

Dr. Bhimrav Ambedkar: A Real Hero of the 20th Century

Abstract

Dr. Bhimrav Ambedkar was not only an architect of Indian constitution but he was a lawyer, Economist, Author, Orator, Educationist, Social reformer, Politician, Teacher and above all "Massceha of down trodden class of the Indian society. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had done hard work for upliftment of Dalit's, women, back word class, minority class, labors, working class people and struggled all his life for the minimum dignity of all human being irrespective of caste or class. He had to face the discrimination based on caste system so he decided to abolish the disease of the Indian Society. He didn't criticize the Varna system but provide the alternate of it. He was president of drafting committee and in article-17 Untouchability was declared punishable offence. He started the newspaper "Mooknayak" in 1920 and Highlighted social evils. Dr. Ambedkar thought a relentless battle against social order and system, he believed that if he succeeded in his struggle, it will prove a blessing for all Indian, not merely or group or section or community.

Keywords: Constitution, Caste, Discrimination, Democracy, Social Justice, untouchability, liberty, Equality, Article, Movement, Reservation, Varna system.



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Introduction

A shining star of the 20th century name Dr. Bhimrav Ambedkar born at mhow in M.P. He was a lawyer, social activist, Reformist, Author, orator, freedom fighter, Politician, philosopher, Economist, Teacher. Just before 1-2 year ago he had declaimed 'one of the best student of the world' by Columbia University of U.S.A. There is no competitive of his intelligency. He was born in mahar caste which treated as untouchable. He was 14th and last child of Ramji Maloji Sakpal and Bhimabai. Ramji Sakpal served in the Indian Army at the mhow cantonment and his ancestors also had for long been in the employment of the Army of the British East India Company. He had to face so many problems due to his cast even he could not allow to sit in the classroom, he could listen only at outside the classroom. He obtained the highest degrees available in those days due to his love for learning. He fought against the injustice and social evils of the Hindu Society. So affectionate he was known as 'Babasaheb'. In his early age he was decided to do for the betterment of the downtrodden class of the society. He had to face the discrimination based on the caste of Hindu Society. Dr. Ambedkar had knew that only education can open the windows of mindsets of the lower caste because without it they were suffering all problem giving by the God. So he studied in so many subject a books were written by him. He tried to unite the Dalit community by organizing conferences. With the help of chatrapati Shahu Maharaj, he began the publication of the weekly 'Mooknayak' in 1920. His first organized attempt of achievement was 'Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha', which was intended to promote education and Socio-economic improvement, as well as the welfare of 'Outcastes' at the time referred to as depressed classes.

He was the leader of all suffering castes and classes like Dalit's, Labors, Workers and Women.... etc. He was written extensively on various social and political matters. Some of his important writings include, 'Annihilation of caste', who were the shudras, the untouchables, Buddha and his Dharmas etc.1 His 'Mahad Satyagrah' and 'Entry in Kala Mandir' were famous movement and thousands of people began to unite with Ambedkar and his vision. They decided to get there fundamental rights under the Supervision and Leadership of the Dr. Ambedkar. He taught his Community that know yourself, you are not inferior to others and you can

achieve your rights by the unity and Education. Dr. Ambedkar met the British Ruler and expressed the actual situation of the 'Dalit Community'.

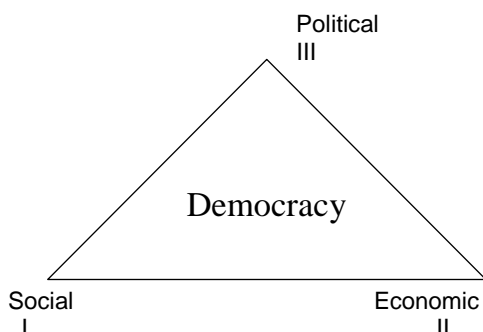
Ambedkar believe in this, that show to Slav that you are a Slav, and he will quit against his slavery and he often repeats this to awake the consciousness in untouchables to achieve human rights.² His famous slogan was "be educate, be united and do Struggle", Being influenced by the Liberal democracy and pragmatic education of the west, he started the reformation of the Indian Society by raising his voice for the liberation of women. Through his weekly newspaper, 'Mook Nayak' which was published in 1920, highlighted the social evils and also demanded socio-economic and political rights for the downtrodden and oppressed section of the society.³

Dr. Ambedkar's idea not only emphasized the central theme of ameliorating the conditions of the depressed classes but also encapsulate the points, on the basis of which India could be reconstructed. Dr. Ambedkar wanted to make that India in which every class and section of the society should live happily and freely. He knew that India's caste system is a drawback for the progress of the country. So he tried his best to break the caste system. In the 1st article of mooknayak, he wrote, there is no better vehicle than a notes paper to voice our protests against the injustice meted out to us, and to suggest the means to find solutions to find better our conditions..... "Hindu society is a pyramid and each floor is a different caste. However, the point to remember is that this pyramid has no ladder to climb and there is no way one can move from remain there till your death."⁴

Dr. Ambedkar thought a relentless battle against social order and system, he believed that if he succeeded in his struggle, it will prove a blessing for all Indians, not merely and group or section or community.

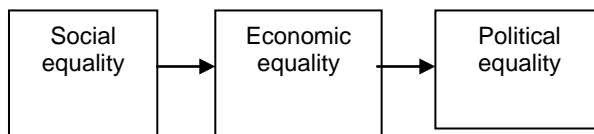
View on Democracy

Ambedkar knew that democracy is one of the best form of Government but in India it can't success without abolish the caste system. In eyes of his democracy has depends on three pillars, like in this picture ---



He said, democracy is not only that in which every adult person has right to vote but it demands socially harmony and integrity and equality in economic sector. Social equality and social justice is the base of the any country and without it democracy of political level could not be success.

He said "the first condition precedent for the successful working of democracy is that there must be no glaring inequalities in the society. Secondly, there must be statutory provisions to mitigate the suffering and to safe guard the interest of the suppressed and oppressed people.⁵ He believes in principal of 'one man - one vote' and wanted to establish this principal in India. So may every person could live dignified life in all respect. He said if not make equality in economic sector, democracy could cannot make succeed, because rich person will purchase the votes of poor's. 'Hobbson' said, poor person can't eat his vote and can't drink his vote.so we maintain this sequence



He said by this situation only we can achieve by the education. We have to maintain our Education ration for him, democracy is more than a form of government, and it is a philosophy of life. Democracy is found in social relationship and terms of association between the people who form the society. He presented the conditions of the downtrodden people in many commissions. He was the only person who attended there Round table conference held at London in 1930, 1931, 1932. He demanded the separate electorate for the untouchables section. Poona Pact was not a significant development but Baba Saheb sacrificed. The regime of 'Communal Award' for the life of Gandhi, has gone on 'Amranh-Anshan' (Hunger till Death) since he heard about 'Communal-Award'. He believed in these three principals (i) Liberty (ii) Equality (iii) Fraternity, delivered by French revolution. He thought that above principals can achieve by the social justice and his view on social justice was based on the principals of social democracy. He said, caste is the master in Path of social justice. Dr. Ambedkar had full faith in Indian culture and its rich heritage but he wanted India to be a strong one with economic and socially equalities. He conceived National integration through Socio-economic equalities. He firmly believe that without economic and social justice political independence would not bring about either social solidarity or National integration.

Dr. Ambedkar believed in some conditions for the success of democracy as these end of inequalities in the society and no privilege for anyone, the existence of opposition party, rule of law and equality in law and administration, no tyranny of the majority, Public consciousness. A democracy is a model of associated living. He said, the declaration of independence does not assert that all are equal it expect that should treated equal. He also expected for successful working of democracy that there must not be an oppressed and suppressed class, In case of inequalities state should interrupt. Equal opportunity should be available for every person. He emphasised on the need for liberty of movement, liberty of speech and action and liberty to choose his government. He

believed in revolution but was against violence. He asked his followers to agitate for their rights in a peaceful manner. Violence would crush the spirit of democracy.

Contribution for women and labours

Dr. Ambedkar was multi-dimensional and great visionary. We can't forget his contribution which was given for the welfare and upliftment of the labours. He reduced working hours. He brought eight hour's duty in India and changed the working hours from 14 to 8 and became a light for workers in India. He farmed many laws for women labour as follows:

- (i) Mines maturity benefit act,
- (ii) Women labour welfare act,
- (iii) Women and child labour protection actetc.

Due to his hard efforts National Employment Agency was created .Dr Ambedkar was the first law minister. By the efforts of Baba Saheb dearness allowance and leave benefits were given to labour. If any worker or labour hurted at his working place he can claim for money for his treatment .Employee can't deny, it had been possible due to Vision of Dr. Ambedkar. He emphasized on the significance and need for the 'Grid System', which is still working successfully.

Half population of the Country, women were facing problem of discrimination and our Shastras and Smrities were responsible for that. In 18th century so many reformers had come to plead for the right and self-respect of Indian women. Sati pratha, child marriage, Devadasi, Ban on widow marriageetc. were deeply rooted in our society. Rajaram Mohan Ray, Swami Dayana Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, Ishwar Chandra Vidya sagar had pleaded for betterment of women. In 20th century Dr. Amderkar not only emerged as a Champion of human right and savior of Indian women, but he brought so many provision for women in our Constitution. As we know that he was the chairperson of the drafting committee of constituting. December, 1997 he burnt the 'manusmirti' because it was symbol of injustice. Dr. Ambedkar also addressed a meeting of three thousand women of the depressed class. He also suggested then to dress well and live a clean life. He said to down trodden women not to open their door, if your husband come to your house after drinking wine. Do not provide them food also. He also said that admit your child in schools and do not withdraws them. He addressed many conferences of women to develop awareness of dignified life. Dr. Ambedkar advocated for equal wages for equal work without any discrimination on the basis of sex or caste.

Dr. Ambedkar gave India a living and organic Constitution , enshrining in it all have condition which are necessary to promote fraternity .among all citizens of free Indian , including womenDiscrimination on the basis of caste, religion, sex, creed, place of birth was codified as illegal acts under the statute book. Some important laws can underlined here:-

Article -14

Provision for equality before law

Article -15

The State shall not discrimination any citizen on the ground of religion, caste, race, sex, and place of birth or any of them.

Article -16

Provides equal opportunities to all citizen's without and discrimination.

Article -39

Equal pay to all for equal work for both men and women.

Article -42

Provision of just and human condition of work and maternity relief.

Article-44

Provision of uniform civil code to all citizens throughout the Indian Territory.

Dr. Ambedkar was much concerned for the pathetic condition of the women in Hindu social regime. They were denied the right to freedom to property. Therefore, in this direction, as a law minister, he introduced Hindu code Bill for making justice to Hindu Indian women. Bill was met with opposition and eventually, bill had to be dropped. Dr. Ambedkar too much depressed and resigned the post of law minister. Initially pt. Nehru had supported to him on this bill but latter he retreated.

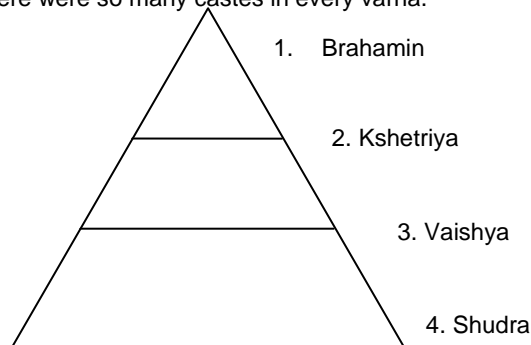
However, the Hindu code bill was latter split into four bills, and the some were put on the statute book by parliament. - (i) Hindu marriage ACT, 1955, (ii) The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, (iii) The Hindu minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 and (iv) Hindu Adoption and maintenance Act, 1956.⁶ All of these were the ideas and principles of Hindu code Bill formulated by Dr. Ambedkar. Hindu Code Bill could not passed in proper form because nobody could not understand his sprite of upliftment of the women Due to Dr. Ambedkars efforts the women are now holding high positions of authority, in all fields including, engineering, medical, Education, Army, Air force, Aviation, Navy, police, Administration, politics, trade and business. He said that Education is fruitless without educated women and agitation is incomplete without the strength of. He said that discrimination has not been made by The God; it is only created by men, which is not right in any manner. He said, a woman is the back bone of the family, society, so we have to pay respect and proper right to them. Our patriotic society can't accept the women as similar as men so Dr. Ambedkar compared the Hindu Code Bill to that milk which was spoiled with a bitter acid.

Dr. Ambedkar had wanted to establish social justice but he was not succeed at that time and now we are working forward to take action on those laws which were introduced by Dr. Ambedkar. One another example of our patriotic society is stood in front us Women Reservation Bill is in hanging posing since its beginning.

Contribution for untouchables

In 20th century India's caste system was like a pyramid,

The four varna were the basis of castes, There were so many castes in every varna.



(Pyramid of Castes System)

The Varnas regime was depends on the birth. One who born in a varna, he could not change his varna till death. Shudras were untouchables and they were too much far from the basic needs of the day to day life. They were only for to help or service for above three varnas. They were the slaves only in their status. Dr. Ambedkar emerged as a maseeha of shurdas and unchouchables. He did struggle for them to achieve a dignified life. In eyes of Ambedkar Hindu law was that law which was made and established by the touchable. The untouchables had nothing to do except to obey to it only. They have no right to deny it. He adopted various means to safeguard Dalits rights. One significant movement was Mahar March to assert. The rights to Dalits to take drinking water from public water sources like ponds.

Ambedkar organised the Dalits rally to asset their legal right to take water from chowder tank. This rally was held in 1927. In 1935 Kalaram temple entry movement took place at Nasik. He did not fight for the untouchables but for all down trodden classes of the Indian society and for worker and peasants. There was much confrontation between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar on representation of untouchables in round table conferences held in London. Ambedkar had gone for the first, as the prime representatives of Dalits, but when Gandhi finally decided to attend the second conference, he argued fervently that he represented the untouchables, because they were an integral part of the Hindu told – which he represented. To Ambedkar, the untouchables were not a part of the Hindus but a part, a part a unique oppressed people.⁷ Dr. Amberkar said that only inter –caste marriages is remedy to abolish the castes. Dr. Ambedkar he chief draftsman of the Indian Constitution, played a significant part in the process of constitution making. He raised the voice of those who had been long remained unheard and had an intense commitment for the social cause and up liftmen of deprived and down trodden section of society. He explicitly mentioned about swear which he took for the elimination of unjust and inhuman practices⁸ from the Hindu society in the context of untouchable.

Dr. Ambedkar presented the various provisions in the constituent assembly for protecting

the weaker people of the society. Article-17 was the most ground breaking provision at that time to abolish the untouchability. Due to Article -17 at present castes are not so big barrier in the Indian society. Unfortunately, he called “Masiha of Dalits” but he was a great reformer, activist and he thought and fought for all weaker section of the Indian society Article-14, 15, 16, 19(1), 23, 24, 29, 275, 330, 335, 340... etc were made by him for social and economic justice. Special provision s have been provided for depressed and oppressed classes so they could become strong and get success in every field of their lives. He presented Article-32 as a protector of fundamental right and said the Article- 32 is heart and soul of the Indian Constitution. Article 29, 20 had been proposed for the protection of the culture of the minorities. Directive principles of state also driven by Dr. Ambedkar to establish social and economic. Thus he thought and worked for all class and community of Indian society. He said that until and unless the downtrodden section of the society is not provided equal rights, the National integration of India would not be completed.

Conclusion

Ultimately, we can say that Dr. Ambedkar was not a person, not a champion, he was an institution in himself. He wrote so many books to aware the people from their slavery life though he had to face so many problems like untouchability etc., he determined himself that he will abolish the caste system which was the most barrier of progress and development t of the down trodden class and community. He held conferences, rally, agitation but in peaceful path because he was totally against the violence. Dr. Ambedkar intended to create an atmosphere of revolting against the exploitative, create an atmosphere of revolting against the exploitative caste an atmosphere of revolting against the exploitative case based regime and prepared people to revolt against their exploitation. He deeply studied the Hindu Dharma and got conclusion that it is based on the discrimination. So he said that I born as a Hindu because it was not in my hand, but I will not die as a Hindu, it is in my hand. He converted in Bodh Dharma in 1956 with his thousands followers. He studied many constitutions of the world and selected good provisions for our constitution. He raised the possibilities for political participation of Dalits through reservation. He never depressed in his life and worked 19-20 hours a day for the down trodden society. He never focused on his family, wife Rama Bai Ambedkar has to face economic and many other problems. He established social and economic justice because of that India is now an integrated country.

Dr. Ambedkar never expected for personal benefits and worked hard for the community only. If any other person would be on the place of Dr. Ambedkar, he would settled and enjoyed in the Abroad. But he awaked at full night for the downtrodden society. He said that my downtrodden society is sleeping but I will not sleep till their upliftment. He described the Indian constitution as “the first and foremost a social document.” “Hindu Code Bill” was the most weapon for the Indian women

to get their right regarding property succession but unfortunately this bill was not passed in full context but some parts of this were passed at that time. He was a great economist who suggested many reforms in economy and currency. He said that in every 10-15 year currency should be changed to control the corruption and black money. Indian constitution is one of the best constitution of the world and its credit goes to Dr. Ambedkar democracy is running in India very well and political values are established here stable it had been done only by the Baba Saheb. He had been given 'Bharat Ratan' in 1990 the highest civilian award of the Government of India. Forth coming generation would not believe that a person can do like all above contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in those worst conditions. Though he is not with us physical form now but he will remain in our hearts forever. The statue of Dr. Ambedkar is in Columbia University Campus, it is proud able thing for us all of Indian.

Endnotes

1. *Dr. Deepak Yadav - Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, mission of social justice, world focus, April 2014, Page -28*
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3. *Dr. Chittaranjan Malik – Dr. Ambedkar and empowerment of women world focus April 2013, page -74*
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5. *Dr. Gurpreet Singh Uppal- Dr. Ambedkar vision on National Integration World Focus, March 2015, Page-34*
6. *Dr. Chittaranjan Malik – Pre Cotted, Page- 76*
7. *World focus, April 2013, Page-68*
8. *World focus, April 2013, Page-32*