



A Peer Reviewed International Journal of Asian
Academic Research Associates

AARJSH
ASIAN ACADEMIC RESEARCH
JOURNAL OF SOCIAL
SCIENCE & HUMANITIES



**(NON) REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN ENGLISH NEWS
PAPERS AND NEWS ROOMS**

DR. N. V. SANGVIKAR¹

¹Dept. of Communication and Journalism. University of Pune, Pune.

Abstract

The press as the fourth estate in a vibrant democracy has immense significance. The press is supposedly a tool for the social, political and cultural development of a country. It is also supposed to be the voice of the people; an organ of the very basis of the press is debate and discussion. However the Indian press, while acknowledged to be one of the freest in the world, is in reality a monopoly press dominated by upper class and caste interests. This viewpoint is from the Dalit perspective.

Historically, the press as an institution has an independent status. However, from its very inception, the press has been politically motivated. In India, the press has been exploited by the ruling classes for their political benefits and also for perpetuating and boosting their political and feudal and political - social- cultural structure.

Thus the press instead of highlighting grievances of the masses has turned out to be a weapon in the hands of peer ruling classes. Thus it becomes highly pertinent to understand the nexus between press and politics. In the words of Dr. Rajani Kothari, “the press as an organ for peer class is not only dominating oppressed classes but highlighting their grievances in the most comic manner. In the Indian context class and the caste are thus inseparable looking at the very existing structure of society”. (Kothari: 1983).

References

Benson, Neil (2004): Diversity in the Newsroom-Employment of Minority Ethnic Journalists in Newspapers, “A Report by the Training Committee of the Society of Editors”, October.

Buvinic, Mayara et al ed. (2005): Social Inclusion and Economic Development in Latin America (Columbia: IDB).

Cooper, J Kenneth (1996): “India’s Majority Lower Castes Are Minor Voice in Newspapers; Few Journalists, Periodicals Advocate Interests of the Underclass”, The Washington Post, 5 September.

Gorringer, Hugo (2006): Untouchable Citizens (New Delhi: Sage publications).

Jeffrey, Robin (1999): India’s Newspaper Revolution: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian Language Press, 1977-97 (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).

Prasad, Chandra Bhan (2004): Dalit Diary: 1999-2003 – Reflections on Apartheid in India (Chennai: Navayana Publishers).

(2001): “[Not] Being There: Dalit and India’s Newspapers”, South Asia, Vol 24 (2): 225-38.

Robin Jeffrey (2001): “[Not] Being There: Dalit and India’s Newspapers”, South Asia, Vol 24 (2): 225-238.

Teltumbde, Anand (2008): Khairlanji: A Strange and Bitter Crop (New Delhi: Navayana Publishers).

Uniyal, B N (1996): “In Search of a Dalit Journalist”, The Pioneer, 16 November. Dalit and a Lack of Diversity in the Newsroom. By: J Balasubramaniam Vol XLVI No.11 March 12, 2011.