

PROJECT TITLE: Dalit world-view

PROJECT MISSION: To facilitate cultural transformation at a community-level, through art and theatre, to tune a Dalit world-view through a lens of pride, dignity and identity.

PROJECT PERIOD: January 2023 – December 2024

OVERVIEW:

The most distinctive aspect of the project team is the way it uses the traditional Dappu or Dalit drum as a symbol of assertion of a resurgent identity. The Dappu traditionally exemplified the Madiga universe: underscoring the community's association with cattle, with leatherwork and with art as ritual. Over time, as more and more Madigas distanced themselves from leatherwork owing to the stigma attached to it, the drum lost its lustre, as far as the self-pride of the community was concerned. The project team, by drumming a new beat on the Dappu, has explored several trajectories of evolving 'alternate modes of celebration and liberating action.'

OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding of Dalit culture for the assertion of Dalit identity and values with new meanings
- Realisation of the path and progress of Dalit life from its roots to fruits, by remembering and commemorating Dalit ancestors and martyrs
- Awareness of contemporary Dalit stories on dimensions of myth, wisdom, affirmation and potential, for personal and social transformation
- Strengthening of Dalit art, music and literature with new meaning, to alter the caste-based discourse in civil society
- Gaining recognition about Dalit arts and culture at an international and national level, to increase solidarity for the Dalit community

ACTIVITIES:

- 2 ideation workshops with 40 Dalit and non-Dalit intellectuals
- 2 Dalit Memorial events with 40 urban middle-class Dalits
- 10 Playback theatre performances for 500 students
- 80 Forum theatre sessions for 600 Students
- 2 Dalit Poetry events for 300 Public
- 2 Dalit musical performances for 600 persons
- Post in social media on Dalit Arts, Culture, and success stories