

To,

UN. Head Quarters,  
First Avenue, 46<sup>th</sup> Street,  
New york. Ny 10017.

**Sub :** Eradication of Manual Scavenging in India – regarding.

Dear Sir,

Loving greetings from '**Aadhi Thamilar Peravai !**'

The 'Aadhi Thamilar Peravai' ( a people's movement ) conducted a conference called " Rehabilitation for Scavengers" on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004 in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu, S.India, in which about 5000 people participated. Scavengers belong to the "Arunthathiyar" community who are considered most untouchables and who are the most oppressed by the caste and other oppressed communities. They are the first doctors of the human society in health system because they cleanse and dispose the waste materials of the entire humanity which is a part of preventive medicine. This conference was organized to bring about socio, political, economical and educational awareness among the scavengers. Also the realities and request of the scavengers to be brought about to the notice of the Government authorities.

We are sending you a copy of the resolution ( with other materials ) which were passed in the conference, for your notice and to take further action on it. We kindly request you to deal the matter with much care and interest and fulfill our demands as early as possible. Whatever may be your action, kindly let us know about it. We will be ever grateful to you for all the valuable work of your hearts, hands and minds.

With gratitude and confidence,

Yours faithfully,

( **ADHIYAMAAN** )

( Founder President )

**FEW WORDS ABOUT “AADHI THAMIZHAR PERAVAI”** :- ‘Aadhi Thamilar peravai’ is a people’s movement founded by Mr.R.Adhiyamaan B.A ( whose official name is Mr. Subba rao ) in 1994 in the west zone of Tamil Nadu namely in Kovai district. He is a government officer too ( Transport Department ). Aim of the movement is to re-establish economical, social, political, educational and cultural improvement among the “Arumthathiyar” community who are considered out caste and oppressed by all other caste and non – caste societies and whose living condition is below the poverty line. Also to abolish the evil practices of caste system from the face of Indian soil.

**SCAVENGERS** : The people called “Scavengers” in Tamil Nadu, belong to the community of “ Arumthathiyar” ( Aadhi Thamilar ) who are the sons and daughters of Tamil soil and who are considered out caste and untouchables by the caste Hindus. The population of Arumthathiyar in Tamil Nadu is about 65 Lakhs. The scavenging work is imposed on them by the Ariyans ( Bhramins ) The “Hinduthuva” scholars by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in order to brand them as slaves and untouchables in their own birth, place. Their properties were stolen unjustly by the invaders from other places taking advantage of their extreme character of hospitality. Among the Arunthathiyars, there are two more other working groups called “Cobblers” and “Landless Agricultural coolly workers”.

**THE COBBLERS** : The one who is mending the shoes. They make shoes and other foot wears. Their economic and social conditions are poor and they live in a pathetic situation. They also live at the mercy of the rich and caste people. Their work also is considered “untouchable work”. They do not get the proper wages, if they ask for the right wages they will be tortured by the caste society. The money lenders load them with heavy interest which they are not able to pay back.

**LAND LESS AGRICULTURAL COOLI WORKERS:** They are bonded laborers and live in villages, their condition is also very poor. After so many years of coolly work their

gain is only a “bend” on their back, and “Skin and bone”. They are not paid with minimum wages fixed by the Govt. and refused the same by the land lords, other wise called ‘Caste Hindus’ they have to be always ready to offer their life for the “likes” and dislikes” of the land owners. They have not only the agricultural work but also all other filthy work to do. The work load is too heavy on them . The torture of the money lenders including the land owner is terrible. They do not have freedom; until and unless they pay back the debt with all it’s interest, cannot get out of this bonded labor. If they ask for any of their rights, they will be beaten to death, they will be tortured by burning, they will be made to eat human excreta and made to drink urine and made to undergo such cruel and in human punishment. The interest of the money will be multiplied to thousands and thousands within no time. The women should be always ready to sell their flesh. If not ready the women and the female children will be raped until they finish their lust. It is so with all other two groups too.

**THE INDEPENDENT INDIA AND TAMIL NADU :** In the independent India where the high Tech cities are prevalent and in the greatest democratic country of the world, about 5.77 Lakhs people till today removing the human excreta with their bare hands in to the buckets, carrying it on their shoulder and head to dispose it to elsewhere, if it is rainy season they will be soaked in that contaminated fluid and stunk the whole day. They will not be able to eat a proper meal with taste. Those who get down to the deep septic canal where the whole dirt of the city is accumulated, in order to clean and remove the blockage they have to get immersed and soaked into that filthy water. There will be a collection of particles of dead animals, human excreta and all other filthy and contaminated materials. The person will be not only bathed in that dirty water but also the water will get into the mouth, ear, eyes, and nose sometimes the poisoness gas in it will take away his life. It is a terrible human torture done in the name of caste and religion. Among these workers it is said “35561” people are doing the same service in Tamil Nadu alone.

Recently the Tamil Nadu Government sent 4799 scavengers to Tsunami affected areas to do cleaning. They were provided with no materials, not even food and water and

places to stay. Yet they did all their usual services faithfully, clearing up all the decayed bodies and unwanted dirty materials. The same service was denied by the defense personals who were at the spot. For such valiant service of a month, the chief Minister of Tamil Nadu promise to give Rs.2500/-per head. The S.T.F. who put mud into the life of many tribal poor were granted Lakhs and Lakhs of rupees. Many of the Indians cannot bear the sight of scavengers. Each Indian has the responsibility to abolish this ugly caste system from the face of India. The scavengers are considered untouchables by the other untouchables too.

**LEGAL PROCEDURES :** In 1993 June 5<sup>th</sup> “ The Employment of Manual Scavengers and construction of dry latrines (prohibition)Act” came into existence but it was not implemented. By the year of 2003 it got expired. Since then no one seems to be thinking of re-enforcing it to bring back into action.

The Indian penal code ( I.P.C.) section 46 says that the SC/ST people should be protected from the exploitation of others and special care should be taken to educate and employ their children for social development. Till the year 1971 the scavengers were not included in the population data analysis of Tamil Nadu. They were excluded like unwanted, rotten materials.

In 1949 the Government of Mumbai prohibited the manual Scavenging and assigned “Scavenging conditions Enquiry committee”. This is the first mile stone in the history of scavengers. Though in many states of India it was spoken about, no one dare to put it into practice.

# EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR RESOLUTION NO.20

Urged the world Bank and International countries who are extending financial assistance to India, to insist Indian Govt. to ban the manual removal of human excreta and advice the Govt. to implement modernization process in the work. *If the Indian government neglect this request, kindly stop the financial assistance to India.*

The government of India has taken various action to eradicate "Child Labor" from this soil, such as imposing severe legal action (procedures ) on those who are employing the children, has forbidden to buy the goods that are produced by the children, Prohibiting the export of goods that are made by the child laborers in the companies ect. For example the match sticks & match boxes and other explosive goods that are produced by the children in the Siva kasi Factories of Tamil Nadu are not allowed in the market. The public is instructed by the human right organizations not to buy the explosives that are made by the children etc. etc.

The people belong to the ( black ) African countries were sold for money like any other goods for the benefit of the whites and thus the infamous, slavery system which was already existing the west was brought to the Americans too. This inhuman practice was stopped by the great American president Mr. Abraham Lincon.

In the same way we 'Adthi Tamilar Peravai' kindly request the U.N. Council to take firm steps to eradicate this inhuman action of Human Scavenging – Manual Removal of Human Excreta by the human hands with out any protection, from all the states of India. Also we kindly ask you to appoint a team which will visit India and make proper enquiries and verifications regarding the mater of "manual removal of human excreta".

1. Through out India 80% of the homes do not have latrine facilities. So the people defecate into the road side ditches, in the open places on either side of the road and in the public fields.

2. Those who have dry latrines they do not have proper water supply. There fore manual removal of human excreta is encouraged in dry latrines.
3. Compared to other places in the world, more people work in the Indian railway. It is a naked truth that the “human hands are removing the human excreta” from the railway track and government institutions. The government is encouraging such inhuman action rather than eliminating it.
4. The governments of India is least bothered about the hygiene, medical care, education, employment, housing and future of its people especially those who are at the basement level.

According to the employment of manual scavengers and construction of dry latrines ( prohibition ) Act of 1993 if any one refuses to abide by this rule and instrudions, the particular person could be either imprisoned for one year or punished with a fine of Rs.2000/- or the person will be punished with both, imprisonment and fine. If the person still continue to disobey the rule he/she will be further punished with a fine of Rs.100/- per day, with both of the punishment that are said above, till he/she stop this inhuman behaviours towards the scavenger.

This act got expired by the year of 2003. Since then nothing is dome to re-enforce it. At present the government of India is not having any plan to eradicate this social evil , such an inhuman action of manual scavenging “A human being removing the excreta of his fellow human being with bare hands” .