

CONCEPT NOTE FOR JSA TAMIL NADU CAMPAIGN LEADING UPTO AND BEYOND NHA2 Ameer Khan

JSA Organizational objectives

While the main objective will of course be the struggle for Health for All, the JSA in Tamil Nadu will have to keep certain organizational objectives clear, and see the campaign as one of the ways to achieve these. Such objective would include,

- Rejuvenating the network.
- Facilitating people's voices to emerge – significantly.
- Include groups – especially non-health – to broaden the struggle to the broader determinants and a Rights approach to health and well being.

Campaign plan

The main **objectives** of the campaign would be the initiation of debate / awareness on,

- Accountability of government to citizens, and ways to ensure this.
- Awareness of citizens rights, and seeing the government schemes etc. as their right and not a favor.
- The importance / harmful effects of globalization – especially privatization and its effects on the people.
- The importance and right to get involved in planning and governance.

The following **skills** would be developed within every community,

- Filing a Right to Information petition and following up.
- Setting up systems / protocols for community monitoring.

The following will be the **initial outputs** of such a campaign,

- Community developed directories of local government officials / offices.
- Set of all relevant application forms / eligibility criteria etc.
- local area committees to coordinate such activity.
- Citizens charters.

The following could be the rough set of **phases** of the campaign,

- Choose a theme.
- Document violations.
- Analyze and understand citizen rights and duties.
- Use of Right to information.
- Analyze various responses and assurances.

- Planning community monitoring.
- Follow up and pressure building.

TN's **contribution / presentation at NHA-2** can be,

- Citizens / campaign representatives to present campaign.
- Analyze the experience.
- Make demands on the government.
- Evolve an action plan in the relevant area. **(People's Health Plan)**

Some explanatory points.

- Rather than choose a single theme we feel that we need to choose a set of core values and skills that can be developed / facilitated by any campaign.
- This way we will be able to respond to the people's real needs and allow for the diverse realities of the people.
- We can choose 4-5 broad areas like, environment, food, water privatization, malnutrition, government services etc. and plan campaigns (relatively small and intensive) on these in specific areas in Tamil Nadu, along with previously identified resource groups.
- The local JSA partner can either run the campaign alone or in partnership with the resource groups as necessary.