

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR'S VIEW ON EDUCATION

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Abstract

Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in Mhow in Maharashtra on 14th April 1891. He was the 14th Child of Ramji Malogi Sakpal and Bhimabai. He was belonged to the Hindu Mahar caste, who were treated as untouchable and subjects to Socio-Economic discrimination.

Due to his caste, he was segregates and given no attention and assistance by the teachers. They were not allowed to sit inside the class. If they needed to drink water, some body from a higher caste would have to pour water from a height. Ambedkar became the first untouchable student at the Elphinstone Government High School. He was the first person of untouchable to enter a college in India.

Ambedkar laid emphasising on the education of the downtrodden. He advised them to be educated and have faith in their strength. Ambedkar was an educationist. He knew about the caste ridden society and aware of the discrimination that tone apart the society. He sought education to be one of the rectifying measures against the maladies of the society. Ambedkar's efforts for uplifting the depressed people educationally were matchless one. He believed that the democratic, socialistic, secular India could be possible only when the people of our nation would be given opportunity to enjoy human rights without any discrimination. His whole life dedicated only for the upliftment of depressed people called Dalit by the slogan 'Educate, Agitate, and Organize'. He was the Saviour of Human rights of the depressed people.

Keywords: Untouchables, Discrimination, Segregates, Downtrodden, Educationist, Maladies, Upliftment, Dalit, Agitate, Organize

Introduction

Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in Mhow in Maharashtra on 14th April 1891. He was the 14th Child of Ramji Malogi Sakpal and Bhimabai. He was belonged to the Hindu Mahar caste, who were treated as untouchable and subjects to Socio-Economic discrimination.¹

Due to his caste, he was segregates and given no attention and assistance by the teachers. They were not allowed to sit inside the class. If they needed to drink water, some body from a higher caste would have to pour water from a height. Ambedkar became the first untouchable student at the Elphinstone Government High School.² He was the first person of untouchable to enter a college in India.³

Ambedkar laid emphasising on the education of the downtrodden. He advised them to be educated and have faith in their strength. Ambedkar was an educationist. He was a Professor of Philosophy and held D.Litt. in Literature and he was also a Doctor of Science, L.L.D., and Bar-at Law.⁴ He knew about the caste ridden society and aware of the discrimination that tone apart the society. He sought education to be one of the rectifying measures against the maladies of the society.

His Services for the Development of Depressed Class People Educationally

Ambedkar was the opinion that education can be received through organization and to break the caste system Dr. Ambedkar launched a new school of Buddhism which names Narayana (means Vehicle). He set forth Narayana in the book "The Buddha and his Dhamma".⁵ He stated that the need was Social equality in education. He wanted to organize the untouchables under one banner. So he established an organization. "The Bahishkrit Hitakarni Sabha on 20th July 1924.⁶ The slogan of the organization were "Educate, Agitate, Organize".⁷ Its aims were to promote the depressed educationally, economically and culturally.⁸ Free hostel started for school children of depressed classes. He visited to the remote villages and educated the depressed to give up the inferiority complex.⁹

Ambedkar's view on Medium of Education

The incidents that happened him to made him as a fighter for human rights of depressed class.¹⁰ He has advocated the policy that everyone has the right to learn. So he laid emphasis on the education of the downtrodden. He advised them to be educated and be strong after being educated and have faith in their strength.

Ambedkar propagated, English to be the medium of instruction for its facility opening a window to the information and philosophical thoughts around the world. He claimed that knowledge is the foundation of man's life. Further he clarifies that if one's education is detrimental to the welfare of the poor, the educated man is a curse to the society.¹¹

Ambedkar was of the opinion that education can be received through organization for struggle. According to Ambedkar "education that makes men fearless, teaches unity, understands birth right and teaches men to struggle and fight for freedom".¹²

Ambedkar views on Free and Compulsory Education

Ambedkar decided that compulsory education creates favourite effects upon the backward and the down trodden. Through compulsory education, the downtrodden will be able to get services and thus their economic standard will rise. It was Dr. Ambedkar, who wrote the constitution, provided for free and compulsory education to the children upto the age of fourteen.¹³

Ambedkar in view on Women Education

The contribution of Ambedkar for the betterment and progress of women is also unique. At the All India Depressed class Women's Conference held at Nagpur in 1942.¹⁴ He emphasized that there could not be progress of a nation without the progress of women. He spoke in that conference that he was a believer in women organizations.¹⁵ He introduced the Hindu Code Bill in Parliament in 1951 as a First Law Minister of India.¹⁶ "We shall see better days soon and our progress will be greatly accelerated if male education is persuaded side by side with female education....." were the words of young Ambedkar during his studies at New York. Dr. Ambedkar felt sorry with the sufferings of women. He gave a detailed

description of the condition of women in the society in his important book "The rise and fall of Hindu Women".¹⁷ He experienced that women have not got the self -dependence.

He attached so much significance to women education that he made education the very fast step of his slogan of action, "Educate, Agitate and Organize."¹⁸ Due to lack of education, women feel degraded in every field of life. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that development made in a society is judged by the extent of education made available to women in the society. He was infavour of giving compulsory education to women. He inspite of favouring the equality of men and women did not like to give the same education to girl students as to the male students. Women should be given the education of home science completely.

Ambedkar' view on Curriculum

He stresses on the curriculum that is not based on rote learning, but provides scope for expressing one's own thoughts and lends itself to character formation. It also implies that experience is to be the key tool in learning. Creativity has to be encouraged. Further he believes that noble thoughts and wisdom of the past have an influential learning and so human beings can change and changingness is a chief criterion of humanistic learning.¹⁹

View on Technical Education

Keeping the welfare of depressed class labourers, he founded a political party. It favoured the programme of technical education to the labour. He joined as a member Labour Executive Council and led a mandatory role in amending Industrial acts.²⁰

Educational Reservation provided by the Constitution

Due to his matchless efforts, our constitution provides Reservation in education policy to the depressed class. Ambedkar as a constitute a list led an ability to bridge the gap between the legal theory and social practice.²¹ Through the constitutional remedies, he opened the path of progress for the hither to oppressed people.

Article15 (4) states nothing in this article or in clause (2) of Article 29 shall prevent the state from making any special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens for the SC and ST. Admissions into educational institution on a preferential basic have been guaranteed in proportion to their population assuming that this will facilitate upward occupational mobility and economic betterment. Special provisions have been made to finance the education of SC students through scholarship and to make available to them infrastructural facilities such as hostels, equipment books etc. either free of cost or on a subsidized basis.²²

Conclusion

Ambedkar's efforts for uplifting the depressed people educationally were matchless one. He believed that the democratic, socialistic, secular India could be possible only when the people of our nation would be given opportunity to enjoy human rights without any discrimination. His whole life dedicated only for the upliftment of depressed people called

Dalit by the slogan Educate, Agitate, and Organize. He was the Saviour of Human rights of the depressed people.

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