

AMBEDKAR KING STUDY CIRCLE

Report Submitted to the 1st General Body

Oct 29, Sunday 2017, Hayward, California

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Introduction

Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC) was started in October 2016. Nonetheless there was a loose discussion for a long time to start a study circle, a concrete idea has taken shape in Aug 2016 followed by protest organized in San Francisco against Dalits being attacked in Una, Gujarat.

First reading and discussion took place on 30th Oct , Sunday , 2016 in Berkeley, California. It's started with an aim to read the original text of social revolutionaries and reformers and to debate their ideas and adapt them to the existing conditions. The group decided to meet once in month to discuss the selected books. Later the date for discussion is fixed as 2nd Sunday of every month.

In one way or another most of the members participating in reading and discussion are activists and making active intervention in their respective areas and aim of the AKSC has been to sharpen their theoretical and ideological understanding through reading and discussion. We , the activists, have become serious readers and debaters, NOT the otherway around that we started activism after we start reading. Out of the zeal for activism AKSC has decided to organize public gatherings against oppressions and discriminations whose details are given below.

AKSC's activities are categorized as below :

1. Programs Organized.
2. Books read and discussed.
3. Audio Conferences.
4. Other Interventions

Programs Organized

No	Program Name	Date	Date & Venue
1	Inclusive Campuses and Exclusive Society : Reality or Utopia	Apr 16, 2017	Milpitas, CA
2	'Kakkoos' Documentary Screening	Aug 13, 2017	Milpitas, CA
3	Periyar Birthday Celebration	Sep 16, 2017	San Jose, CA

Inclusive Campuses and Exclusive Society : Reality or Utopia

Hall meeting was organized on the backdrop of institutional murders. It's organized on Apr 16th, Sunday, 2017 in Milpitas, California followed by an institutional murder of J Muthukrishnan on 14th March 2017. Between 2007 and 2017 April 22 students committed suicide in higher educational institutes. 95% students who took their own lives are Dalits. They are the social capital of NOT only the Dalit community BUT the entire nation.

Joint organizers of this event beside AKSC are Ambedkar Association of North America(AANA), Association for India's Development(AID) [Bay Area Chapter], South Asian Humanist Association(SAHA) and Organization for Minorities of India(OfMI). The Speakers were Mr. Harishchandra Sukhdeve, Dr. Rajunayak Vislavath, Mr. Aditya Chatterjee, Mr. Bhaskar Krishnamsetty and Ms. S Thenmozhi.

This hall meeting was well received and attended by around 60 to 70 people. Thialikumar welcomed the gathering, Kanakalaxmi read the letter written by Ms.Sunitha (mother of Ankit, student from IIT-Bombay, who was victim of institutional murder) to Ms.Radhika Vemula (mother of Rohit Vemula), Chaitanya has moderated the Q&A and Kanakaraj delivered the vote of thanks. Q&A session was very intensive and discussions are revealing. S Karthikeyan anchored the program.

Memorandum was signed and sent to the office of the Prime Minister of India and the Human and Resource Development of India. The AKSC decided to work seriously on civic education and how it should be different for the oppressed and the oppressor followed by this meeting.

'Kakkoos' Documentary Screening

On Sunday, Aug 13th, 2017, various organizations from Silicon Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, USA screened 'Kakkoos' (Toilet) documentary film. 'Kakkoos', directed by Divya Bharathi - a social activist, is powerful narration of destitute and miserable lives of manual scavengers. This program is attended by around 80 to 90 people which includes Indian diaspora, Americans and the people from other nationalities with their children.

Joint organizers of this program are Association for India's Development (AID) - Bay Area Chapter, San Jose Peace and Justice Center (SJPJC), Ambedkar Association North America (AANA), World Tamil Organization (WTO), Siragu Tamil Online magazine (Siragu.com) and Naam Tamilar America Arakattalai. (NTAA)

Elancheran, AKSC welcomed the gathering. Kalai Ramea, member of Association India's Development (AID) - Bay Area Chapter, introduced the documentary. S Karthikeyan of AKSC, Vidya Palanisamy of AID, Thillai.Ka.Kumaran representing WTO, Thiagarajan from Siragu.com and Ravikumar from Naam Tamilar America Arakattalai and Dr. Vasant Mhaske of AANA spoke in the event. Udayabaskar delivered the vote of thanks and Kanakarajan anchored the event.

Periyar Birthday Celebration

On Saturday, Sep 16th, 2017 Periyar birthday celebration was organized under the theme of 'Periyar's Self-Respect Movement and Humanism' at Dr. Martin Luther King.Jr Library in San Jose. Joint organizers of this program are Periyar International - Bay Area Chapter(PI-BAC), Ambedkar King Study Circle(AKSC), BR Ambedkar Sikh Foundation(BRASf) and Organization for Minorities of India(OfMI).

The program started with a felicitations from Dr.K Veeramani through a video recording. Prof. Amrik Singh from the University of Sacramento, California, Pieter Friedrich of OfMI, S Karthikeyan of AKSC and K.Karunanidhi of All India Backward Classes Federation have spoken in the event. Vinodhini Kantharaj of PI-BAC welcomed the gathering. Asoka Boola has anchored the event. This program is attended by around 40 people.

Books read and discussed

Sl.No	Book	Date
1	Annihilation of Caste by BR Ambedkar	Oct 30, 2016
2	Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? by Martin Luther King, Jr.	Dec 03, 2016
3	Revolution and Counter Revolution in Ancient India by BR Ambedkar	Jan 20, 2016
4	Revolution and Counter Revolution in Ancient India by BR Ambedkar	Feb 12, 2017
5	The Hindus: An Alternative History by Wendy Doniger	Mar 12, 2017
6	Philosophy of Hinduism by BR Ambedkar	Apr 09, 2017
7	Revolution and Counter Revolution in Ancient India by BR Ambedkar	May 14, 2017
8	Who were the Shudras - How they came to be the Fourth Varna in Indo Aryan Society ? by BR Ambedkar	Jun 11, 2017
8	Who were the Shudras - How they came to be the Fourth Varna in Indo Aryan Society ? by BR Ambedkar	Jul 09, 2017
9	B.R. Ambedkar - Indian and Communism. Introduction by Anand Teltumbde.	Aug 20, 2017
10	Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? by Martin Luther King, Jr.	Sep 10, 2017
11	Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? by Martin Luther King, Jr.	Oc 08, 2017

Between Oct 2016 and Oct 2017 we had 11 book discussions and covered 7 books.

Audio Conferences

Sl.No	Program	Date
1	Direct Report from a Student of IIT Madras: On Sooraj's Attack in Particular and Caste Apartheid in IIT-Madras in General. Abhinav Surya	Jun 08, 2017
2	Ambedkar on Brahminism and Capitalism : United Struggles for Annihilation of Caste. Dr.Anand Teltumbde	Jun 10, 2017
3	On Honor Killings : Anything is Fair in Love But Caste P Suganthi Secretary AIDWA and Kausalya Social Activist	Sep 01, 2017
4	NEET : Why it's Against Federalism and Social Justice Dr. Mani Nachimuthu , Co-Ordinator, Federation to Defend Right to Education.	Sep 09, 2017
5	Struggles faced by Aathithamizhar Peravai Athiyamaan, Founder, Aathithamizhar Peravai (ATP)	Sep 30, 2017

Other Interventions

Besides organizing the above discussions and conference calls, AKSC under common banner or sometimes without any banner actively organized and take part in demonstrations on the issues of democratic rights, social justice et al

Abolish NEET Protests in Bay Area

National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance(NEET)

Anitha, a Dalit girl who has scored 1178/1200 , i.e. 98%, committed suicide because she was denied an MBBS seat based on newly introduced selection method i.e. NEET based. She would have got an MBBS seat under the existing mark based selection. AKSC perceives NEET as (i) Pro urban and pro rich since NEET needs extra paid coaching which poor can't afford (ii) NEET is reversing the social justice where many students from Backward castes and a considerable number of students from scheduled caste were able to get medical college admission under open category and NEET is an attempt to reverse this trend. (iii) NEET is based on CBSE where vast majority i.e. close to 97% of the students study under State board and NEET reserves only 85% seats for the state board and hence against state board students and it's direct violation of nature of federalism.

NEET is a initial step of implementing a National level eligibility tests by Central Govt's **Joint Seat Allocation Authority**, which is unconstitutional and denies State's rights to have specific educational policy according to social demography. So AKSC realized that NEET is unconstitutional, against federalism, and Class and Caste issue, and partnered with other Organizations to mobilized Indians in Bay Area for a protest in Fremont CA and then before Consulate General of India, SFO and submitted a memorandum to abolish NEET and move the Education from Concurrent list to State's list. The protest in Fremont was attended well over by 200+ Indians.

Condemning TN Police brutality on Fishermen in the aftermath of Jallikattu Protests in Chennai, TN

In 2016 Indian Govt banned Jallikattu sport played in TN while celebrating the popular regional festival "Pongal". TN has registered it's protest with a peaceful protest in Marina Beach, Chennai, TN, started by Students.

During the final days of the protests the TN government alleged that anti social elements intruded and mixed with the peaceful protestors. The government also alleged that such anti social elements are provided shelter and protection by the fishermen community next to Marina. By citing this as reason and in the name of handling law and order issue the government unleashed brutal attack on the fishermen through the state machinery. TN Police has charged many innocent Fishermen Folks with false Sedition charges. AKSC realized the discrimination and oppression on the poor fisherman folks and mobilized Indians to register their protest against TN Police's brutal attack.