



DR. AMBEDKAR AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Ambedkar is the Father of Indian Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar was the world's greatest humanitarian, revolutionary, philosopher and one of the great intellectuals of the world. He was the pioneer of human rights, a liberator of the 1 Billion Bahujans and women. He also revived Buddhism in the land of its origin and oblivion. The Father of Modern, Scientific, Industrial and Urbane India. He is also the Father of all Fathers due to his unparalleled fore vision and work in building of Indian Democratic Nation by planning and policy formulations. Annihilation of Caste, individual and free social order, reorganization of India, New India and New Social Order, PraBuddha Bharat, New World Order, Democracy and Democratic World Order, reconstruction of world and enlightened New World are some of the enlightenments which enamor humanity and not just Indians. Dr. Ambedkar was a great upholder of women's dignity, rights and a staunch believer in Women's Agency as an agent of change.

Keywords: Constitution, Humanitarian Assembly, Drafting.

INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Ambedkar was the greatest humanitarian and revolutionist. He was a great philosopher and one of great intellectuals of the world. He was a human rights pioneer who liberated one

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billion Bahun's and women. He also revived Buddhism in the land of its origin and oblivion. The father of modern scientific, industrial, and urban India. He is also the Father of all Fathers due to his unparalleled fore vision and work in building the Indian Democratic Nation by planning and policy formulation. Annihilation of caste, individual, and free social order, reorganization of India, "New India" and "New Social Order," Prabuddha Bharat, and the New World Order. Democracy and Democratic World Order, world reconstruction, and an enlightened New World are some of the enlightenments that captivate humanity as a whole, not just Indians. His legacy continues to inspire both at home and abroad, with millions admiring. His life and mission, as well as the billions of dollars at stake, every year, Deeksha Bhoomi (Nagpur) and Chaitya Bhoomi (Mumbai) have over 1 million followers. So are Kranti Bhoomi (Mahad, Nashik) and Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi (New Delhi). Thousands of villages and cities across India, Europe, America, Africa, Australia, and Asia celebrate April 14th, and Columbia University, Simon Fraser University, Koyasan University, the London School of Economics, and others have begun to pay attention to this world philosopher and revolutionary, who not only awakens India's conscience but enlightens the entire humanity.

Dr. Ambedkar wrote the great constitution of India. The Indian constitution is considered to be the base of democratic, administrative system of India. Since 26th January 1950 till date, there were lots of ups and downs in the social-political, administrative and economic fields. By facing and solving our problems successfully the country could maintain the constitutional system of all activities. Our constitution remained our Light House. The future of India and the future of Indian citizens depend on our constitution. That is why, it is the prime duty of every citizens that they should obtain sufficient information about their constitution which is the supreme national sacred book for them. That is why inspired by the supreme national reason we are shouldering the social responsibility to publish this great sacred book.

Dr. Ambedkar: Father of Indian Constitution

Bharat as a country was to frame constitution for the 1st time in its civilization in pursuance with the cabinet Mission Plan of May 16, 1946. Though the developments started with August offer of 1940, amidst 2nd world war. The elections to the CA completed by the end of July 1946 (except for the Sikh seats in Punjab which completed in August 1946). The congress was anxious to take steps to convene the CA but the Muslim League was reluctant to join the CA for its demand of Pakistan, though it has nominated 5 members in the Interim Govt. None the less a decision was taken to summon the CA and invitations to all the members were sent on 20th November and the 1st meeting of the CA was convened on 9th December 1949 at 11:00 am at Constituent Assembly Chamber in the Council House, New Delhi. Out of 296 members, 207 attended Muslim League members boycotted the Assembly Amidst uncertainty of Muslim League participating in the CA which got a little clear only in January

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1947 with the stand not to participate. Accordingly on Feb 20, 1947 the British Prime Minister Attlee made a statement in House of Commons clarifying “ as to whom the powers of the Central Government in British India should be handed over in absence of a fully representative CA.

Unparallel and Unmatched Contribution of Hon’ble Dr. Ambedkar

Dr. Ambedkar was elected to the CA from Bengal (Jaisur & Kulna Constituency) on 19th July 1946. On 16th December 1946 Dr. M. R. Jayakar moved an amendment on the Objectives Resolution moved on 13th by Jawaharlal Nehru. In the House, this resolution spread tense situation. This is really a tenseful situation, there is a chaos and confusion among the members of parliament. That’s why, Dr. Rajendra Prasad thinks that it is better to call Dr. Ambedkar and handle the situation. So, Rajendra Prasad requested Dr. Ambedkar to come in parliament and handle the situation. Amidst partition of India and Dr. Ambedkar losing his membership of CA that became part of Pakistan CA It is significant to note here that Dr. Rajendra Prasad did not want to lose the services of Dr. Ambedkar as a constitutional expertise par excellence as he had by then observed the latter’s work rendered in 12 committees and sub-committees by that time. Dr. Ambedkar also presided over the joint meetings of Union Powers Committee and Union Constitution Committee on 2nd July 1947 that finalized the three lists- Union, State and Concurrent. He also chaired the meetings of Union Constitution Committee earlier, also on 11th June (and later on 24-8-1947)

Compelling Circumstances that led to Wisdom – Partition, Problems and Prudence?

There after Dr. Ambedkar was vested with the “maximal” work of framing the Constitution of India. He was elected unanimously as the Chairman of Drafting Committee on 30th August 1947 after being incorporated in the Nehru Cabinet on 3rd August and made as the 1st Law Minister of Independent India on 15th August 1947. The very date when the 77 members of Punjab Assembly including SCs voted for remaining with present Constituent Assembly of India on 23rd June, leading to partition of Punjab a merger of eastern parts with India. National Standard (Kolhapur) hinted that Dr. Ambedkar may be incorporated in the cabinet.

An Incredible Constitutional Expert with Immense Practical Experience.

In all three Round Table Conferences, Dr. Ambedkar opined on significant matters of Constitutional importance and Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms.

i) Fundamental Rights and Remedies. ii) Provincial Executive iii) Provincial Legislature iv) Provincial Autonomy v) Provincial Administration vi) Indianization of Services vii) Franchise viii) Unitary Form of Government ix) Second Chamber: relation between Lower & Upper Chamber, with supremacy of the Lower House x) Public Service Commission xi)

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Department of Law and Order xii) Representative Institutions xiii) Taxation Provisions xiv) Fiscal System between Federal, Provincial Govts, and Princely States xv) Federal Courts & High Courts xvi) Financial and Non-Financial Bills xvii) Resuduary Powers of Taxation xviii) Federal Controls over lawsframed under concurrent list xix) Excluded Areas xx) On Princely States xxi) Representation of Princely States only by election & (not nomination for a responsible govt. xxii) Enforcement of Judgements and decisions of the Federal Court by Federal Govt. xxiii) Procedure of Contempt of Court etc. Dr. Ambedkar also worked with the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms which was the main committee which consequently led to the finalization of Government of India Act, 1935. It is very surprising that how some atavistic minded Indians still fail to note this historical contribution in constitution making of India and the unconstitutional bankruptcy of most of the so-called nationalist leaders including Gandhi, Sapru, Jaykar and others in the Round Table Conferences and Joint Committee. Apart from these 17 committees and sub-committees Hon'ble Dr. Ambedkar was elected unanimously as the Chairman of Drafting Committee. He was also selected as Chairman of the Select Committee to study the Hindu Code Bill on 9-4-1948. Apart from this Dr. Ambedkar in a most scholarly and statesmanship may dealt with the debates in the CA citing of the principles and provisions of British, US, Canadian, French, Australian, Irish Swiss, South African, German, Russian and other constitutions of the world. This historical and intellectual labour for the people of India and nation in making, continued ever since he entered the CA on 9th Dec 1946. Considering the fact that "The Constitution of India" is not only the lengthiest (only one or two constitutions come close to the 395 Articles & 8 schedules) but the best considering the enormous complexities of caste, culture, communalism and partition of India there upon. No framers of the constitution were able to draft such a marvellous constitution which not only came (true) to the 'test of times' but has been referred to as an example by many countries of the world while drafting their constitutions. Even before the role as a Chairman of Drafting Committee Dr. Ambedkar had pioneered important legislations and policies from 1942-46 when he was a labour member in Viceroy Executive Council. Such was the enormous legislative and executive experience of Dr. Ambedkar unmatched by any other legal and political personality even upto 1939.

The Only Unique Constitution in World

The Constitution of India is not only the lengthiest but the best due to following 10 distinct features which all together cannot be found in any single constitution of the world. They are:

- 1) Principles of Equality + Liberty +Fraternity+ Justice as enshrined in the Preamble. (they are now adopted by most modern constitution of the world).
- 2) Individual as unit and not otherwise.

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- 3) Fundamental Rights with reasonable restrictions, and remedies to approach the Supreme Court. Recognition of Human Rights with dignity of individual enshrined in the Preamble. Right to Equality, Abolition of Untouchability, Prohibition of discrimination.
- 4) Union of India- One United India along with a flexible federation.
- 5) Uniformity in Federation to maintain Unity of the country (by single judiciary, uniformity in fundamental laws- laws & criminal. All India services and taxation.
- 6) Welfare State as enshrined to Directive Principle of State Policy.
- 7) Parliamentary Democracy with responsibility to the people through parliament exercised by regular 'free & fair' elections by an Independent Election Commission.
- 8) Reservations – special protections and special provisions recognized as rights and safeguard to abolish caste and ethnic discrimination.
- 9) One single integrated judiciary (by High Courts & Supreme Court, along with subordinate courts), Independent CAG.
- 10) Supremacy of the Constitution exercised through the sovereign parliament of 'We the People' with a procedure of Amendment of the Constitution.

Only the modern constitutions framed after 1980's recognizing the Human Rights and in particular 2nd & 3rd generation FRs and features like Ombudsman, Judicial Commission and International laws have evolved in constitutional principles and provisions that are to be incorporated in our constitution. Here to the 'dignity of individual' exclusively incorporated by Drafting Committee in the preamble with provisions under Article 51C & 253 for certification of International law are the original pieces which were made ever before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1-th Dec 1948 by UN. Moreover the modern constitutions under the 'role of Human Rights' are adopting the 3rd generation social, economic, cultural rights as FRs of the people and community rights of minorities, women and indigenous people as originally conversated by Dr. Ambedkar in his States and Minorities, well before human rights covenants and convention.

Dr. Ambedkar was a great upholder of women's dignity, rights and a staunch believer in women's agency as an agent of change. Addressing the AIDC women's conference at Nagpur on 20th July 1942 attended by over 20,000 women folk and chaired by Mrs Kirtibai Patil. Dr. Ambedkar believes in Women Empowerment that's why he gave suggestions to the women that, first understand yourself and then become strong financially. Ambedkar again said that, women can make the life better. Women have a power to change the world. Dr. Ambedkar

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realizes the potential of women and that's why he is in favour of women. So that, he wanted to give liberty and equal status with men. I measure the progress of community by the degree of progress which women have achieved, and when I see the assembly, I feel both convinced and happy that we have progressed.” So, Dr. Ambedkar gave suggestions that to educate the children's and live in a good way. Only because of Education you will uplift your life. That's why Dr. Ambedkar advise them to educate the childrens. Give education to your children. Instill ambition to them inculcate on their minds that they are destined to be great. Remove from them all inferiority complex. Don't be in a hurry to marry. When you will be earn good amount of money then only you will think about marriage until not. If you will not earn good money and still marry then you will face financial problems and in your marriage life there are problems relating to the finance. Dr. Ambedkar suggests that only giving a birth to a child is not enough, you have even provide a good life to your children. The parents must give good life to their children like education and other facilities to them. Here Dr. Ambedkar tries to give suggestion that If you that, marrying in a proper time with good financial background then you will live a better life. Your life uplifted and dignified. As far as marriage concern, first of all earn good income monthly and then only decide about marriage. First try to earn good income and then only think about marriage. Otherwise, you may live in poverty and die in poverty.

Dr. Ambedkar passionate wish for women's liberation and rights took him to the genesis of her slavery. In endogamy imposed by Brahmanism for creating the caste and its maintenance by inhumane practices of child marriage, sati and forced widowhood. The Castes in India (1916) is a ' feminist interpretation' of the patriarchal caste system “ In the article The Rise And Fall of The Hindu Women: Who Was Responsible For It? (1951). “Dr. Ambedkar considers that Manu (and not Buddha as alleged) the lawgiver of the Hindus was responsible for the fall of women. That he wanted to deprive women of the freedom they had under the Buddhist regime- to tie up the women to a man and to leave the man free. Dr. Ambedkar think that if women got their rights then women will make wonders. The reorganizing of the caste feudal adharna patriarchal system was therefore necessary for the liberation of women and progress of nation. As we have already discussed that Dr. Ambedkar- The Educationist was a vehement advocate of education for girls, and co-education of boys and girls for development of morality. His efforts for labour also endeavored for the pre-natal and post-natal or maternity benefits, equal pay for equal work etc.He was the pioneer in these efforts in 1920's and thereafter, when the cause of women was represented in BLC, BLA, Simon Commission, RTCs, Executive Council of Viceroy by Dr. Ambedkar. As early as 1928 representing before the Simon Commission Dr. Ambedkar member of BLC argued for the “right of franchise” to be extended to all adults male and female above the age of 21 years. In the Round Table Conferences he reiterated upon the rights of adult universal suffrage: rights of citizenship and FRs, and was a pioneer to do so.Thus Dr. Ambedkar is a pioneer in raising this right of franchise for all men and women alike. This guaranteed the Indian

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women right to vote just in half a decade, unlike their counterparts in Europe who were required to undertake an unrelentless battle for over two centuries to secure the same. In Switzerland women got right to enfranchisement in 1971, racial criteria for voting was removed in South Africa in 1994, whereas it was 1949 when plural voting was abolished in UK. Despite major legislative changes over the past 100 years women obtained equal voting rights only in mid-20th century. It took over 300 years to achieve so. Here in India, a very lesser time due to Dr. Ambedkar's efforts, that he impressed upon Indians and Britishers alike.

Examining women representatives before the Joint Committee on India Constitutional Reform on 26 & 29th July 1933, it is quite evident that Dr. Ambedkar acknowledged the discrimination against women, and was in favour of representation of women from all strata of Indian society by a scheme of reservation in Central Legislative Council (i.e. Parliament of today). Ironically so Amrit Kaur however opposed any reservation for women. Dr. Ambedkar also stood for smaller constituencies and 500 members in Central Legislature (i.e. 1 MP or 6 lakh population). This would have enabled women to successfully contest and represent a small electoral district, rather than what it is today in India (1= 20 lakh people). After seven decades of this advocacy, we are seeing that women's reservation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are being argued for even today. Even CEDAW, 1979 acknowledged this principle of special measures for abolition of discrimination, representation and participation of women on equal terms with men. What Dr.

- 1) Right to property, right to succession property of parents at par with the son.
- 2) Right to marriage, maintenance, divorce, adoption, minority and guardianship. Ambedkar argued for four decades earlier. The equal citizenship rights were not sufficient for abolishing discrimination against women, but it requires more effective personal and property rights. Honorable Dr. Ambedkar as the Chairman of DC was also selected as the Chairman of Select Committee attended on Hindu Code Bill on 9th April 1948. The Select Committee attended the Draft code of HCB. Earlier the HCB was moved in the CA by Law Minister – Dr. Ambedkar on 17th November 1947. The Bill sought to modify and codify the Hindu Law with regard to marriage, adoption, guardianship, joint family property, intestate succession, testamentary succession and maintenance. It guaranteed women the following rights: (irrespective of caste or sub-caste).
- 3) Right of monogamous marriage.
- 4) Conversion of women's limited estate into an absolute estate.



Dr. Ambedkar considered that Parliament had the “sovereign authority” to enact charges in the ways of life and personal laws and those opposing the rights of women were lunatics. That the Hindu society will never give up its social structure (of Chautrvarnya) for the enslavement of the Sudra and Women. It is for this reason that law must come to their rescue for the progress of society as per the principles laid down in the constitution.

Pronounced the Great Constitutionalist, a progressive radical. we found that, there were Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, Justice, Humanity. Secularism in our great constitution. That’ s why Indian Constitution was considered as one of the great Constitution of the world. Other countries of the world, they try to copy our great Constitution. All the world appreciates the constitution of India which was written by Dr. Ambedkar.

So immense was the cause of liberation and empowerment of women to feminist Dr. Ambedkar, that on the noncommittal attitude of PM Nehru, the first Law Minister of Independent India, Father of Indian Constitution preferred to resign as Law Minister on September 23, 1951 rather being dishonest to the cause of women folk and gender equality. Dr. Ambedkar extolled the women to fight to end their slavery and secure the rights and empowerment. Planet 50: 50 by 2030 of UN vindicates Dr. Ambedkar, more than anyone else.

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