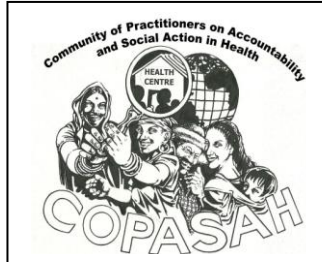


COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOCIAL ACTION IN HEALTH FACILITATED LEARNING EXCHANGE VISIT- 2

January 22-24, 2014



Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH) is a global network of practitioners with a common interest and passion for the field of community monitoring for accountability in health. COPASAH was set up by a group of practitioners who had come together for a meeting to share experiences at Johannesburg in July 2011 and currently has a steering committee of 8 members from Asia, Africa and Latin America. COPASAH places a strong emphasis on the role of civil society to promote access to equitable, quality and accountable health services. (Please visit www.copasah.net for more details)

South Asia region workshops were conducted in Mumbai in February, 2013 and in Delhi in September, 2013 to promote this perspective. Subsequent to these workshops quite a lot of conversations are happening among participants, and as a continuation to these COPASAH plans to organise three facilitated learning exchange visits in different parts of India. These visits are envisaged to facilitate peer learning and to enable strengthening of the practitioners' forum.

The first of these visits was conducted at Naugarh, Chandauli district, Uttar Pradesh from December 17-19, 2013 with Gramya Sansthan (host organisation). The second facilitated learning exchange (FLE) visit by social accountability practitioners of COPASAH in India is scheduled from January 22-24, 2014 in Tumkur (60 kms from Bangalore). THAMATE, a Dalit CBO working with Dalit communities and manual scavengers will be the host organisation for this visit. The theme of learning will be *Dalit Communities and Challenges of Accountability Practice*.

Objective: To provide practitioners within the region, an opportunity to visit an organisation's work and learn from the same using a common set of principles.

Profile of organisation

THAMATE (Center for Rural Empowerment)

Address: No 128, 4th cross, Belekahally Layout, IIMB Post, B.G.Road, Bangalore-560076

Mobile No. 9742586468, Email: thamate2005@yahoo.co.in; obaleshkb@gmail.com

Contact Person: KB Obalesha, Thamate c/o Rangappa, 2nd Main, 1st Block, Kuvempu nagar, Tumkur-02, Karnataka; Mobile No 9742586468

Context of the community

In the caste-ridden Indian society, untouchables are one of the most oppressed communities. Madigas in Tumkur, Pavagada, Madhugiri and Sira blocks are migrant agriculture laborers, who have been treated as outcastes for thousands of years. They were forced to undertake work generally considered impure, like sweeping, cleaning the village, dispose-off the dead animals

and process animal skin. The same community is now working as manual scavengers, sweepers and manhole workers in rural and urban areas. Basic human rights like housing, drinking water, healthcare & education are not in their reach. Local money lenders and dominant caste people exploit them in day to day lives. They live on pavements and slums having fear of demolition at anytime.

Tumkur district is located around 75 km from state capital Bangalore in Karnataka. In Tumkur town, scavengers live in around 10 slum areas. Each slum area has a population of minimum 100 Madiga families. They work for Rs. 1000-2000 per month for cleaning of one housing / commercial society (approx 150 houses). There are no other sources of income among them. While around 1842 Madiga men and women are employed directly (permanent and on contract) by the Tumkur & Pavagada Municipal Corporation, rest of them are working in the unorganized sector cleaning housing societies, hospitals, commercial complexes, multiplexes and schools, etc. Their conditions of work are unjust, environment is unhygienic and they are rarely given less labor intensive and hygiene promoting equipments. Their social security is also not taken care of.

Thamate's work

Thamate (Centre for Rural Empowerment) was initiated in 1995 as first step to educate, mobilise and organise Madiga community in Tumkur and Pavagada city. Thamate works in 4 blocks (Tumkur, Pavagada, Madhugiri and Sira), 4 Municipalities (Tumkur municipal corporation, Pavagada municipality, Madugiri municipality, Sira city corporation) and reaches out to 53 villages in Pavagada and Madhugiri blocks.

Since its inception in 2006, Thamate has addressed following issues:

- Eradication of manual scavenging
- Alternate employment for scavenging community
- Education for children of scavenging community
- Social security of sweepers and manhole workers
- Health entitlements
- Accessing government schemes and programs

Agenda: The aim of this learning exchange visit is to observe and learn from advocacy undertaken at local, state and national level for issue-based activities such as sustainable livelihoods, comprehensive health, and building cadres for supporting Dalits. Discussions will also be held to reflect on the work being done by the organisation and how to apply this context in the participants' own practice. The proposed session plan is as follows:

Date	Time	Session
22/01/2014 Wednesday	12:00-01:00	Registration and round of introduction
	01:00-02:00	Lunch Break
	02:00-03:30	Introduction to community monitoring and social accountability and principles of community monitoring and social accountability in the context of most Marginalised Communities (Dalit Communities)

	03:30-04:00	Tea Break
	04:00-06:00	Background : Karnataka Dalit movement and struggle for dignity by Dalit communities (Devdasi system) Thamate's work with Manual scavenging community and the campaign for the eradication of manual scavenging
	06:15-07:15	Monitoring Development Budget among SC/ST communities: Sharing on Monitoring and Campaign for the Implementation of scheduled caste sub-plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-plan (TSP) in Karnataka
	07:20-08:00	Planning for field visit - communities of manual scavengers
23/01/2014 Thursday		Thamate field visit: Team 1: Pavagada (100 km from Tumkur) Team 2: Y.N.Hosakote, pavagada Thasil (130 KM FROM Tumkur) Team 3: Madugiri Thasil (50 km from Tumkur) <i>If time permits there can be a visit to the scavenging community children's educational coaching centers in Tumkur town (evening)</i>
24/01/2014 Friday	09:00-10:30	Preparation for presentation
	10:30-11:00	Tea break
	11:00-01:00	Debriefing and interactive session
	01:00-02:00	Lunch break
	02:00-03:30	Reflection and plans for implementing the learnings in participants' own practice Filling up of the report format by each participant
	3:30-04:00	Tea and vote of thanks