



## Justice et injustices spatiales, Nanterre 2008

*Social Exclusion and Spatial Injustice of the  
Dalits and the Tribals of India  
Need for a Paradigmatic and Programmatic Shift in the Planning  
Exclusion sociale et injustice spatiale des Dalits et des Tribals d'Inde  
Le besoin d'un changement paradigmatique et programmatique dans l'aménagement*

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Social exclusion and spatial injustice are institutionalized forms of discrimination and exploitation of social groups. In the Indian context, people can be excluded by many different sorts of groups, often at the same time: landlords exclude people from access to land or housing; elite political groups exclude others from legal rights; priests in India exclude the Dalits from access to temples; Tribals in India are denied access to forest and forest products; minorities may be excluded from expressing their identity; labour markets exclude people from getting jobs; urban population may exclude the rural masses from urban space etc.

This paper tries to examine the denial of representation both substantially and spatially in social, economic, political and cultural realms of the Dalits and the Tribals due to caste and ethnic principles and programmes. The paper goes onto the structural causes for this. Over 81 and 90 per cent of the Dalits and the Tribals respectively are even after 60 years of planned development in this country are forced to eke out a living in agriculture in the rural areas. It also reiterates the need to socially map the excluded and those subjected to spatial injustice. Moreover, in rural spaces there is no access to education, employment and empowerment. It finally focuses on some of the alternatives which lead to inclusion and spatial justice.