



## Conformist Thinking of Upper Caste Indian Society towards Dalits

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### ABSTRACT

According to Varnasrama Theory, Dalits are the last group of castes. Dalits are not a category of "caste." They are humans who are exploited economically and socially by other people. Dalits are face problem from many years ago. Half of the Dalit population lives in four states: UP, Bihar, WB, and TN, but UP, Bihar, MP, and Rajasthan are the most evident states for crime against SC and ST people. The majority of households belonging to the Scheduled Caste either do not possess any land at all or have very modest landholdings of less than 0.4 hectares; less than 6% of the population are medium and large farmers, which is a very tiny percentage. Dalit women were exploited by Hindu religious institutions. As a result, the famous ritual of Devadasi was born. Dalits' degraded status is primarily due to the caste system, which leads to untouchability, monopolisation of resources, and monopolisation of knowledge. For protect them Govt. also take many Step from 1989 but crime continuously increased. In recent time dalits are also misuse of act 1989. This is a serious problem, and the government should take action, but it is not completely under control.

**Keywords:** Dalit's. Devadasi. ST. SC. Brahmin.

### Introduction:

According to Varnasrama Theory, Dalits are the last group of castes. According Indian Constitution Dalits are people who are coming under schedule caste. With slight changes Dalits are not a category of Caste it Means a human who are exploited Economically, Socially, Politically & another sphere of by the Tradition of the country (Karwal, 2022). Dalits are also known by other names such as Dasyu, Dasa, Atisudra, Panchama, Tirukulattar, Adikarnataka, and

Adi Dravin Scheduled Castes' educational problems are rooted in low literacy rates and high dropout rates at primary, secondary, and higher secondary levels. Nearly 16 percent of India's population belongs to the Scheduled Castes. Half of India's dalit population lives in 4 states, Uttar Pradesh (20.5%), West Bengal (10.7%), Bihar (8.2%) and Tamil Nadu (7.2%) (NHRC, 2022; Sivakumar, 2013). Several states, including Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and Tripura, have smaller

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vertical concentrations of Scheduled Castes. According to the census, 20% of the Scheduled Caste urban population is from Scheduled Castes; 31.57% of the non-SC/ST urban population is from Scheduled Castes (Karwal, 2022). The majority of households belonging to the Scheduled Caste either do not possess any land at all or have very modest landholdings of less than 0.4 hectares, less than 6% of the population are medium and large farmers, which is a very tiny percentage. Another report published by Birmingham City University, United Kingdom, raised important questions regarding the representation of backward classes in the Indian film industry by pointing out that the share of Dalit & Bahujan (SC, ST, OBC) population in India is 85% but their representation in films is only 0.1%. Given that the person is dejected and oppressed, anyone from any caste category (including the Brahmin) will be regarded as a Dalit.



**Fig: 1 The Indian Caste System**

## ABOUT DEVADASIS

A Devadasi is a Sanskrit term referring to one who serves Deva (GOD) or Devi (GODESS). This is a religious practice mostly practiced in the southern part of India. In which Parents dedicate a girl in her pre-puberty period to worship and service of a deity or a temple for the rest of her life (Indian Institute of Legal Studies, 2022). Devadasis were known by various local terms such as Basivi in Karnataka, Matangi in Maharashtra, and Kalavantin in Goa and Damaon. Devadasis were also known as Jogini, Venkatasani, Nailis, Muralis and Theradiyan. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments had declared the Devadasi system illegal in 1982 (Karnataka Gazette Extraordinary, 1984) and 1988, respectively. Reports however, suggested that around 70,000 women are leading their lives as Devadasis in Karnataka alone.

## DALITS WOMEN ARE FORCED IN TO PROSTITUTION

Dalit women are the worst affected and suffer the three forms oppression - caste, class and gender. In rural areas, Dalit women make up the majority of landless laborers and scavengers, as well as those forced into prostitution (HRW, 2022). Dalit women were exploited by Hindu religious institutions. As a result, the famous ritual of Devadasi was born. In which Parents dedicate a girl in her pre-

puberty period to worship and service of a deity or a temple for the rest of her life. It was actually a physical service. These women were raped and sexually harassed. It's just that the women accepted such sexual harassment as a service to God. There was no request from God for the Brahmin girls' service. Is the rule discriminatory in any way? The rules were designed in such a way that only one section of society benefited from them. The Anti-Slavery International published a study about forced religious 'marriages' in 2007. According to the study, 93% of Devadasis were from Scheduled Castes (Dalits) and 7% were from Scheduled Tribes (indigenous) (IDSN, 2022). It is best if a woman is single and without a family, Due to the fact that they only seek work from the upper caste, they are used as workers and as sexual objects.

### **DALITS ARE HUMAN OR ANIMALS**

Dalit's degraded status is primarily due to the caste system, leading to untouchability, monopolization of resources, and monopolization of knowledge. A majority of Dalit residents live below the poverty line, compared with less than one-third of the rest of the population. It is almost impossible for them to earn a living as agricultural workers or urban workers today without the assistance of the dominant castes. Dangle 's Poisoned Bread, by Amitabh, shows how the Dalits struggled to own even a piece of bone from a dead animal.

It will be difficult to explain the Dalit situation in that story with words. Brahmins, who are considered the high castes, fed the beasts but not Dalits. If the Dalits' shadow fell on the Brahmins, their food became polluted, but when Dalit women brought firewood for cooking, their food was not polluted. People were pushed into jungles by the Aryans, who came from the Middle-East, depriving them of their own land and resources. In what way is it justified? Hence, the Vedas, which are considered the only source of knowledge, were kept out of reach of Dalits and women. Once again, this has three connotations. Firstly, the Dalits would be deprived of knowledge and education, which would reduce them to an animal status, As a result, they will not understand what equality and dignity are. Secondly, Brahmins feared losing their status if the oppressed sections read the Vedas, as they would become aware of the true face of Brahmanism. As educated Dalits, they'll judge the Vedas logically. Thirdly, it'll make them stop claiming their rights because education can boost their income. By becoming literate, Dalits can move beyond unskilled labour, earn more money, and gain respect.

### **RECENT CRIMES AGAINST DALITS**

Between 2018 and 2020, crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have risen gradually, according to figures presented by the Ministry of Home

Affairs in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The number of cases of crime against SCs increased from 42,793 in 2018 to over 50,000 in 2020, and the number of cases of crime against STs increased from 6,528 to 8,272 (Express News Service, 2022).

**Table:1 Crimes against Dalit's**

S. No.	Crime Against SC			Crime Against ST	
	Year	UP	Bihar	MP	Rajasthan
1	2018	11924	7061	1868	1095
2	2019	11829	6544	1845	1797
3	2020	12714	7368	2401	1878

Source: (Ganeshamurthi *et al*, 2022; Express News Service, 2022)

1. Dalit organisations in Andhra Pradesh demonstrate against Bojjala Sudhir Reddy, who is in charge of the Srikalahasti TDP. 31 Oct 2022.
2. In Madhya Pradesh, a Dalit couple and their kid were killed in a quarrel. 25 Oct. 2022.
3. Two Dalit sisters were discovered hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. 15 Sep. 2022
4. Parents in Uttar Pradesh call for the principal's arrest in the suicide case of a Dalit MBBS student. Dec 12, 2022,
5. According to P Sivakami, Dalits demand access to equal opportunities, not free rice. Dec 4, 2022,
6. Karnataka: A Dalit boy in Kolar commits suicide after being attacked while passing a bike. Dec 3, 2022,

7. Lucknow: An SUV ran over a Dalit loader driver. Dec 5, 2022.
8. Dalit Woman Raped by Neighbour In UP Village: Police. December 06. (NDTV)
9. For touching a teacher's bike, a Dalit student in UP was assaulted with a metal rod. September 03. (NDTV).
10. After a Dalit woman drinks water, a tank in Karnataka is cleaned with cow faeces. November 21. (NDTV, 2022).

### MISUSE OF Act 1989

Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is also known as the SC/ST Act, or simply the Atrocities Act. It was enacted on September 9, 1989 and Act rules were notified on March 31, 1995. In each district, a Court of Session is designated as a Special Court to try offences under the SC/ST Act for speedy trial. By delivering justice to marginalised people through proactive measures, the SC/ST Act aims to give them dignity, self-esteem and a life free from oppression, violence, and fear. As a result of concerns over misuse of the Act, the Supreme Court ruled against automatic arrest of accused in cases under the Act on March 20. It ruled that public servants cannot be prosecuted without the approval of the appointing authority, and citizens cannot be arrested without an inquiry. Some of them use this act for their own purposes, putting innocent people at risk. When SC/ST people fight with

other caste members and file an FIR against them without committing any crimes, they may be entitled to monetary compensation and other benefits on withdrawal. It is a serious problem, and the government should take action, but it is not fully under control.

## CONCLUSION

Dalits have been exploited by the upper caste for many years. They are treated as untouchables and street cleaners. Dalit people are treated as animals because they have no sufficient means to fulfil their basic requirements, so they depend on the upper caste for work, food, and shelter, and they are treated as animals by the upper caste. Their women are used as sex toys by the so-called upper class. Every day we hear about crimes against Dalits. Govt. also take many Step against them from 1989 but crime continuously increased. UP, Bihar, MP, and Rajasthan are the most evident states for crime against SC and ST people. In recent time dalits are also misuse of act 1989. This is a serious problem, and the government should take action, but it is not completely under control.

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