



Human Dignity!
Social Justice!!
Social Democracy!!!



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23




DALIT BAHUJAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Towards Empowerment of Marginalized Communities

**“Cultivation of Mind
should be the
Ultimate AIM of Human Existence”.**

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar





 www.dbrcindia.org

 apdbrc@gmail.com

 [dbrcindia](https://www.facebook.com/dbrcindia)

 [@dbrcap](https://twitter.com/dbrcap)

 +91 72860 45555

 0863-2254271

INDEX

Abbreviations and Acronyms	... 02
Executive Summary	... 03
Message from the CEO	... 06
Message from the President	... 07
Who We Are and What We Do	... 08
Our Vision, Mission and Goal	... 08
Highlights of the Year 2022-23	... 09
Empowerment of Dalit Adivasi	... 11
• From Struggle to Success: <i>Stories of Transformation</i>	... 13
• DBRC's Intervention Brings Joy to the Life of a Minor Girl: <i>Stories of Transformation</i>	... 14
• DBRC's Intervention brings Justice in Vempadu Village: <i>Stories of Transformation</i>	... 14
• Mani's Journey from Begging to Empowerment: <i>Stories of Transformation</i>	... 15
Communities We Work With	... 16
Targeted Sectors of Engagement	... 16
Operational Areas in Andhra Pradesh	... 17
DBRC Organogram	... 18
Our Strategies	... 19
Children Empowerment	... 20
Other Programs Conducted	... 21
Women Empowerment	... 23
Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023	... 23
Green Workers Initiative	... 26
Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023	... 26
Empowering SC/ST Farmers	... 30
Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023	... 31
Dalit-Adivasi Budget Watch	... 33
Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023	... 33
Cross-Cutting Programmes	... 36
Challenges	... 38
Lessons Learned	... 38
Our Partners and Donors	... 39
What Our Beneficiaries Say About Us	... 40
Future Plans and Strategies	... 41

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANU	- Acharya Nagarjuna University	KVPS	- Kula Vyatireka Porata Samithi
APU	- Azim Premji University	MEPMA	- Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas
AP	- Andhra Pradesh	MDO	- Mandal Development Officer
ASHA	- Accredited Social Health Activist	MLA	- Member of Legislative Assembly
CBO	- Community Based Organizations	MLC	- Member of Legislative Council
CEO	- Chief Executive Officer	MRO	- Mandal Revenue Officer
CSR	- Corporate Social Responsibility	NCDHR	- National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights
CCR cards	- Crop Cultivator Rights Cards	NGO	- Non-Governmental Organisation
CSO	- Civil Society Organization	OLC	- Outdoor Learning Centre
DNT/NT	- Denotified Communities and Nomadic Tribes	PHC	- Primary Healthcare Centre
DBRC	- Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre	RBKs	- Ratho Bharosa Kendras
DBSU	- Dalit Bahujan _____ Union	SC	- Scheduled Caste
DRDA	- District Rural Development Agency	SCC	- Scheduled Caste Component
DRO	- District Revenue Officer	SERP	- Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
DWCRA	- Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	SHGs	- Self-Help Groups
EKYC	- Electronic Know Your Customer	STC	- Scheduled Tribe Component
FPO	- Farmers Producers' Organisation	ST	- Scheduled Tribe
GMC	- Guntur Municipal Corporation	SWM	- Solid Waste Management
IAS	- Indian Administrative Services	TGI	- The George Institute
IPS	- Indian Police Services	TS	- Telangana State
KVK	- Krishi Vignana Kendra	VRO	- Village Revenue Officer
		YSR	- Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, Ex-chief Minister of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state

Executive Summary

Highlights of the Year 2022-2023

Revitalizing our operations after the COVID-19 pandemic presented us with a fresh array of challenges. Our team embarked on the journey of empowering marginalized communities with heightened commitment this year. The dedicated efforts of the Budget Watch team played a pivotal role in securing the extension of the SC/ST sub-plan for an additional 10 years. With the help of government initiatives and our strong linkages with grassroots functionaries, we reached a greater number of women and children from marginalized communities this year. Our staff facilitated about 4,000 SC/ST women in availing government schemes this year. We facilitated farmers from marginalized communities in accessing government schemes, contributing to further developing their agricultural practices, enhancing income, and ensuring more food security for them. With our Outdoor Learning Centres (OLCs), this year we reached 33 new areas and served 300 new children of waste pickers in our target areas.

Focus

Our vision is to attain social justice and democracy, reclaiming the human dignity of Dalit Bahujan communities. Guided by this, our mission is to facilitate assertive interventions for their socio-economic empowerment. Our goal is to empower Dalit Bahujans to realize their aspirations, fostering awareness of their rights, cultivating robust social and financial resources, and ensuring their active participation in decision-making bodies for a transformative society. Our work is focused on budget monitoring, agriculture, livelihood, education, and health sectors. We serve Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Caste communities with a special focus on the empowerment of women and children from these communities. Currently, we are operating in seven districts of Andhra Pradesh with our head office in Guntur.

Key Achievements

1. Facilitated 52% of our targeted 1,500 families in obtaining 3 entitlements, and over 20% of families have received 1 or 2 entitlements.
2. Facilitated 4,047 SC/ST women in availing 10,486 government schemes.
3. Facilitated 2,347 farmers in availing government schemes from Agriculture and Allied Departments.
4. Connected 785 Safai Karamcharis with benefits from at least 3 state and central government schemes.
5. Established a Cooperative for Waste Pickers with 479 members in Guntur, and another Waste Pickers Cooperative started functioning in Vijayawada.

Impact

During the 2022-23 year, a significant population of waste pickers in our working areas started using pushcarts to collect waste, allowing them to collect more and increase their earnings. As a result, their living conditions improved significantly. Women from SC/ST communities in our target areas, who once remained silent in community meetings, began actively participating after undergoing our leadership training programs. Now, more women from these communities can directly approach government officials to address issues independently. With our interventions, dropout rates among children in the waste-picking community drastically reduced in our target areas, leading to a significant improvement in their overall academic performance. These positive changes are likely to contribute to the gradual elimination of the hereditary profession of waste picking.

Geographic Expansion and New Initiatives This Year

- The total number of Budget Watch teams rose to 95 across four districts.
- With the support of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, we replicated our interventions with Safai Karamcharis in other districts and strengthened ongoing interventions in Guntur district.
- This year, the community-promoted institutions, i.e., Waste Pickers Cooperative Society, started functioning in Guntur district, and we are in the process of strengthening the cooperative society for waste pickers in Vijayawada in the next financial year.

Strategies for Sustainable Impact

All our interventions were informed by the needs of the communities we worked with. We conducted need assessment studies regularly to understand the requirements of the communities in our target areas. Insights from need assessment studies and baseline surveys acted as a starting point for our interventions. Programs were designed keeping in mind the socio-economic conditions of the communities. At every stage of the project from planning to execution, we ensured that community members we worked with were engaged. We often sought their insights while designing new programs for their overall development. Apart from the community, we collaborated with government officials in empowering the communities. Our field coordinators have a good rapport with local and state government officials, which immensely helps us in making our interventions fruitful.

Financial Transparency and Effective Resource Utilisation

Our main source of income is funding from donors from India and abroad. Additionally, we receive local contributions from individual generous donors. All the money we received this year was spent on planned program activities, maintaining the office, and towards salaries for our employees. Expenditures were transparent, and every rupee spent was accounted for. We

have a dedicated team to manage the organization's finances. Every year, we undergo an audit through an external auditor, as mandated for NGOs.

Our Vision for a Flourishing Future

Our work emphasizes providing quality education, healthcare, and skills training programs. Navigating financial constraints has taught us to maximize impact through strategic partnerships, innovative resource mobilization strategies, and cost-effective program design. DBRC plans to extend its reach both geographically and thematically. We will strengthen our engagement with De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) and Nomadic Tribes (NT), who are often neglected. Starting next year, we will also focus on strengthening our efforts to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in our target areas. We seek to promote entrepreneurship among waste-picking communities and conduct more research studies to understand the impacts of climate change on marginalized communities in our target areas. Additionally, we aspire to reach a greater number of women from marginalized communities, focusing on enhancing their livelihood opportunities and nurturing leadership qualities in the coming years.

Message from the CEO

Dear esteemed readers,

Greetings from Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre, Guntur!!

Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) has been working for the empowerment of the Dalit Adivasis and other marginalised communities since 1992. Year 2022-23 has been a special year for DBRC as we started couple of new short time projects aimed at improving the socio economical condition of the DNT communities and children from Waste picking and DNT communities. This year, DBRC laid its special focus on conducting 2 two research studies this year: one on solid waste management in Guntur city and another on socio-economic conditions of brick-kiln workers in Prakasham district. This year alone we were able to reach about 62000 families from the marginalised communities in our working districts through various interventions.

As times change, so does technology. At DBRC, we take pride in our commitment to staying updated with the latest technologies to optimise our efforts in reaching target communities. In line with this commitment, DBRC has embarked on the digital collection of information from target communities starting this year.

One of the major happy moment in this year is the laying of foundation stone for the construction of Resource Centre which has been a dream for the Dalit Bahujan Community in Andhra Pradesh. We hope and wish that you will support us in the process. At the outset, I thank our finance partners in India and abroad for funding all our programmes this year. We hope their support continues in the coming years as well. I thank our field staff, office staff and finance team members for successfully executing the project work as



we intended to do this year. I appreciate the team for their consistent efforts with utmost commitment in carrying out the activities of the organisation. More than this, the support of community members that we are working with has been incredible and DBRC thanks them for their kind support throughout the year. I thank the state and central government officials for their kind support in making our programmes successful. And lastly, I thank board members and executive members of DBRC for ensuring that organisational activities are run smoothly.

I extend a sincere invitation to you to join hands with us in our noble cause. Your valuable contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of marginalized communities we serve. Together, we can create lasting impact and foster positive change. To support our initiatives and be part of our journey towards empowerment and social justice, kindly consider making a donation or volunteering your time.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” – Nelson Mandela

Yours Sincerely,
Mr. Alladi. Deva Kumar,
Executive Secretary

Message from the President

Hello Readers,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has unwaveringly supported DBRC during the financial year 2022-2023. I extend my sincere thanks to the advisory board of DBRC for their valuable inputs and suggestions, which have made our efforts more fruitful. I also appreciate the officials of the Union Government of India and the state governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for their support and timely response in addressing the issues faced by our communities throughout the period of 2022-23.

I am grateful to all our community leaders, activists, area committee members, volunteers, and budget watch members for strengthening our relationships with the communities we serve. My thanks also go to all the field staff of DBRC who assisted in executing and documenting our activities during the year 2022-23. Special appreciation



goes to the program team, finance team, and other organizational team members who have been instrumental at every stage of our work.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary/CEO, Mr. Alladi Deva Kumar, for his exemplary leadership and for guiding the organization forward.

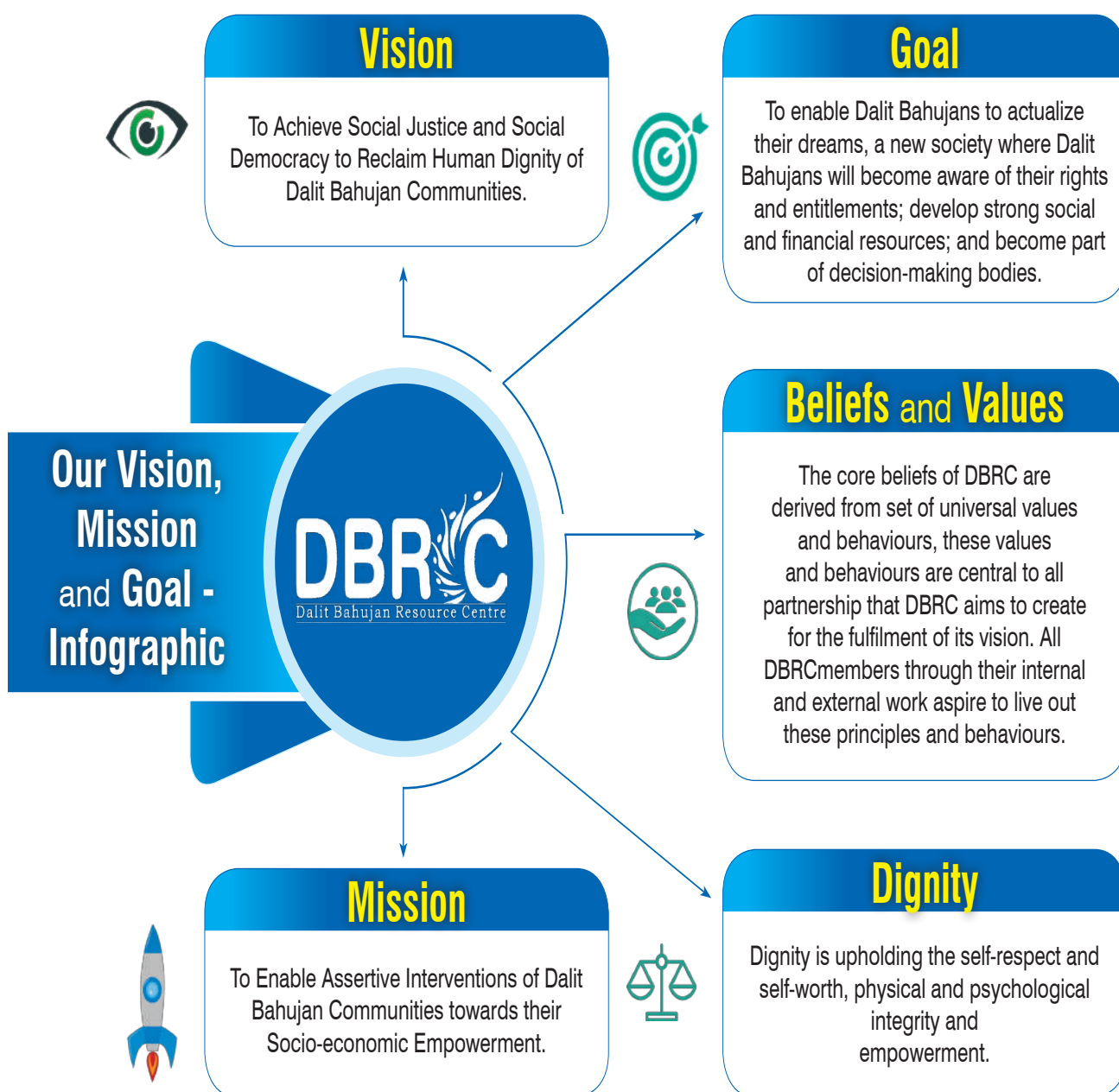
Looking forward, I am committed to continuing our efforts towards building a better society.

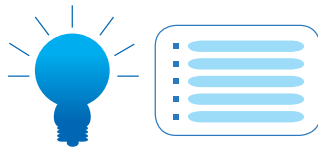
Jai Bheem!!

Mr. Jaladi Chittaranjan, President

Who We Are and What We Do

Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) is a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1992. DBRC works for the socio-economic and cultural transformation of Dalit Bahujan communities, with a special focus on women, children, and De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. Our mission is to promote livelihoods, dignity, and self-respect among Dalits, Adivasis, Waste Pickers, and other informal sector workers. We empower communities through information, knowledge, and capacity building, aiming for sustainable change rather than charity.





Highlights of the year 2022-23

657 Farmers

Farmers (SC- 643 ; ST-14) were Facilitated in applying and accessing entitlements from Agri. and allied departments which contributed for enhancement of their income

4047 Women

Women (SC - 3136; ST-911) (facilitated in accessing Welfare Schemes and services of the Government)

43 Waste Pickers

Strengthened livelihoods of 43 Waste Pickers by providing them with 3 wheeler rickshaws (15 women) so that they travel longer distances, collect more waste and have enhanced income.

33

Outdoor Learning Centers

33 Outdoor Learning Centres are being run by DBRC for making learning enjoyable and enriching for 615 children through reading, writing, games, singing, dancing, life skills, and cultivating good habits.

1887 Entitlements

Supported 1887 Waste Pickers in accessing entitlements from the government.

16 Women

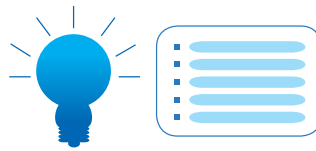
Promoted 16 women in taking up alternative livelihood by providing support for starting petty business such as tiffin point, selling sarees, fancy items, vegetables and others

2130 Scholarships

Advocacy efforts could enable 2130 children in accessing scholarship meant for the children whose parents are involved in unclean occupations.

502 CoOperative Members

Guntur Waste pickers cooperative is functional with 479 Waste Pickers as members. 41 Waste pickers have become new members of the Guntur waste pickers cooperative. 23 waste pickers have become new members of the Vijayawada waste pickers cooperative.



Highlights of the year 2022-23

4 Budget Watch Teams

Strengthened the functioning of 4 Dalit Adivasi Budget Watch teams promoted by DBRC which consists of NGO representatives, Social activists, Lawyers, retired bureaucrats, academicians and other civil society organisations for ensuring effective implementation of SC ST Subplan Budget

2000 Kitchen Garden

Capacitated 2000 families on organic farming and provided seeds to start kitchen garden to promote sustainability and quality vegetables

10 More years

Played an active role along with Budget Watch Committee in the extension of SC, ST Subplan Act for another 10 more years i.e, till 2032

160 Women Leaders

160 Women Leaders were capacitated on taking up leadership role and voicing out their issues and needs. 25 Grassroot women Leaders were awarded with Leadership Awards.

Empowerment of Dalit Adivasi

2347 farmers - facilitated in availing schemes during the project period from Agri. and allied departments

Impact and Achievements

300 children were benefited from this OLCs

3 - wheeler rickshaws to 33 waste pickers so that they travel longer distances, collect more waste and have enhanced income – increased income of waste pickers

4047 women (SC-3136;ST-911) and 1459 Children (SC-1230; ST-229) have accessed government welfare schemes – started availing government schemes

2347 farmers facilitated in availing schemes during the project period from Agri. and allied departments – increased income and food security of SC/ST farmers

Guntur Waste pickers cooperative is functional with 479 Waste Pickers as members.

41 Waste pickers have become new members of the Guntur waste pickers cooperative.

23 waste pickers have become new members of the Vijayawada waste pickers cooperative. – financial burden reduced and borrowing at low interest rates

The Advocacy efforts made by DBRC to get scholarships for children whose parents are involved in unclean occupations has made a considerable impact. In our target areas around 170 children have got the scholarship – more waste picker children are in schools

785 safai karamcharis in accessing at least 3 schemes during the project period – improved living conditions of waste pickers

Reduced the incidence of child marriages and child labour among the waste picking communities.

Created access to health services resulting in increase of institutional deliveries among the waste picking communities

1. Improved academic performance and regular school attendance for 300 children who were neither enrolled, slow-learners, nor dropped out of schools, leading to increased participation in our Outdoor Learning Centres by waste pickers.
2. Enhanced livelihood opportunities for 33 waste picker families, contributing to their financial well-being.
3. SC and ST women now have improved access to essential services, achieving self-reliance and freedom from debt.
4. Improved socio-economic conditions for SC farmers with access to entitlements and government schemes.

5. Tangible improvements in the quality of life and economic well-being of safai karamcharis.
6. Reduced reliance on high-interest loans from landlords by waste pickers, with a greater dependence on cooperative savings amongst marginalised communities
7. Lower risk of school dropout for waste picker children, ensuring continuity in their education.
8. Improved quality of life and overall well-being for safai karamcharis in our target areas.
9. Reduced the incidence of child marriages and child labour among the waste picking communities.
10. Better access to health services resulting in increase of institutional deliveries among the waste picking communities.

Stories of Transformation

From Struggle to Success

DBRC Stands as a Backbone for the Yanadis of Budampaadu Village

DBRC Stands as a Backbone for the Yanadis of Budampaadu Village About 80 families of the Yanadi caste, a Scheduled Tribe community, live in Budampaadu village, 7 km away from Guntur city. They reside in the village, earning a livelihood by catching rats in agricultural fields in surrounding villages. Due to a lack of formal education among most of them, they find it very difficult to communicate their issues to government officials. Consequently, they lead their lives, surrendering to deplorable conditions.

DBRC representative V Raviteja, after getting to know the issues of the community, created awareness in the community members on how to approach officials to resolve their problems. He briefed about the activities of DBRC to villagers of Budampaadu. He encouraged them to approach concerned government officials and even accompanied them during their initial visits. Yanadis in Budampaadu village faced several challenges, including inadequate housing, as a majority of them lacked proper housing. Even those who owned a house, often did not have official registration documents.

Additionally, there was a shortage of drinking water, and households lacked access to toilets. As a result, women and children in the community were compelled to practise open defecation, causing great discomfort and posing potential health risks for them. Furthermore, Yanadi children were deprived of formal education due to a lack of access to schools. Yanadis had to contend with water leaks from their ageing and undersized homes.

Due to the lack of proper roads and drains, rainwater often entered their houses and damaged their belongings. During rainy seasons, their houses were not even suitable to sit and stay there for some time. Initially, the children from Yanadi communities used to go along with their elders to make baskets and hunt storks and quails. Keeping in view the future of the children from the Yanadi community, DBRC enrolled 15 children in government schools, 10 children in hostels, and 15 children into Anganwadi centres. DBRC started OLC (Outdoor Learning Centre) to provide education to the children within their localities, and a teacher was appointed. An awareness campaign was run to persuade the parents of the Yanadi community to send their children to OLCs.

As a result of DBRC interventions, 30 children from the community started attending OLCs every day. OLC continued to educate the children and create awareness about health and hygiene in the Yanadi community area. Gradually, child labour and child marriages within the community started to decline. Now, parents from the community are willing to send their children to school daily, and the children find joy in attending the OLCs. A visible change can also be noticed in the community as they have started to take care of keeping themselves and their environments safe.

Stories of Transformation

DBRC's Intervention Brings Joy to the Life of a Minor Girl

This is about Adipudi Hepsy Papa, who is currently 19 years old. Hepsy Papa was raised by her maternal grandparents in the Yedlalingayya colony, Tenali, and used to go for waste picking with them since childhood. During this time, she met Yesanna, who also worked as a waste picker and hailed from Bandaru town. Adipudi Hepsy and Yesanna fell in love and decided to seek consent from their respective elders and close relatives for their wedding. Since Yesanna was a distant relative of Hepsy's family, their relatives readily agreed for their marriage. Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) which has been working for the betterment of the waste-picking community in and around Tenali for the past five years, became aware of Hepsy's wedding plans through its staff member, Mr. Bandela Ramesh. Hepsy was still a minor at that time. Mr. Ramesh held a meeting with all the members of the waste picking community and explained the ill effects of early marriages and the legal consequences of being a party to such marriages. He informed them that early marriage could lead to health complications for the girl/woman during childbirth and that they may not have the necessary skills to take care of a newborn child. The community leaders and relatives present at the meeting agreed to postpone Hepsy's wedding for two years until she became a major. Hepsy and Yesanna got married after two years and informed Mr. Ramesh about the same. DBRC provided them with a tricycle so that they would be able to earn additional income. DBRC also helped Hepsy, her husband, and their child obtain Aadhar cards. Hepsy pledged not to get her child married before her child turns into a major and promised to encourage her girl child to get educated well.

Stories of Transformation

DBRC's Intervention brings Justice in Vempadu Village

In Prakasham District, Mr. Bodapati Veeraiah belonging to the dominant caste filed a case against Mr. Ramesh, a person belonging to the scheduled caste community from the same village. The police immediately arrested Ramesh, beat him, and abused him because he was a Dalit and there was no one to support him. Upon learning about the case, DBRC head office asked its community mobilizer, Mr. Venkatarao, to go to the village and conduct a fact-finding investigation. Mr. Venkata Rao went to Mundlamuru Police Station and inquired about the case filed against Ramesh. He learned that a case was filed based on the complaint of Mr. Veeraiah, who claimed that Ramesh borrowed Rs. 20,000 and did not repay the money. Mr. Venkatrao visited the village and inquired

with the neighbours about Ramesh and his nature. He learned that Ramesh was a good person and had not borrowed any money from Mr. Veeraiah. Veeraiah was falsely framing Ramesh as he was from a Scheduled caste community. When he inquired with others members in the village, around ten of them also said that Veeraiah had filed a false case against Ramesh as he was a Dalit. Immediately, Mr. Venkatrao of DBRC went to Mundlamuru Police Station and interacted with the SI of Police. He asked if there was any evidence of Ramesh borrowing money from Veeraiah, i.e., any proof of note, for which the SI mentioned that there was no such evidence. Mr. Venkatrao then met the district superintendent of Police and complained to him about the illegal arrest of Mr. Ramesh. He also informed the higher official how Ramesh was brutally beaten up by SI. The District Superintendent responded immediately, investigated the case, confirmed that it was an illegal case, and ordered for immediate release of Ramesh. Subsequently, the Sub-Inspector was suspended, and Veeraiah, who had filed the false case, was arrested. All Dalits in the village thanked DBRC for their timely intervention and for providing justice to Ramesh.

Stories of Transformation

Mani's Journey from Begging to Empowerment

Dignity Restored:

For the past 75 years since gaining independence, India has achieved remarkable progress and development. The country has implemented various welfare schemes to ensure basic rights such as education, health, medicine, and infrastructure for all. However, some communities, especially those belonging to marginalized groups, have not received their due share of benefits from the government schemes. This is the case study of a woman named Mani. Mani, a resident of Singavaram in the Eluru district, belongs to the BC community. She was trapped by a man in the name of love and used for begging. She was brought to the village and forced to beg with her two children. Her husband did not take any responsibility for the family and harassed them for money. They lived in a tent on the bank of a pond without any facilities or ration cards. Mrs. Jyothi, the district coordinator of DBRC, observed the situation and joined the children in a welfare hostel. However, the parents brought them back and put them back to begging. Her father passed away, leaving Mani and her children in a dire situation. Jyothi convinced Mani to join her children in the welfare hostel. Jyoti motivated her to stop begging and helped her find work in the construction sector, where she earned a dignified wage of 500 rupees per day. Jyothi also facilitated Mani in applying for the widow pension and amravodi scheme. Due to the intervention of DBRC, Mani and her children started to

lead a dignified life. Additionally, DBRC supported nine women from the village, who were over 45 years of age, to apply for a caste certificate, which was mandatory to apply for Y.S.R. Cheyutha scheme. These women became financially independent and now have a better quality of life.

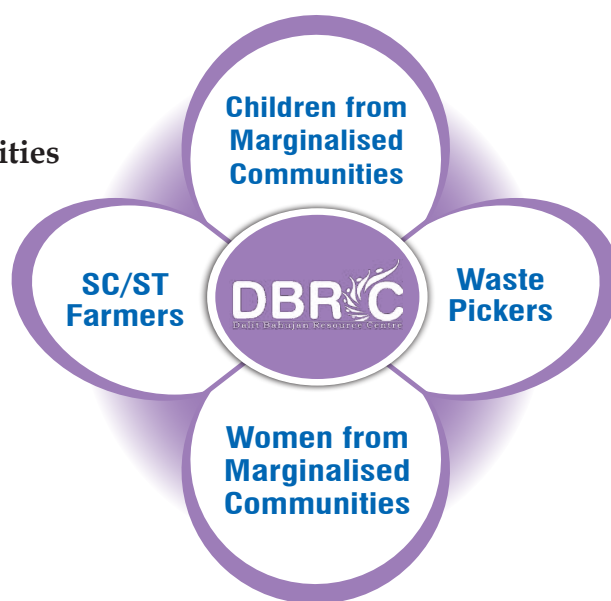
Media Coverage and Awards

DBRC's impactful initiatives have been recognized through media coverage and awards. Mrs. Jami Ramadevi, Regional Coordinator, received appreciation for DBRC's contributions from local authorities, enhancing visibility and support for our initiatives.

Communities We Work With

DBRC works with the following communities

- Waste Picker Families
- De-Notified Communities
- Children
- Women
- Farmer Producers Organizations
- Unemployed Youth
- Community Leaders



Targeted Sectors of Engagement

- Outdoor Learning Centers (OLCs)
- Women Empowerment
- Green Workers Initiative
- Empowering SC/ST farmers
- Budget Watch

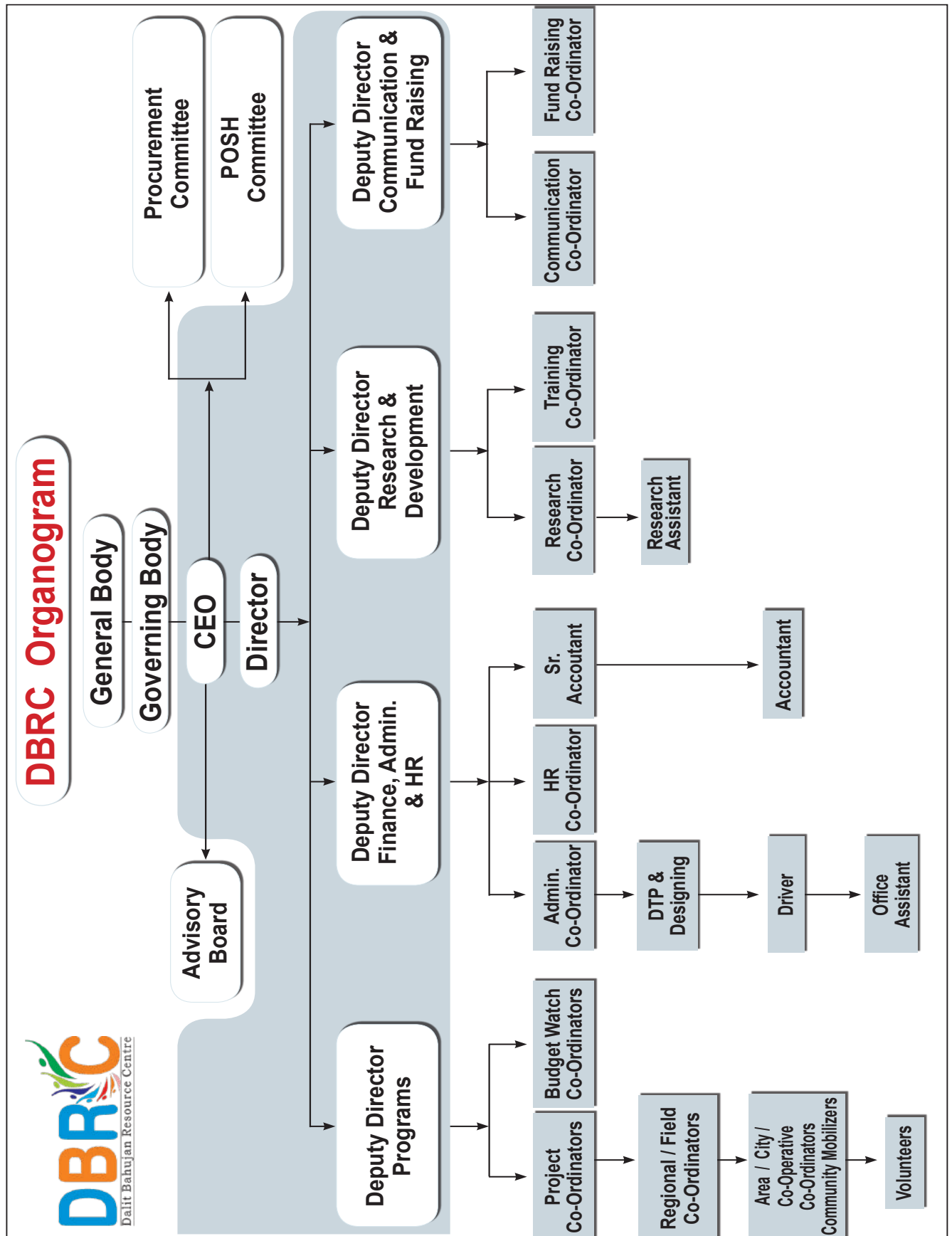




Our Presence

DBRC's administrative office is in Guntur, overseeing operations in seven districts of Andhra Pradesh.

1. Prakasam
2. Palnadu
3. Bapatla
4. Guntur
5. NTR
6. Eluru
7. Visakhapatnam



Our Strategies



Our Monitoring Mechanism

In line with our commitment to transparency and accountability, our monitoring mechanisms play a pivotal role in ensuring the effectiveness of our programs. Through regular assessments, monthly review meetings, and digitization of data, we closely track and evaluate our initiatives. Our monitoring mechanism encompasses various key elements aimed at fostering excellence and continuous improvement. Monthly review meetings serve as a crucial forum for team collaboration and strategy evaluation. The digitization of regularly gathered data enhances efficiency, providing real-time insights into our progress and areas for improvement. Individual tasks are systematically assigned and closely monitored to maintain accountability and to optimise performance. Additionally, we prioritise staff capacity building through targeted workshops and lectures, contributing to a dynamic work environment. This ensures our team is well-equipped to tackle challenges and contribute meaningfully to our mission. Taking feedback from the communities we work with is also an important component of our monitoring mechanism as it helps us in customising our interventions as per the community needs.

Children Empowerment

Objective: To empower children from marginalized communities, including never enrolled children, school dropouts, and slow learners, by fostering their interest in education and providing comprehensive support through Outdoor Learning Centres (OLCs).

Strategies:

1. Establishing joyful learning environments at community locations frequented by waste pickers, rat catchers, and other marginalized families.
2. Conducting outreach campaigns to highlight the importance of education and encourage parents to enroll their children in schools.
3. Implementing diverse activities at OLCs to simulate school-like environments and promote holistic development.

Interventions:

- Orientation and Enrolment Campaigns • Joyful Outdoor Learning Centres (OLCs)
- Girl Child Protection and Awareness Campaigns
- Health and Hygiene Sensitization
- Constitutional Awareness and Competitions
- Child Rights Week Activities
- Children's Festival

In the OLCs, children are encouraged in:

- Reading & Writing: Basic literacy skills are taught and practiced.
- Outdoor Games: Physical activities to promote health and well-being.
- Singing / Dancing: Creative expression through arts and culture.
- Life Skills: Practical skills for daily living and future readiness.
- Good Habits: Behavioral changes emphasizing hygiene, cleanliness, and respect.
- Homework Support: Assisting children with their academic tasks.

Outcomes:

1. Never enrolled children begin learning elementary subjects like alphabets and basic numeracy.
2. Improved cleanliness and hygiene practices among children attending OLCs.
3. Reduction in child labor as children regularize attendance at OLCs instead of accompanying parents to work.
4. Successful enrollment of several waste picker children into mainstream schools.
5. Increased parental involvement and support for OLCs as more parents recognize the benefits of education.
6. Enhanced self-esteem and confidence among marginalized children.



Other Programs Conducted

1. Orientation Programs for School Enrollment:

- Conducted 18 orientation programs across three districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- Sensitized marginalized families on the benefits of education and government schemes like Ammavodi and Vidya Deewana.

2. Campaign on Girl Child Protection:

- Organized a two-day campaign in schools and hostels focusing on education, child marriage prevention, and awareness of rights.
- Engaged 3,000 students with support from Women and Child Welfare Department officials.



3. International Hand Wash Day Campaign:

- Distributed soaps and educated 2,000 children on proper handwashing techniques to prevent diseases.

4. Children's Constitution Day:

- Held essay writing and quiz competitions on the Indian Constitution involving 2,000 children across targeted schools.



5. Child Rights Week:

- Conducted competitions and rallies across 8 districts to raise awareness about child rights, involving approximately 2,000 schoolchildren.

6. Children's Festival:

- Organized a cultural event, distributed clothes, and showcased talents of children from waste picker and DNT communities.

These interventions aim to transform the lives of marginalized children by providing essential education, life skills, and rights awareness through dedicated OLCs and community engagement initiatives.





Women Empowerment

Objective: To empower marginalized women through skill development programs, education, and enhancing their financial conditions. Our aim is to create a supportive community enabling them to voice concerns, access quality healthcare, and actively participate in decision-making, leading to holistic empowerment.

Strategies: • Implementing skill development initiatives tailored to the needs of marginalized women.

- Facilitating self-help groups (DWCRA).
- Promoting awareness and advocacy for the rights of marginalized women.
- Developing mentorship programs to provide guidance for marginalized women.

Interventions: • Regularly conducting orientation meetings for marginalized community women at Mandal and district levels.

- Convergence meetings between Dalit and Adivasi women and line departments.
- Frequent trainings on gender equality and social justice in marginalized communities.
- Awareness campaigns and advocacy against violence towards women.

Outcomes: • Women have started saving and borrowing from cooperative societies, reducing their dependency on local landlords.

- Women are now approaching local police stations when harassed.
- Women are independently approaching government officials to resolve their issues.
- Increased gender sensitization among men from marginalized communities.

Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023

• **Mandal Orientation Meetings for Dalit Adivasi Women:** DBRC organized Mandal-level orientation meetings for Dalit Adivasi women across project target areas from April 2022 to September 2022. A total of 1,917 women participated. The meetings aimed to educate women about government schemes and services, introduce them to ward/village secretariats,

and encourage their involvement in DWCRA self-help groups for social and economic empowerment. Officials from village secretariats, MDO offices, and health departments facilitated these meetings, enhancing community-government linkages.

• **District-level Leadership Training for Women:** In May 2022, DBRC conducted four district-level leadership training sessions in Guntur, Eluru, Sattenapalle, Darsi, and Vijayawada. A total of 275 women leaders from various villages participated. The training focused on equipping women with knowledge about government schemes, acts, and services, empowering them to advocate for community issues. Topics included leadership types, team building, strategy development, resilience, stress management, and personal and professional



development. Resource persons from women activists, police departments, and Women and Child Welfare departments provided insights and interacted with participants.

• **Convergence Meetings between Dalit Adivasi Women and Line Departments:** DBRC organized four district-level convergence meetings in June and August 2022 in NTR, Eluru, Palnadu, and Prakasham districts. These meetings provided a platform for Dalit and Adivasi women to interact with officials from women and child welfare, police, social welfare, tribal

welfare, and MEPMA. Over 250 women participated, voicing their concerns and needs. Officials sensitized participants about how women's empowerment contributes to family and societal socio-economic development. These meetings also facilitated knowledge exchange and issue redressal.



- **State Level Women Community Leaders Summit:** On July 29, 2022, DBRC organized a "State Level Women Community Leaders Summit" in Vijayawada, attended by 156 members. Key resource persons included Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Handlooms and Textiles; Mr. A. Mohammad Imtiyaz, IAS, CEO, SERP; Prof. Saraswati Raju Iyer, Dept of Sociology and Social Work, ANU; Mrs. G. Surekha, TGI, New Delhi; and Dr. Prathyusha Subbarao, Psychologist. Addressing the leaders, Smt. K. Sunitha emphasized women's role in societal change, highlighting government initiatives and encouraging utilization of available schemes and acts for women's welfare.
- **State-level Two-day Training on Gender Equality and Justice:** In Guntur on September 1st and 2nd, 2022, DBRC organized a state-level training on gender equality and justice. Representatives from police departments, Women and Child Welfare departments, village secretariats, and various government departments engaged as resource persons. Participants were sensitized about equal treatment and opportunities for both genders, with resource materials distributed to all attendees.
- **Campaign on Violence against Women:** DBRC collaborated with the Women and Child Welfare Department for a two-week campaign starting November 25, 2022, in Guntur, Eluru, and Palnadu districts. Rallies and human chains were organized to raise community awareness about ending violence against women. Community leaders, activists, and NGOs participated actively in these events.



Green Workers Initiative

Objective: To improve the living conditions of the Waste Pickers by ascertaining human development indicators such as education, health, livelihoods and dignity.

Strategies: Organising awareness campaigns in waste picking communities and providing support to take up alternative livelihoods

Interventions:

1. Providing support to strengthen their livelihoods and enabling them to explore alternative livelihoods.
2. Organizing awareness campaigns against child marriages, school dropouts, and child labour.
3. Facilitating waste pickers and their families in accessing basic entitlements and social security schemes.
4. Organising interface meetings with government departments and waste pickers.
5. Sensitising waste pickers about health and hygiene through behavioural change communication.

Outcomes:

1. Child marriages in waste picking communities got drastically reduced.
2. More and more girl children from waste picking community started attending schools
3. Due to three-wheeler pushcarts, waste pickers are able to earn more by travelling to farther distances
4. Waste pickers are going less often to PHCs.
5. Waste pickers are able to receive benefits such as subsidised ration from governments.

Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023

Orientation on Government Schemes and Cooperative Formation: To raise awareness among waste pickers about government schemes and services, DBRC organized two orientation meetings in waste picker settlements at Mangalagiri and Eluru on August 25th and 30th, 2022. A total of 110 waste pickers participated in these meetings. Officials from Ward Sachivalayam updated waste pickers on government schemes such as YSR Bheema, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka, Vasathi Deevena, SampoornaPoshana, Gorumudhalu, Arogyasri, YSR Cheyutha, and Amma Vodi. Waste pickers were urged to utilize these schemes, and officials expressed willingness to support DBRC in addressing any issues waste pickers may face in availing these benefits, including eligibility criteria, application processes, and available benefits. Waste pickers were encouraged to use services available in ward secretariats for an improved quality of life.

Promoting Waste Pickers Cooperative: To encourage waste pickers to join the Waste Pickers Cooperative and understand its benefits, DBRC organized meetings in Guntur, Vijayawada, Dumping Yard-Vijayawada, and Vijayawada-Autonagar. Waste pickers were informed about the advantages of cooperative membership, citing examples from Guntur. They were sensitized on how to save, utilize loans from the cooperative, and receive livelihood support. Waste pickers expressed their willingness to join the cooperative and start saving.

Training Program for Cooperative Governing Body Members: A two-day Training Program for governing body members of the Waste Pickers Cooperative was organized by DBRC on July 21st and 22nd, 2022, in Vijayawada. Approximately 40 members participated, focusing on helping them understand the functioning of cooperative societies, motivating waste pickers to join, and managing aspects such as savings and loans. Discussions covered procedures to obtain membership, criteria for availing loans, enhancement of loan amounts, and monthly installment amounts to be paid, etc. Ch. Anil Kumar, Program Manager at DBRC, interacted with participants, addressing the challenges they face. Participants mentioned issues with obtaining ration cards, Aadhar cards, caste certificates, and housing. They were sensitized on the application processes for these entitlements and schemes. Emphasis was placed on the importance of leadership qualities and encouraging participants to step forward and voice their issues.

Interface Meetings with Government Departments: Interface meetings took place in Guntur, Tenali, Eluru, Vijayawada, and Penamaluru in May 2022, with a total of 290 waste pickers participating. Officials from local municipal corporations, the labor department, MEPMA, the women and child welfare department, MROs, and Ward Secretariat staff participated in these meetings. The primary objective of these interface meetings was to empower community members to voice their issues and challenges in accessing government schemes and services and to receive responses from officials of various departments.



Waste pickers expressed concerns about the unavailability of entitlements such as Aadhar, ration cards, housing, drinking water, and electricity. They also requested officials to provide tricycles for easier travel to collect more waste and improve their income. Representations were submitted to officials, who promised to bring the issues to the attention of higher district officials.

Motivation and Behavioral Change Communication: Recognizing the need for consistent motivation to instigate behavioral change within the waste-picking community, DBRC conducted a series of motivation meetings from April to August 2022, sensitizing approximately 560 waste-picking families in its target areas. The aim was to encourage waste pickers to incorporate healthy hygienic practices, prioritize cleanliness, embrace immunization, opt for institutional deliveries, access low-cost nutrition, and utilize services at Anganwadi Centers. A total of ten such meetings were held during this year. During these programs, waste pickers were educated on the proper usage of toilets, menstrual hygiene, and the potential health risks associated with poor hygienic and sanitation practices. Representatives from

Anganwadi Centers, ASHA workers, Village Sachivalayam staff, and Primary Health Centers actively engaged with waste pickers and motivated them to adopt healthy lifestyle practices.

Awareness Generation Campaigns: Eight campaigns were organized in November 2022 in target areas, involving representatives from village/ward secretariats and the Women and Child Welfare department. Various activities, including quiz competitions, games, and rallies, were conducted as part of the campaign. DBRC's field staff played a crucial role in sensitizing communities about the adverse consequences of child and early marriages, school dropouts, and the significance of maintaining good hygiene practices. A total of 435 children and parents attended the program. Active participation of key stakeholders is expected to contribute to heightened awareness, decreased dropout rates, and enhanced health practices.

Facilitating General Body Meetings of the Cooperative: On August 25th, 2022, DBRC organized General Body meetings for cooperative members in Guntur and Vijayawada to inform members about rules, regulations, and the roles of board members, along with systems to be adopted. Seventy-five members actively participated in these meetings. Discussions during the meeting covered previous year activities, procedures to obtain loans, effective saving tips, membership mobilization, and the potential establishment of scrap shops. Cooperative supervisors provided updates on membership statistics, the number of people who had taken loans, total savings, and repayment status. Cooperative members were encouraged to motivate other waste pickers to join and start saving to access loans from the Waste Pickers Cooperative.

Annual Conference of Safai Karamcharis: The annual conference of Safai Karamcharis was conducted on January 30, 2023, in Vijayawada, with a total of 260 waste pickers participating in the program. Distinguished leaders including Sri. Kumba Ravi Babu, Chairperson of AP ST Commission, Mr. Samuel, Commissioner, State Information Commission, Mr. Malladi Vishnu, Member of Legislative Assembly, and Vijayawada Additional Police Commissioner, Mr. MokaSattibabu, attended the program. They graced the event and assured to bring the issues of waste pickers to the notice of the Chief Minister of the state. The event was chaired by Project Director of DBRC Sri. Alladi Deva Kumar, who highlighted the need for the waste pickers to focus on improving their living conditions by accessing services and schemes of the government meant for them. During the conference, waste pickers voiced the issues faced by



their community and highlighted the positive changes brought in their lives by DBRC. Mr. Ch. Samuel Anil Kumar, Program Manager, presented a report on DBRC's interventions in the waste-picking community. There was singing, dancing and presentation of skits by the children of the Waste pickers who are attending the OLCs run by DBRC.

Awareness Generation on Rights and Entitlements: In January and March 2023, DBRC held six meetings with waste pickers to educate them about their rights and entitlements. The aim was to empower waste pickers, provide information on legal protections, and raise awareness about available benefits. They were also sensitized about the significance of joining the waste pickers cooperative for increased access to resources and opportunities. These awareness programs were conducted in 15 target areas with the involvement of officials from local government departments.

Skill Training for Waste Pickers: On January 9th and 10th, 2023, Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre conducted skill training for waste pickers in Guntur. The training focused on improving waste pickers' knowledge in waste segregation, collection, and income generation. It aimed to empower them to identify and segregate various types of waste, adopt innovative waste management techniques, and negotiate better terms for the waste they collect. A total of 40 waste pickers benefited from this skill training program.



Installation of Borewell: Near the dumping yard in Guntur, where waste pickers reside, there was a lack of access to water facilities. To address this issue, on October 19, 2022, DBRC collaborated with the local NGO "Smile Foundation" to install a borewell in their residential area. This initiative benefited more than 100 waste-picking families living in the area.



Empowering SC/ST Farmers

Objective: To enhance the socio-economic status of SC/ST farmers by facilitating exposure visits and establishing effective linkages with government officials to improve their knowledge, skills, and access to relevant resources and schemes.

Strategy: Conducting exposure visits and establishing linkages for SC/ST farmers with government officials.

Interventions:

1. Assisting SC/ST farmers in the application process for various government schemes, ensuring they have access to the necessary documentation and support.
2. Organizing regular exposure visits for SC/ST farmers to government offices and agricultural departments.
3. Facilitating direct interactions and discussions between SC/ST farmers and government officials.
4. Conducting training sessions and workshops for SC/ST farmers to enhance their understanding of available government schemes, policies, and support mechanisms.

Outcomes:

1. Increased participation and successful enrollment of SC/ST farmers in government schemes.
2. Increased awareness among SC/ST farmers about government initiatives and resources.
3. Improved knowledge and skills among farmers through exposure visits and interactions with government officials.
4. Enhanced access to relevant schemes, resources, and support, leading to positive socio-economic outcomes for SC/ST farmers.



Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023 Year:

State-level 3-Day Training of Trainers (TOT): On September 3rd and 4th, 2022, DBRC organized a State-level Training of Trainers (TOT) in Guntur, sensitizing the staff about Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs), membership procedures, how to initiate an FPO, cooperative principles, and the roles and responsibilities of the board of directors. This training provided the team with knowledge about the functioning of cooperatives.

In collaboration with Krishi Vignana Kendra (KVK), Darsi, Prakasam District, DBRC organized an Orientation for Farmers on Farmers Producers Organization. A total of 380 farmers from Darsi, Eluru, Vijayawada, Addanki, and Sattenapalli participated in the training. Scientists from KVK sensitized the farmers about the necessity of forming Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs), emphasizing benefits such as access to quality seeds, agricultural tools, storage facilities, and better market prices. Officials from government departments, including the joint collector and representatives from DRDA and DRO, participated and interacted with the participants. The training highlighted various advantages, including improved market access, better prices for produce, reduced input costs through bulk procurement, enhanced access to credit and financial services, capacity building and training opportunities, collective decision-making, and policy advocacy.

Orientation to SC-ST Farmers at the Mandal Level: In the months of May, June, and August 2022, DBRC organized 16 orientation meetings with SC/ST farmers in the target areas, involving representatives from Agri and allied departments, including Dr. G. Ramesh – Sr. Scientist Plant Protection and R. Naga Malleswari - Village Agricultural Assistant. A total of 1379 farmers participated in these meetings.

The focus of the meetings was to sensitize farmers about soil testing, awareness on quality seeds, and various schemes available through the Agri and allied departments. The discussions covered topics such as CCR cards (Crop Cultivators Rights Cards), benefits like crop insurance, bank loans, support from RBKs (Raithu Bharosa Kendralu), enrollment in EKYC, and E-crop.

Farmers were educated about the advantages of natural farming, including:

- Environment-friendly nature of natural farming
- Role in promoting sustainable development
- Healthy and tasty food
- Income generation through exports
- Source of employment

Participants expressed their willingness to adopt natural farming and requested support from the government whenever they needed it. SC/ST farmers gained knowledge about improved farming techniques, organic practices, crop protection, government schemes, market linkages, etc. This initiative is likely to contribute to increased productivity, adoption of sustainable farming methods, better access to government support, improved market connections, and overall empowerment of farmers.

Interface Meetings Between Dalit Adivasi Farmers and Agri & Allied Departments: DBRC organized interface meetings in seven areas on June 24th, 25th, and 27th, 2022, facilitating connections between officials from agricultural and allied departments and Dalit Adivasi farmers. A total of 600 farmers participated in these meetings, engaging with officials from various

departments, including fisheries, horticulture, food processing, and Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).

During the meetings, participants voiced out the issues and challenges they were facing. In response, officials sensitized the participants about Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) and encouraged them to utilize services such as crop insurance, e-crop booking, marketing, etc. Officials highlighted the convenience of e-crop booking for accessing crop-related services and emphasized the importance of crop insurance in mitigating risks and protecting farmers' livelihoods. These meetings fostered effective communication and collaboration, ensuring farmers were well-informed about available resources for their agricultural development.



Promoting Sustainable and Organic Farming Practices: DBRC conducted five meetings with farmers in its target areas during April, June, and July 2022. The focus of these meetings was to raise awareness about organic farming practices. Farmers were encouraged to consider organic farming as a sustainable method that can lead to the production of high-quality crops. Video clips illustrating successful organic farming practices from other states were presented to the farmers during these sessions. Some farmers expressed willingness to adopt the organic farming system.

Organizing Exposure Visits for Farmers to KVK: DBRC, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK),

organized two exposure visits on May 31st, 2022, and July 26th, 2022, benefiting 77 farmers from three areas.



Farmers were sensitized on:

- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Measures for better production
- Role of vaccines in crop health
- Soil testing for improved growth and productivity
- Information on types of crops for different seasons along with challenges and coping strategies.

The farmers were introduced to organic fertilizers, crop rotation, composting, and biological pest control. Additionally, they had the opportunity to witness the use of modern tools and machinery, encouraging the adoption of technology. Farmers actively engaged with agricultural scientists and professors, seeking clarification on their doubts. Farmers expressed their commitment to replicate similar practices in their own areas.

Dalit-Adivasi Budget Watch

Objective: To raise awareness among SC/ST communities on the proper utilization of the SC/ST sub-plan budget and to advocate their concerns to designated government authorities and representatives, thus achieving economic justice for SC/ST communities.

Strategy: Conducting awareness meetings on SC/ST sub-plan funds across our working areas, interacting with people, and taking their feedback to government authorities.

Interventions:

- Sensitizing SC/ST communities at the grassroots level about the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act and schemes implemented by various government departments.
- Organizing orientation meetings and training for community leaders, CSOs, and NGOs working for the empowerment of marginalized communities.
- Conducting budget analysis and developing perspectives.
- Conducting studies on various schemes implemented through SC/ST funds.
- Facilitating dialogue with government departments to suggest appropriate welfare and development schemes based on the needs and aspirations of marginalized communities.
- Advocating with policymakers to ensure justice in budget allocations for SC/ST communities.

Outcomes:

1. Extension of the SC/ST sub-plan for an additional 10 years, previously set to terminate by January 2023, due to our active efforts in collaboration with like-minded activists.

Major Implemented Activities for 2022-2023

Orientation to Community Leaders on SC/ST Sub-Plan Act and Schemes:

In April and August 2022, DBRC organized six orientation meetings for community leaders on the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act in Sattenapalli, Darsi, Eluru, Vijayawada, Narasaraopeta, and Bapatla towns. Community leaders were oriented on different departments implementing various schemes under the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act. They were sensitized about the Act's impact on the lives of SC/ST communities. Participants were grouped to discuss community issues in accessing government schemes and develop strategies for effective Act implementation. Detailed discussions covered fund allocation under universal schemes rather than specific SC/ST programs. Community leaders were encouraged to represent SC/ST community issues to public representatives and bureaucrats for the creation of new exclusive schemes to bridge the gap between SC/STs and dominant communities.



State-level Workshop on Different Government Schemes: On June 20, 2022, DBRC organized a state-level workshop in Guntur. Activists, community leaders, and Dalit budget watch team members were sensitized on various government schemes. Officials from multiple departments participated, interacting with attendees on SC/ST community development schemes. Challenges faced by SC/ST communities in scheme access and resolutions were discussed. Sixty-two members participated.

Capacity Building Training for District Budget Watch Teams: DBRC organized seven district-level training programs for Dalit Adivasi budget watch members in Guntur, Ongole, Vijayawada, and Eluru districts on April 25, 2022. Two hundred members actively participated. Programs, chaired by committee convenors, featured Chief Guest Mr. Deva Kumar updating on government schemes, budget, underutilized departments, and advocacy with district administration and government departments to ensure effective SC/ST sub-plan budget use.

District Level Budget Watch Team Meetings

Dalit Budget Watch Committee organized district-level meetings in NTR, Palnadu, Guntur, Eluru, Bapatla, and Prakasam districts in June and July 2022. Preliminary discussions led to the formation of new district budget watch teams in Bapatla and Narasaraopet. A total of 365 members attended these meetings. The Chair, Mr. Alladi Deva Kumar, presented the status of implementation of SC/ST Sub-Plan Act, emphasizing



budget utilization and the lack of SC/ST-specific allocations under common schemes. He urged members to voice their needs to ensure the Act's effectiveness. Resolutions included plans to meet with MLAs and MLCs to advocate for the removal of the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act's 10-year clause.

Advocacy Intervention with District and State Officials, People's Representatives

DBRC conducted advocacy interventions with state and district officials in May, July, August, and September 2022. Seventy-seven budget watch committee members participated in these interventions across Guntur, Palnadu, Eluru, NTR, Prakasam, and Bapatla districts. They advocated for the effective use of the SC/ST Sub-Plan budget and the implementation of exclusive development schemes for the SC/ST community. A total of 18 advocacy interventions were conducted, during which 42 MLAs and MLCs were met to push for the removal of the Act's 10-year clause. State-level advocacy meetings included interactions with state ministers, principal secretaries, advisors, SC and ST commissions, and received media coverage.

District and State Level People's Review Meeting on SC/ST Sub-Plan Act: DBRC held five district-level people's review meetings on the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act and its implementation status in Sattenapalli, Vijayawada, Eluru, Narasaraopet, and Ongole. Two hundred forty members, including leaders, intellectuals, students, NGO representatives, and activists, participated in these discussions. Mr.

Alladi Deva Kumar delivered the keynote address, covering topics such as the Act, budget utilization, and implementation, with officials in attendance. The analysis focused on the Act's implementation, budget allocation, and the diversion of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds to universal schemes.

On October 21, 2022, a state-level meeting was held in Vijayawada, with 145 members discussing the Act's implementation. The Chief Guest, Prof. Gundemeda Sambaiah from Azim Premji University, highlighted the challenges in implementing the Act and called for the removal of the Act's 10-year clause.

State Level Interface Meeting (Two Days) with Budget Watch Team Members, Community Leaders, Government Authorities: Two-day state-level interface meeting on March 23, 2023, in Guntur, had 175 attendees. Panels, including staff, community leaders, discussed themes on policies, laws, education, health, atrocities, women, children, unorganized workers. Policy, law, SC/ST community policy change strategies discussed.

Cross-Cutting Programmes

State-level Workshop on Different government schemes

Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) organized a state-level workshop on various government schemes related to education development on the 17th December, 2022. Prof. Bellamkonda Rajasekhar, University of Hyderabad, delivering keynote address, emphasized the importance of pursuing higher education and utilizing the available government schemes.

During the workshop, students had the opportunity to voice their concerns and issues. Professor Rajasekhar addressed their concerns and provided career guidance to them. The meeting was attended by approximately 400 students from different villages from Prakasham district. The meeting served as a platform for students to learn about government schemes and receive guidance from the experts present there. Officials from various education departments, municipal administration and rural development and oriented them about the schemes and services available in their respective departments.

Exposure visits for Cross learning

A team of eight members from DBRC visited Farmers producer organisation (FPO) in Madanapalle on February 13th and 14th, 2023 and understood the following:

- FPOs have good access to seeds and necessary resources.
- FPOs can be used as centers to sell fertilizers and animal feed at wholesale prices to farmers.

The farmers have sound financial management in saving money, taking loans, and repaying them. The FPO at Madanapalle is running successfully, contributing to the farmers' savings and loan repayments. The visit provided valuable insights into the effective management of an FPO for our office team. It showcased how strong representation of women in agriculture can play a vital role in the effective functioning of FPOs

Research Studies for Building Knowledge Base

To make informed decisions and to plan activities to get maximum results, sound knowledge about the communities is a prerequisite condition. For this, DBRC has a dedicated wing that extensively focuses on knowledge generation through action research. DBRC regularly conducts independent research studies to get a better understanding of the communities it works with. For the year 2022-23, DBRC produced a report on the 'Nutrition study' that clearly highlighted the health challenges faced by waste-picking communities in Guntur district.

Study on Socio-Economic Conditions of Brick-kiln labourers in Andhra Pradesh

DBRC conducted a study to understand the socio-economic conditions of brick-kiln workers in Andhra Pradesh. The main objective of the study was to identify the vulnerability of brick-kiln labourers in Prakasham district. The study found that a majority of the brick-kiln workers had migrated from other districts within the state, and most of them belonged to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Because of a scarcity of employment opportunities in their hometowns, they moved into the brick making profession.

Even though the working conditions were horrendous, they continued to do the same work as they had to repay their debts. The recommendation of the study will be utilised as an advocacy tool to engage with the Commissioner of the Labour Department and advocate for policy-level changes.

Study on Solid waste management

DBRC conducted a study on Municipal Solid Waste Management in Guntur. The study is tentatively titled “A Case Study on Municipal Solid Waste Management in Guntur”, aimed to understand waste management in Guntur, identify areas for improvement, and develop recommendations submitted to the Corporation and the Municipal Administration. The study focused on gathering data from waste pickers, sanitary workers, and households in Guntur. Approximately 3000 households, 100 sanitary workers, and 100 waste pickers were surveyed as part of the study.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Working with SC/ST and DNT communities in Andhra Pradesh has taught us a lot. It's been tough at times, facing bureaucratic rules and cultural differences. But every challenge has brought new understanding. Meeting community leaders and activists showed us their determination and hope for change. Education and empowerment programs have helped break the cycle of poverty. Advocating for fairness in government resources has been important. We've learned a lot from working together and seeing the strength of the people we support. It's shown us how important it is to keep working for a future where everyone is treated with dignity and equality.

Challenges



- Caste prejudice and discrimination remain pervasive, limiting access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for our beneficiaries. Breaking down these barriers requires persistent advocacy, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization efforts.
- Our work demands sustainable funding to provide quality education, healthcare, and skills training programs. Navigating financial constraints has taught us to maximize impact through strategic partnerships, innovative resource mobilization strategies, and cost-effective program design.
- Women and girls face additional burdens, often struggling with limited access to education, economic independence, and healthcare. We learned that tailoring our programs to address specific gender needs and empowering women within their communities is essential for lasting change.
- Low literacy rates, especially among women, and a lack of awareness about their rights and entitlements posed obstacles in mobilizing and empowering communities.

Lessons Learned



- Strengthening the community institutions such as budget watch committees at the state level, can bring visibility to an issue and also influence policy change, which can be highly beneficial to the SC/ST Communities in the state.
- During this project period, while working with the target communities, we identified and learned about other most excluded communities i.e. Denotified and Nomadic communities (DNT/NT), who are living in similar socio-economic conditions.
- Collaborating with the government departments in a collaborative manner yields better results.
- We understood that by simply enrolling children from marginalized communities in government schools will not produce desired results. Providing handholding support and guidance are key for children's education and empowerment.
- We realised that it is essential to acknowledge individuals engaged in agricultural activities as farmers, expanding the recognition beyond just landowners.
- We've learned that empowering local leaders and building community ownership are key to ensuring program continuity and impact.
- Recognizing and celebrating every step forward, however small, keeps our beneficiaries and us motivated. We've learned that acknowledging progress, no matter how incremental, fuels hope and fosters a culture of resilience within the communities we serve.

Our Partners and Donors

S.No	Project	Target communities	Donor
1	Green workers initiative (Improved livelihood, income, social security and education for Waste Pickers and their families).	Waste Pickers	Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore
2	Empowering Dalit Bahujan communities	Dalits, Adivasis, DNTS, Waste pickers	Bread for the World, Germany
3	Indian labour line (Providing Mediation, Legal Aid, and facilitating access to social security entitlements to informal sector workers)	Migrant workers	Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore
4	Building sustainability and resilience (Grow project)	Organisation strengthening	American Friends of Edelgive Foundation, USA
5	After school learning	Children of Waste pickers, rat catchers, slum dwellers and other vulnerable communities.	Aid USA.
6	2 Social Security Schemes to Waste workers	Waste Pickers and others involved in Waste	
7	Developing database of Waste Pickers for AIW	Waste Pickers	WEIGO
8	Improving learning and enrichment of 200 girl children and income of 15 waste pickers	Waste Pickers and girl children	Swedish Chamber of Commerce India

What Our Beneficiaries Say About Us

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to DBRC for bringing education right to our doorsteps in our residential areas. We appreciate the dedication and commitment of the organisation staff and OLC teachers in making education accessible to us. My children, who used to sit at home idle, now regularly attend classes at OLC and learn something new each day. Thank you, DBRC, for being a beacon of hope and opportunity for our community.

- Akila, parent of a waste picker at OLC, Eluru

We express our sincere gratitude to DBRC for ensuring basic healthcare access for our community. Even though hospitals are within our reach, we lacked basic entitlement cards like Aadhar and voter ID cards, making us hesitant to approach nearby government hospitals. With the active efforts of DBRC staff, we received our basic entitlement cards which immensely helped us in availing medical facilities at our nearby hospitals.

- R Rajitha, a Yanadi woman from Ambedkar Colony, Samanthapudi Village, Prakasham district Healthcare.

Our heartfelt thanks to DBRC for empowering us in accessing agricultural loans from government banks. Prior to this, we used to borrow money from local landlords at exorbitant interest rates and struggled lifelong to pay it back. Through your interventions, now we are getting loans at low interest rates from banks to invest on our crops.

- A Dalit farmer from village, Bapatla district FARMER loans

Thank you, DBRC, for fostering self-sustainability in our households through the provision of seeds for kitchen gardens. This intervention has not only enriched our nutritional intake but has also empowered us to cultivate our own source of fresh and healthy vegetables. Now, we no longer have to travel daily to the nearby main market centre to buy vegetables.

- A homemaker from Bhatluru village, Palnadu district Kitchen gardens

DBRC has been a catalyst in ensuring us access to essential services through the distribution of basic entitlement cards. This intervention has streamlined our ability to apply for eligible government schemes, fostering a sense of security and dignity within our community. Now, we get essential groceries for our daily needs from the government run public distribution system.

- a waste picker from Sharada Colony, Guntur city. Basic entitlements

We extend our deep gratitude to DBRC for the transformative intervention in securing housing pattas for our community. This invaluable support has not only provided us with rightful ownership but has also been instrumental in creating a foundation for stable and secure homes."

- Tadikonda Durga, a beneficiary from YSR Colony

Future Plans and Strategies

DNT and NT communities in Andhra Pradesh face severe challenges, including inadequate access to basic amenities like proper housing, clean drinking water, and electricity, forcing them to live in vulnerable conditions. Many community members lack government identity cards, further limiting their access to essential government support. In some areas, their living conditions are worse than those of SCs and STs. These marginalized groups also struggle to access education and healthcare, and many face prolonged periods of unemployment, which threatens their food security.

Recognizing these deplorable conditions, DBRC is committed to empowering DNT and NT communities in the coming years. We will focus on preventing atrocities against SC/ST communities and integrating gender and climate change considerations into all our future interventions.

Get Involved with DBRC

DBRC is dedicated to empowering marginalized communities, with a strong focus on women and children. By joining hands with us, you can support initiatives addressing critical issues such as housing, clean water access, education, livelihoods, and healthcare. Your involvement through volunteering, donations, or spreading awareness about our work can make a meaningful difference in the lives of marginalized communities. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society.

India Labour Line

The Working People's Coalition (WPC) in collaboration with Aajeevika Bureau has launched the India Labour Line, providing legal aid and mediation services primarily for migrant workers. The Labour Line now operates offices in seven states across India, aiming to address issues faced by workers in the informal sector, offering free assistance regardless of their state of residence.

DBRC, in collaboration with WPC and Aajeevika, has established a state facilitation centre in Vijayawada and actively implements the Labour Line program in Guntur and Vijayawada. Since its launch in November 2022, DBRC has registered a total of 424 cases, focusing on wage theft, PF, ESIC, gratuity, accident/death claims, and government entitlements for unorganized laborers. Through mediation and legal aid services, DBRC has successfully resolved 175 cases, totaling Rs. 22,43,401 in retrieved wages.

Moreover, DBRC has conducted extensive awareness campaigns, reaching over 3 lakh unorganized workers in these two cities. These efforts have educated workers about various state and central government welfare schemes, including registration for building and construction workers, the Ayushman Bharat health scheme, E-Shram registration, skilling programs, and postal benefits.

DBRC has also launched a special campaign in Andhra Pradesh to raise awareness about the five potential benefits of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) among unorganized laborers. This initiative aims to improve the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable workers in the region.

The collaboration between the Indian Labour Line, Aajeevika Bureau, WPC, and DBRC has

significantly addressed the systemic vulnerabilities faced by unorganized laborers in Guntur and Vijayawada, providing essential support, legal assistance, and access to government welfare schemes. Together, they strive to empower workers and create positive change nationwide.

Outdoor Learning Centres

Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC) is committed to uplifting marginalized communities through initiatives like the Outdoor Learning Centres. These centres aim to educate never-enrolled and school dropout children from families engaged in occupations such as waste picking, rat catching, fishing, and daily wage labor. Often residing in remote slums and vulnerable areas, these families have limited access to government social security schemes due to their informal employment.

Operating six days a week for two hours daily, the intervention provides a nurturing environment where children engage in productive learning activities. These activities include reading, writing, games, singing, dancing, life skills development, and homework support. Extended sessions feature video screenings, quiz sessions, exhibitions visits, and picnics, enhancing learning enjoyment and enrichment.

The impact has been significant, with noticeable improvements in children's reading and writing skills, as well as new interests like drawing and clay work. Attendance rates have risen, and dropout rates decreased, contributing to reduced instances of child labor and early marriages. Children have also shown improved hygiene practices and homework completion.

Through the Outdoor Learning Centres, DBRC aims not only to provide education but also to nurture the potential of these children, paving the way for a brighter future.





DALIT BAHUJAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Behind Next Gen International School,
Near Hosanna Ministries, Gorantla, Amaravathi Road, Guntur-522 034.