

A HISTORICAL STUDY ON STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN VIEW OF DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR

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ABSTRACT

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's strategies for empowering marginalized groups were rooted in the mantra to Educate, Agitate, and Organize. His multidimensional approach combined radical social reform, constitutional safeguards, economic justice, and ethical resistance to dismantle systemic inequalities and establish an egalitarian society. Ambedkar viewed education as the most potent weapon for social mobility and enlightenment. He believed that the marginalized must have a direct voice in governance to secure their rights and prevent tyranny by the majority. As the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Ambedkar laid the bedrock for a just democratic framework. Ambedkar recognized that social exclusion is closely tied to economic marginalization.

INTRODUCTION

Article 46 of the constitution of India states that the state shall promote with special care, the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social justice and all forms of exploitation. The commitment of the government was not result of sudden impulse new ideas emerged regarding the functions of the state. Legal equality done was not sufficient for the upliftment of the weaker classes. The state had to promote social and economic equality in a planned manner.

In India there are suppressed categories of people. Who are living a life below the poverty line. People from the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes who constitute about 1/4 of the total Indian population subsist below the poverty line and face problems which are pursue the traditional occupation. They are unable to enjoy the fruits of economic growth and modernization today, the population of scheduled caste people in India is around hundred million. They hardly have any property and are generally dependent on agricultural labour, Leather work and other low-income occupations.

These people still remain outside the mainstream of development, mainly because of their relative isolation and their exploitation by the outside agencies. A large number of bonded labourers are also scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. Social and economic impoverishment are the main causes of their backwardness. Inspire of various efforts of the government consisting of constitutional directives and a number of legislative and executive measures by the government their situation has not improved perceptibly owing to the lack of genuine support. Although special programmes were formulated in the five-year plans for the

upliftment of weaker sections in general, the economic base for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes continues to be extremely well.

AMBEDKAR AND DALIT CONSCIOUSNESS

Ambedkar sacrificed his life for the welfare of the down-trodden people of India. The scheduled caste people who had no right to pull water from the well, no right to enter the temple, no opportunity to get education, and deprived from all social political ritual rights are not in such condition. This is only because of the laudable and indomitable endeavour of Dr. Ambedkar. The education is the true measure of progress. According to a Sanskrit proverb Vidya Bihin Pashu, meaning that without education a man is just like an arrival. The down trodden people used to par their lives in a filthy position. They had no right even to hear a word of the Veda. But it was only the effort of Ambedkar who brought their people or equal statues. It is his effort because of which today 21.28% of the scheduled caste population are literate but there are some patches here and there in the country which have more than 80% educated persons. According to him where there is a will, there is a way. If we shall determine to do so we can surely move forward for a better and brighter tomorrow.

Ambedkar laid great emphasis on Hindu organization. He began a new era in the society by criticizing vehemently the prevalent untouchability, ill feelings created by religion, intolerable customs and traditions and class system of the then society and filling the feelings self-systems of the then society and Filling the feelings self-confidence, self-reliance, self-consciousness, equality and liberty in the backwards and down-trodden of the society, "If Dr. Ambedkar had not presented the problems of the down-trodden in the right direction the Policy adopted in Indian Politics at that time could have been cleared at all and the downtrodden could have remained in the name of 'Harijan' as it were before.

Dr. Ambedkar throughout his whole life went on towards his aim of upliftment of the down-trodden. In the conclusion Dr. Baba Sahib Bhim Rao Ambedkar, from social dishonour to the struggle, from the movement of religious reform to social reform, from the struggle of freedom to the honour of the administration, was present as a flag bearing soldier for the liberty of the down-trodden in between the main flow. He went out alone taking the light of his talent from in human deeds, darkness of blind faith and the zigzag path. He gave light to all the down-trodden and the forgotten. He bore like the fast flow of Gandhi and socialism and moulded and compelled to flow accordingly to a notable limit. Dr. Ambedkar gave a dream to the eyes of the depressed classes, a self-confidence to make feasible the dream and a will power.

STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERMENT:

Dr. Ambedkar is known to the people of India and constitutional lawyers all over the world as the principal Architect of Indian constitutional edifice. The constitution of India is a living testimony of the greatness and vision of Dr. Ambedkar. Being a man of sterling character and a first ranking patriot, he alone had the courage to tell the Britishers on their fact at the first-round table conference, that in impended India alone, the problem of untouchable could be solved. His life was in era of great struggle against injustice and humiliation to the Dalits by the caste Hindus. In this struggle he fought defiantly with infinite courage and confidence and supreme conviction. Inspite of all social hurdles in his way, Dr. Ambedkar rose to the

greatest heights and occupied important and prestigious position in India purely by dint of hard work and unique merit which he possessed. In fact, he came and lived like the sun and gave light to the Dalits who were living in darkness and state of slavery. He made then to realise their rights and safeguard which are incorporated in the constitution of India.

RESERVATION/SAFEGUARDS FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Dr. Ambedkar knows full-well that unless reservation in jobs, legislature and education 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 remain oppressed and slaves for ever. Dr. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian constitution, made social justice a founding faith and incorporated humanist provisions to lift the Level of the lowly scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of the society to make democracy viable on equal footing for all. That is why the supreme court of India in P and T SC/ST employees welfare association Vs Union of India has correctly held that people belonging to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of the society in India are the zealously protected children of the Indian constitution. The constitution of India provides three kinds of reservations namely:

- (i) Job reservation
- (ii) Reservation in the admissions to educational institutions and
- (iii) Legislative reservation

Reservation in admission matters to educational institution is given under article 15 (4) and 46.

Political reservations have been given under article 330 and 332 in lok sabha and state legislatures.

It may be pointed out that there is no reservation in the Rajya sabha and state legislative councils. As far as legislative reservation is concerned, it is not a permanent feature of the constitution and it has been extended by the parliament from time to time. Reservation in jobs and in admissions to the educational institution are permanent features and no limit has been fixed in the constitution on them.

RESERVATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

The supreme court of India has held in Thomas and ABSK cases that reservation in Jobs is a fundamental right of the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes under article 335, 46, 16(1) and 16(4). The supreme court of India has also made it clear that:

“It is no longer necessary to apologetically explain laws aimed at achieving equality as permissible exceptions. It can now be boldly claimed that such laws are necessary incidents of equality, all legitimate methods are available for equality of opportunity in service under Article 16(1) and article 16 (4) indicates the methods of achieving equality in article 16(1). It was also held that once the fundamental premises are accepted, there is nothing reasonable or wrong. It is significant that with a view to preventing total exclusion of others, there is a provision that if there are only two vacancies in a given year, not more than one may be treated as reserved and if there is only vacancy, it should be treated as unreserved.

The soul of Article 16 is the promotion of the common man's capabilities overpowering environmental adversities and opening up full opportunities to develop in official life without succumbing to the sophistic argument of the elite that talent is the privilege of the few and they must rule wriggling out of the democratic into a class domination. The genus of article 14-16 consists of not in literal equality but in progressive elimination of pronounced inequality. Indeed, to treat sharply dissimilar persons equally is subtle injustice. Equal opportunity is a hope and not a menace. In ABSK, it has also been held that there is no fixed ceiling to reservation or preferential treatment in favour of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes though generally reservation may not be far in excess of fifty percent. There is no rigidity about fifth percent rules which is only a convenient guideline laid down by the judges. Every case must be decided with reference to the present practical result to yielded by the application of the particular rule of preferential treatment and not with reference to hypothetical results which the application of the rule may yield in the future.

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR'S PIONEERING RESEARCH IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION

Recognizing the role of education in breaking the cycle of poverty, Ambedkar emphasized the importance of educational empowerment for marginalized communities. He advocated for universal access to quality education, particularly for Dalits and other oppressed groups, as a means to enhance their socio-economic status and foster greater participation in the development process. Ambedkar's relentless advocacy for social justice encompassed measures aimed at addressing the structural inequalities that perpetuated poverty. He championed affirmative action policies, including reservations in education and employment, to provide opportunities for historically marginalized communities and promote their socio-economic inclusion. As a jurist and legal scholar, Ambedkar played a pivotal role in framing laws and policies aimed at protecting the rights of the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's efforts contributed to the establishment of legal frameworks for labor rights, minimum wages, and social security measures, which were instrumental in mitigating the impact of poverty. Ambedkar articulated a vision for economic development that prioritized inclusive growth and equitable distribution of resources. He advocated for state intervention in economic planning to ensure that the benefits of development reached all sections of society, particularly the poor and marginalized. Overall, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's pioneering research and advocacy in the field of poverty alleviation laid the foundation for subsequent policy interventions aimed at addressing socio-economic inequalities in India. His holistic approach, combining socio-political empowerment with economic reforms and legal safeguards, continues to inspire efforts towards building a more just and equitable society.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S FRAMEWORK: A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a prominent Indian jurist, economist, and social reformer, offered a unique perspective on poverty alleviation and unemployment that remains relevant today. His framework, deeply rooted in social justice and equality, emphasized the need for comprehensive strategies to address these challenges. Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the link

between the caste system and economic deprivation, arguing that eradicating caste-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities is crucial for poverty and unemployment reduction. Ambedkar emphasized the transformative power of education in empowering marginalized communities, advocating for universal access to quality education, critical thinking, and awareness to challenge social injustices. Dr. Ambedkar advocated for land reforms to address poverty and economic redistribution, emphasizing the need for equitable access to land resources, empowering marginalized communities, and reducing unemployment.

Ambedkar emphasized creating employment opportunities for marginalized groups, advocating for affirmative action policies and reservation systems, and promoting social inclusion through unemployment insurance and welfare programs. Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of political participation in addressing poverty and unemployment, advocating for marginalized communities' rights and interests through voting and leadership. Dr. Ambedkar's framework offers valuable insights into addressing poverty and unemployment through a multidimensional approach that addresses structural injustices, promotes education and empowerment, ensures economic redistribution, and fosters political participation. His ideas continue to inspire social reform movements and policy interventions aimed at creating a more just and equitable society.

UNLOCKING DR. AMBEDKAR'S DRAFT: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Dr. Ambedkar, an Indian jurist, economist, and social reformer, advocated for the rights of marginalized groups, particularly Dalits, through his principles and strategies. Ambedkar emphasized the crucial role of education in empowering marginalized communities. He believed that education could break the cycle of oppression and discrimination by enabling individuals to critically engage with societal structures and demand their rights. He advocated for accessible and quality education for all, irrespective of caste, gender, or socio-economic background. Ambedkar recognized the intertwined nature of caste and economic exploitation. He argued that economic empowerment was essential for the upliftment of marginalized communities. This included access to land, employment opportunities, fair wages, and entrepreneurship support. Ambedkar's vision of economic empowerment aimed to dismantle the caste-based division of labor and ensure economic independence for marginalized groups. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in drafting and advocating for legislation aimed at securing the rights of marginalized communities. This includes the drafting of the Indian Constitution, which enshrines principles of equality, social justice, and affirmative action (reservation) for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Additionally, he campaigned for laws prohibiting caste-based discrimination and promoting equal opportunities in education and employment.

Ambedkar stressed the importance of political representation for marginalized communities to ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes. He was instrumental in establishing political organizations such as the All India Scheduled Castes Federation to advocate for the political rights of Dalits. Beyond legal and institutional measures, Ambedkar advocated for broader social reform to challenge caste-based prejudices and promote social cohesion. He championed inter-caste marriages, temple entry movements,

and social movements that aimed to challenge discriminatory practices and foster social solidarity. Dr. Ambedkar's draft should be reinterpreted to tackle contemporary issues like caste discrimination, economic inequality, and educational disparities through legislative reforms, socio-economic policies, and grassroots movements.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS: DR. AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy is deeply rooted in his tireless efforts toward social justice and political empowerment for marginalized communities in India. As one of the principal architects of the Indian Constitution, he played a pivotal role in shaping the framework of modern India, advocating for equality, liberty, and fraternity for all citizens. Ambedkar's life journey, marked by struggles against caste discrimination and social inequality, serve as an inspiration for millions. Born into a Dalit family, he experienced firsthand the oppressive caste system that relegated Dalits to the margins of society.

However, through his dedication to education and relentless advocacy, he emerged as a towering figure in the fight against caste-based discrimination. One of Ambedkar's most significant contributions was his role in drafting the Indian Constitution, which enshrines principles of equality and social justice. His vision was instrumental in incorporating provisions such as affirmative action (reservation) to uplift marginalized communities and ensure their representation in political institutions. Beyond his contributions to law and governance, Ambedkar was also a prolific writer and thinker. His works, including *Annihilation of Caste* and *The Buddha and His Dhamma*, continue to resonate with readers worldwide, offering profound insights into the roots of social inequality and pathways to liberation. Ambedkar's legacy extends far beyond his lifetime, inspiring generations to challenge injustice and strive for a more equitable society. His emphasis on education, empowerment, and unity remains as relevant today as it was during his lifetime, serving as a guiding light for those committed to social change and inclusive development.

DR. AMBEDKAR: CHAMPIONING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, VISIONARY URBANIZATION POLICIES, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was indeed a remarkable think in Indian history, renowned for his tireless efforts in championing the rights of marginalized groups, visionary urbanization policies, and advocating for economic empowerment. Dr. Ambedkar dedicated his life to fighting against social discrimination and oppression faced by the Dalits formerly known as untouchables and other marginalized communities in India. He was the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, which enshrined principles of equality, justice, and fundamental rights for all citizens, regardless of caste, creed, or religion. His relentless advocacy for social justice laid the foundation for affirmative action policies in India, including reservations in education and employment for Dalits and other backward classes. Dr. Ambedkar was also a visionary in urban planning and development. He recognized the importance of urbanization as a tool for social and economic progress and advocated for planned urban development to address the challenges of rapid urban growth in India. As the first Law Minister of independent India and the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, he emphasized the need for urban

reforms to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their social background.

Dr. Ambedkar firmly believed in the economic empowerment of marginalized groups as a means to uplift them from poverty and social deprivation. He emphasized the importance of education, entrepreneurship, and land reforms to empower Dalits and other oppressed groups economically. His efforts laid the groundwork for various socio-economic initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities, including access to credit, land ownership, and vocational training programs. Dr. Ambedkar's legacy continues to inspire generations of activists and policymakers in India and around the world. His vision for a more inclusive and equitable society remains relevant today as societies strive to address issues of social justice, urbanization, and economic empowerment.

REVITALIZING DR. AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY: CULTIVATING CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SOCIAL HARMONY FOR EMPOWERMENT

Revitalizing Dr. Ambedkar's legacy is a noble pursuit that involves not only honoring his contributions but also actively applying his principles to address contemporary challenges. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was not just a leader for a particular time or community; his vision transcends boundaries and resonates with the universal quest for justice, equality, and empowerment. Promote education about Dr. Ambedkar's life, work, and philosophy in schools, colleges, and public forums. His ideas on social justice, equality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities should be widely disseminated to inspire individuals to work towards a more equitable society. Empower marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, by providing access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of economic independence as a means to social upliftment. Advocate for legal reforms that uphold the principles of equality and justice. Dr. Ambedkar, being a jurist himself, understood the pivotal role of law in safeguarding the rights of the oppressed. Efforts should be made to ensure that laws are implemented effectively and fairly. Encourage political participation among marginalized communities and support leaders who champion their cause. Dr. Ambedkar's involvement in the political sphere was instrumental in advancing the rights of Dalits, and his legacy should inspire similar activism today. Foster dialogue and understanding among different communities to promote social harmony. Dr. Ambedkar advocated for the annihilation of caste and believed in the unity of all people irrespective of caste, creed, or religion. Celebrate the cultural heritage of marginalized communities and challenge discriminatory practices. Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the need for cultural pride and identity among Dalits, which can serve as a source of strength and resilience. Support research and scholarship that explores Dr. Ambedkar's ideas and their relevance in contemporary contexts to adapt his principles to address social, economic, and political challenges. By following these strategies and embracing the values espoused by Dr. Ambedkar, we can work towards a society that is more just, inclusive, and empowered for all its members.

CONCLUSION

The empowerment concept proposed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar used a multipronged approach to addressing several facets of societal injustice and inequality. His knowledge of social dynamics and the necessity of systemic change was fundamental to his insights into

marginalized group's empowerment, poverty reduction unemployment, and social development. His ideas continue to inspire movements for social justice and equality, reminding us of the ongoing struggle for a more inclusive and equitable society. Concluding that true equality could not be achieved within the hierarchical Hindu caste system, Ambedkar led a mass conversion to Buddhism in 1956. This was a profound sociopolitical and ethical statement that rejected caste distinctions in favour of a philosophy rooted in compassion, liberty, and equality.

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