

Law in Action

A Report



**A Study with Reference to
Implementation of SC,ST (PoA) Act 1989 in
Andhra Pradesh**

Preface

Law as an instrument of social change has always been an issue of serious debate among jurists, sociologists, social reformers and scholars of all hues. While the protagonists of social change through law assert that law plays a powerful role in bringing about social change; the skeptics argue that it is social change that precedes and paves the way for a law. The debate apart, the truth appears to lie somewhere in between.

When India achieved freedom, our forefathers embraced western democratic model of constitution and legal system to bring about social change in the country and lead it into a new era of development. Our constitution is universally hailed for its bedrock principles of secularism, democracy, guarantee of equal citizenship rights, fundamental right to life, liberty and equality. Much water has flown since the adoption of the Indian Constitution and we just celebrated its 64th anniversary on January 26th 2014.

Abolition of untouchability and eradication of caste oppression is one area that our Constitution has addressed and it is time to take stock of the situation and assess how far this age old discrimination has changed. Rights may be self evident and constitutionally secured; however, they do not automatically implement themselves. It is but a sad reality that still untouchability, discrimination and denial of opportunities to the SCs and STs continues unabated, thereby rather, establishing that the mindset of the elite remains only backward and feudal under the garb of modernity. Thus, the 'living law' i.e. the real law, continues to be Manu's law while only the robes appear to be constitutional and modern. Only the language is couched in human rights, democracy and what not, but the mind set is rooted in centuries old caste system. This old, anti-reform mindset, as warned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, has diluted the spirit and implementation of constitution and laws by those who manned the system till now.

However, despite the tardy implementation of legal and economic rights by the powers that be, the dalits of this country never sat back with folded hands but have all along waged struggles for democratization of human relations and against all forms of oppression. This assertion of rights by the dalits had in turn led to various brutal attacks, which only made the dalit movement more mature. The State acceded to the demands of dalit struggles against atrocities in the form of a special law and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act came

into existence in the year 1989. Almost 25 years have passed by since the advent of this Act, but it couldn't make any remarkable change.

At this juncture, Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS), a collective power of dalit women embarked upon a research study on the implementation of this law. DSS, which came into existence in the year 2006, has been working for the protection and promotion of the rights of dalit women and girl children. In the process of its work, DSS addressed many major incidents of violence demanding for the effective implementation of SC, ST (PoA) Act. DSS has toiled continuously, year after year, to access justice to the victims and to sensitize the larger civil society through its various activities. We were inspired to take up a research study to take stock of implementation of SC,ST (PoA) Act 1989 by the police, judiciary and the social welfare departments. We carried out this study for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Ranga Reddy and Hyderabad of Andhra Pradesh. This report is formulated based the data procured from the police stations, special courts for the years 2010, 2011 and 2013. The report only reveals for the umpteenth time, that the Indian State may make many laws that protect dalits. However, none of this means much unless law enforcement agencies actually implement the law. This gap between the law as it 'is' and the real 'living law' as it is actually implemented is itself a commentary on the capacity of the State in India. The actual caste structures of dominance in the country side operate the legal system in such a way as to whittle down the State power and reduce the laws to remain on paper.

We are highly thankful to the police department, public prosecutors and social welfare department for their cooperation in providing us the available data.

Hyderabad
January 30, 2014

G. Jhansi
Convener,
Dalit Sthree Sakthi

REPORT ON THE LAW IN ACTION
***A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SC, ST
(PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT IN 5 DISTRICTS OF AP***

1. Introduction:

There is lot of debate on the implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. It is necessary to take stock of the situation after more than 20 years of precept and practice of S.C. & S.T. (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. In the background of raising consciousness of dalits during the decade of 1980s and the attempts of dominant castes to suppress the dalit assertion resulted in incidents of massacres like Karamchedu, Pippa, Keelavenmani. etc. These gruesome attacks in turn produced reverberating dalit movements of historic importance which sent tremors across the country and the ruling elite. These developments of the decade of 80s forced the Indian State to accede to dalit demand for real self respect and respond in various ways, important among them being the passage of the S.C. & S.T. (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. This Act is a step forward from the tokenism of earlier legislation, Untouchability Offences Act and Protection of Civil Rights Act.

Before the advent of this Act the law that existed for abolition of Untouchability and discrimination was Untouchability Offences Act which with some tinkering later was renamed as Protection of Civil Rights Act. At qualitative level these laws were passed more as tokenism and symbolic gestures than for real implementation. These laws were not meant to send any threat signals to dominant castes nor to the prosecuting agencies to take the legislation seriously. At best they served the purpose of appeals to dominant castes to treat dalits humanely. These Acts provided ridiculously low punishments like Rs.500 fine for certain heinous offences.

The utter failure of Untouchability Offences Act 1955 and Protection of Civil Rights Act 1976 does not require any proof. The statistics of cases filed and not filed speaks volumes about these Acts. More than anything else these laws did not alter the situation of a dalit being at the receiving end of the law. A dalit was always victim of law, never a beneficiary, he/she was always condemned to be an accused but was never accorded the status of a witness, he/she was all the time pulled up to defend never was he/she a prosecutor. The qualitative importance of S.C. & S.T. (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 lies in the fact that for the first time this Act gave a dalit the status of a prosecutor and a witness and it should be acknowledged that this turned the scales. Passage of this Act is an acknowledgement that in practice, all along IPC was never caste secular and it was meant only to be a weapon in the hands of dominant communities to prosecute dalits for various crimes and was never meant to prosecute dominant castes for the crimes committed by them on dalits. It is this lack of use of IPC in favor of dalits and the impunity that the dominant castes enjoyed for long period that necessitated dalits to rise in revolt culminating in the enactment of SC & ST (POA) Act 1989.

It is clear that SC & ST (POA) Act 1989 was not a grant but a victory, it was not given – it was achieved. It is but a natural corollary that the dalits who achieved this Act will have to achieve its implementation too, lest it would gather dust as the earlier legislations did. Despite the enactment of the Act the mind set of criminal justice system (all the stake holders of the system) continues to be the same age old mind set, which does accept a dalit to be prosecutor/witness. To press the Act into service and book a case against the atrocity committed on him/her the ordeal that an ordinary dalit has to face is itself comparable to an atrocity/continuation of the atrocity. Movement by dalits, dalit organizations, civil rights organizations, media coverage, petitions in courts, human rights commissions, SC/ST Commissions and a host of things are required to pressurize the establishment to book an FIR under the Act. This is so each and every time and it has become a routine full time activity for

dalit rights organizations. This activity which involves wastage of lot of working days, human resources and other resources is continuously required each time when an atrocity is committed to keep the Act alive. Like dalits, even dalit organizations have limited resources and they cannot continue this movement with the entire tempo for long and once the case is booked and a few accused arrested the tempo withers. Once the tempers are cooled and there is no one to talk, no further coverage in the media, then all the forces that be, actively work full time to kill the case with the active/passive co-operation of personnel in the criminal justice administration. These forces include sometimes dalit mediators, elders also. All tactics of humane appeals, lure of money, threats, lapses in preparing the records, recording statements, not collecting evidence, using all legal loop holes to drag the case, etc are pressed into service. Ultimately when the case comes up for trial it is lost for all the reasons including the victims themselves turning hostile sometimes and this is again used to propagate that the accused were innocent and the Act was misused. One can give number of live example with all the vivid details of how the entire process of a case under SC & ST (POA) Act 1989 is carried on. But it is suffice to refer to two glaring instances. Tsundur is one case where the accused could employ all the above tactics to prolong the trial up to more than 12 years.

Successive annual reports of DSS are ridden with umpteen sordid stories of the hapless victims running around from pillar to post seeking justice. Thus it can be seen that it is wrong to assume that law takes its own course. On the other hand, the experience of DSS shows that law never takes its own course and it has to be pushed against all odds and all powers to take its course and dalits are so tired and exhausted in continually attempting to see that law takes its course. Unless the mindset of all stake holders in the criminal justice administration changes to see dalit rights as human rights and become willing to recognize the Act, real fruits of the law cannot percolate and objectives of the Act cannot be realized.

In order to access justice to dalit women and expose the loop sided working of the Act; DSS has organized public hearings and round table conferences at district and state level during the past few years. Similarly it has engaged with the concerned officials of police, judiciary, social welfare department, women and child welfare department at district and state level, sensitized them, participated in the vigilance and monitoring committee meetings for follow up of the cases. Further a study of atrocity cases occurred during 2010 to 2012 was taken up in 5 districts on the role of the police, social welfare and judiciary departments.

2. Scope and Methodology of the Study:

Most of the personnel whose duty it is to implement the S.C/S.T (POA) Act, suffer from lack of knowledge of the objectives of the law and also lack the spirit and are often prejudiced. Hence to take stock of the present situation, bring out the loopholes in the respective departments and to sensitize them for the effective implementation of the Act for accessing justice to dalit women a study on the role of police, special courts, director of prosecutions and social welfare department was undertaken. The study covers:

- ✓ Period : 2010 to 2012
- ✓ Area: 5 districts i.e. Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Guntur, West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh
- ✚ No of atrocity cases registered
- ✚ Duration of investigation
- ✚ No of cases referred as false
- ✚ No of cases Quashed
- ✚ No of cases stayed
- ✚ Duration of case : from FIR to Judgement
- ✚ No of cases where victims turned hostile
- ✚ Payment of TA/DA

- ✚ Payment of compensation
- ✚ Percentage of Acquittals
- ✚ Percentage of Convictions
- ❖ Total no of cases pursued by Special Court
- ❖ Total no of SC/ST PoA Cases pursued by Special Court
- ❖ PP's role (Incharge of other courts)
- ❖ PPs appointed by SWD or Director of Prosecutions

2.1. Brief Profile of the Districts:

The study was under taken in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Guntur, West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. These districts are selected as they represent two major areas of A.P. state namely, Telangana and Coastal Andhra and in these districts either more number of atrocities committed or there is more political pressure on dalits not to book cases.

2.1.1. Hyderabad:

Hyderabad is the state capital and is considered as metropolitan city with all the state level departments, officers, legislature, high court and all head offices of media. The city has a population of over 60 lakhs in addition to the regular floating population. There are large numbers of slums where most of the dalits are forced to reside and eke out their lives. Geographically Hyderabad constitutes part of Telangana area and most of dalits that live in the city are from interior telangana districts and other areas of A.P.

2.1.2. East Godavari:

This district is largest dalit populated district. In view of the large number of dalits in this district, several assembly and parliamentary constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Castes in this district. The dalits in this district are relatively advanced in terms of education and economic standards compared to dalits of telangana and

rayala seema areas of A.P. The dalit consciousness and assertion also is high due to educational and economic advancement. The dominant castes, particularly the middle caste, kapu community and dalits are mostly competing and at logger heads with each other. There is more number of kapu attacks on dalits. In view of the increasing number of atrocities on dalits, the Government declared East Godavari as atrocity prone district.

2.1.3. West Godavari:

West Godavari is another district where atrocities have occurred more in number. DSS itself had taken up various cases of atrocities and it is noticed that instances of cheating of dalit girls in the name of love and trafficking have taken place more in number. During 2010-2012 more than 25 cases of dalit girls being cheated in the name of love and trafficking were dealt by DSS in this district.

2.1.4. Guntur:

Guntur district is considered as politically highly conscious district. Dalits are also politically active and ideologically more advanced compared to rest of A.P. Much of the state level dalit leadership also hails from this area. Major dalit movements against atrocities like Tsundur massacre were launched in Guntur. Leftist movement also is strong in this district with roots tracing back to 1970s and 40s. More number of cases is filed by dalits in this district.

2.1.5. Ranga Reddy:

Ranga Reddy district is adjacent to Hyderabad and this district is dominated by ruling caste reddy and the state former home minister, belonging to reddy caste hails from this district. Due to caste domination and being power centre of the home minister, forcing the dalits to compromise without filing cases is more here. DSS had conducted many fact findings in this district where though atrocities are committed, the dalits are forced to settle for a compromise without filing cases.

2.2. Data Collection:

Formats were prepared for data collection. Subject experts like, Prof. A. Subrahmanam, officials like, Public Prosecutors of Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad and West Godavari district special courts, DIG PCR Cell, etc were requested to go through the formats and suggest improvements.

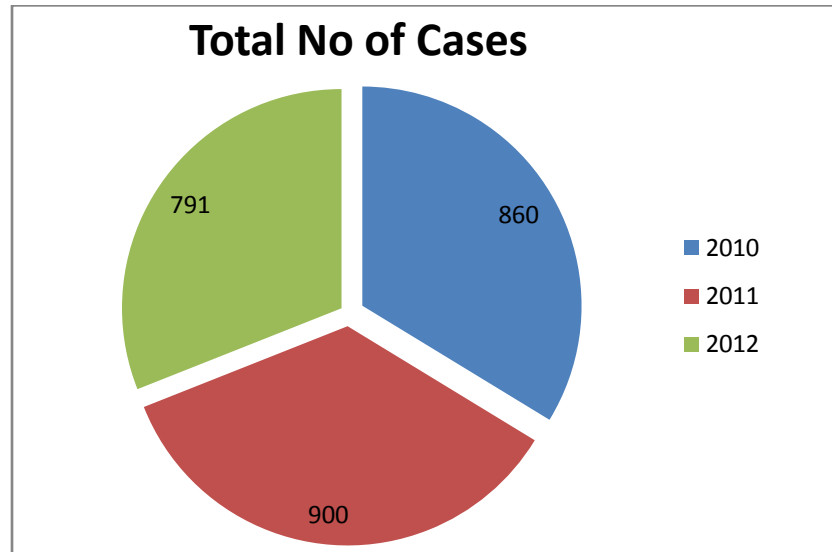
Having finalized the formats for data collection, services of research consultants were utilized to collect data from various police stations and processing of the data. To collect requisite data from a big maze of unorganized details was a great difficulty. Though it is mandatory under the RTI Act to post all details of cases in the website, data of cases is not posted properly. There is no scientific classification of data and one can find only the list of crime number of cases of each police station. The cases under SC, ST (POA) Act are not separated. One has to see each case in each police station of the state (i.e. more than about 12 lakh cases each year in the state) and identify the cases under the Act, which is an impossible task. At the State level offices also data of all cases is kept in the crime records and exclusive data on SC, ST (POA) Act is not available. The research consultants had to face an uphill task in sifting the data and separating the required cases in each district. In this herculean task the Additional DGP – CID, DIG - PCR Cell and SPs of the five districts helped DSS a lot. Yet there is lot of limitations on the details of data.

3. The Data and Findings:

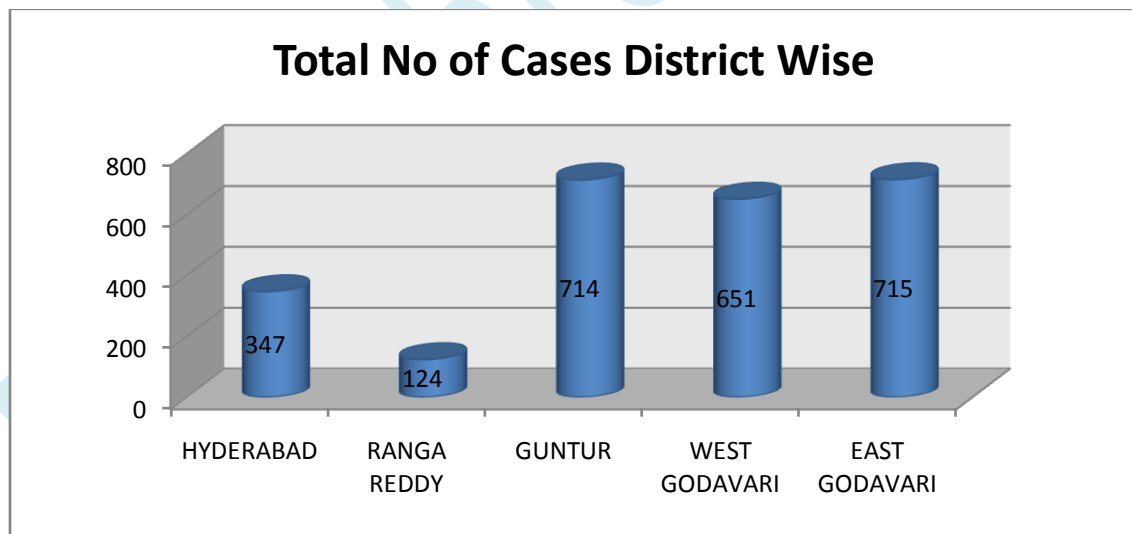
The data collected and processed is as follows:

Data has been collected in the requisite formats from 274 police stations spread over 5 districts and 5 special courts for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. A total of 2551 cases have been registered during these 3 years.

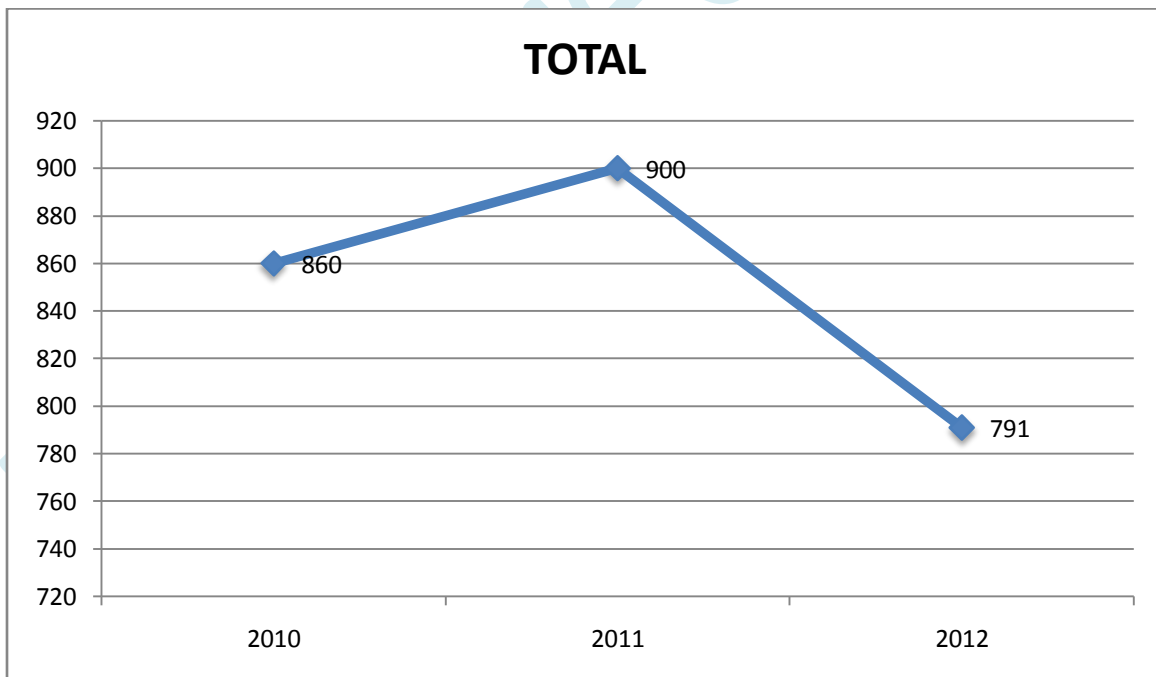
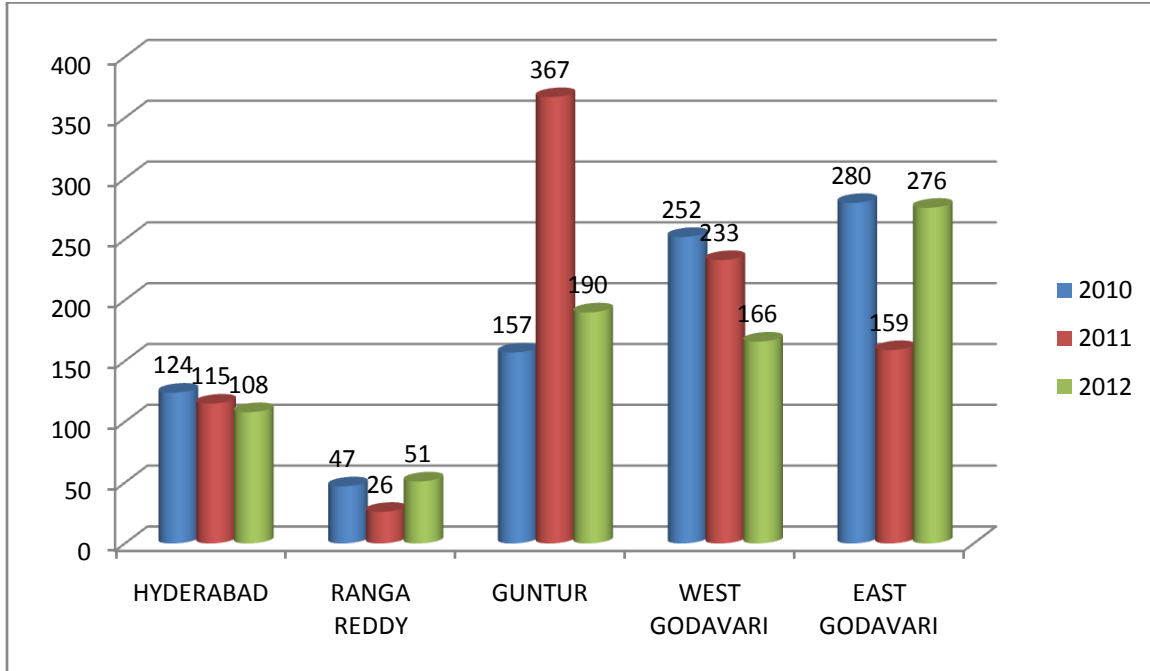
Total No. Of Cases Registered Year Wise:



District Wise:

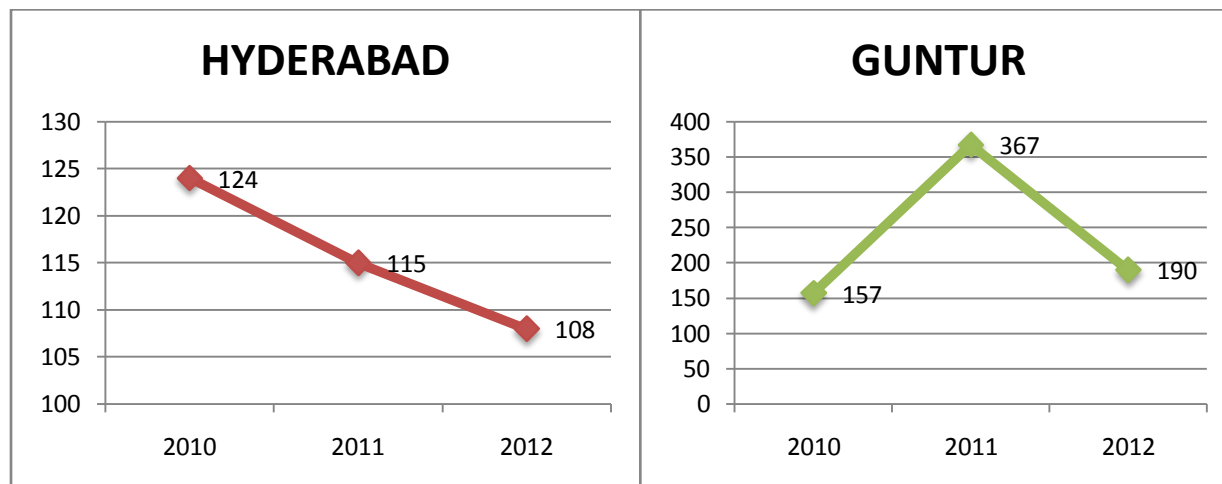


Yearly District Wise:



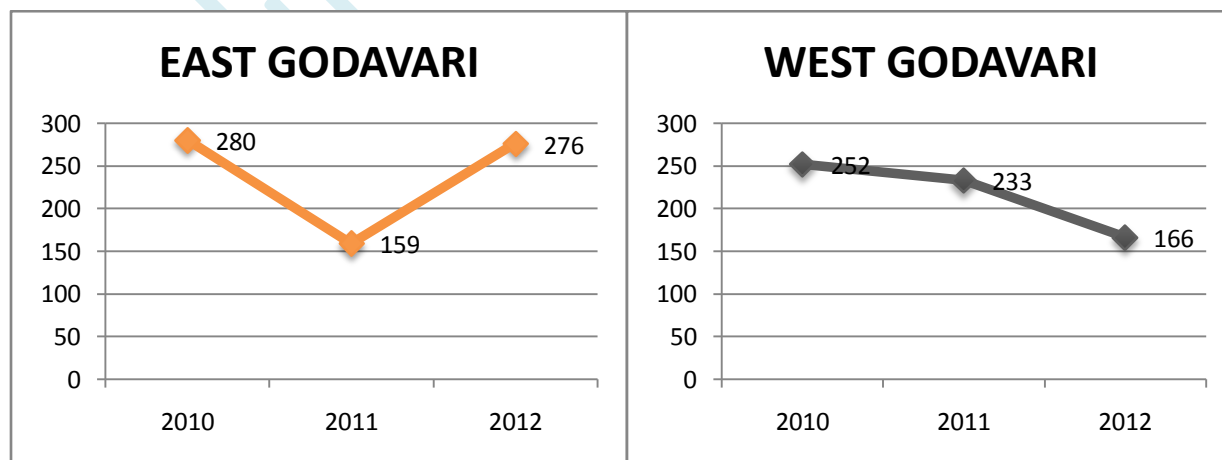
It can be seen that there is an increase of registration of cases in 2011 by 4.65% compared to 2010. Further it can be seen that there is a decrease in 2012 by 12.2% compared to 2011 and a further decrease by 8% compared to 2010. Surely,

increase in awareness among dalits and the active functioning of dalit organizations is one important reason for the decrease of atrocities, even though willingness among dalits to come forward to register cases has increased. Other reason for decrease of atrocities is the functioning of a few police and government officers with dalit perspective.



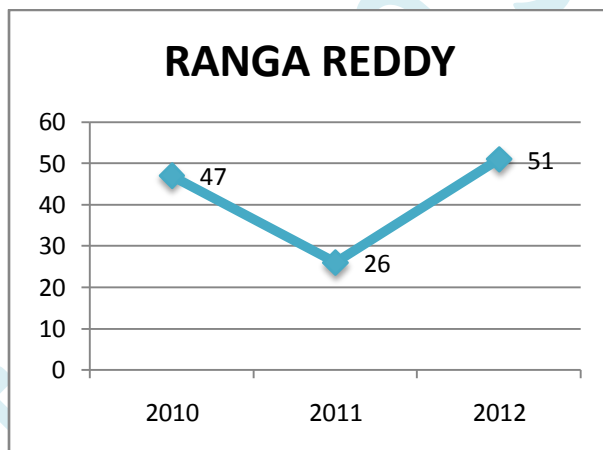
Hyderabad: One can notice a decrease of registration of cases in 2011 by 7.25% compared to 2010. Registration of cases decreased further in 2012 by 6.10% compared to 2011 and decreased by 13% compared to 2010. The reasons are the same as above.

Guntur: An increase of registration of cases in 2011 by 42.78% compared to 2010. Registration of cases decreased in 2012 by 51.77% compared to 2011 and increased by 7.37% compared to 2010.



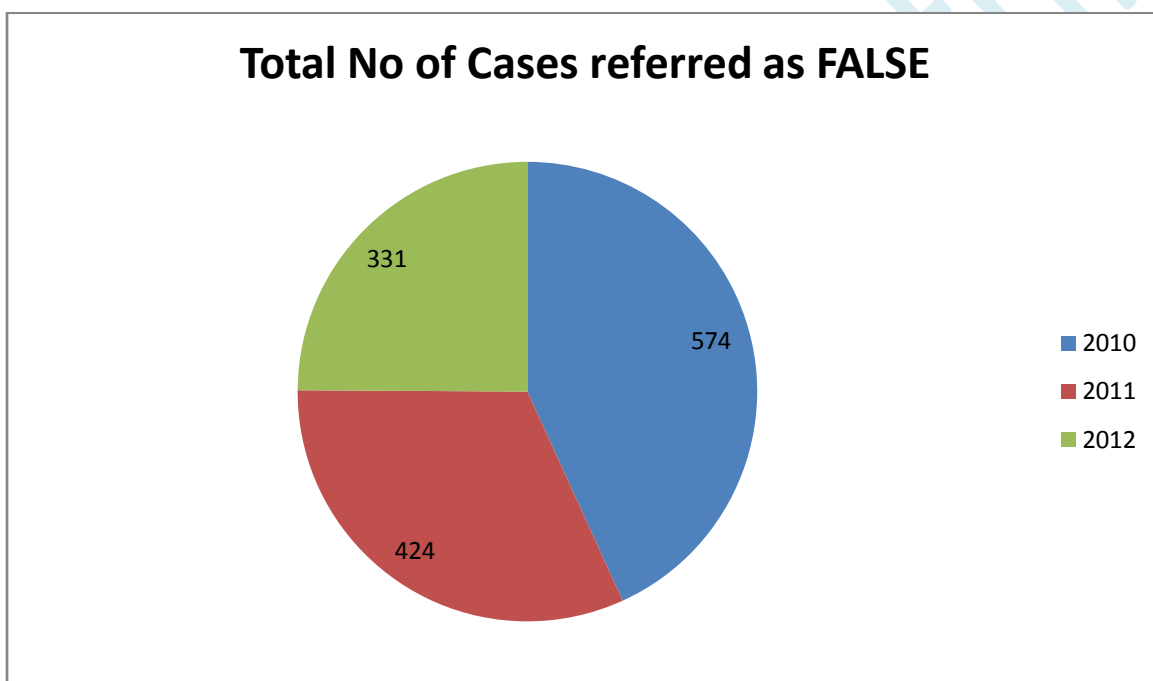
East Godavari: A decrease of registration of cases in 2011 by 56.78% compared to 2010. Registration of cases increased in 2012 by 57.61% compared to 2011 and decreased by 1.47% compared to 2010.

West Godavari: A decrease of registration of cases in 2011 by 7.54% compared to 2010. Registration of cases decreased in 2012 by 28.75% compared to 2011 and decreased by 34.12% compared to 2010. In this district the S.P. of the district during 2011-12 paid serious attention in prosecuting the perpetrators of atrocities and focused on investigation, coordinated with all other government departments and for this reason during this period there is decrease of occurrence of atrocities. DSS paid lot of attention on this district by continually being in touch with the S.P., DIG and other officers at the state level and saw to it that even the politically powerful sections of the dominant caste are also arrested and prosecuted, strengthening the victim and witnesses, thereby creating impact.



Ranga Reddy: A decrease of registration of cases in 2011 by 44.68% compared to 2010. Registration of cases increased in 2012 by 96% compared to 2011 and by 8.5% compared to 2010. In this district which is dominated by the dominant caste belonging to the home minister of the state used to forcibly compromise all cases without being registered. DSS took up this issue in a big way and raised the issue in many public forums and exposed the dominant community's tactics and the support of home minister to the dominant community. Later in the year 2012 a new women S.P. took charge of the district and she was approached by DSS. She introduced the system of victims directly dialing to her and she instructed the concerned police

stations in writing to register the cases. Thus the number of registration of cases increased during 2012. During this period the district collector and magistrate, who is the Chairman of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee was serious in conducting the meetings regularly and reviewing the situation. This also helped in dalits freely complaining and police registering the cases without resorting to forced compromises.

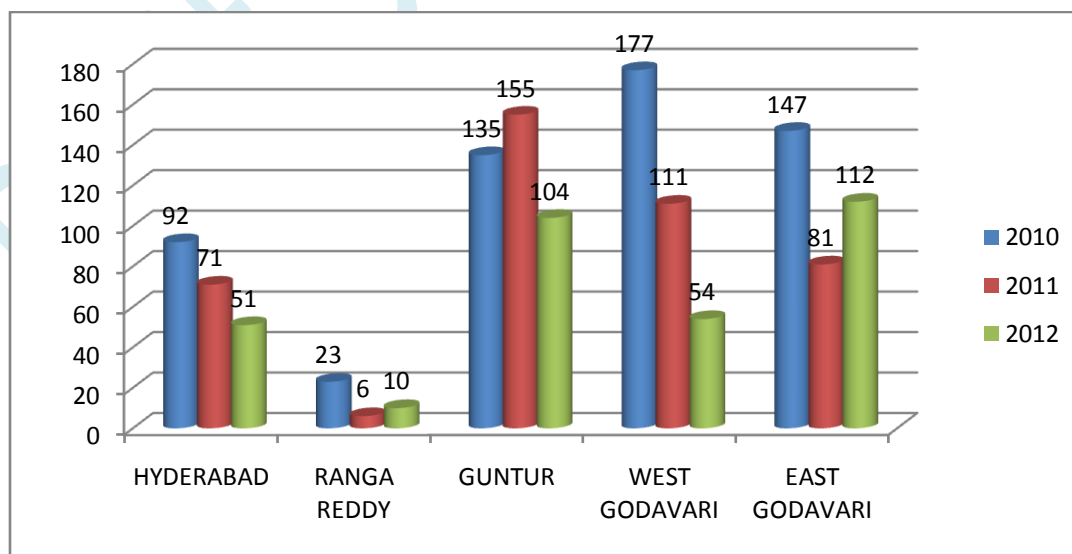
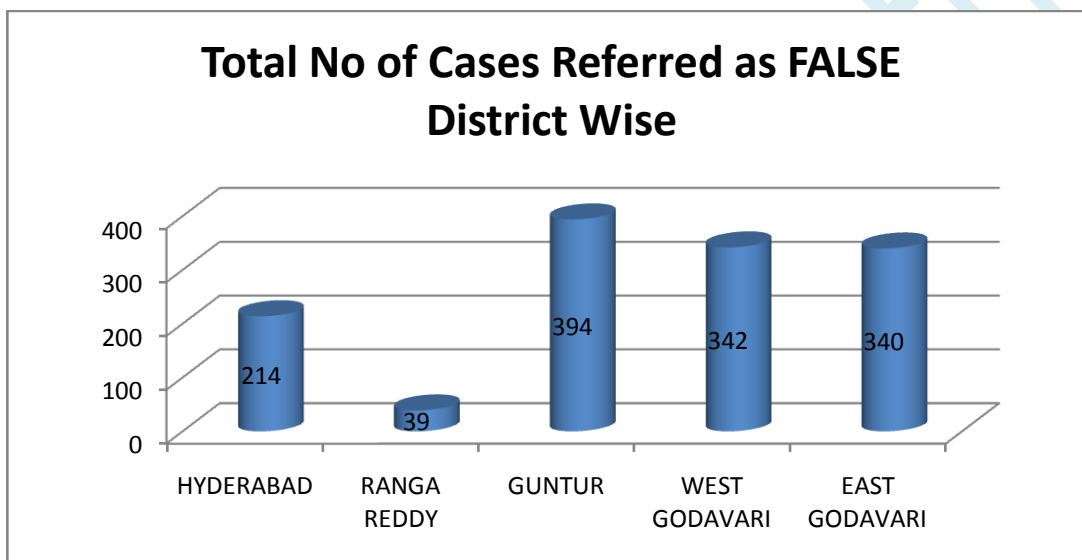


Total of 52.09% of cases have been closed as false. Decrease in the percentage can be seen year wise, in 2010 – 66.74%, in 2011 – 47.11% and in 2012 – 41.84% cases have been closed as false.

The same reasons stated above and the strengthening of victims and witnesses by DSS played critical role in not closing the cases as false. DSS used to actively participate in the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting and discuss case by case and help in removing difficulties thereby preventing closure of cases as false. In many instances DSS produced witnesses before the Collector and S.P.s and

prevented the cases being closed as false. Further, in Hyderabad, based on DSS suggestion all the ACPs of the city are required to participate in the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings and they used to attend the meetings with data of the cases in their jurisdiction. This helped in reducing the closure of the cases as false.

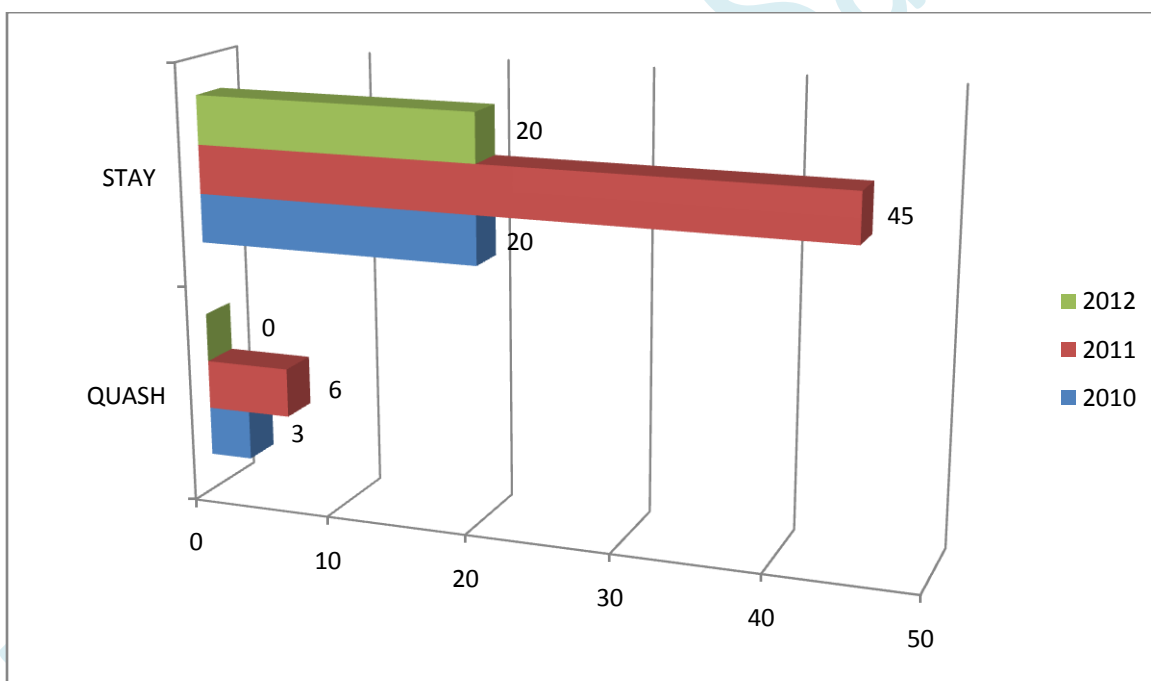
District wise percentage of false cases: Hyderabad-61.67%; Ranga Reddy-31.45%; Guntur-55.18%; West Godavari-52.53%; East Godavari-47.55%



Decrease in the percentage of false year wise can be seen in all the districts

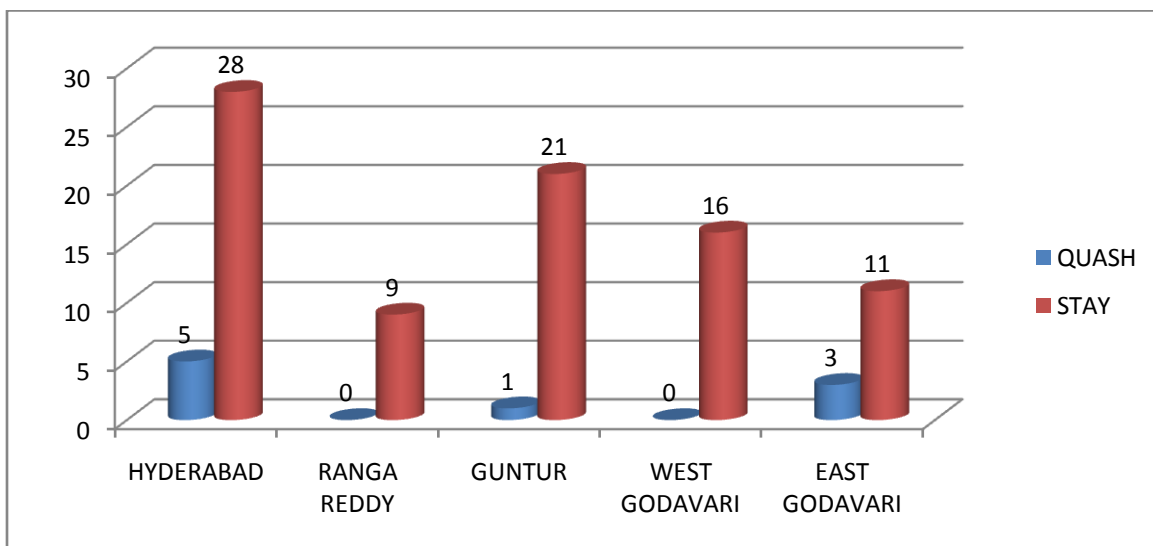
Districts	Hyderabad	Ranga Reddy	Guntur	West Godavari	East Godavari
2010	74.19%	48.94%	63.78%	70%	52.50%
2011	61.74%	23.07%	59.16%	47.64%	51%
2012	47.22%	19.60%	43.33%	32.53%	40.58%

Total No. Of Cases Quashed/Stay:



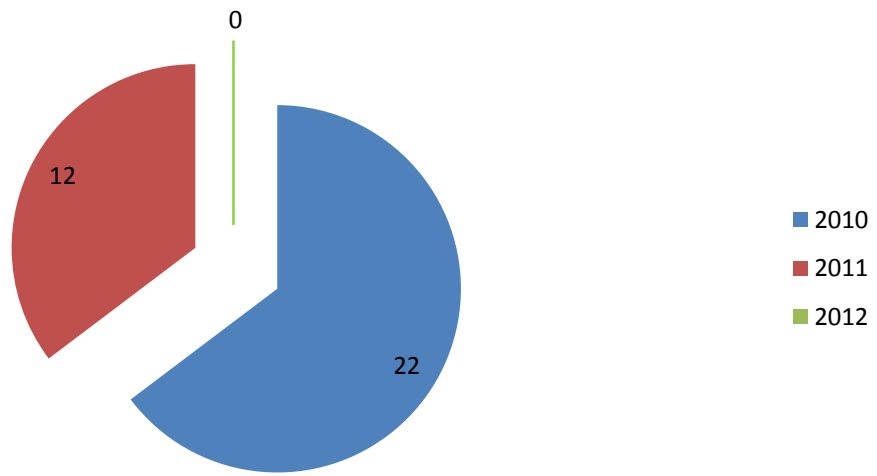
Particulars	2010	2011	2012	Total
Quash	3	6	0	9
Stay	20	45	20	85

District Wise Quash & Stay:

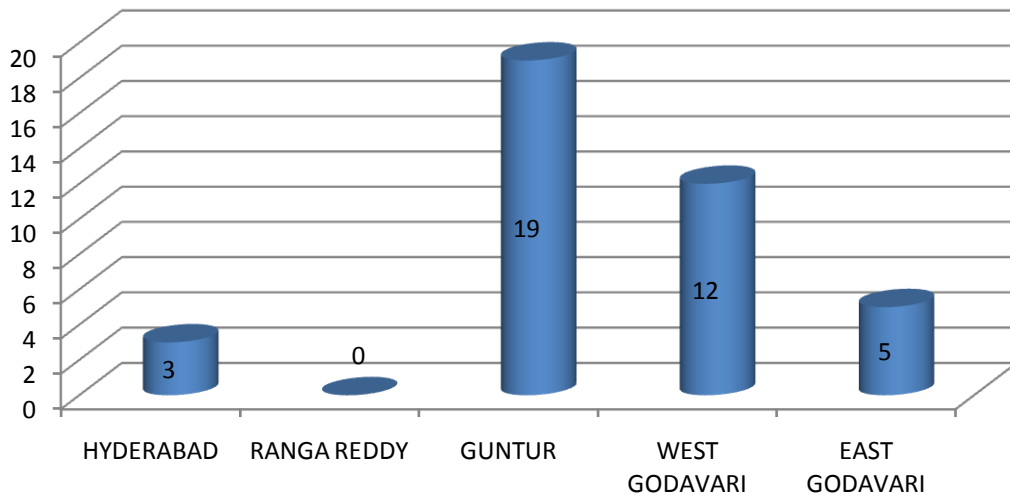


Districts	Hyderabad	Ranga Reddy	Guntur	West Godavari	East Godavari	Total
Quash	5	0	1	0	3	9
Stay	28	9	21	16	11	85

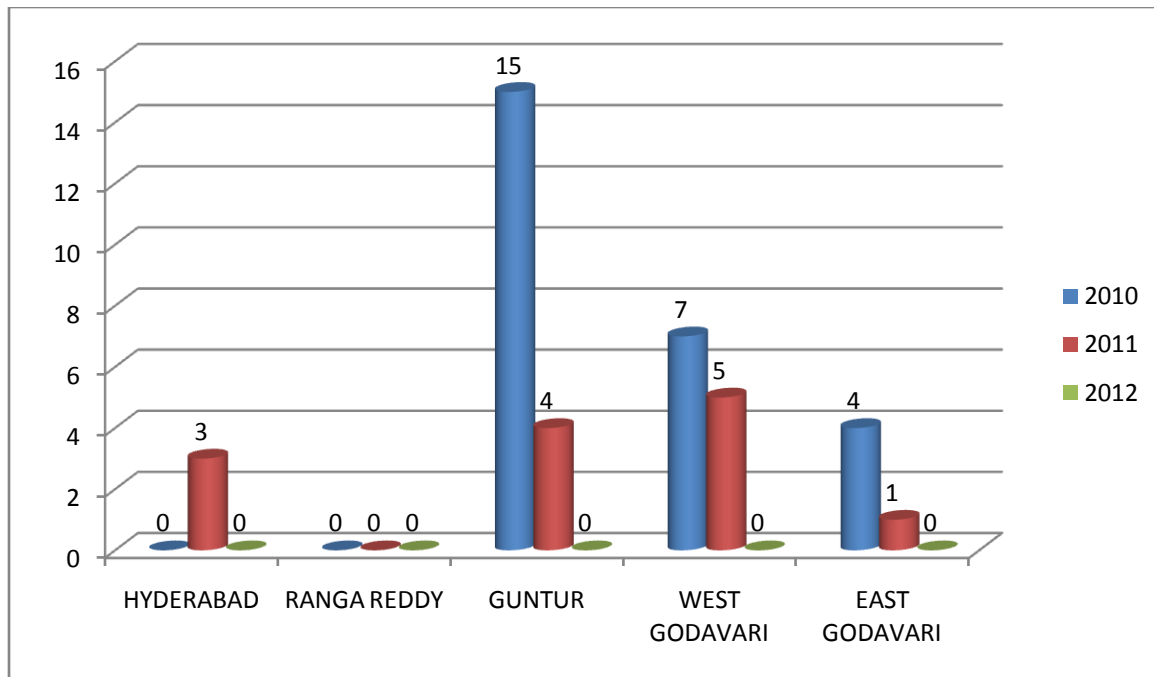
Total No of Cases Hostile



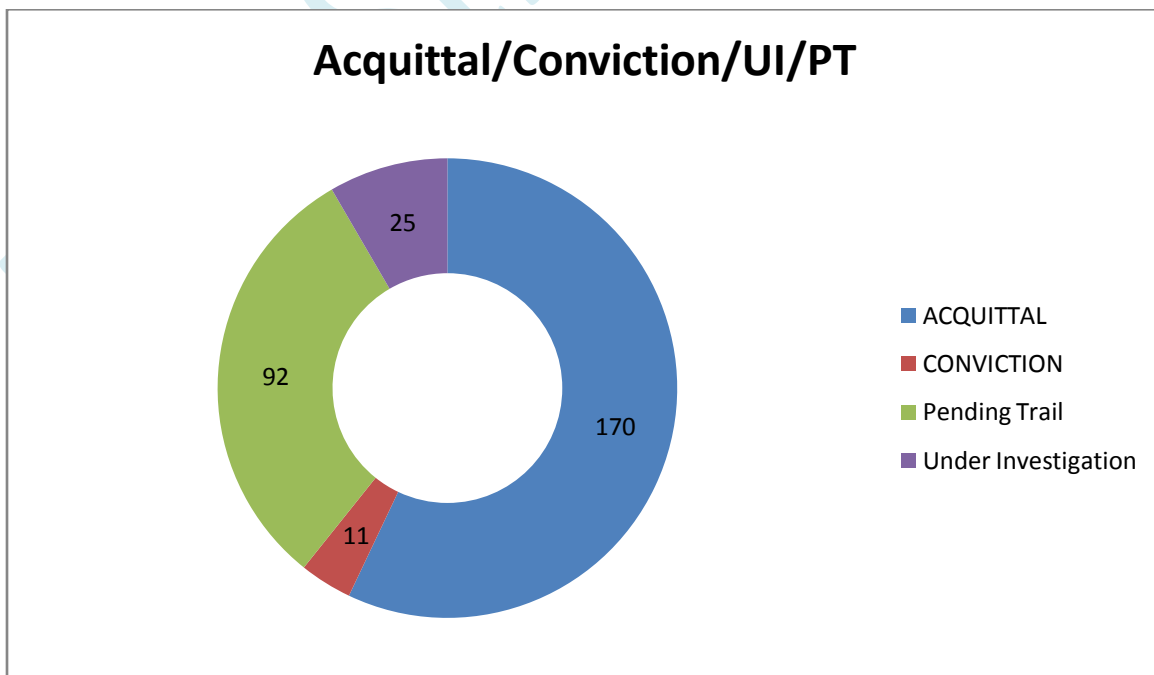
Total No of Cases Hostile District Wise

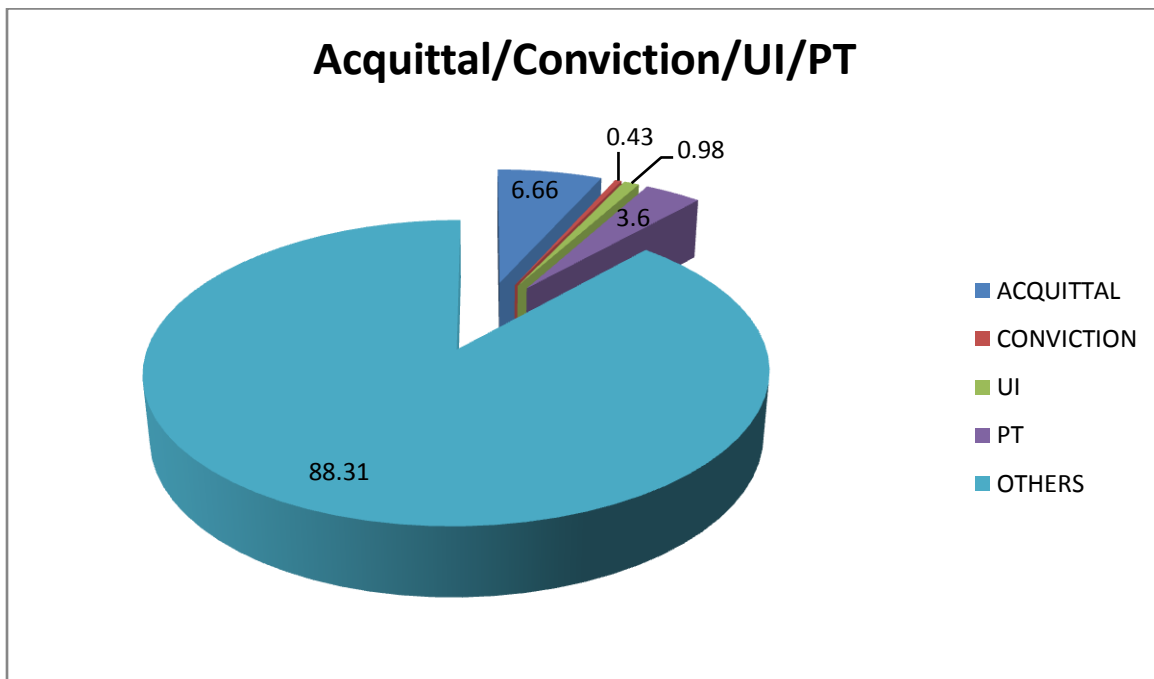


Number of Cases Hostile District Wise and Year Wise



Percentage of Acquittal/Conviction:

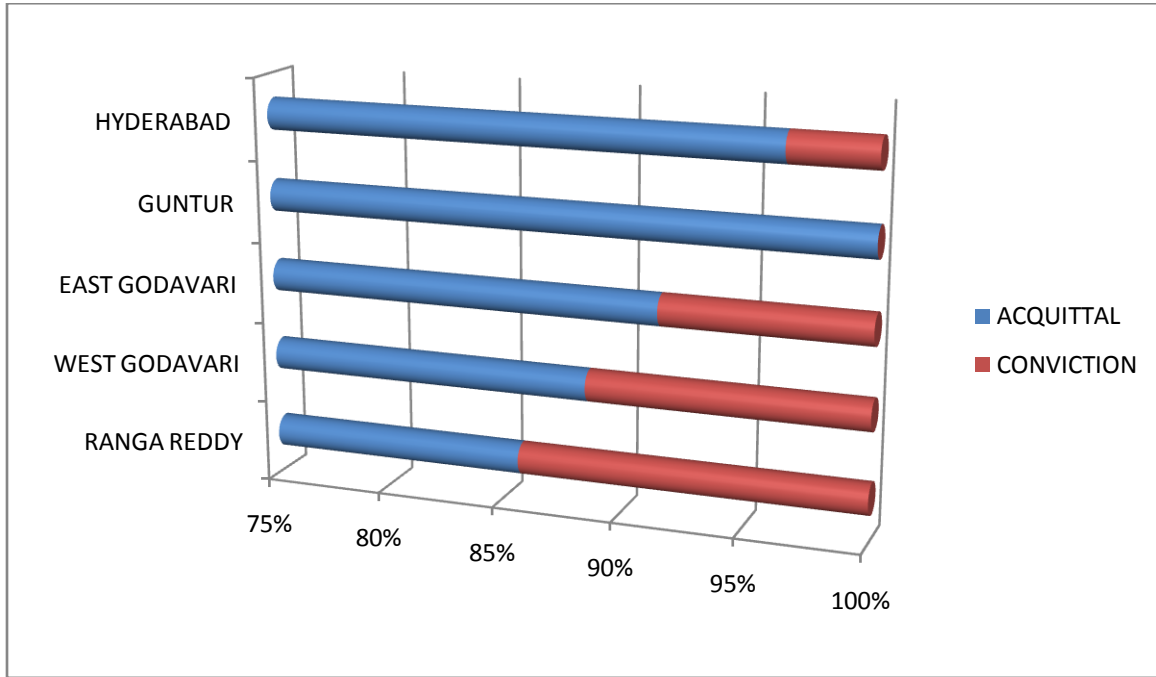




Others include 52.09% cases referred as false and the remaining 36.22% missing data i.e., the stage/status of 924 cases is not known. DSS could not get the data and there is no perfect mechanism to trace how and where the cases are missing. DSS raised this issue of missing data with the Collectors of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts, during Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings and the concerned Collectors issued serious instructions to the police to see that there is no such missing list of cases in future.

Under Investigation	False	Data Missing	Pending Trial	Conviction	Acquittal	Total
25 (0.98%)	1329 (52.09%)	924 (36.22%)	92 (3.60%)	11 (0.43%)	170 (6.66%)	2551

Acquittal and Conviction Rate

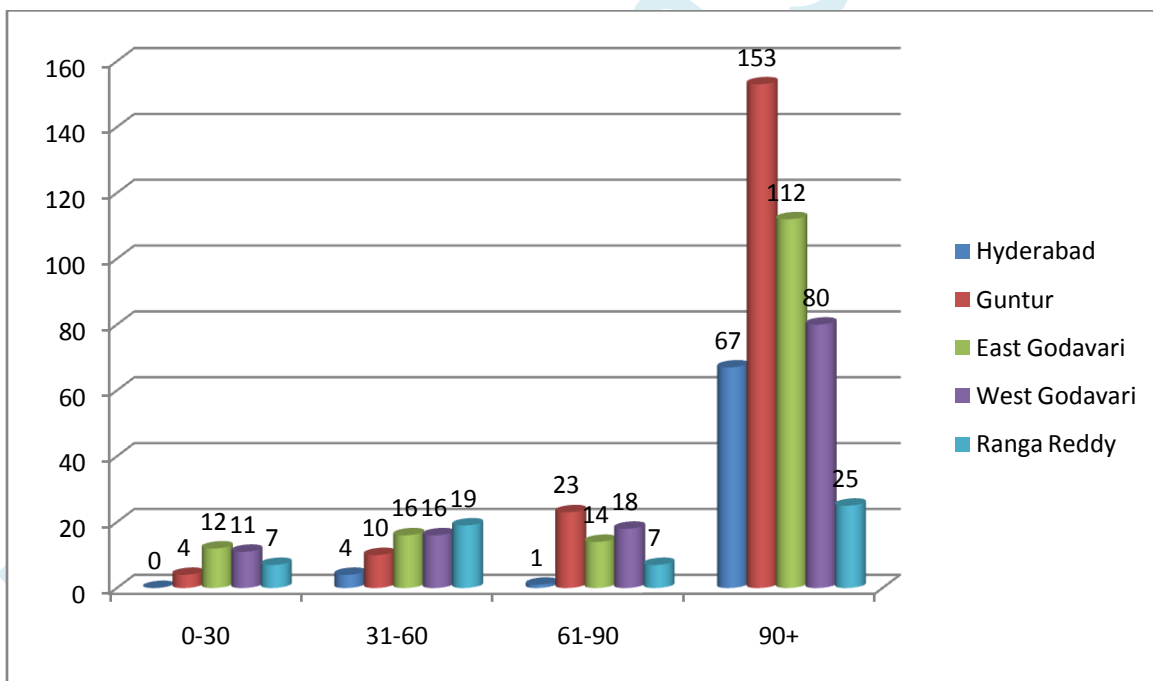


District	Hyderabad	Guntur	East Godavari	West Godavari	Ranga Reddy
Conviction	4%	1%	8%	12%	16%
Acquittal	96%	99%	92%	88%	84%

The rate of acquittal is alarmingly high despite so many efforts by DSS. This is due to the poor perspectives of the investigating officers, lack of interest of the public prosecutors, lack of perspectives of the judges. Though there is the rule of criminal justice that benefit of doubt shall go to the accused, its application is done subjectively by the judges. In ordinary cases and in instances where there is

publicity and public outcry, judiciary has convicted despite many gaps in evidence giving a go by to the rule of benefit of doubt. But due to prejudices and lack of perspective, in case of atrocities on dalits, the judiciary takes shelter under this rule of benefit of doubt and acquits the accused for even minor gaps in evidence or small contradictions in depositions of dalit witnesses. DSS has taken up the issue of appeals on all acquittals with the Collectors in Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings for which in Hyderabad, it was resolved that Public Prosecutors should take up appeals to higher courts in all acquittals. Many Public Prosecutors are not having requisite capabilities, there is large scale corruption and lack of interest, while in a few instances, and the genuine Public Prosecutors suffer from lack of infrastructure, assistance and lack of cooperation from the police.

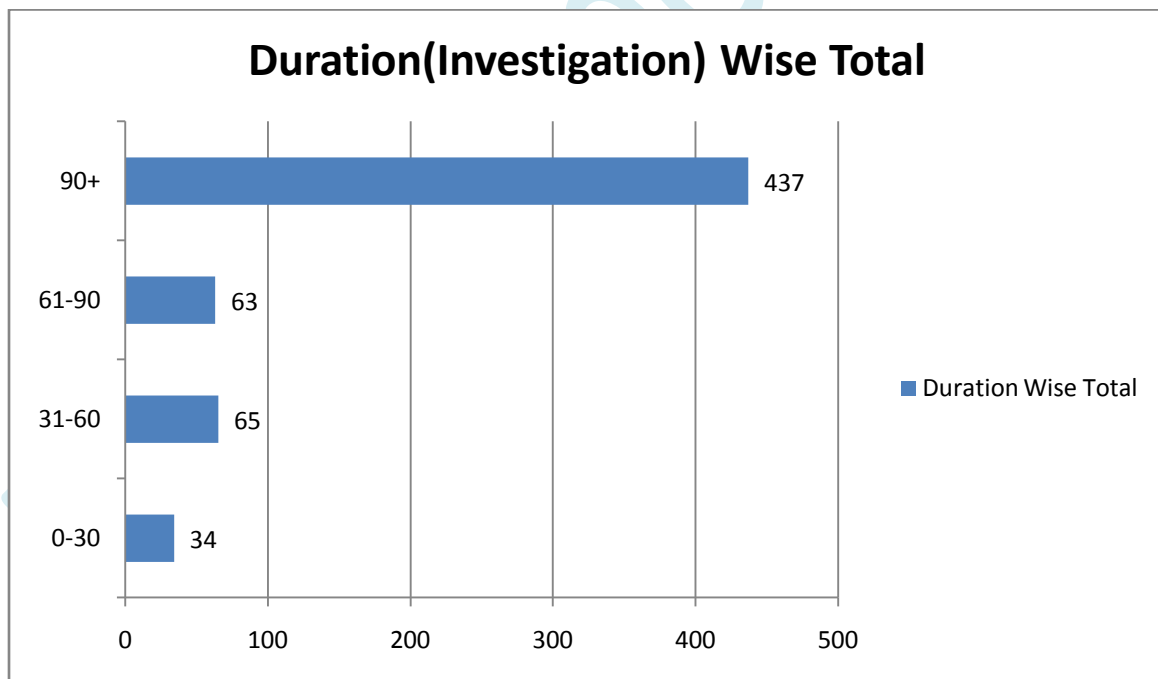
Duration of Investigation:



Duration of investigation is available for only 599 (23.48%) cases

out of 2551

Districts	Hyderabad	Guntur	East Godavari	West Godavari	Ranga Reddy	Total
0 -30 Days	0	4	12	11	7	34 (5.68%)
31 - 60 Days	4	10	16	16	19	65 (10.85%)
61 - 90 Days	1	23	14	18	7	63 (10.52%)
More than 90 Days	67 (15.33%)	153 (35%)	112 (25.63%)	80 (18.31%)	25 (5.72%)	437 (72.95%)



0-30 Days	31-60 Days	61-90 Days	More than 90 Days	Total
34	65	63	437	599

Recommendations

- ☀ *The National and State Commissions on Scheduled Castes is requested to monitor the implementation of S.C. S.T. (PoA) Act in the State and call for periodic details reports of data on the implementation of the Act and initiate suitable steps for proper implementation of the Act.*
- ☀ *Immediate steps should be taken to see that the State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee functions more effectively. This Committee should see that all cases filed under the S.C. S.T. (PoA) Act are properly recorded by the police and judiciary so that a clear data base of all details/stage of crimes under the Act are maintained and posted on the website on regular basis*
- ☀ *The Government should prepare a detailed report on the basis of entire data of the cases under the Act along with steps taken. Such report shall be posted in the website and it shall also be submitted to the State and National Commissions on Scheduled Castes*
- ☀ *The data on the atrocities against dalit women and girl children to be maintained separately*
- ☀ *The government in association with concerned NGOs, dalit intellectuals and others should conduct awareness campaigns among dalits about the Act and the rights of dalits at large.*
- ☀ *Legal Aid Campaigns being organized by the judiciary under the Legal Services Authority Act should include specific, special and intensive awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops on the Act in urban and rural areas for the dalits and general public.*
- ☀ *In a similar vein the Judicial Academy should organize training, sensitization and awareness campaigns to all concerned judicial officers, dealing with the trial of cases under the Act. Hon'ble High Court is requested to take steps in this regard and is further requested to post only these trained judicial officers as officers of the designated courts under the Act.*
- ☀ *Judicial Academy is requested to involve dalit intellectuals and activists as resource persons in such trainings, workshops and campaigns.*
- ☀ *Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in all the districts should be reconstituted with concerned dalit activists and intellectuals and should be made effective. The district collector and magistrate, who is the Chairperson of the district level*

Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, should seriously conduct the meetings regularly and review the situation.

- ☀ *Public prosecutors entrusted with the prosecution of accused charged with having committed atrocities or other offences under the Act, should be made accountable for the proper conduct of the cases under the Act by devising suitable administrative mechanisms.*
- ☀ *The Director of Prosecutions is requested in this regard to monitor the functioning of Public Prosecutors in the conduct of cases under the Act. The Director of Prosecutions is further requested to organize, sensitization, educational and educational trainings on the Act, to all concerned Public Prosecutors. Dalit activists, intellectual should be involved in such trainings.*
- ☀ *State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, in coordination with the district level committees, should devise means to strengthen victims and witnesses and see that cases are not closed as false.*
- ☀ *The very purpose of this special enactment, being, speedy investigation and trial, so as to deter the potential perpetrators and thereby prevent atrocities on the Scheduled Castes, it is recommended that suitable steps be devised for speedy investigation and trial of cases under the Act for avoiding pressure tactics on victims, witnesses to turn hostile. Necessary measures of accountability for investigating officers and Public Prosecutors should be devised so that the reasons for alarmingly high rate of acquittals are accounted for and responsibility fixed for negligence of the concerned personnel.*
- ☀ *As at present the payment of Compensation, Relief, Rehabilitation and TA/DA under the Act is ridden with a web of procedures, insistence on certificates, proofs etc putting the victims and witnesses, thereby defeating the purpose of relief and rehabilitation. The entire existing process should be reviewed and steps devised to deliver all monetary and other reliefs at the door steps of victims and witnesses. More, importantly, the existing procedure of insistence on FIR or/and judgment for releasing compensation should be abandoned forthwith.*
- ☀ *Specific, head wise demarcated budget allocation for providing necessary infrastructure and human resources to realize all the above recommendations*

should be allocated and responsibility should be fixed to spend the amount for the purposes it was allocated.

- ✿ *Suitable amendments for the Act shall be taken up on an urgent basis to remove the difficulties experienced in the implementation of the Act.*
- ✿ *Section 4 of the Act has turned to be almost a dead letter and to date no one is taken to task even for willful negligence of duties under the Act. State level and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees should see that this section is pressed into service to punish those of the personnel for willful neglect of duties.*
- ✿ *It should be realized by one and all that eradication of atrocities is not the responsibility of any one section the people but a social and constitutional duty of all citizens.*



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