



Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India: Trend, Status and Government Initiatives

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ABSTRACT

The paper discussed crime against scheduled castes in States of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar has comparatively higher rate of crime against scheduled castes. On the other hand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand has lower rate of crime against scheduled castes among the states in the regions. Highest charge sheeting rate is registered in Madhya Pradesh followed by Chhattisgarh and Odisha. On the other hand, least charge sheeting rate is registered in Jharkhand preceded by Bihar and West Bengal. Bihar has the highest incidences of murder, simple hurt, grievous hurt, assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe, kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage, and kidnapping & abduction against scheduled castes in central and eastern regions of India. Odisha has the highest incidences and victims of attempt to commit murder. Jharkhand has the highest incidences of attempt to commit rape. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (both adults and children), sexual harassment, stalking, assault of children, insult to the modesty of women, missing children deemed as kidnapped, kidnapping for ransom, procurement of minor girls, rape, rioting, and robbery against scheduled castes in central and eastern regions of India. Therefore, government of the concern states should implement proper policies for minimizing such crimes against scheduled castes.

Keywords:

Crime, Empowerment, Scheduled tribe, Women, and Violence

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INTRODUCTION

There is long history of caste system in Indian society. The current existence of caste system in India is the result during the post-Mughal period and the British colonial period. Accordingly, 1891 census, there was 60 sub-groups and classified on the basis of occupational and racial categories. According census 2011, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are consisting of 8.6 percent and 16.6 percent population of India. Percent of scheduled castes in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal are respectively 15.91, 12.82, 12.08, 15.62, 17.13 and 23.51. Punjab has the highest (31.94) percentage of scheduled castes in India followed by Himachal Pradesh (25.19). Scheduled castes are suffered from the age-old practice of untouchability. They are geographical isolated and needs special assistance for sustenance. Caste system has also existed among Muslims and Jainism in India.

India's caste system is an old surviving social stratification. Caste system in Hinduism is based on dharma (duty) and karma (work). Shudras, Vaishyas, Kshatriyas, and Brahmins are the four main categories in Hindu caste system. Ancient people believed that they are created from Brahma (the Hindu God of creation). Brahmins are the teachers and intellectual people. It is believed that they were created from the Brahma's head. Kshatriyas are the warriors and rulers. It is believed that they were created from arms of Brahma. Vaishyas are the traders. Shudras did all the menial jobs and were created from the feet of Brahma. Brahmins did not accept water from the Shudras, and marry within the caste. Independent India's constitution banned any discrimination against any one on the basis of caste.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dushkin (1967) discussed the historical background of scheduled castes in India. They are most deprived class in India. They are the marginal class and were exploited since



the British period. They are yet exploited in many places. After independent, Government of India implemented acts for abolishing such discrimination against scheduled castes. Accordingly, Parvathamma (1981), caste and untouchability are common fact in India. In post-independence era, Indian Government abolished untouchability according provisions of Constitution of India. The origin of untouchability has long history in India. Jensenius (2013) in his report found that caste system exists in many developing countries. There are also agenda for influencing schedule castes for political gains. Reservation of scheduled castes in jobs and education are valuable for their empowerment.

Prabhakar (2017) in his report examined challenges before scheduled castes in India. Untouchables are the nick name of scheduled castes. They are facing educational, economic, political, legal, religious, social and other disabilities. Raghavendra (2020) in his paper discussed the status of scheduled castes compared to other peoples. Health and education are the basic factors that can improve the status of such marginalised class. According Patra (2021), although government said untouchability has largely been eradicated from Indian society, but it still exists in many places. Education opportunities are the basic needs for scheduled castes that will socially and economically empower them. They are economically deprived.

Thus from the above analysis it has found that majority of the reports discussed the status and challenges of scheduled castes in India. Very few researchers worked on crime against scheduled castes in India; therefore I have chosen the topic for my research work.



RATIONALITY OF THE STUDY

Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities were historically excluded from formal education. They are socially discriminated. There are multiple problems before the people belonging Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Occupational change, education and urban migration are altering status of scheduled castes. They are the most marginalized class. They are socially, politically, legally and economically discriminated for long period. Poverty, rigid traditions, lack of parental interest, and lack of educational opportunities are the basic challenges before scheduled castes. The other challenges are unequal opportunities, limited access to education, and socio-economic disparities. Untouchability is currently outlawed in India. Crime rate against schedule castes are also high in many states. Therefore, minimizing or controlling such crimes is essential for socio-economic empowerment and safety of such marginal communities.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper are:

- 1) to study the trends and patterns of crimes against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions of India, and
- 2) to identify various initiatives of government for mitigating such crimes.

AREA OF STUDY

Central India is a geographical part of India consists of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh states. It is part of Hindi belt. So Hindi is the popular language. Other prominent language is Chhattisgarhi. Besides these, Munda-family language Korku and Indo-Aryan languages are popular among the tribal communities. Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November 2000. Eastern India region consist of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha. Total geographical area of the region is 418,323 km² and population is 22.6 crores (as per census 2011). Bengali, English, Hindi, Nagpuri, Urdu, Santali, Odia,

Nepali and Maithili are the official languages of the regions.

METHODOLOGY

Design and Approach: This study is descriptive in design and has utilized qualitative approach. Secondary data for the study has been collected from various govt. reports, National Crime Record Bureau website, report of international agencies, research papers, published or unpublished thesis's, articles, etc.

Method of Analysis: To reveal the crimes against scheduled castes in general and the women in particular, method of qualitative analysis comprising of descriptive analysis, content and text analysis have been performed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are most disadvantaged socio-economic groups in India. They are also considered as depressed classes since the period of British rule in the Indian subcontinent. Scheduled Castes are known as Dalit's, which means untouchables. Dalit leader B. R. Ambedkar did lots of contribution for development of such untouchable peoples. Matatma Gandhi called such people as 'Harijan'. Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are also called as Anusuchit Janjati and Anusuchit Jati.

Table 1: Scheduled Castes Population in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	Population	Males	Female	Child (0-6)	Literacy	Sex Ratio
Bihar	16,567,325	8,606,253	7,961,072	21.02 %	48.65 %	925
Chhattisgarh	3,274,269	1,641,738	1,632,531	15.47 %	70.76 %	994
Jharkhand	3,985,644	2,043,458	1,942,186	18.29 %	55.89 %	950
Madhya Pradesh	11,342,320	5,908,638	5,433,682	15.51 %	66.16 %	920
Odisha	7,188,463	3,617,808	3,570,655	13.26 %	69.02 %	987
West Bengal	21,463,270	11,003,304	10,459,966	11.91 %	69.43 %	951

Source: Census Report 2011. (<https://www.census2011.co.in/scheduled-castes.php>).

Table 1 discussed the scheduled castes population in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that West Bengal has the highest scheduled castes

population followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand, Chhattisgarh has the least number of scheduled castes population preceded by Jharkhand and Odisha. Every state has higher male population than the female population. Bihar has the highest percent of child followed by Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. Literacy rate among the scheduled castes is highest in Chhattisgarh followed by West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. Bihar has the least literacy rate preceded by Jharkhand and Odisha. Chhattisgarh also has the highest sex ratio followed by Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the least sex ratio preceded by Bihar and Jharkhand.

Table 2: Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India.

State	2020	2021	2022	Actual Population Of STs (in Lakhs) (2011)	Rate of Total Crime against SCs (2022)	Charge sheeting Rate (2022)
Bihar	7368	5842	6509	165.7	39.3	84.7
Chhattisgarh	316	330	323	32.7	9.9	99.4
Jharkhand	666	546	674	39.9	16.9	57.3
Madhya Pradesh	6899	7214	7733	113.4	68.2	99.5
Odisha	2046	2327	2902	71.9	40.4	97.1
West Bengal	109	108	104	214.6	0.5	92.5

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, p.537, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India.

Table 2 depicted crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that crime against scheduled castes is increased in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha during 2020-2022, but was declined in Bihar and West Bengal during the period. Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate of crime against scheduled castes followed by Odisha and Bihar. West Bengal has the least rate of crime against scheduled castes preceded by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Highest charge sheeting rate is registered in Madhya Pradesh followed by Chhattisgarh and Odisha. On the other hand, least charge sheeting rate is registered in Jharkhand preceded by Bihar and West Bengal.

Table 3: Murder and Attempt to Commit Murder Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India (2022)

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC (Total)			SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act					
				Murder (Sec. 302 IPC)			Attempt to Commit Murder (Sec. 307 IPC)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	6509	6765	39.3	168	168	1.0	67	69	0.4
Chhattisgarh	321	335	9.8	10	10	0.3	8	8	0.2
Jharkhand	443	445	11.1	0	0	0.0	21	21	0.5
Madhya Pradesh	7732	8089	68.2	83	83	0.7	83	84	0.7
Odisha	2902	2902	40.4	21	21	0.3	260	260	3.6
West Bengal	79	148	0.4	2	4	0.0	6	6	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, p-538, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 3 depicted murder and attempt to commit murder crimes against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of total crime under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC, followed by Bihar and Odisha. On the other hand, West Bengal has the least number of total crimes under the act preceded by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Bihar has the highest incidences of murder followed by Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. On the other hand, least incidences of murder are reported in West Bengal preceded by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of murder of schedule castes in Jharkhand. Odisha has the highest incidences and victims of attempt to commit murder followed by Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. On the other hand, least incidences and victims of attempt to commit murder are reported in West Bengal preceded by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Table 4: Simple Hurt and Grievous Hurt Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Simple Hurt (Secs. 323 r/w 324, 327, 328, 330, 332 353 IPC)			Grievous Hurt					
				Grievous Hurt (Sec. 325 & 326 IPC) (Total)			Grievous Hurt		
I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R	

Bihar	5335	5455	32.2	480	492	2.9	480	492	2.9
Chhattisgarh	53	53	1.6	3	3	0.1	3	3	0.1
Jharkhand	124	126	3.1	33	33	0.8	33	33	0.8
Madhya Pradesh	4805	5062	42.4	126	147	1.1	124	145	1.1
Odisha	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	5	7	0.0	5	7	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 4 discussed simple hurt and grievous hurt crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Bihar has the highest incidences of simple hurt against scheduled castes followed by Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in West Bengal. Bihar has the highest incidences of grievous hurt crime against scheduled castes followed by Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes is reported in Chhattisgarh preceded by West Bengal. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Odisha.

Table 5: Assault on Women Crimes against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty(Adults+ Children)			Assault on Women (Above 18 years)			Assault on Adult Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec.354 IPC)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	30	30	0.2	28	28	0.2	16	16	0.1
Chhattisgarh	49	49	1.5	35	35	1.1	27	27	0.8
Jharkhand	28	28	0.7	28	28	0.7	22	22	0.6
Madhya Pradesh	613	625	5.4	469	481	4.1	326	329	2.9

Odisha	7	7	0.1	6	6	0.1	4	4	0.1
West Bengal	2	2	0.0	2	2	0.0	1	1	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 5 depicted assault on women crimes against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (both adults and children) against scheduled castes followed by Chhattisgarh and Bihar. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in West Bengal preceded by Odisha and Jharkhand. Madhya Pradesh also has the highest incidences of assault on women (above 18 years) against scheduled castes followed by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in West Bengal preceded by Odisha.

Table 6: Sexual Harassment and Voyeurism Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty								
	Sexual Harassment (Sec. 354A IPC)			Assault or use of Criminal Force on women with intent to Disrobe (Sec.354B IPC)			Voyeurism (Sec. 354C IPC)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	5	5	0.0	7	7	0.0	0	0	0.0
Chhattisgarh	6	6	0.2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Jharkhand	2	2	0.1	4	4	0.1	0	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	87	96	0.8	4	4	0.0	14	14	0.1
Odisha	0	0	0.0	2	2	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 6 represented sexual harassment and voyeurism crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has

the highest incidences of sexual harassment followed by Chhattisgarh and Bihar. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes is reported in West Bengal preceded by Jharkhand. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Odisha. Highest incidences of assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe against scheduled castes has been reported in Bihar followed by Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the incidence of voyeurism crime. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in remaining states.

Table 7: Stalking, Assault of Children, and Insult to the Modesty of Women Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty						Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC)		
	Stalking (Sec. 354D IPC)			Assault of Children POCSO Act 8&10 or POCSO Act (Sec. 8&10 r/w 354 IPC)					
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	0	0	0.0	2	2	0.0	0	0	0.0
Chhattisgarh	2	2	0.1	14	14	0.4	2	2	0.1
Jharkhand	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	38	38	0.3	144	144	1.3	10	10	0.1
Odisha	0	0	0.0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 7 discussed the stalking, assault of children, and insult to the modesty of women crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that highest incidences of stalking against scheduled castes are reported in Madhya Pradesh followed by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences and victims of assault of children against scheduled castes

followed by Chhattisgarh and Bihar. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Jharkhand and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of insult to the modesty of women followed by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

Table 8: Kidnapping, Abduction, and Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction			Kidnapping and Abduction			Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapped		
	Other Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec.365,366B, 367,368,369 IPC)			(Sec. 363 IPC)					
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	62	62	0.4	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
Chhattisgarh	2	2	0.1	1	1	0.0	1	1	0.0
Jharkhand	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	59	59	0.5	29	29	0.3	9	9	0.1
Odisha	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt. of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population

Table 8 depicted kidnapping, abduction, and missing children deemed as kidnapped crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of kidnapping and abduction (Sec. 363 IPC) against scheduled castes followed by Bihar and Chhattisgarh. There are no incidences of such crime against scheduled castes in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of missing children deemed as kidnapped, followed by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

Table 9: Kidnapping on Ransom and Procuration of Minor Girls Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction								
	Kidnapping for Ransom (Sec. 364A IPC)			Kidnapping and Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage (Sec.366 IPC)			Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	0	0	0.0	47	47	0.3	2	2	0.0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0.0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
Jharkhand	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	2	2	0.0	17	17	0.1	4	4	0.0
Odisha	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India.

Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 9 depicted kidnapping on ransom and procuration of minor girl's crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of kidnapping for ransom followed by Jharkhand. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal. Bihar has the highest incidences of kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are no incidences of such crime against scheduled castes in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of procuration of minor girls followed by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

Table 10: Kidnapping, Abduction, Rape and Rape of women Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Kidnapping and Abduction			Rape (Sec.376 IPC)			Rape of Women (Sec. 376 IPC)		
	Other Kidnapping &Abduction (Sec.365,366B, 367 ,369 IPC)			(Total)			(Above 18 yrs.)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R

Bihar	12	12	0.1	161	161	1.0	151	151	0.9
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0.0	122	122	3.7	69	69	2.1
Jharkhand	0	0	0.0	12	12	0.3	12	12	0.3
Madhya Pradesh	7	7	0.1	589	589	5.2	373	373	3.3
Odisha	0	0	0.0	192	192	2.7	190	190	2.6
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 10 discussed the kidnapping, abduction, rape and rape of women crime against scheduled Castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Bihar has the highest incidences of kidnapping and abduction against scheduled castes followed by Madhya Pradesh. There is no incidence of kidnapping and abduction against scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of rape against scheduled castes followed by Odisha and Bihar. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in Jharkhand preceded by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh also have the highest incidences of rape of women (above 18 years) followed by Odisha and Bihar. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in West Bengal.

Table 11: Rape of Children, Attempt to Commit Rape, and Rioting Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Rape of Children (Below 18 yrs.)*			Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC)			Rioting (Sec. 147-151 IPC)		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	10	10	0.1	1	2	0.0	7	10	0.0
Chhattisgarh	53	53	1.6	0	0	0.0	14	25	0.4
Jharkhand	0	0	0.0	8	8	0.2	54	54	1.4
Madhya Pradesh	216	216	1.9	0	0	0.0	64	86	0.6
Odisha	2	2	0.0	0	0	0.0	3	3	0.0

West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
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Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population. Note: *(Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act or POCSO 4&6 r/w 376 IPC).

Table 11 discussed rapes of children; attempt to commit rape, and rioting crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of rape of children (below age 18 years) followed by Chhattisgarh. On the other hand, least incidences of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in Odisha preceded by Bihar. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Jharkhand and West Bengal. Jharkhand has the highest incidences of attempt to commit rape against scheduled castes followed by Bihar. There is no incidence of such crime against scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences and victims of rioting against scheduled castes followed by Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. On the other hand, least incidences and victims of such crime against scheduled castes are reported in Odisha preceded by Bihar. There is no incidence of rioting against scheduled castes in West Bengal.

Table 12: Robbery and Dacoity Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act r/w IPC								
	Robbery (Sec. 392 to 394, 397 & 398 IPC)			Dacoity (Sec. 395, 396, 397 & 398 IPC)					
				Dacoity			Dacoity with Murder		
	I	V	R	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Chhattisgarh	2	2	0.1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Jharkhand	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Odisha	0	0	0.0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0.0
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 12 represented robbery and dacoity crime against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that highest incidences and victims of robbery are reported in Madhya Pradesh followed by Chhattisgarh. There is no incidence of robbery against scheduled castes in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Incidence of Dacoity is reported in Odisha. There is no incidence of Dacoity with murder against scheduled castes in any states.

Table 13: Total Crime against Scheduled Castes in States of Central and Eastern Regions in India

State	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955			Total Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Castes		
	I	V	R	I	V	R
Bihar	0	0	0.0	6509	6765	39.3
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0.0	323	337	9.9
Jharkhand	0	0	0.0	674	691	16.9
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0.0	7733	8090	68.2
Odisha	0	0	0.0	2902	2902	40.4
West Bengal	0	0	0.0	104	173	0.5

Source: Crime in India 2022 report, National Crime Record Bureau, Govt.of India. Note: I= No. of Incidences/Cases, V= No. of Victims & R=Crime Rate per lakh population.

Table 13 discussed the total crime/atrocities against scheduled castes in states of central and eastern regions in India. It has found that highest incidences and victims of crime is reported in Madhya Pradesh followed by Bihar and Odisha. On the other hand, least incidences and victims are reported in West Bengal preceded by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Government of India passed various Acts for empowerment and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, were passed for empowerment of such SCs and STs. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste. Article 17 of the Constitution of India states that 'Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. Department of Scheduled Castes welfare has been set up by state governments for empowerment of Scheduled castes. Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989 was introduced



to curb racial discrimination incidences. There is special provision in Constitution of India for welfare of such deprived communities. Scheduled castes (Dalits) are also entitled to enjoy the same rights, which are available to so called upper class people and these rights are right to choose profession, right to speech, expression, right to live, right to Development, right to Education, right to equality, and others.

CONCLUSION

Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha have higher incidences of crimes against scheduled castes in central and eastern regions of India. Least incidences and victims are reported in West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Bihar has the highest incidences of murder, simple hurt, grievous hurt, assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe, kidnapping and abduction of women to compel her for marriage, and kidnapping and abduction against scheduled castes in central and eastern regions of India. Odisha has the highest incidences and victims of attempt to commit murder. Jharkhand has the highest incidences of attempt to commit rape.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest incidences of assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (both adults and children), sexual harassment, stalking, assault of children, insult to the modesty of women, missing children deemed as kidnapped, kidnapping for ransom, procurement of minor girls, rape, rioting, and robbery against scheduled castes in central and eastern regions of India. Constitution of India has the provisions for development of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 46 and Article 350 allows educational and cultural rights of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. Government has already implemented reservation in jobs and education for SCs and STs proportionally to their population.

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