

Beat: News

## Decades After Independence, Dalits Still Fight For Dignity And Justice

### JAC Pleads For Justice And Equality

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**USPA NEWS** - Despite 78 years of independence, caste-based discrimination continues to plague rural Andhra Pradesh. Dalits in Kurakulapalli village, Kambadur Mandal, have voiced their anguish over enduring systemic humiliation and exclusion, urging authorities to act against this persistent social evil.

#### Dalits Face Humiliation In Villages

In Kurakulapalli and neighboring villages, caste discrimination remains entrenched, with Dalits often excluded and demeaned:

**Denied Human Dignity:** Dalits lament being treated as less than human, enduring untouchability, and systemic exclusion in daily life. "We are subjected to severe humiliation in rural society, at hotels, and even in celebrations," said one villager.

**Generations Of Oppression:** Despite generational shifts, the stigma of caste remains unbroken. Many Dalits express fear for their children's future amidst this oppressive system.

**An Unchanging Reality:** "Even after decades of independence, nothing has changed for Dalits. Caste discrimination is as severe as ever," reiterated Chelimappa, Kalyanadurgam SC/ST JAC leader.

#### Authorities' Apathy And Dalits' Pleas

The SC/ST Joint Action Committee (JAC) has repeatedly urged officials to intervene, but the response has been inadequate.

**Petition for Equality:** The JAC submitted a petition to Kalyanadurgam RDO Vasanthababu, urging immediate action to address caste discrimination in Kurakulapalli and other villages.

**Neglect by Authorities:** "We have raised this issue multiple times, but authorities show little interest in eradicating caste discrimination," Chelimappa alleged.

**Call for Awareness Programs:** The JAC urged the government to implement awareness campaigns and special initiatives to educate society and combat untouchability.

#### Plight Of Dalits In Rural Andhra Pradesh

According to the JAC leaders, the persistence of caste-based discrimination highlights systemic failures in upholding constitutional rights:

**Deep-rooted Social Evil:** In many villages, Dalits are ostracized, denied equal access to public spaces, and subjected to blatant acts of untouchability.

**Impact on Daily Life:** Dalits face discrimination in accessing basic services like hotels, barbar shops, water resources, and employment opportunities, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and humiliation.

**A Call for Action:** "Our fight is for basic human dignity," said Dona Thimmappa, SC/ST JAC district leader.

#### A Holistic Solution: Upholding Constitutional Rights

To eradicate caste discrimination and ensure equality, comprehensive measures must be implemented:

Awareness Campaigns: Launch large-scale educational programs in villages to address caste prejudice and promote social harmony.  
Strict Enforcement of Laws: Enforce provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to deter caste-based crimes.

Community Engagement: Empower local communities through inclusive policies and programs that ensure equitable access to education, employment, and healthcare.

Political Will: Government officials must prioritize the eradication of caste-based discrimination through sustained interventions and accountability mechanisms.

A Vision For An Inclusive India

The plight of Dalits in rural Andhra Pradesh reflects the urgent need for India to fulfill its constitutional promise of equality and justice. Only through collective effort and committed governance can the country dismantle the vestiges of untouchability and build a society where every individual is treated with dignity.

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