



Asia Dalit Rights Forum

ADRF is a network of organisations, networks from across South Asia working towards Social Justice and to end systemic violence and discrimination faced by people living in this region.

260 MILLION DALITS APPEAL FOR INCLUSION IN THE POST 2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS!

We welcome the *Final draft of Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals* which has called for reducing inequality and giving equal rights for the proposed goals with the motto of **Leaving No One Behind**. **However, the caste¹ based exclusion has failed to get recognized in the final draft**. Dalits and those discriminated on the Work and Descent, with over 260 million worldwide facing the problem of caste based exclusion, gathered in one place, they would be the 6th largest nation in the world! Their issue needs to be recognized as an important determinant of poverty and as under-development in various countries especially in South Asia and in some Africa and Latin American countries.

'Leave no one behind' encapsulates a holistic development framework. However this framework needs to take into account the situation of Dalits as those vulnerable and are affected by intergenerational poverty due to inherent systems of hierarchy and exclusion that prevent, discriminate and prohibit access to development and rule of law. Dalits have been victims of discrimination and hate crimes for centuries and have been considered as impure and polluting. Significance of caste in social exclusion is indeed recognized by Post 2015 development agenda (working committee) but seems to have failed to make into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Targets.

Caste (based exclusion) should be a crucial factors towards addressing the indicators for SDG implementation

- Disaggregated data based on Caste and targeted budgeting to ending poverty
- Quality education for all, with data disaggregation for measuring inclusion of Dalits.
- Monitoring the process towards elimination of violence and exploitation of Dalit women
- Targeted Budgeting and Data disaggregation for reducing inequalities within the countries.
- Specific mechanisms for access to justice.

We recommend that Caste should be recognized as the major discriminatory or exclusionary factor in development, thus the importance of elimination of caste based exclusion should be represented in the document. For the SDGs to be transformational to 260 million Dalits across the world. It is essential that the goals, targets and the Outcome document takes into account the current realities in many parts of the world and include **descent (caste) based discrimination**.

We also recommend that Dalits and other traditionally excluded communities to have gainful participation in the development process undertaken by Governments and all

development stakeholders. They need to ensure transparency and open data which are crucial to access as well as to monitor the commitments made in achieving the SDGs and the targets. This calls for a commitment to **'just' governance'** by the governments to not only being responsive to the needs of the people but also institute greater transparency, accountability and participation in terms of economic policymaking.

To ensure the above, we propose the following Indicators for inclusive implementation of the SDG

- 1 **Towards Ending Poverty:** Disaggregated data on multiple dimension index (MDI) inclusive of – age, sex, disability, race, **caste**, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status and rural-urban divide.

¹The draft United Nations Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent, 2009 clearly states that “discrimination based on work and descent exacerbates poverty and constraints progress.” Caste based discrimination is a dominant cause for poverty in South Asian countries, which totals about 260 million across the countries.

Targeted budgeting for inclusion of socially disadvantaged communities in infrastructure and industrial development.

2. Ending Hunger and Food Security: Disaggregated data of prevalence of mal-nutrition, anemia, shunting and calorie intake among socially disadvantaged groups on the axis of age, sex disability, race, caste, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status and rural-urban divide.

3. Promoting Education: Disaggregated data on educational disparity, rate of drop out, gross enrolment rate at primary, secondary, higher, college, technical and professional institutions, scholarships and grants inclusive of – age, sex, disability, race, caste, ethnicity, social origin, religion, region or economic or other status. Need of a comprehensive policy to address educational disparity.

4. Achieve Gender Equality: Disaggregation data on multiple dimension index (MDI) inclusive of – age, sex, disability, race, **caste**, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status and rural-urban divide— on violence against women.



5. Towards Sustainable Employment: Measurement of Intergroup and intragroup disparity of average income growth across sex, disability, race, **caste**, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status and rural-urban divide.

6. Reduce Inequalities within and among countries: Disaggregated data on multiple dimension index (MDI) inclusive of – age, sex, disability, race, caste, ethnicity, origin, occupation religion or economic or other status and rural-urban divide. Targeted budgeting for inclusion of socially disadvantaged communities in infrastructure and industrial development

7. Promote Access to Justice: Disaggregated data of access to public services and entitlements by women inclusive of – age, disability, race, caste, ethnicity, origin, occupation religion or economic or other status.



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ADRf Camp Office, 8/1, 2nd Floor, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi- 11000, India

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