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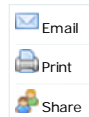
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Tamil Nadu Dalit youth alleges he was forced to eat human excreta

PTI

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Dindigul: In a shocking case of caste discrimination, a dalit has alleged that he was forced to eat human faeces by a group of 'high caste Christians' for walking with chappals on their street in the district.



The dalit youth, in his complaint to Batalagundu police inspector, said, "A group of high-caste Christians forced human faeces into my mouth after beating me for walking with chappals on their street."

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Sadayandi, who is from Indhira Nagar in Meikovilpatti in Dindigul district, claimed the incident occurred on January 7, when a group of more than 10 'caste Christians' stopped him, and asked if he was not aware of the "order" that dalits should not walk with chappals on their street. Then they asked him to remove his chappals and slapped him with it, he said.

"One of them suggested that I should be fed human excreta. Immediately, one person brought the excreta on a stick, and thrust it into my mouth," he alleged, adding the excreta was

applied all over his face.

"In fact, I wanted to commit suicide, unable to bear the shame. But my relatives prevented me from doing so," he said.

Police said the youth has named Arockiasamy, David, Selvendran, Kennery, Kannadasan, Peter and Anbu in his complaint.

Some high-caste Christians said elder dalits did not wear chappals when they walked on their streets, but youths were "breaching the rule."

Sadayandi said he was treated at Batlagundu Hospital.

The youth alleged that police did not take any action, and so he approached an NGO. When questioned by a fact-finding team of the NGO, Arockiswamy said Sadayandi, who was then drunk, blocked their way and dared them to ram their vehicle into him.

Arockiasamy and others had allegedly slapped him and asked him to go home.

Police inspector Muneeswaran said it was Sadayandi who had created the problem. They were trying to bring about a rapprochement between the dalits and the Christians, he said.

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