



Probably for the first time, this book presents empirical evidence on caste discrimination in the functioning of rural markets in India. The analysis generates convincing empirical evidence of the caste-based discrimination faced by ex-untouchables in rural markets – in hiring, wages, the sale and purchase of land, and access to consumer goods and inputs used in farming and business.

It also provides evidence of the discrimination encountered by ex-untouchables in accessing school meals for children, health services, and public employment provided by the government.

The book captures the impact of discrimination on the income of ex-untouchable wage labourers, farmers, and businesspeople. Caste norms continue to shape the economic decisions of the higher castes, to the disadvantage of ex-untouchables in market exchanges. By estimating the income loss due to discrimination, the book demonstrates its poverty-aggravating effects on ex-untouchables, and argues that affirmative action policies are essential not only for ex-untouchable wage labourers, but also for farmers and businesspeople, to ensure non-discriminatory access to markets and government services.

Most importantly, it develops an innovative theoretical and conceptual framework for studying discrimination in markets and government, which young scholars will find useful for further research.



CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES
(Planning Dept, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Invites you to the

Panel Discussion on the Book

Economic Casteism

Authored by

Sukhadeo Thorat and Amit Thorat

Chair

Prof C.H. Hanumantha Rao

Honorary Professor and Founder Member, CESS

Introducing the Book

E Revathi

Director, CESS

Panelists

Mallepalli Lakshmaiah, Centre for Dalit Studies, Hyderabad

Aseem Prakash, Director TISS Hyderabad

Kalpana Kannabiran, Distinguished Professor, CSD New Delhi

Nitin Tagade, Associate Professor in Economics, HCU

S Harinath, Research Associate, CESS

Response by Author

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat

Venue: Seminar Hall, First Floor, CESS Main Building

Date: Thursday, 16th October 2025, Time: 2.30 to 4.00 PM

