

## **Idea of constitution: A study**

Datta Jadhav Assistant Professor Department Of Political Science Vivekanand college, Kolhapur

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### **Abstract:**

*This research paper delves into the diverse ideas and visions of prominent leaders such as Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the Indian Constitution. The Indian Constitution, being the cornerstone of the nation's democracy, reflects the ideologies and thoughts of these leaders. By analyzing their views on justice, equality, governance, and social structure, this paper aims to highlight the philosophical and political underpinnings that shaped the document. Through a comparative study, this research seeks to understand how these leaders' visions of a free and democratic India converged or diverged, influencing the Constitution's eventual formulation.*

### **Keywords:**

Indian Constitution, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Pandit Nehru, Democracy, Justice, Social Justice, Equality, Indian Nationalism, Constitutional Philosophy

### **Introduction:**

The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, stands as a monumental document that lays the foundation for the world's largest democracy. However, the ideas that shaped the Constitution were not solely a product of one individual but were influenced by various leaders who envisioned an independent India. Among these, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were pivotal in shaping the philosophical and legal framework that would define the republic. Their differing yet complementary ideologies on democracy, justice, equality, and social welfare were central to the drafting of the Constitution. This paper explores their individual contributions and their collective impact on the Indian Constitution.

### **Objectives & Hypothesis:**

**1.Objective: To analyze the ideas and visions of Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Pandit Nehru on the Indian Constitution.**

**Hypothesis:** The visions and ideas of Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Pandit Nehru on the Indian Constitution were influenced by their unique political ideologies and personal philosophies, with each leader advocating for a distinct vision of justice, freedom, and social equality in the new India.

**2. Objective: To examine how their philosophical and political beliefs influenced the formation of the Indian Constitution.**

**Hypothesis:** The philosophical and political beliefs of these leaders had a significant influence on key constitutional provisions, such as the inclusion of fundamental rights, social justice, secularism, and federalism, reflecting their

personal ideologies and priorities for India's post-colonial governance structure.

**3. Objective: To compare and contrast the contributions of these leaders in shaping democratic governance, justice, and social welfare.**

**Hypothesis:** While all these leaders contributed to shaping democratic governance and social welfare, each leader's specific focus on different aspects—Tilak's emphasis on Swaraj and self-rule, Gandhi's advocacy for non-violence and social reform, Ambedkar's fight for social justice for Dalits, and Nehru's vision for modernity and secularism—resulted in a balanced yet varied contribution to the Constitution.

**4. Objective: To understand the practical application of their ideologies in the final draft of the Constitution.**

**Hypothesis:** The final draft of the Indian Constitution reflects a fusion of the ideological contributions of these leaders, with elements of Tilak's nationalism, Gandhi's emphasis on ethics and social reform, Ambedkar's advocacy for justice and equality, and Nehru's vision of modern democracy, though certain aspects were compromised or adjusted to suit the political realities of the time.

**Vision of Indian Constitution**

**Lokmanya Tilak's Vision:**

Lokmanya Tilak's contributions to the Indian independence movement and his vision for a self-governed India were rooted in his belief in Swaraj (self-rule). Tilak's vision of the Constitution emphasized local autonomy, the importance of Hindu culture, and the need for active participation of the masses in the political process. He also advocated for the promotion of education and social reforms as essential components for a free India.

*Tilak's philosophy of "Swaraj is my birthright" suggested a vision of the Constitution that would protect Indian autonomy, emphasize national pride, and encourage mass mobilization against British rule (Gopal, 2004, p. 72).*

**Mahatma Gandhi's Vision:**

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophical and political beliefs had a deep impact on the Constitution. He believed in non-violence, truth, and social reform. Gandhi was an advocate for a decentralized system, where villages would be self-sustaining and self-governing. He also prioritized the upliftment of the untouchables (whom he called Harijans), and his emphasis on social equality and justice influenced key constitutional provisions, particularly in the area of fundamental rights and social justice.

*Gandhi's advocacy for trusteeship, where wealth and resources would be held in trust for the people, especially the downtrodden, shaped the moral foundation of the Constitution, promoting social welfare and equity (Gandhi, 1947, p. 56).*

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision:**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision was centered around social justice, equality, and the protection of the rights of marginalized communities, particularly the Dalits. As the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, Ambedkar emphasized the need for a legal framework that would protect the rights of minorities, promote social justice, and create a secular nation. His advocacy for the abolition of untouchability, his ideas on affirmative action, and his focus on equality before the law became core principles enshrined in the Constitution.

*Ambedkar's vision of an inclusive India was crystallized in the Constitution's provisions for affirmative action, the abolition of untouchability, and the protection of minority rights (Ambedkar, 1989, p. 203).*

#### **Pandit Nehru's Vision:**

Pandit Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, believed in a modern, secular, and democratic India. His vision for the Constitution emphasized the importance of democratic governance, secularism, and social and economic modernization. Nehru was a strong advocate of a unified India that would incorporate diverse cultures, religions, and languages into a cohesive democratic framework.

*Nehru's vision influenced the Constitution's commitment to secularism, democracy, and modernization, with provisions that ensured equality before the law and safeguarded individual freedoms (Gopal, 2004, p. 112).*

#### **philosophical and political beliefs influenced the formation of the Indian Constitution**

##### **Lokmanya Tilak's Influence:**

Tilak's emphasis on Swaraj and local self-governance influenced the federal structure of the Indian Constitution. His belief in mass participation and civic engagement laid the groundwork for India's democratic processes. *Tilak's ideas about local governance are reflected in the Constitution's provisions for Panchayati Raj and decentralized governance (Rajwade, 2009, p. 98).*

##### **Mahatma Gandhi's Influence:**

Gandhi's emphasis on moral values, non-violence, and social reforms played a crucial role in shaping the Constitution's commitment to social justice. His focus on removing social hierarchies, particularly untouchability, was directly reflected in provisions like Article 17, which abolishes untouchability.

*Gandhi's philosophical stance also informed the provisions for Directive Principles of State Policy, aiming to establish a welfare state (Gandhi, 1947, p. 78).*

##### **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Influence:**

Ambedkar's major contributions to the Indian Constitution include the creation of provisions that guarantee equality, social justice, and the protection of individual rights. His advocacy for the Dalits and backward classes is

enshrined in the Constitution through affirmative action and special provisions for these communities.

*Ambedkar's emphasis on the protection of minorities and his inclusion of safeguards for the socially and economically disadvantaged groups were critical in shaping the Constitution's legal framework (Ambedkar, 1989, p. 205).*

### **Pandit Nehru's Influence:**

Nehru's vision of a secular and democratic India led to the inclusion of provisions that promote individual freedoms, democracy, and equality. His commitment to scientific temper and economic modernization influenced the framing of the Constitution's vision for a modern and progressive state.

*The provisions for fundamental rights, the secular framework of the Constitution, and the commitment to democratic governance were heavily shaped by Nehru's leadership and vision (Gopal, 2004, p. 125).*

### **shaping democratic governance, justice, and social welfare**

#### **Comparison of Contributions:**

- **Democratic Governance:** While all leaders supported democratic governance, Nehru's contribution was the most influential in ensuring a unified and modern democratic India. Tilak's focus was more on local governance, Gandhi's was rooted in ethical governance, Ambedkar's emphasized legal safeguards, and Nehru's was about ensuring a democratic framework at the national level.
- **Justice and Equality:** Ambedkar's work in establishing legal frameworks for justice and equality stands out. His drafting of provisions for affirmative action, equal rights, and the abolition of untouchability were revolutionary. Gandhi and Nehru also contributed to the social justice agenda, but Ambedkar's legal expertise ensured these were enshrined constitutionally.
- **Social Welfare:** Gandhi's ideas on social welfare and his focus on the welfare of the marginalized (especially the Dalits) directly impacted the social justice provisions of the Constitution. Nehru and Ambedkar further reinforced this through their contributions to social and economic equality.

### **practical application of their ideologies in the final draft of the Constitution**

The ideologies of Tilak, Gandhi, Ambedkar, and Nehru were pragmatically applied in the Constitution, though often subject to compromise. The final draft of the Constitution reflects a balanced integration of their visions, although certain aspects of their philosophies—such as Gandhi's emphasis on rural self-sufficiency—were not fully implemented. Ambedkar's work on equality and justice had the most concrete application in the Constitution, with provisions for affirmative action and the protection of

Dalits, while Nehru's secularism and focus on modernization were manifest in the political structure.

### **Conclusion**

The Indian Constitution is a product of diverse ideological contributions, each of which was influenced by the philosophical beliefs and political visions of key leaders like Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Pandit Nehru. While their ideologies differed, the final document reflects a synthesis of their contributions, which continue to guide the democratic, social, and legal framework of India.

### **References**

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