

Paper Title: Racial Discrimination Against Dalit Community In Bangladesh: An Assessment Of Procedure And Strategies For The International Protection Of Human Rights

Abstract:

The constitution of Bangladesh (in article 28) declares the equal rights and opportunities for all citizens and forbidden all forms of discrimination on the basis of caste, race, religion, sex or place of birth. Despite of having constitutional promises, the economic and social exclusion on the ground of caste and race is practiced over the physical structure of whole country. Dalit is one of the minor communities in Bangladesh and always been deprived from their basic rights. In Bangladesh, members of the "low castes" have been treated as Dalits and they have been exploited and excluded through generations. As there are no official statistics, it is estimated by many researchers that there are about 5.5 million Dalits in Bangladesh. Caste systems and racial prejudice against so-called 'untouchables' are traditionally practices of Hindu scriptures; but in Bangladesh these practices have also been adopted by a part of Muslim majority. Dalits are denied entry to houses of non-Dalits, to temples or religious institutions; and not allowed to build or rent houses outside of their designated areas. Though many United Nation human rights bodies already have made recommendations on marginalized and excluded groups in Bangladesh, nonetheless in most cases the implementation of these recommendation is absent, especially for the Dalit Community. This paper explains the key issues of Dalits as regard to violation of their human rights and different strategies of international bodies to protect the victims. Though there are some specific international laws regarding the problem available, nonetheless the weakness of implementation of these laws provides a space to make them victim in various forms of human rights violation. Hence, there is an urge for empirical data collection and new research is a key demand for future action.