

“AMBEDKAR THOUGHTS ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE”

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Abstract:

Agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy many problems like land-reforms, fragmentation and subdivision of land were discussed by Dr. Ambedkar threadbare. The problems are still current and are further aggravated by the density of population and urbanization. The size of land holding is getting diminished day by day causing innumerable misery to the farmers. The marginalization of land is marginalizing the landholders on large scale. Dr. Ambedkar foresaw all this and emphasized the inability of consolidation and other means of increasing the size. The ideas of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on agriculture and India continue to hold true now. The economic holding of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is a modest piece of land that has the potential to provide enough money to sustain a respectable standard of living, but it needs reform to assure maximum productivity and little investment. The thoughts of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on agriculture and the condition of India are important since they are still relevant today. He encouraged national economic and social development while highlighting the need of investing in agriculture and prioritizing basic necessities like housing, public health, and education. A thorough analysis is required to increase the agricultural sector's growth rate. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar believed that the lack of productive labor and the stress it places on the land, which leads to land subdivision and the rule of occupancy, prevents surpluses in Indian agriculture. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar suggested inspection identification and a one-man rule of inheritance to lower the cost of land and avoid the division and dissolution of a focused property.

Key words: *Agriculture, Holding of Land, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's Analysis of Indian Agriculture in Compressed Format, The nationalism of land and collective farming, Rapid industrialization and Khoti system.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy many problems like land-reforms, fragmentation and subdivision of land were discussed by Dr. Ambedkar threadbare. The problems are still current and are further aggravated by the density of population and urbanization. The size of land holding is getting diminished day by day causing innumerable misery to the farmers. The marginalization of land is marginalizing the landholders on large scale. Dr. Ambedkar foresaw all this and emphasized the inability of consolidation and other means of increasing the size. He was aware that any system of equitable distribution of land and land reforms would be inadequate for singular reason that there is no ample land relative to population. Therefore he felt that collectivism was the only answer for problems of agriculture. This was in tune with welfare State visualized then. The collective farming would reap the advantages of large scale production which would increase labor productivity. The ideas of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on agriculture and India continue to hold true now. The economic holding of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is a modest piece of land that has the potential to provide enough money to sustain a respectable standard of living, but it needs reform to assure maximum productivity and little investment. In order to guarantee high production and little investment in the agricultural industry, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar idea of the economy and collective agriculture is important. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar suggested communal agriculture, a single tax system for both agricultural and non-agricultural businesses, inspection identification, and a one-man rule of succession to reduce the cost of land and prevent the splitting and disintegration of a concentrated asset. Based on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, community farming is required to address the labor shortage in agriculture, and the appropriate ratio of more agricultural variables to a unit of land ensures economic feasibility. Contrast to the labor and resources of the farmer, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar believed that the size of the agricultural sector determines the productivity of the industry. In order to solve the problem, he suggested intensive farming, and in 1949 he

ended the British government 'sex ploitative approach. The decrease in agricultural productivity results from the agricultural sector's poverty and ignorance, which prevent them from making large investments and using complex methods of agriculture. In consideration of the aforementioned, the main objective of this research article is to examine Indian agriculture from Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's stand point from all theoretical aspects.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The researcher has studied in different relevant literature reviewed. The research paper basically covered the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to the Indian agriculture sector. He had written various articles and research papers, and he was the organizer of various seminars and conferences to get a solution for Indian agriculture.

2.1 Phulari V.S (2016) he has studied in Agriculture Thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

2.2. Yoganandham G. and Kareem A (2023),he has studied Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's Thoughts On Indian Agriculture, Land Ownership, State Socialism, And Land Reform -An Assessment.

3. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar thoughts on Indian agriculture most important because of It provides employment opportunity to the rural agricultural as well as non-agricultural laborers. It is the source of food and fodder. It also plays an important role in international business in import and export activities. It has provided food, raw material for industries and some product for export.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Most (80%) of the farmers are small and marginal, and they face common problems of low productivity, the use of primitive tools, a lack of technical knowledge, a lack of market for the produced goods, inefficient bargaining power, a lack of post-harvest services, inadequate credit facilities, and insufficient capital to produce a quality product with the small size of their holdings. Due to this problem, unemployment and illiteracy are more acute in India. Hence, the present research paper subject has selected "Ambedkar Thoughts on Indian Agriculture"

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the study is the Ambedkar thoughts on indian agriculture as follows:

1. To examine the Indian agriculture from Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's stand point from all theoretical aspects.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is descriptive in nature. The secondary data have been collected through books, research papers published and unpublished in various journals and research papers presented in seminars, conferences, magazines, newspapers, articles and reports.

7. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Ambedkar thoughts on Indian agriculture were for growth and development of agro-based industries and industrialization of the rural areas. This in his view would enhance employment of workers and the land-less. Dr. Ambedkar proposed collective farming in a slight different way from communes.

8. DISCUSSION:

8.1. Agriculture

Agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy many problems like land-reforms, fragmentation and subdivision of land were discussed by Dr. Ambedkar threadbare. The problems are still current and are further aggravated by the density of population and urbanization. The size of land holding is getting diminished day by day causing innumerable misery to the farmers. The marginalization of land is marginalizing the landholders on large scale. Dr. Ambedkar foresaw all this and emphasized the inability of consolidation and other means of increasing the size. He was aware that any system of equitable

distribution of land and land reforms would be inadequate for singular reason that there is no ample land relative to population. Therefore he felt that collectivism was the only answer for problems of agriculture. This was in tune with welfare State visualized then. The collective farming would reap the advantages of large scale production which would increase labor productivity. He was for growth and development of agro-based industries and industrialization of the rural areas. This in his view would enhance employment of workers and the land-less. Dr. Ambedkar proposed collective farming in a slight different way from communes.

8.2 Holding of Land

The first Indian economist who researched the issue of the sub-division and fragmentation of agricultural land holdings and provides a highly scientific definition of aneconomic holding was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Ambedkar believed that one of the reasons for productivity was a modest land holding. Therefore, land holding should be consolidated. The probability of creating enough money after paying his necessary expenses to maintain himself and his family in a comfortable standard of living was offered as the traditional definition of aneconomic holding. Considering that an enormous holding is economic while a small possession is unsustainable is not appropriate economic terminology. The appropriate or incorrect ratio of various production components to a unit of land determines whether it is profitable or not. Because economics depends on the proper ratio between all components, including land, rather than the size of the land, a tiny term may be economically advantageous or disadvantageous. Evidently, since independence, the median holding size has been continuously declining.

The principal causes of decline include the strain of people on the land, problems with inheritance law, the demise of cottage industries, etc. 1970-71. As the second-most population in the world, India faces numerous issues in every area of the economy, such as low agricultural productivity and a high dependency ratio without any technological advancement. This issue is caused by a number of factors, one of which is fragmented land with a low share of holding, so it is urgently necessary to implement corporative and collective farming throughout the nation in accordance with Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ideas. In accordance with the research, our marginal shareholding increased from 8.98% in 1971 to 18.72% in 2000, and our large holding decreased from 30.88% to 13.17% during the same period, showing that India's large shareholding is declining year after year, along with semi-median and median holdings, which are also declining at a similar rate. In a comparable manner, the average holding size in India in 1970-1971 was 2.30, and it is presently 1.16 in 2015-2016. According to an analysis, the marginal share of agricultural holdings is rising at an accelerated rate. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar opposed this low shareholding and argued that the agriculture sector urgently needs reform, including incorporation of corporative farming and the creation of corporative societies, in order to develop our agriculture sector with a high rate of productivity and little investment.

8.3 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's Analysis of Indian Agriculture in Compressed Format

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a distinguished socio-economic theorist and epoch-maker who introduced state socialism and influenced India's economic destiny. He was a political activist, philosopher, social thinker, scholar, leader, apostle, and savior to millions of people who fought for a kind and prosperous world free from hatred. He was a significant economist who connected the caste and untouchability systems to the economy. He made a contribution to the Indian Constitution. He talked about land reforms, land division, and land fragmentation, all of which are still issues today and are made worse by urbanization and population density. According to him, the welfare state and collectivism were the only solutions to the issues facing agriculture. The Bombay Legislative Assembly was presented with an initiative in 1927 to increase the quantity of agricultural land owned by small farmers and transfers it to zamindars. Babasaheb Ambedkar opposed the British government's plan to provide large zamindars access to ryotwari lands because he thought it would cause the nation to collapse. Babasaheb Ambedkar suggested a bill in 1937 to abolish the Khoti system, which allowed middlemen to solicit taxes from farmers while

doing so. Babasaheb Ambedkar argued for cooperative farming in general and opposed the British government's intention to increase agricultural land by transferring it to zamindars. In general, cooperative farming should be practiced to address the issue of intensive farming. He suggested community farming as a way to industrialize rural areas, boost labor productivity, and give workers and landless people employment. He maintained that the absence of government intervention would result in private autocracy and based economic holdings on the concept of a family unit. In order to advance agriculture in India, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar recommended cooperative farming, believing that the government should nationalize lands and offer resources and funding for agricultural endeavours. Babasaheb Ambedkar advocated collective farming as a means of addressing the crisis of employment in the agricultural sector, together with the provision of capital and resources by the state. In a 1946 speech to the Constituent Assembly, Babasaheb Ambedkar argued for the nationalization of banks, the insurance sector, banks, and landless people. With true land reform, a new India without zamindars, tenants, or landless people is achievable. New slavery would result from turning over Indian farmland to multinationals. Babasaheb pleaded with Congress to nationalize the land, but they paid little attention. He produced an article of research that contemporary individuals ought to devour in order to tackle the issues facing farmers. His writings, *Status and Ministers, 1947*, and *Smallholdings on Indian Agriculture and Their Remedies, 1917*, both demonstrate his thoughts on Indian agriculture. The only way to tackle problems with agriculture brought on by a scarcity of land is through collectivism. The main obstacle preventing the development of Indian agriculture is a lack of land compared to other countries. Land shortages make land reforms ineffective. Ambedkar suggested making collective farming a state business and nationalizing agricultural land. The government thought to finance industry and agriculture. In order to help landless workers and peasants, Dr. Ambedkar created the Independent Labor Party in 1936. He organized a march in Mumbai calling for bonded labor, free fallow land, minimum salaries, and changes to the legislation to end land monopolies and support farmers. Dr. Ambedkar supported land nationalization as a solution to many agricultural problems, contending that when land is used for power and protection, it is preserved in its original format rather than being broken up into smaller portions. Instead of for subsistence, land is exploited for power and defence. Indian agriculture is unstable due to small holdings, which results in high costs and low productivity because of fragmentation. While land consolidation is a practical issue, land expansion is an ideological one that necessitates critical thought. Industrialization of rural areas is the sole option if consolidation is not feasible. In addition to the size of the farm, but also the combination of land, labor, and capital in specific ratios, has an impact on the economic gain. It depends on tailoring the farm's size to its agricultural capacity rather than just the size of the farm itself. Industrialization is the sole solution for issues in agriculture because it can relieve strain on the sector while also generating savings and capital. Industrial development can supply more than simply material goods and relieve pressure on agriculture. Dr. Ambedkar requested that State Socialism be written into the Indian Constitution and laid out its future trajectory, mandating that the state finance agriculture within ten years. He had written a manifesto on agricultural policy outlining his viewpoints. Any movement can be destroyed by the middleclass, who also create a class-based society. He spearheaded the Grow More Food initiative to strengthen tribal society.

8.4 The nationalism of land and collective farming

After fighting with the unequal land holdings and persistence of tenancy with unfair rents and uncertain tenure by 1947, Ambedkar gave special emphasis on the radical solution of nationalism of land and collective farming. Then he felt that neither the tenancy legislation nor consolidation of land holdings could improve agricultural productivity. These measures alone could not help in solving the persistent problems of small farmers and landless laborers. He suggested the nationalization of entire agricultural land with the aim of collective farming for the solution of all ills of the Indian agrarian system. For him, the state's main obligation is to supply the capacity necessary for agriculture as well as industry. The organized agricultural land should be divided into farms of standard size and let out the farms for

cultivation to the residents of the village. The farm should be cultivated as a collective farm; the farms should be run by the rules and directions issued by the government, tenants should share the produce of the farm among themselves in a prescribed manner after lifting out the payment of charges livable on the farm.

8.5 Rapid industrialization

In an article in 1918, Dr. Ambedkar stated that the solution to rural stress is rapid industrialization. He stated industrialization is the soundest remedy for all agricultural problems in India. The cumulative effects of industrialization like lessening the pressure of surplus labor and the increasing amount of capital goods can forcefully create the economic necessity of the holdings. Industrialization also helps in destroying the premium on land and provides few opportunities for sub-division and fragmentation of landholdings. Thus to him, industrialization is a natural powerful remedy. The thoughts of Ambedkar are found relevant in the present scenario. The view on landholding that there are no economic and uneconomic holdings is there, but the appropriate proportions of other factors determine the productivity is extremely true. His idea of cooperative farming to yield higher production with low factor inputs is also relevant in the current situation, where everywhere the problem of fragmentation and smallholding exists in India. His thought on state socialism for agricultural development is seen to be followed by many states of India at present. As in India, the supply of essential capital to the agricultural sector and distribution of its production is done by the state government. The land revenue system, as dreamt by Dr. Ambedkar was seen to be fulfilled today. At present, the land revenue on land is based on taxable capacity. The tax is agriculture is thus progressive.

8.6 Khoti system

Khoti system collapsed in 1949. Two notable achievements of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's movement are the enactment of the Bombay Money Lenders' Bill (1938) and "Mahar Vatan" (1959). In some areas of Maharashtra's Konkan region, "Khots" (like Zaminders) possessed ownership rights to property that was farmed by farmers. In exchange, the Khots would receive income, of which a portion was given to the government. This was known as the Khoti system, and it oppressed and exploited the great majority of rural farmers. On April 14, 1929, Ambedkar launched a movement against this system at an agricultural conference at Chiplun, Ratnagiri District. He established the independent labor party in 1936, and the 'Khoti system's' destruction was ranked highly on the party's agenda. Ambedkar filed a historic bill to abolish the Khoti system in the Bombay Legislative Council on September 17, 1937. The Khoti system was abolished in 1949 after a protracted struggle. He suggested that the Indian economy could be strengthened by industrialization and agricultural expansion. As India's main industry, he emphasized the importance of investing in agriculture. Sharad Pawar claims that Ambedkar's vision enabled the government to accomplish its objective of ensuring food security. Ambedkar promoted national economic and social development, emphasizing the importance of fundamental amenities like housing, public health, and education. In this era of globalization, agricultural growth rates are not only static but also show persistent downward trends. The administration has overlooked institutional issues in favour of focusing solely on technical issues. The primary barriers to the development of the agricultural sector include subdividing land, reforming the land system, and distributing ownership holdings by size. To speed up the growth rate of the agriculture industry, a thorough investigation is required. India must therefore modify this agricultural plan as necessary. Land reform is ongoing. Such a proposal might be found in Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's agricultural ideas. This essay examines Ambedkar's views on agriculture and the state of India today. His ideas are significant since India can still use them now. In comparison to many industrialized nations, the productivity of the Indian agricultural sector is quite low, necessitating the adoption of policies based on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's economic ideas.

9. CONCLUSION:

The thoughts of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on agriculture and the condition of India are important since they are still relevant today. He encouraged national economic and social development while

highlighting the need of investing in agriculture and prioritizing basic necessities like housing, public health, and education. A thorough analysis is required to increase the agricultural sector's growth rate. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar believed that the lack of productive labour and the stress it places on the land, which leads to land subdivision and the rule of occupancy, prevents surpluses in Indian agriculture. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar suggested inspection identification and a one-man rule of inheritance to lower the cost of land and avoid the division and dissolution of a focused property.

It is noticed that the small size of land holdings is one of the important obstacles in adopting modern techniques in India. So, the adoption of collective & cooperative farming is the best solution to deal with that problem in context to India, which was suggested by Dr. Ambedkar in those times, and still, it is relevant today. He also suggested the unified system of taxation in the collection of revenue from agriculture. In the present era of globalization, agricultural growth is stagnant and continuously declining. It is suspected that the reason for such a declining trend is the government's concentration on technical problems and ignorance of institutional problems related to Indian agriculture. He stressed the rapid industrialization for agricultural growth and the enhancement of the Indian economy. But actually, the problem of the Indian economy is not only of smallholdings but also of scattering holdings. The scattered and fragmented holdings result in raising the costs of production, which lowers the profit arising out from the agriculture sector. So, the suggested solution is not only enlarging landholding by the adoption of collective farming but also the investment of capital and capital goods in Indian agriculture is recommended. Since the surplus from Indian agriculture is low, so savings also tends to become lower, this lowers capital formation. Dr. Ambedkar also argued for the existence of surplus and idle population existing in Indian agriculture, as these people are not performing any productive work and serving as disguised unemployed. The concepts used by Ambedkar in those days such as collective farming & cooperative farming, the role of the state in agriculture, and the land revenue system are still relevant today.

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