

Economic Violence against Dalit Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is one of the most effective economic activities which provide not only employment opportunities but also become the economic empowerment for the person concerned. In India, entrepreneurship becomes a caste matter, which means, a particular caste people involve themselves in entrepreneurship due to tradition. But, anybody can become an entrepreneur, if he/she has entrepreneurial skill and competence. In this regard, entrepreneurship among the dalits is the recent matter or origin in the economic development of the country. Dalit entrepreneurship is a growing concept which emerging due to the improvements in socio-economic and educational status of dalit in the country. But dalit in business is not a significant level while compare to the other communities with this aspect. The present research would be useful to explore the socio economic status, entrepreneurial profile, various problems, violation and discrimination encountered by dalit entrepreneurs in the study area.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Dalit entrepreneurship, economic violation, vulnerability

Introduction

With regard to the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs, State and inter-Governmental actions on human rights have failed to achieve anything more than modest success, the development of effective measures for the prevention and remedying of economic violations against dalit entrepreneurs, social and cultural rights must surely classify as one of the most glaring. Although the economic violation of dalit entrepreneurs has consistently reiterated the proposition that all human rights are intertwined responses to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, both procedural and substantive arrangements which guarantee the economic rights of the disadvantaged in the market ensure equality of opportunity and equality in the outcome of economic processes have paled in comparison to the seriousness accorded by infringements of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural Rights, despite much conceptual and interpretative progress in this area of law over the past decade. This state of affairs has little, however, to do with the nature of the obligations and rights established in the covenant jurisprudence which have kept economic, social and cultural rights wallowing in the relative purgatory of global efforts to secure human rights.

Review of Literature

Ajay has noted that the caste based system is no less graver than the violation faced by the blacks on racial grounds of race and thus needs to be fought at the international level. Dalit entrepreneurs are still persisting in the world's largest democracy despite the legal safeguards, and the human rights of this group are under a cloud of danger which quite often burst upon them making them vulnerable and denying them their right to be human.

Aloysius Irudayam, *et al.* have observed that the socio-economic vulnerability and lack of political voice, when combined with the dominant risk factors of being dalit female entrepreneur, increase their exposure to potentially violent situations while simultaneously reducing their ability to escape.

Violence against dalit women entrepreneur presents clear evidence of widespread exploitation and violation against dalit women entrepreneurs.

Artatrana Gochhayat has pointed out that the scheduled caste entrepreneur violation has become a worldwide phenomenon and is increasing day by day in developing countries like India. Not a single day passes without papers reporting on violation of human rights in India. The vulnerable sections like dalits entrepreneur, women, children, minorities and other groups are violated without any fault of their own.

Asha Das has analyzed that the dalit entrepreneurs are uniform irrespective of the religions they belong to. Yet persons of scheduled caste entrepreneur origin converted to Christianity are deprived of special protective provisions solely on the basis of religion. The violation or the disabilities handicaps arising are comparable in their oppressive severity to the violence faced by dalit entrepreneur's depressed classes in the Hindu religion. Lal has suggested that the Bihar dalit represents a unique experiment to provide immediate support to dalit entrepreneur to secure justice. It is a mechanism to arrange for the redressal of violation and the helplessness by seeking proper implementation of the provisions of law. So impressive have been its achievements in this regard that violence on dalit entrepreneur in the areas of its operation is on the wane. The dalits are no longer unsafe in these areas.

Devakumar has examined that the economic status and violation against dalits entrepreneurs have not steadily increased over the past years. Tamilnadu is one of the states that have recorded high incidences of violence against dalit entrepreneur. The state has witnessed some of the worst incidents of caste related oppression and deviations. Invariably, the people are at the bottom most level of the society.

Lee Macqueen Paul has attempted that dalit entrepreneurs in India, must draw attention of the humanitarian community to the pre existing vulnerabilities of dalit entrepreneurs which worsen their situation in disaster times. It is imperative to understand the root causes of multiple forms of marginalization

and violence meted out to the dalit entrepreneurs in the social, cultural, political and economic aspects of life, which get further magnified in the backdrop of disasters.

Linda Mayoux has concluded that small scale industry development, particularly when targeting disadvantaged groups, has often been promoted as a possible alternative to fundamental change in property relations. It discusses a relatively successful case of small scale entrepreneurship development. With the substantial amounts of capital and risk involved, an unusually high number of scheduled caste ex-laborers have managed to become reasonably successful entrepreneurs.

Paul Frijters, *et al.* have remarked about the need to investigate entrepreneurship and credit constraints under labor market violation. We divide self-employed into those who prefer to be self-employed and those who prefer to have a salaried job but cannot find one; and also divide salaried workers into want-to-be entrepreneurs and happy-to-be salaried workers. Over 40 percent of migrant workers are either currently or want-to-be entrepreneurs.

Savaraiah and Devarajulu have highlighted that it is inevitable to create jobs for the scheduled caste in the private sector industries because the Government provides electricity, water at concession rates and is declaring tax-holidays. If the private sector denies the opportunities to scheduled caste in private sector, the human rights of weaker sections will be violated.

Shalini Asrani and Sushma Kaushik have recommended that dalit entrepreneur issue today is one of the worst examples of violence against the business, and the oppressive living conditions of millions of people in India. This violence persists despite Government efforts to improve the situation through affirmative action and land reform policies in the last 50 years which were ostensibly directed toward access to education and Government job.

Statement of the Problem

Violence is the expression of physical force against others, compelling action against one's will on pain of death or physical harm. Variant uses of the term refer to the destruction of non-living objects. Worldwide, violence is used as a tool of manipulation and also is an area of concern for law and culture what take attempts to suppress and stop it. Violence can take many forms anywhere from mere hitting between two humans where there can be bodily harm, to war and genocide where millions may die as a result. It should be noted that violence can be non-physical as well.

Dalit entrepreneurs have lived in deep social and economic isolation. They were socially and economically disintegrated from the mainstream of societal living and the working of its concomitant viz., economy. Accordingly, a large number of these households have very poor socio-economic receptivity for modern change and development. This is supported by their illiteracy, inferiority complex, blind belief etc. All this will make them serve the village land-owners either as laborers or by supplying some goods like slippers, furniture, baskets, mats etc. at very nominal prices.

Hence, there is a need to understand the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in particular in the study area. This study would be useful to find out various violation encountered by dalit entrepreneurs and possible ways to overcome the violation in their study area.

Objective of the Study

The primary objective of the study is to identify the economic violence against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.

Research Methodology

The present research study is descriptive in nature using both primary and secondary data. Descriptive research includes surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs, as it exists at present.

(a) Sampling Technique

Stratified random sampling method was used as the sampling technique.

(b) Sample Size

There are 2910 dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu as per the record of Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Chennai, of which 640 respondents (22%) are taken as sample size for the study. 20 respondents from each district have been chosen, of which 10 respondents are from rural and 10 from urban region. Convenient sampling techniques were applied to select the sample respondents.

(c) Data Collection

The study requires both secondary and primary data. Primary data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished sources, such as director of census operations, Tamilnadu 2011, MSME annual report on 2011, Tamilnadu public service commission report, commissioner of employment and training, Chennai, The directorate of industries and commerce Tamilnadu, district industrial centre Tamilnadu, Tamilnadu adiravidar housing development cooperation limited, and thesis, dissertation, e-journals, magazines, and purchasing software's.

Study Area

The study area is the State of Tamil Nadu. There are 32 districts in this state and it is considered as 'Universe' for the purpose of collection and analysis of data.

Period of the Study

The study has covered a period of two years from August 2012 to July 2014, which includes the data collection period from January 2013 to June 2013.

Scope of Research Study

The present research study consists of a wide scope on understanding the various discriminations and violations against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu and how it affects their socio-economic empowerment. Dalit entrepreneurs can be planned and developed and the need for providing appropriate knowledge, awareness of business ethics and environment to promote entrepreneurship is very vital. Entrepreneurship is one of the emerging concepts which provide income generation, employment opportunities, utilization of local resources and national income. In this way, Government has taken a lot of steps to promote the entrepreneurship with financial assistance. Due to the socio economic conditions of the down down communities like dalit they might not become entrepreneurs. If anyone becomes as entrepreneur, he/she faces unique problems not because of being an entrepreneur but because of being a dalit.

Table 1: Reason for Economic Violation against dalit entrepreneurs

Reasons	Value	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	F	Sig
Poor literacy level	No.	38	43	149	245	165	640	10385.942	0.000**
	%	5.9	6.7	23.3	38.3	25.8	100		
Low Awareness	No.	32	56	152	220	180	640		
	%	5.0	8.8	23.8	34.4	28.1	100		
Inferiority complex	No.	20	44	137	154	285	640		
	%	3.1	6.9	21.4	24.1	44.5	100		
Due to the social setup	No.	13	46	136	203	242	640		
	%	2.0	7.2	21.3	31.7	37.8	100		
No land Holding	No.	9	24	68	145	394	640		
	%	1.4	3.8	10.6	22.7	61.6	100		
Dominated upper Society	No.	15	30	85	125	385	640		
	%	2.3	4.7	13.3	19.5	60.2	100		

Source: Primary data Note: ** Denotes significance at 1% level.

The above table explained the reason for economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs.

A maximum of 394 (61.6%) of respondents strongly agree and a minimum of 9 respondents (1.4%) strongly disagree with “no land holding” as major reason for economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs.

Ho: There is no significant difference between economic violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

The above table reveals that the p-value is less than 0.05; the null hypothesis is rejected at 1 per cent level of significance. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between economic violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs. (F= 10385.942; p<0.01).

Table 2: Ways of Violation

Ways	Value	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderately	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	F	Sig
No Respect of Talent	No.	19	28	115	217	261	640	16.230	.000**
	%	3.0	4.4	18.0	33.9	40.8	100		
No Opportunities	No.	12	33	118	201	276	640		
	%	1.9	5.2	18.4	31.4	43.1	100		
Not considering Experience	No.	17	29	118	190	286	640		
	%	2.7	4.5	18.4	29.7	44.7	100		
Exploiting the Basic Rights	No.	6	15	77	108	434	640		
	%	0.9	2.3	12.0	16.9	67.8	100		
Untouchability	No.	9	24	97	67	443	640		
	%	1.4	3.8	15.2	10.5	69.2	100		

Source: Primary data Note: ** Denotes significance at 1% level.

The table no 4.3 indicates the ways of violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.

A maximum of 434 respondents (67.8%) strongly agree and a minimum of 6 respondents (0.9%) strongly disagree with “exploiting the basic rights” as the for way of violation against dalit entrepreneurs.

Ho: There is no significant difference between violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

The above table reveals that the p-value is less than 0.05; the null hypothesis is rejected at 1 per cent level of significance. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between ways of violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs. (F= 16.230; p<0.01).

Table 3: Opinion on Discrimination in Business

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Highly not correct	6	0.9
2	Not correct	28	4.4
3	Moderate	69	10.8
4	Correct	94	14.7
5	Absolutely correct	443	69.2
	Total	640	100

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.5 shows that 6 respondents (0.9%) were highly not correct; 28 respondents (4.4%) were not correct; 69 respondents (10.8%) were moderately correct; 94 respondents were correct (14.7%) and 443 respondents (69.2%) were absolutely correct in their opinion on discrimination in

business. A maximum of 443 respondents (69.2%) were absolutely correct and a minimum of 6 respondents (0.9%) were highly not correct in the opinion on discrimination of dalit entrepreneurs.

Table 4: Opinion on Equal Rights in Business

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Highly not correct	3	.5
2	Not correct	22	3.4
3	Moderate	92	14.4
4	Correct	82	12.8
5	Absolutely correct	441	68.9
	Total	640	100

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.7 shows that 3 respondents (0.5%) were highly not correct; 22 respondents (3.4%) were not correct; 92 respondents (14.4%) respondents were moderately correct; 82 respondents (12.8%) were correct and 441 respondents (68.9%) were absolutely correct in the opinion on equal rights in business. A maximum of 387 respondents (60.5%) strongly agree and a minimum of three respondents (0.5%) disagree with “opinion on equal right in business”.

Table 5: Dominated by Upper caste entrepreneurs

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Disagree	3	0.5
2	No Opinion	77	12.0
3	Agree	173	27.0
4	Strongly agree	387	60.5
	Total	640	100

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.9 shows the details of dominated by upper caste entrepreneurs.

It is found that three respondents (0.5%) disagree; 77 respondents (12.0%) were no opinion; 173 respondents (27.0%) agree and 387 respondents (60.5%) strongly agree with “dominated by upper caste entrepreneurs”.

The majority of 387 respondents (60.5%) strongly agree and a minimum of 3 respondents disagree with “dominated by upper caste entrepreneurs.”

Table 6: Compete with upper Caste Entrepreneurs

Dimension	Value	Highly Not Correct	Not Correct	Moderate	Correct	Absolutely Correct	Total	F	Sig
Level of Investment	No.	3	34	120	198	285	640	458.159	.000**
	%	0.5	5.3	18.8	30.9	44.5	100		
Small Concern	No.	3	18	109	199	311	640		
	%	0.5	2.8	17.0	31.1	48.6	100		
Marginal opportunities	No.	7	28	112	269	224	640		
	%	1.1	4.4	17.5	42.0	35.0	100		
Less Customers	No.	0	21	79	213	327	640		
	%	0	3.3	12.3	33.3	51.1	100		
Recently originated	No.	0	24	71	80	365	640		
	%	0	3.8	11.1	28.1	57.0	100		
Moral support	No.	3	38	85	205	309	640		
	%	0.5	5.9	13.3	32.0	48.3	100		
Support from Dalit	No.	11	70	91	190	278	640		
	%	1.7	10.9	14.2	29.7	43.4	100		
Change of Attitude	No.	20	28	62	196	334	640		
	%	3.1	4.4	9.7	30.6	52.2	100		

Source: Primary data Note: ** Denotes significance at 1% level.

The table no 4.11 indicates the competing with upper caste entrepreneurs for dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.

A maximum of 365 respondents (57.0%) strongly agree and a minimum of 24 respondents (3.8%) were not correct on “recently originated the business” these are the major problems of competition by upper caste entrepreneurs and dalit entrepreneurs.

Ho: There is no significant difference between domination and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

The above table reveals that the p-value is less than 0.05; the null hypothesis is rejected at 1 per cent level of significance. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between domination and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs. (F= 458.159; p<0.01).

Table 7: Obstacles for business

Obstacles	Value	Not Affected	Affected	Moderate	Highly Affected	Very High Affected	Total	F	sig
Dalit Attitude	No.	76	56	126	196	186	640	498.306	.000**
	%	11.9	8.8	19.7	30.6	29.1	100		
Business Movements	No.	66	46	141	203	184	640		
	%	10.3	7.2	22.0	31.7	28.8	100		
Entrepreneurial Competence	No.	69	64	154	215	138	640		
	%	10.8	10.0	24.1	33.6	21.6	100		
Narrow Minded	No.	84	44	121	199	192	640		
	%	13.1	6.9	18.9	31.1	30.0	100		
Support and Supporters	No.	87	53	124	167	209	640		
	%	13.6	8.3	19.4	26.1	32.7	100		

Source: Primary data Note: ** Denotes significance at 1% level.

The table no 4.13 indicates the various obstacles for business faced by dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu. A maximum of 209 respondents (32.7%) were very highly affected and a minimum of 53 respondents (8.3%) were affected by the “support and supporters” as the major problems for business for dalit entrepreneurs.

Ho: There is no significant difference between obstacles for business and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs. The above table reveals that the p-value is less than 0.05; the null hypothesis is rejected at 1 per cent level of significance. It is concluded that there is no significant difference between obstacles for business and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs. (F= 498.306; p<0.01).

Table 8: Repaying of loans by dalit entrepreneurs

Reasons	Value	Strongly Agree	Dis agree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	F	Sig
Fully Repaying	No.	18	68	145	307	102	640	458.159	.000***
	%	2.8	10.6	22.7	48.0	15.9	100		
Not Fully Repaying	No.	12	42	165	284	137	640		
	%	1.9	6.6	25.8	44.4	21.4	100		
Partly Repaying	No.	12	45	175	219	189	640		
	%	1.9	7.0	27.3	34.2	29.5	100		
Not repaying due to business crisis	No.	18	39	144	171	268	640		
	%	2.8	6.1	22.5	26.7	41.9	100		

Source: Primary data ** Denotes significance at 1% level.

The above table explains the repaying of loans by dalit entrepreneurs.

A maximum of 268 respondents (41.9%) strongly agree and a minimum of 18 respondents (2.8%) with “not repaying due to business crisis” as major problems in repayment of bank loans for dalit entrepreneurs.

The above table reveals that the p-value is less than 0.05; the null hypothesis is rejected at 1 per cent level of significance. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between domination and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs. (F= 458.159; p<0.01).

Suggestions

Status of dalit entrepreneurs in India has a negative impact on economic development, because these people have commitment to hard work, and are creators of local resources, but fail to attract the upper caste people or the upper caste people are not ready to accept the economic empowerment of dalit entrepreneurs. It is purely caste based discrimination against dalits around the country.

People belonging to higher castes do not permit the dalits to enter their houses even today. The practice of making them stand at the door steps and sending them away, still exists in most of the villages of districts. Many dalit entrepreneurs drop their plans of starting an enterprise because of an apprehension whether people will come forward to buy their products. Hence the migration of dalit entrepreneurs to neighbouring countries and other states for job.

The higher caste people are of the view that the dalit people must opt only for the job meant for their community. Dalits are living in large numbers in places like Theni, Usilampatti, Kampam, Andipatti and Periyakulam. Caste differences are therefore, not predominant here. In view of the decline of farm enterprise, approaching the people of higher caste is on the wane. Hence the necessity for self-upliftment through one’s own enterprise.

Conclusion

This article brings out the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil nadu starting from the reason for economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs, ways of

violation, opinion on discrimination in business, dominated by upper caste entrepreneurs, competing with upper caste entrepreneurs, obstacles for business, and repayment of bank loan by dalit entrepreneurs, training programmes and infrastructure facility. Awareness on the kind of enterprise to be undertaken and the means to earn more profit out of it is rather at a low level among the dalits. Even if enlightened entrepreneurs come forward to start a new venture, the society, the people of the higher caste and the Government do not encourage it. Most of the dalit entrepreneurs have no traditional entrepreneurial establishment whatsoever. Hence they have to confront several challenges and hardship while starting new ventures.

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