

5. Caste

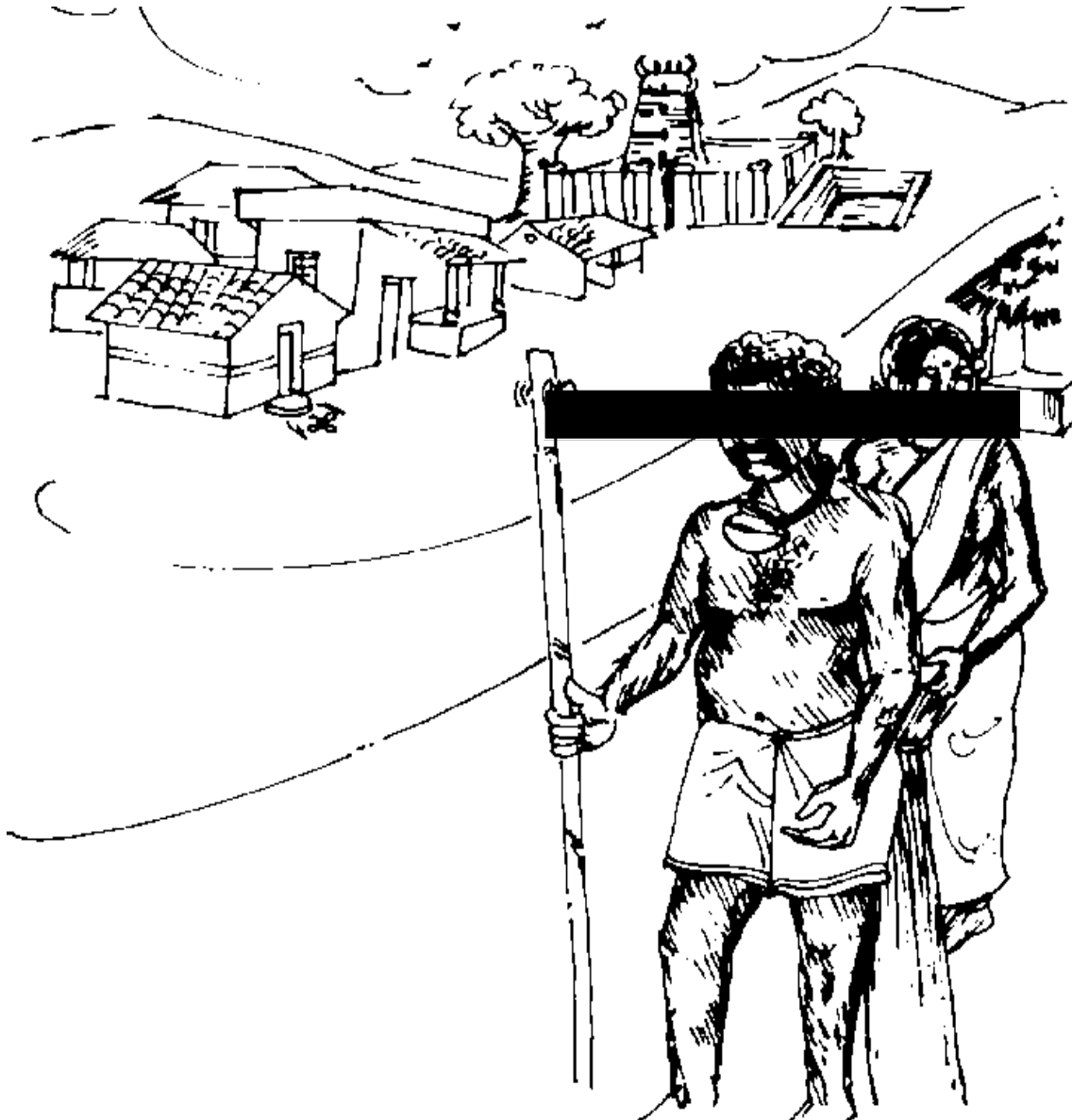
Discrimination

5. Caste Discrimination

Objectives

To teach the students that

- By distinguishing people as upper and lower castes, casteism rejects equality.
- Untouchability, the offspring of casteism scoffs at human rights.
- Basically caste involves refusal of humanity and hence it is a violation of human rights



1. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled without against any discrimination in violation of this declaration and against any incitement of such discrimination.
-*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article-7*
2. Every one has the right to nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.
-*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 15(1) (2)*
3. The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. No Citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to-
 - a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and place of public entertainment;or
 - b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public. -*The constitution of India, Section 15(3)*
4. “Untouchability” is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of “Untouchability” shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. -*The constitution of India,Section-17*

Teacher’s Activity

1. Read aloud and explain to the students the UN charter against discrimination.
2. The constitution of India adopted in 1950 states that untouchability has been abolished. Ask the students if they agree with this statement.
3. If the students do not understand what untouchability is, the teacher may explain, citing incidents from his own experience.
4. After making the students understand what untouchability is, divide them into 9 groups. Ask them to answer the following questions.
Are all the people allowed in the following places, without any caste discrimination?
 - i) In the houses of upper caste people.
 - ii) in their town/village
 - iii) in places of worship
 - iv) in schools
 - v) in public places
 - vi) in ponds and wells
 - vii) in hotels
 - etc.

b. What are the different manifestations of untouchability practised in these places?

- Double-tumbler method.
- Forbidden from wearing sandals.
- Forbidden from voting.
- Forbidden from using public ponds.
- No equal access to place of worship.



Ask the students to exchange their findings. After they do it, ask one of the students to read the following incidents aloud.

(or)

Ask them to divide themselves into groups. Each group may read one of these incidents and share their views with others.

Manifestation-1

Implanted Untouchability

In Orissa, while taking lunch, dalit children and others sit in separate rows. When a journalist asked a girl about it, the girl, Prithvi said, “We sit on this side because we are dalits. If we go there, they will ask us to go away, and if we touch their tumblers, they will knock down our plates. That is why we sit in a separate row”



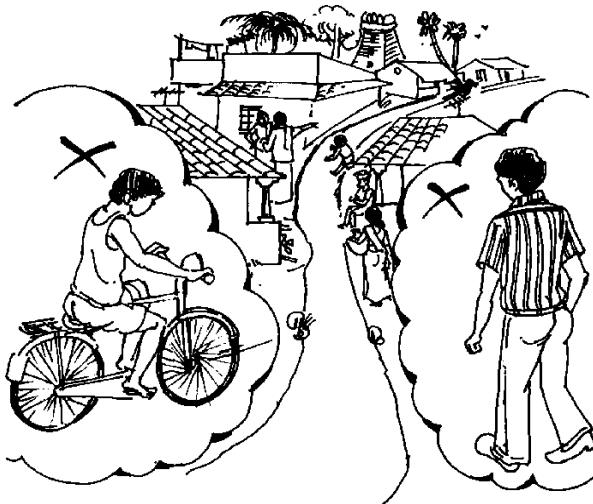
- Saynath, *The Hindu* 21.01.2001

Manifestation-2

Discriminating Tumbler

In a village near Karur, some 80 dalit families are living. They do not have even the basic amenities. To crown it all, in tea shops, they keep separate tumblers for the dalits and for the 'upper caste' people. Dalits are not allowed to enter the tea stall and they have to stand out. They are not allowed to sit on the benches in the tea stalls and in the bus stand!

- Makkal Kalam, June 2003



Manifestation-3

Forbidden from riding bicycle

In a village in the western part of Kanchipuram district, dalits are forbidden from walking along the streets where 'upper' caste people live. They should not ride a bicycle nor can they wear trousers and shirts.

-Makkal Kalam, Aug 2002

Cases of Violence Registered by the Police

Year	Complaints made in	Complaints registered in	Pending cases	Cases being enquired	Punished	Acquitted
1998	897	391	265	7	21	213
1999	1,011	379	384	9	20	219
2000	996	279	516	33	3	165
2001	500	164	187	149	---	---

-By courtesy: Theekathir, 08.11.2002