



INDIA REPORT 2023-2024

# Status of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent in India

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD)



## The Inclusivity Project

The Inclusivity Project (TIP) is a non-profit organization founded to advocate for the rights of communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) and raise awareness of their issues. TIP works towards Capacity Building, Collaboration, and Research to support CDWD communities by enhancing the Social, Economic, and Political Integration and increasing their visibility at the National, Regional and Global platforms. TIP works on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially on the monitoring and follow-up/review, and providing data and evidence for the nation-state for effective and inclusive programme implementation.

<https://www.theinclusivityproject.org/>

## Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD), founded in 2019, is a platform to voice the rights and entitlements of the communities in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America discriminated based on work and descent. GFoD aims for full realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent and to ensure access to sustainable development goals (SDGs).

<https://www.globalforumcdwd.org>

---

Authors: **Prachi Salve and Naveen Gautam**

Concept and Advisors: **N. Paul Divakar, Aloysius Irudayam SJ, Naveen Gautam**

Research Contribution & Edits : **Beena Pallical, Deepak Nikarhil, Pranjali Kureel**

Report Design: **Sajana Jayaraj**

Photographs: **Sudharak Olwe, Sajana Jayaraj, GFoD Team**

Printing: **Insight Prints Solutions**

Published by: **Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD) 2024**





*Photo: Sudharak Olwe*



**Status of Communities  
Discriminated on Work and  
Descent in India**



# Contents

Abbreviation & Glossary	07
Acknowledgement	10
Preface	11
Foreword	12
Executive Summary	15
<b>1 Country Profile</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2 Communities Discriminated Against Work and Descent Profile</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3 Socio-Economic Profile of CDWD</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4 CDWD and Modern Slavery</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>5 Forms of Discrimination on CDWD</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6 National Law, Policies, and Budget Allocations</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>7 National NGOs and their Responses</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>8 Response from International Agencies</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>9 Key Findings and Learnings</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>10 Recommendations</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>11 Conclusion</b>	<b>54</b>
Bibliography	56





Photo by GFOD India



**Dalits in India have been facing multifaceted dimensions of caste-based discrimination, from enduring economic hardships and social inequalities to confronting the violence and atrocities that continue to haunt their communities.**

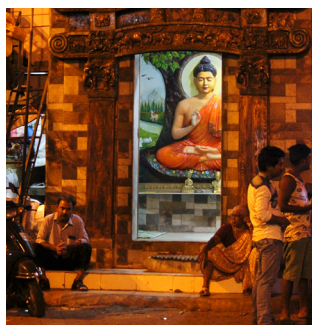




**Dalits in India have been facing multifaceted dimensions of caste-based discrimination, from enduring economic hardships and social inequalities to confronting the violence and atrocities that continue to haunt their communities.**



# Abbreviations



*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*

<b>DWD</b>	Discriminated on work and Descent
<b>CDWD</b>	Communities Discriminated on work and Descent
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>MPI</b>	Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
<b>SC</b>	Scheduled Castes
<b>ST</b>	Scheduled Tribes
<b>FLFP</b>	Female Labour Force Participation
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Rate
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>OBC</b>	Other Backward Classes
<b>EMSCDLP</b>	Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act
<b>NCSK</b>	National Commission for Safai Karmacharis
<b>NSKFDC</b>	National Safai Karmachari Financial Development Corporation
<b>SRMS</b>	Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
<b>TSP</b>	Tribal Sub-Plan
<b>SCP</b>	Special Component plan
<b>SCCS</b>	Scheduled Caste Component Schemes
<b>NCST</b>	National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
<b>NCDHR</b>	National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
<b>NDMJ</b>	National Dalit Movement for Justice
<b>DAAA</b>	Dalit Adivasi Aarthik Adhikar
<b>DHRDNet</b>	Dalit Human Rights Defender's Network
<b>NSKA</b>	National Safai Karmachari Andolan
<b>ACAR</b>	Ambedkar Centre for Action & Research
<b>NCRB</b>	National Crime Records Bureau

# Glossary

## **Dalit**

Refers to a term used in South Asian countries to describe individuals who belong to historically marginalized and "ex-untouchable" communities, often facing social, economic, and political exclusion.

## **Jatis**

Jatis, also known as "castes," are social groups or communities within the Indian subcontinent. These groups have traditionally been characterized by occupation, social roles, and cultural practices.

## **Varna**

Varna is a concept from ancient Indian society that originally referred to four major social classes: Brahmins (priests and scholars), Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers), Vaishyas (merchants and farmers), and Shudras (laborers and servants). The concept later evolved into the caste system.

## **SC (Scheduled Caste)**

Abbreviated as SC, Scheduled Castes are groups of historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities in India who are listed in the official schedules of the Indian Constitution to receive special protections and benefits.

## **OBC (Other Backward Classes)**

Abbreviated as OBC, Other Backward Classes are social groups in India that are considered to be socially and educationally disadvantaged. They are eligible for certain affirmative action policies and reservations in education and government jobs.

## **Devadasi**

Devadasi refers to a traditional practice in some parts of India where young girls from the Dalit community are dedicated to temples and deities, often serving as temple dancers and forced into prostitution after they reach puberty. The practice has been widely criticized for its exploitative nature.

## **CERD (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)**

CERD is a United Nations committee responsible for monitoring and combating racial discrimination and promoting equality among all racial and ethnic groups.



**HRC (Human Rights Committee)**

HRC is a United Nations body that monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and assesses the human rights records of member states.

**CRC (Committee on the Rights of the Child)**

CRC is a United Nations committee that oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring the protection and well-being of children worldwide.

**CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)**

CEDAW is a United Nations committee responsible for monitoring and promoting women's rights and gender equality, as outlined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

**Special Procedure**

Special Procedures are mechanisms established by the United Nations Human Rights Council to address specific thematic or country-specific human rights issues. These mechanisms include Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts.

**Special Rapporteur**

A Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations to investigate and report on specific human rights issues or themes, often related to discrimination, violence, or other violations.

**UPR (Universal Periodic Review)**

UPR is a process conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Council to review and assess the human rights records of all UN Member States.

**Scheduled Languages**

Article 351 of the Indian constitution allows the government to compile a schedule (list) of languages recognized by the government for use in state legislatures.

# Acknowledgement

With this report we are able to glance at the situation of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) in India and the response of state, national and international mechanism to safeguard their rights.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Paul Divakar Namala, Convenor Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent for his valuable guidance on the DWD communities, their global status and areas of work at national and internal level to protect their rights.

Further, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Aloysius Irudayam for designing the research study and timely guidance about data collection and process of report writing.

Moreover, we would also like to appreciate gratefulness of Ms. Beena Pallical, General Secretary, Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and Adv. Priyadarshi Telang, Secretary, Ambedkar Centre for Action and Research for their valuable guidance and support in understanding the socio-economic condition of DWD communities in India.

We are profoundly thankful to Dr. Deepak Nikarhil and Ms. Pranjali Kureel for meticulously editing the report in limited words, refinement of the report and also extensively contributing to the research.

Moreover, we are thankful to report designer Ms. Sajana Jayaraj for her efforts in designing the entire report.

We would also like to acknowledge the struggle of Dalit Human Rights Defenders who have ensured that the voices of the marginalized are heard at grassroots, national, regional and global level.

**Prachi Salve and Naveen Gautam**

Rights Experts,  
Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent



# Preface



**Paul Divakar Namala**

*Convener, Global Forum of Communities  
Discriminated on Work and Descent*

While we consider India as a global power with rich culture and diversity, there is one Community which is discriminated on work and descent and occupies a distinct yet often marginalized space, the Dalits. The narrative of social justice and equality, integral to the ethos of our democratic republic, is incomplete without a thorough examination of the status of Dalits in contemporary India. This report, titled "Status of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent," endeavours to shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of the Dalit experience, offering a comprehensive analysis of their social, economic, and political standing.

The Dalit community, historically subjected to systemic discrimination, untouchability, and socio-economic deprivation, represents a significant segment of our population. Despite constitutional guarantees and affirmative action measures, the journey towards achieving substantive equality remains a formidable challenge. This report serves as a critical exploration into the persisting disparities, the nuanced manifestations of discrimination, and the evolving dynamics that shape the socio-political landscape for Dalits across the nation.

Our objective is to present an unbiased, evidence-based account of the existing conditions, drawing attention to both the triumphs and the persisting challenges faced by the Dalit community. Through a meticulous examination of socio-economic indicators, educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and political representation, this report aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the factors influencing the well-being of Dalits in India.

The report also delves into the evolving discourse surrounding affirmative action policies, their efficacy, and the need for a more inclusive approach in policy formulation. By highlighting successful initiatives and identifying areas that demand urgent attention, we hope to inspire informed dialogue and catalyze positive change towards a more equitable society.

We express our gratitude to the individuals, scholars, activists, and organizations whose insights and experiences have enriched the foundation of this report. May this document foster a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the Dalit community and propel us toward a future where every citizen can participate in the nation's progress without barriers or bias.



# Foreword



**Ruth Manorama**

*Right to Livelihood Award Laureate, 2006  
Founder, National Federation of Dalit Women*

In the kaleidoscope of India's diverse cultural landscape, the status and well-being of its Dalit population remain integral to the nation's journey towards inclusivity and equality. As we delve into the report on the status of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (also referred as CDWD), also known as Dalits in India, for the year 2023, it is imperative to recognize both the progress made and the challenges that persist.

CDWD, historically marginalized and subjected to social discrimination, have been at the forefront of transformative socio-political movements. The tireless efforts of individuals and organizations advocating for Dalit rights have propelled conversations surrounding social justice to the forefront of national discourse. However, the road to true equality is fraught with obstacles, and this report endeavors to provide a comprehensive overview of the current status.

In the pages that follow, you will find a meticulous examination of key indicators, ranging from educational opportunities and economic empowerment to political representation and social integration. The report not only sheds light on the strides made in these domains but also critically evaluates the persisting disparities that demand urgent attention.

Understanding the nuances of the Dalit experience requires a nuanced perspective—one that acknowledges the intersectionality of identities, the impact of historical prejudices, and the intricate interplay of policies and societal attitudes. This report aims to navigate this complexity, offering insights that go beyond statistics to capture the lived realities of Dalit communities across the country. I would like to congratulate, Ms. Prachi Salve and Mr. Naveen Gautam for co-authoring the report and also Mr. Paul Divakar Namala and whole team of GFoD (Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent) for putting in tremendous amount of efforts.

As we review the findings presented herein, it is essential for policymakers, civil society, and the general populace to introspect and collaborate on fostering an environment where every individual, irrespective of caste, creed, or background, can thrive. The pursuit of an egalitarian society demands our collective commitment to dismantling systemic barriers and creating a nation where every citizen is afforded the dignity and opportunities they rightfully deserve.

May this report serve as a catalyst for informed dialogue, compassionate action, and a renewed commitment to building a more just and inclusive India.





International bodies, including UN Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs, have voiced concerns about the discrimination faced by Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD) communities in India.

*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*





Caste system in India have relegated Dalits to the margins of society subjecting them to a life marked by discrimination, exclusion, and brutality.

*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*



# Executive Summary

This report on status of Dalits delves into the multifaceted struggle and the evolving status of Dalits in India, shedding light on the profound challenges they have faced and the courageous strides they have made toward social justice.

In the vast tapestry of India's social fabric, the story of the Dalits represents a poignant thread of struggle and resilience, a narrative that has unfolded across centuries and continues to evolve in the modern era.

This report on status of Dalits delves into the multifaceted struggle and the evolving status of Dalits in India, shedding light on the profound challenges they have faced and the courageous strides they have made toward social justice.

For millennia, India's caste system has divided society into a rigid hierarchy, with Dalits consigned to occupations deemed polluting. This relegation to the margins of society subjected them to a life marked by discrimination, exclusion, and brutality.

Also known as Communities discriminated on work and descent, the Dalits in India have been facing multifaceted dimensions of caste-based discrimination, from enduring economic hardships and social inequalities to confronting the violence and atrocities that continue to haunt their communities.

Delving into these deep-seated issues, this report attempts to unravel the surrounding evolving landscape of political representation, legal protections, and educational opportunities for DWD communities in India, highlighting both progress and persisting challenges.

Some of the key findings of the report are laid down below:

**SC 66.1%**  
National Average  
**72.99%**



Literacy

**Dalits 71%**



Landlessness

**Dalit Women 6.1%**  
National Average  
**4.5%**

Unemployment  
among Dalit  
Women



Socio-economic status of the DWD communities in India

### **Socio-economic status of the DWD communities in India:**

Data shows Dalit communities' lack of progress on various socio-economic indicators, such as literacy rate, education, health indicators etc. For instance, the rate of literacy among the SCs in India (66.1 percent) is significantly less than the national average (72.99 percent). Similarly, the household data shows that 71 percent of Dalits are landless. Women from the Dalit communities, in particular, lag further behind on these parameters. This is highlighted by statistics that show higher unemployment among Dalit women and poor health indicators. For example, unemployment among Dalit women (6.1 percent), is more than the national average of 4.5 percent. In terms of health, the average life span of Dalit women is comparatively much shorter and the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is significantly higher than the national average (about 27 percent).

**Modern Slavery:** Various forms of modern slavery persist in India, with deeply ingrained caste-based discrimination exacerbating the issue. Bonded labor remains a pervasive problem, particularly in agriculture, where a number of bonded labour systems continue to this day. Bitti-Chakri, a traditional type of unpaid farm and domestic labor system that almost exclusively employs Dalits was only recently discontinued by the Karnataka government in 2020. Similarly, the traditional structures of caste have systemically tied various Dalit communities to manual and exploitative work required in Brick kiln, mining and quarry.

Many Dalit communities, such as Valmikis, Haila and Halalkhor and Dom continue to be inter-generationally engaged in their traditional caste occupation of manual scavenging with 98% manual scavengers being Dalits. Dalit women, in particular, are forced into human trafficking, forced labor and forms of sexualized ritualistic slavery such as the Devdasi system. Forced marriages, particularly of underage girls, are reported across states, driven by gender imbalances and male-to-female ratios, with girls often trafficked from DWD communities in poorer regions to compensate for the deficit.

### **Forms of Discrimination:**

Available data on the number of crimes reported by NCRB report against SCs have increased in the last six years, with the year 2017 starting at 718 murder cases and reaching 954 in 2022. Crimes against SC women are of particular concern, with the number of reported cases of sexual harassment and rape increasing significantly over the years. It is also crucial to recognize that the statistics concerning atrocities committed against the SC population conceal not only the large number of unreported crimes but also the various forms of discrimination that do not find language in the legal framework, but are a living reality for the DWD communities across India. These forms of discrimination range from economic discrimination involving forms of modern slavery, cultural alienation, political domination and the sheer lack of access to justice.

**International Response:** International bodies, including UN Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs, have voiced concerns about the discrimination faced by Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD) communities in India. Recommendations include measures to address poverty, access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, as well as the elimination of violence and discrimination.<sup>1</sup> The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process highlighted these issues, emphasizing the need for access to justice, equal opportunities, and addressing root causes of discrimination. Prominent international NGOs, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam International, and the International Dalit Solidarity Network, have documented cases of caste-based discrimination, violence, and barriers to justice, urging stronger measures from the Indian government. Moreover, the United States Congress, European Parliament, and the United Nations Human Rights Council have called for action against caste-based discrimination, both within India and globally. The recognition of caste as a protected category in anti-discrimination laws in some US states reflects the growing international concern over this issue.





Dalit women, in particular, are forced into human trafficking, forced labor and forms of sexualized ritualistic slavery such as the Devdasi system.

*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to address these challenges and envision the way forward, some of the following key recommendations are made by India Rights Experts of GfOD are as follows:

- Capacity building of policy implementers for better enactment of Govt. policies to ensure access to education, employment opportunities and adequate representation.
- Disaggregated Data for The CDWD in India
- Set up dedicated entrepreneurship development programs for DWD communities and job creation to promote livelihood opportunities.
- Establish a dedicated body to monitor and respond to incidents of discrimination and hate crimes and providing support to victims of such incidents.
- Enact and implement anti-discrimination Laws and laws that protect the rights of women and children in DWD communities.
- Provision of Legal aid and support services for DWD communities.
- Enactment of programs and projects to create gender sensitization and community participation, provide access to credit and financial services, and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, skill development.
- Allocate adequate and proportional budget for education, skill development and ensuring land rights for DWD communities.
- Organizational mechanisms should be established, such as National Commission for DWD Women, Special Courts for accessible and speedy justice to CDWD.
- Establish National Review Committees for DWD Development and review of atrocities against CDWD.

# Country Profile

# 01

Home to over 1.42 billion people as per the latest data,<sup>i</sup> India is now the most populated country in the world and ranks seventh in terms of its land area. A 'sovereign socialist secular democratic republic' according to the Constitution of India,<sup>ii</sup> it boasts a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society with 28 states, 8 union territories<sup>iv</sup> and 22<sup>v</sup> scheduled languages<sup>vi</sup> across the country. This vast cultural diversity is core to the identity of the state. Apart from its diversity, the country is also known for its youthful demographic, with 66 percent of its population under the age of 35 years.<sup>vii</sup>

As per the last official general census of 2011, India's population was recorded as 1.21 billion, comprising 51 percent males and 49 percent females.<sup>viii</sup> 20% of its population works in the agricultural industry, with more than 60% of its total population still living in rural areas. The country's primary income/livelihood sector is Agriculture and allied sectors, including farming, forestry, and fishing. The secondary sector is Manufacturing and industries, including textiles, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, and others. The tertiary sector includes IT, healthcare, tourism, and others.

In the recent years, India is emerging as an economic powerhouse coupled with a vast market, wielding significant influence within global politics. It has also launched ambitious initiatives such as "Make in India" and "Digital India" to foster economic growth

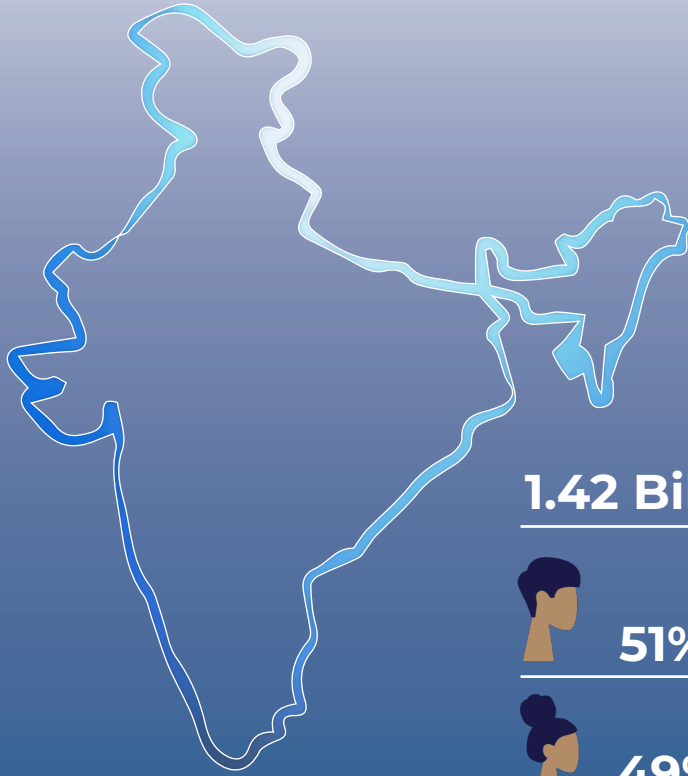
and technological innovation. At the same time, however, it faces pressing challenges, including inadequate access to quality healthcare and education for a substantial portion of its population.

Its rise on the global map, therefore, accompanies existing inequalities and disparities rampant across the country. As per the survey reports, the wealthiest top 10% of the Indian population hold about 77 percent of the total national wealth.<sup>ix</sup> On the other hand, according to the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 55.4 percent of Indians live in poverty.<sup>x</sup> It is also worth mentioning that historically existing social structures and institutions, such as that of caste, continue to play a major role in shaping these population dynamics in the country.

---

*India's socio-economic profile reflects a nation at the crossroads, with immense potential for development, but also a need for comprehensive policies that address inequalities and create opportunities for all citizens.*

---



**1.42 Billion Population**



**51% Male Population**



**49% Female Population**

# India Country Profile

## Livelihoods



20% of India's population works in the agricultural industry



60% of India's population lives in rural areas



Primary Livelihood Sector: Agriculture including farming, forestry, and fishing



Secondary Livelihood Sector: Manufacturing and industries



Tertiary Livelihood Sector: IT, healthcare, tourism, and others.

*Top 10% of the Indian population hold about 77 % of the total national wealth.*



*55% of the Indian population lives in poverty*



# Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent Profile

# 02

In India, communities identifying as 'Dalits' have historically faced discrimination and exclusion based on their position in the caste structure. This caste status is 'inherited by birth', and is closely linked with the caste occupation that a community is assigned. The constitution of India has recognized certain castes, with a history of untouchability and social exclusion, as "Scheduled Castes" (SC), and has provided them with specific protections and affirmative action. These castes, which collectively make up 201 million people in India, account for 16.6 percent of the Indian population, as per the national records.<sup>xi</sup> Within this, 52 percent are men and 48 percent are women. However, it is worth noting that these numbers exclude Christian and Muslim Dalits in India, who continue to face these forms of discrimination, but are not protected under the SC category.

**Evolution of Caste System:** The system of caste that has survived and evolved over three millennia is a system of social stratification that divides people within various hierarchical social groups with inherited caste category and occupation. India has 3,000 castes and 25,000 sub caste divisions<sup>xii</sup>(jatis), which have evolved

from the four-fold Varna social order– a hierarchical social framework with divine sanction in the Hindu scriptures, Vedas<sup>xiii</sup>. Within this framework, Brahmins, forming the priestly caste, are at the top of the structure – and hence, considered "pure", are followed by Kshatriyas, warrior caste; Vaishya, traders; and then Shudra, the servant caste at the bottom.<sup>xiv</sup>

Outside the four-fold varna order, a fifth category is that of Untouchables, comprising those caste groups that are relegated to the lowest rungs of the society and are considered the most "polluted". It is these Untouchable groups that are historically involved in menial labor that is considered polluting, such as manual-scavenging, leather-tanning, etc. Moreover, in many parts of the country, women from these groups have provided sexual labor to the dominant castes.<sup>xv</sup>

---

**Untouchability was legally abolished in 1950 by the Constitution of India. However, despite legal prohibitions in place, it continues to be a social evil practiced in many parts of India to this day.**

---

**Dalits:** As much as the Untouchable communities have faced social exclusion through a long period of history, they have also raised their voices, mobilized their community(/ies) and fought for their dignity and rights. The category of 'Dalit' has emerged from this long journey, and is presently used as a category to refer to communities, or individuals, who share a common history of experiencing untouchability and caste-based exclusion. The term "Dalit" was coined in the 19th century in India and gained prominence during the late 20th century as a category used by ex-Untouchable communities to challenge the social and caste-based hierarchy.

*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*



The traditional caste-based occupations in the forms of bonded labour, manual-scavenging and sexual labour continue to involve members from the specific caste communities historically been engaged in these tasks.

**Demographic:** The Indian government lists around 1208 different castes listed under the Scheduled Castes category as on 23.09.2008. Some of the sub-castes that form a majority of the Dalit population are Jatav (22.5 million), Madiga (7.66 million), Mahar (5.7 million), Valmiki/Bhangi (5.5 million), Mazhabi Sikhs (2.8 million), Chamar (2 million), Mang (2 million), and Bhangi (1.2 million).<sup>xviii</sup>

The traditional caste-based occupations in the forms of bonded labour, manual-scavenging and sexual labour etc., continue to involve members from the specific caste communities historically been engaged in these tasks. As per the Walk free Foundations' Global Estimates on Modern Slavery 2018, there are nearly 8 million Dalits involved in forms of modern slavery.<sup>xix</sup>



## 03

## Socio-Economic Profile of CDWD

The existence of institutions and practices like caste and untouchability has resulted in the socio-cultural subjugation and economic disparities among the Dalit communities. In the contemporary times, a major part of the Dalit population lacks access to higher education, healthcare facilities and equal employment opportunities.<sup>xx</sup> As a result, a large part of this population is dependent upon the dominant castes for livelihood and faces rampant exploitation, as the positions of power are held by the dominant communities.<sup>xxi</sup> This has also translated into Dalit communities' lack of progress on the socio-economic indicators. Reflecting these disparities, this chapter aims to address some of the core aspects of the socioeconomic status of the Dalits in comparison to the General population.

**Literacy and Employment:** Table 3.1 shows a stark disparity in employment and literacy among the SC population. Among the SC, approximately 75.2% of males are literate,<sup>xxi</sup> while only 56.2% of females are literate. In comparison, for the average population, the literacy rate is approximately 82.14% for males and 65.46% for females. This

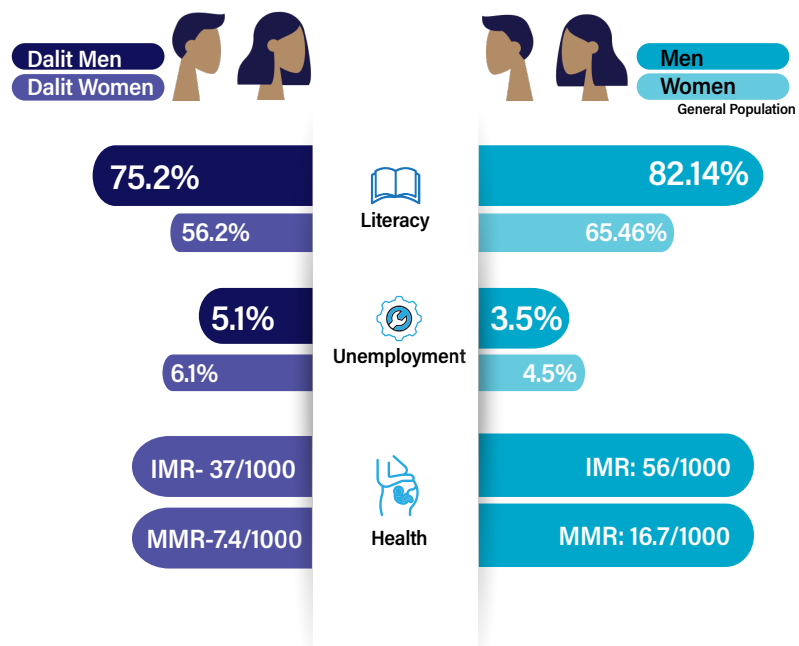
suggests that literacy rates among the S.C. population, particularly among females, are lower than the average population's literacy rates, indicating the need for targeted efforts to improve literacy within the Scheduled Caste community.

In terms of employment ratio, there is a significant gap between the Dalit population and the general population. This is reflected in the statistics that show that ----- [men and women]. The unemployment rate among Dalits is much higher compared to the general population. According to the Periodic Labor Force Survey (2021), Dalit men have a 5.1 percent unemployment in comparison to General men which is at 3.5 percent. While Dalit women have a 6.1 percent unemployment compared to women from Non dalit community at 4.5 percent.<sup>xxiii</sup> Significantly, the Female labor force participation (FLFP) in India has been experiencing a decline over the last few decades. In the light of a concerning rate of female participation in labor force, attention to Dalit women's participation is particularly needed as they face a "triple-burden" of caste, class and gender.<sup>xxiv</sup>

**Health:** Some of the determinants of health status are education, employment, housing and income. Adding to it, social exclusion and discrimination experienced by the most marginalized communities like Dalits has a significant impact on their status of health. Therefore, on comparing health indicators of the SC population with the average statistics of the total population point towards the existing health inequality in the country, For instance, the average life span of an individual is 70.15 years<sup>xxv</sup>, while that of a Dalit individual is comparatively much shorter, i.e., 63.1 years<sup>xxvi</sup>. In terms of mortality rates, there is a similar pattern. For instance, the average maternal mortality rate (MMR) in India (2023) is 97 (out of 1 lakh)<sup>xxvii</sup>, while MMR among Dalits is 27% higher than the national average.<sup>xxviii</sup> In a report published in 2019, the national average MMR was 229, while the MMR among Dalits was calculated to be 273.<sup>xxix</sup>

### Socio-Economic Profile of CDWD

Source-Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021



**Housing and Land Ownership:** The household data reveals a stark disparity in land ownership, with over 71 percent of Dalits being landless, while only a mere 9 percent of the overall population enjoys property ownership<sup>xxx</sup>. Furthermore, when it comes to basic amenities, the disparities faced by Dalits is quite evident, as merely 32 percent of Dalit households have access to piped water, and a mere 23 percent have access to toilets within their households.<sup>xxxi</sup> These statistics point towards the increasing need for targeted interventions and policies to address the socio-economic inequalities and lack of access to essential services faced by Dalit communities.

**Art:** Artforms, for different Dalit communities, have been a significant part of their cultural life, livelihood, and at times, their assertion of their identity and rights. Some of the key art forms are Pottan Theyyam in Kerala by Pulayas; Pariyattam and Karagattam in Tamil Nadu; Dappu and Parai in Tamil Nadu; Madhubani in Bihar and Godna in Uttar Pradesh, among others.



# CDWD and Modern Slavery 04

Modern Slavery refers to extreme conditions of exploitation of physical and/or sexual labor where the persons are unable to leave due to various social or economic reasons. As per the Global Slavery Index 2018 by the Walk Free Foundation, 40 million people worldwide are subjected to modern slavery and slavery-like conditions. Out of these, about Twelve million which make up for more than thirty percent of them are South Asians who reside in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. India and Pakistan, two of the participating nations in this study, are reportedly among the 10 nations where modern slavery and slavery are the most prevalent, with more than 60% of the total population engaged in its various forms<sup>xxxii</sup>. While India is ranked 53rd among 167 countries in prevalence of modern slavery, in absolute numbers, India has the highest population in modern slavery.

As per the definition laid down by ILO for the purpose of Global estimates, there are two principal components of modern slavery, i.e. Forced labour and forced marriage. Forced labour consists of bonded labour which involves debt-bondage and unpaid labour. In caste societies such as India, this form of labour is forced upon the oppressed castes, or Dalits, who are involved in caste-based occupations like Sanitation Work; and are also victims of Human Trafficking, including sex trafficking and child trafficking; Sexual Slavery, including forced prostitution, ritualistic sexual slavery; and child labour. In addition, forced marriage consists of Forced Marriage for commercial sexual exploitation through trafficking. It also encompasses instances of Forced Marriage arising from a scarcity of women for marriage and procreation, facilitated through trafficking, and Forced Marriage through coerced religious conversions.



**Forced labour consists of bonded labour which involves debt-bondage and unpaid labour. In caste societies such as India, this form of labour is forced upon the oppressed castes, or Dalits, who are involved in caste-based occupations**

*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*



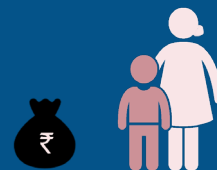
## Bonded Labour

The first systemic survey of Bonded Labourers in India, in 1978, recorded the number of bonded laborers at about 2.62 million,<sup>xxxiii</sup> accounting for 6% of all agricultural laborers.

It was found that over 61.5% of bonded labourers belonged to the Scheduled Castes (SC), while 25.1% belonged to the Scheduled Tribes (ST). Moreover, Agriculture accounted for over 89 percent of employers employing bonded laborers. In later investigations, it was estimated that there were over 100,000 bonded agricultural workers in Punjab and over 475,000 bonded workers in Tamil Nadu. More than three-fourths of these Punjabi agricultural bond laborers are Mazhabi Sikhs, sometimes known as Dalits or "Siris" locally. 90% of agricultural bonded laborers in Punjab, according to subsequent research conducted in 1986, were Dalits.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

In the Karnataka and Andhra regions of India, the system of bonded farm servitude, known as the Jeetam system, an adult and their spouse or child pledge their labor in exchange for a loan from the landowner or employer. In north-western Karnataka, Bitti-Chakri, a traditional type of unpaid farm and domestic labor system, continues to tie Madiga (85%) and Holey (15%) families — sub-castes among Dalits — to dominant Lingayat families. This practice, which only employs Dalits, was only recently discontinued officially by the Karnataka government in 2020.

Similarly, Dalit (75%) and non-Dalit (25%) 'agricultural bonded labourers in Punjab, locally known as 'Siri', 'sanjhi' or 'sepi', are in a perpetual debt trap, with high-interest rates. Children or 'Pali' are found to assist their families in farm labour work, while the women perform unpaid domestic or farm labour work. A similar practice in Chhattisgarh, known as 'Kamia-Malik', though now on the decline, continues to exist. Here, the entire family is known to provide bonded domestic and farm-related labour in lieu of debt taken.<sup>xxxv</sup>



In the Karnataka and Andhra regions of India, the system of bonded farm servitude, known as the **Jeetam system**, an adult and their spouse or child pledge their labor in exchange for a loan from the landowner or employer.



In north-western Karnataka, **Bitti-Chakri**, a traditional type of unpaid farm and domestic labor system, continues to tie Madiga (85%) and Holey (15%) families — sub-castes among Dalits — to dominant Lingayat families.



Dalit (75%) and non-Dalit (25%) 'agricultural bonded labourers in Punjab, locally known as '**Siri**', '**sanjhi**' or '**sepi**', are in a perpetual debt trap, with high-interest rates. Children or '**Pali**' are found to assist their families in farm labour work, while the women perform unpaid domestic or farm labour work.





## Forced Labour in Formal Industry

In India's textile and clothing industry, Tamil Nadu produces between 40 to 65 percent of India's yarns using the slave labor of women and girls recruited through a system called "Sumangali" scheme. The system is a form of forced labor in which mainly Dalit women and girls from poor families are lured to collect dowry<sup>104</sup> through mass payments after the three-year contract period ends. The system is extremely exploitative, as female workers are employed as trainees rather than permanent employees, thus deceiving them in various work accounts. The system is also often referred to as "camp labour" or "camp coolie" because workers live in company-run hostels with limited mobility. A 2016 study<sup>xxxvi</sup> found that more than 60 percent of the women and girls involved in the spinning mills studied were Dalits, and 80 percent of all female workers were under the age of 18. Moreover, despite the instructions of the Supreme Court to the state to abolish the system and legalize the service and remuneration of female employees according to the law, the practice continues to exist.<sup>xxxvii</sup>



## Mining and Quarry Industry

Mining and quarry industry employs a major bulk of its labourers from OBC and Dalit communities in the southern states of India.



## Brick Kiln

India's brick industry is largely run by Dalit, OBC and Adivasi immigrants from rural and poorest areas of India. According to the Global Slavery Index 2018, there are various estimates of employment in the brick kiln industry in India, ranging from **2.1 million workers** (as per NSS Round 68 2011-2012) to over **10 million workers**.<sup>xxxviii</sup> According to the Government of India, **Dalits make up half (48.7%) of all migrant workers in brick kilns**, followed by OBCs (30.1%) and Adivasis (16.1%).<sup>xxxix</sup>



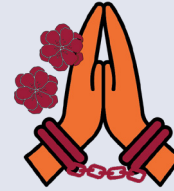
## Manual Scavenging

Sanitation work in India is predominantly and historically linked to caste, with 98% of sanitation workers belonging to Dalit communities.<sup>xl</sup> The work varies across urban and rural areas, with hazardous forms of concentrations in the urban areas. Outsourced contractual workers are allocated more hazardous forms of work. Despite the ban on manual scavenging, engagement of human labor in manually handling excreta and other wastes is still prevalent in India. Nearly 5 million sanitation workers, mostly women, are employed in India, mainly in municipal solid waste collection, road sweeping, and cleaning school toilets<sup>xli</sup>. These sub-castes are placed at the lowest rungs and face further exclusion within the Dalit community, leading to active discrimination and under-reporting of deaths due to negligence or drunkenness.<sup>xlii</sup>



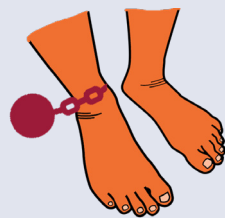
## Human Trafficking

According to the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State, the Indian government reported 2,088 trafficking cases under the IPC in 2019<sup>xliii</sup>. In 2022, over 6,500 human trafficking victims were identified in India, with 60% of them being women and girls.<sup>xliv</sup>



## Ritualistic Sexual Slavery

Ritualistic sexual slavery exists in the form of 'Devdasi system' in India. It is a practice that involves dedicating pre-pubescent girls to temple deities, who are married and expected to lead a life of worship and celibacy. The practice is prohibited in India, but persists in specific pockets of north Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra<sup>xlvii</sup>.



## Sex Work

According to the government, there are approximately 3 million women involved in sex trade, 40 percent of these women are minors<sup>xlv</sup>. In India alone, around 1.2 million children are exploited in the sex trade. The deep-rooted socio-cultural, economic and political marginalization of Dalits and other communities leads to their commercial sexual exploitation, as in the case of the Bedias, who are known to lure young girls into sex work as soon as they reach puberty. In this social organization, the male members act as pimps<sup>xlvi</sup>.



## Child Labour

According to the International Labour Organization, as per Census 2011, the total child population in India in the age group (5-14) years is 259.6 million. Of these, 10.1 million (3.9% of total child population) are working, either as 'main worker' or as 'marginal worker'. These child workers operate in various sectors, including agriculture, household industry, and other sectors. Poverty and caste-based discrimination contribute to child labor, particularly among Dalit families<sup>xlviii</sup>. Rural Dalit households, particularly those from SC/ST communities, are more likely to engage in child labor. A 2016 study found that over 60% of women and girls in Tamil Nadu's spinning mills were Dalits, and 88% of women workers were under 18 years old<sup>xlix</sup>.



# Forms of Discrimination on CDWD

## 05

CDWD, worldwide, experience some of the most brutal forms of differential treatment, owing to their social location and a long history of oppression. In India, Dalit community, in particular, bears the brunt of such a history and experience contemporary forms of discrimination.

This is highlighted by the recorded NRCB statistics, for instance, that show that SCs faced an average of 45,000 crimes<sup>1</sup> of atrocities in the last five years.

A large number of these crimes against Dalit communities are well documented every year. The major crimes are recorded as murder, attempt to murder, assault on women and children, sexual harassment, rape, and communal riots. Owing to their social position, Dalits are treated as soft targets for the assertion of power by the dominant communities. Thus, the committed atrocities continually arise from the positions of privilege and dominance.

**Table 5.2: Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Caste(s)**

Year	Total Crime/ Atrocities against Scheduled Castes	Murder	Attempt to Commit Murder	Assault on Women	Sexual Harassment	Rape of women	Rape of Children	Assault of Children	Riots
2018	42793	798	677	2719	756	2067	869	372	1316
2019	45935	892	780	2946	676	2369	1117	429	1293
2020	50291	855	1119	3037	613	2317	1055	336	1445
2021	50900	967	916	3214	673	2585	1285	550	1022
2022	57582	954	1126	3439	760	2835	1406	721	972

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 showcase the forms of atrocities committed against the Dalit communities in the last five years, based on the data from NCRB. This data also points out that Dalit women are the key target group for the atrocities committed against the Dalit communities. Moreover, the numbers of reported cases of crimes against women and children have significantly increased in the last five years. Above finding indicates that there is an urgent need of developing more stringent legal mechanisms and social policy, addressing these more vulnerable groups of women and children in particular.

It is important to note that the statistics of reported crimes provide only an incomplete picture of discrimination against CDWD in India. This is because these numbers include

neither the unreported crimes, nor the various forms of discrimination operating overt and covert ways, and that which do not find a place in the legal language. The different forms of discrimination faced by the Dalit communities, therefore, are not limited to socio-cultural discrimination. Social discrimination has transcended to other forms of discrimination against the Dalit communities.

The NCRB reports covering the period from 2018 to 2022 highlight an increasing trend in the registration of cases under the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. However, the corresponding conviction rate remains low. Specifically, there was a decrease in the conviction rate from 36 in 2021 to 34 in 2022. The average conviction rate over the past five years stands at 34.6.

Photo by Sudharak Olwe



**Social discrimination has transcended to other forms of discrimination against the Dalit communities.**



## Social Discrimination

Being the outcasts of the varna system, Dalits are alienated from participating in social activities. Further, there is a social embargo upon Dalits in inter-dining and inter-marriage. There is further segregation of housing for Dalits and these types of discrimination could be seen in schools and public places.

## Economic Discrimination

Dalits are forced into doing the most menial jobs including sanitation and manual scavenging. They also constitute 90% of the Bonded labour in India, thus many of them are economically dependent on the dominant caste people. This is also linked to the fact that Dalit children consist of about half of the school dropped outs in India.<sup>ii</sup>

## Cultural Discrimination

SC communities face various forms of cultural alienation from the society. In many places across the country, they are not allowed to participate in cultural festivals or gatherings. Moreover, they are made to work without pay in the name of culture during festivals and events.

01

02

03



## Forms of Discrimination on CDWD

# Forms of Discrimination on CDWD

## Political Discrimination

04

DWD communities face political discrimination and are often underrepresented in political institutions. Their voices and concerns are not adequately represented and they are denied political power and agency.<sup>iii</sup>

## Religious Discrimination

05

DWD communities face political discrimination and are often underrepresented in political institutions. Their voices and concerns are not adequately represented and they are denied political power and agency.<sup>iii</sup>

## Socio-Cultural Discrimination

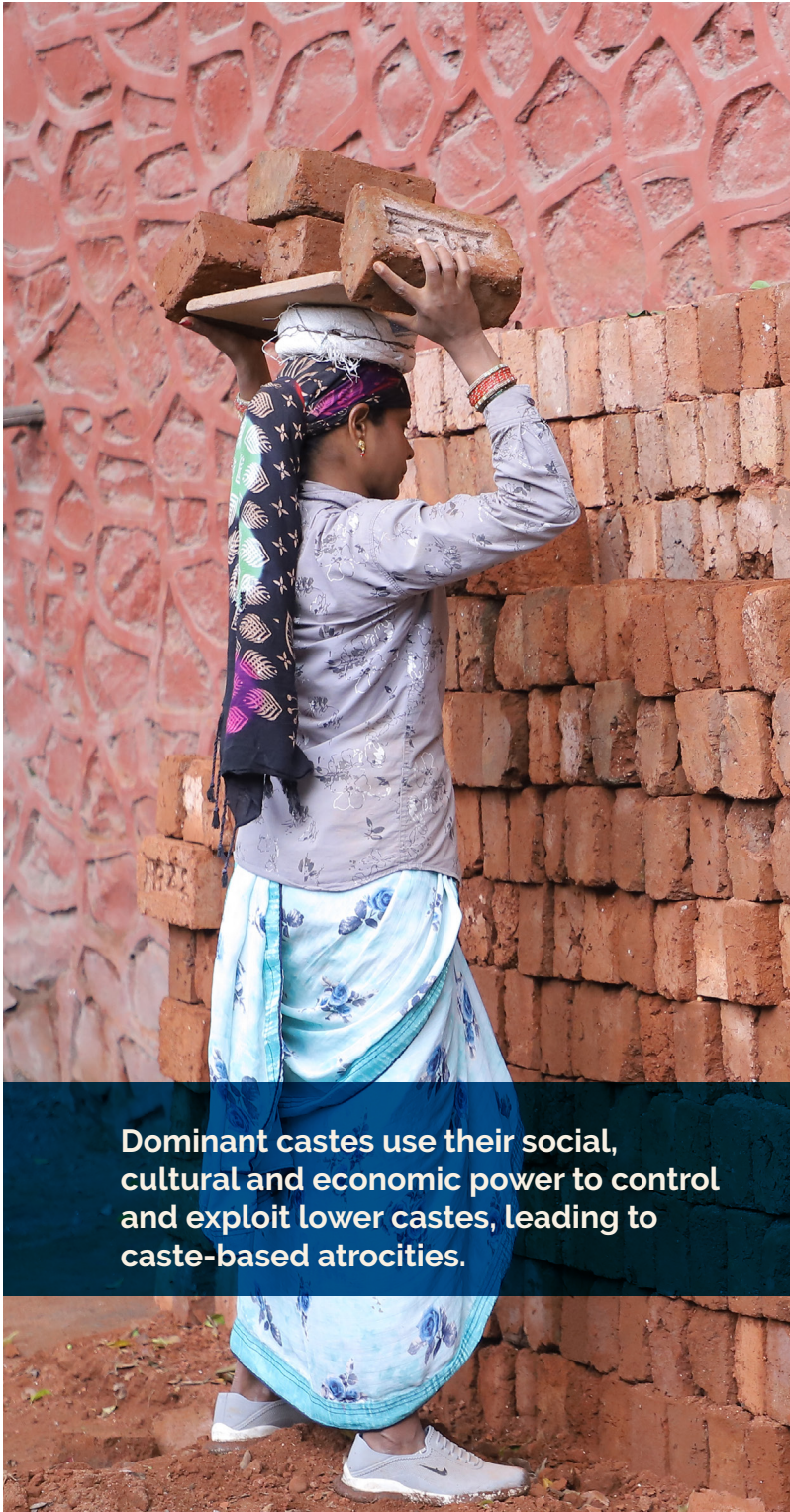
06

In general, there is great opposition to inter-marriage between the DWD community members and non-DWD community members. Even after the marriage, only very few families accept. As a result, a number of cases of honour-killings or such attempts are recorded in the country.<sup>iiii</sup>

*Photo by Sajana Jayaraj*







**Dominant castes use their social, cultural and economic power to control and exploit lower castes, leading to caste-based atrocities.**

*Photo by GFOD India*

As suggested by many instances laid above and statistical data, Dalits face extreme humiliation and violence due to traditional casteism, economic disparities, and political influence. These forms of discrimination are rooted in the caste system, which is based on the principles of ritual purity and pollution. Dominant castes use their social, cultural and economic power to control and exploit lower castes, leading to caste-based atrocities. Lack of education and awareness among DWDs contributes to the persistence of caste-based discrimination and violence, as well as disparity in accessing legal mechanisms and getting justice. Physical violence, including beatings, sexual assault, and murder, are a few common tactics employed by the dominant castes to establish dominance and control over Dalits.

DWDs are excluded from social gatherings, denied access to public spaces, and excluded from certain activities due to their caste. They also receive lower wages, and a smaller number of job opportunities, and are often forced to perform unclean and undignifying work. DWD victims often suffer physical injuries, psychological trauma, and long-lasting effects on their mental and physical health. They also face economic insecurity, social exclusion, and challenges in seeking legal recourse. Cases have been registered by DWD victims or families with the police against non-DWD perpetrators, but many a times, due to caste dynamics and imbalance of power, results have varied and the execution of legal procedures has not always favoured those DWD.

The main perpetrators of caste crimes are mainly dominant caste members, including Brahmins, Rajputs, Jats, Yadavs, and Thakurs in North India (Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Bihar), Brahmins, Reddys, Kammas, Nairs, and Mudaliars in South India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka), Brahmins, Kayasthas, Bhumihars, and Rajputs in East India (Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal) whereas Marathas, Brahmins, Patels, and Rajputs in West India (Maharashtra and Gujarat)<sup>iv</sup>.

# National Law, Policies, and Budget Allocations

The Constitution of India recognizes the historically disadvantaged group, Dalits, who are protected under the Scheduled Castes (SC) category. This recognition entails a number of provisions, in the form of constitutional safeguards, affirmative actions and setting up of special commissions, and other initiatives that aim to uplift these communities.



## Laws, Policies, Special Provisions

### ■ Constitutional Safeguards

Fundamental Rights

1. Article 15: Prohibition of Discrimination
2. Article 16: Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment
3. Article 17: Abolition of Untouchability

### ■ Affirmative Actions

Article 16(4), Article 46, Article 341

- Reservation in Higher Education
- Reservation in Public Employment
- Quota in Political Participation, with seats reserved in the Parliament (Lok Sabha), State Legislative Assembly, as well as in Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions at the local level.

### ■ Protections and Preventions

1. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
2. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1956
3. Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013
4. Bonded Labour (Prohibition) Act, 1976

### ■ Special Commissions

1. National Human Rights Commission
2. National Commission for Scheduled Caste

### ■ Targeted Budgeting

1. Allocation For Welfare Of Scheduled Caste (AWSC)



## National Laws

---

### ■ Caste Based Atrocities:

*Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Rules 1995 were enacted as a response to the widespread discrimination, violence, and exploitation faced by SCs and STs, who are historically marginalized and socially disadvantaged communities in India. The Act provides for stringent provisions to deter and punish offenses against SCs and STs, and to ensure their access to justice and protection of their civil and constitutional rights. It underwent a comprehensive amendment in 2015, which included renumbering of sub-sections of Section 3, and was notified on 26 January 2016.*

*Subsequently, further amendments were made in 2018 and 2019 to further strengthen the provisions of the Act. The amendments to the SC/ST PoA Act are aimed at strengthening the legal framework for the protection of the rights of SCs and STs, addressing implementation challenges, covering new forms of atrocities, protecting victims and witnesses, and meeting India's international obligations in promoting social justice, equality, and the welfare of marginalized communities.*

### ■ Provisions for people engaged in Manual Scavenging:

*National level laws, policies and programs have been implemented through the years to protect the sanitation workers which include the following: The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995; The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) (EMSCDLP) Act, 1993; and The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Employment (PEMSR) Act, 2013 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Schemes and programmes offered by multiple public commissions and corporations such as the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK), National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) address the socio-economic and working rights of sanitation workers. The Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) also attempts to identify and rehabilitate persons engaged in Manual Scavenging. Despite the numerous development and legal interventions, there exist multi-layered systematic gaps, which keep communities of Sanitation Workers in Socio-economic marginalization and deprivation. (PRIA, June 2019).*

### ■ Provision for Bonded Labour

*The Bonded Labour Prohibition act, 1989 prohibits any form of labour Practice which is done in lieu of loan or debt. It specifically criminalises the practice of slavery. In order to understand the aspect of loan and debt, we need to look at the Socio Economic condition of the DWD in India which has been worse. Along with Bonded Labour Act, 1976, SC/ST Act (1989) also criminalises the act of pushing a DWD member into Bondage as per section 3(1)(vi).*

---

### ■ Economic Policies:

*In 1974-75 in the Fifth Five Year Plan period, Government of India introduced the policy of the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and later in 1979-80, in the Sixth Five Year Plan period, the Special Component plan (SCP). Budget formulation is one of the important democratic processes which directly relates with social services, poverty alleviation, employment, etc. It is a significant tool employed to uplift the socio-economic status of the poor and marginalised communities in the society. The Budget is not only a political agenda but also reflects the government's vision towards social and economic development of the citizens in the country. For economic development of Scheduled Caste Communities in India, Scheduled Caste Component Schemes (SCCS) and Tribal Component Schemes are the main policies of the government. According to the guidelines, it is mandatory to allocate funds for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in the proportion of their population. Inadequate funds, unspent funds and fund diversion are the major concern regarding SC Budget in India.*

*There are guidelines for fund allocation and unitization at union and state level but no legislation at union level. This provision of law exists in a few states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, etc. 'Maharashtra Model', is followed in most of the States for Component Plans, Maharashtra has not enacted legislation though recommendation accepted by State legislative Assembly in the year 1980 .*

### ■ National Commission for Scheduled Castes:

*The first Commission for Scheduled Caste was set up in August 1978. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is an Indian constitutional body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. It was established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indian communities to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests. The first National Commission for Scheduled Castes was constituted in 2004.*



Photo by Sudhark Olwe

**Despite the numerous development and legal interventions, there exist multi-layered systematic gaps, which keep Dalit communities in Socio-economic marginalization and deprivation.**



# National NGOs and their Response

Dalit movement in India has played a significant role in mobilizing community to stand together, asserting claim for dignity and equality, and driving significant policy changes that favor the community in the country. Innumerable organizations and collective efforts have contributed to this movement, which has strengthened over the years. In this chapter, we are highlighting five such National organizations that have brought significant changes through their interventions.



Thousands of regional organizations have been working at the grassroots across India, playing a crucial role in facilitating grassroots reach, advocacy, networking and support,.

---

### **National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) - National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ), Dalit Aarthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA), All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, National Dalit Watch**

- *Research, advocacy, and campaigns to influence policy and create public awareness on Socio-Economic Rights and Social Justice of Dalits in India. It also includes the disaster risk situation which pushes the DWDs into the deeper layers of victimization. AIDMAM anchors the Dalit Women rights movement.*
- *These units of NCDHR work towards eradication of caste-based discrimination. They undertake campaigns, advocacy, and litigation to promote Dalit rights and also provide support to victims of caste-based violence.*

### **Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA)**

- *The SKA works to eradicate manual scavenging and rehabilitate manual scavengers by providing them with alternative livelihoods and skills training. They also advocate for the enforcement of laws such as the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which prohibits manual scavenging and mandates the rehabilitation of manual scavengers.*
- *The NSKA also conducts campaigns to raise awareness about the inhumane and hazardous nature of manual scavenging and advocates for the rights of manual scavengers at the national and international levels.*

### **Dalit Foundation:**

- *The organization works towards promoting the education, healthcare, and economic development of Dalits, and also advocates for their rights and entitlements.*
- *The foundation provides financial support to grassroots organizations working for the empowerment of Dalits. It also provides scholarships to Dalit students, especially those pursuing higher education, to help them overcome the barriers of poverty and discrimination.*

### **Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network (DHRDNet):**

- *Advocacy and Campaigns: DHRDNet engages in advocacy and campaigns to raise awareness about the issues faced by Dalits and to push for policy and legal reforms that protect their rights.*
  - *Capacity Building, Legal Support, Research, and Documentation: DHRDNet provides training and support to Dalit human rights defenders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to document and report on caste atrocities. Legal Support and Research and documentation of caste-based violence and discrimination in India.*
-



### Centre for Dalit Rights(CDR):

- *Mission of Centre for Dalit Rights is to increase the awareness about human rights and laws among Dalit communities and empower them to fight for their rights to live with equality, freedom and dignity.*
- *Centre for Dalit Rights has worked tenaciously to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted caste discrimination in India and has fought to bring greater justice and security to deprived section of the Indian society known as "Untouchables".*

As we recognize the work of National organizations working in Dalit movement, it is extremely important to acknowledge the contribution of thousands of regional organizations that have been working at the very grassroots across India. These organizations have played a crucial role in facilitating grassroots reach, advocacy, networking and support, along with capacitation.



Photo by GFOD India

# Response from International Agencies 08

Key interventions in the internationalization of the Dalit issues were formally initiated at the 2001 Durban conference. From that point onwards, various interventions by major Dalit organizations like IDSN, ADRF, and GFoD have resulted in various trailblazing interventions. These interventions have resulted in gaining acknowledgement and recognition to DWD issues in India on a global level, and have garnered various interventions from international bodies:

UN Treaty Bodies	Interventions
<b>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD):</b>	In 2017, the CERD expressed concern over the persistent discrimination faced by DWD communities in India, particularly in access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The committee recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that DWD communities enjoy equal rights.
<b>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR):</b>	In 2019, the CESCR expressed concern about the high levels of poverty and social exclusion faced by DWD communities in India. The committee recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues, including through affirmative action policies and targeted development programs.
<b>Human Rights Committee (HRC)</b>	In 2018, the HRC expressed concern about the prevalence of caste-based discrimination and violence in India, including against DWD communities. The committee recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues, including through effective law enforcement and the promotion of social inclusion and dialogue.
<b>Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC):</b>	In 2014, the CRC expressed concern about the high levels of poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition among DWD children in India. The committee recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that SC and ST children enjoy equal rights and opportunities.
<b>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</b>	In 2019, the CEDAW expressed concern about the intersectional discrimination faced by women belonging to DWD communities in India. The committee recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that DWD women enjoy equal rights and opportunities.



Key interventions on caste-based discrimination were made by UN Special Procedures, especially by the Special Rapporteurs.

UN SP	INTERVENTIONS
<b>Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association</b>	In 2021, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the shrinking space for civil society in India, particularly for organizations working on behalf of marginalized (DWD) communities. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Indian government take measures to protect the rights of civil society actors and ensure that they are able to carry out their work without fear of reprisals.
<b>Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders</b>	In 2016, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the harassment and intimidation faced by human rights defenders working on issues affecting DWD communities in India. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Indian government take measures to protect the rights of human rights defenders and ensure that they are able to carry out their work without fear of reprisals.
<b>Working Group on the issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice</b>	In 2019, the Working Group expressed concern about the intersectional discrimination faced by DWD women in India, particularly in access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The Working Group recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that DWD women enjoy equal rights and opportunities.
<b>Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education</b>	In 2018, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the persistent gaps in access to education for DWD communities in India, particularly in terms of quality and relevance of education. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that DWD children have equal access to quality education.
<b>Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity</b>	In 2017, the Independent Expert expressed concern about the persistence of caste-based discrimination in India, including against DWD communities. The Independent Expert recommended that the Indian government take measures to address these issues and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their caste, enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

## Universal Periodic Review

---

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process conducted by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) to assess and review the human rights records of all UN Member States. In the following cycles of India's UPR, the issues of DWD were highlighted:

### 3rd cycle UPR

During India's third cycle UPR in 2017, several countries expressed concern about the discrimination and violence faced by DWD communities in India. Some countries recommended that India take measures to ensure that DWD communities have access to justice and equal opportunities, and that measures be taken to address the root causes of discrimination and violence.

### 2nd cycle UPR

During India's second cycle UPR in 2012, several countries also expressed concern about the situation of DWD communities in India. Some countries recommended that India take measures to address the root causes of discrimination and ensure that DWD communities have access to education, employment, and healthcare services.

### Outcome Report

The UPR also produces an outcome report that summarizes the recommendations made by member states during the review process. The outcome report of India's third cycle UPR in 2017 included several recommendations related to the rights and situation of DWD communities in India, including recommendations to address the root causes of discrimination, ensure access to justice and equal opportunities, and take measures to eliminate violence against these communities<sup>lv</sup>.

---



## Response from International NGOs

### Amnesty International

■ **Caste-based discrimination:**

Amnesty International has highlighted the pervasive and systemic nature of caste-based discrimination in India, which affects the rights and opportunities of DWD communities. Amnesty has called on the Indian government to take measures to ensure that all forms of discrimination based on caste are eliminated and that DWD communities have equal access to education, healthcare, and other services.

■ **Violence against SC and ST communities:** Amnesty International has also expressed concern about the high levels of violence and abuse faced by DWD communities in India, including police brutality, extrajudicial killings, and sexual violence. Amnesty has called on the Indian government to take measures to prevent and investigate such violence, and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.

■ **Access to justice:** Amnesty International has highlighted the barriers that DWD communities face in accessing justice in India, including discrimination by the police and the judiciary. Amnesty has called on the Indian government to take measures to ensure that DWD communities have equal access to justice, and to address the systemic biases that prevent these communities from receiving fair treatment<sup>lvii</sup>.

### Human Rights Watch

■ **Violence against Dalits:** Human Rights Watch has documented numerous cases of violence against DWD communities in India, including caste-based discrimination, police brutality, and attacks by vigilante groups. Human Rights Watch has called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to prevent and punish such violence and to ensure that victims have access to justice.

■ **Discrimination in education:** Human Rights Watch has also documented the discrimination faced by DWD children in accessing education in India. This includes discriminatory practices such as separate seating arrangements, denial of midday meals, and verbal abuse by teachers. Human Rights Watch has called on the Indian government to take measures to ensure that all children, regardless of caste or tribe, have equal access to education.

■ **Land rights:** Human Rights Watch has highlighted the challenges faced by DWD communities in accessing and retaining land in India, including discrimination by authorities and powerful landowners. Human Rights Watch has called on the Indian government to take measures to ensure that these communities have secure land tenure and are protected from forced evictions<sup>lviii</sup>.



Photo by GFOD India



International NGOs have called on the Indian government to take measures to ensure that all forms of discrimination based on caste are eliminated and that DWD communities have equal access to education, healthcare, and other services.

## Oxfam International

Oxfam has highlighted the need to address the social and economic marginalization of DWD communities in India, including through policies that promote inclusive growth and equal access to resources. Oxfam has also called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination against these communities.

## International Dalit Solidarity Network

The International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) has documented numerous cases of caste-based discrimination and violence against DWD communities in India. IDSN has called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to prevent and respond to such discrimination and violence, and to ensure that Dalits have access to justice and equal opportunities.



## Parliaments and Governments at the International level:

Over the last few years, internationally, various governments and parliaments have taken cognizance of the increasing Indian diaspora and propagation of caste-based structures inside, as well as outside of India. As a result, they have responded by raising concerns over the issue of caste, adopting resolutions to protect Dalits globally and also called for taking action to end caste-based discrimination in India.

### ■ United States Congress:

The United States Congress has raised concerns about caste-based discrimination and violence against DWD communities in India, and has called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to prevent and respond to such abuses. In 2021, a group of members of the United States House of Representatives introduced a resolution calling on the US government to recognize and condemn caste-based discrimination and to promote the rights of Dalits globally<sup>lviii</sup>.

### ■ European Parliament:

The European Parliament has also expressed concerns about caste-based discrimination and violence against DWD communities in India, and has called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to address these issues. In 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for greater protection for Dalits and for the implementation of affirmative action policies to promote their inclusion in society<sup>lix</sup>.

### ■ United Nations Human Rights Council:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has raised concerns about caste-based discrimination and violence against Dalits and Adivasis in India, and has called on the Indian government to take stronger measures to prevent and respond to such abuses. In 2018, the UNHRC adopted a resolution calling for greater protection for Dalits and for the implementation of affirmative action policies to promote their inclusion in society<sup>lx</sup>.



*Photo by GFOD India*



In 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for greater protection for Dalits and for the implementation of affirmative action policies to promote their inclusion in society



# Key Observations and Learnings

# 09

## Major Findings

---

- A large part of DWD communities is involved in modern slavery which are the forms of Caste Based work. Modern slavery is a significant and ongoing challenge in India, affecting millions of people across the country, with DWD communities particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
  - DWD communities in India face significant discrimination and marginalization, including caste-based violence, social exclusion, and economic exploitation.
  - DWD communities continue to face deprivation in access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.
  - Economic inequality remains a significant challenge for DWD communities, with high rates of poverty and limited access to basic services such as sanitation and clean water.
  - Women and girls from DWD communities face multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual violence and forced marriage.
-

- 
- DWD communities face ongoing challenges in accessing justice and legal remedies, particularly in cases of caste-based violence and discrimination.
  - There is a need to take stronger measures to address the challenges faced by DWD communities, including the implementation of affirmative action policies, stronger anti-discrimination laws and enforcement mechanisms, and better access to education, healthcare, and other basic services.
  - Modern slavery is a significant and ongoing challenge in India, affecting millions of people across the country, DWD communities in particular, are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
  - Despite affirmative action policies and other measures aimed at promoting greater inclusion and social mobility for DWD communities, progress in addressing these issues has been slow and uneven.
  - There is a need for greater awareness and advocacy on the issue of caste-based discrimination and violence in India, both domestically and internationally, in order to promote greater understanding and support for the rights of DWD communities.
-



# Recommendations

# 10

## Focus Area

## Enacting Government Policies

### Recommendations

- **Strengthen the implementation of affirmative action and policies related to the affirmative action** : The government should take steps to strengthen the implementation of affirmative action as well as the policy implementation to strengthen the affirmative action, such as the implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, and the allocation and utilization of the Budget for DWD communities. There is a need to build capacities of the implementers through providing resources and training to officials responsible for implementing these policies.
- **Increase access to education and improve its quality**: The government should focus on improving the quality of education provided to DWD children, and ensuring that they have access to it. This could involve providing additional resources to schools in areas with a high proportion of DWD students and investing in teacher training and development. There is also a need to strengthen implementation process of scholarship schemes for SC students to study in higher education institutions.
- **Promote entrepreneurship and job creation**: The government should promote entrepreneurship and job creation among DWD communities, by providing access to finance, training, and other resources. This could involve setting up dedicated entrepreneurship development programs for these communities.
- **Address discrimination and social exclusion**: The government should take steps to address discrimination and social exclusion faced by DWD communities, by promoting awareness of their rights and taking action against discrimination and hate crimes. This could involve setting up a dedicated body to monitor and respond to incidents of discrimination and hate crimes and providing support to victims of such incidents.
- **Ensure adequate representation**: The government should ensure adequate representation of DWD communities in decision-making bodies and institutions. This could involve setting targets for representation and monitoring progress towards achieving them, and providing support and training to DWD candidates running for elected office.

## Focus Area

# Legislations

## Recommendations

- **Enact and implement anti-discrimination laws:** The government should enact and implement laws that specifically prohibit discrimination against SC and ST communities, and establish a mechanism to investigate and prosecute cases of discrimination. The laws should also provide for penalties for those found guilty of discrimination, including fines, imprisonment, and revocation of licenses or permits.
- **Strengthen laws protecting land and property rights:** SC and ST communities often face threats to their land and property rights due to exploitation and displacement. The government should strengthen laws that protect the land and property rights of these communities, and ensure that these laws are effectively enforced. This could involve providing legal assistance to communities facing eviction or dispossession and establishing mechanisms to address grievances related to land and property rights.
- **Ensure adequate representation in legislative bodies:** DWD communities are underrepresented in legislative bodies in India. The government should pass legislation that ensures adequate representation of these communities at all levels of government, including the national, state, and local levels.
- **Strengthen laws protecting the rights of women and children in DWD communities:** Women and children in DWD communities face multiple forms of discrimination and abuse, including gender-based violence and lack of access to education. The government should strengthen laws that protect the rights of women and children in these communities, and ensure that these laws are effectively enforced. This could involve providing support and resources to organizations working to prevent gender-based violence and promote education for girls in these communities.
- **Provide legal aid and support services:** DWD communities often lack access to legal aid and support services. This could involve establishing legal aid clinics and support centers in areas with a high proportion of DWD communities and providing training and resources to legal aid providers working with these communities.
- **Legislation for Budget Allocation for DWD communities:** Enact Budget legislation that will help in adequate fund allocation and utilization for the economic development of DWD communities.



## Focus Area

# Programs and Policies

## Recommendations

- **Promote education and literacy:** Education is key to improving the economic and social status of DWD communities. The government should formulate programs and projects that promote education and literacy among these communities, including setting up schools in areas with a high proportion of DWD students and providing scholarships and other forms of support along with a focus on free and quality education. Along with the special programs for DWD girl's education.
- **Provide access to credit and financial services:** DWD communities often lack access to credit and financial services, which can limit their ability to start or expand businesses. The government should formulate programs and projects that provide access to credit and financial services for these communities, including microfinance programs and credit guarantee schemes.
- **Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation:** The government should formulate programs and projects that encourage entrepreneurship and innovation among DWD communities, including providing support and resources for startups and promoting innovation in traditional industries.
- **Focus on skill development and vocational training:** The government should focus on skill development and vocational training programs for DWD communities, to help them acquire the skills needed to access better employment opportunities. These programs should be designed to meet the specific needs of these communities and provide them with marketable skills.
- **Gender Sensitization & Community Participation:** Gender sensitization programs can help address issues of domestic violence and discrimination faced by SC/ST women. Programs and projects should involve active participation from DWD women in the design, implementation, and monitoring of these initiatives. This can help ensure that their specific needs and concerns are adequately addressed.

## Focus Area

# Making Budget Allocations

## Recommendations

- **Increase budget allocation for education:** The government should increase its budget allocation for education for DWD communities with a special focus on DWD girls. This should include provisions for building schools and colleges in rural areas, scholarships, and other incentives for girls from these communities to encourage them to pursue higher education.
- **Increase budget allocation for land rights:** The government should increase its budget allocation for land rights programs that target DWD communities and DWD women. This should include provision for land surveys, land titles, and other measures that can ensure that these communities have secure land rights.
- **Increase budget allocation for gender sensitization:** The government should increase its budget allocation for gender sensitization programs for DWD communities and women. This should include provision for awareness generation campaigns about gender-based violence, domestic violence, and other forms of discrimination that women from DWD communities face.
- **Increase budget allocation for skill development:** The government should increase its budget allocation for skill development programs for DWD communities and DWD women. This should include provision for relevant skill training that can lead to income-generation activities and employment opportunities.
- **Ensure that Budget should get allocated as per the population of DWD communities.**

**Increases in budget allocation for education for DWD communities should have a special focus on DWD girls. This should include provisions for building schools and colleges in rural areas, scholarships, and other incentives for girls from these communities to encourage them to pursue higher education.**

## Focus Area

# Improving Organizational Mechanisms

## Recommendations

- **Establish a National Commission for DWD Women:** The government should establish a separate National Commission for DWD Women, with the mandate to protect and promote their rights and interests. The commission should have the power to investigate complaints and take action against discrimination and violence faced by SC/ST women.
- **Establish Special Courts for DWD Women:** The government should establish special courts for DWD women, with the mandate to provide speedy and effective justice to women from these communities who are victims of violence and discrimination.
- **Establish a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up:** The government should establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with the mandate to monitor the implementation of policies and programs for DWD communities and DWD women. The mechanism should work in close collaboration with other departments and committees to ensure that the needs of these communities are adequately addressed.
- **Increase Representation of DWD Communities in Decision-Making Bodies:** The government should take measures to increase the representation of DWD communities and women in decision-making bodies at all levels. This can include provision for reservation of seats in local bodies, state assemblies, and parliament.
- **National Mechanism for Protection and Promotion of Labour Rights and Protection:** Needs special provision to monitor working hours, safety policies, health, and protection for DWD communities along with specific protection for DWD communities.

The government should take measures to increase the representation of DWD communities and women in decision-making bodies at all levels.





## Focus Area

# Review Committee

## Recommendations

- **Establish a National Review Committee for DWD Development:** The government should establish a National Review Committee for DWD Development, with the mandate to review and evaluate the implementation of policies and programs that target DWD communities and SC/ST women. The committee should make recommendations for improvement of the socio-economic development of the community and monitor the progress of the government's efforts.
- **Establish a National Commission for Review of DWD Atrocities:** The government should establish a National Commission for Review of DWD Atrocities, with the mandate to review and evaluate cases of atrocities committed against SC/ST communities and SC/ST women. The commission should make recommendations for action and monitor the progress of the government's efforts to prevent such atrocities



Photo by Naveen Gautam

# 11 Conclusion

Rapidly emerging as a rising global power, India is a country marked with a vast cultural diversity. At the same time, it is a country grappled with pervasive inequalities and structural hierarchies. These hierarchies, rooted in the system of caste, have kept the Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, also known as Dalits, excluded from the benefits of economic, cultural and infrastructural developments. Rather, Dalits are often the exploited lot on whose shoulders these fast-paced advancements have been taking place. This is because of inter-generational discrimination and forms of exclusion that have kept a large part of these communities tied to their traditional occupations and forms of modern slavery. These forms of slavery include bonded/ forced labour, manual scavenging, sex work and ritualistic sexual slavery etc.

Among the countries with DWD communities, India has made considerable progress in establishing constitutional provisions, policies and budgetary allocation to acknowledge and safeguard the rights of these communities. Some of these provisions include Fundamental Rights that prohibit the practices of discrimination and untouchability, Affirmation Action in the form of reservations in higher education, public employment etc., Targeted Budgeting and so on. While these provisions and safeguards have facilitated access to higher education and greater employment opportunities for Dalits, they have not made a significant dent in the traditional structures of caste hierarchies. Addressing these challenges and standing up to the corridors of power, a number of community organizations have mobilized Dalits on the ground to demand their rights and work towards their social and political empowerment. Their efforts have also resulted in gaining attention towards these issues at the Global level from the UN treaty bodies and Special Procedures, as well as from Global organizations such as Amnesty and Oxfam.

Major findings of the report have showcased that despite legal and socio-economic protections in place, a large part of the DWD communities are involved in forms of modern slavery and continue to face discrimination and deprivation in access to education, healthcare and employment opportunities. Accessing justice and legal mechanisms is also a challenge for these communities as these mechanisms continue to favour the dominant castes. Moreover, women and gender minorities from these communities face added disadvantage based on gender, and are exploited for their physical and sexual labour.

**It has been over 75 years since India gained independence. As time progresses, there is an increasing urgency to eradicate forms of slavery and discrimination based on work and descent.**





*Photo by Sudharak Olwe*

## Collectively Carving the Path Ahead

In order to address the challenges faced by DWD communities in India, action needs to be taken with a multi-layered approach with various stakeholders involved. Government initiatives and implementation of national laws and policies are possibly the single most important tool to eradicate Discrimination based on Work and Descent. These initiatives involve, but are not limited to, enacting Government policies in order to strengthen the implementation of affirmative action policies, access to education, promoting entrepreneurship and job creation; legislations to strengthen the legal framework in place for the DWD communities; dedicated organizational mechanisms to address specific CDWD issues; provision of legal aid and support to CDWD; and budgetary allocations.

However, it is extremely important to recognize the crucial role that international organizations can play, with the United Nations at the forefront, in addressing the issues of DWD communities in India. Through the efforts of various civil society organizations, Dalits in India have joined hands with other DWD communities across the world, and the UN has proved to be a significant platform to inculcate such a solidarity and process of advocacy. UN interventions, in the form of international conventions, monitoring and reporting, funding, and advocacy are crucial for creating global awareness, capacity building and ratification of conventions and treaties by the state. In this regard, civil society organizations work as continuous

In this regard, civil society organizations have a vital role as bridges connecting the UN, national governments, and grassroots communities. Their efforts in advocacy, mobilization, publishing policy papers and research reports to reflect grassroots realities are of extreme importance. Therefore, as we envision a future of greater equality and rights for the CDWD, there is a need to foster greater collaboration amongst various stakeholders as we move forward.





# Bibliography

## List of Reports:

1. Oxfam Report – Inequality Kills – India Supplement 2022 - Oxfam (2022). Inequality Kills: India Supplement 2022
2. Global Estimates of Modern Slavery - FORCED LABOUR AND FORCED MARRIAGE - International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017
3. Oxfam India - INDIA DISCRIMINATION REPORT 2022 – Summary Edition – A Movement to end discrimination -2022
4. Gender-related killings of women and girls: Improving data to improve responses to femicide/feminicide – UN Women -2022
5. Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Forced Labour and Forced Marriage – International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, 2022
6. No Lockdown On Caste Atrocities – Stories of Caste Crimes During The Covid-19 Pandemic – Report Published Mar 2021
7. Quest for Justice – Status Report On The Implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Rules 1995 – SWADHIKAR, National Movement for Justice (NDMJ)- NCDHR-2020
8. Crimes in The Name of Honour – A National Shame – DHDRNet -2022
9. Caste Based Sexual Violence and State Impunity – DHRDNER – Mar 2022
10. Monitoring Report on Implementation of the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 & Rules 1995 in Maharashtra- April 2023

## Website & News Articles:

1. Global Slavery Index 2021
2. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
3. Census Report India -2011
4. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
5. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
6. <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/>
7. <https://www.foundationsforpeace.com/dalit-foundation-india/>
8. <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>
9. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/owner-of-brick-kiln-compels-worker-to-eat-human-faeces/articleshow/68433568.cms>
10. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/jaipur/dalit-boys-death-teacher-tried-to-buy-family-silence-8090542/>
11. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dalit-women-not-allowed-to-enter-temple/article29847456.ece>

## Endnotes

- <sup>i</sup><https://globalforumcdwd.org/expanded-working-paper-by-mr-asbjorn-eide-and-mr-yozo-yokotaon-the-topic-of-discrimination-based-on-work-and-descent/>
- <sup>ii</sup><https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/india-population>
- <sup>iii</sup><https://legislative.gov.in/constitution-of-india/>
- <sup>iv</sup><https://knowindia.india.gov.in/states-uts/>
- <sup>v</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eighth\\_Schedule\\_to\\_the\\_Constitution\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eighth_Schedule_to_the_Constitution_of_India)
- <sup>vi</sup><https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/national-language-of-india-1617710309-1>
- <sup>vii</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/info/WCMS\\_175936/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/info/WCMS_175936/lang--en/index.htm)
- <sup>viii</sup><https://www.census2011.co.in/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20census%20reports,382%20persons%2Fsq.km.>
- <sup>ix</sup><https://www.oxfam.org/en/india-extreme-inequality-numbers>
- <sup>x</sup><https://www.adb.org/publications/understanding-poverty-india#:~:text=The%20recently%20introduced%20multi%20dimensional,to%20display%20'intense%20poverty'.>
- <sup>xi</sup><https://secc.gov.in/homepage.htm>
- <sup>xii</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste\\_system\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste_system_in_India)
- <sup>xiii</sup><https://www.clearias.com/caste-system-in-india/>
- <sup>xiv</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste\\_system\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste_system_in_India)
- <sup>xv</sup><https://thelogicalindian.com/story-feed/awareness/caste-system-and-untouchability-in-india/?inifinitescroll=1>
- <sup>xvi</sup><https://thelawmatics.in/abolition-of-untouchability-article-17-of-the-indian-constitution/>
- <sup>xvii</sup><https://socialjustice.gov.in/common/76664>
- <sup>xviii</sup><https://www.census2011.co.in/scheduled-castes.php>
- <sup>xix</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/publications/WCMS\\_854733/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/publications/WCMS_854733/lang--en/index.htm)
- <sup>xx</sup><https://blog.ipleaders.in/condition-dalits-india/>
- <sup>xxi</sup><https://ijsrst.com/paper/2419.pdf>
- <sup>xxii</sup> India Census 2011
- <sup>xxiii</sup>[https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_reports/AnnualReportPLFS2021-22F1.pdf](https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/AnnualReportPLFS2021-22F1.pdf)
- <sup>xxiv</sup><https://www.bibliomed.org/mnsfulltext/218/218-1619160783.pdf?1695227747>
- <sup>xxv</sup><https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>
- <sup>xxvi</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7440832/>
- <sup>xxvii</sup><https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/as-told-to-parliament-march-21-2023-maternal-mortality-went-down-to-97-per-100-000-live-births-in-2018-20-88390>
- <sup>xxviii</sup><https://www.jstor.org/stable/44002776>
- <sup>xxix</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6546215/>
- <sup>xxx</sup><https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/landlessness-takes-away-dalits-legal-and-official-validity-as-indian-citizens/story-1QeToTjwp3dbdJjI93OXQJ.html>
- <sup>xxxi</sup>[https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user\\_folder/pdf/New\\_files/UN/HRC/Stigmatization\\_of\\_dalits\\_in\\_access\\_to\\_water\\_sanitation.pdf](https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/New_files/UN/HRC/Stigmatization_of_dalits_in_access_to_water_sanitation.pdf)
- <sup>xxxii</sup><https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/findings/regional-findings/asia-and-the-pacific/>
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> Sarma, Marla (1981) Bonded Labour in India, New Delhi: Biblia Impex.
- <sup>xxxiv</sup><https://www.actionaidindia.org/making-bonded-labour-systems-history-a-task-that-awaits-completion/>



- <sup>xxxv</sup><https://gfod.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-study-of-South-Asian-countries-of-Bangladesh-India-Nepal-Pakistan-and-Sri-Lanka.pdf>
- <sup>xxxvi</sup><https://idsn.org/21793-2/>
- <sup>xxxvii</sup><https://gfod.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-study-of-South-Asian-countries-of-Bangladesh-India-Nepal-Pakistan-and-Sri-Lanka.pdf>
- <sup>xxxviii</sup><https://thesocialtalks.com/news-analysis/bonded-labor-in-indias-brick-kiln-industry-a-tale-of-betrayal-and-exploitation>
- <sup>xxxix</sup><https://mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/1566.pdf>
- <sup>xl</sup>[https://www.pria.org/knowledge\\_resource/1560777260\\_Occasional%20Paper%204%20\(2019\)%20\(Lived%20Realities%20of%20Women%20Sanitation%20Workers%20i....pdf](https://www.pria.org/knowledge_resource/1560777260_Occasional%20Paper%204%20(2019)%20(Lived%20Realities%20of%20Women%20Sanitation%20Workers%20i....pdf)
- <sup>xli</sup><https://thewire.in/labour/understanding-the-problems-of-indias-sanitation-workers>
- <sup>xlii</sup>[https://www.epw.in/sites/default/files/engage\\_020-0027-5](https://www.epw.in/sites/default/files/engage_020-0027-5)
- <sup>xliii</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bride\\_buying\\_in\\_India\\_pdf/2020/07/06/157122.pdf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bride_buying_in_India_pdf/2020/07/06/157122.pdf)
- <sup>xliv</sup><https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/>
- <sup>xlv</sup><https://www.voanews.com/a/in-india-human-traffickers-target-tribal-women-and-girls/7235083.html>
- <sup>xlvi</sup><https://www.vice.com/en/article/gkdjy3/indian-authorities-wont-help-millions-of-trafficked-women>
- <sup>xlvii</sup><https://ijae.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41257-020-0027-5>
- <sup>xlviii</sup><https://auramag.in/why-does-the-devadasi-system-still-exist-after-75-years-of-independence/>
- <sup>xlviii</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/may/18/india-child-labour-law-families-poverty>
- <sup>xliv</sup><https://femnet.de/en/materials-information/our-subjects/modern-slavery-in-indian-spinning-mills.html>
- <sup>l</sup><https://ncrb.gov.in/crime-in-india.html>
- <sup>li</sup><https://www.roundtableindia.co.in/socio-economic-overview-of-dalits-in-india/>
- <sup>lii</sup><https://sansad.in/lis>
- <sup>liii</sup><https://www.dhrdnet.org/honour-crimes-research-report/>
- <sup>liv</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste-related\\_violence\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste-related_violence_in_India)
- <sup>lv</sup> Outcome report of the Universal Periodic Review, September 2017
- <sup>lvi</sup> Amnesty International India website
- <sup>lvii</sup> Human Rights Watch report, "Broken People: Caste Violence Against India's 'Untouchables'", 2016
- <sup>lviii</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/5/14/calls-to-tackle-caste-based-discrimination-in-us-gather-steam>
- <sup>lix</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2013-0420\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2013-0420_EN.html)
- <sup>lx</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/31/human-rights-watch-submission-u>
-









Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD) is the UN terminology used for communities who are traditionally and intergenerationally discriminated based on their identity, social-hierarchical positions, the work associated with their positions, and their lineage and descendants.

This report on status of CDWD delves into the multifaceted struggle and the evolving status of Dalits in India, shedding light on the profound challenges they have faced and the courageous strides they have made toward social justice.

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on  
Work and Descent (GFoD)  
2024



Scan the QR Code to visit our website  
Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and  
Descent (GFoD)  
<https://www.globalforumcdwd.org>

