

Witch-Hunting -- A Hindrance to Gender Equality and Social Justice in India

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Abstract:

Social Justice is a concept that seeks to address the systematic barriers and inequalities that exist in society and advocates for the equitable distribution of resources and also for equal opportunities for development. India has a traditional pattern of Society which is Caste based and Patriarchal. Gender Discrimination and Oppression from "Womb to Tomb" is a widespread phenomenon. Womanhood is revered in Indian Culture as a manifestation of Divine Qualities. They have been called the "Better Half ", but in practice, women are the most deplorable lot. Throughout the centuries, women (mostly of the lower classes and castes), have been in a state of Nutritional stress because they eat less and also because they eat last. The practice of witchcraft, i.e. "Dayan Pratha" has been pervasively customary pan-India but is much more prevalent in the economically poor regions, especially the states having a high concentration of tribal population. Concerned and cognizant of the collective trauma and memory of long-drawn centuries of unspeakable oppression, this research paper on witch-hunting, has focused on the denial of justice to the women of oppressed communities.

Keywords:

Patriarchy, Discrimination, Caste, Gender, Social-Justice.