read at least 1 book in a month.

Seminars and workshops on Historical significance of struggles in Karnataka, different ideologies like Marxism, Ambedkarism, Sufism, History of Caste, Class, Patriarchy, ideology of social transformation, Caste v/s class etc...

The conceptualization of the aims and objectives of the movement and orientation to strengthen the movements.

Uuta (Right to Food): This includes not only ensuring a healthy and sufficient food to the children but also emphasizes on the health related aspects of children. The discrimination under mid day meal project, supply of non-nutritious food, improper PDS system and improper maintenance of PHCs will be focused under this.

Demanding for new PHCs, ration shops, extension of BPL cards etc and ensuring proper maintenance and efficient running.

Activities relating to 14-18 age-group children

Formation of youth collectives under the banner of Yuvachavadis. Extending more and strengthening existing ones.

Organizing constant meetings with youth collective on several social issues that directly or indirectly impacts on their career, skill, development and survival.

Compulsory reading of a book in each Yuvachavadin in once in a week.

Organizing Debate and essay competition in colleges and high schools focusing on the relevant topic that demands the responses of youth. Also maintaining a constant touch with these participants.

Objective:5: Building 50 cadres in two years to take up the revolution ahead and to make the laborers union as a stabled and self-sustained movement.

4 cadre camps as 1 for each quarter. After the first year of campaigning and organizing the workers, the process will start to identify the leaders through awareness programmes and will train them as cadres.

3 protest 1 at taluk level and 1 at district level demanding welfare programmes for women laborers including financial aid during maternity support to unorganized sectors, education of children, welfare programs to girl children of unorganized workers.

Objective: 3: Addressing the crisis of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Facilities for community development.

1 Exposure trip to analyze and learn from the implementation of other organizations or movements in different field. And taking them to different protest and awareness seminars in different places.

Dealing with the cases of Right Violation sphere cases and providing justice to the victims

Dealing with the basic facilities and basic amenities like PHC, PDS, street Lights, drinking water etc.... and to organize people to force then for the effectual implementation.

Advocacy and Networking to increase strength of movement and to build a mass platform for collective struggle.

Networking with other organizations and movements in Channapattana. An effective advocacy with the media to publicize the cause and issues and the activities of SPANDHANA

Cultural approach through street playas and awareness songs. We each one will prepare 1 street play and 1 revolutionary song once in three months.

Objective:2:Community Participation In child right intervention and community development

Promoting a 'Go Green Revolution' by associating with the horticulture department and issuing one sampling to each house through Yuvachavadi members and also the members of Yuvachavadi will plant samplings in the public space with the permission of concerned authority. This programme will be scheduled once in a month.

Apart from ideological orientation workshop a skill building, personality development and also career guiding classes will be organized.

The youth collectives members will be taken to exposure to government offices and other informatory zones once in 3 months

Ensuring that Gramasabhas will be held according to the procedure and pressurizing these aspects in Gramasabhas to get it implemented. Increase the participation of women, youth and children in people.

Formation of women's collectives, Chaluvai Sanghas and family groups aiming at community development and child right interventions.

These collectives will pressurize the local



Initiating new girls' cultural troops in "Kamsaale" and "Tamate" (Folk arts) for 20 members.

4 Programme Review meetings + collective learning process activities for team members- on issues (human rights, Child rights, land rights, impact of LPG, minimum wages, right to health, right to employment, right to livelihood and on patriarchy and Capitalist Systems).


government and at higher level to implement the essential developmental projects to their community and village.

Holding friendly meetings among the communities, collective groups under different names on different durations. Like 'Attimatu' – a family group meeting in a particular area about the state and future of the children of their family and neighborhood. These meetings will be done only once in a month. 'Yuvachavadi' focuses on organizing youth collectives to hold discussions on the topic of child rights. Nentarakoota is a special forum for relatives of the family where they will gather as an occasion in once in 3 months and discuss more about their children's education and future in an amicable environment. Children take up initiative to invite them through letter and calls. Etc. . . 'Aptara Balaga' is a forum for other groups, movements, intellectual and progressive circle in a village to discuss about the child rights and a special focus on girl children.

Organizing a street play compulsorily in two months once in a village and giving away post cards to get their feedback through with building a network.

Yearly twice cultural workshop for the SPANDHANA kalatanda.

Training in Veeragaase and Kolaata which also includes script writing and directing.

<p><u>Objective :4: Networking with other organizations and movements in Channapattana.</u></p> <p>An effective advocacy with the media to publicize the cause and issues and the activities of SPANDHANA</p> <p>Increasing the Cultural approach and promoting cultural revolution and cultural changes.</p> <p>Cultural approach through street playas and awareness songs. We each one will prepare 1 street play and 1 revolutionary song once in three months.</p> <p>Initiating new girls’ cultural troops in “Kamsaale and “Tamate” (Folk arts) for 20 members.</p> <p>4 Programme Review meetings + collective learning process activities for team members- on issues (human rights, Child rights, land rights, impact of LPG, minimum wages, right to health, right to employment, right to livelihood and on patriarchy and Capitalist Systems).</p>	<p><u>Objective: 3: Capacity building for activists.</u></p> <p>Monthly once team build up and team strengthening activities to enhance the knowledge and information of the activists and for ideological strengthening. The issues of discussion will mainly focuses on Panchayath Raj, Child Rights and women rights, Political awareness and ideological discussions.</p> <p><u>Objective:4:Networking and advocacy and alliance with state level organizations</u></p> <p>Participating in issue based protests and supporting for their cause and be a part of it.</p> <p>Ensuring a strong support to implement policies and policy level works.</p> <p>Supporting Signature campaigns</p>	
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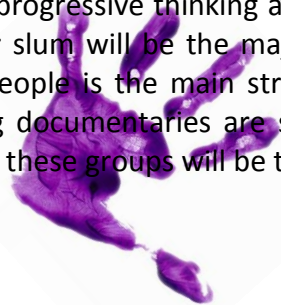
We Implemented!

I. Village campaigns and movement building activities:

SPANDHANA believes that the process of social change should occur from grass root level for it to be an eternal one. The efforts should extend to the interior and marginalized villages and areas in a particular taluk or district. With this background all the interventions of SPANDHANA are chiefly focused on those villages and slums which are generally neglected by other welfare programmes and developmental activities. There are many villages which are very nearer to city center but lack the attention from government developmental schemes and are victims of negligence. On the other hand the deep rooted patriarchal and feudal values which are reflected through many social taboos against women, Dalits and other marginalized communities are the other vital problems.

With this background the major efforts of SPANDHANA are focused in village and slum campaigns to organize the mass at grass-root level. The grass-root level campaigns are nothing but regular interaction with the target groups and organizing them in groups. This is aimed at organizing them in scientific and systematic way to bring all underneath one umbrella to address the civic and social problems of their villages.

At present our works have been implanted in 240 villages and 40 slums including the taluks, channapatta and Ramanagara in Ramanagar district. They include both old and recent working areas; however in 60 villages and 5 slums SPANDHANA has a stronghold with over a decade of bonding and strong communication. In all the villages SPANDHANA has formed groups among women, children, youth, families and unorganized sector workers. These groups work as fundamental tools in organizing mass towards progressive thinking and developmental activities. The community development and the basic amenities of that particular village or slum will be the major concern of SPANDHANA, while intruding any village for the first time. The formation of groups among people is the main strategy to organize them towards this cause. Interactions with regular visits, organizing street play, screening documentaries are some of the common initial strategy to organize people in groups. After the formation of groups, gradually these groups will be trained towards the ideological mission of SPANDHANA for an eternal change.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

We are looking for a person from our own community. Best wishes for your search. Over a decade's experience we have understood that people respond positively towards community development activities and SPANDHANA grabs this response of the community to instill social responsibility in each and every individual. With this goal we form groups at grass-root level and these groups will be given progressive insights through several workshops, seminars, exposures on the longer run. They will also be sensitized on 'Gender Equality'. We believe that social responsibility of any individual starts with feeling of developing their living conditions and basic amenities. Gradually, this feel will be transformed to a sustainable change through the intervention of SPANDHANA.

This year, the work of SPANDHANA towards 'community development and social justice' started with extending the programme to new villages. New 24 gram panchayath have been included to the list of working areas of SPANDHANA. The team of SPANDHANA also extended with new comrades to implement the work at new villages. The long term volunteers of SPANDHANA who associated with SPANDHANA as part-timers were being transformed as full-timers with more responsibilities. In all the 24 panchayats a base line survey has been conducted to know the socio-economic and cultural situation of the villages. The findings have brought out many alarming facts including strange cultural practices that are practiced in the villages.

The survey helped us to interact with each and every household in the village, through which we build a relationship for the further step, to form the groups. To grab the attention of people towards the issues that are addressed by SPANDHANA, we organized a series of street play in the village panchayats. People responded positively. In a period of six months we could build 13 women's groups, 6 children's groups and 12 Youth groups. The new Volunteers at the village who continuous attended many seminars and programmes of SPANDHANA took the initiative to form 5 women's groups in 1 Gram Panchayath. In the villages of Kannidoddi, Vaddaradoddi and Ele Totadahalli 3 emergency Gramasabhas were scheduled and held successfully. In the initial months it was difficult to gather people for Gramasabhas. Despite organizing emergency Gramasabhas none of the other members of the village took part other than the group members. However, after quite a number of village campaigns, many people participated in the regular gramasabha which occurred just after 3 months of the emergency Gramasabha. In the local panchayath election 3 members who are trained from SPANDHANA had contested and one among them has been successful in winning the seat.

The struggle to get housing Pattas for 23 families in Lambani Doddi is a remarkable campaign that took place in the year and the struggle is still on the process. The political change that has happened in the state has had a great adverse impact of the taluk. Unfortunately campaigns towards serious issues like these have been a victim of those political interventions. But backed by the people's support SPANDHANA is taking the issue ahead.

CHILD RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

SPANDHANA believes that the rights of children cannot be categorized under one broad section since children are also the victim of caste, class and gender injustice. In addition, all children are not equally. Therefore we categorized the intervention among children into 3 major aspects based on the age i.e 0-6, 6-14 and 14-18. Under the category of 0-6 the major focus is on pregnant women, mothers and new born children. SPANDHANA organized two campaigns in the villages of Channapattana against female feticide focusing this programme. In Banagalli a request to set up a primary health center has also been given collectively from villagers after a mass protest. Because of which the village has been sanctioned with one.

Under the category of 6 – 14, we focused more on the educational intervention and also focused on drop-out children. We launched a new programme in schools at villages and slums under the banner of 'Ata-Paata-Uta' (Eat-Study and Play). Under Ata the participatory rights of children was focused as a priority concern and children from different community were brought together and children were been taught about the social problems through several games and cultural activities. In total 34 new children's groups have been formed including all the 100 villages. Under the program of Paata we focused on the academic performance of students and organized academic programmes and alternative educations through tuitions and special classes to enhance the level of performance of weak students and specially students from Dalit communities and to give them more confidence to thrive in the academic subjects and gain self-motivation. Under the program of Uta we focused 'Mid –Day-meal' project specifically and through regular village campaign we ensured that our cadres are guaranteeing the quality and quantity of the food available for students. We also conducted several meetings with members of SDMC regarding the quality of mid-day meal program. Through our regular village campaigns we got know about several discriminative incidents that were taking place in a village called mogehalli and sogala, where Dalit children were treated separately while serving mid-day meal for children. SPANDHANA visited the spot witness the incident and we conducted a meeting with school authorities and brought to the notice of higher officials. Later the situation was changed. About 13 students who were drop-out at different classes also got re-enrolled to schools. Seven girls and three boys were enrolled to a hostel as their families were not in a position to extend the support to continue their education.

The major developmental work among children is community participation in the child rights and child related developmental programmes that were initiated and implemented by SPANDHANA. We ensured that in every group meetings, SDMC meetings and Gramasabhas the state of the school, needs of the children and other child rights issues were being discussed. The public responded in a very positive way which reflected in the proper implementation of the mid-day meal scheme, regularization in the attendance of children and community extended their strong and active support in planting samplings in the school campus and in the streets.

Under the category of 14-18 SPANDHANA focused on youth and formed 23 youth groups in a year in different villages of Ramanagara district. The youth groups are mainly focused to build cadres and addressing the local community development issues

and navigating them in a progressive direction. SPANDHANA addresses their unemployment issues thus more than 30 youth have been placed in various jobs. It is compulsory that in every group once in a month a book will be circulated among members to channelize their thoughts and develop their perception towards gender justice and developmental issues.

UNIFICATION OF UNORGANISED SECTOR WOMEN WORKERS:

Unification of unorganized workers prioritizing the rights of women workers is one of the successful and major interventions of SPANDHANA. This programme has involved the major efforts of SPANDHANA in the year 2010 with the extension of programme and work. SPANDHANA has strongly formed unions among beedi workers, construction workers, mid-day meal workers and agricultural laborers. Recently from the year 2008 SPANDHANA has also actively involved among beedi workers by forming a union among them. Unorganized sector laborers are the major marginalized communities who are under poverty line or living under lower middle class standard. The status of women sector among unorganized laborers is more awful being victimized by both capitalist and patriarchal systems. With this objective the intervention of SPANDHANA started among unorganized sectors to fight for labor justice and at the same time to fight for gender justice. With the gender perspective the work among beedi workers is also been emphasized as the issue is also concerning with the subjugation of women through religious fundamentalist values.

The work among unorganized sector laborers started with extending the membership in all the unions. The membership among construction workers rose from 250 to 390, in mid-day meal at present there are 500 members adding another 150 to the existing 350 and among Beedi workers there are 500 members with the new addition of 250 members. The village campaign of other programmes and focused intervention of staff members to organize workers at village level is yielding results in organizing more number of members to the unions. All the new members were being issued with identity cards. Existing members availed various facilities including loan to continue education and health insurance.

The union among construction workers is more of a mixed group of both male and female members; therefore SPANDHANA has a different approach; working for labor justice SPANDHANA is trying to instill the gender sensitivity among the male members of the union. With the regular village and slum campaigns and pocket wise meetings SPANDHANA is also organizing special programs like monthly awareness programs and documentary screenings towards this objective. The mid-day meal workers' union consists of only women members. Therefore, with the labor issues the focus of SPANDHANA is more on eradicating the caste and class discriminations among women. The women from Dalit background are given leaderships and gradually trying to bring about awareness among the women from different castes on the essentiality of eradication the discrimination and giving equal opportunity to all. The beedi workers union also consists of only women workers specifically Muslim women. Therefore with the labor rights SPANDHANA stressing on gender rights and fighting against the fundamentalist system which curbs the freedom of Muslim women and also subjugates her rights as women.

II. Awareness Programmes and Protests

Youth for change!

SPANDHANA conducted an awareness camp for youth in Hottiganahosahalli. The camp which was organized for three days starting from 10th January 2010 focused on three different themes each day. On first day the reason for forming a youth group was discussed. SPANDHANA team facilitated the discussion which is lead by Dhakshayini. The local problems, unemployment, lack of basic amenities in the villages were the issues which were discussed in relation with objective of forming the group. On the second day on 11th January 2010, the emergence of caste and religion in Indian soil was discussed. Last day of the camp on 12th 'Democracy and gender Justice' was the focus of discussion. On the second and third day social activist Padma Rangaswamy facilitated the process and addressed the youth on respective issues. The camp involved various activities and group games. The workshop yielded better results which created a platform for SPANDHANA to get closer to youth of Hottiganahosahalli and also it gave a plethora of trust to implement the further programmes of SPANDHANA in the village panchayath with the strong support of the youth of the village. They also took initiative in questioning the respective authorities to implement proper project to their village.

Training the Team, Building the cadres

On 24th and 25th of January a staff and cadre training program was organized along with an extensive review meeting. On the first day discussing about the planning, implementations and impact we also held a training session to enhance the understanding of staff and cadres from beedi roller's union on 'acid attack and victims of acid attacks'. To facilitate this session Ms. Sushama Varma from 'Campaign against Acid Attack on Women' was present and gave an elaborated speech on the issue. Many case studies were also been discussed and at the end of the session a documentary also was screened. The documentary 'Burnt, but not Defeated' opened up the awful life of an acid attack victim and their courage to win the situation through legal and social battle. It gave a new insight to staffs and cadres on 'Acid Attack' as a notorious crime and the burning motive of patriarchal values behind it. On the second da Mallige from 'Samanata Mahila Vedike' discussed about several phases of strategies of patriarchal society to confine women snatching all her freedom. She elaborated its history and how it has taken different shapes over the period.

Constitution Day!

January 26th is celebrated as Republic Day! It is the day when India adopted its constitution. However, unfortunately till date Indian constitution which says India is a social, secular, democratic republic has not become a reality. Several human right violation incidents on the basis of discrimination justify this statement. Therefore SPANDHANA celebrates January 26th as 'Constitution Day' to uphold the essence of constitution and demand government to implement the constitution through different welfare programs. With this background SPANDHANA organized 'Constitution Day' in Hottigana Hosahalli on 31 of January 2010. Mr. Somashekar from Bahujan Samajavadi Party addressed the gathering on the significance of a constitution in democratic country. He also explained about the contributions of Dr. B R Ambedkar towards the drafting of the constitution. Many awareness songs were sung by SPANDHANA cultural team during the occasion.

Children's Camp:

It was a cultural feast for children with an intellectual brainstorming. SPANDHANA organized two days of workshop for students from 20th Feb to 22nd Feb on the concept of equality in education. On the first day students were taken through many activities related to education in the first session and in the second session the concept of equality is being briefed through many activities. In the second day students came up with many cultural activities like fusion, dance-drama, theatre and poems related with the concept of equality in education. Students participated effectually throughout the process and marked an effective participation.

Teacher's Camp:

On the same concept of 'equality in education' a camp was organized for teachers. The treatment of the subject was different for this group. Ms. Prabha from All India People's Science Movement facilitated the program and she recalled the a past where education in India started on a platform of discrimination and the process it gradually changed as a public need and demand. She also elaborated the education in colonial era in India that has not changed much even in this era. Many activities were also organized for teachers to elaborate this concept. At the end of the program people gave a healthy feedback about the programme and SPANDHANA could also identify 5 cadres out of 30 members who participated.

Youth Camp:

On 20th and 21st June SPANDHANA organized a camp for fresh 'Revolutionary Groups'. Members of this groups are largely youth. The first day of the camp was focused on the structure and need of forming a group. And second day major burning issues of their villages were being discussed. In total 30 youth participated and Dr. Dwarkinath and Ms. N Prabha were the resources persons to facilitate two days camp.

Camp for women on Health:

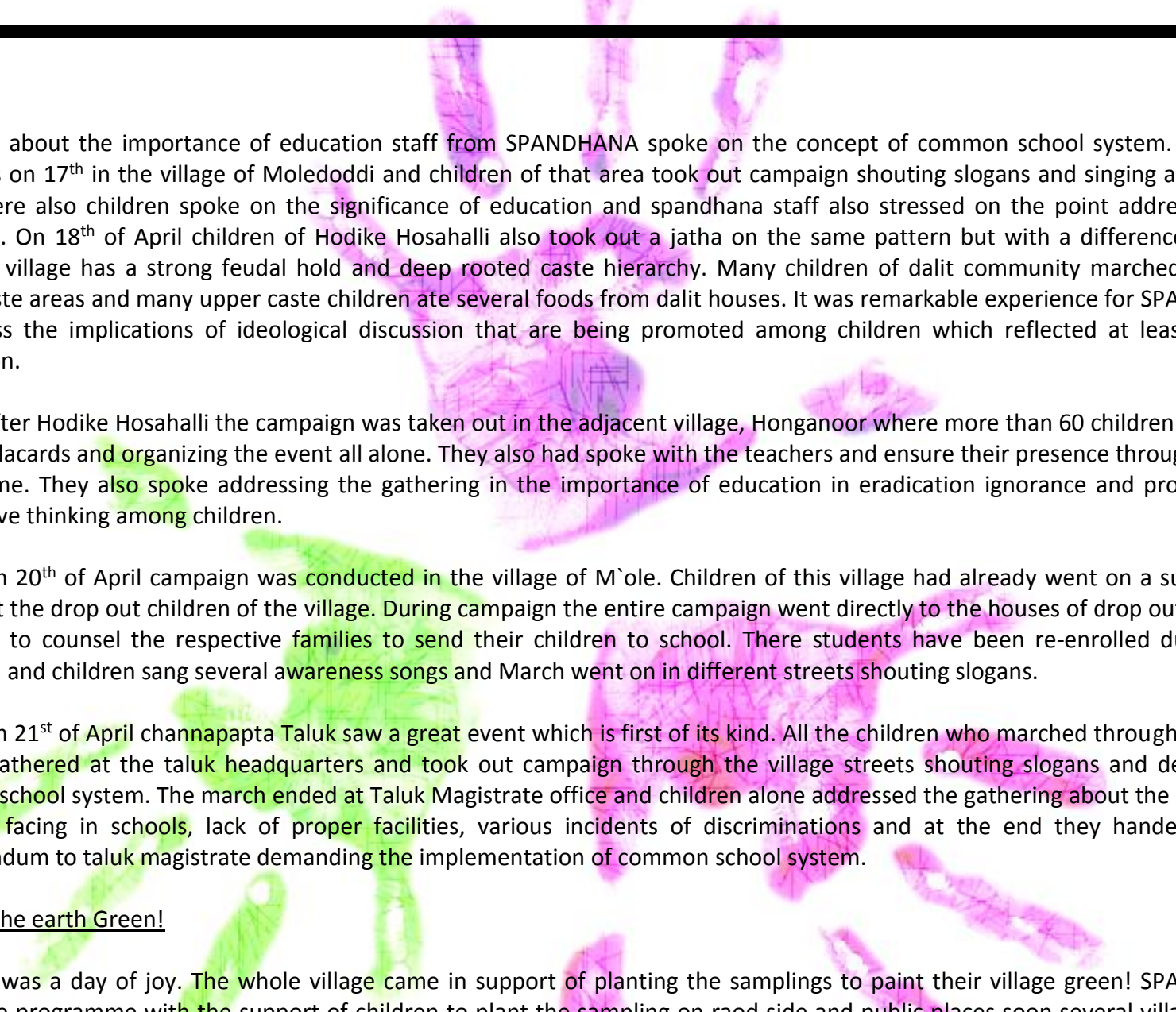
On 12th of July SPANDHANA organized a camp for the women in unorganized sectors about their Health. 70 women participated and took a pledge to fight against anemia. Mr. puttswamy of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha addressed women on 'Health and Unorganised Sector women'. Mrs. Malini addressed on 'The demands to government on Women's Health'. Women were also engaged in several activities.

Dr. Baba Saheeb Ambedkar Jayanthi:

July 14th is the birth date of great Icon of India Dr. B R Ambedkar. To spread his ideology of SPANDHANA organizes a program in every year. Therefore, on July 14th SPANDHANA organized a program under the banner 'Ambedkar and His Ideology. Around 80 members as representatives from different villages had gathered in SPANDHANA office and staff of SPANDHANA Ashwatha and cadre of Mid-day meal organization Ms. Nirmala addressed the gathering about the status of Dalit community in pre-independent era and contribution of Dr b R Ambedkar to uplift their status. Several awareness songs on the preaching of Ambedkar were sung during the occasion.

Children's Procession demanding Common School System and Reenrolling Campaign:

Children of Makkala Chavadi groups conducted a week long campaign in different villages with the help of SPANDHANA staff to build awareness among village and slum dwellers to enroll their children to school and pressurize government to implement common school system. The campaign started on 16th of April in Banagalli. Bhagat Singh children's group conducted took an initiation. Children marched in the main streets of the village holding placards and shouting slogans. After three students addressing the



gathering about the importance of education staff from SPANDHANA spoke on the concept of common school system. The next jatha was on 17th in the village of Moledoddi and children of that area took out campaign shouting slogans and singing awareness songs. Here also children spoke on the significance of education and spandhana staff also stressed on the point addressing the gathering. On 18th of April children of Hodike Hosahalli also took out a jatha on the same pattern but with a difference. Hodike Hosahalli village has a strong feudal hold and deep rooted caste hierarchy. Many children of dalit community marched through upper acste areas and many upper caste children ate several foods from dalit houses. It was remarkable experience for SPANDHANA to witness the implications of ideological discussion that are being promoted among children which reflected at least in new generation.

After Hodike Hosahalli the campaign was taken out in the adjacent village, Honganoor where more than 60 children gathered holding placards and organizing the event all alone. They also had spoke with the teachers and ensure their presence throughout the programme. They also spoke addressing the gathering in the importance of education in eradication ignorance and promoting a progressive thinking among children.

On 20th of April campaign was conducted in the village of M`ole. Children of this village had already went on a survey and found out the drop out children of the village. During campaign the entire campaign went directly to the houses of drop out children and tried to counsel the respective families to send their children to school. There students have been re-enrolled during this campaign and children sang several awareness songs and March went on in different streets shouting slogans.

On 21st of April channapapta Taluk saw a great event which is first of its kind. All the children who marched through different villages gathered at the taluk headquarters and took out campaign through the village streets shouting slogans and demanding common school system. The march ended at Taluk Magistrate office and children alone addressed the gathering about the problems they are facing in schools, lack of proper facilities, various incidents of discriminations and at the end they handed over a memorandum to taluk magistrate demanding the implementation of common school system.

Painting the earth Green!

It was a day of joy. The whole village came in support of planting the samplings to paint their village green! SPANDHANA stated the programme with the support of children to plant the sampling on raod side and public places soon several villages in all the taluk came in support and within a few hours the campaign reached the whole village. Banagalli, Honganoor and hodike Hosahalli villages are now blessed with 180 more trees in total.

Open meeting with Women on Panchayath raj!

In the village of Bevoor SPANDHANA organized an open discussion with women on Panchayath Raj and their rights in the panchayath proceedings. Nearly 50 women gathered and they discussed about the rights and responsibilities of women in navigating the functions of Panchayath raj in a proper direction. Ms. Malini Antharjanam elaborated about several developmental schemes available under Panchayath Raj Programme specially for women.

Workshop for unorganized Sector Laborers:

A workshop for all women members of unorganized sectors was organized on 4th of August. It was organized for an inter-communication of all the women members of unorganized sector union which are formed with the leadership of SPANDHANA. A day of workshop included the history of women struggle in the world and the need of addressing the issues of marginalized communities. Trade Union leader Ms. Shivamma addressed the participants in a very simple and precise language in an effective way. Many activities were also organized for women as part of the workshop.



Networking and Advocacy:

Networking and advocacy plays a chief role in strengthening the effort of movement at state, national and international level. Thus, we have good networking with organizations which shares same ideology and we will be a part of their programmes and activities to prop up their efforts and vice versa. . In this regard, we have networks at state, national and international level and more specific with the organizations working for women's rights. Here are some of the programmes and activities in which SPANDHANA had participated and marked the strong support and also have organized several programmes jointly.

Bharatiya Jnan Vijnan Samiti:

BGVS which is working to promote scientific temperament among masses is one of the network organizations of SPANDHANA and organized a programme to break blind thoughts among people in SPANDHANA office on 19 of February. The programme was organized to bring about a progressive perception among people against several blind thoughts. The programme also paved a way for SPANDHANA staff members to get a different perception in looking at things happening around them. Nearly 50 members from different unorganized sector unions gathered at SPANDHANA office during the occasion.

Workshop on the issue of 'Female Feticide'

Samatha organized a workshop on 'female feticide' in which different socio-economic and cultural issues that influence female feticide were discussed. The programme was conducted in SCM house of Banagalore and ten members from padnahna participated.

Women's Day Celebrations from Samanatha Mahila Vedike:

Samanatha Mahila Vedike, one of SPANDHANA's network organizations organized Women's day programme on the theme of 'Feticide and infanticide'. Many intellectuals and feminists had come to address the gathering on several social issues related with female feticide and infanticide. The cultural team of SPANDHANA staged a drama on the theme of female feticide.

Ambedkar jayathi:

On 25th of July Karnataka Janapara Vedike, organized Ambedkar jayathi in mandya and Ms. Dhakshayini one of the staff members of SPANDHANA had also been invited as resource person to address the gathering on the topic 'Ambedkar ideology and feminism'. She elaborated on the situation of women which is equitant to Dalit in India and also explained the essence of ambedkarism which always supported and upheld women's struggles against patriarchal values of the feudal society. As many as 200 members had gathered during the occasion and SPANDHANA team sung several awareness songs and revolutionary songs.

Children's Summer Camp:

30 children from SPANDHANA's children group participated in the children's summer camp programme organized by Kanataka Vidhyarthi Sanghatane, in Mandya. The summer camp mainly focused on cultural programmes like theater and folk dance which were based on the themes of sexual harassment at workplace, dowry harassment, farmer's suicide and discrimination in education. It gave a wide exposure to children according to their wavelength.

May Day!

A huge rally was organized by more than 8000 workers in Mandya district on 28th of May demanding equal wage and dignity of living. 500 members from Ramanagaram district under the leadership of SPANDHANA had participated in the programme. May Day focused on several issues, including unorganized sectors and national income, socio-economic problems of laborers, non implementation of equal wage system among women workers etc... On the same day all workers took a procession to a nearby beverage company which ill-treated its workers by not giving proper wages. The management agreed on the spot to clear all the demands of workers. Later within a week all the demands of workers were implemented.

Hunger Strike!

SPANDHANA in association with other comrades in Mandya organized an hunger strike protest to implement basic amenities among the people in slums. The houses which were ensured to be issued with pattas were being cheated by the government. After the continuous protest of about 1000 members' in front of District Commissioner's office the welfare programmes were implemented in a month's time.

Cultural Approach:

Women's Day Commemoration!



The first women's day in the world started on the streets with garment workers taking out a huge protest rally. Therefore in the commemoration of women's day SPANDHANA thought of a unique way to take the feminist ideology near to people, we implemented several pocket wise street plays which reflected several issues related with women rights and gender justice. The street play attracted several people and got a positive feedback from the spectators. People in a huge numbers gathered and admitted with the issues that were highlighted by SPANDHANA. The same drama, with the theme of 'Breaking the Barriers' was enacted on 10th of March in Kanakapura Taluk. Though the taluk was new to our team street play soon attracted the attention of many and we got a positive response till the end. Many people also personally greeted and ensured to be in touch for further implementation of the works towards the cause of gender justice in the taluk. The same drama was also enacted in Magadi Taluk. Several other social organizations which are working in this area also extended the support. The drama received several contradictory opinions here but the majority of them agreed with the realities that are happening in the society and also took a pledge to break the barriers of patriarchal system.

Cultural Workshop:

Cultural workshop was organized for SPANDHANA Kalatanda on Veeragase and Kolata. The 6 days programme focused on teaching the basic steps of both arts. First three days Mr. Ramesh who is a famous theatre personality thought the team about Kolata and the next third day team got a thorough training of folk artists who came from Janapada loka to teach them Veeragase. The team picked up the basic steps of both and tried to learn the advance levels on in the further workshop.

The team organized two different shows in Channapattana in various stage programmes. It is the first of its kind in Karnataka where an all women Veeragase team is coming into existence.

Bembala

SPANDHANA has a counseling center under the name of “Bembala” (The support), which is working for the reduction of violence against women through participatory approaches. Through Bembala we are directly involving to fetch justice for the victim. Since the strategy of counseling is working effectually, the members who contact SPANDHANA for the mental and moral support are increasing. Most of the cases are being resolved in the stage of counseling, thus it is avoiding going to go to police station.

Mode of Atrocities ↓ Months	Dowry		Rape Attempt	Rape	Cheating	Domestic Violence	Property Rights	Acid Attack	Caste Clashes	Harassment at workplace	Total in the Month
	D	H									
January					1	2					3
February		1	1			3					5
March		1				2					3
April						1	1		1		3
May				1	1	3					5
June						1					1
July		1				1			2		4
August		2				3				1	6
September		1				3					4
October						2			1		3
November						1					1
December		1	2								3
Total		7	3	1	2	22	1		4	1	41
Settlement of cases through counseling		3	1	0	2	13	1		2	0	22

Future Plans:

- Spreading the membership of unorganized sector laborers union
- Strengthening the existing cadres.
- Designing more creative, unique and progressive programmes
- Implementing Resource Mobilization strategies.
- Focusing on proper documentation and using for further researches.
- Carrying out research and finding better and effective solutions.

