Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) is a registered Non Governmental Organization (NGO) working in 8 districts of Andhra Pradesh (Vizianagaram, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Kadapa, Prakasam and Kurnool) and 5 districts of Telangana (Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Medak and Warangal) since 20 years. DBRC has vast experience in reaching out to the communities and addressing their issues through different programs using strategies like sensitization, orientation, capacity building, motivation, trainings, campaigns, interface, advocacy, etc., to bring social change in the lives of the Dalit Adivasi communities.

State Level Round Table Conference:

DBRC organized a State Level Round Table Conference on the 18th February, 2017 in Guntur. The main objective of the Round Table Conference is to discuss on Dalit Adivasi Development in the light of implementation of SC, ST Sub Plan and to come up with the recommendations to advocate with the Government for proper utilization of the budget. 244 delegates from 102 organizations from 12 Districts participated in the meeting.

Sri. Nakka Ananda babu, MLA, Vemuru participated as Chief Guest for the programme. DBRC has presented the Budget analysis of the SC ST Sub Plan for the period 2015-2016 based on the budget allocation and utilization. After due discussions, the participants have developed recommendations which are to be submitted to the Government. A committee was formed with representatives of various organisations to represent to the government to implement the SC ST Sub Plan Act effectively.

Skill Training for Self Employment:

The government has focused on building higher education and little did anyone think of enhancing the employability quotient and producing skill man power. So, Joblessness has become a big problem. So, DBRC has collaborated with different government departments such as NABARD, DRDA, DWMA, IKP, MEPMA, S.C Corporation and Andhra Bank Rural Development Trust and provided Skill training to 2820 Dalit women and youth in 8 Districts. The Dalit women and youth were trained on AC repair, TV repair,
Mobile servicing, DTP, tailoring, Electrical works, 2 & 4 wheeler servicing and repair etc., for their livelihood. DBRC has facilitated 265 youth in availing Rs.2,61,28,000/- as financial support under self employment scheme from SC Corporation to establish own units and petty business to support their households.

**Campaign on education:**

DBRC believes Education is a very important tool for the growth of an individual, community and the Nation. DBRC has understood that the literacy rate of the Children of Dalit Adivasis and the Waste pickers is very less. So, DBRC has taken up a Campaign “Vidhya Chaitanya Yatra” (Education Empowerment Campaign) in 8 Districts of Andhra Pradesh to sensitize the Children and their parents about the importance of continuing their education and ensure that no child is uneducated or school dropout. Totally 80 campaigns were conducted in collaboration with the local leaders and motivated the parents and their children about the need for education. Case study’s of successful people were also highlighted in order to inspire the children and the parents. Testimonies by students who have performed well in studies and settled down with good jobs have also interacted with the students. The Parents were also sensitized about the facilities available in the government run Welfare hostels and encouraged them to send their children to school. Totally, 1432 Children have joined School and continuing their education.

**Recognition to Waste Pickers:**

The Waste Pickers collect thrown away waste from the streets, residential areas, railway stations, bus stations and in the companies. Though they are doing good to the society by assisting in the recycling of waste, the Waste Pickers face stigma and discrimination in the society and their services to the society are unrecognized. They don’t have basic amenities as they do not possess an identity card. So, DBRC has conducted series of interactions with the Municipal Commissioners of Guntur, Vijayawada, Eluru and Kurnool and updated them about the issues faced by Waste pickers and
requested them to recognize the services of Waste pickers and Issue Occupational Id cards. The Municipal Corporations of Vijayawada and Eluru in collaboration with DBRC has Issued Occupational ID Cards to 627 Waste Pickers and Security materials to 400 waste Pickers. The ID cards have given them recognition for their work and hope for their future.

**Campaign on Land Purchasing Scheme:**

DBRC has organized a State wide Campaign “Bhumi kosam darakasthu” a Jeep Yatra from 11th to 15th March, 2017. The objective of the Jeep Yatra is to bring awareness in the SC and ST community on the Land Purchasing Scheme which is being implemented by the AP SC Co-operative Finance Corporation and motivate them to apply for land. Focus group discussions were conducted at the village level and sensitized them about filing applications for land purchasing scheme. Campaign was conducted in 78 villages and around 6000 landless dalits were sensitized and motivated them by talking to them and
Sensitization and capacity building programs on Government schemes:

DBRC has conducted various programs to sensitize the Dalits, Adivasis and Waste Pickers on various issues related to Rights, entitlements, programmes and schemes of the government, loans, health & hygiene, skill building, etc. DBRC has conducted 69 orientation meetings in 8 Districts on different issues like SC ST Sub Plan, Budget allotment and also sensitized them about the utilization of budget, New Policies, Schemes which are meant for the welfare and development.

They were also sensitized about the different schemes of the state and central government such as aam admi, building & construction workers insurance, PM jeevan yojana, abhaya hastam, janasri yojana, drivers insurance, Chandranna Bhima, NREG, RVM, Pradhana Manthri Grammeena Awasas Yojana, Ambedkar Overseas Scholarships, Giriputrika Kalyana Pathakam, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana for senior citizens. Through these programs nearly 5512 members were benefitted and availed the benefits of the schemes. 629 dalit adivasi farmers availed the schemes available in the agriculture department like loans, subsidies, NTR Jalasiri, crop insurance, schemes for tenant farmers, etc., for their land development. This type of sensitization and capacity building programme has helped in updating the community members in updating their knowledge and information about various opportunities available through the government.

Interaction and advocacy meetings with different Govt. Departments:

DBRC believes Interaction and Advocacy with the government departments will play an important role in achieving the planned activities. So, DBRC has organized interaction meetings in 6 districts at village level between the community members and
the officials from various government departments such as SC Corporation, Revenue department, Panchayat Raj, ST Corporation. The interaction meeting has helped the community members voice out their issues, represent their needs and the government authorities have updated the participants about the services/schemes/programmes of the government which they can use for their welfare and development. In these Interaction meetings many issues related to farmers, landless dalits and waste pickers were addressed.

During the Grievance day and advocacy meetings DBRC has facilitated the community members in submitting representations/applications to the authorities requesting them to solve their problems/issues. The Organization has facilitated in achieving 917 old pensions, 792 Widow Pensions, 179 Physically handicapped pensions, 1402 White ration cards, 924 Aadhar cards, 5419 Govt. insurance schemes, 9156 members got work under NREGS. DBRC has also facilitated the Dalit Adivasi farmers in getting agriculture loans. Due to regular interaction with the government authorities and advocacy the Dalits, Adivasis and the waste Pickers could achieve their rights and entitlements.

**Promoting Nutri Gardens and Good food practices:**

DBRC has promoted Nutri Gardens by distributing 4 types of plants & 9 types of seeds to 112 households to develop Nutri Gardens with pesticides free vegetables, fresh leafy curries to have nutritious food and sensitized the community on good food practices, preparation of low cost nutrition with the pulses available in the market and importance of taking nutritious food which contains iron such as Egg, leafy vegetables, fruits, raagi, corn, etc., 5 mother committee meetings were conducted on the need of
taking nutritious food and importance of mother’s milk and motivated them to feed their children with mother’s milk which contains fat, carbohydrates, protein, vitamins & minerals, amino acids, enzymes which are disease fighting substances that protects baby from illness.

Free Medical Camps for the waste pickers:

DBRC is working for the Waste Pickers in Guntur and Vijayawada Municipal Corporations. The living conditions and health condition of the waste pickers in deplorable. So, DBRC has organized Free Medical Camps for treating the illness and opportunistic infections of Waste Pickers and their children. DBRC has organized 7 free medical camps in collaboration with the Municipal corporation in Guntur and Vijayawada. Totally, 746 Waste Pickers took treatment and medicines during the medical Camps. During these medical Camps the Waste pickers and their children were sensitized about the good health habits and measures to be taken for preventing themselves from being infected with different diseases.

Swacch Bharat:

DBRC always promotes the programmes of the State and Central government which are doing good to the society. As part of our work, DBRC has taken up Swacch Bharat programs in all our target areas in collaboration with the Municipal corporations/Municipalities. During this campaign, the community members were oriented about the necessity of drinking boiled water,
sanitation practices, usage of toilets so that they live with dignity and self respect. Around 3126 members were benefitted through this campaign.

**State Level Workshop- livelihoods for waste pickers :**

DBRC has organized a State Level Workshop in collaboration with the Mission for Elimination of poverty in urban Areas (MEPMA) on strengthening / alternative livelihoods of waste pickers. The workshop was conducted for 2 days i.e. 24th and 25th March, 2017 at Vijayawada. 46 members from different organizations working with the Waste Pickers participated in the workshop. Resource Persons from Pune and Bangalore participated in the workshop and shared the best practices with regard to organizing the waste pickers, solid waste management practices followed by the municipal corporations and methods to strengthen or finding alternative livelihoods of Waste Pickers. The Participants from different organizations have shared their experiences in organizing waste pickers and strengthening them. This state level workshop was useful in sharing of best practices and cross learning.

**Launch of Video Documentary :**

DBRC has developed a video documentary which depicts the living conditions of Waste pickers. The Documentary was shot in the Guntur and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation areas. The documentary is titled “Pioneers of Recycling”. The main aim of making this documentary is to bring to light about the problems of the Waste Pickers. MLA’s Sri. Nakka Ananda Babu, Mr.Venugopal Reddy and Mr. Mustaffa launched the Video documentary. This video was screened at various places so that the people accept Waste pickers and show their solidarity to the people who are marching ahead to protect our society from uncleanliness.