



Scenario of untouchability in Hingoli

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Abstract

The paper presents scenario of untouchability in the Hingoli tahsil, Maharashtra state, India. The practice of untouchability is forbidden by article 17 of Indian Constitution. However, it is observed that the crime against untouchable is raising day by day and its practice is continued. Some suggestions are also given to abolish untouchability.

Keywords: Article 17, Indian constitution, untouchability

Introduction

The world's largest democracy has recently completed 75 years of Independence. An old wound is festering in this country of diversity. Untouchability is a bad practice people follow. A large group of people in the country are constantly experiencing humiliation, contempt and discrimination. Some people are still living colorless lives. The so-called upper caste people here does not feel bad at all. People here does not think that untouchability should be eradicated and their brothers should be able to lead a life of dignity. People divided into castes tend to maintain the interests of their own caste. Upper caste people are constantly striving to have their own right to all the resources. For that, by constantly creating new literature, take care to keep others under power. Since they have their own higher caste brothers in bureaucrats, they can use their intentions and tactics. They have maintained their supremacy on the basis of religious literature. Sometimes he made the life of the untouchables worse than the American slave by conciliating the ruling people. These people have received this punishment as a punishment for the sins of their previous birth. Such propaganda gave religious support to untouchability.

Those who are making untouchable progress by seizing the opportunity whenever they get a chance. The reservation came under the Pune pact 1932. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar created a ray of hope for his brotherhood. But reserved seats are not filled. Indians consider the interests of their caste more important than the progress of their country. Therefore, if the untouchables are brought into the mainstream, it will help to increase the country's GDP. According to the data given by Ghodwadikar [2], the backwardness of India at the international level is clear. India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the Human Index. 80 crore people have to be provided with free food. According to the statistics of National Crime Bureau, violence against SCs and STs has increased by 1.2% and 6.2% respectively. In Maharashtra during the period from 2011 to 2016 the following cases have been registered in the case of SCs.

Table 1: Table of Cases in Maharashtra during 2011 to 2016

Type of case	Number	Type of case	Number
Rape	1008	Arson	63
Robbery	109	Riot	235
Theft	94	Serious Injury	428
Atrocity	1958	Offence under Indian Penal Code	3363

Rise in caste violence, is a strong slap to those who ask a question "where is caste now?" It's not like they don't know the ground reality. But they keep saying this to pretend that they are progressive.

Untouchability has its roots in religious scriptures. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar burnt Manusmriti because of this. Religious literature teaches man fanaticism. Currently, social media has added to this. There are many radicalizing messages on social media. No one is checking the authenticity of that message. There are stories about how we are superior to caste groups. Religious literature is cited for this without checking its reality. Instead of standing as one nation, people are spreading hatred. The upper castes try to keep power in their hands by dividing the society. SCs are fighting to eradicate the disharmony in the society.

This paper is devoted to the study of untouchability scenario in Hingoli tahsil of Maharashtra state, India.

Data Interpretation

The data has been collected from the people of 45 villages of Hingoli tahsil through questionnaire. It is as follows:

Table 2: table of frequency regarding the use of watershed

Do all the villagers use the same watershed?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	17	33.3	33.3	33.3
	Yes	34	66.7	66.7	100.0
	Total	51	100.0	100.0	

It is known that in India, the watershed is different for different caste. Untouchable cannot use the watershed of upper caste. From the table 2, it is clear that 33.3% people have accepted that they use different watershed.

Table 3: table of frequency of respondent about visit each other's house

Can one visit each other's house freely in the village?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	7	13.7	13.7	13.7
	Yes	44	86.3	86.3	100.0
	Total	51	100.0	100.0	

From table 3, it is observed that 13.7% people accept that they do not like to visit each other's house freely in the

village. Untouchables are not allowed to enter into house. This is common practice everywhere in India.

Table 4: table of frequency of respondent about eating at homes of SCs

Are the villagers ready to eat at the homes of Scheduled Caste people?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	12	23.5	23.5	23.5
	Yes	39	76.5	76.5	100.0
	Total	51	100.0	100.0	

From table 4, it is clear that 23.5% people confirm that they do not like to eat at the homes of SCs.

Table 5: Table of frequency of respondent regarding treatment to SCs worker

Do you feel discriminated in treatment as a scheduled caste worker/salgadi?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	39	76.5	76.5	76.5
	Yes	12	23.5	23.5	100.0
	Total	51	100.0	100.0	

From table 5, it is found that 23.5% SCs worker feel discrimination in treatment.

From this we see that the mindset of upper caste is never changed yet. Untouchability is practiced to a greater extend in the Hindi heartland of India. AS per the NCAER survey, 53% in Madhya Pradesh, 50% in Himachal Pradesh, 48% in Chhattisgarh, 47% in Rajasthan and Bihar, 43% in Uttar Pradesh and 40% in Uttarakhand practices of untouchability. From this it can be seem that the mentality of upper caste people has not changed. As a result, untouchables are continuously marginalized. They are mentally and morally violated. The denigration of untouchables has been going on since Vedas and Puranas. There are only physical improvements here. Upper castes ideologies are old.

Article 17 of the Indian Constitution formally ended untouchability and prohibited its practice. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, formerly known as the Untouchability Offences Act, further reinforced this constitutional provision. Nevertheless, despite increased representation of marginalized communities, there are still significant voices that are unheard. Efforts by the government to uplift former untouchables and improve their socio-economic status have been inadequate, and conservative forces remain resistant to these initiatives [4].

2. Some suggestions to eradicate untouchability

1. Officers should be appointed who will promote an egalitarian society and encourage to eradicate untouchability and stop injustice, torture and tyranny.
2. Sarpanch, gram panchayat member should assure the government in writing that untouchability is not practiced in the village.
3. To remove untouchability, government should use all its funds provided to untouchables. It is observed that the funds for untouchable have always been used elsewhere.

4. It is necessary to give special tanning to the teachers in this regard. Some teachers target untouchable children in one way or another, it needs to stop.
5. Curriculum of schools, colleges should have a lesson on eradication of untouchability.
6. Every village should be reviewed every year by the District Collector taking the responsibility of promoting the fact that practicing untouchability in any form is a crime.
7. Education and awareness of upper caste is necessary because the programmes that are being launched for eradication of untouchability are being misunderstood by the caste Hindus.
8. The existing reservations should be allowed to continue for at least another decade.

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