

Is MANUAL SCAVENGING Still PREVALENT in Karnataka?



Alternative
Law Forum

Manual Scavenging
Cases in Karnataka
(1995-2023)

106



DEATHS Due to
Manual Scavenging
in Karnataka
(1995-2023)

96



96 Deaths Due to Manual Scavenging in Karnataka (1995-2023)
According to data collected by non-governmental organizations, between 1995 and 2023, there were 106 cases of manual scavenging in Karnataka, resulting in 96 deaths, most of whom belonged to Scheduled Castes.



92%

Workers engaged in cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks primarily belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBC communities.
(Source: The Hindu, September 29, 2024)

CASTE/ CATEGORY	NO. OF SSWs	% AGE
GENERAL	4,391	8.05
OBC	8,587	15.73
SC	37,060	67.91
ST	4,536	8.31
TOTAL	54,574	

Who Performs Manual Scavenging in Karnataka?

According to a survey by the National Law School, Bengaluru, 92.33% of manual scavengers in Karnataka belong to Scheduled Castes, and 3.3% belong to Scheduled Tribes. Over 74% of them are from the Madiga community.

*data by Ministry of social justice and empowerment 2024. SSW- Sewer and Septic Tank Workers

Is the Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act Effectively Implemented in Karnataka?

The conviction rate under this Act in Karnataka remains very low. Between 2013 and December 2023, of the 87 cases registered under the Act: 21 cases were closed by the police with a "B Report" (closure report). 21 cases resulted in acquittals. Only 6 cases led to convictions. (The remaining cases are either under investigation or trial.)

Total Registered Cases:	Cases Closed by Police (B Report)	Cases with Acquittals	Cases with Convictions
87	21	21	6