

Ms. Annie Namala - NCDHR India (affiliated with Minority Rights Group)

Thank you very much for this opportunity. I would like to bring the issue of discrimination that the Dalit community is facing in India.

I would like to state that the discrimination that the Dalit communities face is of a particular nature, because of the belief and attitudes, and un-touchability. In the provision of education we find two types of discrimination. One by the states in its very provision, which includes differential types of education at a cost of about 25 dollars for some children a year, about 60 dollars for other children, for about 300-400 dollars for the third variety of children.

The state also fails to make the combination between the private and public education where private education goes at a high cost that the minority communities are not able to access. We would also like to bring you a notice the presence of discrimination within the larger civil society which gets reflected and reproduced at a school system at all levels. In this whole process children, teachers, and the wider community are engaged. As a few recommended measures, Mam, we would like to suggest that there is a anti-discrimination check can be introduced into the schooling process and that would be mandatory for all schools to implement and report to at the monitoring levels.

We would also like to suggest, that there is a legislative frame to address discrimination and a complaint mechanism, which is introduced into the education system. As a third level, we would like to engage that the school system engages in educated Dalit youth, who are in different parts of the country. And would be part of the process providing education at all levels.

We request that these recommendations are brought into the frame of the current discussion and taken forward in the context of India.

Thank you, Mam.