



# Society And Social Status Of Dalit Women

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**Abstract:** Dalit Women in India are discriminated due to caste built system of living specially in Indian Society where education has not reached to that height to change the mentality and behavior of both the discriminating and discriminated persons. The constructional grading of caste system not only made them sufferers of the system but also compels to accept inequality in the rigid civilization. They suffer from discrimination and intolerance in various sectors in gender, society, economics, politics etc and deprived from their many rights of living which mandates them to live in a very unpleasant way. But in course of time and due to Government rules in favour of Dalit Development the Dalit Women are now living in a better way as compared to the previous days. India as well as the universe is awaiting that day when everyone gets equal opportunity in all respect, there will be zero violence, and the earth will become the heaven.

**Index Terms** - Dalit Women, Discrimination, Inequality, Intolerance, Non-violence, Heaven.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Dalit Women in Hindu Religion in India belongs to lower or fourth caste namely Sudra out of macro-classification of castes into four major castes in India from high to low as Brahmana, Ksatriya, Baisya, Sudra. Brahmanas including priests, teachers, intellectuals are entitled to worship God and allowed to different works related to temples, and rites and educate the society, whereas Ksatriyas include warriors, kings, administrators are very brave community and involved themselves in war and protects our society from attack of enemies likewise Baisyas include agriculturalists, farmers, traders are entitled to cultivate and do business to transport goods from one place to other to make reachability to everyone and at last the last and fourth caste Sudra include Craftsman and laborers are entitled to serve the society in different way like cleaning waste products, dead materials, etc made them untouchables since long. Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi touched everyone and wants to equalize the Dalits with other higher castes and designate them as Harijan which means God's People. Later Dr. Babasaheb Bhima Rao Ambedkar fought for the lower community and made necessary changes in the existing rule and gave relaxation to the long neglected lower community to grow up to the heights of other three castes.

## II. HISTORY

Ancient Hindu History and Mythology tells that the almighty God created the whole universe including the human race; in the beginning according to their work they were divided into four categories like Brahmana, Ksatriya, Baisya and Sudra. Brahmanas were priests worshipping God, teaching the society as teachers; Ksatriyas were the category of warriors, Kings, appointed in the Kingdom who protects everyone from being attacked by enemies; Baisyas were the castes who engaged themselves in agriculture, farming, trading, carry goods from one place to another to resale and make easily reachable to everyone of the society; Sudras were the service providers in various ways like working as laborers, Craftsman etc. But in course of time this castism became very strict and the lower castes were considered the untouchables and physically impure of the society by the higher castes. Dalits were not allowed to live along with the higher castes rather they were forced to live in the Village in a separate area distant from the main land of the village and not allowed to cross the path of the higher castes. From ancient days to till date, the backward status of women especially Dalit women in India both socially, economically, politically, psychologically is very miserable as they are being victimized by

violence, rape, sexual harassment, and crimes. Whitehead states that, “When drawing on bitter memories and writing about them, the tendency to reconstruct instead of resurrecting the past is inevitable”.

### III. SOCIAL LIFE

Caste discrimination in the society doesn't allow them to enter to the temple to worship God. They are prohibited to use the common water source in the village for which they face lot of problem in searching separate water source and at last to depend on the water source from the river, ponds, canals etc which is very sorrowful for all of us. Due to lack of education and backwardness in socioeconomic status they are victimized by many types of violence including dowry system, purdah system, violence in the community, prostitution and sexual offences in the society. Young girls are forced by her parents to marry at very early age to avoid from prostitution activities as there is a fear in the minds of the Dalit Parents that, if the marriage is late their daughters may go in a wrong way and also due to poverty and lack of education early marriage is promoted in Dalit Family. Early marriage at premature age creating obstetrical and gynaecological health problem at an early age. They were not given any right to buy a land for them or the Brahmanas have a believe that their impure shadow will ruin their religious value making them “Dharma Bhrasta” If a Dalit man buys land it may be alright but it is intolerant to many if a Dalit woman buys land.

### IV. POLITICAL LIFE

Politics, the new competitive sector now a days attracts many people from all corners of a country to participate, is one of the important pillars of development in a country in which women in particular the Dalit women participation is the most important indicator of development. India, the largest democratic country provides so many opportunities for Dalit community to participate in active politics to uplift the Dalit community to the standard level. 1992's 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment provides one-third reservation for women in Political involvement in Panchayatiraj institutions and Urban local bodies, whereas during the special session of Parliament on 19 September 2023, One Hundred and Sixth Amendment Act, very popularly known as the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha which leads to addition of new page in the history of Woman Empowerment in India by ensuring one-third seats for the Women in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Assembly.

### V. PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFE

Inequality in social life as felt by the Dalit women in the society due to caste discrimination doesn't give mental and spiritual peace in mind of Dalit women who were kept at the bottom in the stratified caste-based system of the society. The condition of the Dalit community is still miserable today after 77 years of Independence facing untouchability and caste based violence by higher castes. Women are still victims of existing discriminations like gender discrimination, whereas Dalit community Women witnesses both gender as well as caste discrimination and religious discrimination in some cases, results in psychological trauma. Indian Constitution have many provisions to improve the social status of Dalit community; Article 17 of the Constitution prohibits social practice of untouchability but in newfangled time so many unwanted social practices have been observed in the society such as untouchability, not allowed to take water from common water source of the village like Well or Tube Well and Ponds, Rivers also, ban on Dalit Women's entry to holy places like Temples, Yagyans, etc, restrictions on intercaste marriage even in existence of love affairs and caste-discrimination in educational institutions also evident in some places. Dalit Women are still marginalized and socially excluded segment of the society. The gender and caste discrimination along with sexual harassments including rape, physical violence for not doing prostitution activities.

### VI. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN INDIA

Constitution provides some basic rights by which Dalit woman as well as man can be uplifted to the level of upper caste people of the society. The today's society, law and the government wants very early development of the lower caste people in order to as a result one day will come when there will be no type of discrimination in any matter.

Article 14- Protection of life, liberty and right to equality before law.

Article 15- Prohibition of discrimination on Caste, Sex, Race, Religion, place of Birth ground.

Article 16- Equality of opportunity in public employment.

Article 17- Abolition of Untouchability and forbidden it's practice in any form.

Article 19- Freedom of fearless speech through oral, written, electronic or broadcasting.

Article 20- Protection in respect of conviction for offences.

Article 21- Protection of Life and Personal Liberty.

Article 21a- Free and Compulsory education to all children from six to fourteen years of age.

Article 330- Reservation of seats in the House of People for the People of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Article 332- Reservation of seats for SC/ST People in the Assembly ensuring their exact proportion in that particular state.

Article 338- National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes established for monitoring all their safeguards.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Caste system and its impact on lower section of the society i.e. on Dalit Society is known to intellectuals of the society those can change the scenario to a heavenly environment is awaited from the very beginning of the human society; to stand unitedly as the citizens of Indian nation proudly, will definitely give equal opportunity in every aspect irrespective of Sex, Race, Caste, Religion and Birth Place. The Bureaucracy is hopelessly insensitive, incompetent and too corrupt, not to see, listen or feel the heartbroken difficulties as experienced by the Dalit Community Women. Instead of alarming difficulties faced by the Dalit Women, they still dream of giving birth newer generation in whom they can get back Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar etc those who can change the society, nation and the World again to the equality in a single blink. However education is the master key to open any lock of any problem that can be solved and the earth will become the heaven.

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