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## DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR AND HIS EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT

MR. S. V. Patil  
JITU, Scholar.

### Introduction-

Dr. B.R Ambedkar was not only the father of Indian Constitution but was a great freedom fighter, political leader, philosopher, thinker, writer, economist, editor, and a revivalist for Buddhism in India. His Educational philosophy stresses on development of persons and their environment. Ambedkar strongly believed that education should be provided without any discrimination to all the citizens of independent India. "Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of every one." Was the fundamental thought of Dr. B.R Ambedkar. Ambedkar believed in liberal education and based on religious inspiration of nontheistic nature. Education according to Ambedkar was a blend of pragmatism of Dewey and 'dhamma' of Buddha. He thought that education would enlighten his people and bridge the gap between the higher classes and untouchables.

### The Purpose of Education according to Ambedkar

"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

Ambedkar identified two purposes of knowledge: first, to acquire it for betterment of others and secondly to use it for one's own betterment. Ambedkar has also argued against professional learning (The British Educational System) which aims at creating a clerical nature of workers. Ambedkar emphasized on secular education for social emancipation and freedom.

Education has the sole purpose to enlighten the depressed classes so as to enhance their cause of social, economic and political upliftment. The social and ethical philosophy of Ambedkar aimed at making the depressed people aware to change their thoughts and old behavior-patterns and to move forward in the direction of unity and freedom through education. The basic theme of his philosophy of education was to inculcate the values of liberty, equality, fraternity, justice and moral character among the boys and girls of all religion, region, class and caste.

Ambedkar listed these three components as objectives for policy makers:

- 1) Recasting the aims and purposes of education,
- 2) Education as an instrument of substantive equality,
- 3) Women's education (Velaskar, 2012).

### Education is Important, Why ?

We live in an ever progressing and developing society. Education in this society is not only a demarcation of the wealthy and poor but also of the uneducated and educated. The reputation of the person depends upon the educational qualifications. Society being a cluster of different types of people and to deal with each one needs the

knowledge of the system as well as rights & duties which are known through the medium of education (Meshram, N. U. 2015). If we will not educate the child he will harm the social life and society. By education he learns to live in the society, the ways and means of the life style and the value system. The society and nation expect remarkable contribution from the hands of highly qualified and educated person. The foundation of higher education is laid in our elementary schools. So, elementary schools should be strengthened by material and manpower to produce good material for higher educational institutions. The higher qualified people are the foreman of educational factory.

### **School and Educational Institution:**

According to Dr. Ambedker, "School is a holy institution where the minds of the students are cultured". The regular working in the schools should be organized in a disciplined manner. School is the factory of making good citizens. The skilled foreman of this institution converts the raw material into a good quality product. Babasaheb started the model educational institution by establishing People's Education Society. The preference should be given to higher educational qualifications irrespective of caste and creed while appointing the teachers in the educational institutions. He given importance to the admissions of students belonging to dalit community in his institution but, the teacher of the school should be higher qualified belonging to any caste or category. He supported the co-education by saying that women should be given equal opportunity along with men to educate themselves.

### **Education and Students:**

Dr. Ambedker had served in various educational institutions as professor till years. So, he had deep understanding of the minds of the students. He said that the self confidence of the students should be raised through education and the students should not lose their self confidence at the time of examination or using the learned skill. He stressed the value education and said that students should self reliant the knowledge, intellect, politeness and strict discipline into their behavior and character. Politeness is required along with the knowledge and knowledge without politeness is useless. He also said that social emotions should also be incorporated in the students through educational process. According to Babasaheb, "To score good marks in the examinations and to get the degree is a separate issue, but, to be cultured, knowledgeable and educationist is totally different. The teacher should understand the basic problems and loopholes in the education of the students. The ability to create something new, to find the answer of questions in a logical way, to express oneself with confidence, to put the inner ideas properly in front of audience and the basic knowledge of the concepts are absent in the students." (Bhagayaya, 2015). The students should be shaped as per the need and requirement of the society and nation. The curriculum and teaching material should be framed by taking into consideration the culture, customs, duties, economy, historical perspectives, knowledge about the various societies and logical thinking in the students.

### **Conclusion:**

'Take education, be united and do the struggle' is the main message of Babasaheb to the society and

Education keeps at the first place in this message. He says that education and society have a bounded relationship because the progress and development of society is possible only through education. The power of making the man free from exploitation and slavery comes from education.

He believed that education can act as an change agent to bring equality in the society. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had done plentiful to awake the depressed class, to make them aware of their situation, to raise their voice and showed them education as a path for their political, economical and social upliftment. He motivated the Dalits to merge with the upper caste in social, economic and political aspects through the slogan of educate, agitate and organise.

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