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TOPIC: A Case Study on Communal Violence and Child Education in District Muzaffarnagar

FINDINGS

- Of the victims, 42% were between the ages of 6 to 8, and 22% were between the ages of 12 to 14. This suggests that during the communal violence, children were more severely impacted.
- Of all victims, females constitute 57%, while male victims constitute 43%. The gender distribution shows that during the communal violence, girls were more affected.
- The majority of child victims (60%) come from OBC groups included in the sample. A similar finding indicated that people from these castes often face limited access to resources, education, employment opportunities and social mobility.
- The family demographic data shows that 90% of the families had the father as the head and only 10% were female household heads. In Muzaffarnagar, men primarily dominate the family leadership, in line with the stereotype of two genders.
- The findings revealed that 75% belonged to families with 5-10 thousand monthly income, with 80% of families involved in daily wage labour.
- The findings revealed that 70% of children who were victims of communal violence were dropped out in 2013. Therefore, due to communal violence, there is a loss in the education of the children.
- The findings pointed out that 64% of the samples were female, indicating that most of the girls dropped out due to communal violence.
- The findings revealed that 22 out of 25 victimized children reported that schools are damaged or destroyed due to the violence and that their fundamental right to education is also violated.
- The findings show that majority of parents were unaware of their children's rights. Some parents believed that girls should get equal education and development as boys. However, some parents believe that it is not easy for girls to get equal education and development in society like boys.
- According to the findings of the cases, children are the most vulnerable victim of violence and their fears are still visible in the hearts, mind and personalities. Children who witness or experience violence suffer psychological trauma. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health problems are symptoms of this trauma in children.