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CHAPTER-VII

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS, OBSERVATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS

This final chapter of the study comprises of Four Sections dealing with the conclusions, observations and suggestions of the study. The FIRST SECTION deals with the introduction of the whole study and provides a synoptic recap of the same. The SECOND SECTION talks about the issues and challenges, the objectives and the hypothesis of the study. The THIRD SECTION aims at evaluating and testifying the hypothesis of this research work. It also highlights the findings which have emerged out of responses of the respondents, interviews and observations. The FOURTH SECTION entitled concluding observations contains suggested policy prescription and concluding remarks based on the findings of this study and also the way forward for research in this area of study.

SECTION –I

INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPTIC RECAP

7.1 INTRODUCTION

“If you ask me, my ideal would be the society based on liberty, equality and fraternity. An ideal society should be mobile and full of channels of conveying a change taking place in one part to other parts.”

“Unity is meaningless without the accompaniment of women. Education is fruitless without educated women, and agitation is incomplete without the strength of women.”

The above mentioned thoughts by Dr B.R. Ambedker, the main architect of our Constitution seems to just remain in the texts and not much has been done to put them in practice. The Indian women, specifically the Scheduled caste/Dalit women, are facing many challenges in the male dominated society since the time she is in the womb till the she loses her soul. Because of the persistent male prejudiced culture, women have been treated as a *second grade citizen* since later Vedic era. To a large extent they were kept illiterate and invisible in our society so that they do not challenge and outgrow men. An analysis of early texts prove that women were treated inhumanly intentionally by men to maintain their dominance. Many controversial texts are still

available in most of the religious scriptures. The most infamous one is a couplet from Ramcharit Manas, which says,

“Dhol Gawanr Shudra Pashu Nari,

Sakal tadan ke adhikari”

Such innumerable texts written and taught generation after generation is enough of validation of women being treated in a degraded way. The outcome of these teachings has resulted in the present status of women, especially Scheduled caste /Dalit women, who are the lower most in the ladder of the Indian society ridden with the Caste system.

The atrocities against women and especially against the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana have increased tremendously in the past few years. The Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women are the worst effected in Haryana, being a male dominant as well as upper caste Jat dominant state. There are studies undertaken with respect to Scheduled Caste/Dalits of Haryana but virtually not much emphasis has been given to the plight of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women of Haryana. The Scheduled caste/Dalit women are at the receiving end from all the aspects being poor, being women and also being Scheduled Caste/Dalits. They are facing atrocities in the society as well as back home.

“The reality of Dalit women and girls is one of exclusion and marginalisationthey are often victims of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights violations, including sexual abuse and violence. They are often displaced, pushed into forced and/or bonded labour, prostitution and trafficking.”¹

Scheduled Caste/Dalit women need gender specific policies and programmes to address the issue of multiple deprivations. Though India has various affirmative policies for the socially marginalised groups and women which ensures the right to education for all, Scheduled Caste/Dalit women and girls are still facing the curse of illiteracy and underage marriages.² Dropout rate is high among the Scheduled Caste/Dalit girls in the schools and underage marriage is vastly prevalent among them. Dalit women require comprehensive policies on health, especially on the maternal and child health because infant and child mortalities are very high among them.

“Non-implementation of legislation and policies and the lack of effective remedies and

¹ UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Rashida Manjoo

² Indian Institute of Dalit Studies Volume IX, Number 02

effectively functioning state institutions, the judiciary and police included, remain major obstacles to eliminating caste-based discrimination”³

To the best of the knowledge of researcher, barring few studies, most of the studies are secondary data based in nature. Thus, there was a need to examine the status of Scheduled Caste/Dalit Women in Haryana by highlighting the atrocities on them in select districts of Hisar and Panchkula. The above referred scenario in Haryana prompted the researcher to choose this topic as it would focus on various forms of atrocities faced by Scheduled caste/Dalit women of Haryana. This study is primarily intended for the purpose of generalization and also to heighten awareness. This research work attempts to address the gap of knowledge and lack of available data concerning the atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana and their rehabilitation. It also considers possible reasons so as to why these Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are not in a position to resist against these atrocities. It is hoped that this study will help the Scheduled caste/Dalit women as well as related agencies to find causes for the atrocities occurring on them on the basis of this extensive empirical study of both the districts. The study has also emphasised on the kinds of crimes and atrocities and has analysed the various provisions of the Constitution and legislations drafted to protect the downtrodden sections of the society.

The study has also covered incidences of crime and atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in India, Haryana and its districts of Panchkula and Hisar. Its main aim was to contextualize the kinds of atrocities happening in the select districts of Haryana and also focus on the implementation of various legislations related to crime and atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in these Districts.

The present study was conducted in the state of Haryana with special reference to the districts of Hisar and Panchkula. In the Hisar district the Scheduled Caste population is high and has maximum crime rate against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women, and Panchkula, where the Scheduled Caste population is minimum and also the crime rate is minimum in the state of Haryana. The study is based upon both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through questionnaires, formal interviews, face to face and telephonic interactions, discussion meetings and focused group discussions. For the study, a comprehensive survey was conducted and data collected

³ European Parliament 2013 Resolution on Caste

from the respondents, including Scheduled caste/Dalit women, Police Station officials and members of the Scheduled Caste Commission. Interviews were held with scheduled caste/Dalit women and their family members regarding the atrocities faced by them. Face-to-face and telephonic interactions were also held with Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in order to investigate their viewpoint regarding the atrocities and crimes against them. Apart from these, face to face interactions were also held with staff members of the area police stations to ascertain their opinion regarding the cases of the atrocities of Scheduled caste/Dalit Castes women of their area. Personal observations of the researcher during field visits were used to supplement the data. The secondary data was taken from journals, books, newspaper, internet, government reports and official websites of the Haryana Government.

7.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the data on cases of violence against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in select districts of Haryana vis-à-vis their socio-economic status.
2. To assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in providing the relief for the Scheduled Caste/Dalits victims.
3. To examine the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.
4. To assess the role of NGOs in providing an interface between victims of violence and Haryana police.
5. To study ways to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of various Constitutional provisions and legislations related to atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.
6. To study the help and relief provided by various help groups and NGOs.
7. To study the role of Police in curbing atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.
8. To assess the role of media in highlighting the issue of violence against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.

7.3 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. More crimes are committed against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women belonging to lower socio-economic strata of the society.
2. The Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state.
3. The forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders.
4. The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste/Dalit women victims and Haryana Police.
5. The various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level.
6. The Help groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation.
7. The crime against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women by the police.
8. The role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.

SECTION- II

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

7.4 Key issues and challenges faced by the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women

1. Illiteracy amongst Scheduled caste/Dalit Women.

India is considered as land of Vedas but today it is one of the countries with highest women illiteracy rate. The SC women are amongst the most illiterate segment of the Indian society. Even the statistical data on literacy proves that Scheduled caste/Dalit women of Haryana are least educated of all the states of the country. Even after large budgetary allocations for making education free for every girl child in Haryana, getting basic education for Scheduled caste/Dalit female is the biggest challenge. Not just the

basic enrollment but also keeping up with the regular education is a challenge. Scheduled caste/Dalit women are at the bottom when we talk about literacy. The most illiterate and unaware section of the society who are not even aware about their basic human rights. The first thing is enrollment in the schools which is very less and even if the Scheduled caste/Dalit girls are enrolled in school the drop-outs rate is very excessive in their cases. Therefore, this whole section remains illiterate as they are suffering from poverty and other basic issues.

2. Lack of awareness of basic rights and laws made for Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

As the Scheduled caste/Dalit women are mostly uneducated and illiterate they are not aware of their basic rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and laws enacted by the Parliament to protect them. Sometimes they might be aware of a few laws but are not in position to completely understand them for protecting themselves. They are totally dependent on advocates or police officials to guide them which again is challenging because of trust issues. As rightly said incomplete information is even more dangerous. Thus, in most of the cases they are misguided resulting in more harassment of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

3. Lack of financial independence and no right on finances even after earning themselves.

The Scheduled caste/Dalit women of Haryana are hardly able to earn considerable amount of money even after working for long hours. The amount they earn is usually given to the male head of the family who finally decides where that money is to be spent. They also don't have share in the family property and no say in financial decisions of the family. This makes their condition even worse as they are working at home as well as outside the home and still are not able to improve their financial status. Scheduled caste/Dalit women have no economic security, no regular income, no land or property share and therefore, totally dependent for their livelihood on parents, husbands, or others. As a result they are not able to raise their voices when they face certain kinds of harassment and they tend to ignore them.

4. Lack of support from their families itself in case if harassment from outside home.

The Scheduled caste/Dalit women are not getting any kind of family support from their parents, husbands and siblings, unless a major incident happens with them. They are told to ignore most of the harassments they face at work so that the family earnings are

not affected. Family should be the first point of contact once any incident happens with them. In case of Scheduled caste/Dalit women because of their ignorance most of the cases finish before they are initiated. Because of the fear of social stigma attached to the issue and also fear of social punishments like social boycott by all other members of the society makes the situation all the more challenging for the Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

5. Immense social pressure and dominations of high caste in the society which is deep rooted.

The Scheduled caste/Dalit women are facing extreme social pressure in their own society where the dominant castes are usually higher in status with control over all the factors of production. The situation is so grave that they even decide the informal rules, regulations and make them accept cultural norms set by them. SC women are facing terror dictates from these big dominant forces as they control and dominate resources including land, money, position and power. Because of fear of these forces where are so powerful that to gather the confidence to fight them is very challenging for the Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Even if they try to resist or be vocal about their harassment their voices are suppressed by these invisible giant forces or by other illegal means.

6. Not able to fulfill basic need to survive and mostly hand to mouth.

The Scheduled caste/Dalit women of our society are fighting desperately to fulfill their basic needs such as food, water and shelter and clothing. It is disheartening to know that the poorest section of the society is dominated by the Scheduled caste/Dalit women in our country. And if they are able to fulfill basic needs there is a big gap in other important needs like sanitation, education and health care. Even though there are a number of schemes for addressing their poverty like, the Governmental controlled Public Distribution System for providing them foodgrains, health care schemes for taking care of their health and hygiene but still proper implementation of all these programme is highly questionable.

7. Lack of Leadership and Direction to pursue justice.

There is no strong leader to represent the Scheduled caste/Dalit women for taking care of their needs, challenges, miseries and their solutions. Most of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women are directionless of what procedure to follow even if they decide to

raise their voice against any injustice happening to them. Even though there are governmental and voluntary agencies to help them but their inability to reach out to them makes them inefficient and ineffective. Lack of channels of communication to address their grievances and then further to follow up the action taken upon their complaints makes the victims lose their trust in the whole system.

8. Lack of unity amongst them due to Apathy towards each other.

The Scheduled caste/Dalit women have no common social groups where they can discuss their problems and issues. They are not able to help each other even on common issues. This lack of socialization and interaction is not able to resolve the problem of their social insecurities as a result of which they do not raise their voices. This mutual lack of support from each other in their problem which they are facing because of being Scheduled caste/Dalit women has resulted in the feeling of alienation from their own gender which has further developed into a feeling of apathy towards each other.

9. Lack of proper support and direction from Administrative authorities.

The approach of administrative authorities for implementing any welfare scheme or procedure is so tedious that Scheduled caste/Dalit women are not able to get their support at the right time. Being illiterate and also victims of atrocity, they are not able to exactly identify whom to ask for help because the administrative structure is very overlapping and confusing. Our bureaucracy, ridden with *red tapism* and nepotism is just not keen to foresee and understand the situation and are thus not able to guide them to help them fight for justice.

10. Lack of proper support of media to highlight their actual plight.

Media usually tries to twist the facts for their own personal gains which makes the whole case look confusing and misdirected. The Scheduled caste/Dalit women are not able to trust the media as they are not sure how they will present their case or complaints. Unless it is a big story and power struggle is involved in the case even media is not interested in covering incidents of atrocities on poor Scheduled caste/Dalit women as they feel nobody would be interested to read or see them. In addition, there are political and higher caste pressures on the media forcing them to modify the content and tone of their stories.

11. Ineffective role of NGOs and SHGs to help victims.

The role of NGOs and self-help groups is almost negligible because these are only able to create a bit of pressure on the concerned agencies to perform their duties and are not able to provide any relief directly. Their role may be prominent in rehabilitation once the atrocity has been committed but still the biggest challenge is their timely reach to the victims Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Most of them lack financial resources as they are self-funded and thus are not able to help victims of atrocity in their rehabilitation properly.

12. Multiplicity and lack of coordination amongst administrative agencies

One of the biggest challenge faced by the victimized Scheduled caste/Dalit women is procedural delays as there are often more than one administrative agencies responsible for providing relief to them. Most of these agencies are over burdened and they tend to be inefficient which results in even more harassment to the victims leading to delay in getting any relief or justice. There are challenges and problems within the system framed to protect Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

13. Taboo or stigma attached to victimized women by society.

The challenge is to take a stand and be vocal about the harassment but in most of the cases the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are not able to talk about the situation and atrocity they faced as they are scared about the social stigma attached to it by the society. This is the key reason why most of the atrocities are not reported in the first instance.

13. Male Dominance

Male dominance in the society is the biggest challenge faced by the Scheduled Castes/Dalit women. Women have to adjust their priorities and lifestyle according to the demands of the society and according to male members of the family. Not just the males of their own family but also of the village or society they live in. They are harassed both by the men of their own families as well as the other men outside the family and workplace. This problem is specific to the Scheduled caste/Dalit women and less amongst higher castes.

14. *Social Barriers*

Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are facing stringent social barriers much more than that of other caste women. Their acceptability in the Indian society is minimum not just in rural areas but also the so called educated and discrimination-free urban areas of the country. The hesitation to talk to their husbands and elders in their own family is the chief reason why they are not able to discuss about the harassment they are going through.

15. *Extreme Discrimination*

Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in our country suffer multiple and intense discrimination because of their caste as well as gender. This severe gender-and-caste discrimination is making their condition even worse which shows how imbalanced our whole structures be it social or economic. Because of their low position in the society and being socially and economically weak, they are the easiest targets for violence and atrocity resulting in more cases of major crimes against them.

7.5 Observations and Experiences of the Researcher during field visits

During the course of the study, particularly the field visits, the researcher had a few experiences on the basis of which the following observations are noteworthy:

1. Being a women researcher most of the victimized Scheduled Caste/Dalit women came forward and interacted freely with me. The interaction with the researcher was direct, without any middle person, not even their family members.
2. The victimized women were very vocal about their problems and shared even small little details about their victimization and their complaints to the authorities.
3. The support of the male members of the family was a non-significant factor once the complaint/FIR had been filed or heard by the concerned authorities.
4. Those victims who were already fighting their victimization cases or had undergone similar experiences were very supportive to the new victims as they guided them and gave directions regarding the ways to pursue the complaints/FIRs.
5. Administrative authorities were interested only if they felt that the woman is willing to fight further and will not back out on her complaints.

6. Unnecessary bureaucratic delays at various offices and Police Stations was the major reason for the women to withdraw their complaints because of unnecessary harassment they faced.
7. Financial and social pressure also played a major role in non-pursual of complaints by the women victims.
8. Social stigma played an important role in the reluctance as well as pursue of their complaints.

SECTION-III

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

This section of the Chapter aims to evaluate and test the hypothesis which were framed for this study. For the purpose of the testing of hypothesis framed for this study, primary and secondary data and interviews with various concerned officials/members of the SC Commission (Haryana) and a few NGOs and SHGs was made as the basis. In addition, the researcher's observations and interactions with respondents and other people were also taken into account to **Accept** or **Reject** a hypothesis.

7.6 Hypothesis 1

“More crimes are committed against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women belonging to lower socio-economic strata of the society”.

The SC women respondents were asked to opine if they perceived that more crimes are committed against them as they belong to lower socio-economic strata of the society. They were asked whether lack of education, extreme poverty, being employed and being not employed are the causes of atrocities. Further they were inquired about whether their economic dependency on their husbands, or on their husband's family was a cause of atrocities they were facing. They were also asked whether they feel upper dominant castes in the village were responsible for atrocities against the Scheduled Caste women, or did they feel that their inadequate earnings, or their better earning than their husband is the cause of atrocities against them. Further they were asked if they were generally paid lesser wages than other women. These indicators and causes which were asked to the respondents in the form of questionnaire were taken into account for testing this hypothesis.

Table No 7.1 Summing up the SC women views supporting Hypothesis 1

Causes of Crime/atrocities	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Lack of Education	67 percent said yes	71 percent said yes	49 percent said no	58 percent said yes
Extremely Poverty	82 percent said yes	75 percent said yes	83 percent said yes	67 percent said yes
Being Employed	76 percent said yes	73 percent said yes	82 percent said yes	79 percent said yes
Being not Employed	76 percent said yes	73 percent said yes	82 percent said yes	79 percent said yes
Economic dependency on husband	55 percent said yes	51 percent said no	74 percent said yes	72 percent said yes
Economic dependency on husband's family	63 percent said yes	53 percent said yes	68 percent said yes	68 percent said yes
Dominant Castes in the village	76 percent said yes	78 percent said yes	78 percent said yes	79 percent said yes
Inadequate earning	84 percent said yes	66 percent said yes	80 percent said yes	83 percent said yes
Better earnings than their husbands	62 percent said yes	60 percent said yes	75 percent said yes	77 percent said yes
SC Women generally paid lesser wages than other women	74 percent said yes	69 percent said yes	80 percent said yes	83 percent said yes

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents Table 7.2 above gives a summary analysis of perspectives of respondents whether more crimes are committed on them because they belong to low socio-economic strata.

Table 7.2 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents about more crimes committed on them because they belong to lower socio-economic strata.

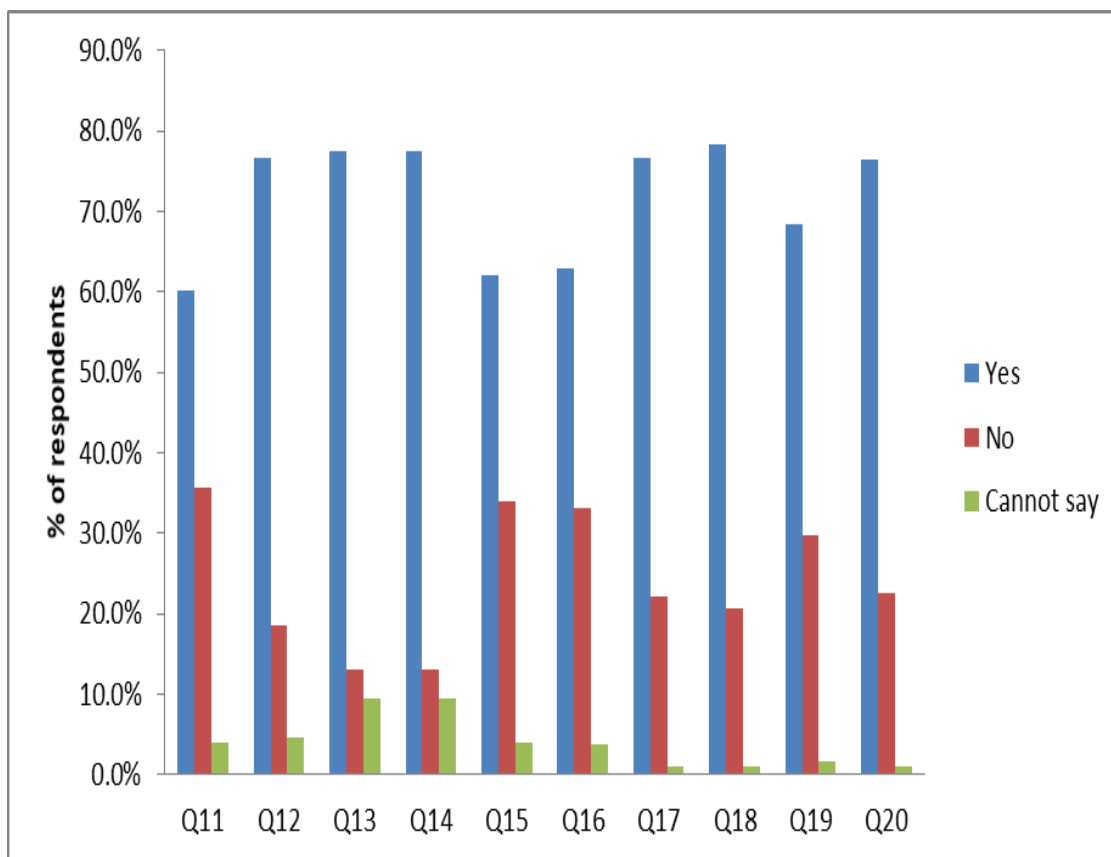
Hypothesis 1	Responses from respondents							
<i>More crimes are committed against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women belonging to lower socio-economic strata of the society.</i>	Yes		No		Cannot say		Total	
Q11 Lack of Education	241	60.3%	143	35.8%	16	4.0%	400	100.0%
Q12 Extreme poverty	307	76.8%	74	18.5%	19	4.8%	400	100.0%
Q13 Being employed	310	77.5%	52	13.0%	38	9.5%	400	100.0%
Q14 Being not employed	310	77.5%	52	13.0%	38	9.5%	400	100.0%
Q15 Financial dependence on husband	248	62.0%	136	34.0%	16	4.0%	400	100.0%
Q16 Financial dependence on husband's family	252	63.0%	133	33.3%	15	3.8%	400	100.0%
Q17 Dominant caste's role	307	76.8%	89	22.3%	4	1.0%	400	100.0%
Q18 Inadequate earnings	313	78.3%	83	20.8%	4	1.0%	400	100.0%
Q19 Better earning than their husband	274	68.5%	119	29.8%	7	1.8%	400	100.0%
Q20 Paid lesser wages than other women	306	76.5%	90	22.5%	4	1.0%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	226.364							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.2, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 1 that more crimes are committed on them because they belong to lower socio-economic strata. As the Table 7.2 shows the P value for the questions 11 to 20 asked was ($\chi^2 = 226.364$, $p=0.0001$), which is less than 0.05, i.e. highly significant.

Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of the respondents and Hypothesis No-1.

The same information is represented through Diagram of a Bar-Plot below.

Diagram 7.1 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents about more crimes committed on them because they belong to low socio-economic strata.



Even in personal observation of the researcher it was noticed that those SC women who were socially and economically well off and those belonging to the comparatively upper caste were facing less atrocities than those SC women who belonged to lower socio-economic strata.

All the three SC Commission's members interviewed also agreed to this finding that

those SC women who belonged to lower socio-economic strata are more prone to atrocities.

The Table 7.1 below gives a synoptic matrix of the testing of the Hypothesis 1

Matrix 7.1 Testing of Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>More crimes are committed against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women belonging to lower socio-economic strata of the society.</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	On the basis of primary and secondary data, personal observation and interaction with the members of the SC commission it can be seen that most of the respondents agreed that lack of education, employment, economic dependence on husband and husband's family, dominant castes in the village, inadequate earnings, lesser wages than other women and most important male dominant society were responsible for enhancing the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

Thus, on the basis of the primary and secondary data including the information observed as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions and observations of the researcher as given above, the hypothesis "*More crimes are committed against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women belonging to lower socio-economic strata of the society*" is **Accepted**.

7.7 Hypothesis 2

"The Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state."

For the purpose of this study, that whether the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state, the SC women victims and the Police Personnel were asked about the views.

The SC women victims were asked whether they reported any complaint to any authorities. If the response to this question was 'yes', they were further asked whether the concerned authorities filed their complaint and also about their rating pattern for

these agencies in terms of the redressal of their complaints. They were further asked if they got any relief or remedy on their complaints and if they think there was a discriminatory treatment against them in the justice mechanism. They were also asked about the reasons for this discriminatory treatment against them in the justice mechanism.

Table No 7.3 Summing up the SC women view supporting Hypothesis 2

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Reported complaint to authority	72 percent said yes and 26 percent said no	69 percent said yes and 28 percent said no	75 percent said yes and 22 percent said no	81 percent said yes and 19 percent said no
To whom report was filed	56 percent said police personnel, 39 percent said commission for SC and 5 percent preferred no comment	52 percent said police personnel, 43 percent said commission for SC and 5 percent preferred no comment	63 percent said police personnel, 32 percent said commission for SC and 5 percent preferred no comment	68 percent said police personnel, 31 percent said commission for SC and 1 percent preferred no comment
Rating of the agencies in term of redressal of complaints	56 percent were in favour of police personnel, 42 percent said commission for SC and 3 percent opined no comment	49 percent were in favour of police personnel, 48 percent said commission for SC and 3 percent opined no comment	56 percent were in favour of police personnel, 42 percent said commission for SC and 2 percent opined no comment	63 percent were in favour of police personnel, 37 percent were in favour of commission for SC and 0 percent opined no comment
Extent of relief/ remedy on complaints	33 percent said yes and 64 percent said no and 3 percent opined cannot say	29 percent said yes and 65 percent said no and 5 percent opined cannot say	45 percent said no and 50 percent said no and 6 percent opined cannot say	46 percent said yes and 52 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say
Discriminatory treatment against SC women in Justice mechanism	28 percent said yes and 69 percent said no and 3 percent opined cannot say	22 percent said yes and 76 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say	52 percent said yes and 47 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say	46 percent said yes and 52 percent said no and 1 percent opined cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents the Table 7.4 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system.

Table 7.4 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system

Hypothesis 2	Responses from respondents (SC women)							
<i>The Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state.</i>	Yes		No		Cannot say		Total	
Q3 Complaints reported to authority	297	74.3%	95	23.8%	8	2.0%	400	100.0%
Q4 Extent of relief on complaints	153	38.3%	231	57.8%	16	4.0%	400	100.0%
Q5 Discriminatory treatment against SC women in Justice mechanism	145	36.3%	245	61.3%	10	2.5%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	148.987							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.4, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the question asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No-2 that the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state. Table 7.4 shows that the p- value for all the questions asked comes to be ($\chi^2=148.987$, $p=0. .0001$), which is less than 0.05, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis No-2.

For the question 3(a) and 3(b) the Table 7.5 and Table 7.6 gives a brief analysis.

Table 7.5 Analysis of the Q-3(a) Authorities to which complaints was filed

Q3a- To whom did SC women filed the complaint	Total responses*	Percentage
Police personnel	239	59.8%
Commission for Scheduled Caste	145	36.3%
NGO or SHGs	16	4.0%
Panchayat	0	0.0%
Others	0	0.0%
Total	400	100.0%

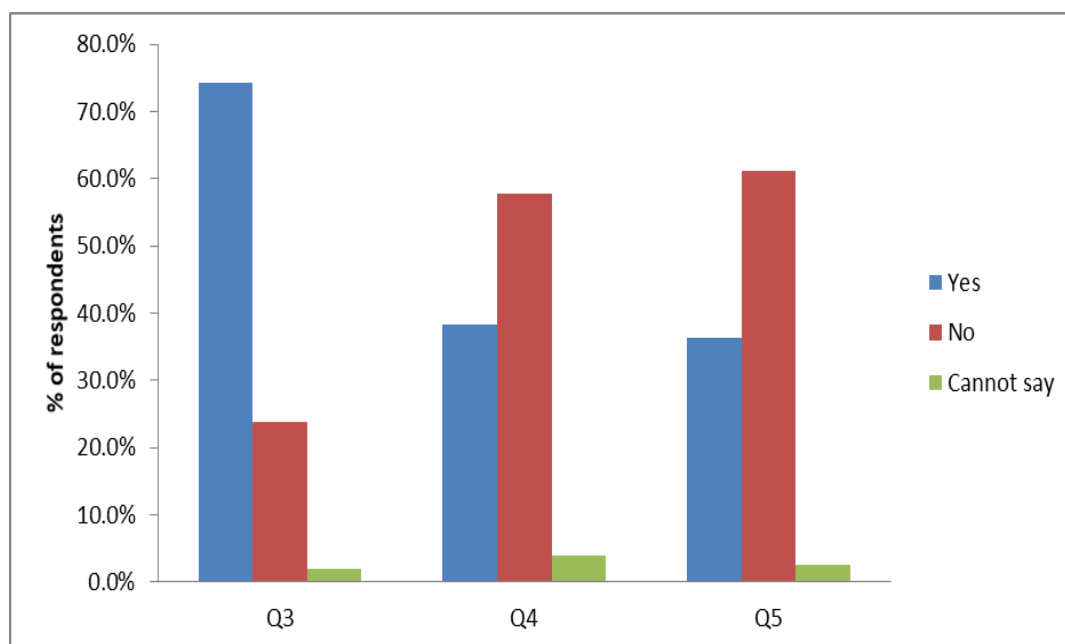
*Total responses means responses of both the district of Hisar and Panchkula

Table 7.6 Analysis of Q-3(b) rating of the agencies

Q3b Rating of the agencies	Total Responses	Percent
Police Personnel	224	56.0%
Commission for Scheduled Caste	169	42.3%
NGO or SHGs	7	1.8%
Panchayat	0	0.0%
Total	400	100.0%

The same information is represented through Diagram of a Bar-Plot below.

Diagram 7.2 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system of the state



It was noticed by the researcher during interaction with the respondents that because of the extensive delay and tedious process of getting justice, the SC women victims lacked confidence in the present criminal justice mechanism in the state of Haryana.

For the purpose of testing this hypothesis, that whether the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state, the Police Personnel were also asked questions related to this issue.

The Police Personnel were asked about who generally accompanied the SC women victims for filing the complaints and how long they took to file an FIR of the SC women victim. They were further asked whether better conveyance facility would help in quicker and better investigation and more manpower would help them in better investigation. Their opinion about issues like: were they facing any political pressures while handling such case and were their frequent transfers hampering the case investigations were also ascertained. They were also asked whether victimised SC women have any special facility to file these complaints, were the arrangement to deal with such complaints adequate in their Police Station and do they think there is a need of a women counselor for the victims in their Police Stations. All these related issues and the opinions of the respondents were taken into account for testing this hypothesis.

Table No 7.7 Summing up the view of Police Personnel testing

Hypothesis 2

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Who accompanied the victim of atrocities to police station for lodging FIR/Complaint	42 percent were parents of the victims, 31 percent were friends and 27 percent were relatives	43 percent were parents of the victims, 35 percent were friends and 22 percent were relatives	43 percent were parents of the victims, 37 percent were friends and 20 percent were relatives	41 percent were parents of the victims, 35 percent were friends and 24 percent were relatives
Time taken to lodge an FIR in police station	9 percent said same day, 53 percent said 1-3 days and 38 percent said 4-15 days	14 percent said same day, 60 percent said 1-3 days and 26 percent said 4-15 days	17 percent said same day, 59 percent said 1-3 days and 24 percent said 4-15 days	28 percent said same day, 47 percent said 1-3 days and 25 percent said 4-15 days
Better conveyance facilities help in quicker and better investigation of case	78 percent said yes, 8 percent said no and 13 percent said can't say	75 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	75 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	83 percent said yes, 10 percent said no and 7 percent said can't say
More manpower in police station would help better investigation of case	76 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 18 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 13 percent said can't say	58 percent said yes, 26 percent said no and 16 percent said can't say

Political pressure while handling case of atrocities	57 percent said yes, 22 percent said no and 21 percent said can't say	54 percent said yes, 32 percent said no and 14 percent said can't say	62 percent said yes, 19 percent said no and 19 percent said can't say	75 percent said yes, 9 percent said no and 16 percent said can't say
Frequent transfers hampers investigation	69 percent said yes, 2 percent said no and 29 percent said can't say	75 percent said yes, 5 percent said no and 20 percent said can't say	64 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 22 percent said can't say	61 percent said yes, 25 percent said no and 14 percent said can't say
Existence of special facility for registering the complaints or filing of the FIR	76 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 18 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 13 percent said can't say	58 percent said yes, 26 percent said no and 16 percent said can't say
Special arrangement for SC women for attending the complaints in Police Station adequate	76 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 18 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 13 percent said can't say	58 percent said yes, 26 percent said no and 16 percent said can't say
Need of the women counsellor in the Police Station	76 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 18 percent said no and 10 percent said can't say	72 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 13 percent said can't say	58 percent said yes, 26 percent said no and 16 percent said can't say

On the basis of the responses of the Police Personnel respondents Table 7.8 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women's lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state.

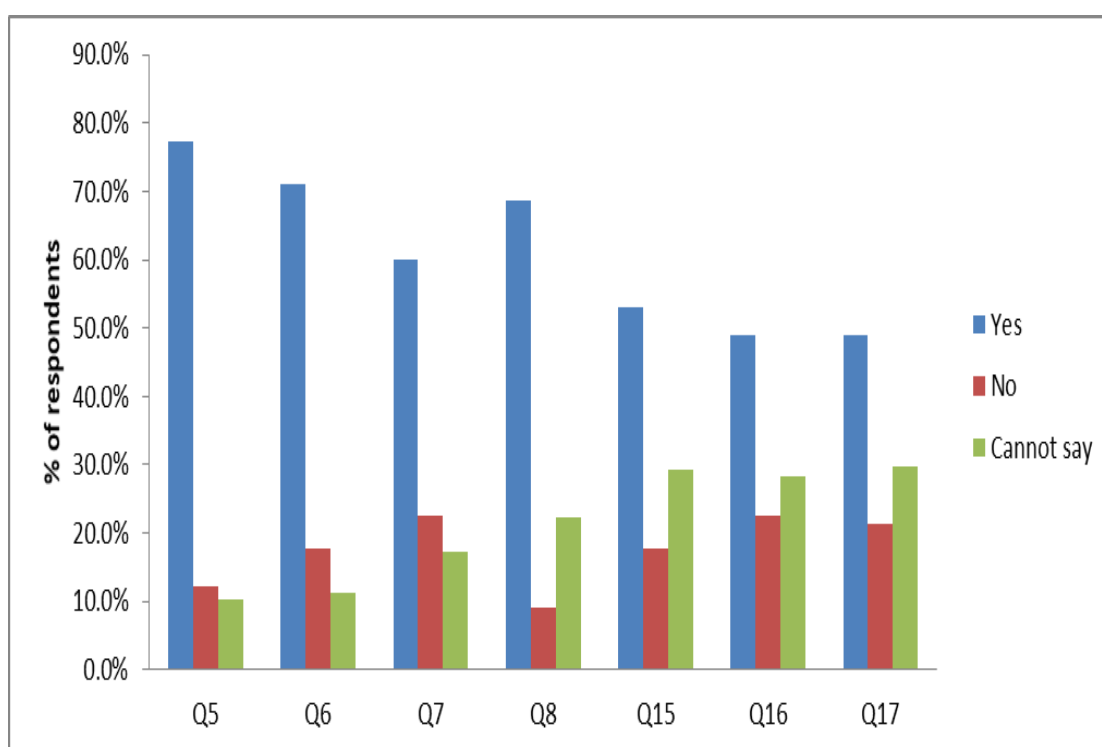
Table 7.8 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women's lack of confidence in the criminal justice system of the state

Hypothesis 2	Responses from respondents (Police Personnel)							
<i>The Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state</i>	Yes		No		Cannot say		Total	
Q5 Better conveyance facilities help in quicker and better investigation of case	232	77.3%	37	12.3%	31	10.3%	300	100.0%
Q6 More manpower in police station would help better investigation of case	213	71.0%	53	17.7%	34	11.3%	300	100.0%
Q7 Political pressure while handling case of atrocities	180	60.0%	68	22.7%	52	17.3%	300	100.0%
Q8 Frequent transfers hampers investigation	206	68.7%	27	9.0%	67	22.3%	300	100.0%
Q15 Existence of special facility for registering the complaints or filing of the FIR	159	53.0%	53	17.7%	88	29.3%	300	100.0%
Q16 Special arrangement for SC women for attending the complaints in Police Station adequate	147	49.0%	68	22.7%	85	28.3%	300	100.0%
Q17 Need of the women counsellor in the Police Station	147	49.0%	64	21.3%	89	29.7%	300	100.0%
Chi-Square	126.007							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.8, represents the accumulative output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the Police Personnel respondents and the Hypothesis No-2 that the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state. As the Table 7.8 shows the P value for the questions asked (q-15 to 17) comes to be ($\chi^2 = 126.007$, $p = 0.0001$), is coming out to be **less than 0.05**, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of respondents and the Hypothesis No-2.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot in Diagram 7.3 below:

Diagram 7.3 Summary analysis of perspective (Police Personnel) of respondents about the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state



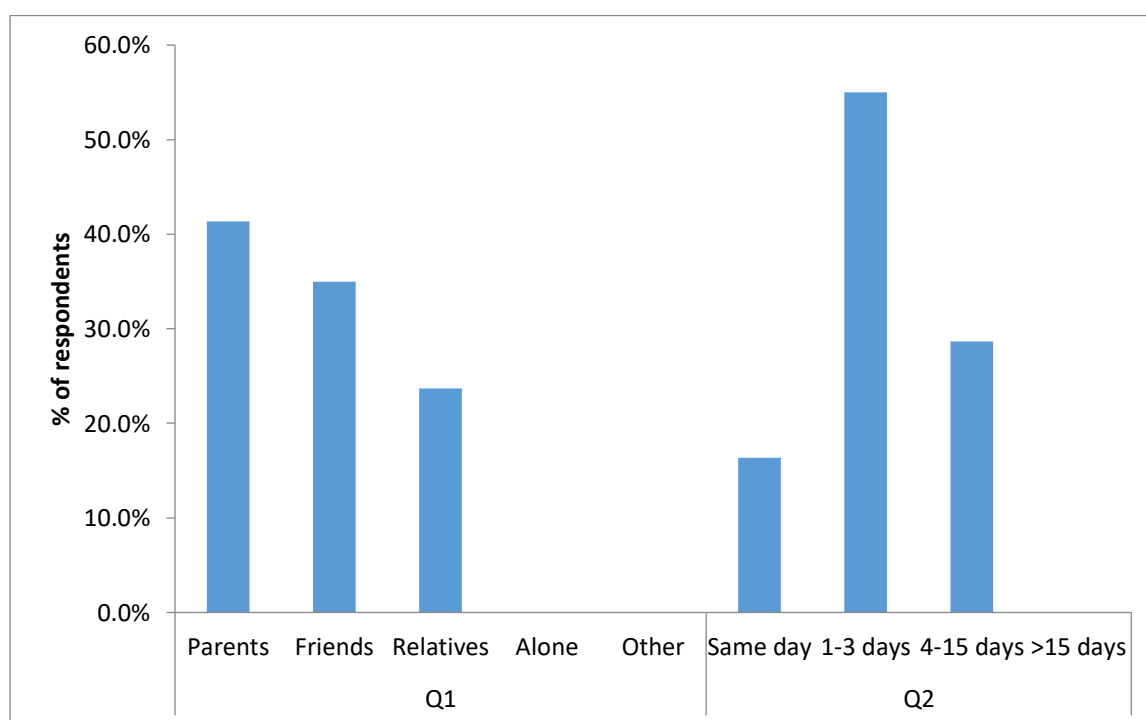
An analysis of the question asked that which of the following is the reason of discriminatory treatment against Scheduled Caste woman in justice mechanism is shown in the following Table 7.10

The analysis of Q1 and Q-2 is given in the Tables below

Table 7.9 Summary of the question- 1 of Police personnel respondents that who accompanied the victims

Q1 Who accompanied the victim	Response	Percentage
Parents	124	41.3%
Friends	105	35.0%
Relatives	71	23.7%
Alone	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	300	100.0%
Q2 Time taken to lodge an FIR	Response	Percentage
Same day	49	16.3%
1-3 days	165	55.0%
4-15 days	86	28.7%
>15 days	0	0.0%
Total	300	100.0%

Diagram 7.5 Summary of the question- 1 of Police Personnel respondents that who accompanied the victims



During the visits to the Police stations by the researcher, it was observed that even the police personnel felt that the victimized SC women were not very confident of getting justice from the system of justice prevailing in Haryana. One of the members of the SC Commission for the state of Haryana also expressed reservation about the justice mechanism in the states of Haryana. Interaction of the researcher with the members of NGOs in the select districts of Hisar and Panchkula also revealed shortcomings in the justice mechanism.

Matrix 7.2 Testing of Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state.</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	On the basis of data analysis, it has been found that the majority of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women and the police personnel felt that the victims of atrocities come with their parents, friend and relatives for lodging an FIR and four to five days were taken to lodge the FIR in police station. Victims were attended by the female constable. In the atrocity cases the follow up plan was only the investigation. Police personnel of police station were also facing many problems during the investigation of atrocities cases i.e. lack of modern techniques, lack of manpower, lack of better facilities, frequent transfers, political pressures and high authority pressures. Same problems and issues were also faced by the victims of atrocities. They felt that the weak laws and rules were responsible for increase in the cases of the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Therefore, the victims of the atrocities at some point of time start to lose confidence and lose faith in the criminal justice system of the Haryana State.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and Secondary data, including the information gathered as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions the hypothesis, *"The Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana lack confidence in the criminal justice system of the state"* is **accepted**.

7. 8 Hypothesis 3

"The forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders".

The SC women were asked that being a victim what all kinds of atrocities they had undergone, were they taken for the medical examination after they faced atrocities, if yes by whom were they attended and what was the attitude of the doctor and other staff. They were further asked if any incident of female foeticide and infanticide happened in their family, were they subject to child marriage, do they agree that these atrocities against SC women is the will of God and are they ready to accept violence as their karma.

Table No 7.10 Summing up the Hypothesis 3

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
<i>Atrocities Scheduled Caste / Dalit women had to undergo</i>	41 percent of the women faced torture both mental and physical 38 percent faced Homicide, dowry deaths or attempt at it 35 percent Molestation, 27 percent Kidnapping, 23 percent Rape, 20 percent sexual	40 percent of the women faced torture both mental and physical 34 percent faced Homicide, dowry deaths or attempt at it 34 percent Molestation, 31 percent Kidnapping, 18 percent Rape, 19 percent sexual	39 percent of the women faced torture both mental and physical, 46 percent faced Homicide, dowry deaths or attempt at it 32 percent Molestation, 43 percent Kidnapping, 26 percent Rape, 12 percent sexual	49 percent of the women faced torture both mental and physical, 55 percent faced Homicide, dowry deaths or attempt at it 37 percent Molestation, 47 percent Kidnapping, 24 percent Rape, 19 percent sexual

	Harassment and 17 percent Importation of girls.	Harassment and 15 percent Importation of girls	Harassment and 10 percent Importation of girls	Harassment and 17 percent Importation of girls
Medical examination after women faced atrocities	36 percent said yes, 52 percent said no, 12 percent said no comment	22 percent said yes, 70 percent said no, 8 percent said no comment	35 percent said yes, 59 percent said no, 6 percent said no comment	37 percent said yes, 59 percent said no, 8 percent said no comment
Attended by which category of medical staff	21 percent women said female doctor, 11 percent said a male doctor, and 4 percent said other staff	14 percent female said doctor, 6 percent said a male doctor, and 2 percent said other staff	22 percent female said doctor, 11 percent said a male doctor, and 2 percent said other staff	17 percent female said doctor, 12 percent said a male doctor, and 8 percent said other staff
Attitude of the doctor and other staff	10 percent said attitude of the doctor and other staff was average and 5 percent said negligent	6 percent said attitude of the doctor and other staff was average and 3 percent said negligent	18 percent said attitude of the doctor and other staff was average and 4 percent said negligent	14 percent said attitude of the doctor and other staff was average and 5 percent said negligent
Any incident of female foeticide and infanticide in your family	73 percent said no and 27 percent said yes	70 percent said no and 30 percent said yes	59 percent said no and 39 percent said yes	56 percent said no and 42 percent said yes
Subject to child marriage	69 percent said no and 31 percent women said yes	54 percent said no and 46 percent women said yes	55 percent said yes and 45 percent women said no	57 percent said yes and 43 percent women said no
Atrocities against SC women as the will of God	80 percent said no and 20 percent said yes	83 percent said no and 17 percent said yes	74 percent said no and 26 percent said yes	75 percent said no and 23 percent said yes
Accept violence as your karma	35 percent said yes, 63 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say	32 percent said yes, 55 percent said no and 13 percent opined cannot say	39 percent said no, 56 percent said no and 5 percent opined cannot say	41 percent yes, 54 percent said no and 5 percent opined cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents Table 7.10 below gives a summary analysis of their perspective about the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women which varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders.

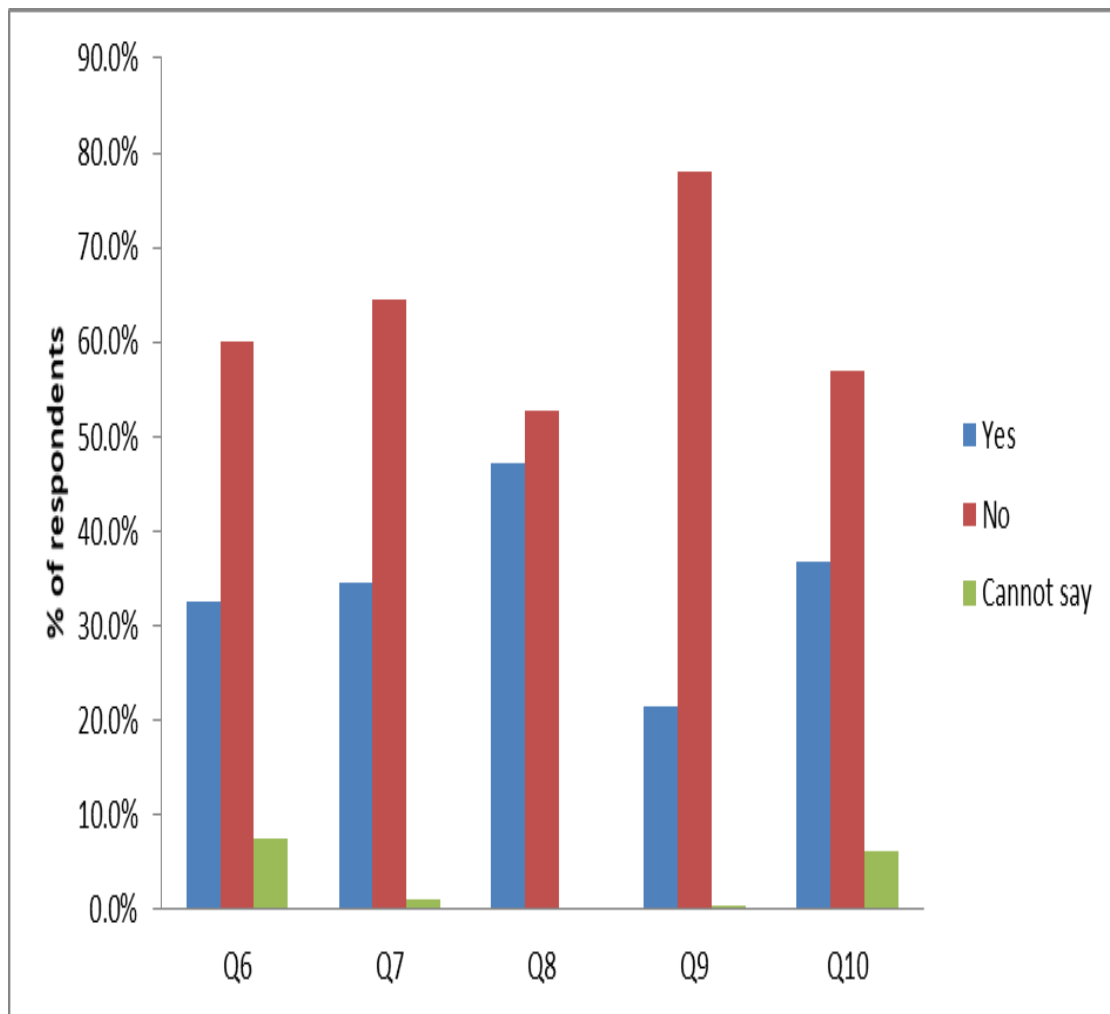
Table 7.11 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders

Hypothesis 3	Responses from respondents							
	Yes		No		Do not wish to comment		Total	
<i>The forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders</i>								
Q6 Medical examination after women faced atrocities	130	32.5%	240	60.0%	30	7.5%	400	100.0%
Q7 Any incident of female foeticide and infanticide in your family	138	34.5%	258	64.5%	4	1.0%	400	100.0%
Q8 Subject to child marriage	189	47.3%	211	52.8%	0	0.0%	400	100.0%
Q9 Atrocities against SC women is the will of God	86	21.5%	312	78.0%	2	0.5%	400	100.0%
Q10 Accept violence as your karma	147	36.8%	228	57.0%	25	6.3%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	129.203							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.11, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 3 that *the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders*. As the Table 7.11 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2 = 129.203$, $p = 0.0001$), which is less than 0.05, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis 3.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot in Diagram 7.4 given below.

Diagram 7.6 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders



Q-1 and Q-6(a)

Table 7. 12 Analysis of the question- 1 of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women respondents about the types of atrocities victims had to undergo

Q1 Atrocities victims had to undergo	Responses	Percentage
Rape (sec.376; IPC)	91	22.8%
Kidnapping and Abduction for Specified purpose (sec363-373;IPC)	148	37.0%
Homicide for dowry, dowry deaths or their attempt (sec302/304-B;IPC)	173	43.3%
Torture-both mental and physical(sec.498-A IPC)	169	42.3%
Molestation(sec.354;IPC)	138	34.5%
Sexual Harassment(sec.509;IPC)	70	17.5%
Importation of girls (up to 21 years of age) (sec.366-B IPC)	59	14.8%
Others	111	27.8%

Diagram 7.7 Bar- Plot representation of atrocities a victim had to undergo

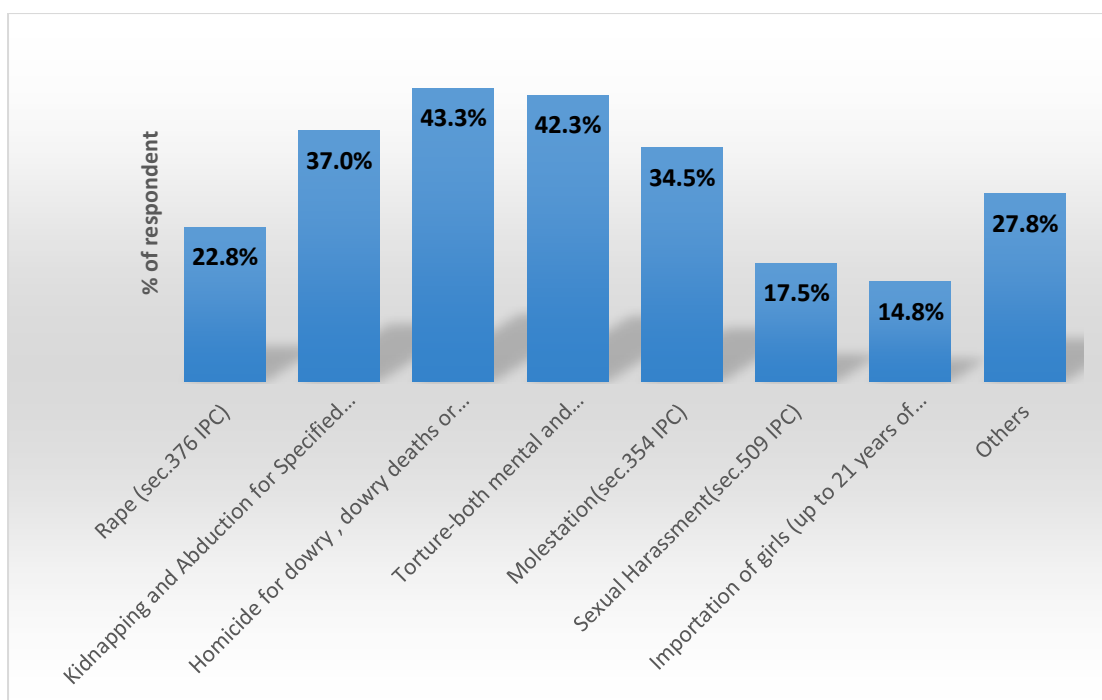
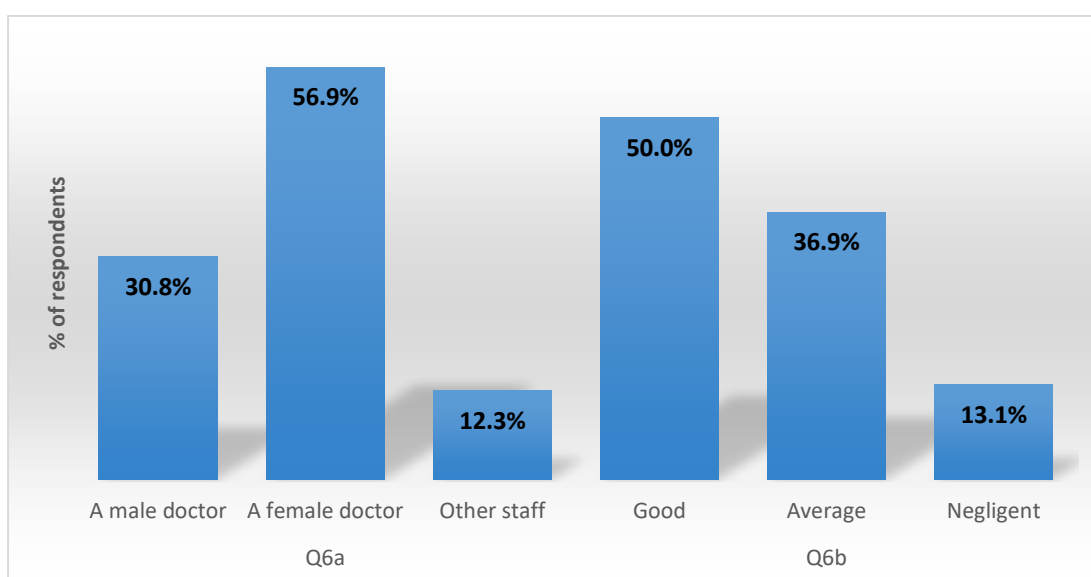


Table 7. 13 Analysis of the question- 6(a) who attended the victim and question- 6(b) attitude of the doctor

Q6a Personnel attended the victim	Responses	Percentage
A male doctor	40	30.8%
A female doctor	74	56.9%
Other staff	16	12.3%
Total	130	100.0%
Q6b attitude of the doctor	Responses	Percentage
Good	65	50.0%
Average	48	36.9%
Negligent	17	13.1%
Total	130	100.0%

Diagram 7.8 Bar-Plot representation of the question- 6(a) who attended the victim and question- 6(b) attitude of the doctor



During the researcher's personal observation and interactions with individuals related with the issue, it was noticed that usually the atrocities against the SC women and the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by them varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders.

The SC Commission's members also agreed to this view that the forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women varied from minor

verbal insults to heinous crimes like rapes and murders

The Matrix 7.3 below gives a synoptic matrix of the testing of the Hypothesis 3

Matrix 7.3 Testing of Hypothesis 3

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste /Dalit women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders.</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	In urban and rural areas majority of the scheduled caste/Dalit women were facing all possible types of atrocities i.e. torture both mental as well physical, homicide for dowry, dowry deaths or their attempt, molestation, kidnapping, rape, sexual harassment and importation of girls. The victims of atrocities were able to report their complaints to the in the nearby police station. They were also able to undergo medical examination after facing atrocities and female doctors or staff attended them. The behavior of the doctor was average towards victims. On the other hand there was no incident of female foeticide and infanticide in their family. In Hisar district Scheduled caste/Dalit women were subjected to the child marriage. Majority of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women were of the view that the atrocities against them is not the will of the god and they were also not ready to accept violence as their Karma.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and secondary data including the information collected as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions of the researcher with the victims, as given above, the hypothesis, *"The*

*forms and intensity of the violence experienced by the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women varies from minor verbal insult to heinous crimes like rapes and murders” is **Accepted**.*

7.9 Hypothesis 4

“The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and Haryana Police”.

The SC women victims were asked about their awareness about the existence of any NGOs in their areas which were helping SC women against atrocities which they face. They were also asked whether the NGOs were helpful to the SC women victims in providing an interface with the police authorities.

Table No 7.14 Matrix Summing up the Hypothesis 4

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Awareness about any NGOs in area and helping SC women against Atrocities	48 percent said yes and 52 percent said no	44 percent said yes and 52 percent said no 4 percent said cannot say	66 percent said yes and 32 percent said no 2 percent said cannot say	72 percent said yes and 26 percent said no 2 percent said cannot say
Help by NGOs to the victimised SC women in providing interface with the police authorities.	86 percent said yes and 10 percent said no 4 percent said cannot say	66 percent said yes and 33 percent said no 1 percent said cannot say	74 percent in said yes and 24 percent said no 2 percent said cannot say	76 percent said yes and 23 percent said no 1 percent said cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents the Table 7.15 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about *the NGOs having been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and Haryana Police*.

Table 7.15 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the NGOs having been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and Haryana Police

Hypothesis 4	Responses from respondents							
<i>“The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and Haryana Police”.</i>	Yes	Percent- age	No	Percent- age	Cannot say	Percent- age	Total	Percent- age
Q30 Did NGOs were successful to provide interface between SC women and Haryana Police	230	57.5%	162	40.5%	8	2.0%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	194.06							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.15, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 4 that *The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and the Haryana Police*. As the Table 7.15 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2=194.06$, $p=0. .0001$), which

is **less than 0.05**, i.e. non-significant. Therefore, we can say that there is no significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis No-4.

The same information is represented through a Pie Chart in Diagram 7.9 below.

Diagram 7.9 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) that the NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and police

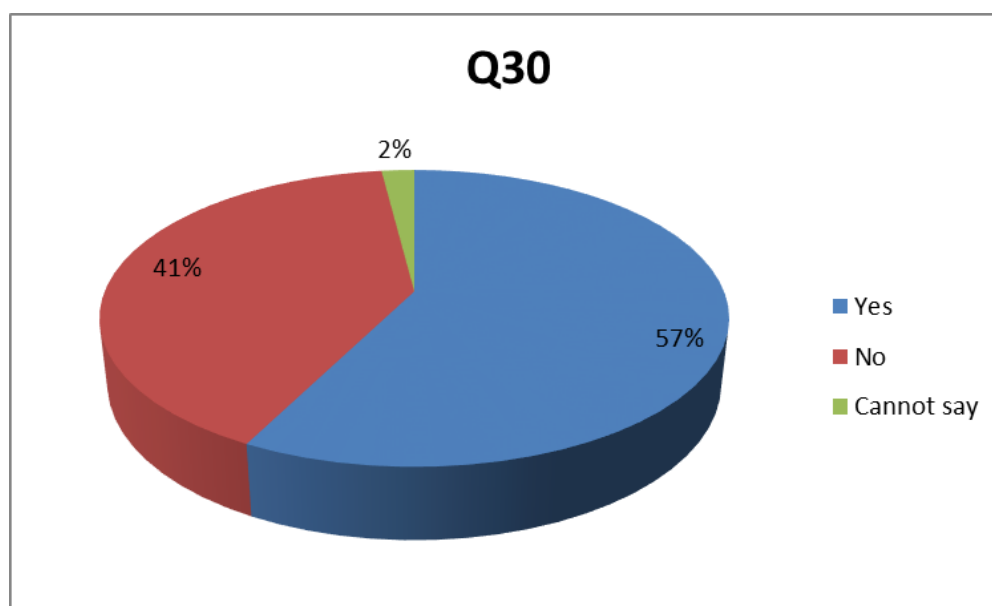
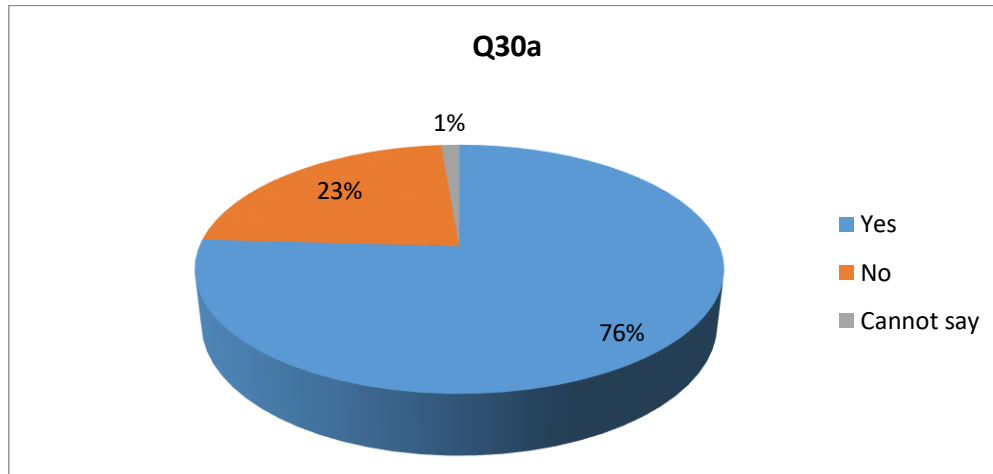


Table 7.16 Summary of the Question- 30(a) any NGO came for rescue

Q30 (a)- Did any NGO come for rescue	Responses	Percentage
Yes	173	75.9%
No	52	22.8%
Cannot say	3	1.3%
Total	228	100.0%

**Diagram 7.10 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women)
whether any NGO came for rescue**



The personal observation of the researcher also indicates that usually the NGOs were not successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and the Haryana Police.

Two members of the SC Commission's members also agreed to this view that the NGOs have not been of much help and thus not successful in providing an interface between Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women victims and Haryana Police.

The Matrix 7.4 below gives a synoptic matrix of the testing of the Hypothesis 4

Matrix 7.4 Testing of Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between scheduled caste/Dalit women victims and Haryana Police.</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	In Hisar district of Haryana majority of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women were not aware about the NGOs in their areas. Some of the respondents were aware and felt that NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between Scheduled cases and Haryana Police. In Panchkula district majority of the respondents from urban and rural areas said that they were aware about the NGOs in their area.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and Secondary data including the information obtained as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions, as given above, the hypothesis, *“The NGOs have been successful in providing an interface between scheduled caste /Dalit women victims and Haryana Police”* is **Rejected**

7.10 Hypothesis 5

“The various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level”.

To analyse the role of various implementing agencies including judiciary. Judiciary is not an implementing agency directly but an adjudicating agency, but it assists in implementation for this reason judiciary related responses have been taken into account in this analysis. The SC women victims were asked: whether lack of knowledge about their legal rights is the cause of atrocities against women; is there need for change in the justice mechanism of the country; does the delay in the final judgement by the judiciary a cause for increase of such incidents. They were also asked whether there was awareness about the free legal aid given by the government, about law providing economic compensation to women and if they got the relief on time.

Table No 7.17 Summing up the Hypothesis 5

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Lack of knowledge about legal rights the cause of atrocities against women	66 percent said yes and 33 percent said no 1 percent cannot say	59 percent said yes and 37 percent said no 4 percent cannot say	81 percent said yes and 18 percent said no 1 percent cannot say	80 percent said yes and 20 percent said no
There is need for change in the justice mechanism of the	56 percent said yes and 39 percent	53 percent said yes and 42 percent	62 percent said yes and 35 percent	66 percent said yes and 33 percent

country	said no 1 percent cannot say	said no 5 percent cannot say	said no 3 percent cannot say	said no 1 percent cannot say
Delay in the final judgement by the judiciary is cause for increase of such incidents	77 percent said yes and 21 percent said no 2 percent cannot say	66 percent said yes and 23 percent said no 11 percent cannot say	80 percent said yes and 14 percent said no 6 percent cannot say	77 percent said yes and 19 percent said no 4 percent cannot say
Awareness about the free legal aid given by the government	73 percent said yes and 23 percent said no 4 percent cannot say	74 percent said yes and 24 percent said no 2 percent cannot say	72 percent said yes and 28 percent said no percent cannot say	78 percent said yes and 21 percent said no 1 percent cannot say
Awareness about law ad providing economic compensation to women	68 percent said yes and 29 percent said no 3 percent cannot say	58 percent said yes and 42 percent said no percent cannot say	71 percent said yes and 27 percent said no 2 percent cannot say	73 percent said yes and 25 percent said no 2 percent cannot say
If yes get the relief on time	51percent said yes and 17 percent said no 32 percent cannot say	43 percent said yes and 14 percent said no 43 percent cannot say	54 percent said yes and 17 percent said no 29 percent cannot say	56 percent said yes and 17 percent said no 27 percent cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents the Table 7.17 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations and coordination at ground level.

Table 7.18 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level

Hypothesis 5	Responses from respondents							
<i>The various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level</i>	Yes	Percent-age	No	Percent-age	Cannot say	Percent-age	Total	Percent-age
Q21 Lack of knowledge about legal rights is the cause of atrocities against women	286	71.5%	108	27.0%	6	1.5%	400	100.0%
Q23 There is need for change in the justice mechanism of the country	209	52.3%	177	44.3%	14	3.5%	400	100.0%
Q24 Delay in the final judgement by the judiciary is cause for increase of such incidents	300	75.0%	77	19.3%	23	5.8%	400	100.0%
Q25 Awareness about the free legal aid given by the government	274	68.5%	119	29.8%	7	1.8%	400	100.0%
Q26 Awareness about law providing economic compensation to women	276	69.0%	121	30.3%	3	0.8%	400	100.0%
Q27 If yes got the relief on time	297	74.3%	97	24.3%	6	1.5%	400	100.0%
Q28 Awareness about laws providing economic compensation	270	67.5%	123	30.8%	7	1.8%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	99.184							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.18, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents

and the Hypothesis No 5 that the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level. Table 7.18 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2=99.184$, $p=0.0001$), which is **less than 0.05**, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis 5.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot below in Diagram 7.9

Diagram 7.11 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations and coordination at ground level

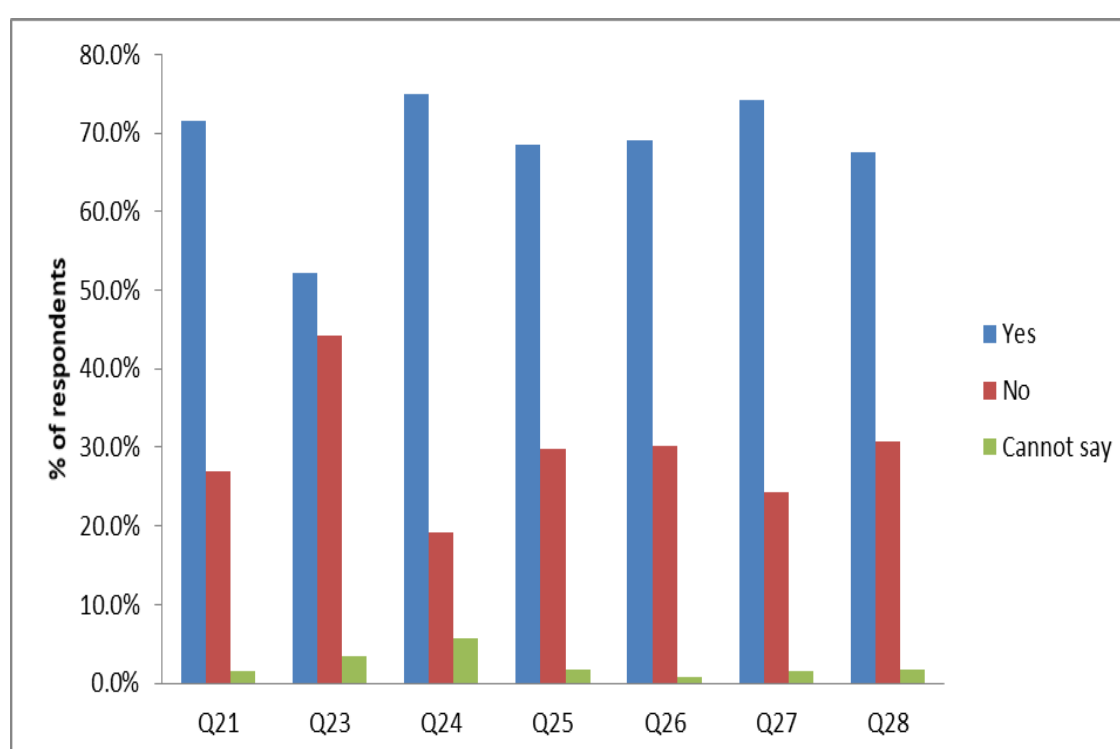
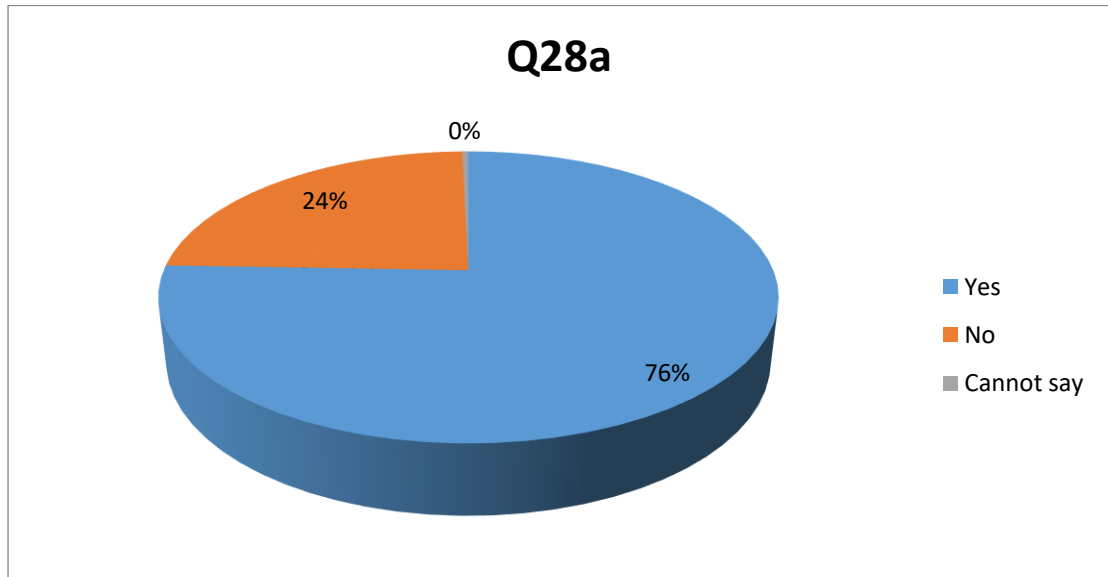


Table 7.19 Summary of question 28(a) Did victims got relief from authorities.

Q28(a) Did victims got relief from authorities	Responses	Percentage
Yes	204	89.5%
No	65	28.5%
Cannot say	1	0.4%
Total	270	118.4%

Diagram 7.12 Summary of question 28(a) Did victims get the relief from authorities



During the personal observation of the researcher also it was noticed that the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level.

One member of the SC Commission also agreed to this view but two of them did not subscribe to the viewpoint that the various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level.

The Matrix 7.5 below gives a synoptic matrix of the testing of the Hypothesis 5

Matrix 7.5 Testing of Hypothesis 5

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level.</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	The government has made many policies and plans for the upliftment of the status of women in India and especially for Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Majority of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women who had faced atrocities opined that they did not get any relief and remedy from the government on time although, some said that they did get relief on time. They felt

		<p>that there was no discriminatory treatment against scheduled caste/Dalit women in Justice Mechanism. They even felt that the lack of knowledge about their legal rights and laws related to the atrocities cases were responsible for increase in the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. They were illiterate and lacked knowledge regarding the judicial procedures. They were also not fully aware about the free legal aid and laws providing the economic compensation to the victims given by the government. They were also of the view that government is playing a proactive role in curbing the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women, but powerful people are responsible for the crimes against these women. Therefore, delay in the final judgment by the judiciary is a cause for increase of such incidents. Majority of the respondents who were victimized SC women were of the view that there is a need for change in the justice mechanism of the country. Thus, there was lack of coordination amongst the various implementing agencies at the ground level which was responsible for ineffective implementation of the legislations at the grass root level resulting in overall delay in justice to Scheduled caste/Dalit women victims.</p>
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Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and Secondary data including the information obtained as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions the hypothesis, *“The various implementing agencies responsible for effective implementation of the legislations lack coordination at ground level”* is accepted.

7.11 Hypothesis 6

“The Self-Help Groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation”.

The Scheduled Caste women victims were enquired about the issue whether they were aware about the existence and functioning of the Self-Help Groups working in their areas and whether these groups are able to fight for them in getting justice in the cases of atrocities.

Table No 7.20 Summing up the Hypothesis 6

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Awareness about SHGs in area.	49 percent said yes and 49 percent said no	34 percent said yes and rest said no.	57 percent said yes and 42 percent said no	68 percent said yes and 31 percent said no
Are they able to help the victims fight against atrocities	39 percent said yes and 10 percent said no	31 percent said yes and only 3 percent said no	47 percent said yes and 10 percent said no	52 percent said yes and 15 percent said no

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents Table 7.21 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the Self-Help groups and whether they are playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation.

Table 7.21 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the Self-Help Groups and their role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation

Hypothesis	Responses from respondents							
<i>The Self Help Groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation</i>	Yes	Percent-age	No	Percent-age	Cannot say	Percent-age	Total	Percent-age
Q31 Awareness about SHGs in area	208	52.0%	184	46.0%	8	2.0%	400	100.0%
Chi-Square	178.88							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.21, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 6 that the Self-Help Groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation. Table 7.21 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2=178.88$, $p=0. .0001$), which is **less than 0.05**, i.e. not significant. Therefore, we can say that there is no significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis No-6.

The same information is represented through a Pie Chart below in Diagram 7.13

Diagram 7.13 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the Self-Help Groups and their role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation

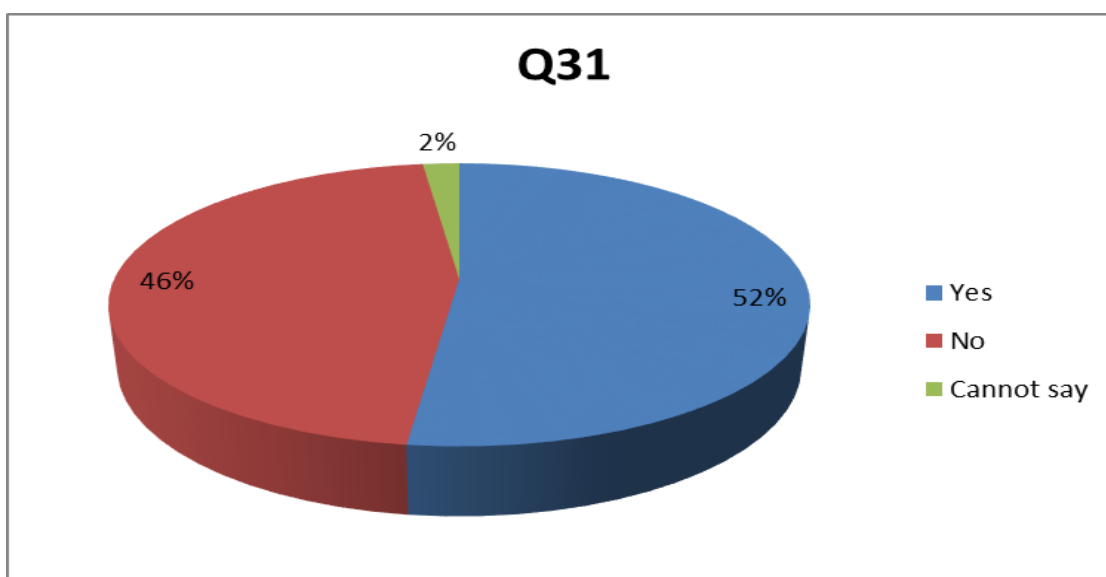
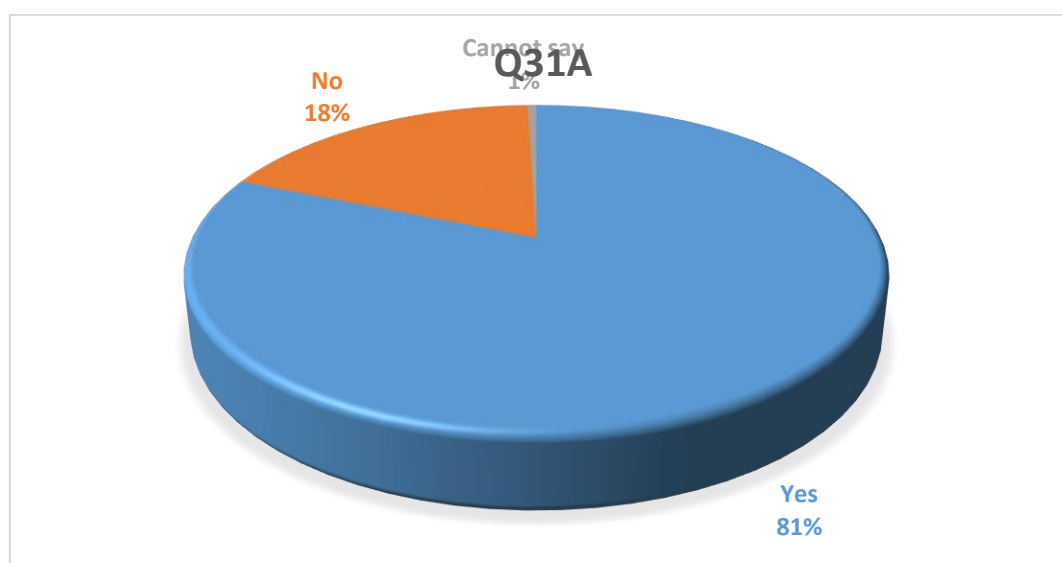


Table 7. 22 Summary of question 31(a) Did SHGs come to the rescue

Q31a	Responses	Percent
Yes	169	74.1%
No	38	16.7%
Cannot say	1	0.4%
Total	208	91.2%

Diagram 7.14 Summary of question 31(a) Did SHGs come to the rescue



During the field visits of the researcher and personal observations it was noticed that usually the Self-Help Groups are not playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation.

All three members of the SC Commission who were interviewed also agreed to this view that the Self-Help Groups are not playing a proactive role in helping the Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation. One of the members felt that the reason for their ineffective role was that the authorities do not give any importance to them. Therefore, they are not in position to help in the rehabilitations of the atrocity affected SC women.

The Matrix 7.6 below gives a synoptic matrix of the testing of the Hypothesis 6.

Matrix 7.6 Testing of Hypothesis No 6

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The Self Help Groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Scheduled caste/Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation.</i>	Primary and secondary Data	In Hisar district of Haryana majority of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women were not aware about the Self-Help Group in their areas. Some of the respondents were aware about the Self Help Groups and felt that they were playing an active role in helping the Scheduled caste/ Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation. In Panchkula district majority of the respondents from urban as well as rural areas were of the opinion that they were aware about the existence of Self Help Groups in their area, but like NGOs, they also lacked in legal powers and their powers and functions were very limited. Therefore, they were also not able to help the Scheduled caste/Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation except in few cases.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and secondary data including the information obtained as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions the hypothesis, *"The Help Groups are playing a proactive role in helping the Scheduled caste/Dalit women victims in their rehabilitation"* is **Rejected**.

7.12 Hypothesis 7

"The crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police".

The victimised SC women were questioned whether there was awareness amongst them about the legislations in India protecting them from the atrocities. Those respondents who opined in the affirmative were further asked whether they were aware about the relevant articles of the Constitution, Acts of the legislatures and the Indian Penal Code. They were also asked whether the police personnel are performing their duties adequately in victimisation cases and are they reluctant to take complaints and do they unnecessary delay their action. They were also asked whether they were pressurised by the authorities for forcing compromises in such cases.

Table No 7.23 Summing up the Responses to Hypothesis 7

SC WOMEN RESPONDENTS				
Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Awareness about the law in India Protecting the atrocities	44 percent said yes, 51 percent said no and 5 percent opined cannot say	58 percent said no, 37 percent said no and 5 percent said cannot say	46 percent said yes, 47 percent said no and 7 percent opined cannot say	59 percent said yes, 39 percent said no and 2 opined cannot say
If yes awareness about Constitutional Articles/legislations for Protecting the	48 percent said yes, 50 percent said no and 2	45 percent said no, 48 percent said no and 7	51 percent said yes, 42 percent said no and 7	54 percent said yes, 40 percent said no and 6

women	percent opined cannot say	percent said cannot say	percent opined cannot say	percent opined cannot say
Police personnel are performing their duties adequately in victimisation cases	54 percent said yes and 39 percent said no and 7 percent opined cannot say	52 percent said yes and 37 percent said no and 11 percent opined cannot say	60 percent said yes and 39 percent said no and one percent opined cannot say	58 percent said yes and 40 percent women said no and 2 percent opined cannot say
Police personnel are reluctant to take complaints	72 percent said yes and 17 percent said no and 11 percent opined cannot say	70 percent said yes and 23 percent said no and 7 percent opined cannot say	72 percent said yes and 21 percent said no and 7 percent opined cannot say	73 percent said yes and 24 percent said no and 3 percent opined cannot say
Police personnel unnecessary delay their action	58 percent said yes and 42 percent said no and 0 percent opined cannot say	50 percent said yes and 46 percent said no and 4 percent opined cannot say	68 percent said yes and 30 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say	67 percent said yes and 32 percent said no and 1 percent opined cannot say
Pressurised by the authorities for compromise	47 percent said yes and 52 percent said no and 1 percent opined cannot say	54 percent said yes and 42 percent said no and 4 percent opined cannot say	66 percent women were said yes and 32 percent women said no 2 percent opined cannot say	64 percent women said yes and 34 percent women said no and 2 percent opined cannot say

Table No 7.24 Summing up the Responses to Hypothesis 7

POLICE PERSONNEL RESPONDENTS				
Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Week laws and rules related to atrocities against SC women come in the way of investigations	73 percent said yes, 15 percent said no and 12 percent said cannot say	76 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 10 percent said cannot say	68 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 18 percent said cannot say	73 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 13 percent said cannot say
Better facilities needed at police station for providing care and protection to SC women victims of atrocities	39 percent said yes, 42 percent said no and 19 percent said cannot say	41 percent said yes, 37 percent said no and 22 percent said cannot say	36 percent said yes, 40 percent said no and 24 percent said cannot say	41 percent said yes, 27 percent said no and 32 percent said cannot say
Lack of cooperation from family members during investigation	71 percent said yes, 10 percent said no and 19 percent said cannot say	57 percent said yes, 12 percent said no and 31 percent said cannot say	53 percent said yes, 28 percent said no and 19 percent said cannot say	52 percent said yes, 21 percent said no and 27 percent said cannot say
Pressurised to force compromise between the parties	35 percent said yes, 31 percent said no and 35 percent said cannot say	36 percent said yes, 27 percent said no and 37 percent said cannot say	57 percent said yes, 20 percent said no and 23 percent said cannot say	64 percent said yes, 14 percent said no and 22 percent said cannot say
Pressurised the victims for Rajinamas	43 percent said yes, 27 percent said no and 30 percent said cannot say	35 percent said yes, 23 percent said no and 42 percent said cannot say	55 percent said yes, 30 percent said no and 15 percent said cannot say	64 percent said yes, 12 percent said no and 24 percent said cannot say
Giving police protection to the victim once as directed by court	61 percent said yes, 21 percent said no and 18 percent said cannot say	60 percent said yes, 21 percent said no and 19 percent said cannot say	59 percent said yes, 17 percent said no and 24 percent said cannot say	67 percent said yes, 18 percent said no and 15 percent said cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents the Table 7.25 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the issue that crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police.

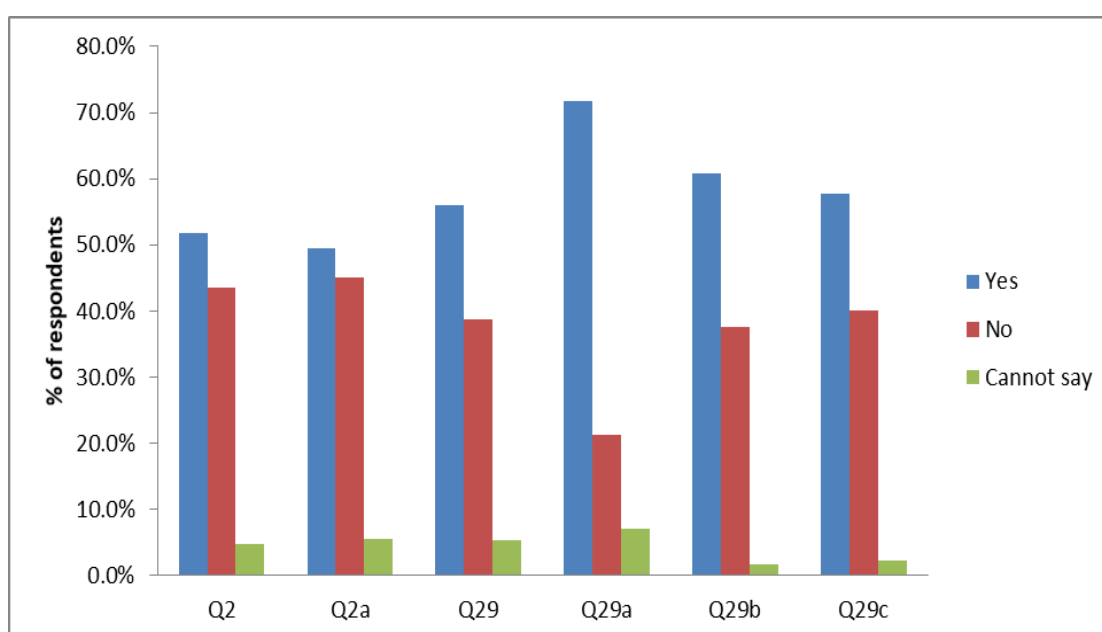
Table 7.25 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police

Hypothesis 7	Responses from respondents (SC women)							
<i>The crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police</i>	Yes	Percent-age	No	Percent-age	Cannot say	Percent-age	Total	Percent-age
Q2 Awareness about the law in India Protecting the atrocities	207	51.8%	174	43.5%	19	4.8%	400	100%
Q2a If yes awareness about IPC/Act/Articles/for Protecting the women	198	49.5%	180	45.0%	22	5.5%	400	100%
Q29 Police personal are performing their duties adequately in victimisation cases	224	56.0%	155	38.8%	21	5.3%	400	100%
Q29(a) Police personnel unnecessary delay their action	287	71.8%	85	21.3%	28	7.0%	400	100%
Q29(b) Police personnel unnecessary delay their action	243	60.8%	150	37.5%	7	1.8%	400	100%
Q29(c) Pressurised by the authorities for compromise in case	231	57.8%	160	40.0%	9	2.3%	400	100%
Chi-Square	78.724							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.25, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 7 that the crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police. Table 7.25 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2=78.724$, $p=0.0001$), which is **less than 0.05**, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis No-7.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot below in Diagram 7.15

Diagram 7.15 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about crime against Dalit women having gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police.



For the same Hypothesis the Police Personnel respondents were also asked whether week laws and rules related to atrocities against SC women come in the way of investigations and whether better facilities are needed at police stations for providing care and protection to SC women victims of atrocities. They were further asked whether there was lack of cooperation from family members during investigation, were they pressurised to force a compromise between the parties or pressurised the victims for Rajinamas. They were also asked whether they give police protection to the victim once directed by the court.

Table 7.26 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (Police Personnel) about crime against Dalit women having gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police

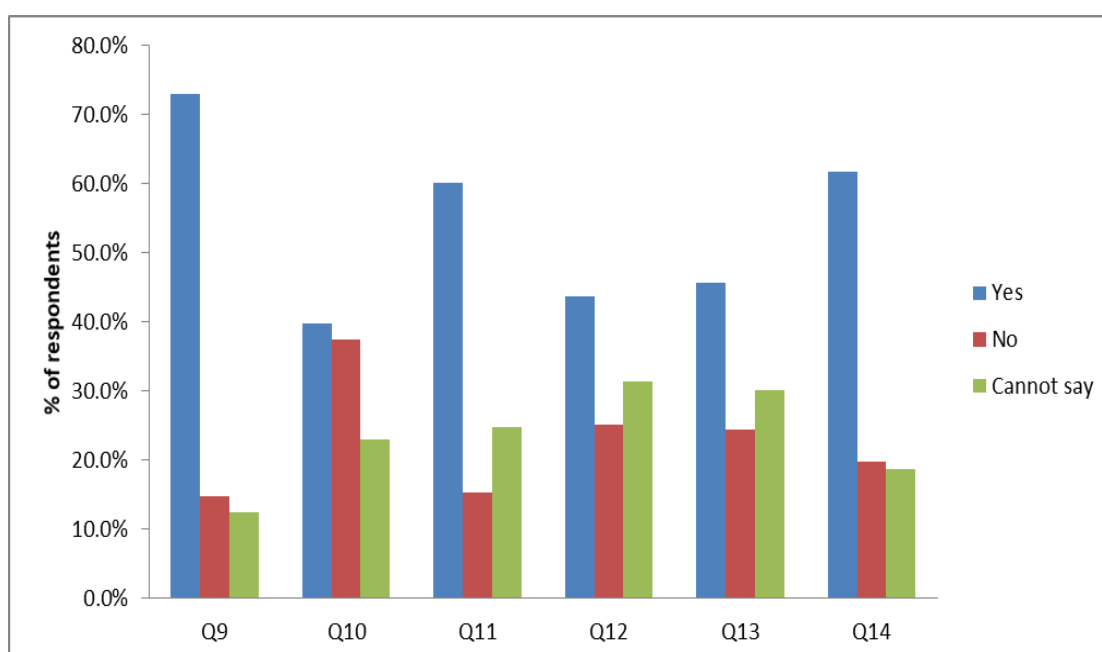
Hypothesis -7	Responses from respondents (Police Personnel)							
<i>The crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police</i>	Yes	Perce ntage	No	Perce ntage	Cann ot say	Perce ntage	Total	Percent age
Q9 Week laws and rules related to atrocities against SC women come in the way of investigations	219	73.0%	44	14.7%	37	12.3%	300	100.0%
Q10Better facilities needed at police station for providing care and protection to women victim of atrocities	119	39.7%	112	37.3%	69	23.0%	300	100.0%
Q11Lack of cooperation from family member during investigation	180	60.0%	46	15.3%	74	24.7%	300	100.0%
Q12 Pressurised to compromise done between the parties	131	43.7%	75	25.0%	94	31.3%	300	100.0%
Q13 Pressurised the victims for Rajinamas	137	45.7%	73	24.3%	90	30.0%	300	100.0%
Q14Giving police protection to the victim once directed by court	185	61.7%	59	19.7%	56	18.7%	300	100.0%
Chi-Square	125.337							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.26, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied

to test the association between the questions asked from the Police Personnel respondents and the Hypothesis No 7 that the crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police. Table 7.26 shows that the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2 = 125.337$, $p = 0.0001$), which is less than 0.05, i.e. highly significant. Therefore, we can say that there is a significant association between the responses of the respondents and Hypothesis 7.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot below in Diagram 7.16.

Diagram 7.16 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (Police Personnel) about crime against Dalit women going up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police



During personal observations of the researcher and interaction with police officials it was noticed that crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to lack of proper implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police and the working of police official was very casual.

All the members of the SC Commission who were interviewed also agreed to this view that crime against Dalit women has gone up in Haryana due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women by the police.

Matrix 7.7 Testing of Hypothesis 7

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The crime against Dalit women has gone up due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to crime against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women by the police</i>	Primary and Secondary Data	In Hisar District of Haryana majority of the respondents were aware or had atleast heard about the laws in India protecting the women against atrocities. But they were not aware about the specific laws and their provisions in India. They were not aware about the IPC or relevant articles of the Indian Constitution for protecting the women against atrocities. They were not even aware about the IPC and articles related their own cases. They also expressed the view that the police personnel were not performing their duties adequately in their cases. Police personnel were reluctant to take their complaints and they were unnecessarily action in atrocity cases. They were also pressurised by the higher castes of the village and faced political pressure for Rajinama in their cases. Sometime family members were also pressurised to further pressurise the victims for compromise in the atrocity cases of Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Same situation was also faced by the victims of the atrocities in Panchkula District of Haryana.

On the basis of analysis of both Primary and secondary data including the information observed as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions and observations of the researcher as given above the hypothesis, "*The crime against Dalit women has gone up due to ineffective implementation of the legislations related to*

crime against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women by the police” is Accepted.

7.13 Hypothesis 8

“The role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women”

The Scheduled caste women respondents were asked whether the role of media was effective in covering the atrocities against SC women, was the media playing an impartial role in projecting atrocities against SC women. They were further asked whether the social media was playing an effective role in creating awareness about the atrocities against SC women.

Table no 7.27 Summing up the responses to Hypothesis 8

Indicators	Analysis			
	Hisar District		Panchkula District	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Role of media effectively covers atrocities against SC women	54 percent said yes and 38 percent said no and 8 present opined cannot say	50 percent said yes and 48 percent said no and 2 present opined cannot say	63 percent said yes and 36 percent said no and 1 present opined cannot say	65 percent said yes and other side 34 percent said no and 1 present opined cannot say
Media plays an impartial role in projecting atrocities against SC women	80 percent said yes and 15 percent said no and 5 present opined cannot say	71 percent said yes and 25 percent said no and 4 present opined cannot say	81 percent said yes and 18 percent said no and 1 percent opined cannot say	80 percent said yes and 18 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say
Social media is playing effective role in creating awareness about the atrocities against SC women	65 percent said yes and 33 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say	53 percent said yes and 39 percent said no and 8 percent opined cannot say	72 percent said yes and 27 percent said no and 1 percent opined cannot say	72 percent said yes and 26 percent said no and 2 percent opined cannot say

On the basis of the responses of the SC women respondents the Table 7.28 below gives a summary analysis of perspective of respondents about the role of media in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women.

Table 7.28 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women

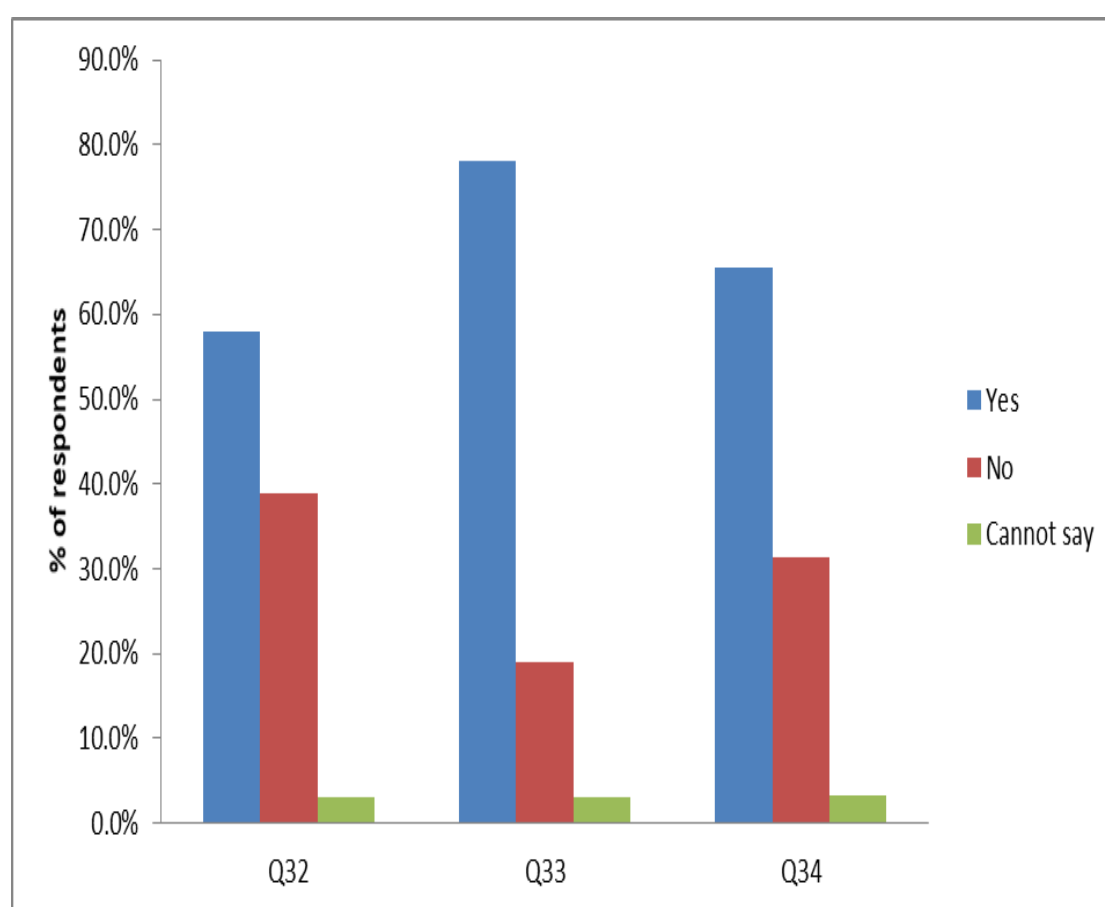
Hypothesis 8	Responses from respondents							
<i>The role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women</i>	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Cannot say	Percent	Total	Percent
		-age		-age		-age		-age
Q32 Role of media to effectively covers atrocities against SC women	232	58.0%	156	39.0%	12	3.0%	400	100%
Q33 Media playing an impartial role in projecting atrocities against SC women	312	78.0%	76	19.0%	12	3.0%	400	100%
Q34 Social media is playing effective role in creating awareness about the atrocities against SC women	262	65.5%	125	31.3%	13	3.3%	400	100%
Chi-Square	39.557							
p-value	.0001**							

The above Table 7.28, represents the output of the chi- square test, which was applied to test the association between the questions asked from the SC women respondents and the Hypothesis No 8 that the role of media has been quite effective in highlighting

the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women. As the Table 7.28 shows the p- value for all the questions asked was ($\chi^2=39.557$, $p=0.0001$), which is **less than 0.05**, i.e. is significant. Therefore, we can say that there is a significant association between the responses of the respondents and the Hypothesis 8.

The same information is represented through a Bar-Plot below in Diagram 7.17

Diagram 7.17 Summary analysis of perspective of respondents (SC women) about the role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women



During the researcher's personal observation it was noticed that usually the role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women

Two of the three SC Commission members who were interviewed also agreed to this view that the role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste (Dalit) women. Third member had reservations about the role of media.

Matrix 7.8 Testing of Hypothesis 8

Hypothesis	Sources	Analysis
<i>The Role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women</i>	Primary and secondary Data	The media has been playing very important role in highlighting the atrocities cases and crimes against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. Today media and social media effectively covers the crimes against women and Scheduled caste/Dalit women in both the areas i.e. in urban as well as in rural areas. They are impartially playing their role in protecting and highlighting the cases of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women and other women. They perform their duties without biases and are able to help victims in speedy justice in atrocities cases.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of both Primary and Secondary data including the information observed as a result of the researcher's personal observation and the interactions and observations of the researcher as given above the hypothesis, "*The Role of media has been quite effective in highlighting the atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women*" is **accepted**

7.14 KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The detailed findings of the study based on the views of the respondents have been analysed and discussed in detail in Chapter V and VI of this study. As mentioned in Chapter I, information was collected from 400 victimised Scheduled Caste/Dalit women respondents by administering a questionnaire to them [200 Scheduled caste/Dalit women respondents each from Panchkula and Hisar Districts–100 each from rural areas and urban areas]. A questionnaire was separately prepared and administered to 50 police officials from the district of Panchkula–25 each from urban and rural areas, 100 from Hisar districts–50 each from urban and rural areas. Chapter V analyses the

response of the victimized Scheduled Caste /Dalit women, while Chapter VI gives details of the responses and the analysis of the views of Police Personnel dealing with cases of the atrocity against the victims.

In this part of the Chapter (7.14) a summary of the key findings have been given in two parts. **Part-A** portrays the responses of the Scheduled Caste women and **Part B** the responses of the Police Personnel.

These summary findings are also based on the interactions and interview of the researcher with the SC Commission members as well as SC women and Police Personnel respondents. Personal observation of the researcher during her field visits were also taken into account.

Percentages given in both parts A and B projecting the responses in the district of Hisar and Panchkula have been categorized and abbreviated as:

UH - Urban Hisar

UP - Urban Panchkula

RH - Rural Hisar

RP - Rural Panchkula

These abbreviations are used in the below mentioned summary of the findings.

PART- A

SCHEDULED CASTE/DALIT WOMEN PERCEPTIONS

- **Types of atrocities faced by the SC Dalit Women**

In the Urban areas of Hisar a majority of the respondents i.e. 41 percent faced physical as well as mental torture. In the Urban areas of the Hisar 46 percent faced homicides. In the rural areas of Panchkula majority of them i.e. 40 percent faced torture both mental and physical. In the rural areas of the Panchkula majority of the respondents i.e. 55 percent faced homicides. In both the rural as well as urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula substantial majority of respondents (72%, 75%, 69%, 81 %) opined that they reported their complaints to authorities and complaints were filed in their nearby police stations to Police Personnel available in there. The personal observation of researcher found that the police personnel were reluctant to file their complaints or FIRs. In both the rural as well as urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula substantial majority of the respondents

(73%, 59%, 70%, and 76 %) felt that they never faced any kind of incidents of female foeticide and infanticide in their family in urban areas of Hisar majority of the respondents i.e. 69 percent did not agree that they were subjected to *child marriage* but in urban areas of Panchkula majority of the respondents i.e. 55 percent agreed to the same. Whereas in the rural areas of Hisar majority of the respondents i.e. 54 percent did not agree but in rural areas of Panchkula more than half of the respondents i.e. 55 percent agreed to the same.

- **Awareness about laws protecting victimised SC women**

Regarding the *awareness level* of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women regarding the Laws in India protecting the atrocities against women, in the urban areas of Hisar majority of the respondents i.e. 51 percent were not aware but in the urban areas of Panchkula substantial majority of the respondents i.e. 58 percent were aware about the Laws in India protecting the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. In rural areas of Hisar 47 percent of the respondents were not aware but in the rural areas of Panchkula a substantial majority of the respondents i.e. 59 percent were aware about them.

In case of the awareness levels about *IPC/Act/Article* for protecting the Scheduled Caste women, in the urban areas of Hisar half of the respondents i.e. 50 percent were not aware but in the urban areas of Panchkula a little more than half of the respondents i.e. 51 percent, were aware about the IPC/Act/Article in India protecting the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. In the rural areas of Hisar 48 percent of the respondents were not aware and in rural areas of Panchkula a little more than half of the respondents i.e. 54 percent were aware about the legal provisions.

- **Role of education**

On the issue of *lack of education* as a cause of atrocities against SC women, in urban areas of Hisar a substantial majority of the respondents i.e. 67 percent felt that the lack of education is the cause of atrocities but in urban areas of Panchkula 49 percent did not agree to it. In rural areas of both Hisar and Panchkula a significant majority (71% and 58%) agreed that the lack of education is the cause of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

- **Poverty and unemployment**

In both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula a significantly big majority of

the respondents (82%, 83%, 75% and 67%) were of the opinion that the *extreme poverty* is the cause of atrocities against scheduled castes/Dalit women. Also, a substantial majority of the respondents from both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (76%, 82%, 73% and 79%) felt that *being employed* is the cause of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. A big majority of the respondents both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (76%, 82%, 73% and 79%) agreed that being not employed is also a cause of atrocities against them.

- **Economic dependency**

In both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula more than half of the respondents (55%, 74%, 47% and 72 %) said that *economic dependency* on their husband is the cause of atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. In both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula a fairly large majority of the respondents (63%, 68%, 53% and 68%) said that *economic dependency on their husband's family* is the cause of atrocities against them. Also a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (74%, 80%, 69% and 83%) felt that Scheduled caste/Dalit women are generally paid *lesser wages than other women*. About the *better earning than their husband* as the cause of atrocities against them a big majority of the respondents from both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (62%, 75%, 60% and 77%) agreed to the statement.

- **Medical examination after atrocities**

On the issue whether they were taken for a *medical examination* after the atrocity, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (52%, 59%, 70% and 59%) opined that they were taken for medical examination. About the *attending personnel*, substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (58%, 62%, 63% and 45%) said that female doctors or female staff members attended to them for medical examination. Regarding the *attitude of the doctors and other staff* towards victims, a substantial majority of the respondents in the urban areas of Hisar i.e. 58 percent felt it was good but in the urban areas of Panchkula a little more than half i.e. 51 percent felt that it was average. In the rural areas of both Hisar and Panchkula districts the respondents said that the behaviour and attitude of the doctors and staff was good and felt were cooperative with the victims.

- **Acceptance of atrocity as a fate and Karma**

Regarding the acceptance of atrocities against scheduled castes/Dalit women as the *will of God*, a significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (80%, 74%, 83% and 75%) were not in favour of this statement and said that the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women are not the will of the God implying that they are an act of the society. Another related issue regarding the acceptance of the atrocities and violence as the *Karma* of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women, a fairly large majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (63%, 56%, 55% and 54%) felt that they were not ready to accept violence and atrocities against them as the Karma of being born as Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

- **Role of Police Personnel**

On the issues whether the *police personnel are performing their duties and responsibilities adequately* in cases of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women, in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula districts, a substantial majority (54%, 62%, 52% and 58%) of the respondents agreed with the statement. A significantly large majority (72%, 72%, 70% and 73%) of the respondents from both rural and urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula said that the police personnel were reluctant to take their complaints. A significant number of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women respondents from both rural and urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula also felt that the police personnel were responsible for *unnecessary delay* in their cases. On the issue of whether the police personnel and authorities were responsible for *pressurising them to reach a compromise* in the atrocity cases even if the victim was not ready to do so, in the urban areas of Hisar a little more than half i.e. 52 percent said no but in the urban areas of Panchkula a good majority of the respondents i.e. 66 percent said yes.

- **Role of Government in Relief and Awareness of Victims**

Regarding the issue whether the government is playing a *proactive role* in decreasing the atrocities against Scheduled Castes/Dalit women, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (62%, 74%, 62% and 78%) strongly felt that government is playing a very proactive role in curbing atrocities against Scheduled Caste women. When asked about a related issue that

whether there was awareness about the *free legal aid* given by the government, a highly significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (73%, 72%, 74% and 78%) were of the opinion that they were aware about it. When asked about the awareness of laws providing *economic compensation* to victims, fairly large majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (68%, 71%, 58% and 73%) opined that they were aware about them. On the issues whether they got the *relief on time*, again a significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (75%, 76%, 74% and 76%) felt that they got the relief on time.

- **Justice mechanism**

About the knowledge of lack of the legal rights as a cause of atrocities against the victimised SC women, in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula a significantly large majority (66%, 81%, 59% and 80%) of the respondents were of the opinion that they were aware about their legal rights. When asked whether there is a need for *changes in the Justice Mechanism* of the country, in the urban areas of the Hisar 56 percent said yes for the need of change but in the urban areas of Panchkula 62 percent of the respondents disagreed on this issue. Whereas in the rural areas of Hisar little more than half the respondents felt that there is no need for change whereas in rural areas of Panchkula 66 percent felt that they wanted a change. During the course of interaction of the researcher with the victimized SC women of these areas they expressed the opinion that, the judicial mechanism of our country was very slow and the paper work is very tedious. Some of the respondents also talked about corrupt practices in the lower courts, particularly amongst the non-judicial staff. A substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (77%, 80%, 66% and 77%) felt that delay in the final judgment in their atrocities cases by the judiciary is the cause for the increase of crimes against Scheduled caste/Dalit women.

- **Role of NGO's**

On the issue of the *awareness about any NGOs* helping Scheduled Caste women, in the urban areas of Hisar 52 percent were not aware but in urban areas of Panchkula 66% of the respondents said that they were aware about them in their area who were helping

the scheduled caste/Dalit women. When asked whether these NGO's came to their rescue, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (85%, 74%, 66% and 76%) felt that most of the NGOs were helping the Scheduled caste/Dalit women in perusing their cases of atrocities in the court and were able to provide all the necessary help to the victims of the atrocities.

- **Role of Self Help Groups**

Regarding the existence and role of *Self Help Groups*, there was mixed response of the respondents. In urban areas of Hisar a mixed response of 49 percent agreeing and 49 percent disagreeing was noticed. Whereas in the urban areas of Panchkula majority of 57 percent said that they were aware about the SHG's. In the rural areas of Hisar a substantial majority of 64 percent said no they were not aware but in the rural areas of Panchkula a substantial majority said yes they were aware about the SHG's working in here areas. When asked whether these groups are able to *help them fight against atrocities*, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (79%, 82%, 91% and 76%) felt that the SHG's were able to help them fight their cases in the court.

- **Role of Media**

The opinion of the Scheduled caste/Dalit women regarding the *role of media* to efficiently cover and effectively project the atrocities against them, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (54%, 63%, 50% and 65%) felt that that the media played an effective role in covering the cases of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. A highly significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (80%, 81%, 71% and 80%) felt that the media is playing an impartial role in projecting the atrocities and by becoming their voices. When asked about the *social media playing an effective role* in creating awareness about the atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (65%, 72%, 53% and 72%) felt that in present time social media was playing very active role in covering the incidents of atrocities and increasing the awareness amongst the women regarding the atrocities, crimes and related issues against women.

PART- B

POLICE PERSONNEL PERCEPTIONS

- **Filing of FIR in Police Station**

On the issue who generally *accompanies the SC women victims to the police station*, in the areas of the urban Hisar, rural Hisar and rural Panchkula, 42 percent, 43 percent and 42 percent the respondents respectively were of the view that parents accompany the victims of atrocities to police station for filing of the FIR. In the urban areas of Panchkula the respondents differed in their responses as 44 percent said that friends accompany the victim of atrocities to police station for filing of the FIR.

As regards the *average time taken* to lodge an FIR in the Police Station, a substantial majority of the respondents police personnel in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (53%, 62%, 60% and 42%) felt that in the police station average time taken was three to five days for lodging of the FIR of victims of atrocities.

- **Attending officials and follow up action**

For the issue that *who attended the victim of atrocities* in police station, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (52%, 58%, 51% and 52%) felt that the female staff attended the SC women victims of the atrocities. On asking about the *follow up action* in case of atrocities against scheduled castes women after registration of the FIR, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (55%, 56%, 56% and 62%) felt that the investigation of the case was the first follow up action.

- **Adequacy of Manpower and facilities at Police Station**

When asked about their opinion on whether the *lack of modern techniques* of investigation hampers the investigation or probe, a substantially big majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (79%, 74%, 75% and 82%) felt that better conveyance facilities would help in quicker and better investigation of atrocity related cases. Also when asked whether *more manpower* in police station is required for help in better investigation of atrocity cases of Scheduled caste/Dalit women, a substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (76%, 72%, 72% and 58%) agreed to the statement and felt that more manpower would help in better investigation. During the course of the

researcher's interaction with the police personnel posted at the police station of the selected district, they strongly advocated the need for better conveyance facilities and more manpower.

- **Pressures on Police Personnel**

A substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (57%, 62%, 54% and 76%) felt that in the atrocity cases they faced *political pressures* while handling the cases of atrocities against Scheduled caste/Dalit women. On the issue of the *frequent transfers* hampering the investigation of the complaints, a fairly substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (69%, 64%, 75% and 60%) felt that while dealing the atrocities cases of Scheduled caste/Dalit women, they were facing frequent transfers from one police station to another. This shifting of the personnel hampered the investigation as the new transferee was not aware about the ongoing case that well. This further resulted in delay in the investigation. One of the members of SC Commission also raised concern about political pressures and frequent transfers of police personnel to favour the accused.

- **Weak legislations and Rules**

When asked about the role of legislations and rules framed thereunder to protect the SC women victims of atrocity, a significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (73%, 68%, 76% and 72%) felt that the *weak laws and rules* related to atrocities against scheduled castes/Dalit women were also responsible for increase of the crimes. During an informal discussion with the researcher, the police personnel expressed their helplessness in proceeding further in the atrocity cases because of weak and non-inclusive laws and rules.

- **Lack of co-operation from victim's family**

A substantial majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (71%, 52%, 57% and 52%) felt that the *lack of cooperation from family members* during investigation also was responsible factor of decreasing the confidence of the victims of the atrocities. An interaction with the dealing police officials and members of NGO's revealed that in many cases the family members backed out after initial complaint or filing of FIR.

- **Pressure to force compromises**

On the controversial issue, whether they pressurised the victims or their families to *force a compromise* between the parties in the cases of complaints of atrocity by SC women, most of the respondents were of the view that the victims of the atrocities were pressurized to reach a compromise with the accused, in both the rural and urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula (35 percent, 56 percent, 36 percent and 64 percent) respectively. On asking them whether they themselves *pressurise the SC women victims for a compromise (Rajinamas)* most of the respondents gave a positive opinion in both the rural and urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula (43%, 54%, 35% and 64%).

- **Special facilities and adequate arrangements**

When asked about if there is any *special facility for registering complaints or filing of FIR* by the SC women in their police station, majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (52%, 40%, 63% and 48%) said yes. On the issue whether the *arrangements for attending to the complaints* of the SC women in their police station were adequate, most of the respondents gave a positive response in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (48%, 40%, 55% and 48%). When asked if there is a *need for a women counsellor in Police Stations* for resolving disputes relating to SC women, most of the respondents from the urban areas of Hisar and Panchkula agreed i.e. 46 percent and 62 percent respectively. In the rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula the percentage was comparatively less i.e. 46 percent and 48 percent respectively. A significant majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (61%, 60%, 60% and 68%) felt that on the direction of the court they were *providing the police protection* to the victims of atrocities.

- **Job satisfaction**

When asked about their opinion, about the extent satisfaction on the job, surprisingly a significant of majority of the respondents in both the urban and rural areas of Hisar and Panchkula (59%, 56%, 60% and 44%) felt that they were satisfied with their job. High levels of jobs satisfaction of police personnel was there in spite of their earlier views that there were political pressures as well as frequent transfers to help the accused. The researcher also observed during the course of interaction with them that their opinion was due to the fact that they did not want to annoy their superiors.

SECTION- IV

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

7.15 Suggested Policy Prescriptions:

Perhaps this is not quandary of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women that they can neither get protection from law enforcement agencies nor any help from other caste or class of the society as they are not aware of their rights and they are constantly abused by other sections of society. Keeping in view the findings of the study based on the perceptions of the SC women and the police personnel regarding the atrocities against Scheduled Caste/Dalit Women in Haryana in the two selected districts, Panchkula and Hisar, the following suggestions have been put forth for mitigating the atrocities and strengthening the position of these women in the society.

The suggestions in the section have been given in two parts. **PART- A** contains those suggestions and recommendations which are based on the primary data and findings on the basis of questionnaires administered on SC women respondents and Police Personnel; interactions and interviews with members of the SC Commission, NGO's, SHG's. **PART-B** consists of the general suggestions based on secondary information and observation of the researcher during field visits.

PART - A

- **Empowering the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women at grass root level:**

Comprehensive efforts should be made to make Scheduled Caste/Dalit women realize the importance of their existence as a human being. To start with that, we have to go to grass root level first which is a small village where the caste system is still deep rooted. Not only the government but other sections of the society like NGOs, SHGs, and active members of Dalit movements can play a major role in uplifting the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women because of their deep reach to them. They should continuously create sensitization and awareness in the whole rural community by supporting Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in every problem they face. Mass campaign programmes to spread knowledge about rights and freedoms of Dalit women may be undertaken on regular basis. Apart from the government, such mass campaign programmes by media and NGOs will add to the efforts to mitigate caste based violence. Government can help in the formation of Scheduled caste/Dalit women groups or associations so that they

can fight their own battle or atleast fight for getting humane condition to live and secure equal wages for equal work and a host of other rights which have been traditionally denied to them.

- **Diluting the in-built stigma:**

The glorification of the caste identity by the higher caste groups facilitates them to stigmatize the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women irrespective of their resistance. Efforts should be made by the Government to dilute this stigma on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women by making them realize their identity of which they should not be ashamed of. Once the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are able to recognize that regardless of the caste or gender they belong to, they are equally capable of attaining any goal in their lives, they would overcome this complex about their identity. A strong psychological makeover from the very inception i.e. right from the day a Scheduled Caste/Dalit women is born, would help them overcome the fear of the stigma to fight these atrocities. They should be supported to speak about the kind of atrocities they are facing openly and publicly which would encourage other Scheduled Caste/Dalit women to do the same and express and defend themselves at every level by being more vocal. Positive publicity by the government, media, NGO's and SHG's can play an effective role in this regard.

- **Effective implementation of the legislation made for the protection of the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women:**

The executive branch of the government, comprising the politicians and the bureaucrats need to be fully aware of the constitutional provisions and legislations protecting the SC/Dalit women so that they can frame rules and regulations for effective implementation of these legislations. In addition, the concerned authorities need to make extra efforts to simplify these legal provisions and make Scheduled caste community understand them preferably in their language. The amended Prevention of Atrocities Act and Rules have laid down that the District Magistrate/District Collector and Superintendent of Police/Commissioner of Police of the district must make on the spot investigations for the murder, rape and arson involving Scheduled Caste victims within 48 hours of the crime. There is also a rule that senior police officers should carefully prepare the details of atrocity incidents to avoid closure of such cases where chargesheet has not been filed. Such laws can only be effectively implemented if the

concerned authorities are aware about their details. Extensive effort in this direction should be made so that culprits get no chance of getting away with such violence. Those who are responsible for implementing the provision of Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and related legislations should be continuously motivated to make use of these legal provisions and not hesitate to invoke them whenever needed.

- **Finding and rectifying loopholes in the existing legislation:**

Efforts should be made by the executive agencies responsible for implementation to find loopholes in the existing legislations meant for protecting SC victims, particularly the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (POA) Act, 2018. Under this Act, the court has inherent power of granting anticipatory bail or order a pre-arrest bail. The power to grant pre-arrest bail has been often misused as a result of which the very intention of the Parliament to protect Scheduled Caste victims is defeated. The law making agencies should be engaged in finding loopholes in these legislations and amend them with more strict laws so that a fear of law is created in the minds of law breakers.

- **Need for more stringent laws specifically to deal with scheduled Caste Dalit women:**

The atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women should be treated as a totally separate crime and the legislature should make specific and stringent laws to curb the atrocities on them. This will streamline the implementation of laws, rules, acts and regulations for Scheduled caste/Dalit women and it would be easy to make the victimized segment of the society more aware about their rights. The provision made for SC and STs for getting them free legal aid has to be made more easily available to help them get justice. Efforts need to be made in the direction of making POA Act more stringent so that it is not easy for the culprits to commit the crime and easily get away with it. An amendment in Section-4 of the SC and ST (POA) Act which provides for punishment of neglect of duties should be made more stringent and Scheduled Caste specific investigation should be undertaken. A committee may be constituted by the higher judiciary to review the decisions of lower courts where most of the cases related to atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are contested and also analyse the reason as to why most of the cases end at that level and there are rare appeals to the higher courts.

- **Streamlining the FIR Registration process:**

The Scheduled caste/Scheduled tribe (POA) Act would be of no use if it is not applied correctly and timely. Because of the delay in filing the FIR on time by the concerned police personnel, it generally leads to procedural lapses. If they file FIR on time and start investigation as soon as possible thereby preparing final reports further delay in the judicial process could be avoided. Therefore, the police personnel need to be made more sensitive towards such cases either by undertaking awareness workshops for them or counselling them from time to time. In many cases, witnesses are mistreated or even murdered in order to drop cases against the culprits. There is dire need to introduce witness protection programme. As pointed out by SC women victims in this study, special arrangements need to be made for facilitating prompt registration of FIR by the SC women victims in the police stations.

- **Redefining the education policy of the government by prioritizing the Scheduled caste/Dalit women literacy:**

Haryana has a policy through which the government is providing free education to every girl child at every stage till higher education. Stringent implementation of this policy should be done at village and Tehsil levels. The Government needs to make effective policies to increase literacy rate of Dalit women. Although the rules have been made for free education to children in India, special rules need to be made in order to spread literacy amongst the Dalit girls. The major issues like feasibility of the school complexes, standards of teaching, construction of toilets inside the school premises and safe environment for the girls should be looked into. These factors if addressed properly will motivate parents to send their girls to schools and will encourage the girls to continue their studies thereby decreasing the dropout rates which is maximum in case of Schedule Caste/Dalit student girl child in the state of Haryana. Once a Scheduled Caste/Dalit girl child is educated, she would know her rights and will fight for herself if any injustice is done to her.

- **Empowering the Scheduled Caste Commission and other agencies:**

The National Commission for Scheduled Caste can direct and advise the Government at the Centre as well as States on their policies and their implementation regarding Scheduled castes but it needs to play a more prominent role by constantly monitoring the implementation of these governmental policies regarding this segment of society.

The Commission can play a more proactive role by helping the atrocity victims by providing a platform where they can directly and fearlessly come with their grievances. The Commission should from time to time highlight as many as possible cases of Scheduled caste/Dalit women atrocities and the status of their cases too. The Commission should get itself directly involved with the process of follow up of victim's cases which would create an immense pressure on the authorities to take actions on time. Legislative amendments to give the members of the Commission more powers may also be undertaken so that implementation agencies could be held accountable and answerable to them.

- **Appropriate use of judicial activism by the higher courts to ensure justice to the Scheduled Caste women victims:**

Judiciary, being the most important and independent pillar of our democratic system, has been using Judicial Activism to highlight those issues which are not addressed adequately by the implementing authorities. Judiciary should have a separate wing to deal with the cases related to atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. Fast track courts may be set up to take up these cases on priority basis for enhancing the speed of justice delivery. This will incentivize the women victims of atrocities and more victims will come forward to speak or complain about the same as they would be ensured of a quicker follow up of their cases. The judiciary has already issued certain guidelines to protect women rights. The Supreme Court of India has taken the crime against women issues seriously and strict punishments have been given for heinous crimes. Judiciary should be more proactive, specific, sensitive and more efficient when it comes to dealing with the cases of atrocities on the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women.

- **Change the mindset of the people about the identity of the SC women:**

More affirmative action on the part of the society, media, schools, NGO's and SHG's needs to be undertaken for Scheduled Caste/Dalit women to change the prejudice and attitudes of the people which has led to atrocities on these women. Awareness programmes at a very young age in schools should be there to counsel and monitor them to treat well and protect Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. A platform has to be created where people can meet, even if they do not belong to Scheduled Castes community, and have healthy discussions and interactions so that the mind-sets of the

people of attaching their identity with their caste changes. The Government can play an effective role by undertaking massive publicity campaigns to change the thinking of the people about this segment of the society.

- **Appointments of women officers:**

It is a known fact that women can interact and share their grief more freely and openly with other women than men. Appointment of women officers who are directly dealing with atrocities on SC women should be preferred as this will help in the change of attitude and treatment of the administrative and police system towards victims of atrocity. The women officers would be more sensitive and assertive in their actions while dealing with the cases of the atrocities on Scheduled caste/Dalit women resulting into quicker outcome in cases which remain pending for long periods of time. Appointment of the women medical personnel and women officers at the police stations, who are directly attending to the SC women victims would go a long way in lessening the sufferings of these women. A separate cell should be created in police station which should be manned by Scheduled caste women police officials exclusively dealing with the cases of Atrocities against Scheduled caste /Dalit women.

- **Rehabilitation of victims of atrocity:**

Once the atrocity has been committed, follow up action and rehabilitation of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women victims leaves much to be desired. Government should emphasise on setting up separate rehabilitation centres. Government should ensure rehabilitation of the victims or survivors of the crime. Rehabilitation of victims of crime is very important as the psychological after-effects on victims can hamper their recovery. A well-defined policy needs to be drafted by the government for an honourable, respectable and adequate resettlement and rehabilitation of the victims.

- **Positive and impartial role of Media in highlighting the plight of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women:**

Media can play a path-breaking role in bringing to light the plight of the SC women victims of atrocities. More of the incidents of atrocities were made known to the country and the world due to the role played by the media. Media can definitely play an impartial role in promoting the image of the Dalit women.

PART-B

- **Training and sensitisation of officials:**

Training for administrative officials and police personnel handling atrocity related cases is need of the hour to make them more sensitive towards the cases of atrocities on Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. The Government should make such special training courses compulsory at the entry level for the dealing officials. The emphasis of the training programmes should be on gender sensitization and specific SC/Dalit women related issues and indepth knowledge of relevant laws and rules.

- **Change the holding pattern of land:**

Government should promote, cooperative farming model for Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. Most of the workers that are actually working in the farms of big landlords are Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. The government can create awareness about the availability of loans from institutions which would help Scheduled caste/Dalit women to come out of debt which they are in since ages. The norms and regulations for such loans could be eased out for Scheduled Caste/Dalit women. The banking institutions and non-banking financial institutions can play an important role in this regard.

- **Addressing general causes of atrocities:**

The general causes responsible for violence like unemployment, anger and other mental health issues, prohibition of alcoholic drinks and drinks which work as catalysts in increasing violence should be deeply analysed. More strict rules may be framed for consumption and use of alcoholic drinks as they tend to make people more violent.

- **More effective role of civil society:**

The civil society which is by nature the aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions in a society that manifests the will and interests of the society should play more proactive role in cases of atrocities against SC women. There is a need for the civil society to create awareness amongst the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women by coming in direct contact with the victims, listening to them, telling them how serious it is and how they can ask for help from the concerned authorities. The civil society should also encourage these women to become leaders and a part of decision making process at home and work place. The promotion of women leadership at every level will empower Scheduled Caste/Dalit women and they themselves would be in position to

fight for any kind of injustice done to them. Women leaders should in turn help more women by teaching them about their rights and counselling them in case they are victims of atrocities.

- **Mobilizing and channelling the Scheduled castes/Dalit women**

Organization like AIDMAM (All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch) which is a Dalit women organization of India can help in mobilizing these Scheduled Caste/Dalit women in Haryana and can help to raise their voices against caste based violence which they are subjected to since ages. They can counsel victims, their families about the legal provisions and the Government support specifically provided to them. Motivating the grass root level volunteers who can work in very close proximity with the Scheduled Caste/Dalit women is necessary. They should coordinate with local lawyers and administration, so that timely action in such cases of atrocity against Scheduled Caste/Dalit women could be taken.

The Scheduled Caste/Dalit women are all together a unique section of women who are at the lowest step of the ladder in the traditional Indian society. Unless they are recognized as a distinct identity it would be difficult to address their problems and difficulties and resolve them. Once the government categories them into a separate segment, it can start working on making policies specifically targeting those issues which are faced by Scheduled Caste/Dalit women particularly caste based verbal abuses at the work place. Specific legislations and policies need to be made by the legislature to deal with specific atrocities. This process of creating a specific group of Scheduled Caste/Dalit women can be facilitated by disaggregation of all criminal, economic, social, political data on the ground of gender and caste. An extensive gender-caste analysis may be undertaken by the government at grass root level for this purpose. The above mentioned key findings of the study reflect that ‘implementation gaps’ are the major reason for increase of the atrocities in the studied districts of Haryana State which are Panchkula and Hisar. It is hoped the suggestions listed above, flowing from the research undertaken, would work towards filling these gaps in implementation systematically and holistically.

“Every empowered Dalit women should empower every other poor Dalit women as they are the best guide for them.”

7.16 Concluding remarks

The first ever recorded example of the caste based discrimination on a Dalit women can be seen in the epic Ramayana where their image is of the permanently polluted, evil and grotesque. Dalit woman's body gave way to images of her suffering body, which came together in iconographies of sentimentality, sympathy and subservience. There was a shift in representation of Dalit women – from polluting to victimised and lascivious to vulnerable – symbolised by the reallocation of focus from Surpanakha to Shabari. This gives a historical legitimation to the deprived status of the Dalit women. It is clearly shown how in ancient texts and the epics, whether the Manusmriti, the Ramayana or the Mahabharata, Dalit and Dravidian women were often depicted as vulgar, treacherous, dangerous, polluted and an evil 'other'. The figure of Surpanakha (literally meaning sharp, long nails), sister of the Dravidian king Ravana in the Ramayana, was that of a 'savage', embodying all that was ugly and fearful. Researchers have recorded the mutilation of Surpanakha's body at the hands of Lakshman as punishment meted out by an Aryan male to a lustful Dravidian woman. In Mahabharata, Hidimbi, a low-caste woman, epitomised a lustful being, full of desire. Manusmriti dehumanised the Dalit woman as the 'fierce, untouchable woman' and as someone who was permanently and constantly polluted.⁴

Dalit women emerged as victims of caste exploitation, circumscribed employment, poverty, rejection and marginalisation. Premchand, the master storyteller of colonial India, in his book *Mansarovar*, too captured the pathos of the Dalit woman, often imbibing familiar reformist themes of suffering, sentimentality, sympathy and subservience. In his story 'Mandir' (Temple), written in May 1927, the *chamarin* widow Sukhiya goes to the temple to pray for her extremely ill son but is denied entry by the Brahmin priest.

In a section of the upper-caste reformist literature of the early Twentieth Century, previous images of Surpanakha as the evil one were marginalised and replaced by the figure of Shabari, who came to symbolise the 'ideal' low-caste woman. In a book titled *Shabari* the author portrayed her as the ideal Dalit woman.⁵ Upholding her as a model, a reformist poem states:

⁴ Bharati, "Hindu Epics"; Doniger, *Laws of Manu*; Erndl, "Mutilation of Surpanakha"; Singh, "Spotted Goddess," 22–71

⁵ 'Vachanesh', *Shabari*, k.

*ber shabari ke, bhakti bheel ki bhuli kaise,
ram ke bhakton se kya apne vyavhar kiya.*

[How did you forget the jujubes of Shabari, and the devotion of the Bhil,
How did you treat the worshippers of Ram.]⁶

The image of Shabari was particularly unique for presenting a critique of food taboos and interdining, as both Shabari and Ram shared the same food. At the same time, hierarchy remained embedded in this partaking of food. She represented a low-caste woman who serviced and worshipped God, and implicitly all upper castes, quietly, submissively, freely and without any inhibitions. Her virtuous and reverent character provoked a facile moralising, which advocated that loving untouchables like her was like loving God.⁷ Her offerings epitomised selfless devotion. In such a situation, one could have nothing but affection for her⁸. Shabari stood for spiritual integrity, docility, submissiveness, austerity and heartfelt devotion, while functioning very much within a Hindu paradigm. She provided an emotional and a personalised vocabulary to the Hindu reformers, which could gloss over the harsher political and social structures of caste inequalities. The language of suffering and sympathy helped to fashion, regulate and position Dalit bodies as subservient and docile, and Dalit women could be rendered passive or subordinate through such imagery. Shabari became, for upper caste reformers, the ‘truly representative’ face, frame and embodiment of a Dalit women.

Dr B.R Ambedker, the father of our Constitution and a great Dalit women supporter, always emphasised on the need to end the prevailing caste hierarchy, encourage women, not just Dalit women. He always wanted women across all social groups to be educated and mobilized so that they could participate in public life and become a part of the decision making process. After independence there was no concrete Dalit women organisation to address caste and gender based discriminations and the Dalit movement was masculinised. The formation of two distinct women groups-- *Savarna* of the upper caste women and *Asavarna* of the lower caste Dalit women was a significant development during that time. This *asavarna* kind of feminism is what Dr. B.R. Ambedker wanted for the Dalit women to get justice through “Education, Organisation

⁶ ‘Sant’, Harijan Gaan, 4.

⁷ Sudha, “Achhutoddhar,” 33–40.

⁸ We come across some other examples, which were cited in this period to show the affection of Gods towards low-caste women. Krishna was shown to have developed great fondness towards Kubja, a hunch-backed woman from a low-caste. See Chand, Kannomal, “Hindu Dharm mein Achhuton ka Sthaan,” 55.

and Agitation” which is also referred to as *Phule-Ambedkarite feminism*, which is the basis of almost every small and big Dalit women organisation today.

In 1990s, the first platform for the Dalit women was founded in the form of Dalit feminist literary movement, which was started by *Samvadini Dalit Stree Sahitya Maanch*. In 1995, Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women accepted that indigenous women face some specific problems due to their social status. After 1995, many organisations like *National Federation of Dalit Women* (NFDW), *All India Dalit Women Forum* and *Maharashtra Dalit Mahila Sangasthan* etc. came up and started addressing the issues of women empowerment from socially marginalised communities. In 2003, *Dalit Bahujan Mahila Vicharmanch* publicly set aflame the Manusmriti at the historic Chaitya Bhumi and revived Ambedkarite movement for women empowerment.

Violence against women is widely prevalent in the state of Haryana. The main reason is that women in the state are highly vulnerable because of poor quality of life indicated by rampant poverty. We need to give more powers to women so that they can become empowered and become more independent in term of taking decisions on their own. The Government and the judiciary needs to impose stricter punishments to the culprits, who harasses women at any point of time and at any place. Mere formulation of the policies to raise the status of women will not work until mind-set of the people changes.

The condition of Dalit women in India seems to be getting worse day by day and it needs immediate attention of the Government of India so that dynamic and far reaching policies specifically dealing with problems of Dalit women are formulated and effectively implemented. Since ancient times, the violence against Dalits especially Dalit women has been carried out and after many ages, the echo of pains and sufferings can be heard in modern times also. These ancient practices need to be stopped or banned immediately which force Dalit women to indulge in unethical and immoral acts.

One of the most brutal feature of gender inequality takes the form of physical violence against women. The incidents of such violence are remarkably high not only in poorer and less developed economies but also in wealthy and modern societies. The basic problem affecting the Dalit women’s role and opportunities for employment spring from their helpless dependence caused by lack of adequate employment opportunities, limited skills, illiteracy, limited mobility and lack of autonomous status .There are

several schemes of upliftment of Dalit women promoted by the State and the Central Governments, but the benefits of such schemes and programmes rarely reach them. Indian bureaucracy is hopelessly insensitive, inefficient and corrupt. It hardly cares for them and their plight. Whatever funds come for their improvement, are cornered by the unscrupulous local politicians, government functionaries and petty bureaucrats. Thus, the funds which are earmarked by the government for their welfare are hardly able to bring any noticeable change in their life. They remain hapless, ignorant, exploited and oppressed. They are the victims of the worst kind of patriarchy, feudalism, casteism, corruption and insensitivity of the Indian society. Their plight is hopelessly miserable and their life is difficult and full of miseries.

The data by National Crime Record Bureau and National Commission for women justifies the low status of women. Women suffer violence of all forms and at all stages in their lives. Starting with the foetal stage where they are susceptible to death through sex selection; during childhood when they are often under-nourished, uneducated, generally neglected, and burdened with household responsibilities; during early married life when they are vulnerable to harassment, injury, and even to murder in their marital homes but find no shelter in their parental home; and throughout their lives when they are subjected to physical beating and assault as well as emotional humiliation and degradation.

The state of Haryana is an economically prosperous state. It is ranked third in terms of GDP after Goa and New Delhi. On one front the girls from Haryana have brought success and glory to the state winning medals in sports and occupying high positions at various levels, but on the other front majority of women are still victims of various forms of atrocities which shows the poor status of girls and women in the state. The Government of Haryana has in recent times taken many positive measures to improve the conditions of women. Initiatives like Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, SABLA, LADLI schemes have been introduced in the state to improve the lot of these downtrodden women. Dalits are politically significant in the state and the Government cannot afford to annoy them but at the same time the upper castes too have a powerful lobby which influences the policy formulation and decision making machinery of the state. The Government has to perform a balancing act.

The judiciary in India, particularly the higher judiciary is leaving no stone unturned to safeguard the interests of the women victims. Two recent directives by the Supreme

Court given to the police authorities throughout India are noteworthy. One pertaining to keeping the names of sexually assaulted women secret and the second compulsory installations of closed circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in all police stations of the country. The proactive role being played by the judiciary in protecting the Dalit women victims of atrocities will surely go a long way in ensuring equality as enshrined in our Constitution.

The issue of suppression of Dalit women is of a crucial importance in the contemporary Indian society in the context of new social movements. A new thinking which is emerging in recent times advocates awakening the suppressed Dalit women so that they can initiate measures themselves to protect and safeguard their own interests. A write-up in Hindu (November 3, 2002) entitled “A Statement of Self-confidence” sums up this thinking:

“Stop being obsessed with reservations, and holding up a begging bowl in front of the government. Stop lingering over the details of beastly atrocities on Dalits. Stop abusing rascal politicians, or governments of scoundrels, who we all know have repeatedly let us down. We just cannot afford to waste them on tearful, emotional appeals for justice. Let us, instead, begin sensitisation of non-Dalits on a massive scale. ... Let us start work to face the challenges of the future. Let us launch a Self Help Movement.”

A movement led by Dalit women in India aptly remarks “there is nothing for us to lose but everything for us to win, as we march on with the spirit of resistance in our hearts, to sound the death knells of the caste system.”

-B.R Ambedkar

In the below mentioned poem ‘Yen Udal’ (my body) by the Tamil feminist Dalit poet Sukirtharani,⁹ she beautifully portrays the state of Dalit women by saying that after violence and risk, there is peace in the end, like the calm after a storm. She further elaborates that our (Dalit women) body is used as a way to express the violence over one’s caste by using every caste slur thrown around; there is a physical manifestation on the Dalit women’s body of pain:

⁹ An acclaimed Tamil Dalit women poet who has six collections of poetry to her credit: *Kaipattri Yen Kanavu Kel*, *Iravu Mirugam*, *Kaamatthipoo*, *Theendapadaatha Muttham*, *Avalai Mozhipeyarthal* and *Ippadikku Yeval*. Her awards include Thevamagal Kavithoovi Award, the Puthumaipitthan Memorial Award and the Women’s Achiever Award by the Pengal Munnani (Women’s Front).

*“You may frame me, like a picture
and hang me on your wall
I will pour down
away past you
like a river in sudden flood.
I myself will become
earth
fire
sky
wind
water
The more you confine me, the more I will spill over
Nature’s fountainhead.”*