

20th Years of Struggle



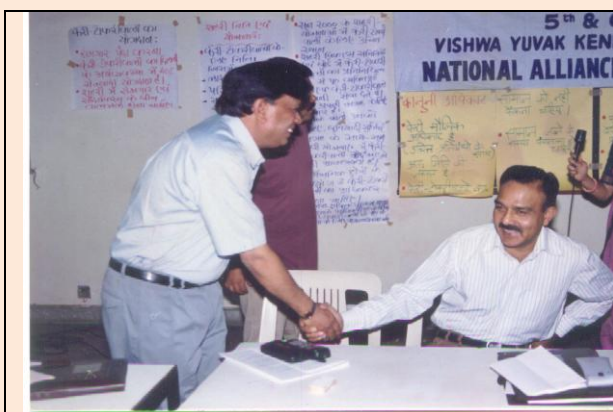
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STREET VENDORS OF INDIA (NASVI)

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The beginning : September 1998

NASVI started as a network of Street Vendor Organizations with the sole reason of getting National Policy for Street Vendors . But street vending being such a local issue where in most cases the vendors were concerned with only their market and not even problems at the city or province level, convincing them to come together at the national level was quite difficult .However the strategy that helped was to identify and reach out to the street vendor organizations through workshops ,seminars and events organized in different parts of India

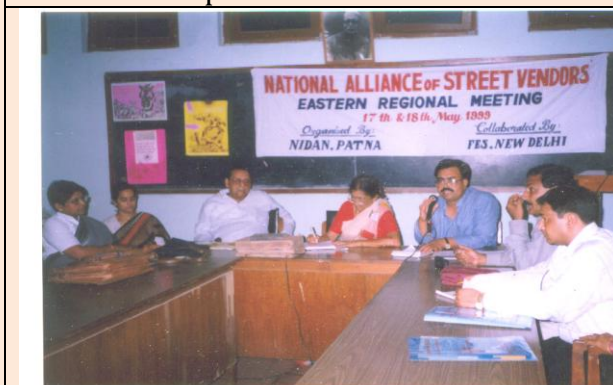
A series of four regional multi-stakeholder meetings were organized in Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Patna –the four corners of the country. Each meeting was attended by street vendors, vendor leaders, municipal administrators, and elected representatives, as well as civil society organizations and the media. These meetings broke new ground for NASVI. Out of many outcomes, the following warrant special mention:



Northern Regional meeting on
5- 6 April 1999 at New Delhi



Western Regional meeting on 30-31
August 1999 at Mumbai



Eastern Regional Meeting on 17 & 18th May
1999 at Patna



Southern Regional Meeting on 30th October
1999 at Bangalore

- A. Perhaps for the first time, all the stakeholders shared a common platform and listened to each other's perspective. This intermediating process initiated by NASVI helped the respective parties to articulate their arguments and frame issues to ultimately harness discursive power. Most of the participants who attended these meetings became partners or allies of NASVI and stood by it in all of its future initiatives building a coalitional power.
- B. During the Mumbai workshop, a vendor talked about the idea of a Natural Market, as a place where buyers *naturally* congregated, such as at a temple or a hospital, as opposed to places where municipal authorities attempted to rehabilitate evicted vendors where buyers did not come automatically. This phrase was instantly picked up by NASVI and it became part of the activists' lexicon. Every document which came up afterwards- be it research paper, policy note or the drafted Bill- talked about developing natural markets.
- C. In most cases, issues of local vendors got solved in these meetings because concerned officials were present. This helped in gaining trust of vendors in NASVI and cemented associational power.
- D. In the states in which these meetings were organized, advocacy for vendors' rights accelerated.
- E. These meetings were covered extensively in the media and suddenly, the issues of street vendors started to gain a national identity

These events brought a fresh air to their struggle as many local issues began getting solved. Thus due to intensive effort and the strategy of helping the street vendor organization to solve their immediate problems brought around 400 street vendors with NASVI in a couple of years. This also created pressure on the National Govt to get the National Policy.

However, it soon became clear that a lot needs to be done to improve the situation of street vendors along with getting the Policy and so the idea of institutionalization of NASVI emerged. Consultations were organized to discuss the form of organization. It was felt that the street vendor organization would directly be affiliated to NASVI without any structure at the province level. The consultations also suggested that since the street vendor organizations have different political affiliations and many of them are already affiliated to National Trade Unions belonging to different political formations, NASVI should not be seen as a competitor with the Central Trade Unions. It would also create conflicting situation for the affiliates who are member of any Central Trade Union and want to become member of NASVI. Thus it was decided that NASVI be registered under Societies Registration Act while the structure and function would be same as the Trade Union

Registration of NASVI under Societies Act provided additional benefits. Recognizing potential of organizing Street Vendors at the national level, external support came. We

quickly got registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act which was mandatory for receiving foreign contribution. As our advocacy efforts made Govts to earmark funds for Street Vendors, we were also able to bid for these funds and were successful couple of times to get these funds. Another good impact of being registered in the Societies Act was that we had to hold our General Meeting every year and this really strengthened NASVI.

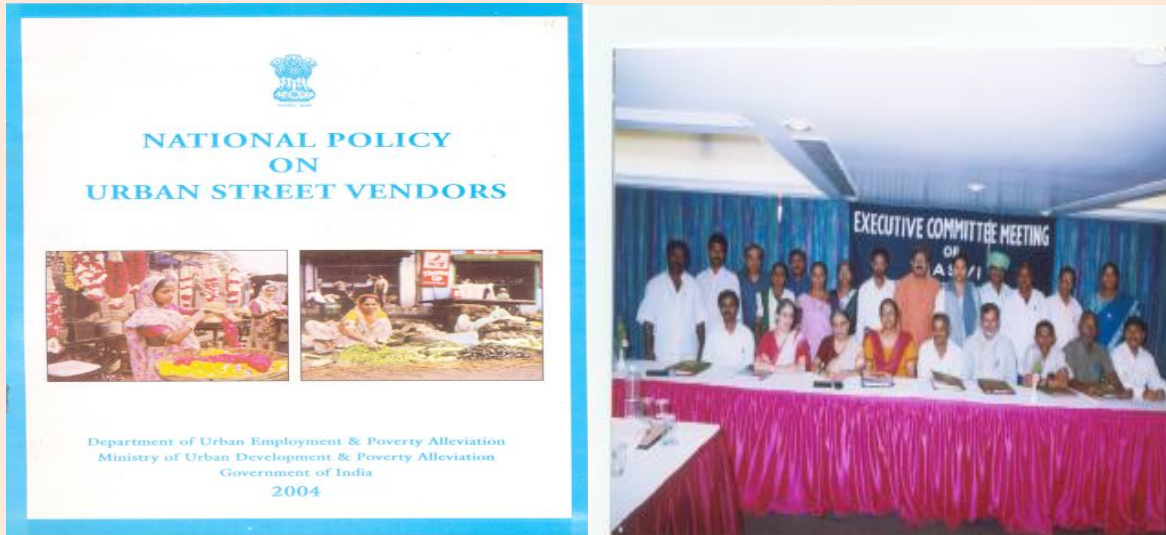
Basically NASVI developed as a membership based organization like the Trade Unions. Lot of leadership which developed was constituted by the street vendors themselves. The complexion of organization became one like a grassroots organization while working at the national and state level like an advocacy organization. Couple of NGOs initially brought in their expertise of working systematically on this issue which was appreciated by the Trade Unions and Membership Based Organizations of street vendors.



This conglomeration of membership organizations enabled NASVI to trigger the process of organizing and at the same time raise the pitch of advocacy with urban local bodies, state governments and national government. NASVI helped the street vendors to register their organizations and strengthen them by investing a great deal of energy in leadership development. At the same time, NASVI realized that in order to advance policy interventions, it is important to engage with administrators and planners, with the professed problem all these stakeholders were full of prejudiced opinions and held to the pattern of *the fewer the facts, the stronger the opinion*. A robust dataset was needed to frame the issues, articulate the arguments and ultimately develop discursive power for an effective dialogue and advocacy. Keeping this in mind, NASVI commissioned a study by SharitBhowmik entitled *Hawkers in the Urban Informal Sector: A Study of Street Vending in Seven Cities* (Bhowmik, 2001). This landmark report became the basis for all ensuing dialogue and interventions on street vendors, not only in India but internationally as well. .

The First General Body and National Policy: JANUARY 2004

NASVI first General Body Meeting was convened in Pune in January 2004. Immediately after it National Policy for Street Vendors, was adopted by the Central Cabinet in the same month.



Key features of this policy were:

- Rules for 'regulation' instead of 'prohibition' of street vending.
- Recommended adoption of a system of registration of hawkers and non-discretionary regulation of access to public spaces. Required setting up of Ward, Zonal and Town Vending Committees with representation of street vendor organizations and other stakeholders.
- Advocated that the number of licenses issued be proportional to the population size of the city indicating that approximately 2.5% of urban population is usually found in street vending.
- Mandated that street vendors cannot be evicted in the name of beautification or cleaning drives. They can be evicted only if the land was needed for an explicit and legitimate public purpose. It also stated that if vendors were evicted, they should be simultaneously rehabilitated to restore their livelihood to previous level.
- Stressed the need for easy access to credit and insurance as also water and sanitation.
- Emphasizes self-governance and by vendors of hawker zones.

- Called for amendments in police and other laws that are archaic and are being misused by officials to harass and collect hafta.

While few states made sincere efforts for effective implementation, the process of implementation did throw interesting and innovative ideas. For example, while Odisha created 52 vending zones in its state capital, Madhya Pradesh identified numerous hawkers' corners across the state, and Delhi came up with a two-tier independent grievance redressal structure headed by district judges. Innovative ideas such as the setting-up of women's markets also came up. One of the major advantages of the policy was that the contract system of collection of municipal taxes by private contractors across India was abolished. This step freed the vendors from organised crime where vendors' organizations were strong. Section 34 of the Police Act which empowered the police to move any obstructions on the streets that obstruct traffic or cause obstruction for pedestrians was done away with.



**Model
Street Vendors
(Protection of livelihood
and regulation of street vending)
Bill - 2009**



**Government of India
Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation**

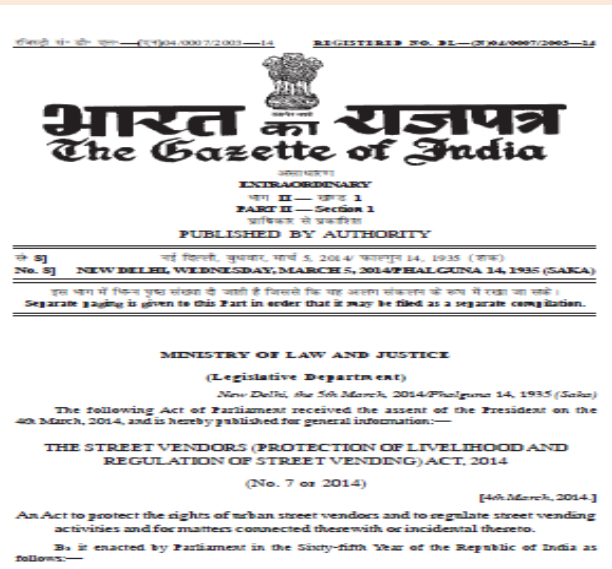
Vending Act and NULM in 2014- Game Changer

NASVI's continuous efforts led to The Govt of India bringing in Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014

This landmark legislation, perhaps first of its kind in the world, accorded an unprecedented power to the cause of street vendors which is destined to affect more than 10 million individuals. The Act states that no existing street vendor can be displaced until the local authorities conduct a census of street vendors in the concerned urban centre and prepare a City Vending Plan. All existing vendors have to be provided with permits for conducting their business and a Town Vending Committee (TVC) will supervise the activities of the vendors. This committee, which will be the main policy making body on street vending, comprises municipal authorities, police, the health department and other stakeholders. Representatives of street vendors will constitute 40 per cent of its membership and women will comprise at least 33 per cent of the street vendors' representatives.

A chapter on street vendors was also included in the mission document on National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM). Under NULM, five per cent of the funds have been earmarked for street vendors. The funds are to be utilised for surveys; developing city level vending plan; financial inclusion, and capacity building. Thus, the earlier complaint of State Governments and Municipal Authorities citing lack of financial resources as reason for non-implementation of 2004 Policy was done away with.





As per the Govt. of India latest data, Rules have been notified by 30 States/UTs; Scheme notified by 21 States/UTs; 2,777 Town Vending Committees have been formed in 21 States; 270 Town Vending Plan have been completed in 14 States; States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have sanctioned proposals for infrastructure development in vendor market. The Ministry is constantly monitoring the implementation of the Act through National Urban Livelihood Mission.

NASVI continues to pursue its vision of CITIES FOR ALL pushing for implementation of the Street Vending Act and strengthening of vendor organization along with development of enterprises for street vendors .

2017-18 – THE CRITICAL PHASE

National Workshop organized by Govt. of India

On December 23, 2018, a National workshop organized by the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission in which NASVI - National Coordinator Mr. Arbind Singh was invited to share his experience as a speaker. This session was in residence for street vendors and homeless in urban areas. The issues of discussion were:

- Overview of the Street Vendor Act and its implementation status
- Challenges faced by the implementation of the Street Vendor Act and the problems faced by urban street vendors.
- Understanding the ULB on Support urban street vendor



National Conference and Annual general Meeting - National Conference “Three Years of Street Vending Act: Taking Stock and Surging Ahead” and Annual general Meeting was organised by NASVI at Aiwan-E-Ghalib Auditorium, Mata Sundari Lane, I.T.O., New Delhi on 29 - 30th March, 2017. Shri Arbind Singh – Co-ordinator NASVI welcomed all the delegates and guests. Shri Satyendra Jain – Hon’ble Minister for Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Shri Pawan Agarwal – CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Mr. Patrick Reuther – Deputy Resident Representative, FES were the Guests of the conference. Around 500 street vendors from twenty-five states on India participated in this conference. The panels for discussion were on:

- Status of Implementation of the Street Vending Act 2014. The panelists were Shri. Sidharth Mishra - Consulting Editor of Millennium Post, Shri Sanjeev Pandey – NULM officer Bihar, Shri Chandan – Action Aid India
- Judiciary and the Street Vending Act 2014. The panelists were Shri Satya Prakash – Legal Editor Tribune, Ms. Indira Unniyar - High Court Lawyer, Ms. Sampriti Phukan – Programme Coordinator (Legal) of NASVI and Mr. Saurabh Malik - Iprobono
- Functioning of the Town Vending Committee (TVC). The panelists were Shri. Vivek Kalia – Gurugram Municipal Corporation, Shri. Naresh Chandra Naudiyal – Dehradun Municipal Corporation, Shri. Hansraj Sisodia – Secretary, NASVI and Ms. Poonam Devi Nishad – Rajasthan TVC.
- Skilling the Street Vendors. The panelists were Shri. Harsh Singh, UNDP, Ms. Swati Sharma – Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) – Ministry of Skill Development, Shri. Prashant Garg – Food Safety and Standards Authority of India - (FSSAI), Shri Munish Chawla – DTrac (Digital Literacy), Ms. Sangeeta Singh – Manager Street Food Program, NASVI and Mr. Dheeraj Agrawal – Street Sathi App developer

- Women Vendors –issues and challenges. The panelists were Ms. ShaliniSinha – WIEGO, Ms. MadhuBala – Jagori, Ms. Champa Ben – SEWA, Ms. Salma Sheikh – Azad Hawkers Union
- Organizing and sustainability - Membership fee and other methods like co-operatives and business models like the food festivals to sustain organizing. The panelists were Ms. Manali Shah – SEWA, Shri. JitenderBhaigal – Auto Union Sustainability, Shri. AK Sharma – Cooperative Specialist, Shri. Manoj Kumar – Secretary, Sanchay Thrift and Credit Cooperative and Ms. Shikha Joshi – SEWA, Madhya Pradesh.

On the second day, coordinator Report, financial report and proposals by members were presented to the delegates. There was presentation on state structure and roles and responsibilities of Office Bearers. Election of Executive Committee and constitution of State Structure was conducted after the presentation. Ms. ShaliniSinha was the election officer. The members elected twenty-two new EC members. From the state of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, two EC members were elected. Three more EC members will be co-opted by the elected EC from the states of Uttrakhand, Jharkhand, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur. State president and State secretary were also elected.



Parliament March for implementation of Act

“Chalo Sansad – GheroSansad” Protest - Steeping up its campaign to stop indiscriminate harassment and eviction of street vendors from all across the country and proper implementation of Street Vending Act - 2014, the Street Vendors protested against the central government. The vendors gathered at Ram LeelaMaidan and marched towards the Parliament where this act was passed in 2014. The vendors from all over the country

joined the Delhi vendors. The vendors who were not able to reach Delhi organized protest in their own cities.

The vendors demanded the following:

- Delhi Police should not evict vendors.
- MCD officials should not evict vendors until TVC is formed in Delhi.
- Proper implementation of Street Vending Act – 2014 with immediate effect.
- Set up Town Vending Committee (TVC) in Delhi.
- Enforcement of the Act, particularly Chapter 2 point no. 3 under which a vendor is allowed to vend and shall not be evicted until surveyed and given a license and a place to vend.
- Define encroachment for each road or street before harassing and evicting vendors
- Give receipts of confiscation of goods and carts and lower fines.
- Set up Grievance Redressal Committee as per the Street Vending Act.
- Stop interference of Police in Street Vending in Delhi

A delegation of NASVI submitted memorandum to the officials of Union Housing Ministry and Home Ministry.

Postcard Campaign



Street vendors plan postcard campaign

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Street vendors across the country will start a month-long postcard campaign from May 1 to draw attention of PM Narendra Modi and chief ministers of all the states towards the harassment faced by them.

As a part of the campaign, organised by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), street vendors will write a message on a postcard to the PM and CMs telling them about their problems.

"Vendors are being evicted and continuously harassed by police and municipal officials throughout the country. We want both the central and state governments to take concrete

steps to stop this illegal eviction and ensure that these people are allowed to earn their livelihood without any fear," said Arbind Singh, national coordinator, NASVI.

NASVI demands that PM directs the ministries of urban development and housing and poverty alleviation to take necessary measures to safeguard the interest of street vendors.

Chief ministers have an important role as the state governments have to implement the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. While many states have implemented the Act, there are some, including Delhi, which are yet to formulate a policy for its implementation.

On the occasion of the May Day, vendor leaders decided to take concrete action to attract the attention of the top Decision Maker of the country and state to draw their attention

to the continuing plight. The leaders brought, from their respective markets, postcards written by the vendors and all these postcards were posted on MAY DAY. The leaders also vowed to make all the street vendors of their cities write such post cards to the PM and the CM. They also vowed to take the battle for their livelihood to a dignified settlement, lamenting the old styles of functioning of the Municipal Authorities, the leaders said that enough is enough and will not let harassment and eviction continue anymore. NASVI launched a nationwide campaign to attract the attention of Prime Minister and the respective Chief Minister to the continuous eviction and harassment, which is increasing day by day. As part of the campaign, street vendors from all across the country began writing and posting postcard to the Prime Minister on MAY DAY. The campaign continued for the entire month of May with each vendor being appealed to write one such letter. MAY DAY also coincided with three year of enactment of the Street Vending Act –2014. It was on this day three years back that the street vendor had got the historic Street-vending Act adopted by the government of India. The Post Card Campaign was the first nationwide efforts to bring the issue to the notice of the Prime Minister.

Delhi TVC Election:

Before the TVC election in Delhi, the awareness campaign was started by Nasvi to get the vendors to submit the receipts of either of Thareja Committee or Chopra Committee or under the 2007 scheme to the Municipal Corporation which was mandatory for a person to

be included in the voter list. In Delhi despite regular protest from NASVI, 26 TVCs have been created in all the three municipal corporations, out of which elections could be held only in 12 TVCs. In 14 TVCs elections could not be held as there were fewer candidates.



Street Vendors Day 20-Jan

In the year 2018, Street Vendors Federation organized Street Vendors' Day in accordance with its own needs.

9th Edition of National Street Food Festival

National Street Food Festival presented by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is a vibrant representation of the myriad tastes of the country, complete with the exclusive delicacies and food-items belonging to the streets of Indian states. This year National Street Food Festival was organised from 12th to 14th January, 2018.





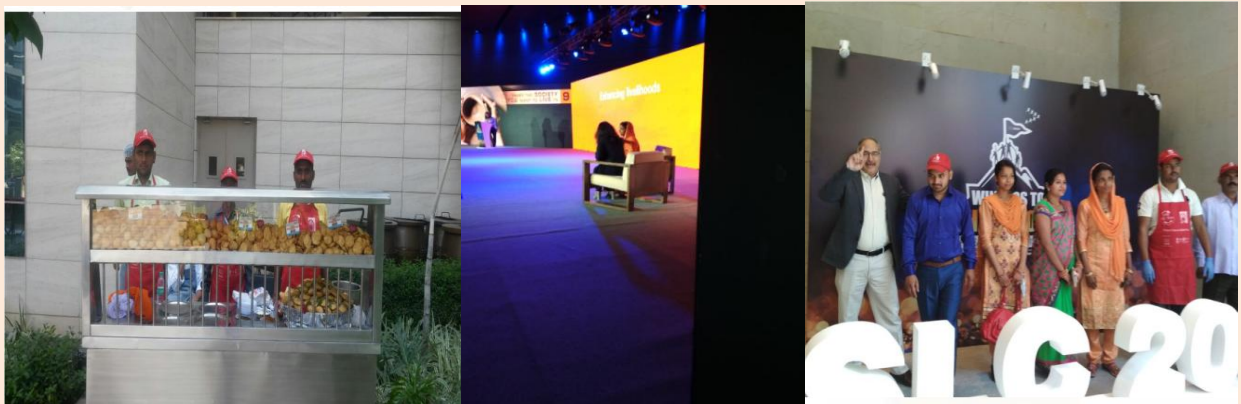
Serve Safe Food @ Street Food Project

National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) joined hands with the Nestle India, including Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) in Delhi. Directorate of Food & Drug Administration in Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal, Ujjain, Jabalpur), Maharashtra (Mumbai,

Thane, Pune, etc....) and Chhattisgarh (Raipur). Project Serve Safe Food has already benefited close to 9500 Street Food Vendors across India.



NASVI shared the experience of Street Vendor after joining NASVI and after receiving Street Food Vendor Health and clean training in Hyatt Hotel.



Executive Committee Meetings of NASVI

ACTION POINTS

- Comparison of rules from across the states and popularization of good schemes and rules
- Preparation of Monitoring Report only after inputs from the Vendor leaders
- Publication of Handbook for implementation of the Act
- Strengthening of Street Vendor members of Town Vending Committee
- Govt. lead role in Street Food Festivals
- Vendors have a large heart campaign to be made successful
- Street Vendor organizations to be developed in cities where they do not exist
- Parliament Gherao program on the 21st of December and simultaneous mobilization of MPs to raise voice in the parliament
- Mumbai issue to be taken up with the CM of Maharashtra
- NASVI model to be disseminated across Asia



25th – 26th July 2018

ACTION POINTS

- De affiliation from Street Net and promote another Global Body
- Press for setting up Grievance Redressal Mechanism across States
- General Body Meeting to be held in Delhi in September
- Strengthen State Structure of NASVI
- Act as knowledge center on issue of Street Vending

Expanding resource and work base of NASVI Globally

NASVI has been a founder member of StreetNet International .However despite being the largest and the most active member of StreetNet International ,it always got a raw deal to the extent that the Executive Committee in its meeting on 25thand 26thJuly decided to pull away from StreetNet International and promote another Global Body working for rights of the Street Vendors . Self Workers Global (SWG)is another such body which is in the process of being set up in Spain and in NASVI is given due place ,the EC has given gohead to be an active promoter of SWG

CHALLENGES

Street Vendors are running out of patience: Having got the Act and in some places court orders too, the Vendors are unable to understand where is the cause of their woes. Their struggle against the powerful anti vendor forces have been long and they are unable to bear now . They want solution to their livelihood .

Continuous involvement of the Central and State Govt: We see as a major problem as without their involvement it will not be possible to get the Act implemented. They know about the issues but avoid to get involved in it beyond a point . Municipal Bodies function under the State Govt's and only directives from State Govts make them work

Municipal antipathy is the biggest problem – How to solve that? Hundreds of examples of Municipal Corporation stalling even favorable steps.

Town Vending Meetings : Meetings of Town Vending Committees are not held regularly. Even when held the decisions are not taken seriously . Municipal Authorities still taking decisions without consulting the TVCs which is in violation of Street Vending Act .

Urban Forces against Vendors are strong: Beit Market Associations or Resident Welfare Organization, forces collude using their money and contacts to stall any pro vendor developments. Many go to courts and get court orders for eviction of vendors without even mention of the Street Vending Act.

State Govt tendering mechanism is flawed. This makes participation of organization like us very difficult and the agencies that are being hired view many a times street vendor organization as hindrance to their work. Many Municipal Bodies do not allow organizations registered under Societies Act to participate.

Demonetization and GST :Both have affected the business and consequently income of the street vendors and no strategy has helped them.

Capacity Building of TVC members: More than 2000 TVCs have been constituted but their capacity building is not happening and as such they are unable to articulate their needs.

Street Vendors organizing has to improve further :It is good that we have come to this stage but the organizing has to improve further with more deepening at the city level and functioning of committees at the state level

Vendors still unaware of the Act :It is sad that despite three years of passage of the Act many street vendors and their organizations remain unaware of the Act.

ACTION PLAN for 2018-2019

Get states to Operationalize the Grievance Redressal Mechanism.The Street Vending Act provides a strong Grievance Redressal Mechanism which preempts vendors to go the regular Courts . However four years have passed and these have not been set up .The time now is get them set up across the states.

State Level Committees to play active role: Untilstate level committees play an active role it is not possible for the Act to be implemented across the country. So their role needs to be speeded up and emphasized. Each state must have a whatsapp app group and there must be a position at the state level.

District Level: There must also be a district level position, which will give the person more recognition and teeth to fight at the District level.

Railway Vendors; Highlight the issues of railway vendors and get Govt to come out with some policy and relief of vendors

Watch on the PILs: As PILs keep getting instituted at the state level, it is very important to keep a watch on them.

Publication of training manuals: TVC, leadership and organization development manual has been developed and now must be published.

Capacity building: Statelevel training programs are proposed to be conducted across the states

Vendors Day Celebration: Like every year, this year too would be celebrated as Vendors Day on 20th January

Support in Crisis: This should be our most important action now as in some cities the crisis is increasing.

Identify and involve good lawyers across states : As more and more organizations are resorting to Courts, it is necessary to help them by identifying good lawyers at the state level

Expand Street Food Program; The program has the potential to be expanded to all cities of India. Some progress has already been made .Trainings have been organized in Raipur ,Bhopal, Trivandrum, Cochin, Mumbai ,Pune ,Delhi .Trainings are planned in Bhubaneswar and Srinagar .

Street Food Festival: Will continue as in the past

Launch new enterprises for Street Vendors : Spectacles has been identified as an enterprise. Vision Spring ,a social enterprise promoting low cost glasses has been approached for collaboration

Social Security: With the Govt push towards the New Social Security Code , it is very important that we work on securing social security of the street vendors and unorganized workers

Update Membership MIS: MIS should be uploaded after deletion of the inactive members, which we keep taking forward unnecessarily.

Expansion of Membership: We are happy that Chhattisgarh has been added to our map but there are cities and towns, which do not have NASVI, outreach and so it is important to reach out to those cities.

Digital Platform: NASVI must emphasize on digital literacy and use of digital platform for acceptance of payment

Better Communication with members: This is must particularly through the digital platform

Engagement with Media at the State level: We need to engage media more efficiently at the state level.

A Film on Street Vending Act: A film which captures the entire gamut of Street Vending Act and its implementation and the difficulties would be very helpful

A Global Body: because of the bitter experience of NASVI with Street Net, it is important to promote a Global Body which works with Street Vendors across countries .

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