



Report on the visit of Kawardha District of Chattisgarh by Professor S Narayan Special Rapporteur, NHRC from 15th May 2015 to 19th May 2015.

The District Magistrate of Kawardha Shri Dayanand & the Superintendent of Police Shri Rahul Bhagat are serious and sensible administrators and popular among the people of the District but the system as such is that some of the institutions of the District have been found violating the human rights of the common man. I visited hospital, Jail, police, co-operative, agriculture, labour and education. Departments of the district

Hospital:

The undersigned visited the district hospital of Kawardha and community health centre Lohara. While visiting hospital Kawardha and Lohara it has been observed, that the hospital ward, operation theatre etc. are dirty which may lead to infection and infectious disease among the patients who are living in the ward or visiting the hospital. Some posts of medical officers are lying vacant, as a result patients visiting to hospital, OPD or indoor are facing difficulty in getting treatment in hospital. Most of the people said that here the doctors are posted and seldom transferred. Dr. Arjun Singh Thakur is in Lohara community hospital since last 18 years, similarly some doctors are in district hospital who prefer to see the patients in their nursing home/-clinic rather than at hospital.

I had been to Dharampura with Deputy Director Agriculture and the people in his presence said that they go to private clinics of the doctors and not to the hospital because they do not get proper attention and treatment in the hospital. The medicines given to the patients are not up to the mark and generic.

Jail:

The undersigned visited the jail of Kawardha district, it is a sub-jail and Shri D.D. Tonder is the assistant superintendent in charge of this jail. The total capacity of the jail is of 50 prisoners but during the visit I found 143 prisoners. There is no female prisoner. Out of 143, 09 are convicted prisoners, 01 is a civil prisoner and 123 is under trial. During the visit of the jail ward it was found that one under trial prisoner Shri Mahendar Kumar has lighted a lamp filled with ghee in the ward, he is in possession of a brass lamp in which he regularly or whenever he desires light the lamp with ghee. I think this should not be allowed in the jail for security reasons. At the gate of the jail the visitors who came to meet with the prisoners were sending biri, onions, mango, green chilli, fruits, soap, green vegetables etc. I think onion, green chilli, green vegetables, gram are to be provided by the jail authorities and visitors are not allowed to send these things to their relatives/prisoners. For the visitors there is a small shade and for them an earthen pot was kept filled with water. The earthen pot was opened in the presence of the assistant superintendent of the jail and was found that water was dirty and contaminated and not drinkable.

Police Station

The undersigned visited the police station named Sahaspur Lohra, and the Kotwali police station of Kawardha and found that the lockup of the police station are not as per prescribed

norms of the NHRC/Supreme court of India. The male lock up is 10*10 ft and the female lock up is 6*9 ft. The toilet inside the lock up were dirty with no water facility. The police person responsible for taking First Information Report are literate constable or head constable who have read generally to 12th class and are not aware of the Sections of Indian Penal Code. He put Sections in FIR as per his convenience or as per the convenience of complainant. None of the police officials present during the visit were able to say about human rights and none of them have ever been trained for human rights.

PWD Road and Building:

While travelling from Khairagarh to Dongargarh, the 40 km road stretch is in very bad conditions. The villagers living by the side of the road said that on many occasions, the patients of these villages die before they reach hospital due to bad conditions of the road. In PWD building there are several daily wages worker working in this PWD building for more than 15 years and getting a salary of around 3400 per months which is less than minimum wages and no institution can be allowed to hire the services of person on daily wages for such a long period which needs the attention of the NHRC.

Agriculture:

The Deputy Director Agriculture Shri Nageshwar Lal Pandey who accompanied to the visit of Dharmapura and Hirapur panchayat. Most of the farmers were recognising the deputy director agriculture and his staff and said that they get agricultural input with the help of the district agriculture officer, district magistrate and also spoke very high about the superintendent of the police but one farmer Shri Shiya Ram Sahu was angry with the deputy director for providing low quality seeds which resulted into failure of his crop causing financial crisis for him. The farmers were demanding for the wire fencing of their agriculture land and increase in target of tractor and increase in subsidy. They also want subsidy in sugarcane farming. The state government should provide them sugar cane cutter, tractor with increase subsidy for which the agriculture ministry of Government of India may be approached. The farmers demands are genuine.

Co-operative:

The Co-operative department of the district is only registering the Co-operative societies and not doing any welfare activities. Therefore, it is felt that the Co-operative department of the district may be scrapped. Shri Janghel Narayan Singh is the nodal officer for the Co-operative banks in the district. The farmers told that the subsidy they get is transferred to their bank account of co-operative banks but it takes a long time in getting the amount credited in their accounts. The nodal officer of the Co-operative bank Shri Janghel Narayan Singh said that the co-operative banks are not computerised, hence such delays are taking place.

Education:

The school and colleges were closed for the summer vacation and the district education officer gave a report of the activities being undertaken in the district in the educational

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institution which seems good, however, in January 2016 programme for primary, middle, high and higher secondary, the training for the students is in Belly-, disco dance and other cassette dance by the student of the primary, middle, higher secondary students. I think they should be given training in local culture and ethnic dances and in ethnic culture programmes. These training from middle to higher secondary school should be also imparted in human rights which is absent in their syllabus or activities. The quality quantity and the programme of the mid day meal run in the district deserves a special attention of the district and the state. Shri H.R Rana, District Child Women Officer said that that the Aganbadi is running but there is no juvenile centre in the district. The quality quantity and the programmes of the Aganbadi also deserve the attention of the district as well as state. Shri G.K.Nihaliya admitted the fact that the bonded labour is not present in the district but has no data on the matter. During the visit of the Dharmapura and Hirapura Panchayat it was reported that some of the agriculture labours in these panchayats took loan and are unable to return those loans, therefore they are working in the fields of those persons from whom they have taken loan. there is a sugar factory in the district . It has been observed during the visit that there is no shade and drinking water facility for the farmers who come to give their sugarcane to the factory. This factory is functioning from 21.0.2001 and one Shri Anand Tiwari who is member of the sugar co-operative factory said that he is waiting for his tractor turn to come from 14th May 2015 and I visited the factory on 19th May 2015 at 11.00 am. The officers of the factory are unaware of the human rights.

The Nagarpalika of the Kawardha has not paid the salary of the April 2015 to its cleaning staff. Ms. Deepaali Chouhan and Ms. Laxmi Danger who cleans the road of Kawardha from 9.00am to 1.00pm gets Rs. 4000/- per month towards salary. They said that they get new brooms after one month to clean road but in the real situation these brooms become redundant for cleaning , hence they have to buy brooms from their own salary. No hand glove and masks have been provided to them for cleaning the road either for cleaning or picking litters/garbage from the road. Some time they get serious infection in their hand and leg in the absence of hand gloves, foot wears and masks. The district is represented by Chief Minister of Chattisgarh and who so ever met or I interacted were claiming their close proximity with the Chief Minister and the Member of Parliament who happens to be his Son. The indirect interfere of the politicians and political system is not desirable for the development of the people and in some cases it deprives them from their human rights I t is said that serious and visionary politician never interfere in the district administration.

I think the medical health system of the district needs special attention. Of the state, committed medical officers be posted in the district because here only poor among the poorest come

National Human Rights Commission



Sub: Reports of Shri S. Narayan, Special Rapporteur, NHRC, on his visits to Kawardha District of Chhattisgarh from 15th to 19th May 2015

Shri S. Narayan, Special Rapporteur, NHRC, visited Hospitals, Jails, Police Stations PWD Roads and building, Agricultural area, Co-operative and Educational Institution, of the Kawardha District of Chhattisgarh, to verify and determine if the human rights are being adequately protected by the concerned authorities.

Hospitals

- While visiting hospital Kawardha and Lohara it has been observed, that the **hospital ward, operation theatre etc. are dirty which may lead to infection and infectious disease among the patient** who are living in the ward or visiting the hospital.
- Some **posts of medical officers are lying vacant**, as a result patient visiting to hospital, OPD or indoor are facing difficulty in getting treatment in hospital.
- Doctors posted are hardly ever transferred. Dr. Arjun Singh Thakur is in Lohara community hospital since last 18 years, similarly some doctors are in district hospital who prefer to see the patients in their nursing home/-clinic rather than at hospital.
- **People go to private clinic of the doctors and not to the hospital because they do not get proper attention and treatment in the hospital.** The medicines given to the patients are not up to the mark and generic.
- **Medical health system of the district needs special attention** of the state, **committed medical officers should be posted** in the district because here only poor among the poorest come to these hospitals.

Jail

- Special Rapporteur visited the jail of Kawardha district, it is a sub jail and Shri D.D.Tonder is the assistant superintendent in charge of this jail. As against a sanctioned **capacity of 50 prisoners, the occupancy reported on the day of the visit was 143 prisoners.**
- There is no female prisoner. Out of 143, 09 are convicted prisoner, 01 is civil prisoner and 123 are under trial. During the visit of the jail ward it was found that **one under trial prisoner Shri Mahendar Kumar has lighted a lamp filled with ghee in the ward, he is in a possession of a brass lamp in which he regularly or whenever he desire light the lamp with ghee. I think this should not be allowed in the jail for security reasons.**
- At the gate of the jail the **visitors who came to meet with the prisoners were sending biri, onions, mango, green chilli, fruits, soap, green vegetables etc.**

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These raw materials are to be provided by the jail authorities and visitors are not allowed to send these thing to their relative /prisoners.

- For the visitors there is a small shade and for them an earthen pot was kept filled with water. **The earthen pot was opened in the presence of the assistant superintendent of the jail and was found that water was dirty and contaminated and not drinkable.**

Police Station

- Special Rapporteur visited police station named Sahaspur Lohra , and the Kotwali police station of Kawardha and found that the **lockup of the police station are not as per prescribed norms of the NHRC/Supreme court of India.**
- The male lock up is 10*10 ft and the female lock up is 6*9 ft. **The toilet inside the lock up was dirty with no water facility.**
- The police person responsible for taking First Information Report are **constable or head constable who have read generally only till 12th class and are not aware of the Sections of Indian Penal Code.**
- They put **Sections in FIR as per his convenience or as per the convenience of complainant. None of the police officials present during the visit were aware about human rights and nor any of them have ever been trained for human rights.**

PWD Road and Building:

- While travelling from Khairagarh to Dongargarh, the 40 km road stretch is in very bad conditions. **The villagers living by the side of the road said that on many occasions, the patients of these villages die before they reach hospital due to bad conditions of the road.**
- In PWD building there are several **daily wages worker working in this PWD building for more than 15 years and getting a salary of around 3400 per months which is less than minimum wages and no institution can be allowed to hire the services of person on daily wages for such a long period which needs the attention of the NHRC.**

Agriculture:

- There is a sugar factory in the district. It has been observed during the visit that **there is no shade and drinking water facility for the farmers who come to give their sugarcane to the factory.**

Co-operative:



- **The Co-operative department of the district is only registering the Co-operative societies and not doing any welfare activities. They should also perform some welfare activities within the district.**
- **Shri Janghel Narayan Singh is the nodal officer for the Co-operative banks in the district. The farmers told that the subsidy they get is transferred to their bank account of co-operative banks but it takes a long time in getting the amount credited in their accounts.**
- **The nodal officer of the Co-operative banks Shri Janghel Narayan Singh said that the co-operative banks are not computerized; hence such delays are taking place. Therefore to avoid such delays, co-operative banks need computerization**

Education

- **The district education officer had informed that from January 2016, primary, middle, high and higher secondary students will be given training in Belly dance, disco dance for and other cassette dances. Special Rapporteur has suggested that they should be given training in local culture and ethnic dances and other folk culture programmes.**
- **These training from middle to higher secondary school should be also imparted in human rights which is absent in their syllabus or activities.**
- **The quality quantity and the program of the mid day meal run in the district deserves a special attention of the district and the state.**
- **Aganbadi is running but there is no juvenile centre in the district. The quality quantity and the programmes of the Aganbadi also deserve the attention of the district as well as state.**

Bonded Labour

- **The bonded labour is not present in the district as there is no data available. However during the visit of the Dharpura and Hirapura Panchayat it was reported that some of the agriculture labours in these panchayats took loan and are unable to return those loans, therefore they are working in the fields of those persons from whom they have taken loan.**

Sanitation

- **The Nagarpalika of the Kawardha has not paid the salary of the April 2015 to its cleaning staff. Ms. Deepaali Chouhan and Ms. Laxmi Danger who cleans the road of Kawardha from 9.00am to 1.00pm gets Rs. 4000/- per month towards salary.**
- **They said that they get new brooms after one month to clean road but in the real situation these brooms become redundant for cleaning, hence they have to buy brooms from their own salary.**

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- **No hand glove and masks have been provided to them for cleaning the road either for cleaning or picking litters/garbage from the road. Some time they get serious infection in their hand and leg in the absence of hand gloves, foot wears and masks.**