

DR. AMBEDKAR'S THOUGHTS AND PERCEPTION TOWARDS INCLUSION OF WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This paper is focused on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, who spent his whole life for the betterment of women. Babasaheb spread awareness among the women about their rights, education and professions. He fought for the inclusion of women in inclusive society. His aim was to make a society based on social justice. He realized the gender inequality among the Indian society and raised his voice to include them in the modern society. Dr. Ambedkar has given equal status to women as men by providing many provisions in the Indian constitution, for strengthening and upliftment the position of women.

In this framework, this paper intends and highlighted the thoughts and perception of Babasaheb about the rights and development of woman which fulfils the present scenario of women.

Keywords: Rights, awareness, inclusive society, gender exclusion, education

Introduction

I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality and fraternity

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

We are celebrating 125th birth anniversary of Chairman of Drafting Committee, First Law Minister of Independent India and Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. He was an ideal example for an inspiration to women. Babasaheb, who fight and struggle the whole life for the inclusion of women. During his education at Columbia University, he was very much concern about the low status of women in 1920, for this Babasaheb started his movement. A journal *Mook Nayak* launched this year to fierce propaganda against the Hindu social order and in 1927, *Bahiskrit Bharat* for the same purpose. He raised his voice through his writings and gave full stress on the gender equality and the need for education, rather than this he also exposed the problems of the depressed as well as the status of

women in the society. He encouraged to empower women to speak boldly and strongly advocated for family planning. "Caste in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development" first academic paper of Babasaheb also begins with his concern towards women, in which he located the linkages between caste and gender. He stressed on the education of women to gain name, identity and respect in society.

After the completion of more than six decades of independence of India, the Indian Society is still considered a group based on gender exclusion in not only different sectors of society but also in many areas of politics and economy.

Objectives

- ✚ To know the thoughts and perception of Babasaheb for women.
- ✚ To gain the knowledge about the challenges of Ambedkar towards the inclusion of women.

- ✚ To understand how the Ambedkar's thought change the position of women in the society.

Dr. Ambedkar's Perception on Inclusion of Women in the Society

I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Babasaheb picks his social reform approaches when he recognized the reality of reputation of Hindu women in the society. He noted that without education and opportunities for advancement in life, the women under the traditional Hindu Caste hierarchy had suffered for centuries. He thought that Hindu Women are coupled with off beam notions from their birth till death. They are forced to follow these wrong notions whole life from generation to generation, which they learnt through groundless traditions and unjustified customs. Men always used women like a machine for only their jubilation. Endless Harassment on women increases day by day in all way crime, violence and dishonour are not only because of uneducated society in which they live but also because of political and education system, non-availability of employment prospects, limited resources and development programmes etc.

Babasaheb wanted Indian women should be a part of Indian society, to given equal opportunities like men and an equal contribution to the social, political and economic areas. He always believed in movements led by women. He said that if the women from all walks of life are taken into confidence, they may play a major role in making a new India.

Babasaheb was very offended with the wretched position and low prominence of women in the society. During 1923, Babasaheb started his Law practice with full dedication along with betterment of depressed class. In 1930, he became the president of the All India Depressed Class Association and shows a path of light with full dedication,

enthusiasm and passion to uplifting the position of women.

Today the place of Indian women in our society is much better than the early stage of women. Now a woman is independent, she can marriage after 18 years, Indian women have Provision of alimony means they have rights for maintenance allowance from their husband after legal separation, adoption of child is easy for a Widow, women have rights on property of parent's if needed, Mother have rights to change guardian of minor by will, other than this women have various rights due to the unremitting efforts of Babasaheb. He take pain for the development of women, so now they are in places where they can take decisions and holding equivalent positions in their homes and high positions in very field like Business, Higher Education, Administration, Medical, Engineering, Foreign Services, Industry, Trade, Politics, Air Force, Navy etc, but the progress of women still needs to have more involvement invisible leadership, which means participating equally in public as well as private sectors. So as a perception of Babasaheb, there is a basic need to set up a policy for inclusion of women in every field of our society.

Strong Supporter of Women for Their Equality and Fraternity

With justice on our side, I do not see how we can lose our battle. The battle to me is a matter of joy... For ours is a battle not for wealth or for power. It is a battle for freedom. It is a battle for the reclamation of the human personality — Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, All-India Depressed Classes Conference, 1942

The early stage of women was full of difficulties they were measured as least in our society. In 1927, in a conference, Babasaheb addressed massively depressed classes as well as women and convey a strong call for freedom of women. Babasaheb advised women to develop their strength of mind, will- power and courage for self-help. He said to women that he measured the progress of a community by the degree of progress made by the women of that community. He encouraged every

married woman to stand by her husband, state to be equal and not to slave, avoid early marriage and producing too many children. Provide proper education to their children so that they can live a noble life. Babasaheb promoted equal wages for equal work, caste and sex base discrimination, as well as a grant of paid the maternity leave to expecting mothers. He focused on family planning. In 1942, in Bombay Legislative Council, during his tenure as Labour Minister in Governor General's Executive Council, Dr. Ambedkar strongly supported maternity benefits to women of India and said that "-----it is in the interest of the nation that the

mother ought to get a certain amount of rest during the pre-natal period and also subsequently". During the Law Minister in the Union Cabinet, Babasaheb made a strong effort for the passage of Hindu Code Bill and as the Chairman of Constitution Drafting Committee; Dr. Ambedkar made a revolutionary contribution in introducing Articles which are useful for the protection and useful for women from any kind of discrimination in the Indian Constitution. Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar efforts a lot to include women's right in the Indian constitution. Some of the Articles are:

Articles	Constitutional Rights
Article 14	In this Article clearly mentioned about equal rights and opportunities in political, economic and social spheres for women.
Article 15	In this Article, 15 prohibit discrimination on the ground of sex.
Article 15 (3)	This Article enables affirmative discrimination in favour of women.
Article 39 and 39 (d)	In this Article, equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work.
Article 41	This Article shall guarantee within its economic limits to all the citizens, the right to work, to education and public assistance in certain cases.
Article 42	In this Article provision of human conditions of work and maternity relief.
Article 46	This Article promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker section of people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
Article 47	This Article raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health and so on.
Article 51 (A) (C)	This Articles describes Fundamental duties to renounce practices and derogatory to the dignity of women.
Article 243D (3), 243T (3) & 243R (4)	These Articles provides for an allocation of seats in the Panchayati Raj System.

Babasaheb always encourages women to speak out boldly, to be organised, to become financially independent, to include in the mainstream and increase networking, to generate leadership and equality among them. He also stirred women to take part against caste prejudices. This is Babasaheb's efforts that during Mahad Tank Struggle, women along with men marched in the procession. All this

shows the great significance which he attached to the cause of gender equality in India.

Dr. Ambedkar's Stress on Education and Cleanliness

Babasaheb persuaded about three thousand women of Depressed Classes in a meeting and said, "Never regard yourself as Untouchables, live a clean life. Dress yourselves as touchable women. Never mind, if your dress is full of patches, but it must be clean. No one can confine your selection of costume". He motivated Women and said, "Attend more to the cultivation of the mind and will of self-help". Babasaheb stressed on education of women and their children he advised - " send your children to school, give proper education till they achieve their ambition, educate yourself, as education is very necessary for the progress of your home, society and nation, learn how to read and write, take out all inferiority complexes and bring out your inner glory". Babasaheb was sure that if women should follow his advice they must achieve a lot.

Conclusion

Babasaheb strongly fought for Gender discrimination in the society. The condition of the women was lowest of low in the Indian society and he was dreaming the society based on gender equality is yet to be realized and therefore his thoughts are important for the society and upliftment of women. Babasaheb expressed his perception on women's life. He strongly stated that women must be treated as equal and prestigious as men, give them an opportunity to grow up, support them to get equal status in the society. Babasaheb started a revolution by involving women in every field i.e. socio, politics and economics. He did a lot throughout his life towards the inclusion of women in the mainstream of the society. Now, it is being pursued the vision of Babasaheb across the world, to empowering equality and fraternity of women.

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