CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH DESIGN

1.1 Introduction

Dalits are one of the most vulnerable groups in the society with age old traditions and system. Dalits are considered as the early origin of the country which consists of people from almost all the walks of religious and historical perspectives. These people are continuously oppressed by various groups of people due to their social rejection and economic dependence. Dr. Ambedkar, a social reformer in the country had taken painful efforts to uplift these people and struggled to fight against all kinds of socio-economic discrimination and violation against their people through constitutional provisions. In this regard, reservation policy has been formulated and extended till date. Even now, dalits are facing a lot of socio-economical discrimination and violations in the country. At the same time dalit entrepreneurs are facing various business problem and economic violation against the dalit entrepreneurs. Dalit in India is a powerful segment in terms of population, vote bank and workforce but in business it is very rare due to social structure of the country which depresses these people whenever they come up in life. The socio economic status of dalits is depressed and they are low income generating people. As for the literacy level of dalit community, most of them are illiterates in their society. There has been dalit education for the longer development of the socio-political equalization of the society. Most of dalits are landless, agricultural laborers working for daily wages in the state.
India’s caste system assigns individuals a certain hierarchical status according to Hindu beliefs. Traditionally, there are four principal castes (divided into many sub-categories) and one category of people who fall outside the caste system are the dalits. As members of the lowest rank of Indian society, dalits face discrimination at almost every level from access to education and medical facilities to restrictions on where they can live and what jobs they can have. The discrimination against the dalits is especially significant because of the number of people affected; there are approximately 167 million dalits in India, constituting over 16 per cent of the total population, which are the major segment of the Indian society.

Dalits are divided into leather workers, street sweepers, cobblers, agricultural workers, and manual scavengers. The latter group is considered the lowest of the low and officially estimated at one million, and traditionally is responsible for digging village graves, disposing of dead animals, and cleaning human excreta. Approximately three quarters of the dalit workforce are in the agricultural sector of the economy. Moreover, discrimination for dalits does not end if they convert from Hinduism to another religion. The dominant castes maintain leadership positions while dalit members of these religions are often marginalized and flagrantly discriminated against. This situation prevailed for a long period in Indian society. The dalit activity is more than 80 per cent among daily labourers and agriculture sector activities. Half of dalit population is landless or has less than one acre of land each.

Dalits owning a business are called dalit entrepreneurs. Today every dalit entrepreneur remains as marginalized section of the society. In absolute as well as relative terms, the untouchables find themselves at the bottom of most human development indices. A predominant majority of them live in villages, and they tend to be mostly poor and illiterate. Coupled with their economic dispossession, the perception in the society of their inferior status reduces them to second class citizens. Thus, exclusion, discrimination, exploitation and violence become the order of the day. The asset-less population among dalits is far more than those among the other sections of society. This section is uneducated and lives at the mercy of dominant castes for employment and sustenance. It is irrelevant whether they are literate as that status is unlikely to help them socially or economically.

Dalit owned enterprises are below average in India as per the Report of MSME. Micro studies across India suggest that dalit entrepreneurs are still slotted into their traditional occupations, which are manually based and really a form of low level wage employment. Those who do think of moving into self-employed ventures fail to do so out of fear of social pressure and potential loss of sub-caste networks that serve as sources of mutual insurance. Second, to circumvent their disadvantages in building networks across social groups, dalit entrepreneurs tend to strengthen their internal bonds and use these for economic purposes.

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The recent India human development survey (2010) reports that only 12 per cent of dalit households had access to two or three contacts in the formal sector in 2005 compared with 26 per cent among forward caste households. Dalits also lack access to credit, markets and raw materials. This means that, even among the dalits who are self-employed, a majority remain in low-end manual trades that do not require much capital or raw material to start up. The few that try out something new are limited by their initial conditions. Dalit entrepreneurs lacked economic resources, but even when they had economic resources, they were crippled by a lack of social resources.

Entrepreneurship is one of the most effective economic activities which provide not only employment opportunities but also become the economic empowerment for the person concerned. In India, entrepreneurship becomes a caste matter, which means, a particular caste people involve themselves in entrepreneurship due to tradition. But, anybody can become an entrepreneur, if he/she has entrepreneurial skill and competence. In this regard, entrepreneurship among the dalits is the recent matter or origin in the economic development of the country.

Dalit entrepreneurship is a growing concept which is emerging due to the improvements in socio-economic and educational status of dalit in the country. But dalit in business is not at a significant level while compared to the other communities with this aspect. In the light of this, the present research would be useful to explore the socio economic status, entrepreneurial profile, various problems, violation and discrimination encountered by dalit entrepreneurs in the study area.
1.2 Statement of the Problem

Violence is the expression of physical force against others, compelling action against one's will on pain of death or physical harm. Variant uses of the term refer to the destruction of non-living objects. Worldwide, violence is used as a tool of manipulation and also is an area of concern for law and culture what take attempts to suppress and stop it. Violence can take many forms anywhere from mere hitting between two humans where there can be bodily harm, to war and genocide where millions may die as a result. It should be noted that violence can be non-physical as well.

The economic conditions of the dalits in Tamilnadu have not been improved since independence because of economic violation against dalits by the caste Hindus and indirectly by the political parties. Social setup of the country is also not ready to accept and recognize the dalit people as the entrepreneurs or as a businessmen. A dalit businessman fails because of his or her being a dalit. The situation should change through massive awareness about the evils of violation in the society. Caste discrimination in entrepreneurship becomes a treacherous problem which results in low productivity, wastage of resources and unemployment.

The problems are arising in the process of new transition from being socio-economic bonded to that of independent self-esteem wealth and income as job generators. The problems of industrial entrepreneurship development are definitely complex. They range from total absence of physical
resources to illiteracy, absence of skills, identification of genuine youth who really want to start their own small-scale industrial units for training etc.

The earlier training programmes for promoting entrepreneurship among dalit entrepreneurs failed to make any impact because their number first of all was so, meagre, and after training they were left for themselves and they never took such training programmes very seriously, because they were also very much inclined towards white-collar jobs. Thus, they took up training as a means of earning something instead of keeping idle for a brief period. Dalits also have their own drawbacks such as poor awareness about entrepreneurship, low involvement, poor risk taking capacity etc.

Dalit entrepreneurs have lived in deep social and economic isolation. They were socially and economically disintegrated from the mainstream of societal living and the working of its concomitant viz., economy. Accordingly, a large number of these households have very poor socio-economic receptivity for modern change and development. This is supported by their illiteracy, inferiority complex, blind belief etc. All this will make them serve the village land-owners either as laborers or by supplying some goods like slippers, furniture, baskets, mats etc. at very nominal prices.

Hence, there is a need to understand the status of dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu and their entrepreneurial competence in general and economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in particular in the study area. This study would be useful to find out various problems encountered by dalit entrepreneurs and possible ways to overcome the problems in their study area.
1.3 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the study is to understand the problems of dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu in respect of socio-economic status, and economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu. The following are the major objectives of the research study.

1. To study the socio-economic status of the dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
2. To identify the economic violence against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
3. To analyze the impact of economic violation on socio-economic status of dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
4. To provide the remedial measures to the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.

1.4 Hypothesis

The researcher has formulated many hypotheses according to its needs and relevance of the study.

1. There is no significant difference between economic violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
2. There is no significant difference between ways of violation and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
3. There is no significant difference between discrimination and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
4. There is no significant difference between equal rights and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
5. There is no significant difference between upper caste and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

6. There is no significant difference between obstacles for business and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

7. There is no significant difference between Training programmes and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

8. There is no significant difference between infrastructure facility and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

9. There is no association between sub caste and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

10. There is no significance difference between men and women with regard to initial stage problem of dalit entrepreneurs.

11. There is no association between marital status and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

12. There is no significant difference between nature of activity and initial stage problems faced by dalit entrepreneurs.

13. There is no association between education and initial stage problems of dalit entrepreneurs.

14. There is no significant difference between gender with regard to financial problem of dalit entrepreneurs.

15. There is no association between sub caste and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
16. There is no significant difference between annual income and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
17. There is no association difference between family members and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
18. There is no association difference between size of enterprise and financial problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
19. There is no significant difference between gender and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
20. There is no association between marital status and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
21. There is no significant difference between annual income and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
22. There is no significant mean difference between types of sector and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
23. There is no significant difference between size of enterprise and marketing problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
24. There is no association between Education and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
25. There is no significance difference between gender with regard to other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
26. There is no significant difference between Family members and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
27. There is no association difference between nature of activity and other problems of dalit entrepreneurs.
28. There is no association between sub caste and qualities of dalit entrepreneurs.

29. There is no association between sub caste and Government support of the dalit entrepreneurs.

30. There is no association between sub caste and attitude to improve the dalit entrepreneurs.

1.5 Research Methodology

The present research study is descriptive in nature using both primary and secondary data. Descriptive research includes surveys and fact finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present.

(a) Sampling Technique

Stratified random sampling method was used as the sampling technique.

(b) Sample Size

There are 2910 dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu as per the record of Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Chennai, of which 640 respondents (22%) are taken as sample size for the study. 20 respondents from each district have been chosen, of which 10 respondents are from rural and 10 from urban region. Convenient sampling techniques were applied to select the sample respondents.

(c) Data Collection:

The study requires both secondary and primary data. Primary data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished sources, such as director of

(d) Statistical Tools:

The researcher has used the following tools for analysis:

Descriptive statistics t-Test, F-test, Chi-square test, Regression Analysis, Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Model (SEM).

1.6 Pilot study

A pilot study was undertaken before the data collection. Sample size for the pilot study comprises 50 respondents, of which 25 are from rural part and 25 from urban part of the study area. Based on the response of the respondents, questionnaire were modified and redesigned according to the need and relevance of the study.

1.7 Study area

The study area is the State of Tamil Nadu. There are 32 districts in this state and it is considered as ‘Universe’ for the purpose of collection and analysis of data.

1.8 Period of the Study

The study has covered a period of two years from January 2012 to January 2014, which includes the data collection period from January 2013 to June 2013.
1.9 Scope of Research Study

The present research study consists of a wide scope on understanding the various discriminations and violations against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu and how it affects their socio-economic empowerment. Dalit entrepreneurs can be planned and developed and the need for providing appropriate knowledge, awareness of business ethics and environment to promote entrepreneurship is very vital. Entrepreneurship is one of the emerging concepts which provide income generation, employment opportunities, utilization of local resources and national income. In this way, Government has taken a lot of steps to promote the entrepreneurship with financial assistance. Due to the socio economic conditions of the down drown communities like dalit they might not become entrepreneurs. If anyone becomes as entrepreneur, he/she faces unique problems not because of being an entrepreneur but because of being a dalit.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

The researcher has selected only 640 samples from the total number of entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.

This study mainly focuses on dalit entrepreneurs. The limitation is only about economic violation and does not cover the functional areas of management and problems of dalit entrepreneurs. It does not cover all dalit entrepreneurs in the state; hence the result will not reflect in other entrepreneurs. The present study concentrates only on economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs and it does not consider the problems of the functional areas of business such as finance, marketing, production and personnel.
Dalit entrepreneurs who own the micro enterprises have been considered as sample respondents for this study. Hence, this study does not reflect on the small, medium and large-scale dalit entrepreneurs.

1.11 Conceptual Frame Work

a. Dalit

Dalits are known and considered as the ‘untouchables’ to the world. The identity of ‘untouchable’ emerged from the practice and belief even today that touching people from castes identified as the lowest can bring about defilement from the impurity that people from such castes carry from birth till death.

b. Scheduled Caste

The scheduled caste are natives who were once thought-out as untouchables. After India got her Independence in the year 1947, the untouchables started describing themselves as the dalits.

c. Untouchability

Untouchability is that system of society on account of which one individual cannot touch another individual and one society cannot touch another society on the basis of convention and if it so touches, it becomes profane and in order to remove that profanity it has to perform penance.

d. Caste discrimination

Caste discrimination involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is often outlawed in countries affected by it, but a lack of implementation of legislation and caste-bias within the justice systems largely leave dalits without protection.
**e. Economic Violence**

Economic violence frequently describes best the nature of interactions between the dalits and the non-dalits in India. Dalits are constantly subjected to egregious violence, dehumanizing labour, and a pervasive system of social exclusion.

**f. Economic Exploitation**

Dalits are predominantly represented in the class of landless agricultural workers. In the absence of uniform national legislation to govern both the wages and working conditions of agricultural workers, there persists a system of economic exploitation and bonded labour.

**g. Atrocities**

Acts of atrocity against dalits, particularly when they begin to assert their rights, are commonplace. Practices of untouchability are rampant, both between non-dalits and dalits, and amongst dalit sub-castes.

**h. Human rights**

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever may be our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status.

**i. Entrepreneurs**

An entrepreneur supplies risk capital as a risk taker, and monitors and controls the business activities. The entrepreneur is usually a sole proprietor, a partner, or the one who owns the majority of shares in an incorporated venture.
j. Entrepreneurship

It is The capacity and willingness to develop, organize, and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make a profit. The most obvious example of entrepreneurship is the starting of new businesses.

k. Dalit Entrepreneurs

That a dalit can become an entrepreneur is still a challengeable one in the modern day society, due to the social system of the country. From origin itself dalits are oppressed by upper caste people through socio-religious sentiments.

l. Micro Small and Medium Enterprises

The MSME Act 2006, the organization has been renamed as micro, small and medium enterprises-development organization (MSME-DO) with the wider mandate of promotion and development of MSME sector.

1.12 Chapter Scheme

The research study consists of seven chapters viz,

1. The first chapter deals with the introduction and research design of the study
2. The second chapter focuses on review of literature.
3. The third chapter measures the socio-economic status of dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
4. The fourth chapter analyses the economic violence against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
5. The fifth chapter deals with the impact of economic violation on socio-economic status of dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
6. The sixth chapter analyses the remedial measures to the economic violation against dalit entrepreneurs in Tamilnadu.
7. The final chapter summarizes the findings, suggestions and conclusion.