

A Minor Research Project on
Violence against Women: A Comparative Study on Violence
Faced by Dalit Women and Women in General of
Dakshina Kannada District (2006-2010)



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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON VIOLENCE
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DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT (2006-2010)**

INTRODUCTION:

Violence in general and violence against women in particular has become a major social issue today. Independent India, even after sixty five years, is plagued by widespread violence against the women in general and women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular. Despite the Constitutional guarantees seeking to protect and promote the interest of these groups, violence against them continue to be on the rise, due to various historical, social, political and economic reasons. To redress the situation, the Parliament, has enacted various legislations-both preventive and punitive-in an attempt to strike at the root of the problem.

Dalit women due to their socio, economic and political vulnerability have been exposed to multiple forms of violence throughout history. They face caste and gender based violence and discrimination as they are placed at the lowest strata of caste, gender and class hierarchies. In India, though we have constitutional and legislative safeguards to protect Dalit women from discrimination and violence, they have been ineffective due to the deep rooted caste and gender biases within the enforcement agencies. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in its concluding Comments on India noted concern about “the ongoing atrocities committed against Dalit women and the culture of impunity for perpetrators of such atrocities”. It also calls upon

the State party to increase Dalit women's legal literacy and improve their access to justice in bringing claims of discrimination and violation of rights.

Keeping these issues in mind, the present work is a modest attempt to explore and examine the phenomenon of violence against Women in general and violence against Dalit Women in particular, in the district of Dakshina Kannada for the period of 2006 to 2012. The District of Dakshina Kannada chosen for two reasons. First, this district has been declared not only 100% literate district but also witnessed as the fast declining district in poverty. Secondly, unlike other districts of Karnataka, Dakshina Kannada has enormous resources in terms of medical colleges, engineering colleges, schools and colleges and all kinds of educational institutions which attract people from all over the world. The growth of banking sector and commercial activities in the district was made the district to create its own space in the globe. In spite of all these developments, some of the serious social problems, especially the violence committed against women and Dalit women are a matter to be reckoned seriously for that it exists even today in a modernised district like Dakshina Kannada. However, this will be an attempt to locate the issues of violence in Dakshina Kannada and analyse the status of social response to it.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study is considered to be significant in the sense that it simultaneously looks into the nature of Indian society on the one hand and the other it will examine the pattern of stereotyped gender, caste and class violence's against the principle of equality. The

study aims to make the comparative analysis of violence against Women in general and Dalit women in particular. The main objectives of the study are:

- ❖ The primary objective is to understand the term violence in its different forms and relate it to the people like women and Dalit women, who experience it every time;
- ❖ To review various legal measures introduced in favour of women and Dalit women particularly during pre and post-independence periods and its impact,
- ❖ To analyse the nature of violence against women and dalit women in particular; and to examine and analyse the causes behind the violence;
- ❖ To study and understand the response of the State (Police, District administration and other authorities) and Civil Society towards the victims approaching them for justice;
- ❖ To study the measures taken by the District administration to prevent violence against Women and Dalit women;

METHODOLOGY:

This study will be conducted with the help of a detailed questionnaire. Both primary and secondary sources are also analysed for the purpose of the study. Primary data will be obtained from the interviews with the help of questionnaire and observation of the sample. However, the relevant data will be collected also from the First Information Report (FIR) and copies of judgments of cases under study.

Secondary sources such as reports and other documents particularly of the National Commission for SCs and STs, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reports, National Commission for Women, relevant books, and journals will be extensively used for the purpose.
