



*By Express News Service*

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## Dalit children beaten up for going to school

MADURAI: Twelve Dalit children aged between eight and 13 have been hospitalised here after they were allegedly beaten up by some youth belonging to an upper caste Hindu community.

The attackers, who were allegedly not happy about the children receiving a formal education, wanted to send a message across to all the parents in the Dalit community, about the repercussions if they decided to send their children to school.

When the children, most of them girls, were returning from school on Friday, they were stopped on their way and beaten up by a group of caste Hindu youth. They also reportedly hurled verbal abuses at the children by referring to their caste, before beating them up.

While attacking the children, one youngster reportedly said, "It is only because you people are getting educated that you rush to the police station all the time. This is to teach your parents not to send you to school."

Police have registered a case under Prevention of Atrocities Act following a complaint filed by the Dalits. Earlier this year, three Dalits and as many caste Hindus were arrested here following clashes between the two groups.

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