

# Annual Report – 2008

(A comparative Report between Action Plan of 2008 and its Implementations)



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## **Introduction:**

As one more new year is dawning this is another turn for us to record our experiences and learning to keep a track on our strategies that we implemented in the past year towards achieving our objectives of “Gender equality, social justice and community development”.

This year provided us an exploring platform to devote our efforts to implement the programmes as according to our plan. Hence, we could meet the long term plans and also arrange the short term activities and also could alter our plan as and when situation demanded. In this process, social and ideological strengthening, taking up community development issues and organizing mass to achieve community development, cadre building, capacity building of the team, cultural approaches and union formations are the chief activities that were being focused by the team. Apart from these, the network and alliance building, advocacy and campaigning, documentation and publications, rallies and protests and such other activities are also taken as vital issues to focus effectively. Awareness building programmes, camps, workshops, symposiums, seminars and other collective programmes also being arranged in this year as part of our strategies to take the information to the grass routes of society. The village campaigns to form the cadre groups, formation of worker’s union among the construction laborers at district level and building of a state level all girls *Tamate* trop are some of the confronting and effective programmes that we organized in the year. We are also faced several hurdles while implementing our plans at the field and also could point out various lacunas in our implementations due to several reasons.

This record shows a comparative study between the Action Plan and our implementations and an elaborated report on the same. The comparison is a yardstick for us to measure the impacts with our plans and to see how far we have been succeeded in achieving the same and to analyze regarding the modifications in our strategies if required. Every year begets new experiences and new challenges for us which is making our plan much more effective.

## **Action Plan 2008**

The organizational work will always depends on the problems in the working areas and focusing issues. Hence, it is also essential to alter the plan according to the problem to implement the suitable strategy as circumstances arise. But, a well-prepared action plan for 2008 assisted us to structure our ideas and to meet those through proper and planned activities.

In this background our main objectives in the action plan of 2008 were,

### ➤ **Extending the work to initiate a mass struggle towards Social change and Development.**

- Extending the works to 100 villages in 24 Gram Panchayaths.
- 50 Groups formation among Families, women, children and youth in these 100 villages and strengthening the existing groups.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### ➤ **Cadre and Capacity Building**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

➤ **Addressing the crisis of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Facilities.**

- 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.**

- Strengthening the membership of the Bisiyyota federation, Beedi federation, and such other laborers movements initiated by SPANDHANA and managing a good rapport. We have taken a target of organizing 100

members Agarbhatti Federation, 100 to Beedi Federation, 100 to Yuvaspandhana as a movement.

- 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

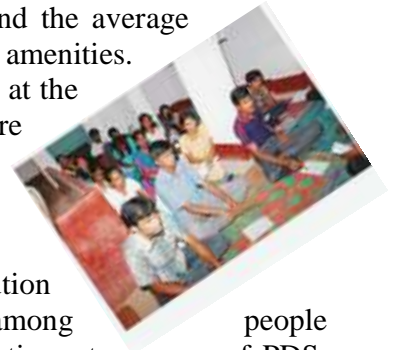
➤ **Increasing the Cultural approach and promoting cultural revolution and cultural changes**

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

### Implementations

#### **Village campaigns and Groups formations**

In the initial three days of the first quarter a detailed study was undertaken on the political, social and economic state of the villages. The study was a part of the campaign and specially focused on the major problems and social crisis of the people. Harookoppa, Nunnuru, Harokoppa Palya, Banagalli, Ambadalli, Madapura, Hucchayyanadowwi, Sogala, Vaddaradoddi, Sogala Palya, Kalikere, Kudlur, Santemogenahalli, mylanayakana Halli, Mylanayakana Hosahalli, Harooru, Hanumapura doddi, Bevooru these are the villages which were taken under the study and campaign. And the average result of the study shows, all villages are lacking proper basic amenities. The caste based discriminations, gender violence and corruption at the administrative level are and such other social problems are abundant in these villages. These initial campaigns also helped us to build new contacts and to strengthen the existing contacts with other local movements.



In the month of February since the Public Distribution System problem was prevailing we tried to create awareness among people regarding the different type of card system, legal and administrative set up of PDS, reasons for the recent government decisions to curtail the BPL cards and role of MNC's and huge industrialists in this Government's decision all these issues were incorporated as part of the campaign. To create awareness among people regarding the rally of "Samajika

Parivarthana Janandolana” and to ensure the participation of people in the mass rally a village to village campaign was organized.

In the month of March, The preparations for the International Women’s Day was the main event of our schedule. After the women’s Day a key contact with the participants also maintained to build an effective network with the people. As our effort in these 3 months we could form 1 women’s collective and 1 Yuvaspandhana.

On the basis of the Base Line survey and our customary observation on the villages, in the second quarter we divided the villages in to underdeveloped and most backward. The bifurcation is on the basis of the objective to implement the strategy of addressing the public grievances. Thus in this quarter we worked in these villages Mylanayakana Halli, Kannidoddi, Harooru, Sogala, Puttarasanahalli, Kenchayyana Doddi, Ambhada Halli, Vaddara Doddi, Torehosooru, Elachi Palya, Hodike Hosahalli, Sante Mogenahallidoddi, Dasegowdana Doddi, Channanke Gowdana doddi, Avverahalli, Honganoor, Akkuru Hosahalli, Paredodi, Mole Doddi, tagachagere, Dasegowdana Doddi, Nagawara, Minakere Doddi, Elehosahalli, Dashawara, Seege Guppe, Madapura, Chikkenehalli, H.Mogenahalli, Chekkere, Sadarahalli, Hottigana Hosahalli, BanaganaHalli, Kalikere.

The experience in villages and slums during the campaigns to mobilize mass for social change was a great learning process for us. During our campaign in these three months we organized several discussions, pocket wise meetings with the people in the community. With our intervention so far we could organize 1 woman collective in Moledoddi, 1 Chaluvalli Sangha in Vaddaradoddi and 7 Children’s collectives in Vadake Hosahalli, Sante Mogenahalli, Pouli Doddi, Hottigana Hosahalli, MoleDoddi, Mylanayakanahalli, Sogala respectively. They are gathering on weekly basis and discussing regarding their personal crisis and social issues.

In the third quarter, the campaigns focused mainly on five major aspects,

- The formation of Collectives
- The untouchability and other social discriminations against women and Dalits in villages.
- Campaign to organize construction workers to form a union.
- Campaign on Public Distribution system and Right to Education
- Campaigns, part of networking and advocacy

#### The formation of Collectives:

The formation of family groups and women, youth’s and children collectives are gradually taking shape in villages and slums. As according to our usual strategy while implementing collective groups the prime concern is given on the social awareness and ideological orientation. Consequently, it is a difficult task to make people understand about the importance of the collective groups in taking up social issues, especially in an era where all women’s and youth groups are being formed for small savings and for economic purposes.

### The untouchability and other social discriminations against women and Dalits in villages.

As part of campaign against social disparities against Dalits and women, we came-across with several incidents where Dalits are being treated untouchables in villages like kooranagere where Dalits are not allowed to enter temples, Harokoppa where double-tumbler system is still being practiced. We are visiting these villages on regular basis and holding discussions with the Dalit community members on dignity of life and human rights. Including the youth collectives of these villages we negotiated with the other caste members regarding the issue and it is still on process. Though there is a partial response from the Dalit member when we asked them to boycott drinking tea in upper caste's tea shops. Since Dalits are the main customers their business has come down partially and on process of this negotiations we are attempting to eradicate this problem gradually. Regarding the temple, we are progressively changing the mindset of the people regarding the role Brahminical strategies in exploiting Dravidians culturally.

### Campaign to organize construction workers to form a union

The labour department has introduced several benefits for construction workers under 'Welfare Fund for the development of construction workers'. But it has been utilized since a large number of workers are unaware about it. Thus to make them to avail these facilities and to create a platform to address their problem and to strategically plan the eradication of gender disparities in this arena we focused to build a union among construction laborers. Thus we campaigned in Govindahalli, kranagere, hanumapuradoddi, vaddaradoddi, masigoudanadoddi, mailanayakana halli, hottigana hosahalli, sante mogehalli, chekkere. The union has been registered under the name of "Ramanagara Jilla kattada Karmikara Sangha" and there are 158 memberships at present.



### Campaign on Public Distribution system and Right to Education

According to the recent PDS policy, the BJP led state government is canceling all BPL ration cards and the quantity of ration has also been reduced. Thus to campaign against the disruptive policies, we organized an awareness campaign in villages for nearly 4 days and staged a protest in front of Taluk Magistrate's office. The campaign was not only focused on to organize the mass for protest, but also we concentrated to illuminate them regarding the recent policies of the government which are always against to the interest of working class, Dalits and minorities.



The Right to Education campaign carried out from 10.08.2008 to 21.08.2008 in 12 villages of channapattana. The campaign focused mainly on the enrolment of students specially girl children to schools, common school system, value based education etc. . . . The campaign included mass announcement, pocket wise meetings and awareness jathas

by walk from villages to villages. We covered koodlur, hottigana hosahalli, sogala, moole, vadake hosahalli, harokoppa, sante mogenahalli, kaalikere, ambadalli, harisandra, kannidoddi, kenchayyanadoddi. The last day of the campaign we assembled in SPANDHANA office and discussed about the outcomes and planned about follow up of the campaign. In all villages the children took part effectively through out the jatha and supported the objective with active slogans and songs. The villagers, the school authorities, bureaucrats and others also participated and supported in the campaign effectively.

In the fourth quarter, meeting the aspiration of the people towards community development and children's campaign were given much prominence during the visit to villages. Thus we could implement several infrastructural developments like road, streetlight, drainage system and basic amenities like PDS, Graveyards and also banished several social taboos that were prevailing against Dalits.

The group formations among children gave us a new hope to form a tightened cadre group since children are more enthusiastic, supportive and active in our activities.

The experiences in villages and slums during the campaigns to mobilize mass for social change were a great learning process for us. During our campaign in these three months as usual approach we organized several discussions, pocket wise meeting with the people in the community. With our intervention so far we have organized 1 woman collective and 1 children collective in Moledoddi and 3 Children's collectives in Vadake Hosahalli, Sante Mogenahalli and Pouli Doddi respectively. They are gathering on weekly basis and discussing regarding their personal crisis and social issues.

### **Community Development Activities**

A strict documentation and follow-up is maintained on the villages of our contact the families whom we have contacted to strengthen them on process. During this quarter, it is in these villages SPANDHANA is focusing to implement the basic public essentialities including rural infrastructure, basic amenities of the people, making the government schemes and projects to reach needy etc. . . . So far several projects and schemes have been implemented because of our intervention. These are also inspiring for us to work with more enthusiasm taking the basic issues of people and these are becoming the rewards for our efforts.

**PDS System:** As a result of the recent irreverent amendment in the public distribution System, several BPL cards were cancelled through out the state. And in the taluk also this move of the government hit extensively in the Sogala Gram Panchayath, Koodlur Gram Panchayath and Neelasandra gram Panchayath. Thus a conflict created between the people and the PDS distributors and the distribution of ration stopped for nearly four months. After the intervention of the SPANDHANA, the Ration Shops reopened distributed proper ration to the public. But later we negotiated with people and dispatched an application requesting to cross-check the government survey and to provide the BPL cards to those who are deceived to access it in the Taluk. After a long process of protests and campaigns, the government agreed to do a joint survey regarding the BPL distribution. And at present 150 cards are distributed in Koodloor, 89 in Kaalikere, and we have also given a list of more than 5000, yet to be sanctioned. And Ration shops in

Koodloor, Kaalikere, Sogala, Moledoddi, Veerupakshi Puram, Harokoppa, Hottigana Hosahalli, Koranagere and in H. Koorangere. And in Koodloor it was made mandatory to distribute ration weekly four days and inform the people by public announcement (*Tamate*).

**Public Graveyard:** Hodike Hosalli comes under Honganoor Gram Panchayath. The total Population of the village is 243 and more than 60 people are from Dalit community in the village. The village is not having a graveyard. Thus the Okkaliga, Kuruba Communities in the village bury dead bodies in their own land. But Since Dalits in the villages are not having any land holdings; they have depended on the bank of a public tank for funerals. After the incident coming into our notice, we negotiated with the local Dalit community members and other progressive people in the village regarding an alternative. Thus we found out a plot of Government Land which is available in Village and is barren. Hence we requested for Public Graveyard. And after a long process of dialogue and joint work with the government, at present it has been granted and Vadake Hosalli has a public graveyard. After this, we also started to work in Moledoddi and requisition is on process to sanction the same.

**Basic Amenities:** In Kooranagere, there are no frequent buses, but there is an ample of members who are workers in garments and such other factories. Thus after forming a '*Chaluvali*' group in the village we sent a collective requisition on KSRTC officials and at present 4 buses have been provided to Koornagere. Drainage systems to Hodike Hosahalli, Hottigana Hosagalli have been repaired. Sreet lights to Veerupakshipura colony have been put up. 4 Ashraya houses to Harokoppa, 3 in Kaalikere have been implemented to Dalits.

**Social Taboos:** In Harokoppa village double tumbler system still exists. Thus recently we formed a '*Chaluvali Sangha*' in the village. At present the youth of the Harokoppa colony have come forwarded to instigate their people to boycott entry to upper caste tea shops and are planning to start their own. In Chekkere village there was no proper way for dalits to enter their colony since an upper caste person constructed toilet in the public mud road. They gathering the people we protested against that and at present it has been demolished and Dalits got their way.

**Anti-Liquor Struggle:** From several years in Poulidoddi village illicit liquor is being sold. Previously there were several arrack shops, but following to the state's order to stop all arrack shops it has been shifted to illegal distribution of illicit liquors from early morning and at late night. Several illegal distributors who are not availing the legal license are engaged in this illegitimate business. The local women and some progressive men of the village protested against it long back and also forwarded a complaint to excise department. But nothing has happened so far. Two deaths have been taken place so far. And it is regularly affecting the health, peace and financial growth of the families in village. At present with the support of the village women, a week before we have given again a complaint to excise department and also forwarded to higher authorities. The excise officials are on a regular beat, thus it has been controlled to an extent. But we are also skeptical about the bigger giants who playing behind screen in this illicit business. We are on process of finding it out.

Apart from these, we are expecting the results of several other issues where we have applied requisitions under Information Act and some letters have also been forwarded to respective authorities requesting to distribute government land to landless, Houses under Ashraya scheme, Pensions, BPL Ration Cards etc. . .

## **Awareness camps and Seminars**

### Awareness Programme on Panchayath Raj System:

A programme was being organized to sensitize Panchayath representatives and Villagers regarding Panchayath Raj system and the role of representatives and people in making the administration effective. The workshop was organised on 27<sup>th</sup> of January in Kannidoddi Village. Ms. Prabha from Bharathiya Jnan Vignana Sabha addressed the mass being resource person in the programme. Explaining the importance of the gram Panchayath she elaborated the role of SDMC, Gramasabhas, village Health and Sanitary comities, 53<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Etc. . . . Focusing on the topic she said, “The main motive of Panchayath raj is to giving power to the real people. Thus it’s our onus to make utilize of the power in proper way. Though the Dalit and women are getting power they are just becoming backseat drivers the upper castes and men are enjoying the power in reality. Thus they should be empowered enough to ask their rights and should take an initiative to work for people” She also narrated the role and equal responsibility of the people in guiding the Panchayath and Ensuring better service from it. Ms. Lakshamma the Panchayath President and Mr. Eshwaraiah, the president SDMC, were also present on the occasion. Nearly 300 people participated in the Programme.



### Workshop on Public Distribution System:

In the months of January, February and March the government started to cut off the BPL card. So to awake the mass regarding the strategies of the government and to instigate them to protest against this injustice we organized a workshop on February 2, at SPANDHANA office. Dr. Vasu from Karnataka Janapara Vedike was being invited as the resource Person. Explaining the structure of PDS and rights and responsibilities of the people he elaborated the strategies of the government in curtailing the BPL cards and providing all facilities to the MNC’s and Huge industrials of the state. Including the youth, women and members of collective groups nearly 50 persons participated in the workshop. As a follow up to the workshop SPANDHANA also initiated small protest against this process in two villages.



### Cultural Workshop:

SPANDHANA and Samanata Mahila Vedike activists jointly organized a cultural workshop from February 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. The workshop focused mainly to create a state level all women cultural troop. The workshop included the training of two dramas and learning essential contents of the theatre and its concepts. After the workshop a 13

member's full fledged cultural troop came into being in the name of *Manavi Kalatanda*. And at present it is showcasing two dramas one is "*Badukinamruta Kanda Akkana Kathe*" and another "*Charitre Vartamanakke Tirugidaaga*". Both of the dramas throws light on the several social crisis of women including domestic violence, Rape, dowry Harrassment, impact of Religion, cast and traditions on womanhood etc... Mr. Santhosh Guttiyangadi was the director of both the plays and resource person in the workshop. At present Manavi Kalatanda has given more than 5 shows in different parts of Karnataka.

#### International Women's DaY:



On the occasion March 10<sup>th</sup> International women's Day SPANDHANA as like every year, this year also organized a mass programme to mark international women's Day. Over 800 people participated in the programme. The programme was divided into a mass rally and Stage programme, but lack of time rally could not be organized. Ms. Ningamma inaugurated the programme by singing a *Ragi Pada* and *Manteswamy Pada*. Ms. Ishrath Nissar released a small souvenir, which has been printed to commemorate the memory and to explain our experiences to mass, since SPANDHANA completed 5 years in channapattana Taluk. Ms. Muttamma from Adivasi Horata Samiti, Mr. Manasiah from Karnataka Raitha Sangha, Ms. Malini Antharjanam from SPANDHANA and Ms. Ningamma were present on stage. Ms.



Muttamma adressed the mass focusing on "Working women and History of Women's Movement", Mr. Manasiah, elaborated on "State of Women in the Era of Globalisation and Future of People's movement", Mrs. Ishrath Nissar spoke on "Women and Religion". Mrs. Malini Antharjanam Presided the programme. After the stage programme, Ms Roshna and Mr. Vinod from Kerala presented an 'Ardhanareeshwara Nruthya' symbolizing of role of husband and wife in a family and role of man and women in society. A Drama and Geetaroopaka from Manavi Kalatanda was also being organized. Members from Adivasi Horata Samiti sang a revolutionary song.



#### Dr. Ambedkar Jayanthi:

To mark the 117<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Dr. Ambedkar and to awake the mass regarding his struggle towards freedom, equality, justice we organized a small programme on 15<sup>th</sup> of April in Vaddaradoddi. Mr. Jagannath, an Advocate from Karnataka Janapara Vedike came as a resource Person and he elaborated the struggles and the deed of Dr. Ambedkar in providing freedom and equality to Dalit, Marginalized and Downtrodden section of our society. He also explained the role of Ambedkar in Freedom struggle and drafting our constitution which is strengthened the concept of horizontal structure of society against Manu's vertical structure of society. Nearly 100 people participated in the programme.

### Exposure Trip to Kerala:

From 17<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> April an exposure has been organized to our team to visit Trivandrum and Kottayam District in Kerala to study about People's Movements and Organisation which are working for Gender equality. The objective of exposure was also to take part in a folk festival called "Thayambaka". Thayambaka is basically a Dalit folk art form which is observed by Dalits and also by performed Dalits as a symbol to take revenge from Brahmins of Kerala. The term Thayambhaka came to existence from "Tambhurakanmarodulla Pakha" in Malayalam. Which means "The revenge for Bhrahmins" 'Thamburaan' I the term which was used by other castes while addressing a Bhrahmin, which means God. So this s cultural approach and an art form of taking revenge against their exploitation.



Apart from this, we also had been to The Fisher folk community and disused about their problems and movements and Visited a school run by this movement, with a unique curriculum. The visit to "Sakhi Resource Center" in Trivandrum is also most informative, since we could interact with Ms. Eliaya Vijayan and other 'Sakhi Team' regarding the current state of women in Kerala specially the state of Dalit women. We could also learn the technical aspect in running an organization. The experience with the Local Kutumbashree units illuminated us regarding the strength of the local groups lead by women.



On the process of our study tour, we could also enjoy in the Kovalam Beach, Shanku Mukham beach in Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, Art galleries, Botanical gardens, Old Palaces etc. . . .

### Cadre Camp:

On 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, we organized a cadre camp in SPANDHANA office as a further step to the previous cadre camp of March. Since we focused on Pre Independence Era and Indian Freedom Movement in last cadre camp, this time we chose to focus on individual personalities and their contribution which will inspire us to release our role in current slate it with current state and to tackle the present problems.



Thus, we took a topic of "Bhagath Singh- Struggle for Independence and His Revolution". The session was taken by Com. Yashwanth, The state Committee member of Student Federation of India. Focusing on the subject, Mr. Yashwanth elaborated the role of Bhagath Singh in National Freedom movement being a student and Youth. Giving a brief introduction to his early life, he explained Bhagath's ideological views and long term perception on India's social, economic and Political state. Yashwanth also relted the then situation with the current crisis and urged the participants, That there is a immediate need of several such personalitie sin current state where the survival of Dalits, farmers,

women, students, youth and all other marginalized sections is under threat. Mr. Prasad the district secretary of Bangalore has also participated in the camp.

After the discussion the movie, “The Legend of Bhagath Singh” directed by Rajkumar Santhosi and casted by Ajaya Devgan and Amrith Rao is also being screened. After the screening there was space for discussion and youth posed several questions including the role of Gandhi in the death of Bhagath Singh, The reason to accept atheism, Bhagth Sigh’s struggles for Dalits etc... Totally 25 cadres participated in the camp.

### Halli Haikala Habba:



14<sup>th</sup> of June is the Birthday of revolutionary Icon, Che Guevara. But the sad part is in Indian soil ‘Che’ is still a model only for selected mass. So this was our minor attempt to introduce ‘Che’ and his deeds to our people in village and to inspire and strengthen their struggle. Thus as a strategy we culminated Che’s Birthday with a festival of a local deity ‘Chellamma’ in the village. ‘Chellamma’ the local deity of

Hottigana Hosahalli villagers is mainly a goddess of folk. Dalits are the chief followers of this goddess. And from several years the Dalit colony is being discriminated in the village for public festivals and any festive processions will not touch the Dalit colony. So Dalits will come to the upper caste areas to worship the god / goddess and to take part in the procession.



Thus we thought, to bring a change in the system; and the procession of “Chellama Devi Utsava” was brought in the main streets of colony first and then to the upper caste streets. Though we did not get much support from upper caste people some of progressive hands joined with us. And after the procession, all gathered in front of the temple, and we organized a huge discussion to share information regarding Che. Dr. Janardhan from Indian Youth Movement, Mr. Naganna from Karnataka Janapara Vedike came as resource personas and shared their information on Che and his contributions. They related it with current situation and awakened the mass regarding the urgency of a mass struggle, elaborating the present crisis.



During the programme, the local representatives of gram Panchayath took an oath in front of Goddess Chellamma that “they will work and dedicate themselves for the development of their village” and The people took an oath saying, “if the local government, state government or any other enforcement machinery fails to meet the aspiration of the village for its development, they will react to the situation and always will be ready to take up the struggle”. They also took an oath saying, “They will fight against castism and Gender Equality”.



Ms. Thayamma, Mr. Govinda Raju, The members of Gram Panchayath and Bevoor Ramaiah, the local folk artist, were also present on the occasion. Nearly 200 members participated in the programme.

**Seminar for Construction Workers:**

After the unification of construction workers a general meeting and seminar was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> of July in New Millennium School hall, to illuminate workers regarding the importance of unions, the facilities provided by the government, structure of the union, rules and regulations of the union. Mrs. Meena Patel, the District Labour Commissioner, Mr. Kiran, Taluk Labor Inspector and Mr. Jagannath, Advocate from Karnataka Janapara Vedike were invited to address the workers on different topic. Mrs. Meena Patel briefed about the facilities and benefits from labor Department to construction workers and Mr., Jagannath explained the importance of Union, its structure and mode of functions. Early 60 workers participated in the seminar and shared their experiences and views.



**Workshop for Construction Workers:**

After the primary meeting to understand the need, importance and structure of Union a workshop has been organized under the guidance of Mr. Vasu from Karnataka Rajya Janapara Vedike. He explained the essentiality of workers unification and impioratnce to unite to achive the goal of equalwage and equal society. Mr. Jagannath, Advocate was also present on the occasion.



**Poets' Meet in remembrance of Mr. A.T. Babu:**



In remembrance of Mr. A.T Babu who was a great humanist and anti-arrack activist we organized a Poet's meet to commemorate his activism in spreading humanity. Thus, on 25<sup>th</sup> of July several young poets, intellectuals and writers gathered in SPANDHANA office and read out numerous poems and write ups regarding the contribution of Mr. Babu and discussed regarding strengthening movement and demanded a CBI investigation of the case and immediate

arrest of the accused.

**Workshop on emergence of class society to current:**

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July an elaborated intensive cadre camp was organized to SPANDHANA team and Dr.Vasu from Karnataka Janapara Vedike took the sessions. He chronologically defined the emergence of cast, class and gender and he defined how Indian society transformed from a class-less society to caste and class-based society. Later elaborating the situation of India in pre and post independence era, he defined the contribution, role and ideological perception of several freedom fighters and movement

builders whose ideology has become the objectives for several movements today. He also defined the emergence of religion in India and the heat of communalism. Mrs. Mallige from samanatha mahila vedike explained the emergence of gender inequalities in detail.

Several activities and group discussion through out the workshop assisted the participants to understand the intellectual issues in an easier way and made the workshop livelier. There were totally 20 members including spnahnada, samanatha mahila vedike, Karnataka janapara vedike and some selected cadres from our working areas.

#### Discussion on the emergence of revolution against class caste and gender inequalities:

On 14<sup>th</sup> of august Mr. Rajgopal, the state leader of BSP addressed our team regarding “the emergence of revolution against class caste and gender inequalities”. He elaborated the history and how the horizontal society became a vertical one and the invasion of Aaryan culture on Dravidian civilization. And On 28<sup>th</sup> July, Mr. Rajgopal took another session where he analyzed the present social, economic, cultural and political crisis of the country and role of people’s movement in achieving an equal and just society. He also explained about the several Political parties that are active in current politics and their ideological perceptions, objectives and so far contributions of all these to Indian politics and to the life of the people.



After the programme the space for Q&A helped the team to clarify several queries pertaining to politics of the country.

As a continuation to the earlier workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> august, we organized another workshop inviting Dr. Vasu from Karnataka Janapara Vedike. He explained the stages of changes took in the class hierarchy from feudalism to current prevailing imperialism. He described the features and process of feudalism, capitalism, imperialism and its impacts. The workshop gave a wide perception to the participants regarding the economic and social setup of the country. After the workshop the responsibilities and role of the mass movements were also discussed.

#### Workshop for budding activists:



On 21<sup>st</sup> august a one day workshop was organized for members of children collectives. Selected children were selected from across all the collectives from Sante Mogenahalli, Moledoddi, Kenchayyanadoddi, Hodike Hosahalli and Hottigana Hosahalli. In one day workshop, several social problems and child rights were being discussed through creative activities and games. Thus children understood their role and rights in society through simplified forms. Children got involved and enjoyed the the stories of Bhudda, paintings on gender inequality and environmental pollution, Playing Tamate, singing awarness and revolutionary songs and such other activities. Nearly 50 children participated in the workshop.

### Protest against policy to curb Public Distribution System:

SPANDHANA has already initiated a strong campaign against state's anti-people policies of government to curb PDS system. As a follow up to our earlier efforts this time also we planned a systematic campaign in villages and slums regarding the stand of government and importance of people to rebel against such policies. After a week's campaign on 20.09.2008 we organized a mass rally through main streets of channappattana and assembled in front of Taluk Magistrate demanding to provide the BPL cards, to increase the quantity of food grains and to take out the anti-people policies from Public Distribution system. Nearly 500 women and men gathered from across 15 villages. Ms. Pushpa from Bangalore and Ms. Mallige from Samanath Mahila Vedike addressed the people. And several women shared their problems and day to day experiences they are combating with local PDS.



After the protest, the Taluk Magistrate Mr. Raghavendra has assured to implement the demands within his limits and recommend for the rest to the state government. Also he asked SPANDHANA team to take part in the survey to identify more BPL families to provide BPL cards to the needy.



### Workshop on Value-based Education and responsibility of Teachers:

As part of the campaign on Right to Education, on 27<sup>th</sup> September a one day workshop was being organized for teachers and B.Ed students. Mr. Banjegere Jayaprakash had been invited as speaker and he elaborated the true meaning of education, which changes values of the children from conservative level to broad and intellectual level. Thus he stressed the role of teachers is important in creating such citizens and for that first teachers should be aware about what is happening outside academics. Mr. Gopalkrishna from Block Resource Center was also present on the occasion. Nearly 20 members participated in the workshop.

### “Phasalu Tegeyona, Kanasu Kattona”:

Since there was huge caste discrimination in Hodike Hosahalli village to Dalits, we planned to organize a cultural rally in the main streets of the village with the support of the local Dalit colony residents. Thus we a cultural rally and seminar under the banner of *Phasalu Tegeyona, Kanasu Kattona* was being organized on 9<sup>th</sup> of November in Hodike Hosahalli Village. The rally which carried all traditional items headed by the Tamate beats of Manavi Kalatanda. After the rally and offerings to the local deity Mallei Mahadeshvara, a seminar was organized in which Dr. Rajgopal, The Dalit Activist and local influential personalities Chikka chennayya, Neelisidddyya and Gram Panchayath Mmember Kempajamma addressed the audience.

## **Advocacy and Networking. . .**

As part of our networking with other organizations and people's movements, SPANDHANA participated in several programmes and marked our support to various protests organized by Karnataka Komu Souhardha Vedike, Karnataka Janapara Vedike, NAFREY, Karnataka Forum for Dignity, Samanata Mahila Vedike Etc. . .

### Samajika Parivarthana Janandolana:

As part of the protest organized by our state level network Samajika Parivarthana Janandolana, SPANDHANA mobilized people creating awareness among people regarding the necessity of the protest. Thus we discussed about the current situation of Dalit, women, children and present political crisis and essentiality of alternate politics. Thus On 8<sup>th</sup> our representatives more than 50 members participated in the Mass protest in Bangalore and on 9<sup>th</sup> in Kolar.



### Mandya Slum Janara Okkuta:

We had an effectual networking process with our other organizations and movements in these 3 months. On April 5th of May our team participated in the long march and a people's Meet organized by the Slum Nivasigala Okkuta and Karnataka Janapara vediek, to create a platform to question the election Candidates regarding their manifesto and their role after winning in elections. From 11 to 13 of June representatives from SPANDHANA had participated in the Annual meet of CRY- Child Rights and You partners from southern India. On 21 of June SPANDHANA had been invited by the organization Vimochana to take part in its launching of new plan to implement and "women's Court" in Villages. On 28th two mwmbers from our team participated in skill building workshop in Bangalore organized by SAMANATAH Mahila Vedike comrades. On 30th of June a representative from our team participated in the Fact Finding of Farmer's Suicide in Hassan district. Following to this fact finding Karnataka Janapara Vedike is publishing a report regarding the causes of farmers' suicide which has been taken place in last one month. All these participation gave a different experience with lot of inputs.



### Vimochana- Public hearing.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> SPANDHANA team participated in the public hearing organized by Vimochana in Mandya. Intellectuals and activists like H.L. Keshava Murthy, Sunanda Jayarama and Dr. Vasu addressed the mass and more than 300 people participated representing different districts.

#### Karnataka Janapara Vedike:

On 8<sup>th</sup> of November SPANDHANA team participated in the seminar organized by Karnataka Janapara Vedike against 'Operation Kamala' in Mandya. Representatives from different organizations and movements gathered in the programme.

### **Cultural Workshop:**

SPANDHANA and Samanata Mahila Vedike activists jointly organized a cultural workshop from February 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. The workshop focused mainly to create a state level all women cultural troop. The workshop included the training of two dramas and learning essential contents of the theatre and its concepts. After the workshop a 13 member's full fledged cultural troop came into being in the name of *Manavi Kalatanda*. And at present it is showcasing two dramas one is "*Badukinamruta Kanda Akkana Katha*" and another "*Charitre Vartamanakke Tirugidaaga*". Both of the dramas throws light on the several social crisis of women including domestic violence, Rape, dowry Harrassment, impact of Religion, cast and traditions on womanhood etc... Mr. Santhosh Guttiyangadi was the director of both the plays and resource person in the workshop. At present Manavi Kalatanda has given more than 5 shows in different parts of Karnataka.

SPANDHANA also formed all girls Tamate troop jointly with Samanata Mahila Vedike as another cultural item of Manavi Kalatamda. A full-fledged Tamate troop has already given 3 shows through out the state.

Recently SPANDHANA directed and played another drama on "public distribution system as '*Ration Ragale*' in several parts of the district and attracted a huge number of audiences.

### **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.

Below is the table which shows the number of cases dealt and settled.

Mode of Atrocities →	Dowry		Rape Attempt	Cheating	Domestic Violence	Property Rights	Acid Attack	Caste Clashes	Settlement of cases through counseling
	D	H							
January		5	--	--	--	1	--	--	4
February		1			1	1			1
March		1	--	--	--	--	--	--	
April	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
May		5	1		2				5(Rest on process)
June		2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
July				1					
August					1	2			1
September		1	1		2	1			2
October		1	1(Rape)	1	1				
November			1		2				
December									
Total		16	4	2	10	5	--	--	9

## Future Plans:

- Strengthening the collectives ideologically with a special focus on children's collective.
- Strengthening the union of Construction workers and forming a students Union
- Strengthening the cadre building and orienting mass towards political change in state.
- Introducing income generative programme to balance between the social struggle and economic empowerment.