

Amulya Nidhi is a health activist based in Madhya Pradesh, India with 20 years of work on health and human rights issues. With a strong grass root connect, his expertise spans from sustained campaign building, strong advocacy efforts to judicial activism.

He was instrumental in founding three campaigns/platforms - namely Swasthya Adhikar Manch, Silicosis Peedit Sangh and Jindagi Initiative. He is currently one of the national convenors of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (Indian Chapter of the global People's Health Movement).

Under 'Swasthya Adhikar Manch', since 2010, Amulya successfully spearheaded a campaign against unethical clinical trial by collecting evidences from multiple states (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh) and advocating the rights trial subjects. Along with forming a patients' group called 'Drug Trial Peedit Sangh' to address the problems of victims, he filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court of India in 2012. The investigative work and the PIL exposed violations at multiple levels, such as regulatory approvals, ethics committees, sponsoring companies, investigating doctors, healthcare institutions, all of which contributes to exploitation of subjects without any informed consent. Complaints were registered in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), leading to NHRC investigations and intervention in the PIL.

Due to continued advocacy, gaps in existing law and policy were identified and forced the Ministry of Health of Government of India to take serious notice of the issue. As a result of the PIL (still ongoing), new legal framework was put in place around transparency, consent, and compensation laws.

Swasthya Adhikar Manch runs regular investigative media campaigns, backed by primary evidence from the field and provides support to individuals, groups and organisations in exposing irregularities and mobilising trial victims.

Amulya was instrumental in forming **Silicosis Peedit Sangh (SPS)** which started working with silicosis affected migrant unorganized workers from tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh in 2006. Initially, the work involved establishment of existence of silicosis among migrant workers as they were all wrongly diagnosed as Tuberculosis (TB) patients.

Over the continued course of work for more than 12 years, Silicosis Peedit Sangh has been effectively using a multi-pronged strategy comprising of action research, litigation, community mobilization, dialogue and evidence based advocacy with local, state and national level stakeholders:

- **Establish Silicosis as an occupational illness:** Develop a community based study tool based on primary information and standard medical protocol to identify Silicosis as an occupational illness, which was earlier being treated as Tuberculosis
- **Advocacy through National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** led to development of the Preventive, Remedial, Rehabilitative, and Compensation guidelines for silicosis

- **Judicial Action:** As a result of sustained work on a public interest litigation (PIL) over a period of more than 12 years, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed a number of milestone orders including directing all State Governments to provide compensation to deceased workers and rehabilitate ailing patients, and issuing closure notices to erring factories.
- **Sustained Action Research:** Silicosis became recognized as an important public health concern at state and national level. Regular ground level surveys by SPS opened discourse between various parties including those working for labour rights, making the State accountable for workers' health rights.
- **Continued advocacy to build accountability of State Bodies:** Activate Central and State Pollution Control Boards, and Policies and programmes were developed by multiple State governments including Madhya Pradesh Gujarat, Rajasthan, ?? for silicosis affected workers
- **Member of Supreme Court appointed Committee:** Amulya is a member of Supreme Court appointed Silicosis Investigation Committee for Madhya Pradesh which have submitted a report to SC that established prevalence of silicosis in multiple districts of MP.
- **Mobilise Victim Organisation across 125+ villages:** Families were mobilized in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and migration to stone factories and mines was stopped.

Apart from deep rooted work in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Silicosis Peedit Sangh currently works for silicosis affected unorganised workers at a national level, in close collaboration with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan.