

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DALIT WOMEN RIGHTS IN CUDDALORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to find out the domestic violence and Dalit women rights in Cuddalore district. A samples of 120 respondents selected randomly were studied. Primary data were collected by using a structured interview scheduled. All the respondents were asked the some questions in the same fashion and they were informed the purpose of study. ANOVA and t-test analysis were applied to test the hypotheses. The result found that result infers that there is significant relationship between the types of marriage and the Dalit women abuse.

Key words : Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Dalit women Rights

INTRODUCTION

Female infanticide means nothing but killing of a female infant, soon after its birth. Especially with the consent of parents, this custom of killing new born female babies is prevalent in almost all parts of India. Ancient history speaks that the position of Dalit women in society was at the lowest ebb. No wonder in the modern world, despite development in all sectors, the birth of female baby is considered as a burden to the family. Because, the female child undergoes a number of unforeseen tests in society, that too, the girl children born in poor families face a lot of hardships.

When the girl grows up, the parents find it very difficult to fulfill her needs and conduct the marriage of the girl. They have to spend a lot in the name of dowry and presentations. That does not end there. Even after the marriage, the girl is forced by her husband and in-laws to bring valuables on and on from her parental home. As such, the parents are driven into debts. When the parents fail to provide with the demands, surprisingly the dowry deaths take place.

Sometimes the girl would be neglected by her husband and she will lose her social status and her life itself will become a challenging one. Further girls undergo sex harassment, rape,

slavery, bonded labour, prostitution, torture, ill-treatment, teasing, scolding, suffering etc. To put an end to all these hardships, it is believed by the people to kill the female infant soon after its birth. Traditional social norms and processes have continued from generation to generation.

The cases and methods of sex determination test and the medical termination of pregnancy have played havoc with girl child, since these methods loom large as the Democles sword on their very chance of coming to the outside world. At a Mumbai clinic alone out of 8,000 abortions, most of the fetuses were found to be of female. However, no suitable legislation, banning such tests, had come into force till now. In India in states like Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the practice has become popular, since they bring relief to the parents from the problems of paying dowry, and spending a lot at the time of marriage of their girls. The rate of female infanticide and child mortality is increasing day by day in India. It is lower in Kerala when compared with other states. A study reveals that the Tamil Nadu's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 54 was much higher than that of Kerala which recorded a figure of 15, the lowest in the country. Through intense efforts further reduction was feasible.

Against the state Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 55 per 1000, Salem District (Tamil Nadu) has recorded 80 with regard to female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). Salem had as much as 956 per 1000 against the average of 57. Reasons for this have got to be identified and the Tamil Nadu Government is keen on setting things right. The Tamil Nadu Government has proposed to implement a project to improve the status of girl children from financially backward families. Tamil Nadu Government's plan of '*cradle babies*' was a step towards curbing this problem

Female infanticide which has come into focus after reports about it appeared in the mainstream press in 1986 and latter in 1992, is one of the major factors which kept the Infant Mortality Rate in districts like Dharmapuri, Salem, Namakkal, Madurai and Dindigul exceptionally high. It is quit surprising that female infanticide is taking place often in Omalur taluk of Salem district and Namakkal district even now. The press also draws the attention of the concerned to put an end to the social evil. In certain districts in Tamil Nadu particularly in Cuddalore District it was found out that one of the major reasons for a high female infant

mortality rate was female infanticide. The Tamil Nadu Government is making every effort to end this pernicious practice.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

T.S. Batra in his study, *Human Rights-A Critique* (2016), explains on one hand how human rights are proclaimed to be inviolable and on the other hand human beings seeking such rights are tortured killed and even burnt alive. This work is useful to identify the areas of violations of human rights.

R.S. Agarwal's (2016) work, *Human Rights in the Modern World* explains the nature and condition of human rights in developing countries. According to him, each country is entitled to develop its own forms and methods for the realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

S. Subramanian's, *Human Rights and Police* (2018) explain the evolution of the concept of human rights and their observance in criminal justice administration. He has also discussed about the various national laws and human rights instruments.

Objectives of the Study

The study has the following objectives:

1. To study the domestic violence and Dalit Women rights reference to Cuddalore district.
2. To understand the socio economic conditions of Dalit Women who have been abused.

Universe

The research studied the Dalit Women, because nowadays nobody respects these kinds of Dalit Women. The research had decided to collect data from Cuddalore district, in Tamil Nadu. Many Dalit Women were living and facing series of domestic violence problems in and around Cuddalore district.

Research Design

The researcher feels that the descriptive design would better describe about the life style of Dalit Women and their domestic problem. The researcher described about the domestic problem of Dalit Women. So the researcher has made use of descriptive design to describe about

the various domestic problem of Dalit Women, their family background, socio-economic status, basic needs problem, relationship problem and psychological problem. Among the 120 samples using simple random sampling method was adopted in the study.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1

Showing the F-ratio for Respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the Basis of their Occupation

S.No.	Occupation	No of Respondents	Mean	SD	F-value	Level of Significance
1.	Coolie	44	16.42	5.15	7.77	0.01
3.	Private Employee	23	19.34	3.11		
4.	Home Maker	52	18.11	3.32		
	Total	120	20.28	2.81		

The above table shows the Mean, SD and F-value of respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the basis of their occupation. The calculated F-value (7.77) is statistically significant at 0.01% level and hence the result indicates that there is significant relationship between occupation of Dalit Women and the abuse they under go.

Table 2

Showing the F-ratio for Respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the Basis of their Family Annual Income

S.No.	Family annual income	No of Respondents	Mean	SD	F-value	Level of Significance
1.	Below Rs.10,000	32	18.77	4.32	9.26	0.01
2.	Rs.10,001 to 20,000	51	19.40	3.11		
3.	Rs.20,001 to 30,000	20	16.18	1.81		
4.	Above Rs. 30,001	17	15.11	2.41		
	Total	120	20.28	2.81		

The above table shows the Mean, SD and F-value of respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the basis of their family annual income. The calculated F-value (9.26) is statistically significant at 0.01% level and hence it is concluded that there is significant relationship between annual income of a family and Dalit Women abuse.

Table 3

Showing the t-test for Respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the Basis of their Family Type

S.No.	Family type	No of Respondents	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
1.	Joint family	80	21.76	1.95	3.47	0.01
2.	Nuclear family	40	19.21	2.88		

The above table shows the Mean, SD and t-value of respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the basis of their family type. The calculated t-value (3.47) is statistically significant at 0.01 levels and hence it is clear that there is significant relationship between the type of family and Dalit Women abuse.

Table 4

Showing the t-test for Respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the Basis of their Type of Marriage

S.No.	Type of marriage	No of Respondents	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
1.	Arranged	94	23.00	2.32	3.53	0.01
2.	Love	26	19.59	4.43		

The above table shows the Mean, SD and t-value of respondents' domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the basis of their type of marriages. The calculated t-value (3.53) is statistically significant at 0.01% level and hence the result infers that there is significant relationship between the types of marriage and the Dalit Women abuse.

Table 5

Showing the F-ratio for Respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the Basis of Their Number of Children

S.No.	Number of children	No of Respondents	Mean	SD	F-value	Level of Significance
1.	Below 3	74	12.54	3.13	5.38	0.01
2.	3 to 4	35	14.13	3.25		
3.	Above 4	11	16.41	6.28		
	Total	120	20.28	2.81		

The above table shows the Mean, SD and F-value of respondents opinion about domestic violence and Dalit Women rights on the basis of their number of children. The calculated F-value (5.38) is statistically significant at 0.01% level and hence it is inferred that there is significant relationship between the numbers of children the Dalit Women have and the abuses they experience.

CONCLUSIONS

All Dalit Women should be made aware of their rights provided by constitutional laws. Apart from that, they should aware that they have been provided round the clock police help to get over their crisis. E.g. the Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a new scheme to aid Dalit Women in distress. “Women Helpline” Units have been ordered to be opened throughout the state. Today “Women Helpline Units” are functioning in most districts of Tamil Nadu. Women police provide prompt help round the clock to women in distress in these “Women Helpline Units”. Results show that there is significant relationship between age, education, caste, religion, educational qualification, type of family, numbers of children of respondents and the abuses that have been inflicted upon them.

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