CHAPTER - VI

CASE STUDIES OF SCHEDULED CASTE

PROTESTS IN MEERUT (1995-2000)

6.1 Case Studies Related to Torture
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6.3 Case Studies Related to Murder
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villagers and the injured was admitted into the Pyare Lal Sharma District Hospital of Meerut. On talking to the villagers of Meharmati and the victim Chaman Singh, it was found that police was not taking any action even after filing report, instead it was preventing them because they had bribed the policemen. Shri Chaman Singh told that his family members and villagers surrounded the police station. They conducted a rally in Sardhana and demonstrated for the full day. “Shoshit Mukti Jan Chetna” activists accompanied them. Many other Dalit leaders were also there to helped them they demanded to arrest the culprits and to take and quick strict action against them. The people and leaders of other castes of the area also accompanied them. They also pressurized the police. Police administration quickened the activities and arrested them.

To conclude, it can be said that -

1. A small incident of beating up a Dalit person turning into such a big protest is the indication of Dalit awareness.
2. Dalit struggle is taking a shape in the form of demonstrations, “Gherao” and speeches.
3. The results were positive which strengthened the Dalit awareness.
4. These successes will encourage the Dalits to fight against their exploitation.

**Case Study-3: Shooting of A Dalit Leader**

Young leader of Dalit Sena in Mawana, Mr. Ajit Chandra was shot at on Oct.12, 1995. On talking to Mr. Chandra in detail, it was
found that this was the result of jealousy with their increasing political prestige. They said that they don't have any personal tension with anybody. He told in brief that, they receive these type of calls and threats many times. That night also they received a call that their friend has been shot at and he is admitted in hospital. He arrived at home late that night. When his mother informed him about this incident, he prepared to go to hospital. Just as he stepped out of home, he was shot upon from outside. One bullet hit his brother is stomach who died on the spot. His political friend, Brijendra Kumar Sewak, who was in Janata Dal was also shot at some days before this incident occur. He was also saved sharply. They perform political activities together and fight for Dalit interests due to which other leaders are disturbed therefore, they want to remove them from their way. Shri Chandra said that they didn't lose hope and still struggle for the interests of Dalits. On asking for that incident, he said that they resisted then also, filed a report and demonstrated. When Shri Goswami were Police Superintendent, rural, they gave a memorandum to then and demanded, the arrest of murderers. Dalit Sena helped them. They also demanded compensation, though they didn't take anything and searched for murderers and got them arrested.

This demonstration reached its result, though being small, because this incident occurred with a Dalit leader not with any common Dalit person. Therefore, administration acted quick. Results were positive.
Case Study-4: A Caste Conflict

The villagers said about the massacre of Dalits in village Pali of Hastinapur in the night of Jan 5, 1997 that they were caught in problem due to the gangwar between two groups. The villagers threw light on the complete historical background of Pali Ikwara incident and told that the massacre of Dalits is the result of the long tension between two groups. A Dalit man Shri Bhiku Singh told that Karori Gujar and ShriRam murdered many people of each other’s sides for many years. Both wanted to maintain their monopoly in the area. 6 months before this massacre, Karori Gujar shot the brother of ShriRam to death Revengefully. ShriRam and his associates murdered the brother of Karori, Jagpal Gujar and one of his relatives. A week later, Karori Gujar murdered the son of Jaipal Harijan, Hamrat, before everyone and threw him in the canal and murdered one more Dalit Khemchand after a week. The mother of ShriRam’s associate Sunil was returning from jail after meeting the two on Aug 27, who was severely shot at by the associates of Karori Gujar by pushing her out of the bus. She was saved later. Enraged with the continuous murders of Dalits. ShriRam and his associates shot two friends of Karori Gujar at the bus stand on Nov 4, 1996. In return, Karori Gujar murdered Kaliram Harijan in the forests. After that, the Harijans of village Pali and Ikwara were murdered in the forests of Ikwara.

The villagers said that Karori Gujar committed atrocities on the Dalits continuously one after another and police administration also didn’t heard the problems of Dalits. Then, they forcibly came on roads.
fled from their villages. Their animals were stolen and crops were destroyed. Police also supported Karori. The Panchayat of Gujars also supported Karori Gujar. Then, they were also forced to take the help of their leaders. They organised a Mahapanchayat and called Dalits of all villages. Mayawati and Kanshiramji were invited in Meerut, roads were jammed. Even then police administration didn't arrest these people and didn't take the matter seriously. Karori committed atrocities on Dalits continuously. Still the Dalit people don't go into these forests. Their women are teased. Some people even left the village.

On being asked the names of the leaders of these demonstrations of Dalits, they refused to consists the names of local villagers but told the names of some regional bold leaders who were active in those demonstrations like Mukesh Siddharth, Gopal Kali, MLA Atul Kumar and president of Dalit Panchayat Shri Dharm Pal. The villagers blocked the routes in their demonstrations and demanded the arrest of the murders of Dalits accusing the police administration. This case suggests that--

1. Gujar is the monopoly community in Hastinapur who was exploiting and suppressing the Dalits, the protests emerged against this suppression.

2. Dalits organised against their exploitation, called their national leadership in their Maha Panchayat and told their problems.

3. They jammed roads, gave extremist speeches and supported the leader of Dalit group Shriram as a result of which he murdered many Gujar together after some days due to which tension surrounded the place.
4. The social tension of those incidents is seen even today. Still the Dalits don't go into those forests. Some even had to leave the village.

Case Study-5: A Communal Tension/Caste Conflict

Dalits were enraged with the incident of beating up of president of Daurala Nagar Panchayat, Shri Dharm Singh Fauji by Vice-President of Nagar Panchayat, Shri Mukesh Kumar on July 15, 1997. As a result of which dalits from all over the city blocked the National Highway of Delhi-Haridwar for hours. Shri Dharm Singh Fauji belongs to Dalit community and Shri Mukesh Kumar belongs to Jat community. This incident became the reason of communal tension between the two communities in the region.

Many people were contacted for taking the information about the incident. Shri Fauji said that a small incident of constructing a "Khadanja" was turned into a big incident. And Jats consider themselves as big in this region. They don't want the Dalits to come up. He was exploited in different ways in his complete service-period. He was troubled many times before that event also and was threatened. Shri Fauji said that those people want to construct "Khadanjas" on unnecessary places. They didn't want them to be constructed in Dalit areas therefore, he protested. He could never compromise on the interests on Dalits therefore, they troubled him. They even beaten him up. He was insulted by saying caste-related words. He could no longer tolerate. He complained for the incident. Dalit Samaj supported him. They staged a 'Dharna' and jammed the
road. Dalit women also participated in this demonstration. They filed a report in Darula Police Station demanding the arrest of the accused. They were arrested. Jam was opened on the assurance of the administration.

1. Dalit society is now not ready to tolerate the insult, exploitation and suppression of its leader.
2. They came on roads and protested to save the prestige of their leader and restored justice for him.
3. As a result, such incident was not repeated in the future.
4. The exploitation of Dalits was stopped and the monopoly of Jats was reduced.

Case Study-6: A Violence Against a Woman- Rape and Murder

The villagers of village Maithna of Mawana demonstrated on the commissioner's office against the kidnapping, rape and murder of a Dalit woman Suman on Feb. 28, 2000. The villagers said that they had to struggle a lot. They quarrelled with the police administration. The police didn't want the villagers to reach the police commissioner but they didn't stop and raised slogans and demonstrated on the commissioner's office and demanded the arrest of the accused. The rapists and murderers of Suman were not caught even after a month. This is the failure of police administration. Police supported the accused and gave them chance to run away.

The Dalits of village Maithna surrounded the Meerut Commissioner's office with tractor trolleys. Their Dalit leaders also accompanied them.
When they sent their leaders to the police administration then, police officers said that those people against whom a report has been filed, have brought a stay order against arrest from the High Court. They can't be arrested. Therefore, they had to stop the arrest. They gheraoed the police administration for this and said that it is their conspiracy. They have given them a chance. Then, they built the pressure of big political leaders. BSP MP Harpal Saini and Jaipal were called upon and demanded the arrest with a compensation of five lakh rupees but nothing was done.

1. Dalits protested but expected results were not achieved due to the accused being strong.
2. Neither they were arrested for months, nor did she get the compensation.
3. Still, Dalits struggled against their suppression.

**Case Study-7: Rape of A Woman**

The Valmiki community of village Mahadev of sardhana gheraced the D.M. and S.S.P. against the incident of rape of Dalit Valmiki woman on Sept. 15, 1996.

Dalits blamed that police administration did not even file their report. Member of parliament also didn't hear them. The villagers told that they decided a common demonstration and they reached Meerut. They demonstrated on D.M. residence and S.S.P. office. They filed a report of the accused demanding their quick arrest and accused the MP, Thakur Amarpal Singh for giving political security to the culprits.
When asked about the leaders of their demonstration, the villagers told that all people were with them. Ramesh Mehra was their leader who gave the memorandum to D.M. Deepak Singhal and S.S.P. K.L. Meena. They also tried for the statement of the victim woman under section 164.

A Dalit woman was raped in village Sakauti near Daurala 4 days before this incident. Then also the police administration did nothing. They demanded an enquiry into that case also. Police was not filing the report of that incident. They pressurized the police and filed that report also. They raised slogans, demonstrated and staged 'Dharnas' for the whole day. This case suggests the following—

1. The caste society and police administrattion try to suppress the incidents of severe crimes like rape with the Dalit class.
2. The accused are given security by the MP and Police doesn't file the report.
3. Then also, Dalits continued their struggle, they protested, built pressures and filed the report. This is the evidence of increasing Dalit awareness.

**Case Study-8: Police Encounter of A Dalit**

Two Dalit men were killed in the Police encounter in the forests of Nanglatashi of Sardhana in the night of July 11, 1998. The villagers stated this encounter as the conspiracy of police and said that the encounter was fake. Surendra Kumar and Ganga Sharan were not criminals while they were struggling boys. They raised Dalit issues
from time to time. They protested against the exploitation and suppression of Dalits in the region. Therefore, they taped it like dust in the eyes of other people of the region. Some people of the region have got them killed by giving support to the police.

The villagers told that the whole village grieved on their death and Dalits demonstrated together and staged a rally in the city raising slogans against their fake encounter by the police. They staged a 'Dharna' for the whole day at the office of senior police Superintendent (S.S.P.) and gave a memorandum to the administration demanding the suspension of guilty policemen and processing of case over them after their arrest, stopping of exploitation and suppression of Dalits and stopping of fake encounter and the family members of both the Dalit men should be given five lakh rupees each. They demonstrated with banners etc. and raised their demand on being asked about the leadership of the demonstration, the villagers told that Dalit Sena supported them a lot in this episode. Nobody helped them for the compensation. They also filed a case with the help of the President of Dalit Sena, Shri Leelapat ji but nothing happened.

1. Dalits came on roads against their exploitation but this demonstration couldn't came on any result being very small and the victims could neither get any compensation nor any other help.

2. They said that when Police itself was exploiting then from whom do they take the help.
Case Study-9: Torture and Group Arrest of Dalits

Many Dalits were picked up by the Police from village Bhikund of Hastinapur region in the night of Jan. 21, 1997 against which the children, old people, young men and women reached Hastinapur to surround the Police Station. They raised slogans against Police administration by staging a 'dharna' in front of the Police Station to stop the exploitation of Dalits. S.S.P reached at 'dharna sthal' after many hours and assured that those men will be reland after some enquiry. The villagers reached their homes with this assurance.

The villagers told that a gangwar was going on between two groups in Hastinapur region for many years in which one is from Gujar community and the other from Dalit community. The leader Shri Ram. Some days ago Shri Ram murdered many people of Gujar community for which Police was picking up the Dalits one by one for enquiry and was exploiting them. It was enquiring them for Bhikund massacre. The villagers told that they informed their regional leaders about the Dalit exploitation. A Dalit Panchayat was conducted in both the towns of Hastinapur and Mawana. The Dalit leaders of the region also got active. Dalit leader of SP, Mukesh Siddharth came with them openly, declared the Dalit Maha Panchayat announced the demonstration. Women and children gave a temporary 'dharna'. They demanded the police administration to stop Dalit exploitation, reland the innocent people, reland the arrested Dalits and arrest those who damages the Ambedkar statue. S.S.P. Kanhaiyalal Meena assured them and they finished the 'dharna'.
1. Dalits made collective struggle their weapon identifying the power of collective action and accepted the protest against their exploitation and suppression as their preventive shield.

2. Dalits were rained down from police arrest by demonstrations.

3. Therefore, the awareness about their interest strengthened the Dalits and told the importance of political power making them to feel the power of democracy.

**Case Study-10: Land Possession Case**

The Meerut Zone President of BSP, Shri Harbhajan Singh Buddha Advocate, conducted a Dalit meeting on July 10, 1997 and sent a letter to A.D.M.(F), Meerut demanding the enquiry of the land allotted to them. It was found on a detailed discussion with Shri Harbhajan Singh Bouddh that Dalits have not got been given possession over the land allotted to them for many years. He said that he himself got the land of many villages checked and directed for quick possessions. He got orders to S.D.M., Mawana to let the Harijans possess the allotted land in the region. The villagers of village Bhindwara of Mawana region demonstrated on the collectorate of the city for many times but no action could be taken. He himself met the Tehsildar of Mawana and he also projected his incapacity. He said *that the villagers who occupied the land are bold and economically strong.* Therefore, no legal action could be taken because they have taken stay from the court. He told him that CM Ma'm Mayawati have strictly directed that scheduled caste and people should be given possessions in every condition.
It was known on meeting the Dalits of village Bhindwara that even if govt. provides us the possession of land then, these bold people again forcibly get it back. Nathu Harijan of village Bhindwara said that they got tired going around Tehsildar and D.M. They allot them the land then, they are pushed out of there on the edge of lathis and rifles. All those villagers went to Harbajan Singh, who helped them and sent a fax to Mayawati ji but nothing was done still. They are in the same condition.

1. Dalits lands are occupied by monopolistic and powerful people of the village who are economically prosperous and bold.

2. If adminstration provides them the possession, then the Dalit unity couldn’t get them due to its being weak on the local level and their lands are again occupied.

3. Therefore, no special success has been achieved by the Dalits in the land struggles in this area.

Case Study-11: A Rape Case in Urban Area

Dalits projected rage over the incident of rape with a Dalit woman in the Ganga Nagar Colony of Meerut City in the night of July 27, 1997. They filed a report after a struggle. The newspaper informed that the Dalit woman was gang-raped and her husband was held hostage on the edge of rifle and the wife was raped by the persons familiar to them. No solid information was extracted or talk was held with the husband of the woman, Shri Indrajit, about the event. They denied to tell anything about the incident. They said that they don’t want to think or say anything about this incident. What was in destiny
has happened. They said just that nobody has done anything for them and nothing went of anyone. Nobody was ready to file our report even. The neighbours informed just this much that the two persons who were reported in the case of rape worked on the wine shop with him and had good contacts to his home. He left his job from there after the incident. Those persons were caught for nothing. He was not helped by anyone.

1. Dalit community hasn't been active even for a serious crime like rape and nothing was done against the rapists of a Dalit woman.
2. Administration even filed the report with very difficulty.
3. It is, thus, clear that Dalits didn't struggle together and this incident finished being a personal one.
4. Dalit woman couldn't get justice. A reason for this can be that it just happened with a Dalit woman. Dalit men also didn't raised it seriously.

Case Study-12: Land Allotment and Possession

Dalits together conducted a Panchayat before the arrival of U.P. CM Ma'm Mayawati in April, 1997 and informed the administration about the illegal possessions of the land of Dalits in different villages. The regional leaders of Dalits together held an enquiry of the land allotted to the Dalits in Meerut region with the pressure of government. A famous Dalit leader of the city was interviewed who threw light on this incident in detail. He said that he himself was active in this complete series of events. Shri Harbhajan Singh Buddha is himself an advocate. He showed many photographs of demonstrations on land allotment to Dalits.
He said that they collected Dalits from different regions of distt. Meerut who were allotted land from past 20 years but were not given their possession. The bold people of the area had possessed them. Dalits from different areas like Kithaur, Mawana, Sardhana, Machra etc. were collected for a demonstration in the city and pressure was obtained from the govt. As a result, distt. administration itself interfered in rural areas and provided possession to Dalits on allotted land in different villages like in Sardhana region, with the interference of SDM himself, an FIR was lodged against illegal possessors and agriculture allottees were provided possession on 50 hectares of land. This programme was ran into 150 villages. Possessions were also provided in Mawana and Kithaur regions in the same manner. The demands of exploited people were reached to the administration. They ran a Possession Attestation Movement with the help of administration on the order of govt. which was successful to a large extent.

1. This protest was staged by a bold Dalit leader of the region who had a good interference in the administration. Due to this reason, the Possession Granting Movement of Dalits was a success which encouraged other Dalits to get their possessions and other people also got ready for protest.

Case Study-13: Killing in a Road Accident

Narendra Kumar, son of Chandra Bhan, a resident of village Fafunda near Kharkhuda was died in a road accident in the night of April 15, 1997. He worked as a Photographer in Meerut City. A police report was filed together by grieved family members and villagers.
They demanded an enquiry into the incident and providing of economic help to the family of Narendra.

It was found on talking in detail with the father of the victim, Shri Chandra Bhan, about the incident that Narendra didn’t die in any road accident while he was murdered and the owner of his studio is under doubt for this. His father said that Narendra was hit on head and his hand was also twisted which was visible. They didn’t find Narendra on any road or hospital while in the house of owner of the studio in unconscious form. Then, they brought him to the village. All the villagers supported them. All Harijans and women went on the Bus stand and jammed the road with the dead body. The whole police administration reached there and tried to lathi-charge them. The whole village protested. They also had a fight with the police. Many policemen and many village men got injured. Then, the senior officers of the police reached before whom the demand for enquiring the incident was put and compensation was also asked for by the villagers. They filed report accusing the owner of the studio and pressurized to get him arrested. Police enquired him but nothing happened.

1. Dalits were successful in building pressure over the police to enquire the incident and file a report by famming in village.

2. They couldn’t get any help in the form of compensation.

3. Though it was not a big protest but, they were successful in building pressure over the administration in the demonstration due to the sympathy of a big mass of people with the family of the dead.
Case Study-14: Torture and Allegation of Loot

A Dalit person of village Kajalpur was picked up by Kankarkheda Police in Meerut on May 20, 1999 in the conviction of a big loot in the city. The Traders' Union of the city built so much pressure on the administration that the city police started arresting people hurriedly by making pressures here and there. The victim, Nauratan said that he was not in the city at that time but, the police took me under doubt. Other small cases were imposed on him before this incident but he has been taken in the wrong case. His villagers demonstrated on the police station, damaged the place and surrounded it but, the police didn’t reland him. Many Dalit leaders supported them and many people of Indian Dalit Development Institution (Bhartiya Dalit Vikas Sansthan) are familiar to them. They pressurized the police but, he was not relandd. The villagers jammed the police station and demonstrated for the whole day and tried to know the basis of arrest. They built pressure on the police administration and took the assurance of reland. He was relandd after sometime.

1. Dalits struggled together for a person of their village who was not involved in that incident.
2. They get him relandd from the police arrest and the demonstration was successful.
3. A new awareness and energy came into Dalits due to the success of such struggles.

Case Study-15: A Collective Protest for Land

One protest event occurred in Sardhana (The Tehsil Head...
Quarter) on the issue of land of the scheduled castes. The villagers, together staged a 'Dharna' at the S.D.M. residence on August 7, 1997. A huge crowd of the villagers demonstrated for long hours. They raised their problems through slogans and speeches the whole day. The demonstration was led by Shri Omprakash of village Aterna (Sardhana) and leader of minority community, Shri Tohsin Salmani. A huge mass of villagers reached the S.D.M. residence raising slogans against administration/government. With the sound of loudspeaker, people from different villages of Sardhana area participated in the demonstration. The villagers of village Aterna, Meharti Mena, Mulheda and Alipur were mainly present in large number in this protest.

The villagers told that at the time of demonstration, the S.D.M. had showed anger on entering into his residence premisses and he misbehaved with them. They were pushed out from there. They changed their place and continued the demonstration for the whole day outside his residence and raised their demands. A villager had said that they shouted on the deaf administration asking them to 'stop the exploitation of Dalits' and to return their lands (patta) to them. Which were allotted to them. The land was occupied and cultivated by other caste people of the villages.

The villagers said that Dalit leader Harbhajan Singh Buddha (of Meerut, and advocate and a S/C leader) promised to help them in their demonstration and asked to fight for the rights of Dalits. Dalit leaders from different villages of the area together prepared a memorandum and handed it over to the administration (S.D.M.). The
people who actively participated in the demonstration were Om Prakash, Shiv Kumar, Dhanpal, Rajendra, Ram Singh, Satish, Ravindra, Irfan, Ratan Prakash, Desh Raj, Satpal, Saudan, Kushal Pal. This joint demonstration of Dalit and minorities continued from morning to evening in the form of a 'Dharna'. Different demands were made as issues in the memorandum. Some demands of the villagers which were raised in this protest are as follows:

1. To stop corruption in the allotment of land.
2. To stop the exploitation of Dalits.
3. Arrangement of electricity and water in Dalit areas.
4. To stop corruption in the construction of residences for poor and provide old age pension.
5. Establishment of the statue of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar in Municipal Committee area.
6. To bring villages - Aterna, Meharti Meena and Mulhara in the area of Ambedkar villages.

It is concluded after studying the above mentioned demonstration of the villagers that

(1) It was a joint demonstration of villagers from different villages who were putting the village Dalits problems before the administration in a democratic manner.

(2) It is worth mentioning that different communities of Dalits, Hindus and Muslims together raised their voices.

(3) They handed over a memorandum with their written demands to the administration after enlisting their problems.
(4) This is an indication of increasing democratic consciousness among the villagers and an evidence of increasing awareness for articulation of their interests.

(5) This demonstration is an indicator of the growth of regional political network and Dalit class consciousness factor of mobilization.

Summing up:

Out of different SCs, protests 15 above cases some relations follows. It was resulted that the Dalit protests were not only made with short and temporary goal but for a long term goals also. Most of the protest of the Meerut District were made under the Dalit leadership or with local rural leadership. Only one or two protests were made under the political leadership. After the case study of the area it as concluded that almost all the protest were made under the leadership of the Dalits or under the local rural leadership. Only 1 protest was made by the Dalits of Kharkhaua distt. Chattari village. This was made by Jai Chand Tyagi of Kharkhaua. An important fact which came in light was that out of 50 protest 2 protests were made by the Dalits leader Mukesh Siddharth. He fired at a Dalit leader. A demand was made for the arrest of Mukesh Siddarth. After the study of 15 cases (out of 50 cases) some general features may be summed up as follows:

1. The area Dalit protest were made on any small to big subject. Most of the protest were made under the rule of Dalit today Mayawati in 1997. All the protest strengthen the democratic
values. Many protest were made with picketing. Some resulted in success while some were ended with consolidation.

2. Most of the protest were lead under the leadership of local Dalit leaders. The B.S.P. and Dalit party were also seen leading the Dalits in Meerut City.

3. Most of the protests were made on the land cases.

4. Dalits are very conscious regarding their dignity. They can make any protest regarding it.

5. The protest are seen made against the high caste of the area.

6. The protests were conducted/performing on the roads by the Dalits women for their exploitation.

7. Dalits were seen not only in protest and picketing but a away in the demonstration, road blocks etc.

8. The Dalit protest were made from exploitation, participation in politics. The protest were made collectively by both men and women.

9. The morale of the Dalits increased on one hand with the political success and economic success on the other hand the capacity to make protests also increased.

In appears that the increasing Dalit protests are a consequence of the increasing democratic awareness. The increasing awareness of the Dalits for their self interest and the increasing capacity to protest for small matters and the increasing political awareness is observable. It is the outcome of these Dalit protest that the interference by the Dalits in any incident and reporting their presence appears to be due to increasing democratic awareness among Dalits.