

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HYDERABAD**

RSBS

**REPORTED SUBMITTED BY
SRI V. RAGHUNATH RAO
HEAD OF THE ONE MAN COMMISSION
IN RESPECT OF
PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY
JOGINIES, BASAVIES, MATHAMMAS
AND DEVADASIS AND THEIR CHILDREN
ON 26-06-2013.**

is unfortunate to know that latest statistics after 1987-1988 are not available.

The Joginies system is in existence in 17 districts as per APSCCFC. There are about 25000 Joginies in Andhra Pradesh during 1987-1988 as mentioned below district wise.

Name of the District	No.of Joginies/Basavies/Mathamma/ Mathangi/Devadasi
1. Kurnool	- 5861
2. Nizamabad	- 5666
3. Mahboobnagar	- 2879
4. Anantapur	- 2686
5. Karimnagar	- 2197
6. Medak	- 1145
7. Warangal	- 1059
8. Adilabad	- 906
9. Hyderabad	- 740
10.Chittoor	- 544
11.Nellore	- 284
12.Ranga Reddy	- 231
13.Nalgonda	- 40
14.Prakasam	- 26
15.Vizianagaram	- 7
16.East Godavari	- 1
17.Kadapa	- 1
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	24,273
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INTRODUCTION

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed me as Head of the One Man Commission to study the problems being faced by the Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas and Devadasis and their children.

Sri. Narayana Swamy addressed a letter to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with paper clippings containing fate of the children of Joginies in Mahbubnagar District. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took the letter as public interest litigation IN RE Vs Union of India and others WRET PETITION (civil) 627 of 2007 gave directions to Government of Andhra Pradesh to study the problems of Joginies and similar nature of women.

Government of Andhra Pradesh issued G. O. Ms. No. 80, (PCR) Dept; dated 10-12-2010.

After taking charge as Head of the One Man Commission on 20-01-2011, accommodation was provided by the Government on 27-05-2011. Supporting staff are given in the month of March 2012. Most of the time is consumed in getting minimum infrastructure for functioning of the Commission. The Commission secured statistics of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadasis existed during 1987-1988 from the Vice Chairman/Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Co-operative Finance Corporation Ltd., (APSCCFC). It

5. The Commission may also evaluate the effect of the rehabilitation measures already extended by Government and Non-Government Organizations to the Joginies and similar groups in the State.

The terms of the Commission are widened in G.O. Ms. No. 7, dated 14-03-2012, from G. O. Ms. No. 80, dated 03-12-2010.

After fixing of terms Commission visited remaining district head-quarters except dist Chittoor.

HISTORY OF JOGINIE SYSTEM

The Joginie system is one of the religious sanctioned social evil perpetuated in the society from times of immemorial, founded on power stricken, illiterate section of the society. Joginies are small girls traditionally or superstitiously dedicated to village God's such as Poleramma, Yellamma or grama devatha. The word *JOGINI* is said to have been derived from the word *YOGINI* which means a saint girl. The heinous practice of Joginie is a deep rooted social problem with social, economic status under feudal system.

The system has been descended from centuries. Joginies are found in abundance, mostly belongs to Scheduled Caste community and few from Scheduled Tribe and weaker sections that is from Backward Class community.

Girls are given in marriage to God or Goddess to achieve selfish ends of upper caste, because the girls are born in privileged community.

The NGOs brought to the notice of the Commission that there are about 80,000 Joginies, similar nature of women in existence in Andhra Pradesh.

Commission visited eight (8) district head-quarters to know the problems being faced by the children of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadasis.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh fixed terms under G. O. Ms. No. 7, Social Welfare (PCR), Dept., Dt. 14-03-2012. The terms as follows.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. The Commission shall assess all aspects and review the magnitude of the problems being faced by the Joginies and the children of the Joginies (Mathangies, Devadasis and Basvis) throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Commission shall also make field assessment to ascertain whether the system of dedication of young girls as was done in the past is still in vogue or whether it is seized to exist.
3. The Commission will suggest a suitable plan of action for the prevention of the system of Joginies (Mathangies, Devadasis and Basavis) and also suggest a suitable rehabilitation strategy for the Joginies and their children, covering all aspects of their lives, namely Social, Cultural, Economical, Educational etc.,
4. The Commission may also suggest suitable strategy for mainstreaming Joginies and similar groups in public life.

MARRIAGE OF A JOGINIE AND DEDICATION

Generally marriages are made in heaven, in normal course in between man and women. But in the case of Joginie system the marriage of a girl or woman is performed with either God or Goddess. Such marriage is a myth in reality.

A tender girl is married to God or Goddess in an elaborate ceremony of dedication to the service of local diety. On this occasion she is provided new clothes, flowers, painted with turmeric and tilak on forehead. She is taken in bridal attire in a procession by playing musical instruments to the decorated pandal. Women of her caste follows the bride to the temple in their best dresses faces are painted with turmeric and kumkum. Pothuraju or a senior Joginie or a pujari of the temple ties 'tali' around the neck of the girl amidst chanting of mantras and beat of drums. Such ceremony is conducted with pomp and gaiety. The ceremony also witnessed by villagers irrespective of caste and colour. Society lending their social and religious sanction for such marriages and dedication.

A feast will be arranged with taddy (Kallu) or country liquor or cheap liquor.

The dedicated girl is treated as a jogine and she will perform pujas in local temples on every Tuesday and Friday. She leads her life by begging. They are imaginary wives of God.

Such girls and women forced to dance in funeral processions of upper caste. Consuming taddy or kallu or country liquor is common among such woman.

After she attains puberty, a ceremony of deflowering will arranged, by head of the village or upper caste person who provide more amount.

Joginies and similar nature of women are totally prohibited from marrying any person in future.

As her marriage is performed with a diety so she will be called as *Nithyasumangali* and *Akhandasowbhagyawathi*.

There is a strong belief in the community that the presence of Joginies in ceremonies like cradle, marriage ceremonies as auspicious.

Such girl or woman is treated as a pleasure object. Her miseries are untold and miserable.

REASONS FOR DEDICATION

Dedication of a girl by the parents because of illiteracy, innocence, ignorance and poor economic condition and with superstition.

Sometimes the parents dedicate their girls under force, influence and threat of ostracize. To avoid epidemic diseases or for getting good rains in the village or to fulfill the owe made by parents to dedicate a girl if they are blessed with a son, or to maintain old parents and dependents.

Taking advantage of the illiteracy, poverty of the SC, ST and weaker section, the upper caste people force the parents of the girls and their community for dedication. They are having small agricultural land and income from such land may not be sufficient for survival of the family. Poverty and superstition leads for dedication of their children to the diety.

The parents who are unable to perform the marriage of their daughter because, it is an expensive one, so they dedicate the girl. The family of a lower community treats woman as a burden.

In an unavoidable circumstances young girls are being dedicated as Joginies against their will, wish and landing in flesh trade. The society is to be blamed for such superstition. Joginie need not bow her head in shame, society has to feel shame of it.

DEDICATION OF DEVADASIS

Young girls from the weaker sections are dedicated for temple services particularly in coastal districts. Devadasi is a Sanskrit word *Deva* means *God*, *Dasi* means *Maid Servant*. There are old temples in Andhra Pradesh. A girl in the early childhood is offered to diety for temple service. Such girl is made to learn dance and music for praising the diety in routine pujas or rituals. Devadasis also exploited by the Kings, Jamindars, Jagirdars, Pujaries. They are prevented from marriage. The devadasi system has been in existence in Andhra Pradesh and many other States since centuries.

The devadasi system is a heinous practice as it decreases the woman at lowest level.

The devadasis are little bit placed higher than Joginies. Men in the society exploit such girls and women. They lead a miserable life though they are entitled to live with dignity of married life. They are discriminated in the society. Society looks down them and their children. Humiliation and trauma of such women is unexplainable. They are facing lot of problems in the society. They are not leading a dignified life. The children born to such girls considered as illegitimate children. They face lot of discrimination in their every walk of life. Dedicating girls into Joginies exists in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Assam, Kerala and Orissa.

The names of such women in different state as follows:

Andhra Pradesh	-	Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas, Devadasis, Shivapurvathi.
Karnataka	-	Basavi
Maharashtra	-	Muralis, Jogateens, Aradhini.
Tamilnadu	-	Thevardiyar
Goa	-	Bhavanis, Kudikars
Kerala	-	Maharis
Orissa	-	Ganika, Sani
Assam	-	Natis
West Bengal	-	Kuneela

In Andhra Pradesh in different districts they are called with different names as follows:

Nizamabad, Adilabad, Mahboob Nagar,

Medak, Warangal	-	Joginies
Nellore, Ongole, Prakasam	-	Mathamma, Mathangi
Kurnool, Ananthapur, Chittoor	-	Basavi
Karimnagar	-	Shivaparvathi, Parvathulu
Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam-	-	Thayaramma, Devudamma
Rangareddy	-	Ambabai Joginie
Coastal Districts	-	Devadasi.

Many of the girls in the evil system are from SC, ST and few are from weaker sections and BCs.

The majority of the Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma are illiterates. They do not have even primary education. Some of the Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas got educated their children to primary and secondary and high school level but not in professional courses. Many children of Joginies are drop out from schools because of poverty and to eke out and to support their family.

STATE STATUTE

The Government of Andhra Pradesh enacted The Andhra Pradesh Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1988, (APD (P & D) Act, 1988,) which came into force with effect from 15-08-1988. The same is referred as The Act.

The Act was passed with an object to put an end to practice of dedication of girls in Andhra Pradesh.

Any kind of dedication to idol or diety is declared as unlawful and such marriages are considered as invalid marriages and children born to such women are considered as not illegitimate.

Penalties are provided under section 5 & 6 of The Act to the persons who performs, promotes or takes part or abets the performance of any ceremony or in dedication. Punishment is also provided to the propagators.

Section 5 & 6 of The Act deals with is a minimum imprisonment shall not be, less than one year, two years and it may extended to five (5) years. Similarly a minimum fine shall not be less than Rs. 2000/-, 3000/- and it may extended to Rs. 5000/-.

Powers are conferred on Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer and Mandal Revenue Officer under section 7 of the Act for to ensure the implementation of the Act.

There is a duty cast upon the Collectors and other Officers i.e., RDO, MRO for conducting enquiry if found existence and practicing of Dedication of girls, under section 8 of the Act. They shall forth with take a necessary action to put an end to such practice.

Government has to confer powers on Executive Magistrates either of Judicial Magistrate of First Class or of the Second Class for the trial of offences of under section 9 of the Act. It is a surprising and shocking to know that so far Government has not conferred

powers of trial on executive magistrates either of first class or second class magistrate.

During the study the senior executive magistrates brought to the notice of the Commission that no such powers are conferred on them so far as required under section 9 of the Act.

During study reveals that many of the executive magistrates, Police officers are not aware about the existence of APD (P & D) ACT, 1988 and its provisions.

The Commission provided copies of the Act to Collectors and Police Officers to enlighten them.

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission gave wide publicity in print and electronic media in the State and called for grievances from such community.

Wide publicity was also given in the districts, when visited twenty two (22) districts so that such community can submit their grievances in the society.

After visiting 22 districts, villages and towns it came to notice of the commission, that Joginie, Basavi system is predominant in telangana and rayalaseema districts. Devadasi system in some of the coastal districts. Mathamma system is in Nellore and Prakasam districts. Adilabad, Nizamabad are border to Maharashtra, Medak, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Chittoor are border to Karnataka and Tamilnadu, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam are border to Orissa, Khammam is border to

Chattisgarh. The Joginie, Basavi, Mathamma evil system is in existence in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Orissa. There is possibility of spreading over evil system in border districts of Andhra Pradesh from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Orissa.

The district administrations of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur brought to the notice that Devadasi system was in existence, but prevented in the year 1947. The Devadasi system is not in existence now.

The district administrations of Srikakulam Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Kadapah and Khammam brought to the notice of the Commission that the evil system of Joginie, Basavi, Mathamma and Devadasi is not in existence in their districts.

The Commission interacted with district revenue officers who worked during 1987-88, when the Act was passed, they too brought to the notice of the Commission such system is not existing in the districts mentioned above. It is also brought to the notice of the Commission reason for not existing is because of political awareness.

The Commission came across an old devadasi aged about 75-80 years at Sree Kurmeshwara Swamy temple of second century, at Sree Kurmaram village of Srikakulam district. The Commission interacted with her it brought to the notice of the Commission that there were 23 devadasis in the temple, but all are left the village for their survival to various places.

It is brought to the notice of the Commission some non-government organizations functioning (NGO) for the welfare of Joginies and similar nature of women in Andhra Pradesh. The Commission could not get the required information of the NGOs from state who are functioning for the welfare of Joginies in Andhra Pradesh. According to source I could identify the following NGOs.

1. AASHRAY, Hyderabad (Joginie Vyavastha Vyathireka Porata Sangatana)
2. OMIF (Operation Mercy India Foundation), Hyderabad.
3. AP SURYABALIJA, Vijayawada.
4. DUTIES, (Development of Under Privileged Through Integrated Economical Services) Nellore.
5. DHANUSHADEVE BASAVINI AND JOGINI SAMKSEMA SANGAM, Kurnool.

During study the Commission interacted with Joginies, Basavies, Mathangies and heirs of devadasis, NGOS and various officers and others etc,. Some of them gave representations.

During study the Commission interacted with about 6,000 to 7,000 Joginies, 200 to 300 of their children. Visited 14 villages and towns i.,e., Bhansuwada, Madnur, Bodhan in Nizamabad District, Vemulawada in District Karimnagar, Bukkapatnam, Kalyandurg in Ananthapur District, Panchagudi, Kallur, Narsapur, Nirmal in Adilabad District, Muramanda, Tatipaka in East Godavari District, Srikakulam of

Krishna District and Gadwal in Mahboob Nagar District to make field assessment.

It is brought to the notice of the Commission by APSCCFC Ltd., Hyderabad that Government has spent Rs. 3657.58 lakhs for rehabilitating Joginies and similar nature of women in Andhra Pradesh from 1993-94 to 2006-07.

Each joginie was given Rs. 10,000/- in the form of FDR and Rs. 10,000/- as subsidy that is Rs. 20,000/-. House sites, houses, agricultural lands also provided.

The District Administrations of Mahboobnagar, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Nellore and Prakasam provided the list of Joginies, Mathammas to whom financial rehabilitation was provided. Other district administrations not provided such information.

In Mahboobnagar Government rehabilitated 2228 Joginies and spent Rs. 3,46,70,000/- during 1996-97 to 2006-2007.

In Adilabad Government rehabilitated 646 Joginies and spent Rs. 105.70 lakhs during 1996-97 to 2003-2004.

In Nizamabad Government rehabilitated 2137 Joginies and spent Rs. 556.05 lakhs during 1996-97 to 2003-2004.

In Nellore Government rehabilitated 311 Mathangies and spent Rs. 20,000/- per mathangi from 1993-94 to 2006-2007. And also provided 0.50 cents to each mathangi.

In Ongole Government rehabilitated 15 mathangies and spent Rs. 20,000/- from 1993-94 to 1999-2000. And also provided 0.51 cents to each mathangi.

The Commission shared the information from Sri Lavanamgaru, Vijayawada, Krishna District, President of Atheistic Centre of Vijayawada who was a pioneer fought against the evil system of Joginie in Andhra Pradesh during 1986 and 1987 along with his wife Smt. Hemalatha Lavanamgaru. He contributed his views how to eradicate the evil system Joginie custom and what kind of rehabilitation schemes are required for such women and their children.

The Commission visited few hostels maintained by Social Welfare Department and interacted with inmates, also women in rescue homes.

The Commission is handicapped because it could not get latest statistics available in the districts inspite of seeking such information from district Collectors, Chairperson State Women Commission and Secretary, Secretary Member of Legislative Assembly and Vice Chairman and Managing Director, APSCCFC Ltd,.

The Commission got information that there are no cases registered, tried under APD (P &D) Act, 1988, from Superintendent of Police, Vijayanagarm, Krishna, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Khammam, YSR Kadapa and Medak. But not received any

information from remaining districts of Superintendents of Police inspite of calling.

The Commission secured information from Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh that there are only two (2) cases pending in the Junior Civil Judges court in entire Andhra Pradesh. Those are CC. 204/2010 on the file of Junior Civil Judge court, Atmakur, District Mahbubnagar and CC 105/2005-2010 on the file of Junior civil Judge Court, Darsi, Prakasam District.

The Commission received statistics of 10 cases registered in district Prakasam as mentioned below

1. CC 23/11 on the file of Special Mobile Court, Ongole.
2. Mc 14/2009 on the file of M E M, TV pally.
3. CC 455/2009 on the file of AFJM court of Markapur.
4. MC 19/2011 on the file of MEM of Markapur.
5. MC 4/2012 on the file of MEM of Markapur.
6. MC 23/2009 on the file of MEM of Ulavapadu.
7. MC 4/2010 on the file of MEM of Gudluru.
8. CC 105/2010 on the file of JCJC of Darsi.
9. MC 1/2011 on the file of MEM of Ponnaluru.

Which are pending for trial for the charges under section 5 and 6 of APD (P & D) ACT, 1988.

10. CC 455/2009 on the file of AJMF of Markapur ended in acquittal on 09-11-2011 for the charges under section 5 and 6.

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, ITS APPLICATION TO JOGINIE, DEVADASI SYSTEM

The framers of the Constitution of India had experienced about the religious cultural, caste system in India and to protect the interest of weaker sections from exploitation they provided protection to such people under Articles 45 and 46 of the Constitution of India

Article 45: Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years. - The State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article 46: Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections. - The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

As per the above direct principles of The Constitution of India there is responsibility and duty cast upon the State to provide care, protection, education to children up to six years. Take special care in the field of educational and economic interest of SC's, ST's and weaker sections. Shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

The State is not implementing above direct principles in its letter and spirit.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE AND THE SUBJECT

The persons who are exploiting girls and women and pushing them into flesh trade are penalized under Section 371, 372, 373. If any person deals with any slaves are liable for punishment. If any person uses a girl below 18 years of age for prostitution or illicit intercourse with any person for any unlawful or immoral purpose such persons are liable for punishment.

PREVENTION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC ACT

If girls or women are used for illegal or immoral purpose by men in the society, brothels or their agents who are participating in flesh trade are liable for punishment.

OBSERVATIONS MADE BY NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

National Human Rights Commission observed in its annual reports 2005 and 2006, that the dedication of girls is still going on in 14 districts of Andhra Pradesh in remote areas secretly.

OBSERVATIONS OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while dealing with cases pertain to Joginies, devadasis, girls and women in flesh trade gave number of directions and guidelines to the States and Union Territories.

In Vishaljeet VS Union of India and others gave a direction on 02-05-1990 held as follows "The Child shall be protected against all

forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form. "and " children are a supremely important national asset and the future well being of the nation depends on how its children grow and develop" and gave a direction to Central Government, government of States and Union Territories as follows "The State Governments and the Governments of Union Territories should set up a separate Advisory committee within their respective zones consisting of the secretary of the Social Welfare Department or Board, the Secretary of the Law Department, Sociologists, Criminologists, members of the Women's organizations, members of Indian Council of Child Welfare and Indian Council of Social Welfare as well the members of various voluntary social organizations and associations etc., the main object of the Advisory Committee being to make suggestions of: "The Central Government and the Government of States and Union Territories should form a missionary of its own for ensuring the proper implementation of the suggestions that the made by respective committees.

The advisory committee can go deep into Devadasi system and Joginie tradition so as to make suggestions as to what best the Government could do in that regard.

The Commission tried to find out from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, whether such Advisory Committee is constituted in compliance of direction given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, but

not received any communication about forming of such Advisory Committee.

The Commission is handicapped as it not received required information from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, whether such Committee is constituted in compliance of directions of Hon'ble Supreme court of India, if so what are its suggestions.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also gave guidelines and directions in Bachpan Bachao Andolan Vs Union of India and others in Writ Petition No. 51/2006, in respect of human trafficking and their children in various States.

The Apex court also gave various guidelines and directions in Gaurav Jain Vs Union of India and other on 09-07-1999.

The Apex Court held the girls and women in flesh trade also citizens of India they are entitled to live with dignity of life.

There is a duty cast upon all the States and Union Territories to implement the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

STATUTES ON THE SUBJECT

As the Devadasi, Joginie evil system has been in existence since centuries. Which had a social sanction. Girls and women are victimized, exploited taking advantage of illiteracy, innocence, ignorance, in the name of social custom forcefully applied on the weaker sections by upper caste. There are many statutes were enacted much prior to independence during the regime of British rule, to protect such girls and eradicating the system.

1. In 1909 the king of Mysore abolished the Devadasi system in temples.

The Devadasi system was abolished. Inams and lands given to the Devadasis has to be continued with devadasis. After abolition of devadasi system, the succession was devolved by matraka system.

2. Portugal government also abolished Devadasi evil system in Goa during 1930.
3. The Bombay Devadasi Protection Act 1934 was enacted by British Government to protect the interest of the Devadasis from exploitation and tried for its eradication.
4. The Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act 1947.

The above Act was enforceable in Andhra area because the Devadasi system was in existence in Andhra area.

The above act was repealed in the year 1988.

5. The Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act 1982.

The Devadasi system is also existence in Karnataka state and they are called as Basavies. There is a Renuka Devi Temple that is Yellamma Temple in Belgaum District many dedications of girls are taking place in the temple.

So the Government of Karnataka prohibited dedication of girls in the state.

6. The Andhra Pradesh Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1988,

The above act came into force with effect from 15-08-1988.

7. The Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Devadasis (Prevention of dedication) Act 1947 was repealed when the above act was passed.

8. The Maharashtra Devadasi Protection and Rehabilitation Act 2005.

The Government of Maharashtra passed above Act to protect Devadasis from exploitation and to provide good rehabilitation to bring them into main stream.

The Commission gone through some of the Books, documentaries, videos, articles on Devadasis, Jogines and information found in Internet. Some of the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in public interest litigation cases pertain to Joginies and Devadasis.

The Commission gone through a Souvenir Titled as DEVADASI published by National Legal Services Authority, NEW DELHI a "Regional Summit on Welfare of Devadasis" on 10-09-2005 held at Tirupathi, AP, as a Regional initiative on the challenges faced by society in liberation of Devadasis from the Traditional Bondage.

Stigma and Discrimination and Significance of Legal Aid in the Empowerment of Vulnerable Communities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

National Human Rights Commission conducted a survey during 2008 and confirmed there are 4, 50,000 devadasis in India, as the subject was reviewed in the UNO.

The commission secured and gone through a book Titled as "Of Religion, Goddess and NGO; Joginie Women Reform and dynamics of social change in South India" a research work done by Smt. Vakulabaranam Lalitha, Komapally HSS Sunder. There are 16,287 Joginies, Basavies in 15 districts of AP. "Devadasi Cult" a sociological analysis by Jogan Shankar, "Devadasi Vyavastha" a research work done by Vakulabaranam Lalitha, Malkapalli Prameela Reddy.

Sri. Lavanam garu and his wife Dr. Hemalatha garu brought reformation in the lives of Joginies in Nizamabad and Medak Districts under a NGO name "Samskar". There is Cheli Nilayam centre for Joginies, but schools are running in the Cheli Nilayam now.

OBSERVATION OF FATHER OF NATION

Mahatma Gandhi Father of Nation who observed fate of Devadasis in southern states and moved by their living conditions and exploitation of such women and gave a call for eradication. Mahatma Gandhi stated about the Devadasis in YOUNG INDIA NEWS PAPER on 03-12-1931 that "Congress has to pay attention on the issue and allot some of its time in eradication of dedication of young

girls in temples of small villages, towns and cities. Dedicating of girls in sacred temples is illegal".

The dream of a Father of Nation that the evil system has to be eradicated is not yet fulfilled. Though 82 years are gone in fighting against eradication.

Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadasis met Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President of All India Congress Committee on 06-01-2006. They gave a representation demanding for payment of monthly pension of Rs. 500/- and payment of Rs. 25,000/- for the marriages of their children, 10% reservation in Government jobs to their children, 25 kgs rice for Joginie per month.

The Commission planned to visit Karnataka and Maharashtra to know the rehabilitation and welfare schemes providing to Joginies and similar nature of women, but could not do so. The term of the Commission is not extended, inspite of requesting to extend, the term.

There are Parvathulu and Shivaparvathulu in district Karimnagar. They will marry Lord Shiva on the day of Sriramanavami. Transgender also marry Lord Shiva on the same day. They will live on begging. Some are joining in flesh trade.

There are Shivashaktis in Hyderabad similar to Joginies young girls and women participate in Bonalu festival at Yellamma temple, Poleramma temple, Renuka devi temple and Mahankali temple in,

twin cities. They will disclose BHAVISHYAVANI when they are in Trans.

PROBLEMS: SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During interaction with Joginies, similar nature of women and their children, NGO organizations, Officers in Andhra Pradesh following problems came to the light of the Commission.

- Wherever word Joginie is referred it includes Basavies, Mathammas, Devadasis.
- They are looked down by the members of the society at every place wherever they appear.
- They are discriminated in the society.
- They are untouchables in the day time but touchables in the night times.
- There is a saying in Marti Muralis are "divasla devacha bai, rathrila gavachabai" it means in the day time she is a servant of God, but in the night time she is servant of village.

ADMISSIONS IN SCHOOLS

- Joginies approach the Government and Private schools for admission of their children. They faced humiliation, trauma for not disclosing their husband's name and father's name of child. Sometimes children are denied admissions in the schools.

➤ Government of Andhra Pradesh issued G. O. Ms. No. 139, EDUCATION (SE-PROG.I) Department, dated 29-12-2009. As per the above G. O. children of Joginies has to be admitted in/

schools even in the absence of the father's name of a child. G.O has to be communicated to all Government and Private schools in prone districts.

- The right of children to free and compulsory education ACT 2009 has to be implemented in every school. Guardian's name is sufficient for admission of child in a school. Such children cannot be deprived admission in the schools for want of father's name.

CERTIFICATES

- Joginies approach Public Officers i.,e, VRO, VRA, MRO, Executive Magistrates i.,e, Tahsildars, Revenue Divisional Officers for getting Ration card, Aadhar card, Birth Certificate, Death Certificate, Election Identity card, Health card, Aarogyasree Card, Income Certificate, Nativity Certificate, Community Certificate and Legal hair Certificate either on their name or on the name of their children they are facing lot of problems, humiliation and trauma for not disclosing husband's name or father's name of a child.
- The Government has to issue instructions or directions to concerned officers who are competent to issue above certificates to verify whether the woman or her child who applied is a Joginie. Once confirmed certificates has to be issued without putting them in any humiliation and discrimination.

- If certificates such as Income Certificates or other certificates mentioned above are denied for want of not disclosing husband's name or father's name they are deprived from educational and economic benefits.

PROVIDENT FUND

- When Joginie or their children approach Officers of Provident Fund for refund of Provident Fund, they are denied. For not mentioning husband's name and father's name.
- When Joginies and similar nature of women are working in public and private sectors they contribute provident fund. In the event of demise of either Joginie or her child they are deprived of receiving of provident fund for want of father's name or husband's name.
 - Government has to give instructions or directions to concerned Officers who are competent to refund provident fund for verification. Once confirmed the person applied is Joginie or her child provident fund has to be refunded.
 - Government has to conduct awareness camps to Public officers concerned and enlighten them about APD (P & D) Act, 1988 and plight of Joginies and similar nature of women.

PASSPORT

- Joginies approaches Regional Passport Office for Passport, they are facing same problem, humiliation and trauma. There are specific columns in the passport application form, a woman has to mention her husband's name. A Child has to mention his/her father's name.

They are not in a position to mention husband's name, father's name in the application form. So their applications are rejecting as incomplete. If, false information is provided for getting a passport they are liable for criminal prosecution. Many famous devadasi dancers, their children, professional students, un-employed youth unable to get passports for above reason. Some are not in a position to reach their children in abroad for want of passport.

- Government has to either change the application form or get an exemption from not mentioning husband's name or father's name in the application form. The evil system is existence in many southern states so; the Central Government may bring an amendment or alteration in the form of application.
- If such women or her children are prevented from getting a Passport which they are entitled. It is nothing but infringing their right to exercise and preventing them from higher education and employment in abroad.

TO PROVIDE BURIAL GROUND

- When Joginie or a similar nature of women or her children are expired, they are facing problem for burying for lack of burial ground. General public are not allowing burial of such women in general burial ground.
- Government shall provide a separate burial ground exclusively for Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadsis and their

children in their respective villages basing on their population, to avoid clashes.

- Government has to provide Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- to meet funeral expenses of Joginies and their children, immediately after information of death of a Joginies or her children, because none will come forward to arrange funeral.

MARRIAGE

- Joginies and similar nature of women are prevented from marriages. Performing of marriages of their children is difficult task. Because marriage is financial burden. They are very poor. They are fatherless children, nobody will come forward either to marry a Joginie or her children. Particularly performing of marriage of a girl child of a Joginie is major problem. Suitable sons of Joginies also not getting brides because they are fatherless.
- Government has to encourage marriages of Joginies. Provide financial assistance for the marriages of children of Joginies. Even they perform within their community. Government is providing an incentive of Rs. 50,000/- to couple of inter-caste marriage. So, it has to be extended to the newly married bride and bridegroom of Joginies and her children. Any person marries a Jogini or daughter of a Joginie or a son of a Joginie such incentive has to be given to them promptly by simplifying the procedure. The incentive has to be reach them within a period of three months from the day of application.

- The Government has to provide a job security to a person after marrying Joginie or her daughter.
- The Endowment Department or Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam (TTD) has to come forward for providing marriages of Joginies and their children for social cause. They have to provide Mangala Suthrams, Mettalu and New Clothes to the couple, which are essential and necessary for performing of marriage.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR EMPLOYMENT

- In every application form for an employment or education a candidate has to mention name of his/her father, mother either one or both. The woman in the Joginie system and their children are deprived from mentioning husband's name and father's name.
 - Government has to bring changes in the application form for an employment and education so that mother's name or a guardians name is sufficient in getting admissions and employment.
- The Officers are insisting to disclose her husband's name or father's name, of a child during employment process.
 - Government has to conduct awareness programme to the Officers and direct the concerned officers not to insist to disclose husband's and father's name to such persons because they are victims in the society.

DISCRIMINATION

- Joginies and similar nature of women are facing lot of discrimination at the place where they are living. Their children are facing discrimination in the schools, colleges, hostels. They are being kept at a distance and not allowing them to mingle.
- Particularly adult girls of Joginies are facing lot of problems whenever they pass in streets. They are facing stigma on their head that she is a daughter of a Joginie. They are heckled, ridiculed and listen to various comments from passersby. They have to undergo lot of humiliation and trauma.
- They are facing un-explainable miseries in hands of men in the society.
- They are forced to dance in the funeral procession of upper caste.
 - Government has to conduct awareness camps, counseling through various NGO's so that Joginies and their children shall not discriminate at any place. Government also implements the APD (P & D) Act, 1988, in its letter and spirit. Protect their rights and make them to live with dignity. It is a primary duty of the Government to provide protection and uplift and prevent them from exploitation.
 - The Government has to take stringent action against the persons who forces a Joginie to dance in a funeral procession.

- Government has to give directions to concerned Police Officers to initiate penal action against the persons who discriminates the Joginies and their children.

WIDOW AND OLD AGE PENSION

- Many of deserved Joginies and similar nature of women are not getting pension, because they are not widows. Marriages of Joginies performed with a diety so there is no possibility of such women becoming widow. They are called as "*Nithyasumangali*," "*Akhandasowbhagyavathi*'s."
- Many deserved Joginies and similar nature of women are not getting old age pension of Rs. 200/-. The old age pension providing by Government is not sufficient for present day of cost of living, due to inflation. It is not reaching them in time. They demanded for reasonable enhancement.
 - Government has to provide widow pension to all the Joginies and similar nature of women, because there is no possibility of they become widow in their life time.
 - Government is providing Rs. 200/- as widow pension. Rs. 200/- as old age pension who crossed 55 years.
 - After seeing the plight of many Joginies and similar nature of women it is observed that the widow and old age pension paying by the Government is not sufficient, in the present day of cost of living due to inflation.

- The Government has to enhance old age and widow pension to Rs. 1500/- from Rs. 200/- per month to each Joginie, so that they can live with minimum needs, without depending on others.
- The Government has to make a fool proof system to reach the enhanced pension to them promptly without any middle man.

PENSION FOR DISABLED

- Physically challenged or disabled Joginies and similar nature of women are getting disabled pension of Rs. 500/- which is not sufficient for their survival, requested for reasonable enhancement.
 - Physically challenged or disabled Joginies and similar nature of women are dependents on some others. So, their pension has to be enhanced. Rs. 500/- is not sufficient for survival of a disabled person per month.
 - Government has to enhance disabled pension to Rs. 2500/- from Rs. 500/- per month for disabled Joginies and similar nature of women.
 - Government has to simplify the procedure for getting a disabled certificate from competent team of doctors. It is difficult for a disabled person to go round hospitals and Offices for getting a certificate.
 - The government has to simplify the procedure in paying pension to disabled without middle man.

ARTISAN PENSION

- Some Devadasi dancers who received award from President of India and Governor of Andhra Pradesh are receiving artisan pension of Rs. 500/- per month. The same is not sufficient for their survival because of high prices, inflation and not equal to their status, and requested for reasonable enhancement.
- They are deprived from going to abroad in cultural events to expose their talent for want of passport.
 - There are many famous dancers in devadasi. There was a dance by name "DEVADASI DANCE" now it's called as *VILASINI DANCE*. Many young artists are learning dance skills from devadasi dancers till today.
 - The Government has to enhance the artisan pension to Rs. 2500/- from Rs. 500/- per devadasi per month, for their survival and keeping their status.
 - Government has to provide an opportunity to such dancers to expose their talent and skill in abroad in cultural events conducting in abroad by providing passports by overcoming the hurdles in getting passport.

MEDICAL AID

- Many Joginies and similar nature of women are suffering from STD, HIV because they are in contact with many persons.

- The Government has to provide health cards. They must be provided free medical checkup and aid in regular intervals.
- Government has to conduct awareness camps on health issues.
- Government has to take assistance of NGO's in the above programmes.

SHELTER TO JOGINIES

- There are many old aged Joginies and similar nature of women who are living lonely who do not have any person to take care of them.
 - The government has to provide an old age shelter at district head-quarters for old aged Joginies and similar nature of women, if they are more in numbers, who are living lonely. If they are less, one such shelter in three or four districts.

FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

- Most of the Joginies, similar nature of women and their children are illiterates because of poverty.
 - Government has to provide free and compulsory education to all children of Joginies and similar nature of women from the age of 6 to 21 years. If necessary by reserving seats exclusively to them in the schools run by State and Central such as Rajiv Vidya Mission, Navodaya, A. P. Residential schools, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Social Welfare Schools, Tribal Welfare Schools, Kasthurba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya.

- There shall not be any admission test for such children. Admissions shall not be restricted for want of limited seats. Drop-out girl students has to be admitted in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya which is exclusively meant for them.
- Government has to take a special care, particularly in respect of a girl child who are more vulnerable. Such girls shall be admitted in schools by keeping them in hostels.
- Government has to take care to keep prone girls away from such atmosphere.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Many of the Joginies, similar nature of women and their children are living by doing petty jobs, as coolie, domestic servant, agriculture labour, and auto, taxi drivers. Because of poverty, illiteracy they are unable to secure good jobs. They are leading miserable life.
- Few of the children of Joginies and similar nature of women who completed graduation, post-graduation and professional courses such as engineering and etc.,. Unable to secure jobs because of heavy competition. The Commission come across very few children in post-graduates and professionals.
 - Government has to considered for providing 2% reservation in the employment of all government jobs to Joginies, similar nature of women and their children. Because they and their

children are victims from centuries. Who are deprived of their rights, dignity of life.

- Government has to reserve jobs exclusively for Joginies, similar nature of women and their children in all wings of Social Welfare department. Allotment of Fair Price shops, Mee seva centres and eseva centres etc., to them so that they can live in the society by raising their heads.
- Government has to concentrate more on rehabilitation and also on eradication of social evil.
- Government has to provide a free training and coaching to the children of Joginies to face competitive examinations.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- During study it is brought to the notice of the Commission by Joginies, similar nature of women, that about 15-20 years back Government provided Rs. 10,000/- by APSCCFC Ltd, and Rs. 10,000/- towards subsidy to each Joginie in 17 districts. That was not sufficient for establishing petty business and spent for their health problems. They demanded more financial packages.
- The banks are not providing subsidy and loans because of their poverty.
- In few districts un-fertile land was given without water and electricity facility.
- In few districts houses and house sites were given far away from village and not fit for human dwelling.

- It is brought to the notice of the Commission that Government is providing 4 kgs rice per Joginie per month. The same is not sufficient and demanded for more.
 - The Commission is handicapped because the Social Welfare Department could not provide the information as to what are the specific and exclusive schemes for rehabilitation of Joginies and similar nature of women, inspite of seeking it.
 - The Government provided Rs. 10,000/- from APSCCFC Ltd, another Rs. 10,000/- as subsidy during 1993-1994 onwards for some period and there after it was discontinued. The amount is not sufficient for establishing any petty businesses such as tailoring, Carpentry, Purchasing of milk yielding animals, Black Smith, Embroidary, Paper cover making, Handicrafts, Toy business, Pressing of Clothes, and Repairing of cell phones etc, and to lead reasonable life.
 - So the Government has to provide financial package of Rs. 75,000/- to 1, 00,000/- to each Joginie for establishing business and stand on their own legs. As the intension of the Government is to make them self sufficient.
 - Government has to form Joginies and similar nature of women into SELF HELP GROUPS for their financial stability.
 - Government has to inform them, that this is last and final package. They have to change their mind set.

- The Government has to impose a condition when land, house are allotted, that they do not have right of alienation. If alienated such sales are void and they will revert to Government.
- 4 kgs of rice per Joginie is not sufficient so they must be covered under Anna Anthyodaya Yojana Scheme and provide 35 kgs of rice.
- The financial package shall be without linkage to the banks. Joginies are unable to provide security or surety for the loans.
- In Nellore, Nizamabad, Ongole small extent of lands are given but they are unfit for cultivation without water and electricity facility.
- Government has to provide 2-3 acres of fertile lands in the villages where they are living with water and electricity facility.
- Jalayagnam Scheme has to be implemented to the lands given to Joginies and similar nature of women.
- The lands given in Nellore and Prakasam are covered under salty water and became unfit for cultivation. So, Government has to provide suitable agriculture lands to them for cultivation.
- Government has to provide houses in the middle of the village but not outside exclusively.

- Government has to provide houses with water and electricity within the village so that they shall live in the middle of the village and to mingle with the people.
- Government has to provide 75%-80% of construction charges for construction of a house and remaining amount has to be meet by subsidy who had house plots.

PROBLEMS OF HEIRS OF DEVADASIS

- Devadasi system was in existence prior to independence. There were kings, kingdoms, Jagirdars, Jamindars who constructed temples. Devadasis are dedicated in temple service for performing dances, singing by praising diety in temple premises during the traditional pujas from morning to till night. They used to live with the grants, donations and lands given to them. Such women are attractive while dancing but in the night time they lead a total different life. They used to get respect as temple dancers in the day time but disrespect in the night.
- Even after independence devadasis are existed but they are not considered as devadasis because of The Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947; there is a prevention of dedication. In normal parlance they were called as Kalavanthulu in coastal districts. In Hindu community such as, Bogam, Kalavanthulu, Sani, Nagavasulu, Devadasi, Kurmapuluti, Basavi, Joginie, Parvathi women will participate in *melam* or *nautch* in any processions and adopt a life of prostitution. Whether she

gave consent or not. Such performance in melam declared as unlawful and void. As per sub class 2 Section 3 of The Act

- After much fight by heirs of devadasis to avoid humiliation and trauma and stigma on their heads as heirs of Devadasis the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued two G.O's i.e., G. O. Ms. No. 20, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE (B2) DEPARTMENT, dated 19-07-1994, G. O. Ms. No. 15, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT, dated 23-03-1995, now nomenclature of Kalavanthulu and Ganika are changed as Suryabaliya.
- It is also specifically mentioned that a community certificate to Suryabaliyas has to be issued as Suryabaliya only without mentioning anything in brackets.
- The representatives of Suryabaliya i.e., heirs of Devadasis represented that they are unable to live in the society with self respect and dignity of life. They are discriminated in their every walk of life. Many of them are living by doing various odd jobs, some are educated they are deprived from employment because of poverty and stigma that they are children of Devadasis still going on. The humiliation and trauma under going by them is unexplainable. They require a law similar to that off The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, if any person in the society humiliates, insults and ridicule in the name of their community has to be prosecuted and punished.

- Professionals i.e., Doctors, Advocates, Post Graduates i.e., heirs of devadasis they too expressed that they are not living in the society with self respect and dignity of life.
- They also made a representation that they are in BC-D group. They may be brought into SC group as their community is in SC group in Orissa state.
- During study it came to the notice of the Commission that print and electronic media publishing articles, telecasting serials degrading their community. They unable to answer their younger generations.
- It is brought to the notice of the Commission that their community people are poor doing petty and odd jobs and require special financial fund for their welfare and development.
- They brought to the notice of the Commission, that Government is not providing title deed and pattadar pass books to legal heirs of devadasis in respect of lands situated at Srikakulam village of district Krishna belongs to the temple of Sreekakulaeshwara Swamy and in respect of land situated at Ganapavaram village of Sree Someshwara Swamy Temple of West Godavari, they are in continuous possession of Inam lands as heirs of devadasis much prior to independence, on the ground that Devadasi system was prevented in 1947. Government gave pattas to other service inams such as baja melam, pallaki melam, diviti melam and pujaris.

- The conversion from BC-D group to SC category is not within the purview of the Commission. They can approach proper forum.
- The Government has to issue directions to public officers in coastal districts who are competent to issue community certificate, that community certificate has to be issued to Suryabalija community without mentioning anything in brackets.
- Awareness programme has to be conducted to the Officers that such community people shall not be discriminated either in the name of community or with the old profession.
- Government has to provide a regulatory or screening committee before articles published or serials are telecasted in respect of dialogues and scenes. Their community shall not be discriminated or degraded.
- The Suryabalija community people are from weaker section and they are also power stricken so they require a financial assistance for their welfare and development so the Government has to constitute a separate fund for their welfare and development.
- Government has to enact a law similar to The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to protect the interest, self respect and dignity of life of heirs of Devadasis, to make them to live in the society by raising their

heads. So, that no person in the society shall disrespect or degrade their community. Create a right to them to penalize such persons who discriminated, degraded them in the society.

- Government issued title deeds and pattadar pass books to service inam holders such as baja melam, pallaki melam, diviti melam and pujaris. So, the government has to consider issuing of title deeds and pattadar pass books to the heirs of devadasis in respect of lands mentioned above.

AMENDMENTS TO THE APD (P & D) ACT, 1988.

- There are no rules framed under APD (P & D) Act 1988, so far.
- Basing on statistics of cases of registered, charged under the Act. No case of conviction so far, indicates the implement of the Act is unsatisfactory.
 - It is the most and primary duty of the Government to frame rules immediately for proper implementation of the Act.
 - Foremost and primary responsibility of the State to collect latest statistics of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadasis, Suryabalija and their children in the state within the stipulated time.
- There are no convictions under the Act so far.
 - The Act requires more teeth. For effective eradication of the system.

The parents of the dedicated girl are made as an accused under section 5 of the Act.

- No girl will depose against her parents if charged. So the parents of the girl has to be deleted from penal provisions, because dedicating of their daughter cannot be called as voluntary and willing. Dedication of a girl will be for various reasons. In such circumstances the parents to be withdraw from penal provisions.
- During interaction with Executive Magistrates, Police Officers, it came to light that the provisions of the Act are not properly implemented in its letter and spirit. Executive magistrates are binding over the accused in violation of mandatory provisions under section 5 and 6 of the Act.
 - As per the Act the Executive Magistrates empowered to try the cases under the Act.
 - The power of trial by Executive Magistrates has to be withdrawn and suitable amendment has to be brought so that assistant session judges has to try the cases under the Act, as it is a special enactment. For better enforcement of the Act.
 - An amendment has to brought by introducing a new provision offenders under the Act are prevented from getting anticipatory bail.
 - Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code not applicable to the persons committing an offence under the Act.

- The Government has to place responsibility on the endowment department for preventing of exploitation of girls in temples situated in rural villages.
- Government has to take preventive measures in rural areas which are prone for such exploitation at the time of village festivals, Jataras, Tirunallu.
- Government has to employ Joginies as a spy to prevent dedications in the village.
- Government has to bring an amendment to the Act so that the persons preventing marriages of Joginies and similar nature of women and their children has to be penalized.
- Government has to take services of AP Legal Services Authority in conducting awareness programmes and eradication of the system.
- Government has to take services NGO organizations who are helping such women in counseling and awareness programmes.
- Government has to provide an incentive of Rs. 25,000/- per annum to NGO organizations fighting against the evil system.
- Government has to utilise every mode of publicity in conducting awareness, counseling and eradication of system
- Government has to fix responsibility on executive magistrate or an Officer of Social Welfare in the district, when any dedication of a girl takes place. Immediately girl has to be

brought and kept in girls rescue home and away from such atmosphere and provide medical aid and also admit her in a school. Immediate counseling is required to her. Provide vocational training to her if she is not interested in studies.

- Executive Magistrate, Local Sub-Inspector, Surpanch, VAO, VRO has to be made responsible if any girl dedicated in their area. As the intension of the Government is to eradicate the evil system from root level.
- The Government has to constitute advisory and supervising committee consisting of Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Commissioner, Social Welfare, Commissioner, Women and Child Welfare, a retired District Judge and two able representatives from NGOs. They will monitor the implementation of rehabilitation schemes, how to eradicate the evil system and for proper enforcement of financial packages, so that rehabilitation schemes shall not be misutilized, and for better implementation of the APD (P & D) Act, 1988. The Committee shall monitor and supervise for a period of 3 years. It shall be an autonomous body.
- Such committee has to co-operate and co-ordinate with concerned Government departments.
- Joginies and similar nature of women are victims from centuries together, so they require a political representative.

His Excellency Governor may nominate any member from such community to Member of Legislative Council.

- Basing on the population of Joginies in the District and villages some seats has to be reserved in Grama panchayat, mandal and district level. So that they can live in the society by raising their head.
- Sri. Narayana Swamy, who addressed a letter to apex court contending that there are many children of Joginies ready to identify their father but they are deprived. The Commission requested Sri Narayana Swamy to provide particulars of Joginies and their children but he fail to furnish.
 - The Commission interacted with Joginies and their children confidentially at Mahbubnagar.
 - None of the Joginies and their children expressed that they will identify their partner and father.
 - If, any Joginie want to identify her partner and her child to identify his/her father they can approach High Court of AP or a competent Civil Court for declaration of marital status under order 32A of Civil Procedure Code.
 - Government has to provide legal and financial assistance to such women or her child in fighting litigation till reddresal.

CONCLUSION

- a. The Commission after visiting 22 districts and some towns, villages except Chittoor district, assessed the problems being faced by Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas and Devadasis and their children.
- b. The Commission after interacting with number of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Devadasis and their children it is found, that the system of dedication of young girl is still in existence not ceased.
- c. The Commission has suggested many guidelines, suitable rehabilitation schemes, necessary legal amendments to APD (P & D) Act, 1988, in the report for all round welfare and development of Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas and Devadasis and their children.
- d. The Commission has suggested for conducting vigorous awareness programmes, free and compulsory education to girl child from age of 6 to 21 years, specific financial package to stand on their own legs to live by raising their heads in the society, 2% reservation in the employment and other guidelines mentioned in the report for joining them in main stream.
- e. The Commission evaluated rehabilitation schemes extended by Government. Pointed out deficiencies in the implementation of the schemes.

NGO organizations not provided any rehabilitation schemes to them.

AASHRAY a NGO providing Education and shelter to 35 children of Joginies in Hyderabad.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN PRECISE

The Commission is suggesting following recommendations.

- ✓ Government has to collect latest statistics of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma, Heirs of devadasis i.e., Suryabaliya and similar nature of women and their children.
- ✓ They have to get all the certificates without humiliation, trauma hurdles. 1/15
- ✓ Their children has to be admitted in schools even in the absence of father's name.
- ✓ They have to get Provident fund without difficulties.
- ✓ Application for passport has to be changed.
- ✓ To provide widow pension of Rs. 1500/- 10/15
- ✓ To provide old age pension of Rs. 1500/- 10/15
- ✓ To provide disabled pension of Rs. 2500/- 11/15
- ✓ To provide Artisan Pension of Rs. 2500/- 11/15
- ✓ To provide two (2) acres of fertile land with water and electricity. 15/15
- ✓ Houses in the middle of the village, but not outside. 7/15
- ✓ Rs. 75,000/- to 80,000/- for construction of a house in the house plot. 8/15

- ✓ To provide financial package of Rs. 75,000/- to 1,00,000/- without linking to the bank for establishing trade, to stand on their own legs. 9/15
- ✓ To provide Rs. 50,000/- for marriage incentive whoever marries a Joginies or her child and also a job security. 12/15
- ✓ To provide 2% reservation in Government jobs exclusively for Joginies, similar nature of women and their children. 3/15
- ✓ To provide admissions of children of Joginies, similar nature of women in all the schools run by State and Central Government.
- ✓ To provide exclusively burial ground for Joginies and similar nature of women in the villages.
- ✓ To provide Rupees three thousand (Rs. 3,000/-) to Rupees five thousand (Rs. 5,000/-) towards funeral expenses on the demise of Joginie.
- ✓ To provide free medical check-up and aid.
- ✓ To provide a shelter to old Joginies, similar nature of women in the district head-quarters. 14/15
- ✓ Amendments to the APD (P &D) Act, 1988, and more teeth has to bring for better implementation.
- ✓ To frame rules Immediately to APD (P & D) Act, 1988.
- ✓ Parents of the dedicated girl has to be withdrawn from prosecution
- ✓ The Government has to bring a new provision in the Act, similar to a provision in The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to penalize whoever 2/15

discriminates or degrades the community of Joginies and Devadasis.

- ✓ The power of trial has to be withdrawn from Executive Magistrates and placed on Assistant Sessions Judge.
- ✓ Section 438 of CrPC shall not be made applicable for the offences under the Act.
- ✓ VAO, Sarpanch, MRO, Local Sub-Inspector are made responsible if any girl is dedicated in their area.
- ✓ To provide vigorous awareness programmes, counseling by taking help of NGOs by every mode of publicity.
- ✓ The State has to implement the APD (P & D) Act, 1988, in its letter and spirit.
- ✓ Government has to take co-operation from AP Legal Services Authority.
- ✓ There shall be co-operation and co-ordination among the concerned Government departments.
- ✓ For establishing advisory and supervising committee for monitoring rehabilitation schemes and eradicating the system. It shall be an autonomous body. 13/15
- ✓ For appointment of a Screening Committee for screening the TV serials, plays, publications to avoid discrimination or degrade them in the society. 4/15
- ✓ For providing a separate financial fund exclusively for welfare and development of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma.

✓ For providing a separate financial fund exclusively for welfare and development of heirs of devadasis. 6/15

✓ For providing separate budget exclusively for the welfare and development of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma, Heirs of Devadasis and their children in AP SC, ST Sub-Plan. 6/15

✓✓ The AAY Scheme has to be applied to them.

✓ Jalayagnam scheme has to be applied for the lands of Joginies and similar nature of women.

✓ To provide vocational training to eligible Joginies and their children.

The Commission is submitting the report for consideration of the Government, with a hope and trust, that it will bring light and security into the lives of Joginies, Basavies, Mathamma and Heirs of Devadasis and their children who are victims in the society from centuries.

V. RAGHUNATH RAO

Head of the One Man Commission

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Head of the Commission is expresses gratitude to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from bottom of the heart. Because it provided an opportunity to study the social, educational, economic and their living conditions, who are victims in the society from centuries.

The Commission also expresses regards to Sri. Raymond Peter garu, IAS, Principal Secretary Social Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Smt. Udayalaxmi garu, IAS, Commissioner, Social Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh and all the Joint Directors, Social Welfare and other staff who co-operated with the Commission. For providing good accommodation, supporting staff, infrastructure for functioning of the Commission.

The Commission expresses regards to the District Administrations of the Districts visited, for their co-operation and hospitality in collecting the required information.

The Commission expresses regards to Sri. Lavanam garu, Vijayawada, Sri Issac Prabhakargaru, Director Legal, Lokayukta, Smt. Grace Nirmala garu, AASHRAY NGO organization, Sri. Neelaiah garu,

Sri Dasari Kesavulu garu, State President of Suryabaliya Sangam and his team members of Coastal districts, Sri K. S. Raju garu, State President of Joginies. Other representatives of NGO organizations, who assisted the Commission and provided valuable suggestions.

The Commission expresses regards to Sri Ram Babu, Superintendent, Sri Venugopal and Sri Anand Rao, Senior Assistants, Smt Vanitha Kumari, Data Entry Operator and Sri Ramesh Office Sub-ordinate for their assistance in day to day administration of the Commission.

The Commission also expresses gratitudes to all the Officers and Joginies, Basavies, Mathammas and Heirs of Devadasis and their children for their co-operation from the day of assuming charge till completing the report.

V. RAGHUNATH RAO
HEAD OF THE ONE MAN COMMISSION.

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