

Relevance of Dr. BR Ambedkar's Thought and Struggle for Social Justice

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Abstract: *Dr. BabaSaheb Ambedkar, the prominent architect of the Indian Constitution and was a social reformer and fight against untouchability, fight for social justice. Born into an untouchable community, of Mahar in Maharashtra. His own experience with caste discrimination made him to fight against social inequality based on caste system. Getting advanced degree from the advanced universities like Colombia university, London School of Economics and Gray's inn. He was highly educated person at his time. His life and vision was to eradicate caste based discrimination and hierarchy. Hence, the present research paper intended to find out Ambedkar works and fight for the social justice. The concept of social justice provides a foundational framework for addressing contemporary socio-economic and political challenges of society. If we look into the relevance of Ambedkar's thought, he was constantly fought against the discrimination which was based on caste system. Present paper made an attempt to understand the Ambedkar works towards social justice.*

Keywords: Untouchability, Social justice, discrimination, challenges, architect.

1. Introduction

“Social justice is often understood to be equivalent to justice itself, however that concept is defined. Many somewhat narrower interpretations conceive of social justice as being equivalent to or partly constitutive of distributive justice—that is, the fair and equitable distribution of social, political, and economic benefits and burdens. According to some interpretations, social justice also encompasses, among other conditions, the equal opportunity to contribute to and to benefit from the common good, including by holding public office”. (John Rawls. Britannica Editors Dec 10 2025 “Social justice). Jack Rawls has defined as equal distribution of social, political, economic benefits to all. Yet the country like The India based on caste system denied equal opportunity to all the people. Ambedkar was one reluctantly work to eradicate inequality and injustice. In an untouchable conference, Shahu Maharaj once said “you have found a saviour in Ambedkar, he is a twenty nine year old and he will become front line leader of the country, he will definitely break all your shackles” The statement has given in 1921, yet it is too relevant in today’s scenario. Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision for social justice to promote liberty, equality and brotherhood. According to him the main reason for the untouchability is the caste system.

Dr B.R. Ambedkar's Efforts for Social Justice

Ambedkar dedicated his entire life to bring social justice and the empowerment of downtrodden communities of India. His concept of social justice was transformative and laid the foundation for the empowerment and emancipation of untouchable communities in India. He inspired many movements which are related to acquire social, economic, political, cultural equality in India. The following aspects have to provide the glimpses of his efforts in which he tried to uplift the marginalized groups of this country.

Ambedkar and Untouchability

In the book the untouchables, Ambedkar raised two questions. The first one “are the Hindus the only people in the whole world who observe untouchability? The second

is if untouchability Is observed by non- Hindus also how does untouchability among Hindus compare with untouchability among non- Hindus? (Ambedkar. The untouchables Who are they and why they become untouchables?) In the same book Ambedkar raised similar questions like why do the untouchables live outside the village? calling them an outcaste. Untouchability is a sin of Indian society. According to Ambedkar the religion should treat all the humans equally. He said ‘I like the religion that teaches equality, liberty and fraternity “For him. Untouchability a Social Evil, and analysed it as deep- rooted social evil and the religion- based caste system is main cause for untouchability and it creates huge discrimination among the people. Hence, he demands for equality. For social justice Ambedkar believed in the complete abolition of untouchability and fought for the social, economic, and political rights of the oppressed classes. To promote education especially for untouchables he established Bahishkritha Hithakarini sabha. He aimed to provide education for the downtrodden or marginalized communities and seeking equal opportunities in socioeconomic field. Through, the journals like Mook Nayak, Bahishkrit Bharat, and Equality, Janata he wrote several articles and writings to create awareness among Dalits or untouchables of this country. Along with these efforts temple entry movement was one of the remarkable efforts in the history of India. Ambedkar realized that the Abolition of untouchability and the inclusion of the marginalized groups in public life required religious change and not merely social or economic progress.” (Shashi Tharoor, Ambedkar- A life, Aleph 2022) According to Baba saheb Ambedkar the abolition of untouchability can occur only through the religion.

Dr. Ambedkar's Concept of Social Justice - Relevance in the Present Scenario

Dr. BR Ambedkar concept of social justice remains highly relevant in the present scenario for several causes

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Empowerment of Marginalised Communities:

Ambedkar was the leader of voiceless people of this country, especially Dalits Adivasis, or downtrodden community. He believed education is the right choice for these people to overcome from social inequality.

Inclusiveness: To consider any countries which are developed those countries must include all the people in the process. Economic disparity can ruined countries economy, hence without prejudice everyone must work for the development of the nation.

2. Conclusion

“He was not a thinker of traditional sense of the term in India. That is he Was not a person insulted from his immediate reality contemplating matters like the ultimate truth, nor was he like many thinkers of our time and academic a lawyer by profession he was a thinker in the thick of politics playing the role of a leader and representative of the depressed communities of this country” (Ashok Gopal. A Part Apart. Navayana publishers. 2023). Ambedkar is perhaps the most influential and historical figure in India. Born in an untouchable community which is unfit to maintain human contact or human association and fight against the social evils like untouchability and inequality. The concept of social justice provides a foundational framework for addressing contemporary socio-economic and political challenges of society. If we look into the relevance of Ambedkar's thought. He was constantly fought against the discrimination which was based on caste system.

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