

SANGLI DISTRICT RALLY FOR AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The team of lawyers under the leadership of Advocate Asim Sarode left from Pune on 4th of June with an objective of spreading awareness of human rights and social justice to the far off villages in Maharashtra. Mr. Sarode addressed the various socio- legal problems of the villagers, in this trip.

Village: Tung

Date: 05.06.2012

Venue: Vithalainagar

Meeting with: Dam Affected People

Issues:

Many people from this village are victims of irregularities on the part of public officials at the implementation of the rehabilitation plan. These people were moved from their land by government in pursuance of Chandoli dam project.

In the exchange for taking away their fertile land the government rehabilitated them by giving barren land. In some cases no compensation amount has been paid to them.

Some people are facing injustice from the last 36 years. They have been living on a very meager earning and hence their standard of living deteriorated as compared to prior this acquisition.

There was no survey done by Government Departments before the acquisition. There were no awareness programs for in the villagers. The participation of villagers, consultation with them while drawing the rehabilitation plan was not there. The affected people have organized dharnas, Morcha's to protest against such illegal acquisition

Compensation given to dam affected people was based on strategy of Joint families not based on nuclear family and hence it was not a adequate amount.

Probable Solutions:

Adv. Asim Sarode suggested that Morcha and Dharna can become significant only effective measures are taken.

He suggested them to use the Right to Information to get details from the Office of Land Record to which they will have to answer the queries.

Based on the details obtained under the RTI a case can be filed in the High Court.

He also said moral sentence that “A person must not be stick on idols of great people but a human to attach with ethics and principles followed by those idols.”

Village: Ashta

Date: 05.06.2012

Venue: Arts and Commerce College

Meeting with: Students appearing for Competitive exams like MPSC and UPSC

The second program was held at Arts and Commerce College with MPSC and UPSC appearing students.

Points of Discussion:

Adv. Asim Sarode talked of the importance of United Nations and its various convention vis a vis its application in India. He further talked about Refugee law and how this law has recognized human rights at a larger level. He also told the concept of “Push off” concept of Pakistan i.e deliberately sending a person to another country’s border.

He told that there must be a concept of Global citizen i.e. persons must be human beings firstly rather than from which country, caste, etc. the person belongs. He also told about the significance of recent drama by the name “Shivaji Underground Bhimnagar Mohalla” which depicts that the message of the King Shivaji is more important to follow as a principle as compared to how names of Shivaji and Ambedkar is being used for political mileage and selfish motives. Political persons use poor people as a weapon – this attitude is against democracy and it is equally dangerous as it is the starting point of initiating violence in the society.

He mentioned that we always find the administration of the foreign contrived quite fascinating. We follow the rules that they laid down without complaining but the

same attitude is not seen in following civic rights in India. Positive change in our attitudes is required to make this a better place to live.

Human Rights must be carried in our own personal life i.e. one must choose his or her own life partner on their own and there must be no restriction on Inter-caste marriage. Human rights must be carried out by respecting the law. Any kind of discrimination especially gender based discrimination will stop the progress of the society.

He also suggested that dual role in personal life will jeopardizes one's progress. Transparency in all public and private work at personal level will help to stop corruption.

There is lack of training of stakeholders in India about how to effectively implement social legislation. There are more people who do not abide by the law and this picture has to change.

Adv. Asim Sarode also stimulated students to use their knowledge to help poor people seeking justice.

Human Rights area is very wide and there must be in-built rational thinking of person who are exercising human rights.

Lastly he told that "the best practice of human rights is that it must be engraved in personal life".

Village: Brahmnal

Date: 05.06.2012

Meeting with: Farmers

Issues Discussed:

The villagers are victims of flood and electricity power cuts. Some of the Flood problems are some rectified by govt.

There are no welfare schemes or policies that are effectively implemented for the farmers.

Probable Solutions:

Adv. Amit Shinde said that farmers must not be afraid of courts but they must file cases court for justice. Affected families got land that was affected by flood. But the families who were on the lower rung of the economic ladder got only half of the land that they lost in the flood. Discrimination based on economic status was quiet evident.

Human rights violation about distribution of resources is also based on economic status. The area where maximum people are below poverty line do have access to resources like road, electricity and water. The poor farmers are the worst affected because of this disparity. The team of Sahyog suggested that the poor and small holding farmers need to come together and fight on common issues issues to seek justice. Collective efforts will help in the fight for justice.

None of the women from this village attended the meeting. Adv. Asim Sarode criticized about the absence of women in the meeting. He said that there must be change in attitude in every manner so as to increase the participation of women. The gender discrimination and division of labour was clearly demarcated and this was pointed out as the weakness of the village as one community.

The condition of litigants in courts is very bad and so the vulnerable class shies away from accessing the corridors of justice. But there must be change in circumstances otherwise it amounts to human rights violation. Social justice can only be achieved if there is awareness of rights and duties in the society. The people whose rights are violated must come forward to fight against injustices and the others must support such a person who has took up the challenge to seek justice.

He explained to the villages the techniques to use Right to Information as a tool. It must come naturally to every person to ask questions to maintain transparency in Panchayat. Participation of all will lead to better governance. If there is accountability and transparency in the affairs of the Panchayat there will be development in the village.

He also mentioned the importance of democracy and how it can be achieved. It can only be achieved by change of attitude, balancing of rights and duties of the people,

empowering women, participation of every member of society in decision-making, and securing dignity of the people.

Village: Islampur

Date: 05.06.2012

Meeting with: Pradhi Community (Nomadic Tribe)

The community is facing large social discrimination because they belong to Nomadic Tribes and are criminalized as dacoits or thefts. 75 % members of this community are criminalized as dacoit and thefts.

The community members who want to be mainstreamed are facing ill treatment from the society. The people from this community are taken into police custody even when they have not done any offense.

Adv. Amit Shinde said that:

The problem regarding this community is that of lack the spirit to fight for social justice. The Government does not take into consideration their agonies nor do they think about how 'criminals' are created in the society. If every person gets sufficient food and shelter through a good source of livelihood, then the persons will not take up criminal activities. The police must follow the rules and regulations that are laid down before and after arrest.

Dhanaji Gurav, the leader of the Paradhi community said that even the public servants are scared of the community members. He also mentioned about the various forms of torture faced by the members of this community at the hands of the police. The members of the community must be united and must have the spirit to fight for justice. Gurav mentioned that they expected Adv Asim Sarode to give best suggestion to improve the plight of the community members so that they are able to live with dignity.

Adv. Asim Sarode said that:

There must be in-built within the community people itself. He also added that he felt pain after listening to these incidences. There must not be attitude to protect idols but it is our duty to secure ideals of great people like Dr. Ambedkar.

He suggested to not to include oneself in any conspiracy. It is a fight with yourself only. He also added the significance of Right to Information for solving their land problems. In constitution of India, there is right of shelter to every Indian citizen. He also told them how to run a case in court and in this case planning is foremost important criteria. Also, Education and awareness are equally important.

After meeting with women of this community, it was recognized that there is lot of discrimination faced by these people. These people can only earn Rs. 100-200/month after working under some person. These community people didn't have its own Voter I card.

Village: Balwadi

Date: 06.06.2012

The next was visit to Kranti Smriti van where in the team of lawyers met Mr. Sampatrao Pawar. He discussed how the government had given a certain land for developing a park in memory of the freedom fighters. The government later took away the land without any apparent reason.

He told the team how the land which was developed into a beautiful forest by hard work and commitment of the people who were allotted this land, now lies in ruins due to no maintenance by the government.

Village: Dhalgaon

Date: 07.06.2012

The next programe was organized at Dhalgaon. In the previous experience, there were no women present in the programme. Mani requested some women to attend the program but none of the women in village didn't attend programme.

Adv. Asim Sarode said:

“human rights is not limited to right of dacoits and terrorist but it is wider scope up to consumer, women, dalit, child conceived in womb etc. The law made by the Govt. of India must be for irritating common people. People must work on social issues on every because it is totally based on education and awareness.

He also told about ideas of great people like Dr. Ambedkar which must be secured to achieve social justice. A person must be kept himself away from people who are only doing pooja of great people like Dr. ambedkar. He also told Chandrashekhar Gokhale’s lines. He also told about criticism faced by people for they had done Inter-caste marriage. The concept of Domestic Violence Act was firstly made by Shahu Maharaj. Every festival of India must be celebrated whether it is Daseharra or Eid. He also stated Tukdoji Maharaj’s statement that our sacred work is social work and work for people.

Adv. Amit Shinde said;

Human rights is related to person’s life. He also criticized the discrimination faced by women (i.e. without permission women can’t go anywhere). We must respect women. For achieving this, there should be change in condition in society and attitude of people. We must use Right to Information Act for exercising various human rights. Without any effective steps, human rights cannot be achieved. He explained all these thing with simple and short stories.

After meeting with women, asked them, why they didn't attend the programme, it was told that they were feared of their husband. The condition in the village is also not good as there are no urinals, ST stand and drainage lines.

Village: Ghatnandre

Date: 07.06.2012

The first programme organized at 7/06/2012 at Ghatnandre. The program was organized before residents in which women were totally absent. The programme was started with the introduction of Sahyog Trust and main speaker Adv. Asim Sarode and Adv. Amit Shinde.

Further, Adv. Asim Sarode said that:

“The lawyers in our country are having knowledge of social issues and have solution of overcoming. But Advocates practicing in India are not working on social issues which are very prominent in our country. There is habit of asking questions is present only in residents of big metropolitan cities. Social justice can only be gotten in courts is a false perception but, it can be get on various departments like Panchayat Committee. The social justice can be recognized by work of Great people like Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Ambedkar.”

He also asked the question to villagers that what is human rights? The response got to this question was that it is a right of human beings. Human rights is mostly criticized by bodies like police, politician etc. Human rights has its extension from normal people to child conceived in womb, right to have trees for good environment and right to save animals. In India, God's place is given to cow, women and other but yet they don't have any respect in the society. Cutting of animals must be stopped. He also told significance of Sane Guruji's Statement. He also told the importance of education of women and so dowry customs, domestic violence of women must be stopped. In India, it is a habit in every family of giving stale food to women. If there is respect is given to women in the society, then only growth is possible.

The democracy includes many people like govt. committees, MLA's, MP's, government servant, general public. He also told about social discrimination faced

by people because of Inter-caste marriage. The example was given that of Kunabi Samaj. Every human being has same body parts and other things related to human beings are almost same, so, how the question of social discrimination arises? There is another bad habit of burning bride in India due to Inter-caste marriage. Human rights is a concept is in favor of people.

Adv. Amit shinde said:

We must watch news channel for education and awareness rather than watching boring serials. He also gave confidence to people of solving questions by filing PIL. The moral ideal of great people like Shivaji Maharaj must be widened rather than limiting it in picture or idol for bringing equality in people. He also talked about sex determination during pregnancy of women which must be stopped in society. We must follow duties before enforcing any rights. For exercising it, the attitude must be changed.

People were asking questions about land problems, wind mill problems, 200 retrenched workmen by Suzlon company. Both the speakers had given satisfactory answer and gave confidence to people of getting social justice.

Village: Kokale

Date: 07.06.2012

The next program was held at evening at Kokale village. Alka Babaladi and Aruna Shinde had gone in every home to invite women to attend the programme. After giving this invitation, women from village were not present.

Adv. Amit Shinde in his speech spoke about different issues of women, alcohol banning, caste racism, fight against injustice, forceful marriage, problems of old age people, importance of equality, awareness of rights and duties and filing of PIL for achieving social justice.

Adv. Asim Sarode said:

Many of great people like Shahu Maharaj, Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule had worked for human rights. There is division of castes in India from which politics plays an important role. We want people making magic rather than hard working people, which is dangerous to democracy.

He also told the example of Police Constable naming Mr. Ingle who later became MP. The democracy in India needs working for neighbourhood. We must lessened corruption by using Right to Information. He also talked about Domestic Violence Act. The idols of great people which doesn't have importance to anything. The shameful thing in village is lack of urinals in village.

Blood donation camp made and organized by politicians is totally bogus because politicians didn't donate blood to poor people.

Social justice divided into 2 parts:

1. social : environment of society
2. justice must be logic, natural

He also stated Dr. Ambedkar statement:

If 100 people were asked for some opinion, if 99 people favored the same and if 1 person denies the same must be respected. The person who didn't recognize human values is not a human being at all. Rights is related to duties.

Reformatory jail is part of human rights. For any fight against social justice, govt. property must not be abolished. We can get social justice by filing appeal, PIL in High Court.

People had asked questions which was successfully answered by Adv. Asim Sarode:

1. Asked about PIL and filing the same: it is for the interest of public and it can be filed by 10-15 people. For filing PIL, planning and study is must.
2. false statements in Electorate Bill: may file appeal with reasonable evidences.
3. Person not getting insurance amount: Collect the information and then can file , appeal in appropriate court against Govt.
4. Lathi charge in any rally: Police must follow rules and regulations and according to it, they can exercise its duties.
5. Application was made Govt. servant, who gave in writing of giving water within 6 days- can file application in court.

Village: Jath

Date: 07.06.2012

The next program held at Jath which was before the persons who are under loading and unloading of goods, means porter.

Adv. Vikas Shinde gave the introduction about Sahyog Trust and about 'human rights and social justice' rally.

The main problem with these people who are working in that area was that they have lift up to 100-120 kg of goods instead of 50 kg of load. Also, they didn't get any extra emoluments for this lift.

Adv. Asim Sarode said that:

Firstly he assured these persons that they can able to justice in the High Court by filing PIL. We are getting chance to learn from this tour.

Also he criticized the decreased number of females in this country. In Sangli it is about 1000 males/862 females as per 2011 census. He had almost shown the future of the district that it will be vulnerable state for the male persons of their problem to have married life and also the female will be under frightened state of getting rape.

He also told about science behind the sex and showed that only male person is responsible for having male or female child.

Adv. Amit Shinde said that:

There are many cases are being found out of sex determination test in Jath and criticized this conduct. He also talked about concept of forceful marriage in this village which leads to the increasing number of Domestic violence cases.

He activated the people to get united and to have legal fight against social injustice.

Village: Kavathe Mahnkal

Date: 08.06.2012

The very first programme of 4th day was held Kavathe Mahakal.

Adv. Amit Shinde gave his speech speaking about the objective of the Rally and Importance of human rights and social justice.

Adv. Asim Sarode said that:

“We must learn from the people who are facing injustice from many years and criticized the existence of injustice in the society.” He also said words of Dr. Ambedkar in the constitution that there must be framework in the Constitution for person who had been affected of violation of human rights, there must be provision for the aggrieved person to move to High Court. We met various peoples in Sangli District, we are confident that we wished to solve their problems. We are going to file 5-6 cases in the High which is related to this district.

To have a democracy in India, there must not be fear of law in general public. He also criticized the Judge's statement ‘Indian wives must behave like a Sita’. Human

rights is not based on any caste birth and tribes. In order to fix confidence of common people over the court, we must take effective steps without any expectation of result. He also criticized the lawyers who are making this profession as a business.

After meeting with Sarpanch (lady), she told that she had taken into consideration of all the problems of women whether she is widow or divorcee. They are taking 1 meeting in a month for solving women's problems.

Date: 08.06.2012

Village: Kangoli

Further programme was held at Kongnoli, which was taken before residents of the village.

Adv. Amit Shinde told about the objective of rally. Human rights is based upon constitutional principles. The court place is not only for lawyers and judges but it is also for the litigants. Justice is for everyone person of India whether he is poor or rich. He also added that we are not making any advertisement of our occupation. There must be respect of women in the society so that DV and PC-PNDT cases will be lessened. Caste is not about doing pooja or namaz but it is about equality amongst people, brotherhood and neighbourhood. For achieving this, we must take moral ideas of great people. We are trying to help people in anyway.

Adv. Asim Sarode firstly asked the audience that what is human rights. He got the response in the following manner:

1. Rights of human being
2. Fight against right
3. Rights given to human being
4. Rights of all the living being in the earth
5. right to live
6. rights under constitution
7. right of food, shelter, cloth
8. human
9. Rights which is being exercised by person not including poor people

He further stated that the people who are making idols must be criticized instead of making urinals for the poor people. We must secure money for solving social issues. Poor people doesn't have human rights because of caste racism, lack of knowledge.

According to political science, rights of person can be given after looking their condition in the society. We must talk and communicate because villagers have problems to lead a normal life. He also said that victim is the owner of the case and judge is just a public servant.

We must give consent with the happiness and not by force. To help the poor people, disabled people is a duty of the govt. We have a property of mind and human resource who wants to help you to fight against social injustice. We respect all the audience who had shared time and information with us.

Question and answer:

1. Problem of right to way from the land: told satisfactorily by Adv. Asim Sarode and Adv. Amit Shinde

Village: Lingnur

Date: 08.06.2012

The next programme was held at Lingnur in which more number women present. Adv. Amit Shinde told objective of rally.

Adv. Asim Sarode asked questions to women:

1. Who is women who have no and whether she faced harassment?

Village: Indira Nagar

Date 08.06.2012

The next programme was held at Indira Nagar, with Dalit people who are living under meager standard of living.

Mrs. Aruna Shinde had given introduction of Sahyog Trust and about the rally.

Kasim Multani gave thanks to Sahyog Trust for having this experience.

Mani Prakash had talked mostly of women facing Domestic violence and they didn't uttered a word against it.

Adv. Amit Shinde talked about objective of rally.

Resident of Indira Nagar talked about history of the people and many people are playing politics for grabbing their house.

Mr. Anand Dawre told about the worst condition of people, condition of dalit working under concrete in construction house and problems of getting loan to these people.

Adv. K D Shinde said that

Constitution had given equality of voting power to every person. But if there is no equality of education, monetary equality, then what's the use of Right to vote. Why farmers, women facing DV should not move to court because it is generally said that clever people must not step into the court. For achieving social justice awareness in common people is must.

Adv. Asim Sarode started his speech of telling importance of right to vote. We must read the book of Constitution rather than just making pooja of Dr. Ambedkar's photo. We must respect the ideas of M. Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar. Politicians are selfish who make Dr. Ambedkar as a God. We must make important position in Economic Department of Govt. of India and must vanish habits like drinking alcohol and buying lottery tickets. The intention of politicians is that you must remain in a gidding state. He also told about importance of hard work and economy

by giving example of Dicky made by Dalit people. He also told that social justice can able to get by legal and planned fight.

He also told the people to watch the drama in which main role is played by Nandu Madhav. There is lot of misconception about great people like Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Ambedkar, M. Gandhi by learning them wrong history. The Sc/St Atrocities Act was always misused by higher caste people.

He also share his experience of work in Budhwar Peth of sex workers. When he asked one of sex worker about whether she knows the book held by Dr. Ambedkar. When he taught the people, they were surprised after listening it. Intelligent person must step into the court. As far as judges and police inspector are concerned they are only public servants working for the people. So, we must read the books of great people.

He also gave information about how to use Right to Information. We must collect money and make urinals for this area.. People may ask for the enforcement of their rights under Art. 226, 227 and 32 of the Constitution of India. We are getting clenched in fighting with each other on personal issues and not looking after social issues, so, this habit must be regretted.

He also gave the following examples:

1. Laxman Mane Case: He is facing problems because he had been forced to issue 2 caste certificates from the Maharashtra Govt.
2. Bhanwari Devi case
3. African American women he met at America for 2 minutes and within 2 minutes the women told her condition in America to face racial discrimination of being black.

At last, he told the audience to wake up and fight for their rights. For this, make the people educated.