



COVID 19 Shutdown: A New Threat to the Personal, Social and Economic Wellbeing of Dalit Community

Timeline: 25th May- 15th July, 2020

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Brief Overview: Though usually Dalit people are thought to be exclusively related to the Hindu Caste system, in our country Caste discrimination affects people from all religions and ethnicity. Dalit people live below the poverty line, being deprived of facilities and basic rights. Due to their very limited access to healthcare system, worsened by extremely weak economic status, this vulnerable group is possibly among the worst victims of COVID 19 crisis. This study will be conducted to find out the physical, mental and economic impact of COVID 19 shutdown on these people. In our research we will interview dalit people with various professions and economic status in order to ensure varied responses which will help us to draw a bigger and inclusive picture.

Objectives:

In the light of coronavirus situation, the objective of the study is to investigate:

1. The state of their physical and mental health
2. Impact on their economic aspect of life
3. Their coping mechanism in this time of crisis, and
4. Their overall lifestyle as a marginalised community

Methodology: A qualitative approach was used for this study and interviews were conducted over the telephone.

Donor and partner: The research project will be funded by CREA, India.