

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF BASIC AMENITIES TO DALITS IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT

Situation of Dalit in the State as well as the Country

Executive summary:

Dalit are formally known as Scheduled caste. Those which were untouchable castes before independence are known as Scheduled caste after the independence. It is suggested by Indian Constitution to take constructive steps to remove their backwardness and bring them to the main stream. Constructive Constitutional steps are taken by reserving seats in politics and employment to remove the backwardness and untouchables so that they can mix with the main stream.

Variety of forms, proportion, spread and activities are being noticed on the basis of secondary data regarding prevailing untouchability with Dalit. For example, 90% of the villages do not allow dalit into the temple. Till 1980, well for drinking water were maintained separately for the dalit in 70% the villages. Dalit were not allowed to sit together with non-dalit while travelling. Even now, dalit can not get hair cut or shave done in barber's shop in 50 of the villages. Forms, proportion and activities of untouchability are varies area wise. Whenever and wherever dalit have protested against untouchability they had to struggle and get victimised of the exploitation.

In Gujarat, 16% of the total population is scheduled caste (dalit). Every year cases are being recorded for exploitation on 12% of the dalit. Gujarat is seventh in the rank as far as numbers of exploitation cases are concerned. Cases of untouchability are also recorded. Thus, it is essential to know whether political authority, participation of dalit and cooperation of non dalit is able to bring some change in standard and quality of living of dalit, availability and access of fundamental facilities by dalit.

Main Objectives of the Research

1. To know the availability of fundamental facilities in selected talukas.
2. Try to know about access of fundamental facilities like roads, crematorium, water, electricity, primary education, primary health, transportation from dalit community of the village.
3. To know about the reasons of not accessing fundamental facilities and try to know the aspects responsible for it.
4. To bring awareness in people, especially dalit regarding these issues.

Methods and procedures of Research

Primary data was collected by qualitative methods like participatory research method, group discussion and interview. Primary data is of village level. Data and statistics were collected from Panchayat house of respective villages. This government data is of village, taluka and district level.

Qualitative and descriptive data is collected by using participatory research method. Statistical data is used wherever required.

Village is the main unit for collecting primary data which is why some criteria were created for the selection of the village which is as under:

- Population of the village should not exceed 1500.
- Population of dalit should be 15 to 25 % of the total population.
- Three villages from one taluka should be selected. Villages should be 10 to 25 k.m. far from the taluka office. Out of three villages, one should be developed, one should be semi-developed and one should be non-developed.
- Out of the three villages (i) one village should be having independent panchayat and dalit/non-dalit sarpanch (ii) one village should be having group panchayat, panchayat house should be in the village and dalit/non-dalit sarpanch (iii) one village should be having group panchayat, panchayat house should be in the village but sarpanch should be of resident of other village

Strategy of Report

Research report is divided in three parts. Numbers below 10 are written in words.

- In first part, main objectives of the study, research methods, criteria to evaluate availability and access to fundamental facilities is described. It gives superficial view of situation of 16 villages of five talukas of Banaskantha district. Report of every village consists of 16 to 20 pages. Report of each taluka is prepared separately. This note is included in all taluka reports so that how the availability and access of fundamental facilities is can be made clear with reference to socio-political situation at taluka level.
- In second part of the report taluka wise data of 16 villages is presented. Taluka and villages are arranged alphabetically. For example, Tharad, Dhanera, Palanpur, Vadgam and Vav where Kasvi, Nani paved and Lorvada village in Tharad taluka.
- Each chapter has data regarding each village.

Road facility

- All the villages have RCC road but dalit were the last to get the benefit of it. Out of 16 villages, 6 villages have poor quality of roads.
- Most of the roads are made from the financial help given by SGRY scheme. If this scheme would not have been implemented, dalit would not have got this facility.

Facility of Crematorium

Three things have been taken care of in this regard - Space is sufficient in proportion to the population, land for crematorium is lawful and land for crematorium comes under encroachment.

- Out of 16 villages, only Moriya village of Vadgam taluka has lawful land for crematorium of Shrimali/Chamar. Rest of the villages do not have lawful crematorium.
- Out of 16 villages, 5 villages have insufficient land for crematorium in proportion to the population of the village.
- Out of 16 villages, land of crematorium is under encroachment in 7 villages.

Facility of water

- Untouchability was maintained even before 1980 where deep well were used to get drinking water. Dalit had to wait long to get water. Situation has improved after 1980

because of the implementation of various schemes by Social welfare department and Water Supply Board.

- Untouchability is maintained with valmiki caste in Radka village of Vav taluka in case of water.

Facility of Electricity

Facility of residential electricity connection, public electricity connection and electricity for agriculture was evaluated for this.

- In most of the villages, 60 to 80% families were able to take benefit of electricity. Rest of the people do not take the connection because of poor economic conditions. Valmiki of dalit community and Kolithakor of non-dalit community are the one who are not able to take the benefit because of their poverty.
- Out of 16 villages, three villages have public lights in working condition where as in other villages public light facility is unavailable.
- Villages near the desert in Vav and Tharad taluka do not have facility of electricity for agriculture.

Facility of Anganwadi and primary education

Number of dalit anganwadi karyakar, tedagar and teacher, behaviour with dalit children, behaviour of organiser and person who serves the meal with dalit children, discrimination with dalit in sitting arrangement in the classroom, etc. is kept in mind while evaluation it.

- Distance is kept between dalit and non-dalit children during lunch in all the villages
- Out of 16 villages, 6 villages have dalit anganwadi karyakar. In two villages, anganwadi tedagar is dalit. Out of 16 villages, 9 villages have dalit teacher. In 11 villages tedagar woman do not go to fetch dalit children,
- Children go to the primary school for education in proportion to the population of dalit but dalit woman and children take less benefit from anganwadi.

Facility of public health

Availability of government dispensary, appointment of health workers like doctor, nurse, malaria worker and midwife by government and their behaviour with dalit was evaluated in this segment.

- Out of 16 villages, no village has dalit doctor for animal. Three villages have dalit nurse and two villages have dalit malaria worker. Malaria worker do not come since five years in eight villages. Five villages have dalit midwife. Six villages have dalit and non-dalit midwife. Non-dalit midwife do not go to dalit community for delivery.

Sub Section 1: Condition of facility available to dalit where sarpanch is dalit

- ↳ All the sarpanch are elected from the reserved seat for scheduled caste.
- ↳ Nani paved villae of Tharad taluka, Kotdi village of Vadga taluka and Ambaliyala village of Palanpur taluka has dalit male sarpanch. Where as Aachuva village of Vav taluka and Nanameda village of Dhanera taluka has female dalit sarpanch. Of course, all administrative and political things are done by their husbands.
- ↳ Where there is dalit sarpanch, various developmental works is visible in the village. Money has been spent for roads and safety walls for dalit. Developmental work like RCC road in Nani pavad village of Tharad taluka, RCC road in Aachuva village of Vav taluka, two safety walls, RCC road and pipeline in Kotdi village of Vadgam, community hall, *nath*

construction, safety wall and RCC road in Nanameda village of Dhanera, storage for grains, clay work and RCC road in Ambaliyala village of Palanpur taluka are done.

- ↗ Out of five villages, no village had lawful crematorium. Non-dalits have tried to encroach the crematorium in two villages.
- ↗ Social justice committee is active only in Kotdi village of Vadgam taluka.
- ↗ Aachuva village of Vav taluka has dalit female sarpanch but her husband works according to the directives of the powerful person which is why developmental work is negligible.
- ↗ Developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to development of non-dalit residence first.

Condition of facility available to dalit where sarpanch is dalit

- ☞ All the sarpanch are elected from the reserved seat for scheduled caste.
- ☞ Developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to development of non-dalit residence first.
- ☞ Out of five villages, no village had lawful crematorium. Non-dalits have tried to encroach the crematorium in two villages.
- ☞ Social justice committee is active only in Kotdi village of Vadgam taluka.
- ☞ Dalit children are made to sit little away from non-dalit children during midday meal in all the villages.
- ☞ Non-dalit children do not eat if snacks made by dalit anganwadi karyakar. Patel community do not send their children to the anganwadi because anganwadi karyakar is dalit in Nanameda village.
- ☞ In Ambaliyala village of Palanpur taluka, dalit nurse do not go to dalit residence.

Sub-Section 2: Situation of facility available for dalit in villages where non-dalit sarpanch, Independent panchayat, and Panchayat house in the village

- ↗ All sarpanch are male. Sarpanch are Patel in Salempura village of Palanpur taluka and Radka village of Vav taluka. Sarpanch is prajapati in Moriya village of Vadgam taluka, Sarpanch is Rabari in Bhanjana village of Dhanera Taluka. Sarpanches of these three villages are Other backward class (OBC) by caste. Sarpanch of Lorvada village of Tharad taluka is Darbar where as Rajpur(5) village of Palanpur taluka has Majirana (Tribal) Sarpanch who is Schduled tribe by caste.
- ↗ Developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to development of non-dalit residence first.
- ↗ Sarpanch of all the villages are elected because of their good economic conditions, major population from their caste and powerfulness which is clear from below mentioned table.

Situation of facility available for dalit in villages where non-dalit sarpanch, Independent panchayat, and Panchayat house in the village

- ☞ Sarpanch of all the villages are elected because of their good economic conditions, major population from their caste and powerfulness.
- ☞ Developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to development of non-dalit residence first. Whatever money is spent for dalit development is spent from the 22.5% grant of SGRY.
- ☞ Social justice committee is not formed in one village where as it is active in other two villages.
- ☞ Out of five crematorium, four are non lawful. Non-dalits have encroached in three villages

where as negligible attention is paid to valmiki caste in this regard.

- ☞ Discrimination was seen till 1980 between dalit and non-dalit in case of availability and accessibility of water, especially when deep well were there. Non-dalit used to pour water from certain distance to the dalit. Though, this kind of discrimination is not seen after 1985 in case of water.
- ☞ Dalit children are made to sit little far from non-dalit children in all the villages.

Sub-Section 3: Situation of facility available for dalit in villages where Group panchayat, Sarpanch (non-dalit) and Panchayat house in other village

- ☞ Dalit sarpanch was elected from general seat in Group gram panchayat (Pilucha gram panchayat) of Bhookhla village of Vadgam taluka. Rest of the dalit sarpanch are elected from reserved seat for scheduled caste.
- ☞ Kasvi village of Tharad taluka, Sangla village of Palanpur taluka and Bhookhla village of Vadgam taluka has Patel sarpanch. Vasda village of Dhanera taluka has Nai sarpanch and Arjanpura of Vav taluka has Suthar sarpanch. All these sarpanch of five villages are OBC by caste.
- ☞ All the villages have group panchayat, non-dalit sarpanch and panchayat house in in other village. Only Kasvi village of tharad taluka has panchayat house in the village.
- ☞ In such a situation, developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to own village and development of non-dalit area.
- ☞ Sarpanch of all the villages are elected because of their good economic conditions, major population from their caste and powerfulness which is clear from below mentioned table.

Situation of facility available for dalit in villages where Group panchayat, Sarpanch (non-dalit) and Panchayat house in other village

- ☞ All these sarpanch of five villages are OBC by caste. Sarpanch of all the villages are elected because of their good economic conditions, major population from their caste and powerfulness.
- ☞ Developmental work is done even when non-dalit sarpanch is elected but priority is given to own village and development of non-dalit area. For example, no money is spent for development of dalit in Kasvi village of Tharad taluka and Sangala village of Palanpur taluka. Sangla village of Palanpur taluka has 30.6% dalit population where as Kasvi village has 22% dalit population. Rest of the villages have 18 to 25% dalit population. In Vasda and Bhookhla, money of half of the population is spent which is very less. Only in Arjanpura village of Vav taluka half money of the total development and more than third part of the dalit population is spent. Money is spent to construct *Nath*, pipeline and roads for dalit.
- ☞ In all the villages social justice committee is inactive. Those who are personally active are economically independent.
- ☞ No crematorium is lawful in five villages. No facility is available in any of the villages. Kasvi, Vasda and Sangla village has insufficient land for crematorium even then no presentation has been made from the community in oral or writtern form. Other than Arjanpura of Vav taluka, no one has done anything for lawful crematorium and encroachment.
- ☞ Dalit children are made to sit little far from non-dalit children in all the villages. Vessels are also kept separate in Vasda village of Dhanera Taluka.