



Dr. Ambedkar's Thoughts on Education

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Abstract:

This paper aims at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's thoughts on Education. Ambedkar wanted to a society which is just in nature and not discriminatory in any sense. Ambedkar was convinced that education was the only condition for the reconstruction of the society on the lines of equality and justice. While studying the Indian Society he found that during the rule of Peshwa in Maharashtra and even during the earlier period of British Raj, right to education was denied to lower castes. He fought for the education of masses without discrimination of caste and sex. Participating in the budget session he said, Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone. The education department is not a department which can be treated on the basis of quid pro quo. Education should be cheapest in all possible ways so that everyone can have an access to education. Taking active part in the discussion on Bombay University Act and Primary Education Amendment Bill, he contributed his views in the reform of Education. He founded the people's Education society, and started colleges at Bombay and Aurangabad. He repeatedly with the government that providing equal educational opportunities to all without discrimination was its responsibility however, boys and girls should get the different education. Paper attempts to understand Dr. B R Ambedkars views on education system in India.

Objectives:

1. To investigate the contribution of Ambedkar's thought on Indian education.
2. To Review the journey and process of education in India.

Methodology:

To prepare this paper, I have used auxiliary medium to collect information, which includes Articles, periodicals, reference books, newspapers, and websites.

Introduction:

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar. He was an Jurist, Economist, Politician and Social reformer who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement and campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables, while also supporting the rights of women and labour. He was independent India's first law and justice minister, the principal architect of the Constitution of India, and a founding father of the Republic of India. He was elected as a first law minister of independent India and appointed as a Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee. His role was to write a new Constitution for India. By keeping in mind to bring equality in society he did great for untouchables. For this, freedom of religion was defined the Constitution. He created the system of reservation by keeping in mind untouchable and their condition in that India.

Ambedkar's thoughts on Indian Education system:

Education is the most important tool for transformation of the society through enlightenment and empowerment. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar played key role in the field of education. He fought for the rights of depressed and marginalized sections of the society. In true



sense, he help marginalized sections to awake from the darkness. Ambedkar witness the British era in India hence he was aware of the contemporary circumstances in which Dalits were living. He is known as the champion of Dalit empowerment. Education has an immense impact on the human society. It is education which nurture human being and help every human being civilized. One can safely assume that a person is not in the proper sense until he is educated. Education trains the human mind to think and take the right decision. In short it can be said that human becomes a rational animal when he is educated. It is through education that knowledge and information received and spread throughout the world. An uneducated person cannot read and write and hence he closed to all the knowledge and wisdom which is otherwise he could have gain through books and other mediums. In other words, he is alienated from the ambit of outside world. In contrast, an educated man lives in a room with all its windows open towards outside world. Ambedkar said- That education was a sword and being a double edged weapon, was dangerous to wield. An educated man without character and humility was more dangerous than a beast. Person without morality and ethics could be proven clever evil. If his education was detrimental to the welfare of the poor, the educated man was a curse to society. Fie upon such an educated man. Character is more important than education.

Dr Ambedkar's views on education have yet to be studied deeply – this despite the fact that he had been working in the field of education since he founded the Hitkarini Sabha in 1924. He kept marginalized section in mind while establishing Hitkarini Sabha. Ensuring that more of the backward classes got an education was among the priorities of the Sabha and with that purpose, it established a number of colleges, hostels, libraries and reading centres. At the initiative of the students and under the guidance of the Sabha, a monthly titled Saraswati Belas was launched. The Hitkarini Sabha established hostels and a free reading centre in, a hockey club and two hostels in Bombay. In 1928, Dr Ambedkar constituted the Depressed Classes Educational Society. In 1945, he founded the Lok Shaikshik Samaj for to ensure that the backward classes got higher education. This organization started a number of colleges and middle schools. It also extended financial assistance to hostels. In brief, the Lok Shaikshik Samaj played an important role in making higher education accessible to the marginalized section of the society. He also contributed to various subjects. Dr Ambedkar's writings pertained not only to economics, the law, the Constitution and political science, but also to sociology, philosophy, religion, anthropology, etc. He also had an abiding interest in education. It was not limited to theorizing. He took pains to give a practical shape to his views. Ambedkar believed that education is the most important means of raising the people's standard of living. His slogan was "Educate, unite, struggle". However, his views on education were eclipsed by his seminal work for Dalit emancipation. "Educate" is the first word of his famous slogan. The reason is undeniable role education in the building of human character and consciousness. Only an educated person can understand his class interests and bring about class unity. Education propels a person on the path of struggle. Dr Ambedkar said, "Education is what makes a person fearless, teaches him the lesson of unity, makes him aware of his rights and inspires him to struggle for his rights." He believed that education is a movement which has an objective. If it does not fulfill its objectives, it is useless. Dr Ambedkar unambiguously stated that an education that does not make a person capable, that does not teach him equality and morality, is not true education. True education cradles humanity, generates sources of livelihood, imparts wisdom and imbues us with egalitarianism. True education makes society alive.



Conclusion :

Ambedkar has intentionally added Article 45 in the Directive Principles of State Policy to the constitution of India which says that, "the state shall Endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years." The government of India has passed the bill of Right to Education Act 2008 and paid a great tribute to the contributions of Ambedkar to mass education. The policy of the Government of universalization of elementary education focusing particularly on marginalized groups, poorer sections and the girl child, enhancing enrollment in secondary education as well as its commitment to expand education facilities will empower and equip youth to face the future with hope and confidence. There are several challenges to cherish Ambedkar"s vision of universal education. There is need to frame such policies starting from the primary stage to the higher stage that help to realize the vision of Ambedkar.

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