

References to caste discrimination in MRG report

The 2012 version of the report '[State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples](#)' from Minority Rights Group International (MRG) focuses on land rights and natural resources. The report contains a number of references to Dalits and caste discrimination:

Thematic essay/Natural resource development and the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples:

A Dalit girl works breaking up stones in Pagadala village, Andhra Pradesh, India. (Photo, pgs. 12-13)

In south-east India, **Dalit** women displaced from the land to make way for Special Economic Zones in Polepally, Andhra Pradesh, reported loss of status, less economic power and fewer marriage prospects for their girl children, whose status had also declined due to loss of land (pg. 14).

Asia overview:

India:

The government's handling of the Maoist insurgency is critical to minority rights. While the rebels claim to represent some of India's most marginalized, including **Dalits** and indigenous people, it is often these communities that get caught up in the violence. (pg. 137)

Dalits and indigenous people continue to suffer from the poorest health statistics in the country, caused by poor sanitation and inadequate access to safe drinking water and health care facilities, according to a report published by an NGO coalition in December 2011. The survey report found that nutritional indicators for **Dalits** and some indigenous groups dropped below the general population as children grew up. (pgs. 137-138)

In a positive move, however, the state of Madhya Pradesh in July became the first in the country to set up a specialized court tasked with prosecuting crimes against **scheduled castes** and tribes. But, in an example that illustrates the problem of unaccountability for perpetrators of such crimes nationwide, it was reported that Andhra Pradesh state has a backlog of as many as 1,600 cases. (pg. 139)

Nepal:

In one sense, these delays present an opportunity for some of the country's most marginalized – including indigenous people, **Dalits** and women from minority communities – to have a greater say in the drafting of such an important document. (pg. 139 – [this excerpt refers to the constitutional process in Nepal](#))

Many **Dalits** were also drawn to the Maoist insurgency. Some joined voluntarily, attracted to an ethos that once preached equality, while others were swept up in the violence between both sides. But, post-conflict, they are returning to a society in which **caste discrimination** still persists, despite the government's stated efforts to eradicate it. (pg. 140)

Multiple cases of **caste discrimination** were reported during 2011. In August, a **Dalit** man was stabbed to death after his son married a woman from another caste. Witnesses claimed the woman's family was incensed by the intercaste union, according to the Nepal National **Dalit** Social Welfare Organization. Kyung-wha Kang, the UN's Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, voiced concern over **caste discrimination** following an April visit. She acknowledged the

government's adoption of anti-discrimination legislation, but stressed that more must be done to ensure the laws are implemented and enforced. (pg. 140)

Pakistan:

As Pakistan battled with severe flooding, in Sindh province through September, rights groups reported to MRG that **Dalits** were being discriminated against because of their caste. Advocates said **Dalit** families had been turned away from government relief camps and been given unequal access to relief supplies. (pg. 142)

Japan:

The estimated 200,000 Burakumin belong to a social minority of the same ethnicity as other Japanese but are nevertheless victims of deep-seated **caste-based discrimination**. Modern reforms, including regarding access to housing and employment, have improved social conditions to some extent, but the root causes of their marginalization – social discrimination and prejudice – have not been adequately addressed by the government. (pg. 164)