

# ECONOMIC VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT ENTREPRENEURS IN TAMIL NADU

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## ABSTRACT

Dalit entrepreneurship is a growing concept which is emerging due to the improvements in socio-economic and educational status of dalit in the country. But dalit in business is not at a significant level while compared to the other communities with this aspect. In the light of this, the present research would be useful to explore the socio economic status, entrepreneurial profile, various problems, violation and discrimination encountered by dalit entrepreneurs in the study area.

**KEY WORDS:** economic violation, discrimination, Dalit entrepreneurship, human rights, economic rights, economic processes

## INTRODUCTION

With regard to the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs, State and inter-Governmental actions on human rights have failed to achieve anything more than modest success, the development of effective measures for the prevention and remedying of economic violations against dalit entrepreneurs, social and cultural rights must surely classify

as one of the most glaring. (Scott Leckie. 2010) Although the economic violation of dalit entrepreneurs has consistently reiterated the proposition that all human rights are intertwined responses to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, both procedural and substantive arrangements which guarantee the economic rights of the disadvantaged in the market ensure equality of opportunity and equality in the outcome of economic processes have paled in comparison to the seriousness accorded by infringements of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural Rights, despite much conceptual and interpretative progress in this area of law over the past decade. This state of affairs has little, however, to do with the nature of the obligations and rights established in the covenant jurisprudence which have kept economic, social and cultural rights wallowing in the relative purgatory of global efforts to secure human rights.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Ajay (2010)** has noted that the caste based system is no less graver than the violation faced by the blacks on racial grounds of race and thus needs to be fought at the international level. Dalit entrepreneurs are still persisting in the world's largest democracy despite the legal safeguards, and the human rights of this group are under a cloud of danger which quite often burst upon them making them vulnerable and denying them their right to be human.

**Artatrana Gochhayat(2013)** has pointed out that the scheduled caste entrepreneur violation has become a worldwide phenomenon and is increasing day by day in developing countries like India. Not a single day passes without papers reporting on violation of human rights in India. The vulnerable sections like dalits entrepreneur, women, children, minorities and other groups are violated without any fault of their own.

**Asha Das(2010)** has analysed that the dalit entrepreneurs are uniform irrespective of the religions they belong to. Yet persons of scheduled caste entrepreneur origin converted to Christianity are deprived of special protective provisions solely on the basis of religion. The violation or the disabilities handicaps arising are comparable in their oppressive severity to the violence faced by dalit entrepreneur's depressed classes in the Hindu religion.

**Devakumar(2007)** has examined that the economic status and violation against dalits entrepreneurs have not steadily increased over the past years. Tamil Nadu is one of the states that have recorded high incidences of violence against dalit entrepreneur. The state has witnessed some of the worst incidents of caste related oppression and deviations. Invariably, the people are at the bottom most level of the society.

**Lee Macqueen Paul**(2011) has attempted that dalit entrepreneurs in India, must draw attention of the humanitarian community to the pre existing vulnerabilities of dalit entrepreneurs which worsen their situation in disaster times. It is imperative to understand the root causes of multiple forms of marginalisation and violence meted out to the dalit entrepreneurs in the social, cultural, political and economic aspects of life, which get further magnified in the backdrop of disasters.

**Paul Frijters, et al**(2011) have remarked about the need to investigate entrepreneurship and credit constraints under labor market violation. We divide self-employed into those who prefer to be self-employed and those who prefer to have a salaried job but cannot find one; and also divide salaried workers into want-to-be entrepreneurs and happy-to-be salaried workers. Over 40 percent of migrant workers are either currently or want-to-be entrepreneurs.

**Savaraiah and Devarajulu**(2006) have highlighted that it is inevitable to create jobs for the scheduled caste in the private sector industries because the Government provides electricity, water at concession rates and is declaring tax-holidays. If the private sector denies the opportunities to scheduled caste in private sector, the human rights of weaker sections will be violated.

**Shalini Asrani and Sushma Kaushik**(2011) have recommended that dalit entrepreneur issue today is one of the worst examples of violence against the business, and the oppressive living conditions of millions of people in India. This violence persists despite Government efforts to improve the situation through affirmative action and land reform policies in the last 50 years which were ostensibly directed toward access to education and Government job.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The economic conditions of the dalits in Tamil Nadu have not been improved since independence because of economic violation against dalits by the caste Hindus and indirectly by the political parties. Social setup of the country is also not ready to accept and recognize the dalit people as the entrepreneurs or as businessmen. A dalit businessman fails because of his or her being a dalit. The situation should change through massive awareness about the evils of violation in the society. Caste discrimination in entrepreneurship becomes a treacherous problem which results in low productivity, wastage of resources and unemployment. The present paper draws the attention of economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in India in general.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The primary objective of the study is to measure the economic violence against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu

## HYPOTHESIS

The following are the major hypothesis have been formulated and tested in the present study.

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

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

There is no significant difference between discrimination and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

There is no significant difference between equal rights and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs

There is no significant difference between upper caste and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs

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

There is no significant difference between obstacles for business and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs

There is no significant difference between financial assistance and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

There is no significant difference between Training programmes and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

There is no significant difference between infrastructure facility and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research paper is descriptive in nature using both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished sources. Stratified random sampling method was used as the sampling technique. There are 2910 dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu as per the record of Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Chennai, of which 640 respondents (22%) are taken as sample size for the study. 20 respondents from each district

have been chosen, of which 10 respondents are from rural and 10 from urban region. Convenient sampling techniques were applied to select the sample respondents. The study area is the State of Tamil Nadu. There are 32 districts in this state and it is considered as 'Universe' for the purpose of collection and analysis of data. The study has covered a period of two years from August 2012 to July 2014, which includes the data collection period from January 2013 to June 2013.

**Table 1 Reason for Economic Violation against dalit entrepreneurs**

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

Source: Primary data

The above table explained the reason for economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs. A maximum of 394 (61.6%) of respondents strongly agree and a minimum of 9 respondents (1.4%) strongly disagree with "no land holding" as major reason for economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 2 Ways of Violation**

Ways	Value	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderately Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
No Respect of Talent	No.	19	28	115	217	261	640
	%	3.0	4.4	18.0	33.9	40.8	100
No Opportunities	No.	12	33	118	201	276	640
	%	1.9	5.2	18.4	31.4	43.1	100

Not considering Experience	<b>No.</b>	17	29	118	190	286	640
	<b>%</b>	2.7	4.5	18.4	29.7	44.7	100
Exploiting the Basic Rights	<b>No.</b>	6	15	77	108	434	640
	<b>%</b>	0.9	2.3	12.0	16.9	67.8	100
Untouchability	<b>No.</b>	9	24	97	67	443	640
	<b>%</b>	1.4	3.8	15.2	10.5	69.2	100

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.3 indicates the ways of violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. A maximum of 434 respondents (67.8%) strongly agree and a minimum of 6 respondents (0.9%) strongly disagree with “exploiting the basic rights” as the for way of violation against dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 3 Opinion on Discrimination in Business**

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

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.5 shows that 6 respondents (0.9%) were highly not correct; 28 respondents (4.4%) were not correct; 69 respondents (10.8%) were moderately correct; 94 respondents were correct (14.7%) and 443 respondents (69.2%) were absolutely correct in their opinion on discrimination in business. A maximum of 443 respondents (69.2%) were absolutely correct and a minimum of 6 respondents (0.9%) were highly not correct in the opinion on discrimination of dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 4 Opinion on Equal Rights in Business**

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Highly not correct	3	.5
2	Not correct	22	3.4
3	Moderate	92	14.4
4	Correct	82	12.8

5	Absolutely correct	441	68.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

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

**Table 5 Dominated by Upper caste entrepreneurs**

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

Source: Primary data

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

It is found that 3 respondents (0.5%) disagree; 77 respondents (12.0%) were no opinion; 173 respondents (27.0%) agree and 387 respondents (60.5%) strongly agree with “dominated by upper caste entrepreneurs”.

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

**Table 6 Compete with upper Caste Entrepreneurs**

Dimension	Value	Highly Not Correct	Not Correct	Moderate	Correct	Absolutely Correct	Total
Level of	<b>No.</b>	3	34	120	198	285	640
Investment	<b>%</b>	0.5	5.3	18.8	30.9	44.5	100
Small	<b>No.</b>	3	18	109	199	311	640
Concern	<b>%</b>	0.5	2.8	17.0	31.1	48.6	100
Marginal	<b>No.</b>	7	28	112	269	224	640
opportunities	<b>%</b>	1.1	4.4	17.5	42.0	35.0	100

Less Customers	<b>No.</b>	0	21	79	213	327	640
	<b>%</b>	0	3.3	12.3	33.3	51.1	100
Recently originated	<b>No.</b>	0	24	71	80	365	640
	<b>%</b>	0	3.8	11.1	28.1	57.0	100
Moral support	<b>No.</b>	3	38	85	205	309	640
	<b>%</b>	0.5	5.9	13.3	32.0	48.3	100
Support from Dalit	<b>No.</b>	11	70	91	190	278	640
	<b>%</b>	1.7	10.9	14.2	29.7	43.4	100
Change of Attitude	<b>No.</b>	20	28	62	196	334	640
	<b>%</b>	3.1	4.4	9.7	30.6	52.2	100

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.11 indicates the competing with upper caste entrepreneurs for dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. A maximum of 365 respondents (57.0%) strongly agree and a minimum of 24 respondents (3.8%) were not correct on “recently originated the business” these are the major problems of competition by upper caste entrepreneurs and dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 7 Obstacles for business**

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

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.13 indicates the various obstacles for business faced by dalit entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. A maximum of 209 respondents (32.7%) were very highly



affected and a minimum of 53 respondents (8.3%) were affected by the “support and supporters” as the major problems for business for dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 8 Repaying of loans by dalit entrepreneurs**

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

Source: Primary data

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

**Table 9 Training Programmes**

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Strongly Disagree	22	3.4
2	Disagree	43	6.7
3	No opinion	119	18.6
4	Agree	179	28.0
5	Strongly agree	277	43.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.17 shows the details of training programmes.

It is clear that 22 respondents (3.4%) strongly disagree; 43 respondents (6.7%) disagree; 119 respondents (18.6%) have no opinion; 179 respondents (28.0%) agree and 277 respondents (43.3%) strongly agree. A maximum of 277 (43.3%) of the respondents strongly agree with the impact of training programme to promote their business.

**Table 10 Infrastructure facility**

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Not Affected	7	1.1
2	Affected	6	0.9
3	Moderately Affected	47	7.3
4	Highly Affected	153	23.9
5	Very Highly Affected	427	66.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

The table no 4.19 shows the details of infrastructure facility,

It is found that 7 respondents (1.1%) were not affected; 6 respondents (0.9%) were affected; 47 respondents (7.3%) were moderately affected; 153 respondents (23.9%) were highly affected and 427 respondents (66.7%) were very highly affected.

A maximum of 427 respondents (43.3%) strongly agree with the impact of infrastructure facility for dalit entrepreneurs.

**Table 11 Test of Hypothesis**

S.No	Hypothesis	DF	F-Value	P-Value	Result
1	Economic violation and Initial Stage Problems	2	10385.942	0.000**	Significant
2	Ways of Violation and Initial stage Problems	7	16.230	.000**	Significant
3	Discrimination and Financial Problems	2	636.336	.000**	Significant
4	Equal Rights and Financial Problems	2	2.472	.085*	Not significant
5	Upper caste and Financial Problems	2	6.444	.002**	Significant
6	Domination and Marketing Problems	2	458.159	.000**	Significant
7	Obstacles for business and Marketing Problems	3	498.306	.000**	Significant
8	Financial Assistance and Marketing Problems	2	290.616	.000**	Significant

9	Training programmes and other problems	2	635.171	.000**	Significant
10	Infrastructure facility and other problems	3	339.497	.000**	Significant

The above hypothesis analysis, all the hypothesis has been accepted except the hypothesis on Equal Rights and Financial Problems at 1% level of significance

## FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The economic conditions of the dalits in Tamil Nadu have not improved since independence because of economic violation against dalits by the caste Hindus and indirectly by the political parties.

Since the dalit population accounted for 19 per cent of the total population in the country, only 2,33,880 enterprises are owned by dalits in India and they mostly belong to traditional and caste base business. Therefore, there is a special scheme is needed to promote dalits as entrepreneurs.

Cultural and state Government have been established financial and non financial institutions to promote the dalit entrepreneurship since independence. But the results have been very poor due to the attitude of the implementing authorities and personnel.

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

Though the dalit entrepreneurs are very much for upliftment, in the midst of politics and communal parties, differences and discriminations on account of caste, have not vanished in rural areas. Despite free mingling with people of other communities, discrimination creeps in during entrepreneurial development.

## CONCLUSION

Dalit entrepreneurs face violations by the co-entrepreneurs customers, suppliers, employees and Government offices. Dalit entrepreneurs are facing huge problems due to their origin and some of the dalit entrepreneurs attempt to escape from their dalit identity. In this regard this study concludes that, dalit entrepreneurs are facing the problems due to their caste affiliation. Without removing this kind of violation against dalit entrepreneurs, economic development through entrepreneurial growth may not be possible. Hence, the Government

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

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