

The Right of Franchise of all Dalits - still a distant dream...

Sr. No.	Types of cases	State-wise distribution of cases				
		AP	UP	Bihar	Maharashtra	Orissa
1.	Exclusion from voters list	2	1	01	2	
2.	Prevented from voting due to non-acceptance of identity proof by PS officials / closing the polling early etc.	1		04	2	
3.	Threat / intimidation / violence by dominant caste elements	5	6	68	10	4
4.	Violence and threats by police on Dalit voters	3	2	01		
5.	Efforts to influence Dalit voters through money, liquor, transport etc.		1	03	17	2
6.	Rigging – Votes cast by others in the name of Dalit voters	1		70	1	
7.	Intimidation of Dalit activists / leaders by the police through detention without reasons, implication in false cases	1	1			

Some more serious cases from the states

Sr. No.	State / Date	Constituency & Polling station	Description of Offence	Action Taken
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Karakat / Haspura	'Yadav' community people obstructed dalits from going to polling booth.	Reported to the observer. Peaceful voting started after the observer's intervention.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Chakua	Dalits were stopped from exercising their voting rights	Reported to the observer. Peaceful voting started after the observer's intervention.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Amardah	Dalits were stopped from exercising their voting rights.	Reported to the observer. Peaceful voting started after the observer's intervention.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Daulatpur	Dalit voters were being forced to confine themselves in their village and were not being allowed to go to their booth by dominants Rajput like Rinku Singh, Lalji Singh, Gajendra Singh and others.	Reported to the observer. We also reported to the DEO (Bhojpur)
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Rawalbigha	Some congress workers (of Rajput community)	Reported to the observer, who referred

			stopped dalits on their way to the booth and thereby to vote (the congress workers were Viru Singh, Mithilesh Singh, Manish Kumar Singh, Pintu Singh and Bablu Giri)	to the DM saying unavailability of administrative support. When we called the number, one person after hearing the full complaint said that it is 'wrong number'. The other mobile number being switched off, we called the commissioner. The commissioner again referred to the DM. We reported the case to the DEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Bedaulia	Dalits were not allowed to vote. The congress workers captured the booth and forced the dalit voters out of the booth.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. We also reported to the DEO (Aurangabad).
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Karakat / Karma Misir	Congress workers not allowed dalits to go to booth, thereby captured booth.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. The matter was also reported to DEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Baniapur	Dalits not allowed to vote. JD(U) workers captured the booth.	When we tried to report to the Observer, we found that observer's mobile phone is switched off. Reported to the DEO (Maharajganj) and the CEO through fax.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Manjhi Markoniya	Dominant people blocked the way to the polling booth with 4 – 5 motorcycles and stopped dalits to reach polling booth.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Simati	Dalits were being sent away from the booth. Booths were being captured by Sanjay Singh, Rajiv Singh, Ravindra Singh, Raghuvansh Singh.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. Also reported to the DEO (Siwan) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Dhakuli	The booth was being captured by dominant caste	We could not do anything.

			people.	
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Jamui / Majhwe	Booth being captured by Minister Narendra Singh and his son MLA Abhay Singh	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. We also reported the matter to the DEO (Jamui) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Jamui / Islamnagar	Booth being captured by Minister Narendra Singh	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. We also reported the case to the DEO (Jamui).
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Dumri Chhappiya	Dalit Women being man-handled and forced out of the booth with abusive words. Later booth being captured by workers of JD(U) also.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter. We also reported to the DEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Khaira	Dalits are not allowed to vote by dominant caste and the dominant caste people themselves put dalits' votes. In the same booth dalits were being stopped from voting, which was prevented by observer's intervention.	Reported to the observer. In the morning the observer intervened and peaceful voting resumed. Which we reported to the CEO. But in the afternoon when we reported the observer the second time, he said that he will go and see the matter. We reported the case to CEC & NHRC.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Baksanda	50% of dalits were not allowed to vote by dominant caste people. Dalits not allowed to vote with CEC announced documents other than voter id card, whereas dominant caste people were allowed to vote without voter id card. Following debate and tussle, dalits were made to leave the booth.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will go and see the matter.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Arrah / Sonpura	Dalits not allowed to vote	Reported to Observer, later dalits started voting
	Bihar /	Nawada / Kulna	Upper caste people did not	Reported to the

	16.04.2009		allow dalits to vote	observer. The observer said that he will intervene.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Dihi	Dalits not allowed to vote, People of 'Bhumihar' community gave the votes of dalits in favour of LJP candidate.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will intervene. We also reported to the DEO (Nawada) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Ramdeo	Dalits not allowed to vote, where the booth is situated in the hamlet of dominant caste	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will intervene.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Gopalpur	Dominant caste people took away the EVM to their house and gave votes.	Reported to the observer. The observer said that he will intervene.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Budhwara	Bhumihar people did not allow dalits to vote and gave vote to LJP candidate	Reported to Observer who assured that he will send force to the booth but did not send forces
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Sikariya	Dalits not allowed to vote and were threatened and forcefully made to leave the booth.	Reported to Observer who assured sending forces to the booth but did not send forces. We reported the matter to the DEO (Nawada).
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Jakher Debipur	None of the dalits were allowed to vote, booth being captured.	Dalits went to local police station and organized 'dharna'. The inspector was not present in the police station. When contacted to the presiding officer, they were sent to BDO and BDO accepted their memorandum. The case was also reported to the DEO (Nawada), CEO, CEC & NHRC.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Saraoni	Booth being captured by 'Yadavs'. After a fight between 'Yadavs' and 'Paswans'. Two persons namely Rajendra Paswan & Nawal Paswan were injured. Vote was stopped.	Reported to Observer. Booth being cancelled. Order of Re-polling.
	Bihar /	Nawada /	Dalits not allowed to vote.	Reported to the

	16.04.2009	Maharama	A 'lathi' fight broke between people of 'Kuswaha' community and that of 'Yadav' community. Dalits could not vote.	observer, who said that he will send paramilitary force to the booth
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Bhagawr	45 dalits were not allowed to vote. They were told that their vote is already given. It is said that the vote was put in favour of LJP.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will take up the case with the presiding officer. We also reported the case to the DEO (Nawada).
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Sudamanagar	Names of dalit voters disappeared from the electoral roll, although they have their voter id card.	Reported to the observer, who said unless a voter's name is there in electoral roll, he cannot vote.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Pachiya	Upper caste people did not allow dalits to vote	Reported to observer, who said that he will send force.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Fatehpur	Dalits not allowed to vote, booth being captured	Reported to observer, who said he is sending force. Force reached at 4 pm, by the time all the votes were given.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Paura	People from 'Yadav' community were sitting with the EVM inside the booth and forced the dalits to vote for RJD	Reported observer, who assured he is sending paramilitary force, but 'force' did not reach.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Gurpa	People from 'Yadav' community themselves give all the votes including the vote of dalits	Reported to the observer who assured that he will send paramilitary force, but 'force' did not reach. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / South Gurpa	People from 'Yadav' community themselves give all the votes including the vote of dalits	Reported to the observer who assured that he will send paramilitary force, but 'force' did not reach. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Bagei	People from 'Yadav' community captured booth and they gave all the votes	Reported to the observer who assured that he will send

				paramilitary force, but 'force' did not reach. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Tundu	Dalit voters were forced to leave the booth and people from 'Yadav' community gave all the votes.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary force, but 'force' did not reach. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Kadari	Dalits (including Devki Rajbanshi) were beaten by people from 'Yadav' community.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary force. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Alakdiha	People of 'Yadav' community captured booth. Dalits were not allowed to vote.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary force. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Kodiya	People of 'Yadav' community captured the booth. Dalits were not allowed to vote.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary force. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Telni	Votes were already given before bringing EVM machine to the booth. Then it was taken away by saying that vote is complete in the machine.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary force. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Ketra	People of 'Yadav' community captured the booth. No police force was present.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will talk to the administration. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Ainwa	Dalits not allowed to vote. Booth was captured by Ramashish Yadav (RJD)	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will talk to the

				presiding officer. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Dharampur	Some dominant caste people like Manoj Yadav, Pramod Yadav & Vinod Yadav captured the booth and no one was allowed to get in.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he is sending paramilitary force. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Bakhtawarpur	Ramchander Yadav and his people captured the booth	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will talk to the presiding officer. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Kabirpur	Dalits were beaten by dominant caste people with 'lathi'.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will take necessary steps. We also reported the case to the DEO (Gaya) & CEO.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Ganeshidih	Dalits of six villages were not allowed to vote (1000 votes). Dalits were beaten and made to leave the booth.	Reported to the observer, who assured that he will send paramilitary. By the time the force reached the venue, the votes are already given.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Gaya / Kaatee	Dalits were not allowed to vote. Booth was captured.	Volunteers reported to observer, who referred to a mobile number of BDO Fatehpur (9431818069), which was switched off. The case was also reported to the observer, the DEO, CEO, CEC & NHRC.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Bala Karma	After 2 pm, people from 'Rajput' community started capturing booth.	Volunteers informed the observer, who came and fair voting resumed
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Bhairopur	Rajesh Kumar Singh (a 'Rajput') was putting bogus vote.	The volunteer objected and quarrel started. The other villager intervened in favour of the volunteer and then

				peace and fair voting resumed.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Aurangabad / Danibigha	Dalits were called to Congress party office and was given 100 pouch of country liquor and 50 'samosa'(snacks)	Volunteer tried to convince the dalit voters that giving bribe is not a fair practice and they should not be influenced, but still many of the dalits seems to have voted for congress.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Karakat / Ganapat Tendua	Congress workers captured booth and put all the votes of dalit. They also used abusive words on dalits.	Could not take any action.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Karakat / Bishunpur	The booth was captured by Congress workers.	Could not take any action.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Karakat / Kareya	Congress workers captured booth. No dalits were allowed to vote.	Could not take any action.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Maharajganj / Chand Patariya	The booth was captured by JD(U) workers	Volunteers got the booth cancelled, by informing the observer and district election officer
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Saran / Bairwi	JD(U) candidate Prabhunath Singh captured the booth	Volunteers informed the observer, SP and DM through mobile, but no steps seems to be taken.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Saran / Basantpur	The booth was captured by JD(U) workers.	Reported to observer and also to DM, but no steps seems to be taken.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Saran / Basatpur	JD(U) workers put all the votes in EVM machine. No one was allowed inside	Reported to the observer and also to DM, but no steps seems to be taken.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Saran / Masrakh	Booth being captured by JD(U) workers.	Reported to observer, SP & DM, but no steps seems to be taken.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Saran / Badwana Majwawa	When Dalits were going to vote, they were stopped by some upper caste people. After some argument, the upper caste people beaten the dalits. The dalits had to be hospitalized.	First attempt to get an FIR with the help of volunteer failed. We reported the matter DEO (Saran) & CEO as well as the DM & SP. The CCG member also talked directly to the DM. After this someone from the local

				police station went to the victim and registered FIR.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Kharsari	Dominant caste people captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Purnadih	Dominant caste people captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Shadipur	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Baliya	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Kataiya	In the EVM machine the button of BSP was not functioning	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Bhandajor	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Kajhiya	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled

				and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Narauri	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Dosut	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Marui	Muslim Community people capture dalit votes	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Dihari	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.
	Bihar / 16.04.2009	Nawada / Chaipura	People from upper caste community captured the booth and dalit votes were given by them.	Reported to the observer as well as DEO & CEO. Later on came to know that booth was cancelled and re-election was ordered.

Certain Concerns that have emerged

- DEO Fax numbers were not working
- Few Observers phone was switched off
- Many cases observers referred to the BDO office
- In the second half, the promises of observers were not fruitful. No support reached dalit voters.

- Most of booth capturing occurred around 3 pm and later. By the time force reaches (even by 4 pm) vote was completed.