

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS IN HISTORY

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SUBALTERN CONSCIOUSNESS IN TAMIL NADU A CASE STUDY ON DALITS

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Dalits are the persecuted and oppressed communities of India cutting across, caste, creed or gender. But in this paper the term 'Dalit' refers chiefly to depressed classes, the adi-dravidas, untouchables, Undusbles, Harijans Scheduled Caste, etc. the Dalits of India constitute nearly twenty percent of the population of India, numerically to that of total inhabited in all the districts of Tamil Nadul. As members of the subaltern classes and groups, they form part of the laboring masses that –actively participate in the production process and wealth creation. As subject of their own history and as an agency of change, the Dalits have had their own ideology and agenda. The Dalits of India as port of the laboring masses, are becoming a determined force. Inspite of the growing importance of the Dalits, who genuinely represent a subaltern group, the elitist historians have not yet taken cognizance of their problems nor have they assigned to them any place of importance in the over-all scheme of their writings, allowing these toiling millions ever to remain as a people without history, therefore, in this paper it is proposed to study these neglected peoples struggle to attain their rights in the Tamil society during the thirties of the present century.

Even after the degradation and enslavements of the Dalits proved to be an indispenable source of labour and human power.