

The 'untouchables' are hoping to break centuries of discrimination with the help of the charity One World Action.

"I have been educated to an advanced level by Bangladeshi standards and I have applied for government jobs but they tell me that I have to work as a sweeper," says the 29-year-old. "They say, 'Your father was a sweeper and you have to be a sweeper as well.' It makes me feel very bad, wanted to train to be a nurse."

In the most wretched neighbourhoods and of being told they cannot escape their fate – Bangladesh's Dalits are slowing gaining hope. Organizations have been working at a grassroots level to educate Dalits and make them aware of their potential influence if they can work together. "Dalit rights is a new idea in

form only society's most unpleasant tasks such as unclogging drains, removing corpses and cleaning toilets by hand. In India, Dalits have recently made considerable progress in terms of poverty reduction, access to jobs and winning power; Mayawati, the chief minister of India's largest and most politically important state, Uttar Pradesh, is a Dalit and there is even talk of her one day becoming prime minister.

The Daitis of Dhaka say their ancestors were brought to what is now Bangladesh from Hyderabad in

Bengali but Telugu, a southern Indian tongue and the name they sometimes use to describe themselves.

"Dalit rights is a new idea in

law that ends discrimination."

British Empire has been called the



The Dalits in Dhaka are being made aware of their potential influence if they act together ONE WORLD ACTION

bamboo and metal-sheet homes.

rooms, six people crushed in a bed.

This is also the only toilet facility.

problem is that we are landless."

the city, next to an estuary.

"There is no security."

it-crushing discrimination.

her to be a doctor."

[illegible]