

To,

Ms. Dubravka Šimonović,

UN Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women

Date: 31st December 2020

Subject: Rape of Dalit women as a grave and systematic Human Rights violation.

As mentioned in the call, we know that rape is frequently not reported, and if reported seldom prosecuted with vigor; if prosecuted, results in very low numbers of convictions (attrition rates are high) and all this results in impunity for the majority of perpetrators; women thereby lose faith in the criminal system, do not report it, and the result is the mixture of low reporting rates and a culture of impunity and rape becomes normalized. The following report is a presentation to the UN Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women highlighting the forms of sexual and gender based violence against Dalit women in India, including rape and the stigmas attached with sexual violence. The report also discusses in detail the perception and viewpoint of Indian criminal justice and administrative system about violence against Dalit women and rape, the penal and pecuniary measures taken by the Indian State to address this issue and the lacunae in the process of accessing justice by Dalit women.

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Dalit Women: Victims of triple fold oppression:

Gender based violence and rape has formed a culture in India and has been rising exponentially because of the failure of the criminal law to effectively address and prevent such incidents. The incidents of any gender based violence have their roots in the long prevailing gender discrimination and patriarchy in the country which cannot be addressed by the criminal laws or judiciary. India has a corpus of progressive laws and guidelines to its credit; however, most of the enactments have resulted from decades of systemic demands and

engagement with the judiciary by the members from various sections of Civil society groups particularly focused on the anti-caste movements like the Dalits, Tribals, Women groups, and disability groups demanding for the legal safeguards of the affected individuals, communities and groups. It has been majorly their efforts in bringing about progressive change in the legal procedures and upholding rights.

Dalit women are majorly the victims of triple fold violence i.e., on the basis of caste, class and gender in India. The population of Dalit women in India as per the **2011 National census** is **9.79 crore** out of the total female population in India which is **58.7 crore**. Dalit women are oppressed by the people of **so called “upper castes”** for being **Dalits**, by the **rich and affluent** for being **poor**, and face **patriarchal oppression** from **men of all communities**, including their own, for being a **woman**. Dalit women are also a subject of violence at the hands of so called upper caste and class women, making them a highly vulnerable section of society. Just like racism in any other part of the world, casteism and untouchability still prevails openly in India even after its criminalization. Untouchability is still being practiced in the state in multiple forms. Discrimination while fetching water, in Anganwadis, schools, colleges, shops, markets, etc. is common. Dalits are expected to maintain distance from Non-Dalits and are beaten and committed violence against if they try to assert their space.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data of 2019, 10 Dalit women and minor girls are raped in India every day.

Increasing sexual violence against Dalit women

To address violence against Dalit women, the Parliament of India has enacted a stringent law named **Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 1989** which was further amended in 2015 and 2018. This Act includes the gender based violence other than sexual violence like physical assault, manual scavenging, untouchability practice, discrimination and obstruction in discharging their duties in local self-governance, Devadasi system, witch-hunting and other heinous offences which attracts imprisonment of the period of 10 years or life imprisonment in Indian Penal Code.

The incidents of sexual offences against the minors (including Dalit children) is addressed by the **Prevention of Child Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act)** which prevents the children from all forms of sexual violence with both male and female children including different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography. This act deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.

Despite the existing legislations and strict laws for prevention of violence against Dalit women, there is a constant rise in the number of incidents of sexual violence in India. The

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)¹ data shows that in five years from 2015 to 2019, **2,06,639** instances of crime have been registered against SCs including men and women under SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Out of these FIRs, **32,889** incidents were directly related to the SC women which are **15.90%** of the total cases registered across the country. There is an increase noted in the number of the incidents of atrocity against the Dalit women 2015 to 2019. In 2015, **5,713 (14.81%)** instances were related to Dalit women out of total **38,564** incidents lodged under PoA which reached to **7,510 (17.38%)** in year 2019 where total incidents of atrocity were **41,793** under SC/ST (PoA) Act.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, **the incidents of rape** (Sec 376 IPC r/w PoA Act) against SC women see a constant increase every year. There has been a **49.87%** increase in the incidents of rape against Dalit women from **2015** (when 2326 offenses were reported) **to 2019** (when 3486 offenses were reported). **A total of 14,003 incidents of rape against SC women and minor girls were reported from 2015-2019.** Similarly **15,341** incidents of sexual assault on women to outrage modesty (Sec 354 IPC r/w PoA Act) [*Outrage modesty includes sexual harassment, to disrobe, voyeurism and stalking*] took place against SC women from the year 2015 to 2019 with an increase of **20.53%** in 2019 comparative to 2015.

The incidents of Attempt to Rape (Sec 376/511 IPC r/w PoA Act) are **583** in these five years. **502** incidents of insult of modesty (Sec 509 IPC r/w PoA Act) of SC women are recorded from 2015 to 2019. The offence of kidnapping & attempting to compel her for marriage (Sec 366 IPC r/w PoA Act) of SC women is reported **2391** times in all five years. The incidents against the SC women are very rampant and it is an alarming situation as it shows that the said section of the society is at high risk. The existing laws meant to safeguard the rights and dignity of the Dalit women are not being fully or appropriately enforced. This brings the Dalit women at the margins of the society and makes them more vulnerable among the most.

The major causes of violence against Dalit women become evident while accessing basic resources like water, land and education. Majority of the cases of violence against Dalit women arise while they are out to fill water, grazing cattle on someone's land or defecating in open due to the lack of sanitation facilities, going to schools or colleges, asserting their right to work, wages and payment of services, political participation, legal recourse and legal impunity to the perpetrators. The socio-economic background contributes in increasing the vulnerability of Dalit women and perpetration by the so called upper caste community.

Sexual violence beyond rape against Dalit women in India:

Gender based violence against women in India is not a one-time incident based on provocation, it is a systematic violence against women which is a product of a long term conditioning and culture of the entire society which places women on an inferior ground to men. The forms of sexual violence specifically against Dalit women are not just confined to

¹ <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII%202019%20Volume%202.pdf>

rape or sexual harassment. It is a measure of power assertion and reinforcing caste hierarchy and dynamics in the Indian society. Young Dalit girls in schools are subjected to caste and gender based violence in educational institutions. Rape and sexual violence against Dalit women is often accompanied with other forms of violence such as gang rape, murder, assault, kidnapping, social boycott, mass attack, arson, false case, witch hunting, abetment to suicide, etc. The violence is committed against Dalit women by the upper caste men to retaliate the old enmity or over the unsolved disputes between the families related to land, ongoing/pending criminal cases in the court or police etc. When the Dalit woman files a criminal complaint against the perpetrators, instances are there where she faces subsequent violence. Many times, it turns into a mass attack or social and economic boycott of the whole family or community to teach them a lesson that they can't go against the caste norms.

Dalit women also face sexual violence by the hands of so called "upper caste" men on the pretext of marriage and minor girls are the easy prey of this kind of violence. This form of sexual violence is different from rape or forced sexual violence. Young girls are manipulated by these men for being in love and promising marriage in future. They are influenced to leave their families and escape from their houses. In such cases, these young girls are cheated and abandoned later on after facing sexual abuse and violence by the hands of dominant caste men. Please find other similar cases attached in Annexure.

Case sample for cheating on the pretext of love and marriage-

Young Ammulu who is 16 years of age and a resident of Ranga Reddy district in Telangana was influenced by her aunt to develop a relationship with a boy named Sekhar who is 26 years old. Ammulu had only one younger sister and was loved deeply by her parents who are daily wage laborers. However, her aunt used to call her every day and gradually sowed the seeds of jealousy and hatred in Ammulu's heart against her parents. She also encouraged Ammulu to become close to Sekhar and get married to him for her better future. Sekhar and Ammulu went out together for a few times where Sekhar bought her clothes and other gifts. They also continued meeting and talking with each other secretly. He trapped Ammulu by pretending to be deeply in love with her and convinced her to elope with him. After taking Ammulu away from her house, he kept her in a hotel room for six months. He regularly had sex with her while telling her that he is making arrangements for their marriage and convincing his parents. As Ammulu's family traced her location after 6 months with the help of police, an FIR of kidnap was registered on 21-04-2020 at the Sankarapalli Police Station detailed as FIR No. 152/2020 u/s 366,376(2)(N) IPC, 3(2)(v) SC/ST (PoA) Act and 5(l)r/w 6 of POCSO Act. After investigation it was revealed that Sekhar was a regular womanizer. He was already married and had a son and used to physically and mentally torture his wife who gradually left him. He also had many more such relationships in the past with the history of cheating women on the false pretext of marriage.

Forcing Dalit girls and women into the *Devadasi* system, i.e. giving away girls to temples or places of worship is one of the major harmful practices still being practiced against Dalit women even after being termed illegal by the law. Being dedicated to the god or the temple, people of the community perceive Devadasi women to be available for the service of the entire community. Young girls who are pushed into being Joginis or a Devadasi stay in vulnerable conditions and have very limited opportunities for earning their livelihood. Most of the girls submit to the circumstances and do meager jobs such as perform cultural dances at religious occasions, work as bonded agriculture or daily wage laborers or even beg sometimes to sustain their lives. Usually the Joginis/Devadasis are not allowed to cut their matted hair ever and are also not allowed to get married. Further, the vulnerable condition of their lives makes them socially ‘unmarriageable’. This practice sometimes leads to severe sexual violence and abuse of Dalit women with a silent social sanction of the society. Dedicating girls to the goddess and to have such symbols that indicate a girl/ woman is a Jogini is criminalized under the Indian legal system.

Case sample for Devadasi system-

Radha a young Dalit girl of 19 years in Gaddegudem Village of Mahaboobnagar Dist of Telangana was dedicated as a Jogini/Devadasi by her parents at the age of 8-9 years to support the family financially. Radha is the eldest of six children in the family and her parents were worried about bringing up their children and also about performing the marriage of Radha. She was dedicated as a Jogini at Manyamkonda Temple on 4/9/09 at 8 pm. The dedication took place in the presence of Sarpanch/village elders. When the news of dedication came to the notice of the Tahsildar, Sri Md. Asadullah reported it to the Police of Devarkadra. A case has been booked under section 154 and 157 of Cr. PC and u/s 5 of AP Devadasi Prohibition of dedication Act, 1988. Radha has been sent to the State Home for rehabilitation and the case is proceeding in the court of Judicial first class magistrate at Atmakur. Radhamma is always in constant duress because she fears that any time her parents might be convicted and may be imprisoned. Radha wants that the case be withdrawn as her own parents are a party to the case as accused. The other accused i.e., the Sarpanch is absconding. She wants adequate compensation and employment in Government hospital as per her qualification of a nurse. Radha further said that her parents dedicated her because of poverty and not with ill intention. They are unaware of the law and its consequences and now they have to go to court for the summons from the last four years. The family has already spent around Rs. 80,000/-for court case. Hence, she requested the Jury to get her and family members relieved from the case and the real perpetrators to be punished.

There have been cases where young Dalit girls are forced into prostitution because of their vulnerable social and economic status. Because of serious financial constraints in Dalit families and lack of education and job opportunities, young girls are cheated or tricked into doing sex work on the name of jobs. It has been observed in many cases that young girls are

manipulated in the name of getting them job opportunities as a domestic help or maid, but are blackmailed and forced into doing things like sex work.

Case sample for forced prostitution-

In the district of Panipat in Haryana, a young girl of 14 years was forced into prostitution and sex work by her employer and the accused, Kusum. The victim has four other siblings and was sent to the accused's house to help her with her domestic work as a support. The victim stayed at Kusum's house for 4-5 years. Kusum started sending out the victim to have physical relationships with men at night and used to give her contraceptive pills to avoid pregnancy. Gradually the victim also stopped going back to her parent's house and used to live with Kusum only. On 13/9/2018, Kusum took away the victim to another district, Kurukshetra, and kept her there alone for one and a half months while forcing her to have sexual relationships with multiple men and blackmailing her with a lot of money. Unable to find their daughter in Kusum's house, the victim's parents filed a complaint with police. Kusum had already persuaded the police in her favor and brainwashed the victim to give a statement against her parents. Later after counselling, the victim narrated the whole story and was sent for a medical examination. Her medical reports confirmed gang rape and intercourse with multiple partners and she was in the fourth month of pregnancy when the exam was conducted. The abortion was done with special permissions from the police superintendent. The chargesheet detailed as CS No. 01/2019 .u/s 34/363/366-A/370-A/376-D & 3Sc/St Act 1989 was filed on 16.5.19 for the cases.

Similarly, some other harmful practices against Dalit women such as labeling Dalit women who are vulnerable as witches are still being practiced widely even after multiple recommendations from international bodies to end it and being legally banned in the country. Majorly practiced in the rural parts and villages of India, vulnerable Dalit women who are single, widowed or in any way pose a threat to the dominant castes of the village, are labeled as witches in order to exclude her by the people of the community. Generally people of the village blame such women of practicing black magic and bringing bad luck and loss to the community. As a result, these women face social boycott, severe discrimination and even sexual violence in some cases.

Case sample for witchcraft-

In the village Jihuli, PS Patahi, East Champaran, Bihar a traditional healer lost his 6 years daughter because of some illness. He branded a Dalit woman as witch and blamed her for the this loss. It was stated that she is a witch and she spelt some black magic upon the deceased girl. This motivated the hatred in the minds of the women of his family who brutally beat that Dalit woman and forced her to eat human excreta. The incident

happened on 13/10/2019. After that the FIR No. 320/2019 dated 15/10/2019 u/s 323, 341, 354 A, 379, 34 IPC & ¾ Prevention of Witch Hunting Act. & 3(x)(xi)(i) add 3(2)(va) SC/ST Act under PS Patahi. East Champaran was registered after two days.

Intersectional analysis of criminal law: Implementation of SCs & STs (PoA) Act and POCSO Act

Though, the Constitution of India establishes under Article 14 “Equality before law-The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth”. Along with it, the special laws are also enacted to safeguard the life, property, dignity and to secure justice to the underprivileged sections of the society. But still, getting justice is influenced by the socio-economic background and caste dynamics of the victim and perpetrators, especially in the cases of sexual violence against the women of Scheduled Caste (Dalit) and Scheduled Tribes (Adivasi).

In some cases, political interference also plays an important role in influencing justice. It is an irony that rape victims have to deal with the police, administration advocates and judges who are highly prejudiced and biased, besides having strict laws in place. The police themselves create barriers for the Dalit women in accessing justice. The barriers/hurdles created by police in ensuring access to justice to Dalit women-

Non-registration/undue delay in FIR- Dalit women have to face challenges in registering the cases. The police cause undue delay in case registration.

Not invoking appropriate sections of PoA Act and POCSO Act in FIR- In the First Information Report, the police deliberately avoid to invoke the appropriate sections of SC/ST Act and POCSO Act with a view to shield the perpetrators and weaken the case of Dalit women and minor girls.

Filing counter case against the Dalit women and her family- The counter cases are also being registered against the Dalit women and their family by the accused persons.

Partial and biased investigation- The partial and biased investigation motivated with caste and gender prejudice leads to miscarriage of justice to the Dalit and Adivasi women. After the investigation, the police officers remove the SC/ST Act and POCSO Act from the charge sheets.

Delay in arrest of accused- Along with it, the deliberate delay is also made in arresting the accused which leads to subsequent incidents with the Dalit women and their family members.

Delay in submission of charge sheet- The investigation officers cause undue delay in filing the charge sheet in the cases of Dalit women sexual offences. Though, the stipulated time of filing charge sheet under PoA Act is 60 days from the date of FIR.

The Dalit women face degrading, insulting and undignified behavior in the Police Station and also face the stigma and stereotyped excuse of having registered the cases for the monetary assistance provided under the PoA Act by the police.

Case sample for failure of police statutory mandates-

In the recent case of gang rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras Uttar Pradesh is a live example of state's biases towards the Dalit women. In this case, four accused of the so called upper caste gang raped and attempted to murder. The girl succumbed to injuries inflicted on vital parts of body. The local police, at the behest of powerful perpetrators, manipulated the case at all levels. The medical report and forensic report was tempered with a view to save the perpetrators and to mold the case from rape to the honor killing. Her dying declaration, where she clearly mentioned the gang rape by all the four so called upper caste men was completely ignored. After her demise, her dead body was burnt out by the police in a hurried manner and that too without the consent and presence of the victim's family in the midnight to destroy the evidence. Later on, the investigation of the matter was transferred to CBI for ensuring free impartial enquiry. The charge sheet² is filed against all four accused in the case by CBI where it is also said that the victim alleged molestation and her medical examination regarding the sexual assault was not conducted.

This case is a clear evidence of biasness and apathy of the police while dealing with the Dalit women cases motivated with caste hatred. The police manipulated the vital evidence in favor of the perpetrators belonging to upper caste.

When we closely analyze the judgments in Dalit women rape cases, we will find out that the judgments are made removing the SC/ST (PoA) Act solely under IPC. The PoA Act is manipulated with an intention to remove the caste dynamic from the incidents. **Around 65 percent of the perpetrators are being acquitted under PoA Act (as per National Crime Report Bureau data 2015-2019) who enjoys the status of being dominant, rich, politically approachable and powerful people.** In other cases of prosecution against the Dalit/Muslim person, the police and courts are proactive in charge sheeting and conviction.

Sample judgment to exhibit the caste prejudice of the judicial system-

² <https://thewire.in/law/hathras-gang-rape-cbi-chargesheet-up-police>

The case is relating to a Dalit minor girl age 16 years (at the time of incident) resident of village Sonbarsa, District Gaya, Bihar. She was the student of class 8th in Sonbarsa Middle School. On 25/11/2016, she went to the school where she needed glue. She asked for it from the teacher who told her to get it from the room on the second floor of the new building in the school. The survivor went to the new building without knowing what was going to happen with her. As she entered the room at 11 AM, one teacher Shiv Kumar, the accused entered the room and committed rape with her. He also threatened her not to tell anybody about the incident. The girl narrated the incident to her mother. The FIR no. 79/2016 u/s 376 IPC and 4, 5 POCSO Act and 3(1)(r)(w), 3(2)(v) SC/ST Act was registered in Mahila Thana Gaya, Bihar. The charge sheet was filed u/s 376 IPC, 4 POCSO Act, 3(1)(x), 3(1)(w), 3(2)(v) SC/ST Act. The accused was tried by the Court of Special Judge (POCSO Act), Gaya in the case no. 57/2016 titled as State of Bihar V/s Shiv Kumar. After hearing both the parties and witnesses and examining the evidence, Hon'ble judge Ashok Kumar Pandey, Special Judge (POCSO Act) Gaya announced the judgment on 20/5/2019 and on 25/5/2019, the quantum of sentence. The accused Shiv Kumar was awarded with 7 years of imprisonment under section 4 POCSO Act; 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fine of 20,000/- under 376 IPC. Two lac of compensation was also announced to the survivor under the victim compensation scheme. The judgment was not made under PoA Act on the ground that "There is no allegation in the FIR that the accused has committed the offence with the victim knowing that she was member of SC/ST community, neither there is a single word in FIR or evidence that the victim belongs to SC/ST community and the offence has been committed due to it. As such, these allegations has not been proved by the prosecution"

The present case clearly shows the caste prejudice and anti-gender perspective of the presiding officer who denies the caste dynamics in the case of sexual violence against the Dalit girl. It fails the objective of the said legislation as the Act was enacted with the sole objective to reduce the caste based violence against the SCs and STs.

States' broad due diligence obligations to address violence against Dalit women:

In order to put check upon the increasing rape and sexual violence incidents in India, the States are supposed to make plan of action apart from the existing legal provisions to counter rape crime. Through these programmes, the state should directly engage with the people including men, women, boys and girls for better results. The laws are in place to prosecute the perpetrators of offences but now the time has come to prevent the offences through measures to create awareness on gender equality and justice. We suggests following due diligence obligations to the state-

I. Specific Recommendations:

1. Strengthen Legal Mechanisms and Increased Budgetary Allocations to Access Justice

- **Establish effective and inclusive monitoring mechanisms for reviewing the implementation of the laws and policies, budgets and schemes, where these are in place, with strict penalties for non-compliance, negligence and dereliction of duty;**
- **The Government should build violence prevention measures by mapping atrocity prone areas (districts) as well as mapping vulnerable communities; such as Dalits, Indigenous, single women and girl children in and around those areas to ensure safety for women and children from gender and caste-based violence;**
- **Governments have to ensure building efficient legal systems to promote speedy investigation and fast track the trial process in all cases of descent-based discrimination, sexual, and gender-based violence and ensure rehabilitation of survivors of atrocities to secure their financial stability and self-sufficiency;**
- **State should conduct regular training and sensitization programs for police officials, judicial officials and medical professionals on the proper handling of cases of survivors of caste and gender-based violence. Along with it, a special focus should be given on the training and sensitization of Special Public Prosecutor;**
- **Number of courts must be established with improved infrastructure as a requirement under the diverse laws such as the POA Act, POCSO to fast-track cases of violence against children, women, SCs and ST community members as a provision under the special laws;**
- **Sufficient Budgetary Allocation for Implementation of Laws:-** Every law for effective implementation requires enhanced budgetary provisions to ensure that the infrastructure is available such as setting up of special courts, providing support systems and committees are set up to respond to the survivors of violence especially sexual violence in a time bound manner;

2. Provide psycho-social support to the Survivors of caste and gender based violence:

- Violence against Women should be recognized as a **public health issue** and access to mental health services as regular counselling for survivors of violence should be provided in all cases of caste and gender based violence. **Psychosocial counselling should be provided to women and minors on a regular basis who have faced violence for healing;**

- Health care professionals should be **oriented during their course of study on treating cases of violence with sensitivity** and as well as how to document cases of sexual violence, domestic violence and acid attack from a legal and rights based perspective;
- **Special focus should be kept on Dalit minors and younger rape victims** with respect to their sustainable rehabilitation such as their career counselling, proper education and providing them financial support to ensure that they are not excluded from the mainstream of development.
- **Establish one window crisis centre, support services and shelter for the survivors of caste and gender based violence** in every district with proper rehabilitation measures with special focus on the needs of the Dalit women.

II. Comprehensive recommendations:

In order to end the gender based violence including sexual violence there is a need of systematic change of culture, attitude, norms and practices prevailing in the Indian society without solely relying on the criminal justice system. It also requires stricter accountability of the State, including providing adequate resources such as educational and economic reforms and preventive measures. In many cases, criminal law does not provide a remedy that effectively responds to the needs of the victims/survivors. Following are a few measures and steps which can be taken up by the government as preventive measures for a holistic change in the attitude and perception of the society regarding caste and gender based violence against Dalit women:

1. Awareness Generation and Training on rights, laws and entitlements:

- **State should conduct Systematic Campaigns for Women's access to justice and entitlements** through systematic campaigns highlighting women's rights under the constitution, different laws, government programmes, policies and the schemes so that women are able to benefit from the same;
- **State should conduct regular Public Awareness Campaigns to promote gender equality** amongst people in all neighborhoods roping in the local people's representative and human rights organization in the area with a special focus on **sensitizing men and boys**. Caste and gender biases should be addressed by **investing in community based programmes and services to create public awareness**. Such events should also motivate to influence mind-sets in addressing caste and gender biases at large and also provide human rights and legal rights awareness meetings in schools on regular basis;

2. Steps should be taken up by the government in the field of education:

- **Engage with the Educational System to bring systemic change at pan India level by ensuring that the Rights based Education begins from primary classes and continues to higher education which promotes gender equality, introduces and**

promotes the culture of diversity and also caters to educating the adolescents on issues around sexuality and consent. The education on eradication of existing regressive social practices should be included in the primary education and efforts should be made to build the scientific temperament;

- **Education of Dalit girls should be promoted** by improving the situation of the residential schools and hostels for Dalits with **focus on safety measures of the Dalit girls** which will directly lead to focused upliftment and advancement in the status of education of Dalit girls.

3. Steps should be taken by the government for ensuring economic empowerment:

- **Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures** to promote women's economic opportunities and equal access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those from Dalit and Adivasi and other marginalized backgrounds living in poverty. **Planning and budgeting from a gender lens** must necessarily include the intersectionality framework whereby the perspectives, interests and voices of women from the most disadvantaged groups are brought to the fore;
- **Targeted Livelihood Schemes** to promote Socio-economic empowerment of women, especially women from the marginalized sections those affected by Caste, discrimination based on work and descent (DWD), ethnicity, single women and those engaged in Manual scavenging and women with disabilities that the state should provide targeted comprehensive livelihood schemes for these women in order to break the economic dependency these women have on feudal forces and liberal capitalist economy;
- **Undertake enrolment drives** to bring universal coverage of all Dalit households with top priority to Dalit women single, widow households under the existing National Social Security Schemes particularly on livelihood & income support, health care, food and nutrition security, etc.
- **Mandate reservations in employment, and services** in both private and public sectors for women from the marginalized communities, with penalties attached for non-compliance and non-implementation by the concerned officers in the government administration;
- **Rehabilitation of the survivors of caste and gender based violence has to be ensured by targeted schemes for promoting survivors self-sufficiency, thus housing, livelihood, educational facility and safety including free legal aid has to be implemented in cases of rape cases.**