



## Caste-based Discrimination and Dalit

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### ABSTRACT-:

*With this paper I will present caste-based discrimination and how it addressed by the authorities in contemporary India. Dalits are the deprived, dispossessed and dehumanized segments of Indian society. Caste discrimination is a cultural and social phenomenon it is not something that has emerged post-colonially, it has been a part of the traditions of Hinduism for thousands of years, dividing people into castes in a hierarchical order based on their birth. Dalits are, not only, deprived of the basic minimum facilities of life like education, housing and health, but are also dispossessed of access and control over resources. Caste is also a major obstacle to achieving development goals in society, Caste-based discrimination can influence all dimension of life it also affect basic human rights including civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights.*

### INTRODUCTION-:

In Indian society traditional system divides people into four larger caste categories with their working potential set of inherited tasks *Brahmins* (priests and teachers), *Kshatriyas* (rulers and soldiers), *Vaisyas* (merchants and traders), and *Shudras* (laborers and artisans). A fifth category falls outside these larger categories and consists of those known as "untouchables" or Dalits as they call themselves ("broken people"). The term 'Dalit' in the present times as in the past has been defined both, exclusively and inclusively. There are some Dalits and non-Dalits, which

under the former definition refer only to the SCs or erstwhile untouchables. There is another group of Dalits and non-Dalits, which includes SCs and STs under the category Dalits. It is a historically proven fact that Dalits are the productive classes of the Indian society.

The casteless group have earned their status “untouchable” from the tasks and labours they inherit which are often too polluting to grant them inclusion in the traditional caste system. In performing these labours they become physically untouchable by the other castes and expelled from certain parts of everyday social life. Basically the caste system is a pyramid and Dalits are at the lower end.

### **Discriminated by the Government**

Right from the time, when the Constitutional provisions were being implemented in this country, discrimination was practiced against all Dalits except those who adhere to the beliefs of Hinduism. The Sikhs and the Buddhists were brought under the scheme of reservation in 1956 and 1990 due to political pressures. Also, these two religious groups are ‘considered’ to be offshoots of Hinduism, which is under the scanner today. Further, the Constitution speaks of SCs as a social category in Articles 330, 332, 334, 335, 338 and 341. In these Articles there is no mention of religious background of the SC communities. Thus, the denial of reservation to Dalit Christians since they adhere to Christianity is totally contrary to the rights provided in the Constitution.

**Prakash Louis,(2007)**

### **Historical Roots of Caste-based Discrimination**

Dr. Ambedkar in his celebrated work, “Who were the Shudras?” delineated the graded inequality and division of labourers on the basis of occupations. According to him, K.P. Kane presents the following privileges of the Brahmins claimed by them – a. The Brahmin must be acknowledged to be guru to all Varnas by the mere fact of his birth; b. The Brahmin has the sole right of deciding upon the duties of all other classes, what conduct was proper to them and what should be their means of livelihood and other classes were to abide by his directions and the king was to rule in accordance with the directions; c. The Brahmin is not subject to authority of the king, the king was the ruler of all except the Brahmin. **Prakash Louis,(2007)**

### **Conclusion :-**

*India is a democratic country where unity in diversity. Discrimination and difference is the key of our nation there are many caste in India, It is a democracy in the broader sense. On the basis of traditional categorization our constitution divide peoples in four groups general, obc, ST, SC and dalit. Discrimination of last one is very harmful for peoples who are living in this category. SC, ST peoples are*

*also feeling difficulties to grow up,today government has made many schemes for them i hope they will stand earlier.*

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