



Dr B.R.AMBEDKAR VIEWS ON EMPOWERMENT UPLIFTMENT OF DALIT LABOUR

Ratna Sekhar Potineni M.Tech, ML, (PhD)

Dr. K Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Ambedkar Studies, ANU, Guntur

Abstract:

Ambedkar worked to uplift the rights of weaker sections of society and empower them. As a creator of Constitution Ambedkar inculcated with liberty, equality and fraternity and the State imbibed in a socio economic democracy. He initiated labour rights in Constitution of India. Labour have the right to fair wages, social security and working conditions. Ambedkar participated in Indian Labour Conference. He worked to protect labour from exploitation.

Ambedkar took center stage and important role in the creation of the Constitution. In the Constitution provided for affirmative action for the SC's and ST's, which helped many citizens to improve their lives and socio-economic conditions.

Ambedkar involved for the upliftment of weaker sections. Which were significant lasting impact on Indian society. His vision based on equality, justice, freedom inspire crores of citizens in India and around the world. For the development of human Ambedkar looked at law for creating a social order. He realized legal sanctions to be effective it should be backed by social sanctions. In Constitutional means to liberate the depressed dalit class to liberate themselves from exploitation. Ambedkar safeguard the interests of poor dalit labour. He believed Minority is ruled by communal majority than a political majority. He worked for the rights of underprivileged.

Key words: Constitution, Untouchability, Upliftment, Dalit SC/ST, Labour Law

INTRODUCTION

Ambedkar known as Babasaheb was born in a dalit family. Where he had no right to be an equal in Indian society. Though he educated as the most talented persons of his time.

He faced humiliation and discrimination and studied law in England. He became as an attorney Indian jurist, politics, philosophy, anthropology, history, orator, economically, editor, writer and educator etc. He wrote number of articles, books, editorials on plight of dalit. His opinion the poor needed better education as well as with respect.

Ambedkar objected the leadership, who objected Hindu Code Bill, with crores of untouchables, dalits, with follies of freeing India who are socially, educationally backward classes under the socio economic status of Hindus. As the Architect of constitution, he rejected discrimination and inequalities based on caste, religion, gender, race Despite his scholarship, his colleagues and upper class of Hindu society refused to treat him equally. So he converted to Buddhism, but he did not stopped fighting to improvement of the lives of the poor.

Ambedkar as first law minister of independent India backed the women of weaker sections in the form of Hindu Code Bill. The Hindu Code Bill has the provisions for several basic rights to women. It attempted abolish different marriage systems among the Hindus. It provided restitution of conjugal rights, judicial separation etc. Ambedkar reiterated Hindu Code Bill based up on the constitutional principles of equality, liberty,fraternity. Even though the Hindu Code Bill could not stand with the opposition of Hindu Sanatana dharma. In 1951 Nehru rejected the Hindu Code Bill by saying there was much opposition. Ambedkar resigned as Law Minister after Hindu Code Bill rejected by PM Nehru

1. State Measures for Dalit Upliftment by Ambedkar

Post independence Ambedkar became the first Law Minister and appointed as Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Constitution. As a main architect of Constitution included Freedom of Religion Article 25, Abolition of Untouchability Article 17, Outlawing discrimination.

He had a vision towards the fundamental rights of Citizens and Upliftment of Dalits. He included provisions in the form of Articles in Constitution for empowerment and upliftment of Dalits.

Ambedkar included following fundamental rights Article 13(2), Article 14, Article 15, Article 15(4), Article 16(4A), Article 16(4B), Article 17 into Constitution.

Based on Article 17, the Civil Right Protection Act 1965, Prevention of Atrocities SC & ST Act 1989 was enacted by the Parliament for the protection of Dalit rights.

Article 330 of the Indian Constitution declares reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in the House of the People

2. Ambedkar contribution to labourers in Indian constitution

As the architect of Indian Constitution Ambedkar included the labour legislations in the constitution to safe guard the interests of Labour. His contributions includes

Fundamental Rights: To protect the interests of Labour, right to equality (Art. 14), Right to life and personal liberty (Art. 21), and Right to form associations and unions (Art. 19).

Directive Principles of State Policy: He also included the Directive Principles of State Policy, DPSP responsibilities of welfare and social justice.

Abolition of Untouchability: Abolition of untouchability (Art. 17), Where Crores of labour who were excluded from work are facing exploitation.

Ambedkar worked in the enactment of labor laws. Labour Legislations includes Minimum Wages Act 1948; the Industrial Disputes Act 1947; and the Factories Act 1948, helped to safeguard the interests of Labour in India.

Constitution and Labour Law includes laws for workers' rights, right to living wage, the right to collective bargaining, right to humane working conditions. Maternity benefits were given to women under maternity benefit Act.

3. Contribution of Ambedkar for Dalits in Indian constitution

In Indian Constitution Ambedkar included important provisions for the Dalit's. He told that in order to protect marginalized citizens, the caste system is a social evil needs to be abolished.

As an advocate he included the provisions of employment and educational opportunities for Dalit Labour. Dalits improving standard of life and socio economic status.

As a result Art 29 and Art 30 intended to provide protection to religious and linguistic minorities from discrimination. Focus is on establishment of educational institutions and is subjected to judicial interpretation.

He played important role in getting the rights and welfare of the SC's and ST's in the Constitution. His contributions to Constitution played important role in empowering communities and promoting social justice.

Protective measures: Ambedkar considered vulnerability of Dalit's for protective safeguard. In Constitution protective measures includes untouchability, discrimination. Included special courts for trial of offenses against Dalits.

Special provisions: National Commission for Dalit's for protective measures and provisions for the Dalit Citizens.

4. Anti Discriminatory and Protective Measures for the Dalits

Article 15(2) Dalit access to restaurants, roads and places, worship;

Article 15(4) Special provision for the advancement of Dalit's; The Central and State Govt. have enacted and implemented this programs, which is called affirmative action.

These affirmative action to identify as Dalits, who outside the traditional caste system to make up in India's population.

The fact that crimes against Dalits has acts against these groups and the Govt. enacted legislations to protect Dalits against discrimination and violence.

Several Govt's enacted laws focusing on removal of civil disabilities.

As per National Crime Records Bureau 2008 reports the incidence of crimes against Dalits increased by 12 per cent.

Govt also developed an administrative structure for various safeguards provided to the Dalits.

Article 338 for appointment of Special Officer designated as Commissioner of Dalit's. His function is to investigate safeguards of SCs and STs and intimate to the President about working of safeguards. In 2004, the Govt divided this Commission dealing with SC Commission and ST Commission separately.

5. Developmental or Empowering Measures for the Dalits

The practice of untouchability as a legal offence, the Govt. initiated several developmental measures for socially deprived Dalits. Govt. introduced the quota system of political reservation in the Parliament and State Assemblies and Urban and rural Local Bodies and reservation in Govt. offices

Central and state services public sectors and reservation of seats in admission in educational institutions. Govt. also enabling Dalits with different kinds of scholarships and various state governments for their development. As per Article 335 reservations for Dalits at State and Central departments.

Article 16 of Fundamental Right of equal rights for all India citizens i.e., Equality of opportunities. Constitution stipulated that the reservations in legislative and govt. jobs for SCs and STs to end after ten years.

The Articles 244; 244(A); 275(1); 334; 335; 338(A); 339 (I) and 342, and the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules are devoted to the cause of the Dalit's.

Certain laws have been enacted by the Central Government for Dalit's, Which includes the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989, Provisions of the Panchayats (Extention to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 the State governments (prevention of alienation and restoration of tribal land, reservations and so on).

5.1 SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Articles 25: States make laws on social welfare and reform.

Article 38: Function of State is legal Justice and social, economic, and political Justice.

Article 38(2): National policy on wages and eliminate inequalities.

Article 46: promotion of educational, economic interests of Dalit's and the Weaker Sections.

5.2 CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

Articles 21, 29 and 48A: Covered cultural and social empowerment. The Dalit's and Backward sections of Indian society practice their peculiar and distinct cultural ways.

The Tribals are weak because they live in forests and hilly regions and out of the main stream, social life. The movement from the Cities, Towns to the Tribal areas to be restricted so that they do not exploit the tribal areas. Article 21: Right to live with privacy, with human dignity, in clean and clear healthy environment etc.

5.3 POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

Constitutional provisions: Articles 164(1); 330; 332; 335; 338; 338A; 339 and 340 are Dalit's in Parliament and Assemblies. Article 330 and 332: Political reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies for SCs & STs. If Dalit's provides with constitutionally guaranteed Articles and are implemented in good faith, empowerment of weaker sections would become easier. The applicability of plans, schemes meant for weaker sections the objective of realizing the empowerment of weaker sections is actually be a reality.

6. Prominent Dalit Welfare Programmes

- Ambedkar Chikitsa Yojana;
- Ambedkar Samajik Samata Yojana;
- One time National Scholarship Scheme for SC/ ST, Meritorious student;
- Financial Assistance to SC students for Admission in reputed public schools;
- Post-metric scholarship scheme;
- Pre-metric scholarship scheme;
- Celebration of birth anniversaries of Great saints;
- Publication of Samajik Nyaya Sandesh Magazines in Hindi;
- Establishment of Ambedkar Pith;
- Centrally sponsored scheme of hostels for SCs boys and girls;
- Scheme of Upgradation of merit SC students;
- Residential Schools for SC class students;
- Provision of loans to SCs under micro finance scheme;
- Provision of loans to family of Safai Karmachari on low interest rate;
- National Scheme of liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers;
- Pre-examination coaching scheme;
- SC's and ST's prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989;
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

These welfare programs are implemented in India, since the inception of Constitution. The policy of preference and allocation of funds has been one of the significant features of the Central Government efforts for the welfare/ development of the Dalit's.

At the beginning of 21st century, Dalit's suffer from unfreedom and denial of human dignity.

Discrimination against Dalit's in the form of untouchability and this is the basis for regarding Dalit's as a distinct grouping even among poor.

For Dalit's low levels of illiteracy indicator of the denial of access to education in the past, the present and future social situation. The Dalit's are at the bottom of the society under different parameters such as wealth, social status, education, health and living conditions. With legislations for Dalit's to secure equality and human dignity. A vast variety of measures taken up as policy measures and development programs for Welfare. Objectives of Constitution includes development of Dalit's as part of equality and social justice.

The welfare and development of the Dalit's needs such as the right to live with freedom, human dignity, self-respect. Throughout the whole of rural India, Dalit's habitations usually segregated, at the outskirts of the village. Dalit's are the laboring classes, on their strength, sweat and toll the nation survives.

But after 75 years of independence Dalit's suffer from varying degrees of unfreedom and human dignity. Untouchability is the worst form of indignity for Dalit's

7. Upliftment of Suppressed Dalit Labour

Indian labor conference held in May, 1943 in its third convention to establish constitutional body related to minimum wages. Ambedkar recognized importance of minimum wages and introduced minimum wages bill on April 1946.

According to minimum wages bill, minimum wages not only fulfilling a laborers needs also labour can live with dignity, to his family, to meet the expenses of health protection and education of the children all together. Ambedkar facilitated this minimum wages act with all fundamental articles which are essential for every Indian for himself and citizens by his talent.

Ambedkar mentioned the food requirement for a each dalit to live in health condition. Ambedkar is a good visionary and architect of the Indian constitution. Before framing Constitution he got approval for minimum wages act. Ambedkar's constitutional guarantees and protections includes freedom of religion (Art 25), the abolition of untouchability (Art 17) and the outlawing of all forms of discrimination (Art 15).

Ambedkar's economic and social rights for women and for introducing a system of reservations in the civil services, schools and colleges for members of Dalit's

8. Conclusion

The builders of our Constitutions had considered it necessary to provide specific safeguards in the constitution for the uplift of Dalit communities in India. Reservation is the process of allotment of seats in educational institutions, govt. offices and legislatures for weaker sections

The Constitution has equal rights to all its citizens includes right to live with equality, honour, dignity. But the Dalit's and untouchability are still playing negative roles from different parts of India.

Untouchability is a crime. Untouchability against mehtar, sub-caste of Dalits is prevalent till now and is inhumane. Hence it is the time to adopt Ambedkar's principles. Till now nation is reeling under socio economic and political evils in the society. Effective implementation of the Constitution can surpass them.

Labour hard in social, economical and political fields to compete with the other members of the society. Citizens make all the discriminations and citizens of advanced classes have to change their views on race, religion etc. Citizens are more generous towards the Dalits w.r.t., Untouchability and Upliftment of their socio economic, political status etc. by accepting Dalit's as equal humans.

The social structure of our society is based primarily on Dalit's. Because Dalit's perform all types of menial works which are avoided by elite class citizens. Without Dalit's society won't run peacefully.

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