



Universität  
Basel

## Research Project

### Influence of Indian caste-system on self-esteem and school-Performance

#### Project funded by own resources

**Project title** Influence of Indian caste-system on self-esteem and school-Performance

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**Organisation / Research unit**

Departement Psychologie / Klinische Psychologie und Psychotherapie (Gaab)

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The caste system in India is a system of social stratification. The *Jaitis* were grouped by Brahminical texts under the four well-known caste-categories varnas: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, vaishyas, and shudras. Certain people were excluded all together, ostracized by all other castes and treated as untouchables. The scheduled caste is sometimes referred to as *Dalit* in contemporary literature. The position of Dalit communities as untouchables in the caste structure was the most important factor that historically led to their exclusion from knowledge and education in traditional Hindu society. They are daily reminded of their lower caste status from the attitude and behavior of the higher caste children. In addition to their experiences of untouchables in school children often experienced traumatic incidences in their communities such as inequality, and the abuse by the dominant community. This creates cloud of fear in the life dalit children. And they reveal emotions such as anger, wonderment, powerlessness and sadness. As a result, the discrimination in schools leads to lower self-esteem in children. The constant abuse of discrimination in schools creates inability to concentrate in their studies and it ends up in poor academic performance. The school failure can be attributed to low-self esteem and school success related to high self-esteem.

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