

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Thoughts for the Upliftment of Women

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Abstract:-

Vishwaratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a sensitive personality who crossed all branches of knowledge. As Dr. Ambedkar himself suffered from untouchability, he conducted sociological studies on untouchability and caste system, and he awakened the untouchables as well as women through meetings and writings to awaken and organize them. Dr. Ambedkar diagnosed the obstacles in the upliftment of the Indian society, what exactly is the disease and explained the treatment for it. In this regard, he has made a great contribution not ideologically but creatively to the Indian society. He eradicated caste system which is a chronic disease of the society from the root, along with the untouchables, he also had great respect for women and he took initiative for women education and changing the position of women in the society. He worked on various social issues such as marriageable woman, difference between men, practice of sati, ban on widow remarriage, celibacy of Viduras, practice of child marriage etc. This article focus on the issues related to the women's in society.

Key Words:- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Caste, Creed, Women's Social Problems.

Introduction:- Yugapurush Vishwaratna and Social Scientist Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in the Village of Mahu in Madhya Pradesh. Bhimrao's father Ramji Sapkal was a subhedar in the British army in Mahu. After his fathers retirement they migrated to Dapoli in Ratnagiri district of Konkan. The Sapkal family originally belonged to the village of Ambavade in Ratnagiri district. As Bhimrao himself was an untouchable, he had a painful experience of untouchability and caste system right from his schooling. As his father's employment period in Mumbai ended, he migrated and started living in Ubag Chal. In the meantime, Bhimrao got admission in Elphinston where he passed the matriculation examination in the caste system. When Bhimrao joined Elphinston College for higher education, with the help of Krishnarao Kelkar, Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda and the Professor Mulhar, Professor Indurson etc. in the college, he obtained his BA degree. After graduation, he joined the Government of Baroda, where he had to bear the brunt of the untouchable caste. After that, he did M.A. in New York University of America. Under the guidance of Professor Edbil he did Research Project on Ancient Indian Commerce. He submitted his Ph.D thesis on National Devident of India: A Historical and Analytical Study and received the highest degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Ambedkar left America and returned to India after which he got a job as Army Secretary in the Baroda Institute. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a learned sociologist but there was no subject left that was related to Indian society.

He made a landmark of knowledge in all subjects like political, social, economic, anthropology, essay science. Dr. Ambedkar founded the People's Education Society on July 8, 1945 for educational promotion in the untouchable society. He established Siddharth College in Mumbai and Milind College in Aurangabad under this foundation. He did valuable work in writing the Constitution of India and then became the Law Minister of independent India

Dr..Babasaheb Ambedkar was a strong Supporter for women's rights and empowerment in India. His thoughts on the upliftment of women can be summarized as follows:

Education:- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar emphasized the importance of education for women as a means to achieve social and economic independence. He believed that educated women could

challenge societal norms and contribute significantly to society. Babasaheb Ambedkar strongly advocated for women's education as a crucial element for social reform and empowerment. He believed that education was essential for women to gain independence and break free from societal oppression. Ambedkar emphasized that educated women could challenge traditional norms and contribute meaningfully to society. He argued that women's education would lead to improved family welfare, economic stability, and ultimately a more just society. Ambedkar also highlighted the need for legislative support to ensure equal access to education for women, seeing it as fundamental to achieving gender equality and social justice. His vision was rooted in the belief that an educated woman could uplift her community and foster broader social change.

Legal Rights:- He advocated for equal legal rights for women, including property rights and the right to divorce. His work on the Hindu Code Bill aimed to reform personal laws to ensure gender equality. B.R. Ambedkar was a strong advocate for women's rights and believed in the importance of legal protection for women. He emphasized the need for social reform and legal measures to ensure gender equality. Key aspects of his thoughts include:

1. Equality in Marriage:- Ambedkar argued for legal reforms in marriage laws, advocating for women's rights to choose their partners and the abolition of practices like polygamy.
2. Property Rights:- He supported women's rights to inherit and own property, recognizing economic independence as crucial for empowerment.
3. Social Justice:- Ambedkar linked women's rights to broader social justice, believing that true equality could only be achieved by addressing caste and class disparities.
4. Education and Employment:- He stressed the importance of education and employment for women, seeing these as vital for their liberation and participation in society. Ambedkar's vision was that legal rights should not only be formal but also lead to substantive change in societal attitudes toward women.

Social Reform:- Ambedkar challenged traditional practices that marginalized women, such as child marriage and caste-based discrimination. He argued for a society where women could participate equally in all spheres. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar advocated for significant social reforms regarding women's rights and empowerment. He believed that true equality could not be achieved without the upliftment of women. His key thoughts included:

1. Legal Equality:- Ambedkar emphasized the need for legal reforms to ensure women had equal rights, particularly in marriage, inheritance, and property ownership.
2. Education:- He strongly supported women's education as essential for their empowerment and participation in society.
3. Social Status:- Ambedkar challenged the patriarchal structures that oppressed women and argued for their dignity and autonomy.
4. Political Participation:- He believed in the importance of women's active participation in politics to advocate for their rights.
5. Critique of Tradition:- Ambedkar criticized traditional practices that marginalized women, advocating for reforms to improve their social status.

Overall, his vision for women's rights was integral to his broader fight against social injustice and inequality in Indian society.

Economic Independence:- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar highlighted the need for women's economic independence to ensure their empowerment. Ambedkar believed that financial stability was crucial for women to make autonomous decisions.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of economic independence as a foundation for social justice and empowerment, particularly for marginalized communities. He believed that true independence encompasses not just political rights but also economic self-sufficiency. Here are some key points reflecting his thoughts on economic independence:

1. Economic Equality:- Ambedkar argued that economic disparities must be addressed to achieve true equality. He saw economic independence as crucial for the upliftment of marginalized groups.
2. Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship:- He advocated for self-employment and entrepreneurship among oppressed communities, promoting the idea that economic self-reliance could help them escape poverty and gain dignity.
3. Access to Education:- Ambedkar stressed the importance of education in attaining economic independence, believing that educated individuals could better navigate and leverage economic opportunities.
4. Social and Economic Reforms:- He pushed for reforms that would dismantle the caste system and promote economic opportunities for all, ensuring that every individual could participate in and benefit from the economy.

Ambedkar's vision was that economic independence would lead to social empowerment, allowing individuals to assert their rights and participate fully in society.

Political Participation:- Ambedkar encouraged women's involvement in politics, advocating for their right to vote and participate in governance, believing that their voices were essential for a just society. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of women's political participation as essential for achieving social justice and equality in India. He believed that true democracy could only be realized when women actively engaged in the political process. Ambedkar argued that women's empowerment was crucial for dismantling patriarchal structures and that political rights were necessary for women to influence legislation and policies that affect their lives. He advocated for women's rights, including the right to vote, as a means to ensure their voices were heard and to promote broader social reforms.

Conclusion:-

Overall, Ambedkar's vision for women's upliftment was rooted in equality, education, and empowerment, aiming for a society free from discrimination and injustice. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar emphasized the importance of women's upliftment as essential for social reform and progress in India. He believed that gender equality was fundamental to achieving true democracy and social justice. Ambedkar advocated for women's rights, including education, legal equality, and the right to divorce. He criticized traditional patriarchal structures and highlighted the need for legal reforms to protect women's rights, particularly in marriage and inheritance. Ambedkar saw women's empowerment as vital for the broader liberation of marginalized communities, arguing that societal change must include the upliftment of women for sustainable progress.

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