

# Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as a Revolutionary Icon of Modern India

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## Abstract:

Dr. Ambedkar was a revolutionary freedom fighter of transforming India into a country of all with equality. Being a social reformer he fought for downtrodden to come out of caste hierarchy in Indian society. He rebelled against Hindu society and its practices, thereby he is considered a critic on Hindu Religion. Dr. Ambedkar was a great patriot, social thinker, political reformer, philosophical writer with progressive ideas. He was an icon of revolutionary ideas for all political, social and cultural activities to eradicate various injustices in society. He emancipated for oppressed and depressed classes including women. As a result he is well known as a leading architect of modern India. Dr. Ambedkar as a social reformer he struggled for social change. He is a true icon in uplifting the backward classes to give them renaissance in modern India. In fact, he brought about a renaissance of Hinduism by provoking the Hindus to rethink some of the basic tenets of their religion. As the major architect of the Indian constitution, Dr. Ambedkar constructed the safeguards for establishing a more equitable society to millions of oppressed and depressed classes.

**Key words:** Cast hierarchy, Dalits, Reformation and Marginality

## Introduction:

Ambedkar's part in making modern India is of great importance. He is a man responsible for making well settlement of downtrodden, a life of self-respect, dignity and responsibility. He always stressed of dispersing education. It is because he considered education as the only instrument in uplifting Dalits in the society. He emphasized education as a key instrument of liberation from oppression from Hindu caste-patriarchy structures and was the capable of establishing a new social order. His interpretations about the origins of castism and untouchability are not only rational and logical but are grounded in grass-roots reality of which he himself was an integral part. India, have no other leader of the kind Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, The great Indian Crusader for Social Justice and Champion of Human Rights. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Indian Constitution is one of the greatest contributions of Dr. Ambedkar to India. The

establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair (Constitutional Law) in Columbia University from where he learnt his lessons of social equality, liberty and democracy under the guidance of reputed scholar Professor Dewey is a great and real tribute to messiah of downtrodden. Even after sixty-six years after independence, Caste prejudices in India are still prevailing. The conditions of the untouchables and depressed classes in Indian society have not changed much. The pathetic condition of the oppressed classes has not shown the expected improvement. Social as well as economic inequalities still continue to persist. Ambedkar's dream of an egalitarian society based on socio-economic justice, equality and human dignity is yet to be realized. Without Ambedkar's intervention for bringing appropriate measures of material empowerment and emancipation of the downtrodden, they would never be able to get their rightful space in nation. It was Ambedkar's strenuous political challenge and struggle which compelled congress to realize the national significance of the problem of the scheduled castes. As a result the congress espoused certain measures which significantly contributed in the direction of augmenting and strengthening the social foundation of the country. A statesman, scholar, crusader of downtrodden and above all a spiritual guide, Dr. Ambedkar has left an indelible impression on the Indian History. His contribution in upliftment of the downtrodden made him a messiah among the downtrodden. Undoubtedly he lives in the hearts and minds of the millions who suffer from oppression, injustice, tyranny, exploitation and slavery.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

1. To study the role Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in modern India
2. To highlight Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's role as one of the architects of Modern India
3. To analyze Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's contribution to Indian society with equality within caste hierarchy

### **Methodology**

This paper is descriptive only. For this paper, data has been compiled from secondary sources. This paper throws light on about Ambedkar's contributions with respect to aforementioned objectives.

#### **❖ Dr. Ambedkar's Ideas of Education and Agitation**

*"Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of every one."*

*"The object of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a Primary school does leave it only at a stage when it becomes literate and continues to be Literate throughout the rest of his life."*

-B.R. Ambedkar

He was a literary genius, an eminent educationist, a political philosopher and a parliamentarian. Ambedkar's philosophy intended to give life to those who were disowned, at elevating those who are suppressed, and ennobling those who were downtrodden and granting liberty, equality and justice to all irrespective of their castes. He insisted that to Dalit people that 'Educate to organize and to Struggle' for their own betterment using whatever educational facilities. Education is not only a layer for their social mobility but also opens the doors for their modernization and meanwhile agitation helps him. In this way he became Emancipator of education and agitation

#### ❖ **Ambedkar and scholarly Knowledge**

Ambedkar has been considered as a philosopher, a patriot, scholar or a writer, the constitution maker, a social revolutionary, a humanistic thinker, or socialist. He starved through university life, saving every penny for his family back home and to buy books. It was no easy at any point to fight his way forward without a family fortune behind him and yet he did. His hardship of life made him to fight against society.

Dr. Ambedkar, in his brief life time, managed to acquire several University degrees at the finest schools in the world, to edit newspapers, to write books, to become the principal of a law college, to lead mass movements, to address public conferences and to work on committees involved with the making of the Indian nation. He was often described as British bulldog and SarojiniNaidu called him Mussolini.

#### ❖ **Dr. Ambedkar as a social reformer**

Dr. Ambedkar believed in peaceful methods of social change. He had no faith in anarchy methods. A welfare state of all cannot be developed on the grounds of terror, force and brutal methods. According to him violent methods to a peaceful society is not only improper but also unscientific and immoral. He was a man of renaissance. He is a person who excelled in many different areas of inquiry. He was hated by orthodox Hindus and labelled as a destroyer of Hinduism. He played an important part in revitalizing Hinduism. He was interested in social reforms to create public opinion. He made Hindu society should give liberty to depressed classes in various sectors.

#### ❖ **Ambedkar as an Emancipator of the Dalits**

Dr. Ambedkar sacrificed his life for the uplifting of Dalits. He was against caste hierarchy and social discrimination. He made some legal procedures which stood in favor of Dalits. Dr. Ambedkar became a role model for every Dalit to come forward and thereby became an example. The untouchables were demoralized, marginalized group of people and they were exploited by upper caste people. Therefore Dr. Ambedkar said, "You can change your lot, but do not flock to temples hoping for justice to come to you in heaven. There is justice to be found on earth if you can fight for it. This idea was successful change their mindsets. The Ambedkar statue was an icon for depressed and oppressed classes.

Dr. Ambedkar has always reflected in modern India as an Icon of social change. He is a backbone for Dalits and their upliftment. His inspiring thoughts always made Dalits to come out of rigid caste society. There would not be any wrong if we say Ambedkar as role model for all human beings irrespective of caste and class in modern India.

### Conclusion

Ambedkar, as an icon of modern India, wanted the people to cultivate the values of freedom, fraternity and equality among themselves. As a multifaceted man, one can study him as a pragmatist of education. Through which he emphasized the possibility of agitation. According to him it is possible only through education. He emphasized education as a means to reach success. By inculcating education in their life one can achieve greatness. Besides this he had a personality of scholarly knowledge. Through his ample of knowledge he fought to bring social change in society. His mode of social change was in a peaceful path. In fact Ambedkar was a true fighter uplifting Dalits. As a result, we can consider him as an icon of modern India.

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