

**THE IMPACT OF DEMOCRATISATION ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF DALITS IN NEPAL**

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M.A. (HUMAN RIGHTS)

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ABSTRACT

The study examines democratisation in Nepal between 1990 and 2002 and examines whether it ameliorates the situation of Dalits, excluded from economic, social, cultural and political spheres. It also explores development initiatives and examines whether they helped realize human dignity and human rights of Dalits.

It concludes that the democratisation process has facilitated Dalits at the national level, especially by enacting legislation, creating nation-wide awareness and movements against social discrimination and using court systems to fight exploitation and discrimination. However, at the local level, the exploitative caste system is in place because of the traditional enforcement mechanisms of the caste rule, that has prevailed over state-rule, albeit to a decreasing degree. Therefore, though democratisation and accompanying development have facilitated political participation, social, economic and cultural exclusion and exploitation continue unabated. The study recommends some radical changes in the strategies and plans to realize the democratic principles of equality for this most oppressed group of Nepalese humanity.

KEY WORDS : DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRATISATION, SOCIAL EQUALITY,
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DALITS

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