

1. About Thamate and its Work

Thamate (literally a *Dalit Drum*) is a Community Based Organization founded in 2006 working in Tumkuru district of Karnataka with *madiga* and other most marginalized communities for eradication of manual scavenging practice and comprehensive development of the community.

Focus of Thamate's Work

Thamate's work is focused on following thematic issues: -

- Eradication of Manual Scavenging Practice including legal interventions
- Organizing *safaikarmacharis*
- Improving Education among families of Safaikarmacharis/Manual Scavengers
- Improving Health status of families of Safaikarmacharis/Manual Scavengers

Within this broad framework, Thamate continued its work in the in the third quarter of 2017-18 (Oct-Dec), as this report elaborates, with its advocacy efforts yielding results with partial regularization of *safaikarmacharis/pourakarmikas*; the initiation of district-level training of officials on Manual Scavenging Act 2013 and engagement with the efforts of Government of Karnataka to bring in regulation of extractive and exploitative private health sector.

2. Executive Summary

Thematic Issue	Key Activities	Result	Outcome
Eradication of Manual Scavenging	Advocacy with the Davangere ULB for identification of 156 manual scavengers who have submitted self-declaration forms	The ULB has registered all the 156 persons as manual scavengers and once the ID cards are issued, the process of rehabilitation will commence.	The recognition by Davangere ULB that there are manual scavengers in their area has opened doors for other ULBs to follow suit.
	Trainings on MS Act 2013 for <i>panchayat</i> , ULB and district officials	By the end of the quarter, trainings were completed in three districts – Uttara Kannada, Bengaluru Rural and Chikkamangluru.	In these two trainings, 727 <i>safaikarmacharis</i> and 244 government official from ULBs, <i>panchayats</i> and various other departments were oriented about MSR Act 2013.
	Training on MS Act 2013 for BWSSB workers.	360 BWSSB regular and contract sanitary workers and officials oriented on MSR Act, Safety and health issues	
	Study conducted by National Law School on Socio-economic condition of <i>Safaikarmacharis</i> and Manual Scavengers in Karnataka.	Mr. K B Obalesh was appointed as member of the Advisory Committee for the study and will be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating the collection	The results of the study will show the true picture of <i>safaikarmacharis</i> and manual scavengers in Karnataka and help advocacy efforts and policy measures.

		of data from all districts of the state.	
	Visit to Devanahalli to see the Faecal Sludge Management Plant run by the Town Municipal Council	In areas with water scarcity, UGDs are not a good solution for mechanical sewage disposal and FSTP was examined as an alternative.	Advocacy efforts will be made to push government towards installing FSTPs in areas with water scarcity
	Field visit to Vadodara and Surat districts of Gujarat.	Various alternatives like Bio-gas plants using human waste and Clearford Solutions's SBS technology for collection and treatment of sewage were observed.	
	Visit to Bijapura for participation in District Review by State Safaikarmachari Commission	During the visit to the town, 80 persons working as manual scavengers were identified and their self-identification forms were given to the Commission	Decision of Karnataka State Safaikarmachari Commission is awaited.
Regularization of <i>pourakarmikas</i>	Members of SKKS met officials of Directorate of Municipal Administration	While officials of DMA have refused to modify the GO, the SKKS	

	regarding modification of regularization GO	members plan to meet the Chief Secretary, GoK.	
Improving Health for SK-MS and Strengthening Public health System	A South India Level workshop on Maternal Health and Human Rights in collaboration with National Alliance of Maternal Health Human rights (NAMAHR) and CHSJ, New Delhi, was organized	23 Dalit activists from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu participated in the workshop and discussed issues and strategies.	It was decided to create State-level Networks of Dalits and members of most marginalized communities to strengthen advocacy for ensuring Maternal health entitlements and preventing Maternal Mortality
Alternative Employment for Youths of the Community	A one-day workshop for Youths of the community from Madhugiri Taluka was conducted in collaboration with Nudge foundation.	23 Boys and 9 Girls participated and were oriented about skills based training and related employment opportunities. They were also trained on how to utilize SCP/TSP funds for alternative employment purposes.	Some of the youths will enrol for Nudge Foundation courses later in the year.
Improving Education among families of <i>pourakarmikas</i> / manual	Exposure visit for teachers to Shaktidhama in Mysuru	All 10 <i>bheemshale</i> teachers visited Shaktishama at Mysuru which is a residential school for orphan children or children of	

scavengers		marginalised community.	
Comprehensive Development of <i>Safaikarmacharis</i> and Manual Scavengers	A Joint review of the conditions of <i>safaikarmacharis</i> in Tumkuru district was conducted with the Chairman of the newly created Karnataka State <i>Safaikarmachari</i> Development Corporation and the District Collector of Tumkuru district.	DC agreed to sanction 2 Acres of land in each Taluka of Tumkuru district for constructing houses.	965 contract <i>safaikarmacharis</i> across 10 ULBs in Tumkuru district will get housing when this decision is implemented.
	Memorandum submitted by <i>safaikarmacharis</i> of Chikkanayakahalli taluka in Tumkuru district to Joint Director, Social Welfare Department	2 acres of Government Land in Chikkanayakahalli has been identified for housing purposes and funds should be sanctioned for providing housing to <i>safaikarmacharis</i> on that land.	

3. Eradication of Manual Scavenging

In this quarter, the efforts to eradicate manual scavenging were made at district (Tumkuru), state (Karnataka) as well as national level.

Table 1: Key Activities, Process Result and Outcomes

Key Activities	Result	Outcome
Advocacy with the Davangere ULB for identification of 156 manual scavengers who have submitted self-declaration forms	The ULB has registered all the 156 persons as manual scavengers and once the ID cards are issued, the process of rehabilitation will commence.	The recognition by Davangere ULB that there are manual scavengers in their area has opened doors for other ULBs to follow suit.
Trainings on MS Act 2013 for <i>panchayat</i> , ULB and district officials	By the end of the quarter, trainings were completed in three districts – Uttara Kannada, Bengaluru Rural and Chikkamangluru.	In these three trainings, 727 <i>safaikarmacharis</i> and 244 government official from ULBs, <i>panchayats</i> and various other departments were oriented about MSR Act 2013.
Training on MS Act 2013 for BWSSB workers	The training covered issues like provisions of PEMSR Act 2013; Safety and health issues of the workers etc.	360 BWSSB regular and contract sanitary workers and officials participated
Training on MSR Act and discussion of situation of Dalit Community organized for DSS activist	54 activists of Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (DSS) from Madhugiri and Kortgere <i>taluka</i> of Tumkuru district were given training on the MSR Act	
Study conducted by National Law School on	Mr. K B Obalesh was appointed as member of the Advisory Committee	The results of the study will show the true picture of

Socio-economic condition of <i>Safaikarmacharis</i> and Manual Scavengers in Karnataka	for the study and will be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating the collection of data from all districts of the state	<i>safaikarmacharis</i> and manual scavengers in Karnataka and help advocacy efforts and policy measures
Visit to Devanahalli to see the Faecal Sludge Management Plant run by the Town Municipal Council	In areas with water scarcity, UGDs are not a good solution for mechanical sewage disposal and FSTP was examined as an alternative.	Advocacy efforts will be made to push government towards installing FSTPs in areas with water scarcity
Field visit to Vadodara and Surat districts of Gujarat.	Various alternatives like Bio-gas plants using human waste and Clearford Solutions's SBS technology for collection and treatment of sewage were observed.	
Visit to Bijapura for participation in District Review by State <i>Safaikarmachari</i> Commission	During the visit to the town, 80 persons working as manual scavengers were identified and their self-identification forms were given to the Commission	Decision of Karnataka State <i>Safaikarmachari</i> Commission is awaited.

3.1 Identification of 156 persons as Manual Scavengers in Davanagere

Members of several families residing in the 'Bhangi' colony in Davanagere town work as manual scavengers. 156 of them had submitted self-declaration forms asking the Davanagere City Corporation to register them under the PEMSR Act 2013 and initiate the process of rehabilitation. Despite evidence in the form of photos and statements of employers produced by the workers, the ULB had been refusing to register them following the unwritten State government policy of not acknowledging presence of manual scavenging in the state. Finally, the City Corporation accepted the forms and once the families are issued ID cards and information is

sent to Central government, the process of rehabilitation would be initiated.

On 17th Dec 2017, we had organized a consultative meeting with family members of the newly identified manual scavengers regarding the possible alternative employment that they can apply for. Depending on their interest and capacity, 178 participants stated their preferences. From our side, we made suggestions on sustainable options for asset-based employment that the families can opt for.

3.2 Trainings on PEMSR Act 2013 for Panchayat, ULB and District Officials

In this quarter, training for government officials on the provisions of PEMSR Act 2013 and their respective roles and responsibilities under them was conducted in three more districts of the state – Uttara Kannada, Chikkamangluru and Bengaluru Rural district.

On 8th Oct 2017, Orientation workshop on PEMSR Act 2013 was held in Sirsi town in Uttara Kannada district. The workshop was attended by 320 *safaikarmacharis* and 56 officials from ULBs, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Social Welfare Department. Mr. K B Obalesh made a presentation on the various provisions of the Act. Before the training, we met the *safaikarmacharis* working for the Sirsi City Municipal Council who described to us the dismal conditions they live in and the various violations being faced by them with respect to law salaries, PF etc.

On 30th Oct 2017, Orientation workshop on PEMSR Act 2013 was organized in Chikkamangluru for district officials. Mr. K B Obalesh made a presentation about the differences between the 1993 Act and the 2013 PEMSR Act clarifying some of the myths and confusions regarding identification of manual scavengers and demolition of insanitary latrines. The workshop was inaugurated by the DC and was attended by 167 *safaikarmacharis* and 68 government officials from various departments and elected members of Taluka Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat.

On 13th Nov 2017, the third training of the quarter was held for officials of Bengaluru Rural district in the Zill Panchayat office. Around 360 *safaikarmacharis* and officials from ULBs, Social Welfare Department and other departments participated in the training.

While the trainings have been useful in making the officials aware of their roles and responsibilities under the Act but senior officials like the District Collector, Zilla Panchayat CEO, officials of RDPR etc. who have to play a major role under the Act for eradication of manual

scavenging are not attending the full trainings which sends the wrong signal to other staff as well.

3.3 Training for BWSSB Workers on PEMSR Act and Health and Safety Issues

On 12th Oct 2017, a training was organized by Directorate of Municipal Administration, City Managers' Association, Karnataka (CMAK) and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) with support from State *Safaikarmachari* Commission and State Monitoring Committee to orient the workers on the provisions of PEMSR Act 2013 and the health and safety issues faced by them. The training which took place at Vidhan Soudha in Bengaluru was attended by 360 BWSSB regular and contract sanitary workers and officials. Mr. K B Obalesh made a presentation on PEMSR Act 2013 and the provisions regarding hazardous cleaning which are being violated by BWSSB in maintenance of UGD and cleaning of manholes.

3.4 Training on PEMSR Act and discussion of situation of Dalit Community organized by Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (DSS) Tumkuru District Committee

On 14th Oct, 2017, Tumkuru District Committee of the Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (DSS) organized a training workshop for its activists from Madhugiri and Kortegere taluka on PEMSR Act 2013 at Kortegere with support from Thamate. 54 activists from the two *talukas* attended the training where a discussion of the situation of Dalit community and specifically *safaikarmacharis* was discussed along with provisions of the Act which can be used.

3.5 Study on the socio-economic status of Safaikarmacharis and Manual Scavengers in Karnataka conducted by National Law School, Bengaluru

The State government of Karnataka has sanctioned money for a study on the socio-economic status of *Safaikarmacharis* and Manual Scavengers in Karnataka which is being conducted by National Law School, Bengaluru. As part of the study, across all the 30 districts of Karnataka, 50 *safaikarmacharis* and 50 manual scavengers will be surveyed. Mr. K B Obalesh has been nominated as a member of the advisory group for the study by the State *Safaikarmachari* Commission. Other members of the advisory board include Magsaysay Awardee Mr. Bezwada Wilson, Smt. Du. Saraswathi, Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah (Ex MLC) and Dr. Siddalingaiah (Ex MLC). In the first meeting of the advisory group held on Dec 3, 2017, Mr K B Obalesh was requested to take the

responsibility of co-ordinating state-wide data collection for the study along with a 15-member District level team, which he agreed to. In the month of December, Mr. K B Obalesh travelled to several districts to form district-level teams who would be collecting the data for the study. In Bjapura and Bagalkote, Fr. Zeorld has agreed to take the responsibility to co-ordinate the data collection. In Dec, a meeting was held with SC/ST *Safaikarmachari* Union of Hubli-Dharwad where the purpose of the study was discussed with the members. The responsibility of data collection for Dharwad district was accepted by Union leader Mr. Vijay Guntral. On 17 Dec, a meeting was held with Union members in Chitradurga about the study. SKKS member Mr. Rajanna agreed to take responsibility of data collection for Chitradurga district.

During 23-26 Dec 2017, data collection was carried out in areas of Bengaluru falling under BBMP limits including Yelahanka, Neelasandra, Mathikere, Jalahalli, Malleshwaram, JJ nagar etc. Over 300 *safaikarmacharis* and both identified and non-identified manual scavengers were interviewed. In 2013, 201 manual scavengers had been identified in Bengaluru city but so far no rehabilitation has been provided to them. The process of data collection was supervised by Mr. K B Obalesh.

3.6 Visit to Faecal Sludge Management Plant run by Devanahalli TMC at Devanahalli

One of the causes for continuance of the practice of manual scavenging is the absence of adequate sanitation infrastructure. If eradication of manual scavenging has to become a reality, massive investments will have to be made in rural and urban areas in sanitation infrastructure for safe disposal of generated sewage without any one having to handle it manually. In the long run, building of adequate sanitation systems are the only solution for eradication of manual scavenging. With this in mind, Thamate and SKKS are evaluating various sanitation systems and frameworks which can be advocated to the State Government in Karnataka for adoption across the state.

On 16 November 2017, a team comprising of K B Obalesh, Mathew and Siddharth from *Safaikarmachari Kavulu Samithi* visited Devanahalli Town where the Town Municipal Council is operating a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) based on DEWATS (Decentralised Wastewater Treatment System) technology built by [CDD \(Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination\) Society](#) with financial support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and [BORDA South Asia](#) apart

from Union and State government.

Since Devenahalli is a water scarce own, building underground drainage and connecting idential and commercial units to it is not feasible. Hence, a decentralized system is appropriate for the town. Devenahalli's population as per 2011 census is about 30,000 with 6400 households. About 94% town had access to toilets with 90% having septic tanks or pits. In the decentralized system, when the pits of latrines get filled up, the owners are required to call de-sludging machines which suck the fecal sludge and carry it to the FSTP. The TMC charges Rs 1000 for one-time de-sludging. The TMC operates one Sucking Machine of 6000 L capacity itself and there are 5 machines operated by private contractors. The fecal sludge is then off loaded at the FSTP for treatment as per DEWATS process which is completely biological and flows are based on gravity. Thus the plant used zero electricity for the treatment process.



The capacity of the plant is 6800 ltrs. The solid bio-mass is treated anaerobically and the resulting methane is used as bio-gas for cooking purposes and the treated sludge after drying is mixed with municipal waste for co-composting and the manure is sold to the farmers in the area. The treated water is used for irrigation purposes in nearby areas.

The plant was built with a capital cost of Rs 62-65 Lakhs while the annual O&M costs are Rs 5 Lakhs/year which are financed by the TMC through a combination of enhanced property tax, desludging fee revenue, sale of compost manure and advertisements.

The team also spoke to the *pourakarmikas* working for the TMC who complained about delayed payment of salaries and the poor quality of food being provided by the TMC. Every day the TMC

provided only rice and *sambhar* for lunch and no *ragi* or millets or pulses were been given. Also, following the notification for regularization of *pourakarmikas*, we were informed that 30 out of 71 *pourakarmikas* have been removed because the notifications has fixed the number of *pourakarmikas* for a ULB as per the formula of 1 *pourakarmika* per 700 persons **as per 2011 Census**. Hence the workers who had been hired on contract and who had struggled for regularization became victim of the government order. The requirement of workers should be based on amount of solid waste generated which depends on actual population which in the case of Devanahalli because of the International Airport has grown quite rapidly and is likely to have doubled in the last 6 years since the counting of population in 2011. By reducing the worker strength by more than half will double the workload of the remaining workers. All the laid off workers had worked for 2-10 years and are now out of employment. A complaint in this matter has been filed with Karnataka State Safaikarmachari Commission.

3.7 Visit to Vadodara and Surat district of Gujarat

Carrying forward the process of evaluation of various alternatives for building sanitation infrastructure in urban and rural Karnataka, a team comprising K B Obalesh, Mathew and Siddharth from Thamate and SKKS visited Vadodara and Surat districts of Gujarat during 10-12 Dec 2017.

Decentralized Sanitation System in Jambudhiyapura Village

Jambudiyaura Village is a tribal village off the Vadodara-Hallol toll road comprising 56 households which were resettled here after being displaced from a dam project more than 40 years ago. The village was adopted by [Gujarat Road & Infrastructure Co. Ltd \(GRICL\)](#), the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of [IL&FS](#), which has been awarded the contract for building the toll road. The CSR arm of GRICL, Nalanda Foundation initiated a sanitation project in Jambudiyapura village towards making it Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Swacch Bharat Mission (SBM). The sanitation system was built by [Clearford India Private Limited](#) which is a subsidiary of [Clearford Water Systems Inc.](#), a Canadian publicly-listed company. Their sanitation solution called [Clearford One](#) comprises of four components:-

- a) Toilet-Bathroom-Washing Basin complex

- b) Bio-digester Tanks
- c) HDPE buried sewage pipeline
- d) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

Before the installation of the sanitation system, only ten families had toilets and others were defecating in open. During monsoon rains, the backyard area of houses used to get muddy and posed a health hazard to the residents of the village. As part of the sanitation system, for all households in the village, a toilet-bathroom-washing basin unit was constructed with each unit costing upwards of 1 Lakh. The waste water and the fecal matter generated by each unit is sent to bio-digester tanks of capacity 2000 Ltrs for primary and partial secondary treatment. Continuous circulation of the fecal matter due to the inflowing waste water provides for increased anaerobic bacterial activity which digests the solid matter so that only liquid matter goes through the buried HDPE pipeline. Since solids are not sent through the sewer line, low water flow rates are sufficient with gravity-based gradient to carry the matter from bio-digesters to the tank. The partially treated liquid is then conveyed to a tank from which it is pumped to a Sewage Treatment Plant which was built by [Vision Earthcare Pvt. Ltd](#) using the [CAMUS-SBT soil biotechnology](#) developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai. The treatment plant lets out treated water which meets the effluent standards set by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and [Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation \(CPHEEO\)](#) and is used for the purposes of irrigation.

The decentralized treatment of water using this system eliminates need for carrying sewage through long distances and the Operational & Maintenance Costs (O&M) costs are very minimal (Rs. 36000 per year for electricity required for pumping). The system requires minimal water usage and the sewer lines run on gravity flow. But the initial capital costs are high and the space requirements also are higher.

Bio-Gas Plant at Muni Seva Ashram at Goraj, Taluka Waghodia, District Vadodara

The Muni Seva Ashram at Goraj, Taluk Waghodia, District Vadodara houses a Cancer Hospital, a Nursing College, an Old Age Home and several other activities. The ashram also has a *gaushala* the milk from which is used for food purposes at all the institutions in the campus. The cow dung generated from the *gaushala* is fed to a large-size floating dome bio-gas plant which generated the

bio-gas which is further used for cooking purposes.

Community Bio-Gas Plant at Bhitbudrak village, Ucchal Taluka, District Tapi

We visited the community bio-gas plants built by SUMUL (Surat Milk Producers' Union Ltd) at Bhitbudrak village, Ucchal Taluka, District Tapi. SUMUL has built two floating dome type bio-gas plants of 85m³ capacity each. All the members of the village are eligible to contribute cow-dung produced to the plant for which they are paid @ Rs 0.30/kg. Total 121 households are connected to the plant and receive gas for 4 hours per day for which they pay Rs 150 per month. But when we visited the village, the plants were not functioning because of political issues in the village and SUMUL was in the process of meeting with the community members to restart the plant.

Deenbandhu Bio-gas Plant for Animal and Human Waste Digestion in Vaikur village, Songadh Taluk, District Tapi

In Vaikur village, which is a tribal village (Chaudharis) in Songadh Taluk in Tapi District, with the assistance of Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., has 40-45 households where the toilets built under Swacch Bharat Mission, are connected for waste water discharge to a Deenbandhu-model bio-gas plant of capacity 2 m³. There is a separate inlet for animal waste like dung. When the animal waste is mixed with human waste in the appropriate proportion, the bio gas thus produced is directed for use to the household kitchen. The bio-gas generated is usually enough for cooking for 4 hours. The plants have been built at capital cost of approx Rs 26,000 after the completion of which a subsidy of Rs 19,000 from both Central and State government is transferred to the beneficiary. The plants are built underground with only gas outlet pipe coming out.

This technology requires very little need for manual intervention as long as it is functioning. But if the plant stops functioning, technical support in rural areas is required for these plants to be sustainable. Additionally, availability of 3-4 animals so that enough animal waste is produced to be mixed with human waste which would lead to production of bio-gas. Given these two inputs, connecting latrines to Deenbandhu-style bio-gas plants can be a potential means to not only remove the need of manual cleaning of pits but also use the human waste to produce bio-gas.

3.8 State *Safaikarmachari* Commission District Review Meeting at Bijapura

On 30th Nov, Mr. K B Obalesh attended the District Review Meeting at Bijapura conducted by State *Safaikarmachari* Commission with the District administration regarding implementation of PEMSR Act 2013 and other measures related to *safaikarmacharis*. A memorandum demanding registration of 80 new manual scavengers working in various institutions in the district was submitted via the commission. The District administration is yet to take a decision on this.



4. Regularization of Contract *Safaikarmacharis* working under Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

Table 2: Key Activities, Process Result and Outcomes

Key Activities	Result	Outcome
Members of SKKS met officials of Directorate of Municipal Administration regarding modification of regularization GO	While officials of DMA have refused to modify the GO, the SKKS members plan to meet the Chief Secretary, GoK.	Appointment with Chief Secretary in January.

4.1 Meeting with Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Karnataka for amendment of the Regularization Policy

After the Cabinet decision to regularize ALL *safaikarmacharis* working for all the Urban Local Bodies in Karnataka, a Government Order was issued with a draft special recruitment policy. SKKS had submitted detailed objections to several points in the draft policy. One of the sticking points was that the Cabinet Order had decided to regularize all workers, the officials who drafted the policy invented a rule from their side that number of regular positions in a ULB would be based on ratio of 1 *safaikarmachari* for 700 persons as per 2011 Census population. As we saw in the case of Devanahalli, the Census 2011 figures are at least 6-7 years old and if this rule is followed, several *safaikarmacharis* will be removed. The existing number of contract workers have all been hired based on demands and thus ALL of them should be regularized as per the Cabinet Order. Thus, to press for this change, Mr K B Obalesh and Mr. Ramchandra, SKKS member from Bellari met the official of Directorate of Municipal Administration and urged them to modify this rule. But the DMA has refused to modify this rule and therefore, SKKS members have sought an appointment with the Chief Secretary of Government of Karnataka to push for the matter. This rule threatens the livelihood of 10-15,000 contract *safaikarmacharis* across various ULBs in the state and is anti-*dalit* and anti-workers.

4.2 Delay in Payments of Salaries in ULBs in Tumkuru

On 18th Dec 2017, SKKS members met the Project Director, Urban Development Cell, Tumkuru district to raise the issue of delay in payments of salaries of workers in ULBs of CN Halli, Koratagere, Madhugiri, Gubbi, Sira where the salaries are pending from at least last two months. Additionally, while the salaries are being given after deducting contributions towards Employee Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI), neither have the ESI cards being issued nor the PF accounts have been given to the workers. Project Director had called a meeting of all the ULBs and have asked them to disburse payments immediately but there is still no clarity about ESI and PF.

5. Improving Education among children of Manual Scavengers and

Safaikarmacharis

In the third quarter of 2017-18, Thamate ran 6 *bheemshaales*. Across these 6 centres, 97 boys and 115 girls were enrolled. Apart from helping them to do better in various subjects, through summer camps and cultural activities, the *bheemshalas* also attempt to build self-confidence in the children. Table 3 below gives details of the 6 *bheemshalas* that were run by Thamate in 2017-18 and the number of students enrolled in each of them.

Table 3: Number of male and female students attending various *Bheemshalas* in Tumkuru district

Sl. No.	Name of the <i>Bheemshala</i>	Taluka	No. of Children Enrolled		
			Boys	Girls	Total
1	ADARSHANAGAR	PAVAGADA-URBAN	22	19	41
2	KANNAMEDI	PAVAGADA-RURAL	16	17	33
3	BYADANURU-1	PAVAGADA-RURAL	15	18	33
4	BYADANURU-2	PAVAGADA-RURAL	11	17	28
5	POTHAGANAHALLI	PAVAGADA-RURAL	18	22	40
6	MADHUGIRI	MADHUGIRI -URBAN	15	22	37
Total			97	115	212

5.1 Bheemshaale Activities

On Oct 10, a teacher's meeting was called at Tumkuru Office of Thamate and the progress of various activities at the *Bheemshale* were discussed. Study material for the *bheemshale* were also distributed for all the *bheemshale*. Teachers submitted their activity reports for the previous month and Action Plan for the next months were drawn up. In the month of November, two review meetings, one in Pavagada office (4th Nov) and second in Tumkuru office (18th Nov) were conducted where previous month's progress was reviewed and plans for next month were made.

Mr. Shivjit from Barefoot College visited night schools run by Thamate in Byadanuru, Kannamedu and Pothaganahalli villages during Nov 22-23 2017.

5.2 Exposure visit for *Bheemshale* teachers to Shaktidhama, Mysuru

During 2-3rd Dec 2017, all the *Bheemshale* teachers visited Shaktidhama in Mysuru which is a home for orphan children and those from difficult socio-economic backgrounds. It provides shelter and food to children who are sent to nearby schools for education. Thamate has been collaborating with Shaktidhama since last one year and few children from the community from areas where Thamate works have been admitted into Shaktidhama. Therefore, the teachers visited Shaktidhama to see the facilities provided and the manner in which the organization is run.



6. Alternative Employment for Youths of the Community

6.1 One-day Alternative Employment Workshop at Madhugiri

On 13th Oct 2017, a one-day orientation-cum-training was organized in collaboration with Nudge Foundation at Madhugiri for the youths on different types of skills and employment opportunities offered by the Foundation. Mr. Dhanush Kumar from Nudge Foundation, Bengaluru conducted the orientation. Followed by this Mr. K B Obalesh conducted a training on how to utilize SCP/TSP funds for accessing skills training and employment. 25 young boys and 9 girls attended the training and some of them have shown interest in joining the next training batches at the Nudge Foundation but most youths are looking for opportunities in nearby their homes and do not want to come to Bengaluru for employment which remains a challenge.

7. Comprehensive Development of the SK/MS Community

Table 4: Key Activities, Process Result and Outcomes

Key Activities	Result	Outcome
A Joint review of the conditions of <i>safaikarmacharis</i> in Tumkuru district was conducted with the Chairman of the newly created Karnataka State <i>Safaikarmachari</i> Development Corporation and the District Collector of Tumkuru district.	DC agreed to sanction 2 Acres of land in each Taluka of Tumkuru district for constructing houses.	965 contract <i>safaikarmacharis</i> across 10 ULBs in Tumkuru district will get housing when this decision is implemented.
Memorandum submitted by <i>safaikarmacharis</i> of Chikkanayakahalli taluka in Tumkuru district to Joint Director, Social Welfare Department	2 acres of Government Land in Chikkanayakahalli has been identified for housing purposes and funds should be sanctioned for providing housing to <i>safaikarmacharis</i> on that land.	

7.1 Visit of the Chairperson of State *Safaikarmachari* Development Corporation to Tumkuru

During 6-7th Oct 2017, the Chairperson of the newly set-up Karnataka State *Safaikarmachari* Development Corporation visited Tumkuru. A Joint Review was conducted with Chairperson of the Development Corporation and the District Collector on the issues of *safaikarmacharis* in the district. Specifically, Urban Development Department of Government of Karnataka has issued a letter to all ULBs asking them to identify land for providing housing to *safaikarmacharis* and the housing problem in this context was discussed as part of the review. The Chairperson of the Development Corporation recommended to the DC that sites be provided to *safaikarmacharis* for housing purposes. The DC has agreed to allocate 2 acres of land for all 10 ULBs in the district:

Tumkuru City Corporation, Municipalities at Pavagada, Madhugiri, Sira, Tipaturu, Kunigal; and Town Panchayaths of CN Halli, Koratagere, Gubbi, Turuvekere. Overall 965 contract workers would benefit from this decision. But there are several challenges ahead in getting this decision implemented, the biggest one being that the Revenue Department is not releasing lands for the housing even though such land exists.

On 18 Nov, 12 *safaikarmacharis* from Chikkanayakahalli Town Panchayat in Tumkuru district along with Mr. K B Obalesh submitted a memorandum to the Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, Tumkuru District specifying the land in the area which could be used for housing the workers. Continuous pressure would be needed to force the DC and other officials to follow through on this.

8. Improving Health Conditions of *Safaikarmacharis* and Manual Scavengers and Strengthening of Public Health Systems

Table 5: Key Activities, Process Result and Outcomes

Key Activities	Result	Outcome
A South India Level workshop on Maternal Health and Human Rights in collaboration with National Alliance of Maternal health Human rights (NAMAHAAR) and CHSJ, New Delhi, was organized	23 Dalit activists from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu participated in the workshop and discussed issues and strategies.	It was decided to create State-level Networks of Dalits and members of most marginalized communities to strengthen advocacy for ensuring Maternal health entitlements and preventing Maternal Mortality
Case story preparation with Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), Delhi featuring Thamate as a grass-roots organization.	The Case story was finalized and will be published by Global Secretary, COPASAH.	

8.1 South India Level workshop on Maternal Health and Human Right

During 23-26th Oct 2017, a South India Level workshop on Maternal Health and Human Rights was organized in Collaboration with National Alliance of maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMAHAAR)^a and Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), Delhi with participation from 23 Dalit activists and leaders from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. After a discussion on various issues faced by marginalized groups in accessing maternal care, the group decided to initiate state-level networks of members and organization from Dalis and other marginalized communities for strengthening of advocacy efforts for ensuring Maternal health entitlements and reduction of maternal mortality.

8.2 Case story featuring Thamate as a grass-roots organization working on eradication of manual scavenging

Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in HEALTH (COPASAH) Global Secretariat and Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), Delhi are publishing case stories on social accountability on health. One of the case stories will be on Thamate as a grass-roots organization working on the eradication of manual scavenging. The case story has been finalized by E P Premdas, Ms. Surekha and Mr. K B Obalesh and would be published soon.

8.3 Public Health Advocacy related to KPME Amendment Act 2017

After the introduction of the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Amendment Bill 2017 in the assembly, there was aggressive mobilization by private hospital lobby which was being supported by opposition parties also. To oppose the efforts of private hospitals to dilute pro-patient provisions in the Amendment Bill, on Nov 17, SKKS along with Karnataka Janarogya Chaluvali (KJC) and other organization organized a protest at Town Hall in Bengaluru. Over 200 participants including members of over 50 social organizations, intellectuals, writers etc. attended the protest and demanded that the Bill be passed. Eventually, because of the pressure from the private hospitals lobby, a severely diluted version of the Bill was passed by the assembly. It was felt that the pressure and demand from the civil society was very weak because of the misinformation campaign started by the private hospitals and lack of awareness about pro-people provisions of the Bill. Hence, it was decided by all organizations involved in the campaign to hold meetings and consultations in the area of their work on the issue. On 19th Dec 2017, a meeting of representatives of various civil society organizations in Tumkuru district was called and a district-level seminar is being planned.

9. AID Partners' Conference at Hyderabad

During 27-30 Dec 2017, a conference of all the partner's of Association for India Development (AID) was held in Hyderabad and Mr K B Obalesh participated in the conference from Thamate. A photo story and a presentation showcasing Thamate's work, its impact and future plans was prepared and displayed at the venue of the Conference. Around 150 members from across India belonging various AID partners participated in the event.

