

Summary Report

Rapid Response to Sewer/Septic tank Deaths

(October-2019 to January-2020)

The project supported efforts of Safai Karmachari Andolan through Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in 5 cities of Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai. Initially the duration was for 1 year (from Oct 2019 to Sept 2020), but due to Lockdown the extension was given from Oct 2020 till Jan 2021.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

1. To respond quickly and rush to spot whenever a sewerage death occurs and to support the victim's families to get justice and compensation
2. Create awareness about rights and entitlements delivered in Supreme court judgment
3. Create awareness about the about Manual Scavenging Prohibition Act 2013
4. Monitoring law enforcement agencies to record each death and take steps to prevent sewerage deaths

Objective of this project requires us to have focused case-by-case efforts. For the purpose of the cases were categorized into two broad categories – **Old Cases** (Before Oct 2019) and **New cases** (Post Oct 2019).

Target agreed upon = 25 Old cases and 25(estimated) new cases.

ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP/TARGET ACHIEVED:

1. Old Cases:

For this purpose concerned RRT member visited the family members to collect the data. As government agencies too do not hold the data required for rehabilitation efforts it becomes very important to visit the family members. This also makes an opportunity for the people to connect to the movement.

Upon collecting all the relevant documents in the particular case, the memorandums have been sent to all the concerned authorities' viz. DM, Secretary and other advisory commission like NHRC. The memorandums to DM are being followed on monthly basis.

As a result of these efforts family members of deceased to receive their rightful compensation in 38 cases, as against target of 25 cases, agreed upon in this project. (List attached in Annexure-I)

2. New Cases:

New cases are those wherein the death have happened after the project started in Oct 2019. For effective implementation a SoP is created and followed with timeline. (The detail SoP table is attached in Annexure-II)

Since the project started there have been 30 deaths in the 5 cities. Out of these, in 28 cases the RRTs could reach the family members and deliver amount of Rs.10000 towards Immediate relief(Complete list attached in Annexure-III).

Among these 28, in 14 cases family members have received their rightful compensation of Rs.10 Lakh. (Complete list attached in annexure)

ADVOCACY WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS)

Under this all the parliamentarians, especially those from the constituency where death have happened, will be personally visited by respective RRTs and a memorandum will be handed over to them in order to inspire and support them to ask relevant questions in the house.

RTI REQUESTS

All the concerned officials/departments were followed up with relevant RTIs in order to monitor administrative steps if any they have taken up to –

- I. Provide compensation to families
- II. Prevent such deaths in their areas

LEGAL INTERVENTION

With the help of legal help of an expert, strategy for legal intervention was devised at national level. Also the RRT members were given training and orientation pertaining to relevant sections from IPC, CrPC, MS Act 2013, PoA (SC &ST Act) etc.

In continuation to what mentioned above, representation in the courts on hearing of the cases will be made by RRT members accompanied by legal experts.

CONDUSIVE RESPONSES FROM NHRCs/SHRCs

As a result of continuous advocacy with NHRC, SHRC, we have received some hopeful responses. Some of the responses have confirmed compensation, some arrest and chargesheet of the culprits. In one of the response the human right commission has requested SKA to present itself in the hearing.

In all the cases NHRC have taken urgent and serious cognizance of our memorandums. They have been sending advisories to respective state governments, District Magistrates, Superintendent of Police. This has certainly increased instances where the criminal action against culprits takes speed. We have received responses from such offices communicating to us the action taken by their office. We can hope that this will curb such instances happening in future.

SHRC – Some of the SHRCs (State Human Rights Commissions) have responded to our memorandums in positive way. For instance SHRC of Maharashtra and Haryana have requested us to repress our case in the court. We have made a team of people who are law experts and also have experience of working with SKA. We are waiting for the next hearing in these cases. As Haryana is located near Delhi RRT member from Delhi team will be executing this activity.

ABOUT IMMEDIATE RELIEF

The death brings deep distress in the family and being already poor, vulnerable and oppressed they require strong support to engage with the police and government agencies for claiming their legal rights. It is vitally important that SKA members or volunteers--who have full knowledge of the law and the skills—step in to engage with the local agencies to take control of the situation and lead the process of filing the case under the 2013 Manual Scavenging Prohibition Act and the SC ST Atrocities Act.

In such situation, the family requires immediate financial support to keep them physically and mentally balanced and strong to engage with the forces of the state who will only try to deny them their rights. There will be a need for persistent and continuous engagement with the police, urban local body authorities and the collector of the district for implementation of the law. Engaging the media is important and critical not only for the family to receive public support but also to pressurise the government to take appropriate steps to implement the law and prevent further sewer killings.

In all these scenarios the provision of immediate relief comes as handy to extend them a real support which also encourages them to be active part of their own struggle.

There have been 30 new deaths in sewer and septic tank since our project started from October 2019. We have been working on this issue since long back, however as this project

is allowing us to have much direct and a timely intervention. And this has made a very positive impact on the field.

As per their report from them the provision of 'Immediate Relief', of Rs.10,000, has been helping our field team to have a bond, which make it easy to have follow up activities. It is been noticed that due to this timely monetary help the cooperation from the family members of diseased, in general, has enhanced a lot.

“We are glad to bring to your notice that, in cases happened during nation-wide lockdown, in-spite of the restrictions, our RRT members could visit, taking appropriate permissions, the family members and also could hand over the Immediate Relief Amount.”

LOCKDOWN EFFECT –

This was perhaps the most unprecedented situation for everyone in the world. In India, as you are aware the lock down started from 22nd March 2020 onwards which continued till not earlier that august 31st. The provision of travel restrictions made the most pivotal work of meeting family members very difficult. Also it was very difficult to reach to the spot or to family members, in case of a new incident.

Still in 4 out of 12 cases in the project area RRT members could meet the family members. Also in case of old cases, RRT members could actually had to go extra mile as government priorities have changed during the corona pandemic. Still, till now total people who could get compensation have already exceeded the target of 25. The exception of Mumbai, as discussed above still remains.

RATION DISTRIBUTION –

Due to constrain put upon by presence of lockdown, most of the RRTs were not able to conduct their regular project work. As a result, and also as the call of time, RRTs from cities of Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad were engaged in ration distribution. The activities were mostly conducted in bastis of Safai Karmachari, focusing mostly on the family members of diseased.

CASES OUTSIDE PROJECT AREA :

In addition to the above list there have been many deaths happened outside project area. There were 35 death reported to us since the start of the project from outside the project area. As RRTs could not reach the location our efforts were constrained. We need to have a strategy to conduct similar activities in these areas too. (*The list is attached in Annexure V.*)

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY-

As it can be seen from above the performance with respect deliverable in state of Maharashtra is not satisfactory. Major reason lies in lack of appropriate guidelines from the higher levels of the government to the field administration. To tackle this we are undertaking focused efforts with respect to City of Mumbai. Assertive negotiations are planned with concerned officers of government of Maharashtra. Exclusive advocacy efforts are to be carried out.

Field visits by coordinator were made especially to city of Mumbai as the governments approach towards the death is apathetic. Due to lack of policy guideline administrations of the field are not able to carry on proceedings for compensation to the family members of the deceased. Following this a memorandum was sent to the concerned officials of the government of Maharashtra requesting for a GR (Government Resolution) directing field administrators to provide for compensation of Rs.10 Lakh each to the family of deceased.

CONCLUSION:

With this intervention, there was significant improvement in the speed and reach of our responses to sewer deaths. Due to regular intervention, the approach and attitude of the state agencies towards cases of sewer and septic tank deaths, especially with the families of the deceased, is seen to be improving. The women, especially spouses and mothers, of the deceased could get a support during the times of distress. The biggest influence was of the fact that all the RRT members are from the same community, so the family members of the deceased finds it as very conducive to join them. The provision of immediate relief played a very crucial role, not just in economic terms but also in bringing them closer to the movement.

As a result, total Amount of **Rs.2.8 Lakh** in the form of Immediate relief was received by the most needy. A total Amount of **Rs.5.28 Cr** was facilitated to be received by the rightful beneficiaries. This is the first time when so many beneficiaries received their due from the government in span of 1 year.

Overall this intervention and regular follow up had an essential and critical positive impact for the prevention of manual scavenging and killings in sewer holes and septic tanks and assisting in the struggles of the people. This can be seen in reduction in death cases in last 1.5 year.

ANNEXURES

ANNEXTURE – I
List of Old Cases – Received compensation

Sr. No	Name of SK	Incident Date	City
1	Rakesh	23-Mar-19	Delhi
2	Ajay	24-Mar-19	Delhi
3	Kannan	27-Sep-07	Chennai
4	Ravi	28-Sep-07	Chennai
5	Krishnaiah	29-Sep-07	Chennai
6	E.Anantharaj (Anand)	18-Dec-11	Chennai
7	A. Moses	19-Dec-11	Chennai
8	Shanmugam	02-May-14	Chennai
9	P. Babu	03-May-14	Chennai
10	Malakondaiah	17-Jul-14	Chennai
11	Charless	02-Aug-19	Chennai
12	Thirupal	03-Aug-19	Chennai
13	Madigowda	07-Jan-18	Bengaluru
14	Narayanaswamy	08-Jan-18	Bengaluru
15	Sreeniwas	09-Jan-18	Bengaluru
16	Bheemulu	06-Jan-14	Hyderabad
17	Chandrasekhar Dubbaka	23-Jul-13	Hyderabad
18	Santosh	30-Aug-18	Hyderabad
19	Vijay	31-Aug-18	Hyderabad
20	Pallap satyanaryana	13-Aug-16	Hyderabad
21	Pallapu srinivas	14-Aug-16	Hyderabad
22	Warsu Nagesh	15-Aug-16	Hyderabad
23	Kishan	20-Jan-19	Delhi
24	Deepak	07-May-19	Delhi
25	Ganesh	07-May-19	Delhi
26	Devinder	28-Jun-19	Delhi
27	Ankit	28-Jun-19	Delhi
28	Shahrukh	28-Jun-19	Delhi
29	Madiwalappa Gowda	19-Dec-18	Bangaluru
30	Manu V.	05-Mar-19	Bangaluru
31	Gudusab Bhagwan	29-Mar-19	Bangaluru
32	Nabilal Ekkewale	29-Mar-19	Bangaluru
33	Lalappa Madar	29-Mar-19	Bangaluru
34	Gafoor Pasha	28-Apr-19	Bangaluru
35	Aftab Pasha	28-Apr-19	Bangaluru
36	Yadaiah K	13-Jul-13	Hyderabad
37	Boggu Veeraswamy	01-May-16	Hyderabad
38	Chakali Kotaiah	01-May-16	Hyderabad

SoP (Standard operating Procedure)

: Steps to be followed after a death happen in Sewer/Septic Tank			
Step No.	Description	Primary Responsibility	Within
1	Phone call to concerned SKA member to request him to visit family members on urgent basis	National Coordinator	no time
2	Get the primary details of the case including details of the immediate dependents (Wife or mother preferred)	RRT Member	6 hrs
3	Try to attend the funeral/last rites	RRT Member	NA
4	Once the details of immediate dependents, along with their, photos on whats aap send Immediate Relief amount to the members account	National Coordinator	1 day
5	Members to withdraw the cash and hand it over to the family members personally in an SKA envelope with caption written on it as Rs.10000 (The member must make efforts so that the recipient feel to join the movement)	RRT Member	2 days
6	The member must collect the receipt, along with photos, of the money handed over	RRT Member	2 days
7	A separate file to be dedicated for a death along with its serial number	National Coordinator	2 days
8	Immediately file will be attached with news report print out and with a file cover for that death case	National Coordinator	2 days
9	Letters to be edited and sent to 14 different authorities	National Coordinator	2 days
10	Copy of DM memorandum to be set to field member	National Coordinator	1 day
11	Field member to submit the memorandum personally to DM, possibly along with the family members of diseased	RRT Member	1 day
12	Survey form to be filled (on app)	RRT Member	3 days
13	FIR, PM and DC, along with other 4 documents, to be collected and copies to be sent to National office	RRT Member	15 days
14	2nd Memorandum to be submitted to DM (this time with the documents)	RRT Member	20 Days
15	Send final data to Data Manager	National Coordinator	25 Days
16	Memorandum follow-up every month	RRT Member	Every 1 month

Annexure-III

List of immediate relief – New cases

Sr. No.	Name	Age	City
1	Sunil Chawariya	30	Mumbai
2	Bika Bubak	32	Mumbai
3	Pradeep Sarvata	35	Mumbai
4	Arunkumar	25	Chennai
5	Sadhik Bhasha	45	Chennai
6	Bishwajit Khajendra Debnath	35	Mumbai
7	Govind Sangramji chorotiya	36	Mumbai
8	Santosh Prabhakar Kashikar	45	Mumbai
9	Siddappa	17	Bengaluru
10	Marianna	52	Bengaluru
11	Ravi	24	Shahdara
12	Balamurugan	37	Chennai
13	Velavan	40	Chennai
14	Chandru	35	Chennai
15	Suresh	40	Delhi
16	Nayan Bhoje	24	Mumbai
17	Jayendra Mukne	29	Mumbai
18	Tejas Bhate	27	Mumbai
19	Nitesh Mukne	27	Mumbai
20	Anand	32	Bengaluru
21	James	24	Bengaluru
22	Nagraj	38	Chennai
23	Saheen Shah	32	Chennai
24	Devendar	40	Delhi
25	Satish Chawla	60	Delhi
26	Idris	45	Delhi
27	Salim	45	Delhi
28	Namdev Pawar	38	Mumbai

List of those received Rs.10Lakh as Compensation

Sr. No.	Name	Age	City
1	Arunkumar	25	Chennai
2	Sadhik Bhasha	45	Chennai
3	Siddappa	17	Bengaluru
4	Marianna	52	Bengaluru
5	Ravi	24	Shahdara
6	Balamurugan	37	Chennai
7	Velavan	40	Chennai
8	Chandru	35	Chennai
9	Anand	32	Bengaluru
10	James	24	Bengaluru
11	Nagraj	38	Chennai
12	Saheen Shah	32	Chennai
13	Idris	45	Delhi
14	Salim	45	Delhi

Cases outside Project Area

Sr. No	Name of the person	Age	Date of incident	Died in	District	State
1	S K Munna	54	1-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Kendrapara	Odisha
2	Mohammad Arif	50	8-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Akola	Maharashtra
3	Shaikh Ateem	50	8-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Akola	Maharashtra
4	Akhilleshwar Kaushik	40	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Mungeli	Chhatisgarh
5	Gaurishankar Kaushik	28	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Mungeli	Chhatisgarh
6	Ramkhilawan Kaushik	45	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Mungeli	Chhatisgarh
7	Subhas Dagure	45	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Mungeli	Chhatisgarh
8	Madukar Narayan Tavlakar	55	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Buldhana	Maharashtra
9	Aniket Madukar Tavlkar	24	23-Jun-20	Septic Tank	Buldhana	Maharashtra
10	Pandi	24	2-Jul-20	Septic Tank	Thuthikodi	Tamil Nadu
11	Isakiraja	20	2-Jul-20	Septic Tank	Thuthikodi	Tamil Nadu
12	Bala	23	2-Jul-20	Septic Tank	Thuthikodi	Tamil Nadu
13	Dinesh	20	2-Jul-20	Septic Tank	Thuthikodi	Tamil Nadu
14	Suraj Kumar	20	23-Jul-20	Septic Tank	Mungyer	Bihar
15	Brajesh Chandra Barnwal	50	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
16	Mithilesh Chandra Burnwal	40	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
17	Govind Manjhi	50	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
18	Bablu Manjhi	30	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
19	Lalu Manjhi	25	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
20	Leelu Murmu	30	9-Aug-20	Septic Tank	Deogarh	Jharkhand
21	Nitin	30	23-Aug-20	Sewer Line	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
22	Sanjay	50	23-Aug-20	Sewer Line	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
23	Des Raj	48	28-Aug-20	Sewer Line	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh
24	Gurbachan	30	28-Aug-20	Sewer Line	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh
25	Rashid	34	28-Jan-21	Sewer Line	Kalburgi	Karnataka
26	Lal Ahmad	36	28-Jan-21	Sewer Line	Kalburgi	Karnataka
27	M. Murugan	41	14-Feb-21	Septic Tank	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu
28	D. Bhagyaraj	40	14-Feb-21	Septic Tank	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu
29	S. Arumugam	45	14-Feb-21	Septic Tank	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu
30	Jahangir Alam	22	25-Feb-21	Sewer Line	Kolkata	WB
31	Sabir Hossain	19	25-Feb-21	Sewer Line	Kolkata	WB
32	Md Alamgir	35	25-Feb-21	Sewer Line	Kolkata	WB
33	Liyakat Ali	20	25-Feb-21	Sewer Line	Kolkata	WB
34	Sunaram Sardar	55	19-Mar-21	Sewerage Tank	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
35	Silup Birua	25	19-Mar-21	Sewerage Tank	Bhubaneswar	Odisha