

## **GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON DALITS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Globalization appears to be the buzzword of 1990s which has penetrated many academic debates. The process of globalization has made deep inroads into India's social, economic and cultural life. It has not only affected all aspects of human life but also influenced the social institutions to a great extent. In order to promote the socio-economic justice many affirmative measures were introduced in the Indian Constitution and a lot of welfare schemes were initiated for the uplift of the underprivileged dalits. But globalization has not only threatened it but also made it very weak. In fact socio- economic justice and social welfare which is an integral part of Indian Constitution is slowly getting eclipsed because of privatization and globalization. It has created a new situation where dalits are pushed again in a state of anxiety. This paper seeks to investigate the implications of globalization in the arena of education, access to land, poverty, health care facilities, food securities etc. from the dalit perspectives.

### **Introduction**

Globalization is the new buzzword that has come to dominate the world since the nineties of the last centuries. It is the most widely debated and discussed phenomenon in all over the world. It is based on the principle of unrestrained functioning of the free market economy. In the paradigm of globalization, state is reduced into a sort of security mechanism to protect its citizens from internal disruption and external threats. State is not supposed to care for social and economic interests of its citizens. The world opinion is divided on what constitutes globalization and whether globalization is good or bad. The fact is that today almost every nation state is forced to become a part of a global economy.

Globalization as a new world economic order imposed on the world with a promise of more prosperity, progress and freedom for all. On the contrary, evidences show that globalization affected negatively in all these aspects for some communities particularly the dalit communities. (Dalits are a group of people who faced social discrimination in the worst form i.e. untouchability. It is used to connote the untouchables known as avarnas, pariahas, out-castes, exterior-castes etc. In the present work it has been also used to connote the Scheduled Castes.) More than two decades of implementation of these policies pertaining to globalization have severely affected the welfare and development of dalits. In this paper we will try to examine the magnitude and direction of the impact of these policies on the dalits in India.

Dalits are very distinct social groups in the caste-ridden Hindu society. They are the victims of social disabilities and oppression. Economically, most of them are still the poorest of the poor. Due to some affirmative actions, dalits have made a significant progress on almost all parameters during the 65 years of our independence. However, they are not empowered enough to face the challenges of competing equality. The backwardness of the dalits will be evident from their illiteracy, unemployment, dependence on agriculture and social segregation. In terms of residence, housing, poverty and health conditions the condition of the dalits is precarious (Karade ,2008:11-12). All these issues have historically been related to dalit deprivation and these have been aggravated by globalization over the last two decades.

The social disadvantages and disabilities suffered by the dalits were of serious concern in the constitution of India which was drafted under the chairmanship of Dr. Ambedkar. The constitution provided the dalits a number of safeguards, such as, (i) safeguards in social spheres; ii) safeguards in educational and cultural matters; (iii) economic safeguards (iv) safeguards in politics and (iv) safeguards in the public services. Dalits happened to be the beneficiaries of these affirmative measures before India entered into the realm of neo-liberal free market-economy. Actually the Indian State had brought some improvements in the lives of dalits making these special provisions to provide them education, employment, access to land, health, housing and other resources ( Ram :2).

However unsatisfactory the results of the implementation may be, the importance of reservations from the dalit view point cannot be undermined (George, 2013). But after the introduction of free market economy in the early 90's the welfare stance of the Indian State have become gradually ineffective. One of the main tasks of this new paradigm is to force the roll back process of the welfare state and to allow the market forces to operate in an unrestrained manner. The pro-market stance of globalization has led to the widening of the gap between the privileged few and the large mass of the marginalized sections of the society. Globalization further led to marginalization of the already marginalized sections of the society. In other words, globalization process severely affects the dalits and other underprivileged sections that are deprived of jobs, and face enormous difficulties in accessing education, employment, housing, food, healthcare etc. Thus the way globalization affects the lives of dalits differs significantly from that of the non-dalits(Ram: 3). So, we have to give a serious thought to the consequences of liberalization, privatization and particularly globalization on the socio-economic conditions of dalits.

Globalization has seriously affected the socio-economic conditions of dalits over the last two decades in terms of education, employment, access to land, poverty and other welfare programmes. Now we will try to give a picture to consequences of liberalization, privatization and particularly globalization on the socio –economic conditions of dalits in India in the following discussion.

### **Education**

Education is the most important pre-requisite for achieving the goals of personal, social, political, economic and cultural development. In other words, education is the most effective instrument for meeting the challenges that dalits are facing. Historical evidences in this regard indicate that dalit community has been excluded from the whole process of education since centuries. So, vast inequalities exist within the education system in India.

Although Article 21A of the Indian Constitution stipulates that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years it still remains an elusive

goal. However, owing to reservation and affirmative action in the arena of education, substantial progress has been made in the field of education of dalits during the last few decades. The literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) has increased from 10.27 per cent in 1961 to 54.7 per cent in 2001 and for the country as a whole has increased from 28.3 per cent in 1961 to 68.38 per cent in 2001. Available data also reveal that there has been substantial increase in the enrolment of children belonging to the dalits at all stages. So reservation in the educational institutions and the financial assistance in the form of scholarships constitute perhaps the most important factor in the development scheme for dalits (George,2013:14). It is a well known fact that without education other constitutional safeguards, reservation in services would be meaningless. It would also be hard for dalits to send their wards to the temple of learning. But it is to be kept in mind that the enrolment alone does not give any substantial amount of educational achievement when the rate of drop out is also substantially high among the dalits. Despite several kinds of State assistance, the dropout rate is also alarming at the primary, middle and secondary stages of education in respect of dalits.

In spite of that the sphere of primary and elementary education could not remain unaffected from globalization. Commercialization of education is continuously increasing. The system of primary and elementary education in rural and urban settings has been subverted almost totally. Since majority of the rich upper castes send their wards to the private/convent schools, government schools have been reduced into dysfunctional centres of learning for the marginalized sections of the society (Ram: 2). Dalit children do not have access or the opportunity to attend high-cost and presumably ‘good-quality’ private schools. These schools are primarily located in urban areas and are, therefore, not accessible to the larger part of dalit children. In addition to that the tuition fees are so high that they are not affordable to the vast majority of the dalits. For dalits, the question is not whether the dalits can afford to send their children to private schools, but whether they can afford to send their children to school at all (Jameela Pedecini: 14).

Even today, because of importance of the English language in business circles, the segregation between village and towns is almost completed in the sphere of education. So it is very difficult for a village student, educated in vernacular medium, to compete with his convent educated

counterpart in cities and towns (Teltumbde, 1997:22). Moreover, since the majority of the dalit students are generally enrolled in Arts and humanities, it becomes difficult for them to meet the job requirements of the multinational corporations.

Higher education is also severely affected by globalization. Due to reforms, the grants have already been frozen in many institutions and the expenditure on education, if not lowering, became stagnating. The free market ethos has entered in the educational sphere in a big way. So commercialization of education is no more a mere rhetoric; it is now a big reality. In other words, corporatization has also entered into this arena, transforming the education into an enterprise for profits. In the present day private educational institutions are more commonly known as education industry (George, 2013:12)

In contemporary India, a number of medical, engineering, management and technological institutions have grown up which are mainly privately owned and the passport for entrance of these institutions is a large amount of money popularly known as capitation fees. In fact prestigious specialized and super specialized courses, especially engineering, management, technology and medicine are highly expensive and inaccessible to the dalits. The emerging areas of software, bio-technology, bio-informatics are almost beyond the reach of the dalits. Many elite institutions like IIMs, IITs, suddenly facing fund crunch, had to increase their fee structure and other prices manifold which are not affordable for the dalits. In a true spirit of globalization many foreign universities are invading the educational spheres through hitherto unfamiliar strategic alliances with the commercial agencies, of course, at hefty dollar equivalent prices (Teltumbde, 1997:22). If wealth becomes the main criterion for admission, the wards of disadvantaged groups will not get any chance of entry into these educational institutions. It is precisely due to these reasons that dalits are rarely to be found in the prestigious management, engineering and technological institutions all over the country.

### **Reservation in Services**

Reservation in public employment has played a crucial role in the process of advancement of the dalits. Due to reservation the share of dalits in various government and semi-government

services have increased substantially in all the groups or classes during the last six decades. As per the available data, representation of SCs (Scheduled Castes) in Groups A,B,C and D as on 1965 was 1.64%, 2.82%, 8.88% and 17.75% respectively which has increased to 11.9%, 13.7%, 16.4% and 18.3% respectively as on 1.1.2005 (Mandal, 2010:157). Available data indicates that the representation of dalits in group A and B services has not yet reached the prescribed quota even after 66 years of our independence. Moreover, the representation of dalits in other fields like bank, insurance, judiciary, educational institutions etc. is significantly low than the non-dalit people. In spite of that the importance of reservations from the dalit viewpoint cannot be undermined. Whatever be the defects and deficiency, reservation in jobs have brought out a significant change in the overall socio-economic condition of dalits. It has not only widen the pace of social mobility but also provided some sort of mental stability and confidence to the communities as a whole (Mangekar, 2002: 295).

But with the adoption of the policy of liberalization, privatization and globalization the Indian State is giving up its social responsibilities one by one. The public sector is being surrendered to the private agencies so much so that even the high profit making infrastructural public sector undertakings which are called “Navaratnas”, (nine key public sectors) are being sold out by the government(Pal;2). Over the years almost all the sectors of economy stand opened up for private investment. The disinvestment has already been allowed more than 50 percent in existing Public sectors. Moreover, the policy of liberalization and privatization have reduced the number of employment opportunities which in turn reduced the job opportunities for the underprivileged sections especially the dalits and tribals in government services and public sector undertakings (Mandal,2009:45). The situation becomes more complicated owing to the abolition of thousands of posts arbitrarily by the government which also hits hard the employment of dalits and other workers in the government services and public enterprises (Pandhe, 2007). It is reported that in the Central Secretariat at Delhi alone 60,000 posts, particularly at the lower Levels, have been abolished during the period of 2003 – 04 and about 2,00000 employments all over the country have been erased (Vishnumurthy: 1). Of late many government industries and public sector enterprises have already been sold off through various forms of disinvestment and privatization. Job reservations are no longer binding on the new private owners of such enterprises. As a result,

employment opportunities of the dalits have drastically gone down. Further both the governments at the centre and the states have imposed restrictions on creation of new posts and new appointments for a long period. Moreover, the governments are now interested to make appointment on an ad-hoc or contract basis instead of regular basis. The question of reservation roster is not followed in this ad-hoc or contractual appointments both in the higher and lower level of posts (Balagopal, 2000:1081). Ad-hoc or contractual appointment will no doubt, harshly affect the provisions of reservation and the interests of the dalits in respect of services.

T a b l e – 1

Total number of Employees in Government and semi-government levels  
(No. in Lakhs)

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>
Union Government	31.95	33.97	33.95	32.73	31.95
State Government	56.76	69.79	73.55	74.6	73.84
Quasi Government	45.76	61.73	65.2	63.26	60.2
Local Bodies	154.84	187.72	194.67	193.14	187.74

**Source:** Economic Survey, 2003-04, Government of India

The data furnished in the Table-1 indicates that the employment under government and public sectors had stagnated during the middle of the 1990s and thereafter employment opportunities were, in fact, seen to be declining. As per the Economic Survey 2003-04, 13.64 lakhs jobs have been abolished during the period of 1995-2002. It is clear from the above data that globalization has resulted in reducing the staff in government departments. If the number of staff is reduced, it affects seriously the marginal sections particularly the dalits; In fact the drive to privatize the public sector has directly affected the reservations for the SCs and STs (Scheduled Tribes). Due to closure of thousands of mills and factories job opportunities have already been reduced enormously and this has also hit the dalits. Evidences in this respect indicate that during the 1990s and thereafter the employment opportunities in the private sector have been increasing. Now the private sector is the major source of employment in which there is no scope of

reservation for the dalits. Except Tata Group of Companies and Videocon Company, no other private company is willing to observe reservation policy in the recruitment of their company personnel. So due to shrinking size of public sector and employment and scope of employment in the private sector, demand for reservation in the private sector is gaining momentum in the country.

### **Impact on Traditional Occupations**

Globalization process has directly hit the traditional occupations of dalits. It is a well known fact that the dalits have historically specialized in the production of all kinds of artistic tools and equipments for household and agricultural production. But globalization is adversely impacting their traditional occupations now. Their livelihood and specialized occupation is now being replaced by global capitalistic productions. Easy availability of mass production goods from latest technology based industries at cheap prices has proved to be a big challenge for their traditional occupation (Sunar, 2012). Dalits neither have the capacity to compete with these productions nor do they have an alternative way so far to earn their livelihood. Our traditional artisan culture and technological knowledge is on the verge of ruin. Before the introduction of globalization as we know today, dalits would make a numerous essential equipment like pots, plough, clothes, shoes and other leather products etc. and also all kinds of artistic tools for music and dance. In fact, the smooth functioning of any household was simply impossible with the skill and craft of the dalit communities. We have to keep in mind, due to lack of adequate education and employment the livelihood of the majority of dalits are depended on their traditional occupation. So under the changing situation, the government needs to urgently take adequate steps to promote and preserve the unique role of these artisans and for realizing their full potential. Besides financial assistance and proper guidance the government should establish production factories for the traditionally skilled dalit community who can share their experience for producing goods and get employment. Priority should also be given to the local produce and artisans so their traditional occupation can be sustained (Sunar, 2012).

### **Access to Land**

The most disastrous effects of globalization policy can be seen in the deep agrarian crisis that had afflicted the rural sector. The vast majority of dalits live in rural areas. Some 89 per cent of

them still live in villages. More than 50 per cent of them are landless labourers, 26 per cent are marginal farmers. Only a small number of them are cultivators with marginal holdings (Teltambde, 2011). Large-scale landlessness on the part of the dalits led to their dependence on the upper caste land owning communities. The social and political influence of the land owning classes has tried to maintain their traditional hold over the agrarian system and structure. This means that an overwhelming majority of the dalit population in agrarian India does not have its own sources of sustenance and depends on landowners' land for their sustenance (Sinha, 2010:127). The successive central governments as well as state governments have failed to implement the land reforms for the last 66 years. Except for West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, the other state governments completely neglected land reforms. Instead of taking land reforms, all the governments are promoting depeasantisation of Indian agriculture (Teltambde : 15). The land instead of giving it to the landless labors is being given away to the big industries in the name of mega developmental projects or 'SEZ' (Special Economic Zone). In fact, as an integral part of globalization – liberalization policies the marginal people have lost their right over land (George, 2004, Kirtiraj: 285). Statistics also reveals that the incidence of landlessness has been increasing among dalits during the last two decades of globalization. The acquisition of the land from the people has not only created discontents but to conflict and violence among the farmers which has seen in the different parts of India. Due to such projects rural employment has sharply fallen and this has hit dalits, adivasis (Tribals) and women the most.

Moreover, the mechanization of agriculture has further compounded the rural employment situation. It is a well known fact that the globalization leads to capital-intensive mode of production and it requires a greater proportion of highly skilled workers to manage automated production process. So a large number of migrations of unskilled labor to the agricultural sector have lead to lower wages for agricultural workers as a whole. During the colonial times when products of western mechanized factories entered and dominated the local market then the lower caste artisans and laborers became unemployed. Similarly, due to modernization and extension of technology in agriculture, the dalits who worked as agricultural laborers were again unemployed. In fact, the number of agricultural labourers is increasing day by day. The percentage of rural dalit labour households with land declined from 44.38 per cent in 1974-75 to

35.05 percent in 1993-94. On the other hand the percentage of rural dalit labour households without land increased from 55.65 per cent in 1974-75 to 64.95 per cent in 1993-94 (George, 2013). Dispossession from land and commercialization of agriculture are the two main reasons behind this shift. Further the real wages of agricultural labourers of whom a large proportion are dalits, have fallen in many states. No efforts are made to implement minimum wage legislation even where it exists and periodic revision of minimum wage is also conspicuous by its absence. (Resolution of CPIM, 2006).

The average number of working days available to a dalit agricultural worker in a year is also decreasing day by day. The growing unemployment and loss of jobs in the wake of deteriorating economic conditions over the past 20 years or more under the reforms regime have also added to the misery of the poor. In other words, ongoing economic reform continues to increase prices and unemployment, and the reduction and elimination of all subsidies and social sectors expenditures has further worsened the economic condition for dalits (Farnando1997) as cited in kumar (ed.,2010:139). In fact higher costs of agricultural inputs like fertilizers, pesticides and seeds are making it virtually impossible for marginal farmers to survive. Farmers everywhere are being paid a fraction of what they received two decades ago. The results have been decreased net income of rural agrarian households as well as dalits households and thus lower purchasing capacity (Ghosh, 2001). As a result, hunger related deaths resurfaced in a big way in the 90's onwards for the first time since independence. A large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicides in different states of India.

In the case of dalits, there is a clear correlation between land holding and social and economic status. For improving socio-economic condition of vast majority of dalits, implementation of land reforms must be given highest priority as the majority of the dalits live in rural areas. In fact sincere and strict implementation of laws relating to land reforms, which aims to surplus land to the landless, would have greatly enhanced the socio-economic conditions of dalits who constitute a substantial proportion of the agricultural labour. But except for West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, the other state governments completely neglected land reforms.

## Atrocities

The caste atrocities are an integral part of the dalit life. The Indian state has adopted certain statutory provisions and Acts for protecting the rights of dalits. In spite of that India has systematically failed to protect the human rights of the dalits. Under the prevailing social situation, the dalit groups are considered to be an inferior social being. They are treated as sub-human beings or less-human beings, considered unworthy of any rights. Despite constitutional, legal and statutory provisions for removal of discrimination and atrocities, occurrence of violent incidents is rampant against dalits. In fact atrocities against dalits in the form of social boycott, murder, abduction, rape, kidnapping, grievous hurt, arson, intimidation, residential segregation have increased many folds during the economic reforms measures (Ram: 4). Tapan Basu (2008) in his review of Anand Teltumbde's book on *Khairlanji: A Strange and Bitter Crop* writes, “ .... the paradox of Indian modernity is that it instigates Dalits to fight for social justice, even as more and more social injustices are heaped upon them.”

Table-2

### Comparative Incidence of Crime Against Scheduled Castes

Sl. No.	Crime-Head	Year					% Variation in 2010 over 2009
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
(1)	(2)		(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
1.	Murder	673	674	626	624	570	-8.7
2.	Rape	1,217	1,349	1,457	1,346	1,349	0.2
3.	Kidnapping & Abduction	280	332	482	512	511	-0.2
4.	Dacoity	30	23	51	44	42	-4.5
5.	Robbery	90	86	85	70	75	7.1
6.	Arson	226	238	225	195	150	-23.1
7.	Hurt	3,760	3,814	4,216	4,410	4,376	-0.8
8.	Protection of Civil Rights Act	405	206	248	168	143	-14.9
9.	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act	8,581	9,819	11,602	11,143	10,513	-5.7
10.	Others	11,808	13,490	14,623	15,082	14,983	-0.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27,070</b>	<b>30,031</b>	<b>33,615</b>	<b>33,594</b>	<b>32,712</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

**Source:** National Crime Records Bureau, Annual Report, 2010, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

The data furnished in the Table – 2 reveals that a total number of 157022 cases of atrocities on SCs were registered all over the country during the period 2006 to 2010. It means on an average

31404 cases of atrocities and violent incidents are committed against them. It is evident from the data, on an average 101.5 and 4.23 cases atrocities are committed per day and per hour respectively against the dalits and on an average 1 crime is committed against them in every 14.18 minutes. Late Suraj Bhan, the former Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, commented that more than 45,000 cases of atrocities against dalits and downtrodden have been registered in India during the past one year alone. However, if the numbers of those cases, which were either suppressed or went unnoticed, are included, the total figure could easily go up to one hundred thousand (Ram, 2008:13). This clearly shows how vulnerable dalits are in the wake of globalization.

### **Health Care in India**

Extreme inequality and disparities exist across India in terms of access to health care. This highly inequitable health system has denied quality health care to all those who cannot afford it. Privatization has also been extended enormously in health services. Like education health also becomes commodities. Government expenditure is continuously reducing so as to bring the deficits to the controllable level and at the same time, the private players are encouraging to enter and establish their control into these socially important areas. The growing commercialization of health has kept the weaker section out of this vital social service, because the cost of private health services is much more expensive than the public health services. So this private health care is not affordable and accessible to the vast majority of the weaker sections. In reality, India has one of the most privatized health systems in the world that has effectively denied the poor access to basic health care. Instead of increasing the investment in health and making health services much more accessible to the poor, the Indian State is not only withdrawing from providing a health services to the poor, it is encouraging the commercialization of health care services (Chaujar, 2004:5). It is a well known fact that the situation of dalits in terms of residence, housing and health conditions is dismal. So, due to their poverty and unhygienic living conditions, they, in large numbers, suffer from malnutrition, physical disabilities and diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, anemia, malaria and general diseases (Sachchidanand, 1997, as cited in S. Kakde, 2008:12). Due to lack of financial ability, dalits have to rely upon the inadequate public health services or are forced to purchase costly private services, which can

ultimately lead them into financial ruin. Under the changing situation, Government should provide some kind of safety walls so that the weaker sections should not be deprived of health care services (Kirtiraj: 287).

### **Poverty**

Poverty is a sum total of all deprivations. The incidence of poverty among the dalits is much higher in comparison with all India average. According to 61<sup>st</sup> round NSSO (National Sample Survey Organisation) data, 22.7 per cent of India's population was poor in 2004-05, the SCs and STs are the most poor with a Head Count Ratio (HCR) of 35 per cent. Despite various poverty alleviation programmes and special strategies for their economic development poverty among the dalits is not reducing in a significant manner. In spite of government statistical jugglery, a large number of Indians still live under the poverty line. The high dependence of casual labour, with relatively lower earnings coupled with inadequate exposure of education among dalits induced a high degree of deprivation and poverty among them. In fact increased poverty is an unfolding reality among dalits. Globalization is leading to mass pauperization and rapidly widening socio-economic inequalities. The free market ethos unleashed by reforms has contributed significantly to the price rise. It is clear from the day to day experiences that the price of the primary articles of consumption has increased enormously. All the studies on the economic reforms are unanimous in their conclusion that the reforms have significantly contributed inflation. It is factually true that inflation hits the poorest the hardest. Because most of their earnings spent on food, shelter and clothing. So any rise in prices has had a direct negative effect on dalits' level of consumption. C.P. Chandrasekhar and Joyati Ghosh (2002) rightly pointed out that "...the trend in aggregate poverty incidence ..... was strongly related to neo-liberal economic policies and consequent macro-economic processes of the 1990s, these policies involved neglect of rural investment and of food security system, resulting in slow agricultural growth, reduced employment opportunities in rural areas, and high food prices. All these would typically be likely to be associated with persistent or even increasing poverty" (As cited in Kumar (ed.), 2010:131).

The vast majority of dalits still live in horrendous condition in villages and urban slums as the wretched creature of the earth, and their conditions are going from bad to worse, rather than improving as a result of the ravages of capitalism and globalization. (Interview with Teltambde, 2011).

### **Food Security**

India's food grain godowns are overflowing of food stocks, but more than a quarter of India's population does not get adequate food. The Public Distribution System (PDS) leaves out large sections of the poor people and distributed inadequate quantities of food. A shift has taken place from universal PDS to Targeted PDS (TPDS). As a result, a large number of poor people have been dispossessed of their entitlement of food subsidies under the PDS. The government has raised the price of rice and wheat as a condition put forth by the World Bank. The increased food price has affected people's ability to purchase their basic food requirement. As a result of this, a large number of poor have been excluded from the PDS. The PDS, which was meant to ensure food security to poor people, seems to have lost its purpose. In fact, the poverty alleviation programmes have not reached the poor. Several policy measures in the reform period have undermined the PDS objectives of providing food security to the poor people and acting as a check against market price (Report by Sansthan, 2000:152-53). Instead of strengthening the PDS, the Government is continuously downsizing the PDS. So in this situation, the government should strengthen and activate the PDS for the marginalized sections. In addition to that poverty reduction strategies in India cannot succeed without a healthy agricultural sector. Economic reform has weakened rather than strengthened this sector.

Since after the adoption of New Economic Policy, India has made a significant progress in different areas of technology, infrastructure, machinery, science, space and even in nuclear research. Much of this progress has meant little to dalits, most continue to live without very basic amenities of electricity, sanitation and safe drinking water. According to Madras Institute for Development Studies, only 31 per cent of dalit households are equipped with electricity, as compared to 61 per cent non-dalit households. Only 10 per cent dalit households have sanitation facilities as compared to 27 per cent of non-dalit households ones.

The process of globalization and its impact on dalits is far greater than what is outlined in this paper. This is just the tip of the iceberg. One needs also thorough search into the grassroots and work to promote justice to the whole issues

## **Conclusion**

From the beginning of the economic reforms, the government talked about social safety nets for the poor marginalized sections. But in practice, the government has done little to strengthen social protect measures. Consistent attempts have been made to downsize the budgetary allocation for the social sector in the name of reducing the fiscal deficit (Samuel and Prakasam, 115). The impact of India's aggressive shift from a state regulated economy to market economy with the privatization of industries and liquidation of policies and controls in economic planning and regulation has been most acutely felt by dalits. In fact the reform process facilitated the emergence of new middle class that has appropriated the fruits of economic growth at the expense of the poor marginalized people. Not only that the property owners, industrialists, real estate personnel, software companies and other propertied sections have also been benefited greatly from the open market economy and globalization. But under the globalization, the socio-economic conditions of the vast majority of the dalits are going from bad to worse, rather than improving. So the State have to take up and implement the long awaited land reform programme, massive investment in agriculture-related infrastructural projects, good quality primary education for all, good quality primary health care system and enforcement of reservation policy in private sector in favour of dalits. Under the present situation the role of the state becomes crucial for the empowerment of dalits as the state cannot deny socio-economic justice to the dalits for a long period. The issues of socio-economic justice of the dalits and other weaker sections are needed to be suitably addressed for the maintenance and survival of our democratic set up.

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