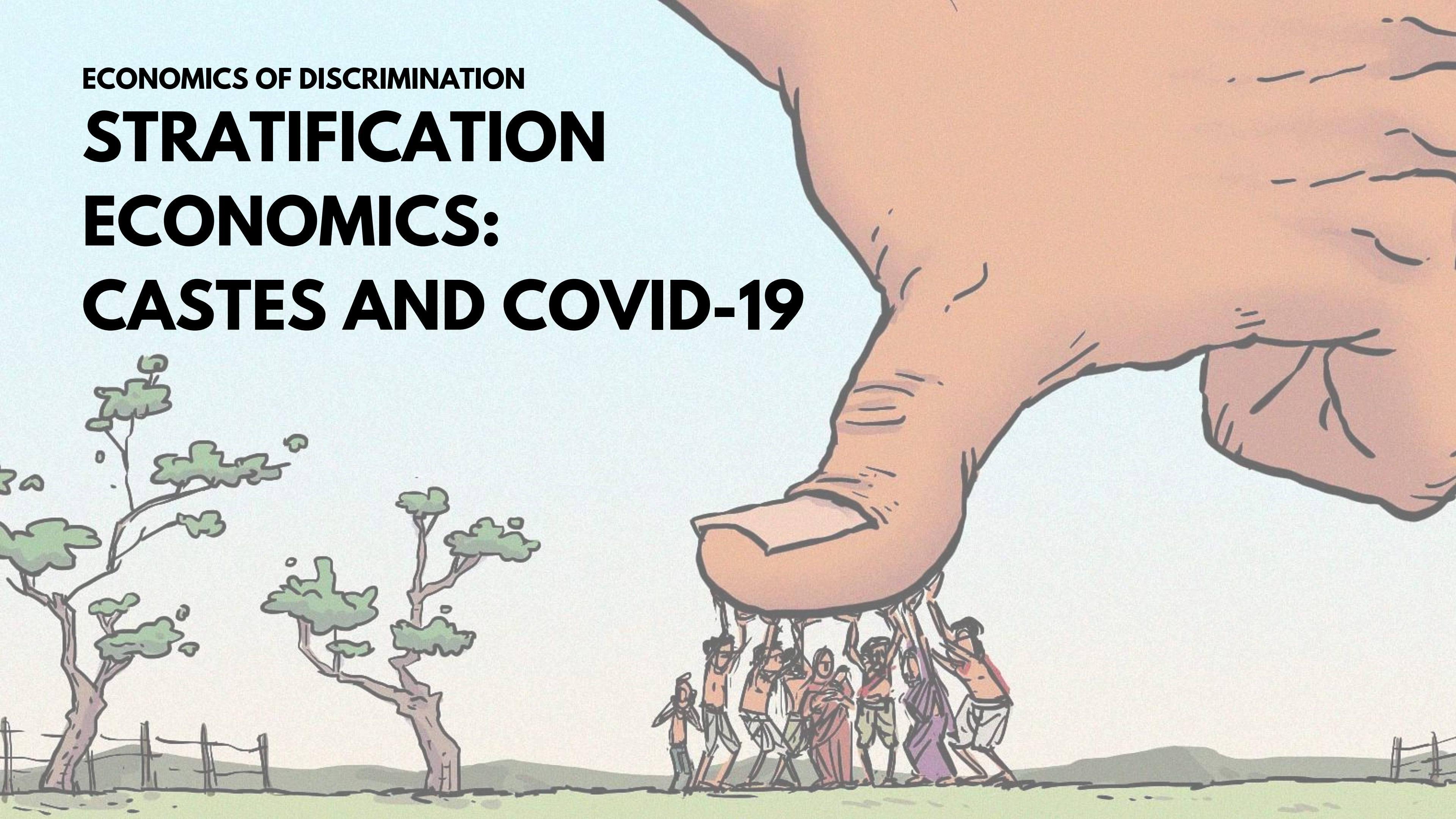


ECONOMICS OF DISCRIMINATION

STRATIFICATION ECONOMICS: CASTES AND COVID-19



WHEN THE STARVING DALIT SCHOOLBOY CAME TO THE LOCAL LANDLORD'S HOUSE SEEKING FOOD, A PIT WAS DUG AT A CORNER OF THE COURTYARD IN KEEPING WITH THE PRACTICE OF THE TIMES AND RICE GRUEL WAS POURED INTO A PLANTAIN LEAF FOLDED INTO IT.

BY THE TIME THE BOY BEGAN EATING IT, THE UPPER CASTE LANDLORD HAD RELEASED HIS HUNGRY PET DOG TO SHARE THE GRUEL FROM THE SAME PIT.

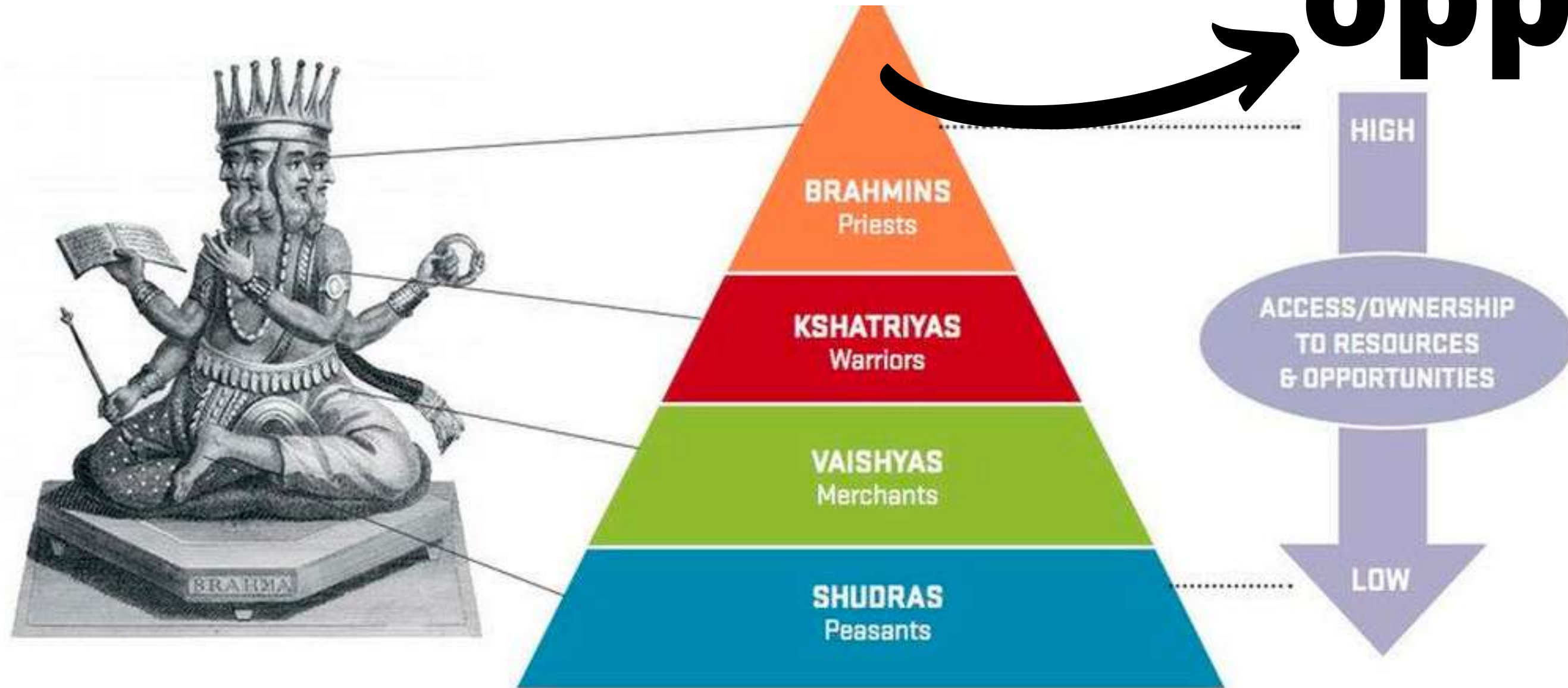
IT WAS “A COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO HUNGRY DOGS”,
M. KUNHAMAN — THE UNFORTUNATE SCHOOLBOY WHO HAS SINCE
TURNED INTO AN EMINENT ECONOMIST — WRITES IN THE PARTLY
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ETHIR



Caste

The Lies That Divide Us

oppressor



ADIVASIS

Indigenous people of South Asia. For self-determination and political/cultural autonomy, they fight against the stripping of their ancestral land and its natural resources.

DALITS

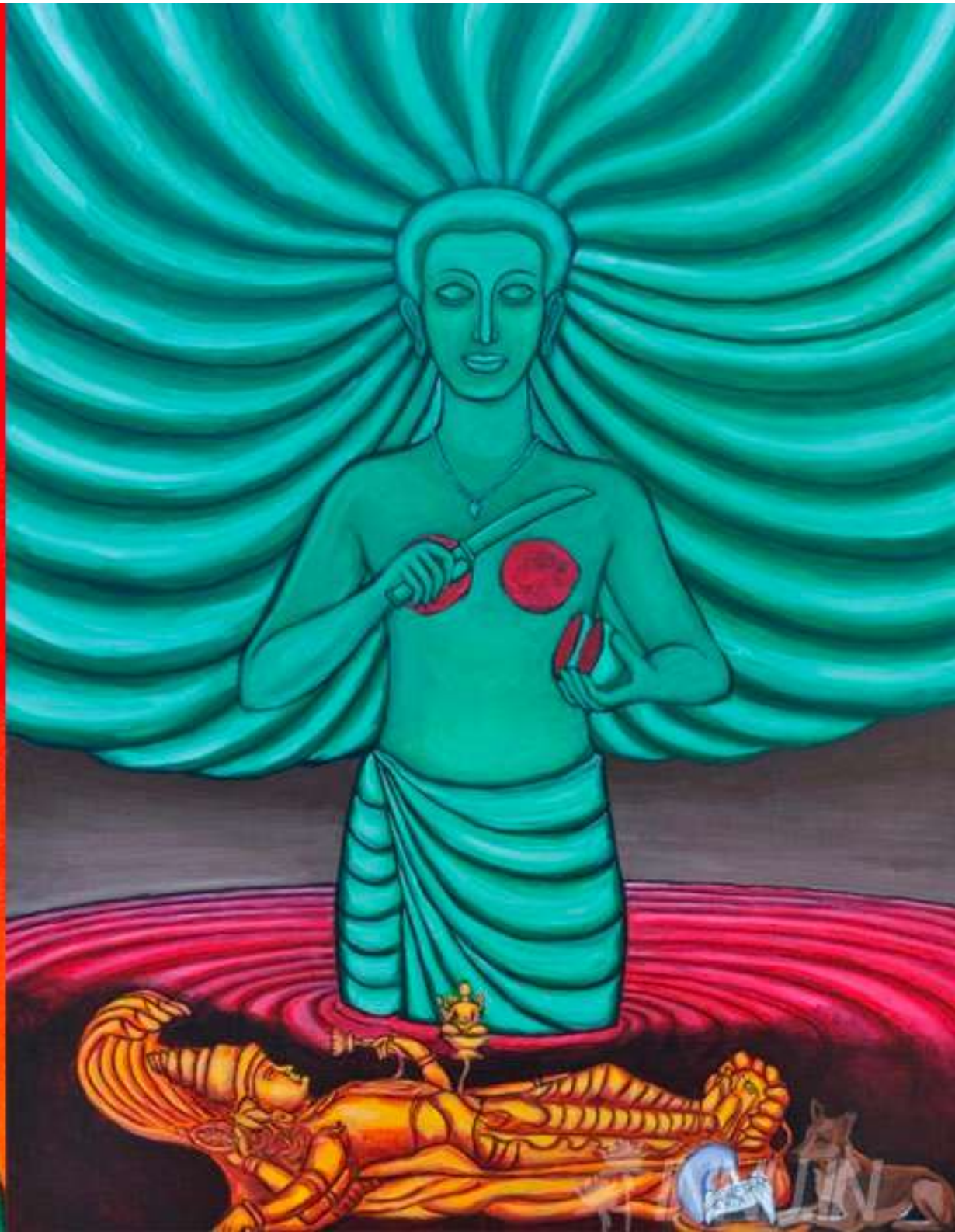
Caste communities that were forced by Caste apartheid into slave and bonded agricultural labor, and undignified sanitation work like manual scavenging. Branded untouchable for jobs considered spiritually polluting, they struggle against extreme violence and discrimination.



HOW IT WAS ??



THE 'BREAST TAX' SYSTEM: LEGEND OF NANGELI



THE CHANGE ?



WARNING

THE NEXT SLIDE CONTAINS A
DISTURBING IMAGE
INCIDENT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS
DISCUSSED AFTER THAT

**"CASTE IS NOT A
DIVISION OF LABOUR,
BUT A DIVISION OF
LABORERS"**

- BR AMBEDKAR



CURRENT REALITY?



SEPTEMBER 30,2020 AT AROUND 2:30 AM





How India's COVID-19 Crisis Spiraled Out of Control

The country is now facing the world's worst COVID-19 outbreak, and a devastating humanitarian crisis

 Time / Apr 29, 2021



Huge crowds as lockdown sparks mass migration

Hundreds of thousands have left cities as India went into lockdown to stop coronavirus outbreak.

... BBC News / Mar 30, 2020

₹ | Published 2021



ATUL LOKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Night the Oxygen Ran Out (Published 2021)

By Jeffrey Gettleman, Emily Schmall, Suhasini Raj and Hari Kumar

June 28, 2021

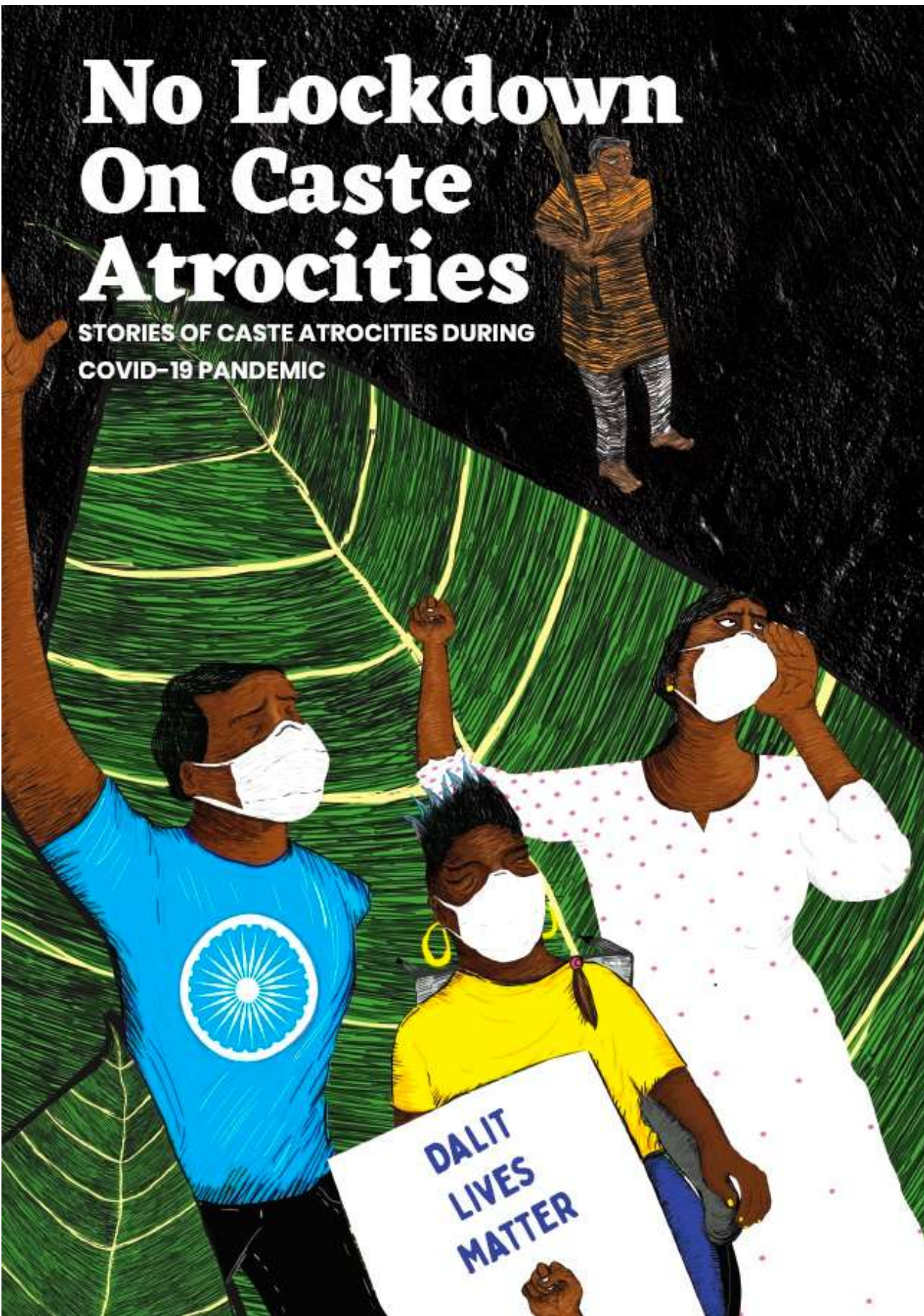
A cascading series of failures, from the central government on down, left hospitals across India without medical oxygen, killing hundreds. One tragic night in Delhi shows how it happened.

The New York Times



No Lockdown On Caste Atrocities

STORIES OF CASTE ATROCITIES DURING
COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Covid has not impacted all equally. In fact, it's made inequalities worse

How the social evil of caste reared its ugly head even in the middle of a pandemic.

 Newslaundry / Aug 26, 2020

Caste in the time of Covid I

- It is of utmost importance to unfold the caste dynamics and social realities around the debate of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Demonstrating the pervasiveness and perniciousness of social inequality, which prevails intertwined with the pandemic restrictions, in India.

Caste in the time of Covid II

- Great Equalizer that contaminates without discrimination?

Caste not as addendum or subsumed supplementary issue.
Likelihood as truly political notion.

Castes do not stand at the same planes and horizontal measures,
'There is nothing so unequal as treating unequals equally'.

Caste in the time of Covid III

- Vulnerability can manifest itself in social stratification. Instead of assuming the impact of pandemic homogeneous to all social groups, there is a need to identify the most vulnerable caste groups in the social spectrum.
- Pandemics are known for enabling large-scale social change but this is not the case for the castes.

The Covid-19 Lockdown in India: Gender and Caste Dimensions

- This paper investigates the first effects of Covid-19 induced lockdown on employment. In aggregated terms the pre-lockdown likelihood of 38.9% of being employed fell to 33. However the decline in employment is not gender and caste neutral.

The Covid-19 Lockdown in India: Gender and Caste Dimensions

- Examining the gender differences reveals that men are more likely to be employed overall, and drop in male employment is greater than female by 17.6 percentage points
- The caste differences are not as sharp as the gender differences, but the lockdown affected employment of the disadvantaged caste groups relatively more adversely compared to the higher ranked group of castes

The Covid-19 Lockdown in India: Gender and Caste Dimensions

- The interaction of female with lagged employment is negative and shows that women who were employed in the pre-lockdown phase were 23.5% points less likely to be employed in the post-lockdown phase, while the same term for males is positive (11.3%)

The Covid-19 Lockdown in India: Gender and Caste Dimensions

- While women and Dalits have suffered disproportionately more job losses- risky, hazardous and stigmatized jobs are exclusively their domain. The choice seems to be between unemployment and jobs that put them at risk of disease and infection and make them targets of vicious stigma.

Casto

— **Through Stratification Economics** —

Discrimination and Stratification Economics

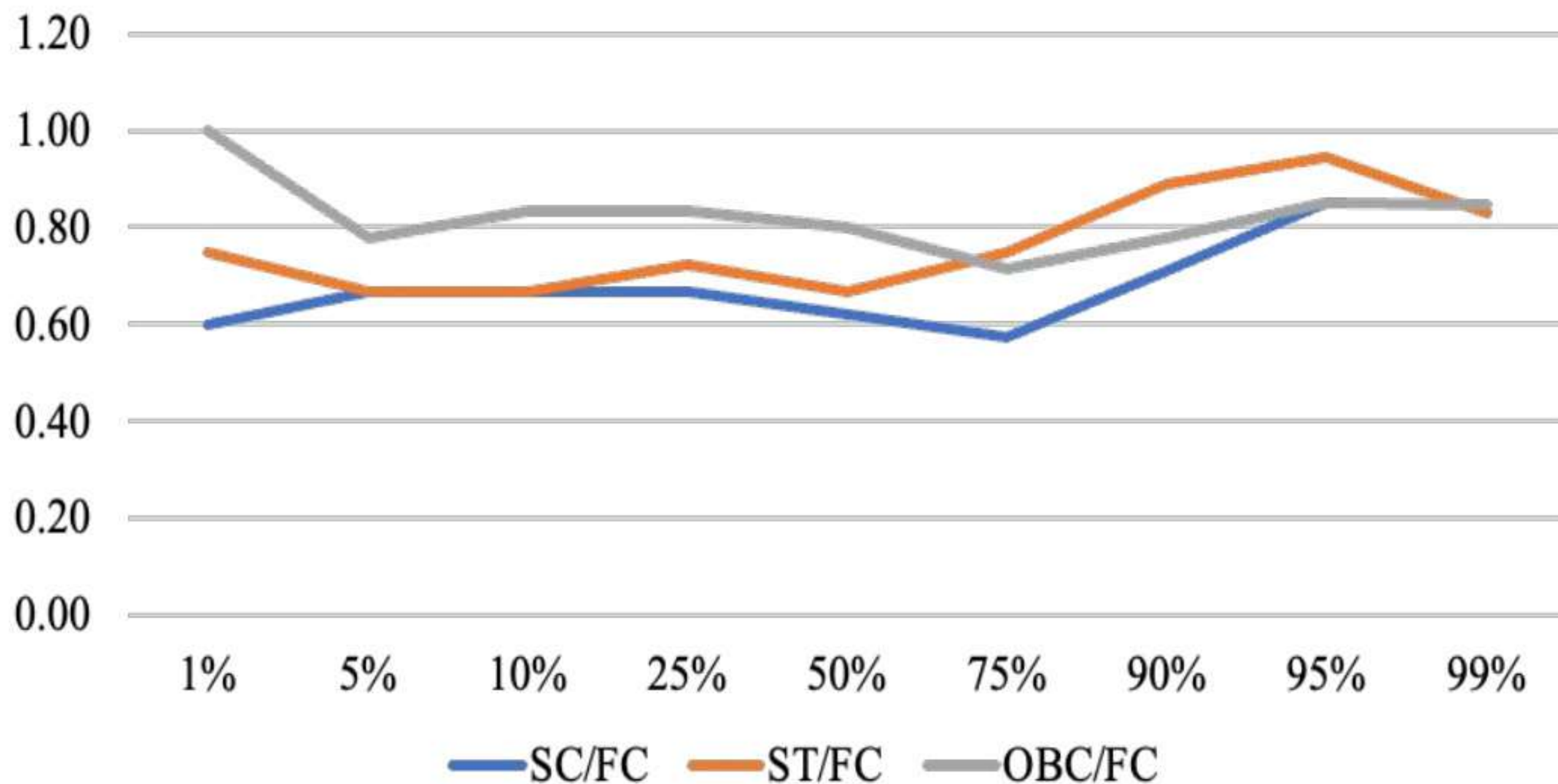
- Stratification economics finds that historical, institutional, socio-political and structural context is key to understanding disparities.
- Stratification economics is systemic and empirically grounded approach to addressing intergroup inequality, across groups that are socially differentiated, be it by race, ethnicity, gender, caste, sexuality, religion or any other social differentiation.
- It examines the role of relative group position and group action in determining individual and collective life outcomes.

Caste and Discrimination in India

Turn in any direction you like, CASTE is the monster that crosses your path. You cannot have political reform; you cannot have economic reform, unless you kill this
MONSTER

- Education
 - Health
 - Labour Market
 - Wealth Distribution
 - Political Power
 - Access to basic infrastructure
-

Caste, Wages and Relative Group Position



Wage Ratios by Social Groups for Regular Wage/Salaried Workers in Urban Areas for 2018-19

Caste and Labour Market Discrimination

- The share of the population employed in casual work is higher for SCs and STs and those employed in regular work is higher among FCs.
- SCs were earning the lowest, followed by STs and OBCs.
- the average wage level for OBCs was nearer to FCs in the lowest percentile groups, it is nearer to SCs and STs at the highest percentile groups in 2018-19.

Caste Discrimination in the Labour Market

- **Unfavourable exclusion or unfavourable inclusion**
- Exclusion from better paying jobs which provides social securities.
- Forced to certain kinds of dehumanizing work.

Regular work and Discrimination

- Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition and other methods
- Wage gap despite accounting for endowment difference.

Conclusion

- The neo-classical understanding of discrimination, which assumes that the free market shall correct all discriminatory practices.
- Stratification Economics provides a better theoretical alternative to understand caste discrimination.
- It has been pointed out that the Indian capitalist class is pre-dominantly upper caste (FC) in its composition (Omvedt, 2005).
- “The Out-caste is a bye-product of the Caste-system. There will be out-castes as long as there are castes. Nothing can emancipate the Out-caste except the destruction of the Caste-system.” (Ambedkar B. , 1933)

CAST

OUT

CASTLE

**Check out,
the chat for a
Reading list
we curated**