



What does it mean to be a DALIT?

For generations 300 million Dalits have been taught that they are worthless, less-than-human. Excluded from society, they have no access to education or justice. They are used, cheated and abused by others freely. ***With no resources and no hope, many Dalit women and children are potential victims of the thriving human-trafficking industry.***

POVERTY – There is more POVERTY in INDIA than in entire continent of AFRICA. 30% of the entire population *earn less \$1 a day.*

TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY – India is the epicenter of HUMAN TRAFFICKING with 100,000 MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN trafficked each year.

It is also the epicenter of Global SLAVERY; one-half of world's slaves in India; an estimated 14.7 million slaves out of 28.9 GLOBALLY. **Half of the world's slaves are in INDIA.**

CASTE SYSTEM – According to National Geographic:

- “Embedded in Indian culture for the last 1,500 years, **the caste system follows a basic precept: ALL MEN ARE CREATED UNEQUAL.**”
- “Untouchables are outcasts—people considered too impure, too polluted, to rank as worthy beings.”

Everyday

- 3 Dalit women are raped
- 2 Dalits Houses are burnt in India
- 11 Dalits are beaten

Every Week

- 13 Dalits are murdered
- 6 Dalits are kidnapped or abducted

Social and Economic condition of Dalits:

- 37% of Dalits live below poverty in India
- 54% of Dalit children are undernourished
- 21% of children are severely underweight
- 12% DIE before their fifth birthday
- **83 out of every 1000 Dalit infants will die before the first birthday**
- 45% of Dalits do not know how read and write
- Dalit women are burdened by double discrimination: gender and caste

The word “Dalit” means oppressed; it is the name the Dalits have chosen for themselves. Society called them “Untouchable”. **To be born a Dalit is to face daily struggle and violence in a society bent on keeping them in poverty and chains, both real and metaphoric.**

Information coming from <http://darkindia.wordpress.com/dalit-in-india-facts-and-figures/>