

Dr. B.K Ambedkar's Social efforts in upliftment the depressed classes

¹Ramanpreet Kaur & ²Dr. Kuldeep Kaur Dhaliwal

¹Research Scholar, Department of History, Desh Bhagat Uni. Mandi Gobindgarh (India)

²Principal, Mata Ganga Khalsa College for Girls, Kottan (Ludhiana) (India)

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ABSTRACT

B.R Ambedkar was a giant among genius and a social reformer. He was the most gifted and qualified untouchable, who was born on 14 April 1891. He devoted his whole life for untouchables Socio-Economic upliftment. He stated that political democracy must be based on social democracy. He believed that a social organization should be free from rigid social barriers. Dr. Ambedkar was a social agitator. As we know the upper class did not treated well with untouchables. Ambedkar was well-conversant with the socio-economic condition of the backward community in our Sub-Continent. He implements his requirements through legislation and social pressure. So In this paper I will discuss his efforts to uplift untouchables. He fought against the protagonists of inequality and exploitation, and made daring efforts to inspire the down-trodden classes to raise the banner of revolt against the Hindu social system. The first shot to indicate the freedom of untouchables were fired by him in 1927 at Mahad. Along with other leaders of the untouchables, he also demanded separate electorates for untouchables. He also adopted methods of Satyagraha. He started so many schools and colleges to uplift depressed class. B.R Ambedkar was influential for signing the Poona Pact which provided for reservation of seats for the community in the general Hindu constituencies. The major theoretical description of caste system by Ambedkar was in his presidential speech assumed to be delivered at the Jat-Pat Todak Mandal, Lahore, at the end of March 1936. According to Ambedkar, caste is not just a division of labour. It is a hierarchy in which the division of labour is graded one above the other.

1. Introduction

Dr. Ambedkar is one of the well known sons of our country, whose life and works inspired both young and work inspired both young and old generations before and after independence. His mission throughout his life has been a strong desire to acquire, Justice-Social, economic and political justice for the disadvantaged sections of the Indian society. He was born in middle class family on 14 April 1891. He got his higher education at abroad. 'Being a child he had experienced several humiliations and difficulties which every untouchable by birth, had faced in those days. Through his writings, speeches and meetings with British Bureaucracy he improved the conditions of untouchables. He felt unhappy to see the element of discrimination which greatly hindered their progress. The task was truly difficult, but he never felt disheartened and throughout his career he wanted to fight for their basic rights in order to enable them to lead an honourable life. As he was a great lawyer, historian, philosopher, a scholar, statesman and humanist, a great believer in democracy and secularism. In spite of social barriers in his way, Ambedkar rose to the greatest heights and capture important and prestigious position in India purely by hard work. Consequently he came and lived like 'The Sun' and light to the Dalits who were living in darkness and state of slavery. He realized them that their rights and safeguards are incorporated in the constitution of India. Dr. Ambedkar was a great social reformer and a great thinker of the country because he contributed his life to uplift the low-classes of the country. He was born in an 'untouchable' or 'Dalit' class of India called 'Mahad'. He revolted for the discriminations and social conditions of the untouchable community of that time. Even there were other

social reformers who played a vital role in demolishing sati, child marriage, discrimination for women education etc. but Ambedkar was the first graduate from his community who not only fought against British rule but for the evolution of his community also. The Ambedkar was living in a dire condition of those days where low classes were not allowed to even drink from the sources where high society people used to take their cattle to have bath.

2. Works done by Dr. Ambedkar for depressed classes

1. Bhim Rao Ambedkar started a newspaper called Mooknayak on 31 January 1920. With the help of Chattarpati Shahji Maharaj who donated Rs. 2500 to start this weekly newspaper. This newspaper was the voice of the depressed classes of the society. Shahji and B.K. Ambedkar held so many meeting to uplift the condition of untouchables.
2. In March 1924, Bahishkrut Hitkarni sabha was founded which means 'favour for the untouchables'. The main motive of the sabha was to fight against the evil of untouchability. This sabha did so many reforming works like- opening free schools for young and old, opened libraries, opened voice in the court for the justice for the untouchables or depressed classes.
3. In March 1927, in Mahad conference for the upliftment of the untouchables, the members of the B.K. Sinha decided to open all the public places to all the people, regardless of religion, caste or creed. This rule was passed in 1923, but now they wanted to implement. Their action was to drink water from the

'chavda- Taley' which was made for the high caste people. But in reaction of it the high caste people created violence and scattered all the things related to violence and conference attendees.

4. Ambedkar performed Satyagrah and re-voiced for the right of drinking water from the same place. At last Bombay high court pronounced its final verdict for drinking water case, in favour of depressed class's people started worshipping B.R. Ambedkar and called him 'Baba Sahib'.
5. In his revolting and revolutionary actions, Ambedkar and his followers burnt a copy of Manusmriti, a hindu religious script, which gave rise to caste violence. Ambedkar wanted another smriti, or a law code, which could demolish the caste system. He started working for his dream on a legal path and took political actions. He started co-operating British Simon commission, to show his revolt against Indian politics. Being offended by the Indian leaders, he signed the Poona Pact on September 24, 1932 with Gandhiji. In this pact, the separate electorate demand was replaced with reserved seats, in the regional legislative assemblies and central council of states.
6. The Independent Lahore party was established in August 1936, to fight election in Bombay constituency. He won the elections with great glory. Then he introduced bills to end Khoti-system in 1937. This system was related to land tenure in Konkan area. Ambedkar wanted to establish a society of

social, economical and political equality not in words but in firm rules for a democratic India.

7. Dr. Ambedkar also demanded reservation for Dalits. He Knew full-well that unless reservation in jobs, legislature was accorded to the Dalits they would never be in a position to be equal partners in the administration of the country and they would remained oppressed and slaves forever. Dr. Ambedkar made social justice a founding faith and incorporated humanist provisions to lift the level of the lowly scheduled castes, and other weaker sections of the society to make democracy viable on equal footing for all.

3. Conclusion

From above we can say that he became the father of Indian constitution who put his dreams of equality and justice for all in the Indian rules and regulations. Being homogenous, he established equality in Indian constitution featured for the respect of man on the basis of fundamental rights. He adopted methods of satyagraha in the initial stage of his career. It is evident that he awakened the untouchables by means of their social upliftment. He wished to generate the spirit of equality in them and advocated the abandonment of customs and practices associated with untouchability and asked the untouchables to lead a clean life. Being an instrumental for signing the Poona Pact which provided for reservation of seats for the community in the general Hindu constuencies.

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