



A STUDY ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF DALIT WOMEN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KARUR DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

The lower socio-economic status of dalit women in India has arrived at a predicament circumstances, and the urgency of issues has guided to various attempts to improve condition of dalit women, but violation of human rights for them is still prevalent in several of parts of India and it affects their quality of life. More than two fifth of dalit women have moderate level of violation of human rights. Significant difference is prevailing among violation of human rights and socio-economic status of dalit women. Violation of human rights has negative, moderate and significant relation with quality of life of dalit women. To avoid human rights violation of dalit women, they should be provided sufficient housing, equal access to private employment and equal treatment to women and children. In addition, they must be allowed to participate in social and political activities.

KEYWORDS : Predicament, Embarrassment, Dalits, Violations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, social system in India is highly inflexible and profession oriented caste structure. Human beings those who are doing dirty work considered as low caste and are untouchable which leads to higher degree of discrimination (Gupta, 2004). Dalits women are largely discriminated in terms of illiteracy, culture poverty, embarrassment and violence (Barki, 2013) and discrimination of them on the basis of caste is a very serious and dangerous human right issue that involves violation of cultural, social, economical and political rights (Clifford, 2007). Dalits are one among the major separated and distinguished social group across the globe and contribute to two per cent of total global population and there are 200 million dalits as they contribute to 16.50 per cent of gross population in India.

Dalit women are discriminated not only by general community but also by their own family and community (Birwatkar and Nikam, 2017). Dalit women are main suffers casteism, feudalism, corruption, non sensitiveness, exploitation and abuses. In addition, inadequacy of legal action against performers of violence has generated a sense of impunity among dalit women (Reddy, 2014). Over the last few decades, the lower socio-economic status of dalit women in India has arrived at a predicament circumstances, and the urgency of issues has guided to various attempts to improve the conditions of dalit women, but violation of human rights for them is still prevalent in several of parts of India (Senapati, 2014) and it affects their quality of life. Hence, it is necessary to study violation of human rights of dalit women with special reference to Karur district of Tamil Nadu.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chatterjee (2011) stated that dalit women were witnessed social and cultural exclusion and denied chances to overcome poverty and exercise their human rights. Khanal et al (2012) revealed that dalit were denied to access water, temple, houses, education, and hotels and inter caste marriages.

Jayraaj (2013) found that dalit women were faced discrimination in terms of economic and political aspects, sexual abuse, and denial to access land, property, education and health and to participate in social and cultural festivals. Saikia (2014) concluded that dalit women were prevented to receive economic benefits, to involve in political and social activities, to access to education and health and were experienced sexual harassment, violence and rape.

Sharma (2015) indicated that human rights violation of dalit women was highly related with their social status and they were faced the problems of discrimination, violence and denial of social and political rights. Obulapathi and Ramanjaneyulu (2016) found that dalit women were refused to access land, water and irrigation and forced to work in poor conditions and they were also discriminated against education, health, housing, religion and employment.

Anandhi and Kapadia (2017) revealed that dalit women were not allowed to access water, education and health and they were socially, economically and politically discriminated. Dutta et al (2018) concluded that dalit women were experienced non access of water from common place, verbal abuse, physical assault and sexual harassment.

3. METHODOLOGY

Karur district is chosen for the present study. Dalit women are selected by using convenience sampling method and structured questionnaire is used to gather data from 300 dalit women. Percentages are computed to understand socio-economic status of dalit women and mean and standard deviation are worked out to know violation of human rights of dalit women. t-test and ANOVA test are done to scrutinize difference among socio-economic status of dalit women and violation of human rights. The correlation analysis is used to study relation among violation of human rights and quality of life of dalit women.

4. RESULTS

4.1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF DALIT WOMEN

The socio-economic status of dalit women is given in Table-1. The findings explicate that 29.67 per cent of them are coming under age category of 31 – 35 years, whilst, 10.33 per cent of them are coming under age category of more than 40 years and 39.33 per cent of them are possessing school education, whilst, 23.00 per cent of them are possessing informal education.

Table-1. Socio-Economic Status of Dalit Women

Profile	Number of Dalit Women	Percentage
Age Category		
Less than 25 Years	45	15.00
26 – 30 Years	86	28.67
31 – 35 Years	89	29.67
36 – 40 Years	49	16.33
More than 40 Years	31	10.33
Education		
Informal	69	23.00
School	118	39.33
College	113	37.67
Employment Status		
Employed	156	52.00
Unemployed	144	48.00
Marital Status		
Unmarried	57	19.00
Married	243	81.00
Type of Family		
Joint	101	35.67
Nuclear	199	66.33

The findings disclose that 52.00 per cent of them are employed, whilst, 48.00 per cent of them are unemployed and 81.00 per cent of them are married, whilst, 19.00 per cent of them unmarried and 66.33 per cent of them are having nuclear family, whilst, 35.67 per cent of them are having joint family.

4.2. VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF DALIT WOMEN

The view of dalit women on violation of human rights is given in Table-2.

Table-2. Violation of Human Rights of Dalit Women

Violation of Human Rights	Mean	Standard Deviation
Lack of access to higher education	3.36	1.14
Lack of access to sufficient housing	3.89	1.04
Lack of equal access to private employment	3.92	1.02
Discrimination against dalit women and children	3.85	1.06
Denial to participate in social ceremonies	3.87	1.05
Denial of basic life amenities	3.39	1.13
Sexual harassment	3.90	1.07
Limited access to political activities	3.81	0.99
Denial to common burial places	3.31	1.12
Failure to prosecute rape cases of dalit women	3.77	1.08

The dalit women are agreed with lack of access to sufficient housing, lack of equal access to private employment, discrimination against dalit women and children, denial to participate in social ceremonies, sexual harassment, limited access to political activities and failure to prosecute rape cases of dalit women, while, they are neutral with lack of access to higher education, denial of basic life amenities and denial to common burial places.

4.3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF DALIT WOMEN AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The distribution of dalit women based on their views on violation of human rights is given in Table-3. The level of violation of human rights is divided into low, moderate and high on the basis of Mean ± SD. (Mean = 33.30; SD = 4.82).

Table-3. Distribution of Dalit Women Based on their Views on Violation of Human Rights

Level of Violation of Human Rights	Number of Dalit women	Percentage
Low	56	18.67
Moderate	136	45.33
High	108	36.00
Total	300	100.00

Among 300 dalit women, 36.00 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 18.67 per cent of them viewed that it is low.

4.3.1. AGE CATEGORY AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The relation among age category of dalit women and violation of human rights is given in Table-4.

Table-4. Age Category and Violation of Human Rights

Age Category	Level of Violation of Human Rights			Total	F-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Less than 25 Years	7 (15.56)	23 (51.11)	15 (33.33)	45 (15.00)	5.962	.000
26 – 30 Years	15 (17.44)	44 (51.16)	27 (31.40)	86 (28.67)		
31 – 35 Years	14 (15.73)	35 (39.32)	40 (46.51)	89 (29.67)		
36 – 40 Years	12 (24.49)	25 (51.02)	12 (24.49)	49 (16.33)		
More than 40 Years	8 (25.81)	9 (29.03)	14 (45.16)	31 (10.33)		
Total	56 (18.67)	136 (45.33)	108 (36.00)	300 (100.00)		

(The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total)

Among 45 dalit women coming under age category of less than 25 years, 33.33 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 15.56 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 86 dalit women coming under age category of 26 – 30 years, 31.40 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 17.44 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 89 dalit women coming under age category of 31 – 35 years, 46.51 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 15.73 per cent of them viewed that it is low.

Among 49 dalit women coming under age category of 36 – 40 years, 24.49 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 24.49 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 31 dalit women coming under age category of more than 40 years, 45.16 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 25.81 per cent of them viewed that it is low. The F-value of 5.962 is explaining significant difference exists in violation of human rights among age category of dalit women at one per cent level.

4.3.2. EDUCATION AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The relation among education of dalit women and violation of human rights is given in Table-5.

Table-5. Education and Violation of Human Rights

Education	Level of Violation of Human Rights			Total	F-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Informal	14 (20.29)	35 (50.72)	20 (28.99)	69 (23.00)	3.410	.034
School	31 (26.27)	53(44.92)	34 (28.81)	118 (39.33)		
College	11 (9.73)	48 (42.48)	54 (47.79)	113 (37.67)		
Total	56 (18.67)	136 (45.33)	108 (36.00)	300 (100.00)		

(The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total)

Among 69 dalit women possessing informal education, 28.99 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 20.29 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 118 dalit women possessing school education, 28.81 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 26.27 per cent of them viewed that it is low.

Among 113 dalit women possessing college education, 47.79 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 9.73 per cent of them viewed that it is low. The F-value of 3.410 is explaining significant difference exists in violation of human rights among education of dalit women at five per cent level.

4.3.3. EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The relation among employment status of dalit women and violation of human rights is given in Table-6.

Table-6. Employment Status and Violation of Human Rights

Employment Status	Level of Violation of Human Rights			Total	t-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Employed	27 (17.31)	66 (42.31)	63 (40.38)	156 (52.00)	4.385	.000
Unemployed	29 (20.14)	70 (48.61)	45 (31.25)	144 (48.00)		
Total	56 (18.67)	136 (45.33)	108 (36.00)	300 (100.00)		

(The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total)

Among 156 employed dalit women, 40.38 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 17.31 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 144 unemployed dalit women, 31.25 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 20.14 per cent of them viewed that it is low. The t-value of 4.385 is explaining significant difference exists in violation of human rights among employment status of dalit women at one per cent level.

4.3.4. MARITAL STATUS AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The relation among marital status of dalit women and violation of human rights is given in Table-7.

Table-7. Marital Status and Violation of Human Rights

Marital Status	Level of Violation of Human Rights			Total	t-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Unmarried	12 (21.05)	26 (45.62)	19 (33.33)	57 (19.00)	4.815	.000
Married	44 (18.11)	110 (45.27)	89 (36.62)	243 (81.00)		
Total	56 (18.67)	136 (45.33)	108 (36.00)	300 (100.00)	-	-

(The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total)

Among 57 unmarried dalit women, 33.33 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 21.05 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 243 married dalit women, 36.62 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 18.11 per cent of them viewed that it is low. The t-value of 4.815 is explaining significant difference exists in violation of human rights among marital status of dalit women at one per cent level.

4.3.5. TYPE OF FAMILY AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The relation among type of family of dalit women and violation of human rights is given in Table-8.

Table-8. Type of Family and Violation of Human Rights

Type of Family	Level of Violation of Human Rights			Total	t-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Joint	15 (14.85)	41 (40.59)	45 (44.56)	101 (35.67)	1.996	.047
Nuclear	41 (20.60)	95 (47.74)	63 (31.66)	199 (66.33)		
Total	56 (18.67)	136 (45.33)	108 (36.00)	300 (100.00)	-	-

(The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total)

Among 101 dalit women having joint family, 44.56 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 14.85 per cent of them viewed that it is low. Among 199 dalit women having nuclear family, 31.66 per cent of them viewed that the level of violation of human rights is high, whilst, 20.60 per cent of them viewed that it is low. The t-value of 1.996 is explaining significant difference exists in violation of human rights among type of family of dalit women at five per cent level.

4.4. RELATION AMONG VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF DALIT WOMEN

The relation among violation of human rights and quality of life of dalit women was studied by using correlation analysis and the results are given in Table-9.

Table-9. Relation among Violation of Human Rights and Quality of Life of Dalit Women

Particulars	Correlation Co-efficient
Violation of Human Rights and Quality of Life of Dalit Women	-0.54**

**Significance at 1% level

The correlation coefficient among violation of human rights and quality of life of dalit women is -0.54, which is negatively and moderately related at one per cent level of significance.

5. CONCLUSION

The findings demonstrate that more than two fifth of dalit women have moderate level of violation of human rights. Significant difference is prevailing among violation of human rights and socio-economic status of dalit women. Violation of human rights has negative, moderate and significant relation with quality of life of dalit women. To avoid human rights violation of dalit women, they should be provided sufficient housing, equal access to private employment and equal treatment to women and children. In addition, they must be allowed to participate in social and political activities. Besides, concern authorities should execute laws properly and prosecute criminals to safeguard dalit women from sexual harassment and rapes.

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