



Contribution of Ambedkar in upliftment of weaker sections in India

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Abstract: *Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a champion of the rights of weaker sections of society and worked tirelessly to uplift them. Here are some of his key contributions in this regard:*

Women: Ambedkar was a strong advocate for women's rights and worked to improve their status in society. He campaigned against child marriage, dowry, and the practice of Sati. He also worked to improve women's access to education and healthcare.

Labourers: Ambedkar was a champion of labour rights and believed that workers should have the right to fair wages and working conditions. He was instrumental in the formation of the Indian Labour Conference and worked to establish laws that protected workers from exploitation.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: Ambedkar played a crucial role in the formation of the Constitution of India, which provided for affirmative action for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which has helped many individuals from these communities to improve their lives and socio-economic status.

Education: Ambedkar believed that education was key to social and economic empowerment and worked to ensure that all should have access to education. He helped in establishment of educational institutions.

Land Reforms: Ambedkar was a strong advocate of land reforms and believed that land should be distributed equitably among all members of the society.

Ambedkar's contributions to the upliftment of weaker sections of society were significant and have had a lasting impact on Indian society. His vision of a society that is based on equality, justice and freedom continues to inspire millions of people in India and around the world.

Key words: Constitution, labourers, Land reforms, Articles.

Introduction

Ambedkar was imbued with the philosophy of liberty, equality and fraternity¹. He believed that the Constitution and the State should usher in a socio-economic democracy.²

Ambedkar looked at law as an instrument in creating a just social order providing the fullest scope for the development of human personality. He opined that legal sanctions must be backed by social sanctions in order to be effective. He firmly strived for the creation of a positive social environment as well as a successful movement by

the oppressed with Constitutional means, to enable the depressed class to liberate themselves from the age old exploitation. He would thus like to safeguard the interests of weaker sections. Minority in India is ruled by communal majority rather than a political majority.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar relentlessly struggled to promote the rights of society's underprivileged groups. Here are a few of his most significant achievements in this area:

¹ Vibhute, pp. 141 -142)

² (Vibhute, 40, pp. 119 to 123) .

Contribution of Ambedkar for women in Indian Constitution:

Ambedkar worked hard to strengthen women power through provision of women rights in the Constitution. He was instrumental in the formation of the Indian Labor Conference and worked to establish laws that protected workers from exploitation.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, played a significant role in securing the rights of women in India through the Constitution. Here are some of the contributions of Ambedkar for women in the Indian Constitution:

Promotion of women's education: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of women's education in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. He advocated for the promotion of women's education in India, and he ensured that the Constitution provided for special provisions for the advancement of women. Ambedkar assigned education as a tool to measure social progress. He strongly favored woman's educational rights.³ He said education will become a significant mode to make women a part of mainstream society. He said that "Unity is meaningless without the accompaniment of Women. Education is fruitless without educated women and agitation is incomplete without the strength of women".⁴

Right to Equality: Dr. Ambedkar ensured that women were granted equal rights under the law, and he made sure that the principle of gender equality was enshrined under Art14 in the Indian Constitution. Article 15(1) of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, among other things.

Art 15 (3) empowers the State to make special legislations for the protection of women and children.

Art 23 prohibits trafficking of human beings, forced labour and guarantees woman a right against exploitation, Art 326 gives political rights to woman 243 provides reservation for women in

³ C.D Naik, Thoughts and Philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

⁴ Prof. (DR.) Rattan Singh, Ambedkar's Milestones on the Roadmap of Indian Constitution, p.no 254

Panchayats, municipalities and 243 T provides reservation of office of chairperson in Municipalities for SC/ST women.⁵

Right to property: Dr. Ambedkar was instrumental in ensuring that women had equal rights to property. The Hindu Succession Act, which was enacted in 1956, granted women the right to inherit property.

Ambedkar said "We shall see better days soon and our progress will be accelerated if male education is persuaded side by side with female education".

Ambedkar motivated women in the following words:

"My final words of advise to you are educate, agitate and organize, have faith in yourself, with justice on our side I do not see how we can loose our battle to me is a matter of joy. You must abolish your slavery yourself. Do not depend for its abolition upon god or a superman."

Ambedkar contribution to labourers in Indian constitution

B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, made significant contributions to the rights and protections of labourers in India. Some of his notable contributions are:

Fundamental Rights: Ambedkar incorporated various fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution that protect the interests of workers, including the right to equality, the right to life and personal liberty, and the right to form associations and unions.

Directive Principles of State Policy: He also included the Directive Principles of State Policy, which outline the government's responsibilities to ensure social justice and welfare, including provisions for the improvement of working conditions and the protection of the rights of labourers.

Abolition of Untouchability: Ambedkar played a significant role in the abolition of untouchability, which impacted millions of low-caste workers who were previously excluded from work opportunities and subject to exploitation.

⁵ Dr. J.N. Pandey, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF INDIA, P.NO 645 .

Labor Legislation: Ambedkar also played a vital role in the enactment of various labor laws, including the Minimum Wages Act, the Industrial Disputes Act, and the Factories Act, which have helped to safeguard the interests of workers in India.

Workers' Rights: He also ensured that the Constitution includes provisions for workers' rights, such as the right to a living wage, the right to collective bargaining, and the right to humane working conditions. Maternity benefits were given to women under maternity benefit Act.

Contribution of Ambedkar for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in Indian constitution:

Ambedkar was an important contributor in the drafting of the Indian Constitution, which included special provisions for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He believed that in order to protect and help the marginalized populations, the caste system was responsible, which is a societal evil that needed to be abolished. He advocated for the provisions of employment and educational opportunities for these communities, which has assisted many members of these communities in upgrading their standard of life and socioeconomic status.

Abolition of Untouchability: Ambedkar played a significant role in the abolition of untouchability, which impacted millions of low-caste workers who were previously excluded from work opportunities and subject to exploitation.

As a result Art 29 and Art 30 of the Constitution were intended to provide protection to religious and linguistic minorities from discrimination in a wider sense. That is the focus is on establishment and administration of educational institutions of their own choice and is subjected to judicial interpretation.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a significant role in securing the rights and welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Constitution. His contributions to the Constitution and other policies have played a crucial role in empowering these communities and promoting social justice. Here are some of his notable contributions in this field:

Protective measures: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the vulnerability of the Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes and advocated for protective measures to safeguard their interests. The Constitution provides for protective measures, such as the abolition of untouchability and discrimination based on caste, and the provision of special courts for the trial of offenses against members of these communities.

Special provisions: Dr. Ambedkar played a key role in the inclusion of special provisions in the Constitution for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Constitution provides for the establishment of a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of protective measures and special provisions for these communities.

Land rights: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of land rights for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and advocated for the protection of their land rights. The Constitution provides for the protection of their land rights and the establishment of land reforms to ensure equitable distribution of land among all sections of society.

Political representation: Dr. Ambedkar played a crucial role in securing political representation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Constitution provides for the reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for these communities.

Contribution of Ambedkar for education in Indian constitution

Ambedkar believed that provision of education to all irrespective of caste and creed will empower the people economically and socially in the country. Hence he worked for the establishment of educational institutions such as the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation and the People's Education Society. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a strong advocate of education and played a crucial role in shaping the education policies of independent India. His contributions in the field of education were critical in ensuring that education was accessible and affordable to all sections of society. Here are some of his notable contributions to education in the Indian Constitution:

Right to education: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of education as a fundamental right,

and he ensured that the Indian Constitution guaranteed the right to education. Article 21A of the Constitution, which was inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

Promotion of scientific temper: Dr. Ambedkar believed in the importance of scientific temper in promoting rational thinking and social progress. He advocated for the promotion of scientific education in India, and he ensured that the Constitution guaranteed the promotion of scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

Establishment of universities: Dr. Ambedkar played a key role in the establishment of several universities in India, including the University of Mumbai, which was founded in 1857 as the University of Bombay. He believed that universities were critical in promoting research, innovation, and social progress, and he ensured that the Indian Constitution provided for the establishment and maintenance of universities.

Contribution of Ambedkar in land reforms in india

Ambedkar opined that landlessness is the main reason of poverty and discrimination and therefore, worked effectively for the equal distribution of land to the people in the country.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a key figure in the land reform movements in India. His contributions in this field were critical in formulating policies that aimed to redistribute land ownership and promote economic and social justice. Here are some of his notable contributions in land reforms in India:

Abolition of landlordism: Dr. Ambedkar was a strong advocate for the abolition of landlordism in India. He believed that the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few landlords was a major obstacle to economic development and social justice. In 1950, he introduced the Hindu Code Bill in the Parliament, which aimed to reform Hindu personal laws and abolish landlordism.

Tenancy rights: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of tenancy rights for farmers and agricultural laborers. He supported the introduction of tenancy laws that aimed to protect the rights of tenants and provide them with security of tenure.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act of 1948, which was one of the first tenancy laws in India, was largely based on his recommendations.

Land ceiling laws: Dr. Ambedkar was a proponent of land ceiling laws that aimed to limit the amount of land that could be owned by a single individual or family. He believed that this was essential for promoting equitable land distribution and preventing the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few. The first land ceiling law was introduced in Kerala in 1960, and it was largely based on his recommendations.

Tribal land rights: Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of protecting the land rights of tribal communities in India. He supported the introduction of laws that aimed to recognize and protect the customary land rights of tribal communities. The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which provides for the protection of tribal land rights, was largely based on his recommendations.

Conclusion:

Ambedkar looked at the Constitution as a living document for socio-economic change or an instrument of social engineering. He mobilized all his intellectual resources to ensure that the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity are truly reflected in the Constitution under Articles 14, 15(1) and 15(4), 16(1), and 16(4), Art 17 (Abolishes untouchability and its practice in any form in India) and Art 21.

Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to the Indian Constitution have ensured that women are given equal rights and protections under the law. His vision and efforts have greatly impacted the status of women in India, and his legacy continues to inspire efforts towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Further, Ambedkar's contributions to the Indian Constitution have had a significant impact on the rights and protections of laborers in India, and his legacy continues to influence the country's labor policies and practices and Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Constitution have been instrumental in promoting their social, economic, and political empowerment. His legacy continues to inspire efforts towards social justice and equality for all. Overall, Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to education

in the Indian Constitution were critical in promoting access to education, social and economic mobility, and rational thinking. His vision and efforts continue to inspire education policies in India, and his legacy remains an important part of the country's educational heritage. Further, Thus Dr. Ambedkar's contributions in land reforms in India were critical in promoting social and economic justice. His vision and efforts have had a lasting impact on land policies in India, and his legacy continues to inspire efforts towards equitable land distribution and protection of land rights for marginalized communities.

Thus Ambedkar's quest for social justice is reflected in liberation of the weaker sections of humanity and their upliftment. Ambedkar's contributions to the upliftment of weaker sections of society were significant and had an effective impact on Indian society. His vision of a society that is based on equality, justice and freedom continues to inspire millions of people in India and around the world.