

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Perspective: The need and importance of education to create a strong and advanced nation as well as an egalitarian society

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Abstract:

Dr. Ambedkar was an icon of social justice and an intellectual personality who strived to lead the society on the path of equality, freedom and fraternity. He advised everyone to be educated if all obstacles in the way of progress of the marginalized in India are to be removed. He laid a solid foundation for education and empowerment of Bahujans in Indian society. He said that if untouchability, caste discrimination is to be eradicated then there is no other option than education. He said that if the nation is to be strengthened, it is necessary for everyone to be educated. Ambedkar's educational philosophy revolves around several key principles. He believed that education should be a fundamental right of all, transcending caste, creed or social untouchability. He advocated free and compulsory education to remove barriers to social equality and Dr. Ambedkar considered logical approach and rationalism as essential components of education. Abolition of caste system was central to his philosophy. He said that if we want to end the discrimination in the society, it is necessary for everyone to be educated. He gave the message of social justice and equality. He opined that along with knowledge, education also awakens a sense of social responsibility. He said that the role of power is also important in shaping educational thought. He opined that educational institutions should be created to serve the marginalized society and also by laying the foundation of secular education, everyone should forget their differences and work together for the progress of the nation. Dedicated to the upliftment of countless Dalits, Dr. Ambedkar's unmatched work to abolition of caste continues to fuel social reform movements. The present research paper is short overview of Ambedkar's social and educational thoughts and his invaluable contribution.

Keywords:

Education, Dalit, Empowerment, Social Justice, Fraternity, Upliftment, Annihilation of Caste System, Untouchability and Discrimination.

Introduction:

Dr. Ambedkar was a dynamic personality who contributed significantly to justice and education of marginalized people. Ambedkar was an all-time progressive thinker. Equality, justice and the creation of a non-discrimination society were central to his thinking and he fought for them unconditionally throughout his life. Ambedkar was a reflective thinker. He is known all over the world for his fight against untouchability as well as being an educationist, jurist, economist and constitutionalist. He recognized the importance of education to bring radical change in the society. He expressed the view that an educated, strong, advanced and non-discriminatory society can create that strong nation. He appealed to the marginalized sections to learn, organize and struggle. He gave the message to the society that if you learn, you will survive. He opined that education is essential for leading a dignified life. He opined that a society which remains uneducated can never progress itself and remains stuck in the bonds of slavery throughout its life. He opined that the only solution we have is to get educated to free the society from generations of slavery. If the Bahujan community is deprived of education, then this community will not survive, so he gave a valuable message to the Bahujan community to learn, get organized and fight. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a great personality who fought for social justice, education and rights of the underprivileged community throughout his life. His educational philosophy served to give a new hope and direction to Dalits,

women and disadvantaged groups. This research paper explores the educational philosophy of Ambedkar in detail, mentioning his early life, educational journey, social justice, equality and the fight against untouchability and the principles he enunciated for building a strong, advanced and powerful nation and society.

Objectives:

- An overview of Dr. Ambedkar's educational and social work and contribution.
- An analytical study of Dr. Ambedkar's educational and social thoughts.
- Highlighting the efforts of Dr. Ambedkar to giving justice and rights to the untouchables and to including them in the mainstream of education and society.

Research Methodology:

The writer utilizes both primary and secondary sources employing an analytical approach in conducting the research.

Findings & Discussions:

Early Life and Education:

Doctor Babasaheb Ambedkar was born in the year 1891 in a small village called Mhow. As Dr. Ambedkar was born in a middle-class Dalit family, he too was exposed to social inequality and discrimination. He had seen the torture and exploitation of the underprivileged, oppressed and Dalits in the society since childhood. And these things had a serious impact on his mind and he became a serious thinker and therefore he decided to bring out the Bahujan society from the abyss of injustice. If Dalits and women's and all the marginalized sections of the society want to get their rights and justice, there is no other solution than education he recognized that. Even though Dr. Ambedkar had to face numerous obstacles, he never wavered and never gave up his passion for education and completed his education. Later he also received a scholarship from the Maharaja of Baroda to pursue higher studies abroad.

Social and Educational Thinking:

Education is an integral part of life. A person's life is incomplete without education. In order to live a dignified life, it is very important for the individual and the society to be educated. Education is important to get rid of the shackles of ancient traditions and to get out of the hell of slavery. Education is only one solution for overall development of society. If there is to be a revolution, transformation and awareness in the society, it is very necessary to get the right to free and inclusive education for all. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar raised his voice to bring justice, rights and dignity to the marginalized sections. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar knew the importance of education. In order to build a strong and prosperous society and nation, it is very necessary to include all the elements of the society in the mainstream of education on the principles of justice, equality and fraternity. There is an urgent need for education to get rid of the untouchability, discrimination and slavery that has been going on for generations in the society as well as for the complete elimination of caste discrimination and for the development of the society. If the society does not accept the change and does not change itself, then that society disappears with the passage of time and ceases to exist. If we want to get rid of the old rusty mentality and if we want to maintain the existence of the society and if we want to achieve all-round development, it is very necessary for everyone to get educated, get organized, fight for justice, rights and raise voice against injustice and exploitation. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar gave the message to the modern society that you can live only if you learn. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's educational philosophy was rooted in his own experiences of discrimination and his unwavering commitment to social justice. His tireless efforts for equitable, rational and socially responsible education have left an indelible mark on the educational landscape of India. Dr.

Ambedkar's educational ideas will continue to inspire future generations to create a just, egalitarian and fraternal society. There is no doubt that inclusive education is a powerful tool for empowering society and eradicating caste-based discrimination as well as building a prosperous nation. In social and educational development of marginalized groups Dr. Ambedkar's contribution is unparalleled, reflecting his multifaceted approach to solving socio-economic problems through the lens of education.

His invaluable ideas will continue to inspire and guide generations to come in addressing contemporary educational and economic challenges.

Contribution for Empowerment of Society:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar works throughout his life for establishing the brotherhood, unity, harmony, goodwill, public awareness, equality, eradication of discrimination and elimination of superstitions. He fought for justice and rights of the marginalized and women and to bring the underprivileged out of the bondage of exploitation and slavery that has been going on for generations and from that mentality. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar advocated SC, ST reservation for the participation of the marginalized elements in the society in educational, economic and also other fields. Dr. Ambedkar played an important role in the creation of the Constitution of India. He strongly advocated the principles of equality, justice and fraternity in the society and made provisions in Article 15 and 16 in the Constitution for the education of Dalits and to provide them with public employment opportunities. The thoughts and work of Dr. Ambedkar are very useful only for women but all Indian masses. In his last speech in parliament, he quoted the famous thought of Irish patriot Daniel O Connal as, "No man can be grateful at the cost of his honor, no woman can be grateful at the cost of her chastity and no nation can be grateful at the cost his liberty." He has given many provisions in the Indian constitution for women liberty, human right and social justice. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a contemplative intellectual and rational personality who presented his thoughts on all matters like education, politics, science, economic policy, society, and nation building. His thoughts will always inspire a brighter and stronger future generations.

Work and Initiative for Education:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has made an important contribution to Indian education. He insisted that all sections of the society should get free and comprehensive education. He thought that unless the society gets the right to education, the society and the nation cannot progress on its own. Dr. Ambedkar's Educational philosophy struck roots in John Dewey's pragmatic theory of education. According to Dewey, education, in its broad sense, is the means of social continuity of life. Ambedkar took these ideas of Dewey as the basis for his educational philosophy. The educational philosophy of Ambedkar was a blend of pragmatism of Dewey and 'Dhamma' of Buddha. Dr. Ambedkar believed in democratic form of education. He says: "I think, my definition of democracy is a form and a method of government where by revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of the people are brought about without bloodshed." He asserted that it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that the marginalized get the right to education for their overall development. He established some educational institutions to provide transparent and non-discriminatory comprehensive education to all sections of the society such as deprived, exploited, helpless, untouchables and women's and for their overall progress and those educational institutions are today very effectively doing the important work of promoting, spreading and expanding quality education and imparting knowledge in the society.

Educational Institutions:

1. People's Education Society (1945), Bombay.
2. Siddharth College of Arts and Science (1946).
3. Siddharth Night School (1947).

4. Milind College (1950).
5. Siddharth College of Commerce and Economics (1953).
6. Milind Multipurpose High School (1955).
7. Siddharth College of Law (1956).

Conclusion:

In contemporary times, for the empowerment of marginalized groups and understanding of their situation, analytical study of Dr. Ambedkar's soulful thoughts on those deprived communities is essential. It is useful for the overall progress and identity building of the Dalit community as well as their ideological support. Awareness among Dalits is very important and education is needed to create that awareness among them. When everyone gets the opportunity of education, the journey of the society towards progress automatically starts. The only reason for depriving the Dalit community from education is the system of caste in traditional Hinduism, said by him. Dr. Ambedkar's educational thought and philosophy was influenced by the West but he used that thought and philosophy for the betterment of Indian society as a whole. Dr. Ambedkar advised comprehensive education for all to empower the underprivileged as well as women. He opined that there is an urgent need for education to bring the Indian society out of the grip of ancient oppressive traditions. It is because of their tireless efforts that helped raise the level of education among Dalits and women in contemporary times. Dr. Ambedkar made it clear that my effort to empower the society is not limited to the Dalit class only but it is for the entire Indian society.

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