

# ROLE OF AMBEDKAR IN MAKING MODERN INDIA: A STUDY ON HIS EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS

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## ABSTRACT:

People generally recognize Ambedkar as the father of Indian Constitution. But few of us know about his versatile genius in almost all the fields of knowledge. He was an activist, economist, philosopher, social thinker, revolutionary leader and educationist whose range of interest cannot be appreciated without considering the body of literature he has produced on different subjects.

Though his domain of action was primarily social reconstruction, he was an activist educationist too. His interest in education, however, was much more direct and pragmatic than of a theoretical immersion in the epistemological concerns of its 'discipline'. He identified education as real power to control and transform anything and wanted to use it as a weapon of social change. His educational relevance lies in the fact that he identified knowledge and power as the critical elements in construction of modernity in India.

The paper makes an attempt to comprehend Ambedkar's educational thoughts and tries to show his contribution in making modern India. Methods like scanning of books and journals, intense observation and experts opinions are used while the paper is prepared.

**Key Words:** versatile genius, modernity, Constitution, educationist, social change.

## INTRODUCTION:

The concept of modern India is complex one. If we consider the general theoretical perspective of modernization comparing traditional India with its present state, we would find a sea change. It is true that this is not the result of single day incident or effort of a single man. But we cannot deny that true modernization started in India with the British and reached at the peak of its graph at the transition of its independence. When we talk about Independent India, one vital thing comes into our mind, the Constitution of India and obviously its mastermind Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. Delving deep into his life and work one would be surprised to discover the versatility of this genius. He was a serious social reformer, genuine activist, excellent economist, true philosopher, revolutionary leader and above all an educationist. The main

workforce behind his upheaval from a member of untouchable family to the father of constitution of nation like India is the light of the civilization, true Education. He is counted among some of the most educated persons of the world having several degrees in different field from America, England and Germany. He also wanted to use education as an instrument comprising a slogan “Educate, Agitate and Organize” for the development of the common people. He took the pragmatic approach of education and instead of contributing the theoretical side of the ‘discipline’ started using it as a power to control and transform towards positivity and bring a social change. He could identify knowledge as the prime source of power and used it to reconstruct modern India.

In general Ambedkar is highlighted as the ‘Dalit hero’ and frame worker of Indian Constitution. Common people do not bother to put stigma on him now a days and this is obviously due to ignorance about him as well as for a dishonest attempt to belittle his gigantic works for the country and contribution for the construction of modern India. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 for his contribution as the “*Architect of the Modern India*”. This is a high time to explore and explain his total contribution and original philosophy behind it.

Indian society at the time of Ambedkar was predominated by caste system, superstitions, male dominance, Indian economy was preindustrial, poor agricultural system, oppression of the land lord and money lenders, Indian polity was non democratic, partly religious, under the British rule. His contribution all these field helped a lot to transform India from pre-modern to modern. **OBJECTIVE:**

1. To find out his contribution in the knowledge field.
2. To assess his role as an architect of modern India.

#### METHODOLOGY:

The present study on ‘The Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in making the Modern India’ is based on historical method and secondary data. This research is based on secondary sources that are available from the reference books given at the end of my paper.

#### AMBEDKAR AS AN EDUCATIONIST:

His contribution to the advancement of education in the country can be seen from different perspectives. But sole intention behind giving so much importance in education is clear from this opinion “If you want to develop the society then you need to spread up the education. Education eradicates the bias of people which results on to minimize the exploitation, domination, of those people who try to take the benefit of the so called illiterate people. If the people get knowledge through education then they can face the problems created by the dominators. Education reforms opinions, it tries to remove the walls built among the people.

The biggest gift that is given by the education is that it creates self confidence among us which is considered as the first stage of our development.” Participation in the budget to debate he said, “Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone. The education department is not a department which can be treated on the basis of quid pro quo. Education ought to be cheapened in all possible ways and to the greatest possible extent” (Ambedkar, 40-41). His contribution in the field of education can be seen from the following table.

Tale No: 01

Personal position as an educationist	Educational activities	Philosophy of education	Educational thoughts in every sphere
Teacher, Principal, Military Advisor, lawyer, Law Minister	Established the People's Education Society in July 1945. The main Objectives were to: 1) Search after the trust 2) Start, establish and conduct educational institutions or give aid to such institutions, started colleges at Bombay and Aurangabad, funded various Centers of learning, set up hostels for untouchable students. Established the 'Bharatiya	1. Aims of Education: upheld the democratic concept in education propounded by Dewey and wanted character formation through education. 2. Curriculum: He stressed the fact that in order to realize the aim of education such as Modernization; character formation and self realization; Science and Technology in Curriculum would go a long way in developing rationality in the learner. 3. Syllabus: the university should give broad guidelines of the subjects concerned and teachers must be given a freedom to teach what he thinks proper in the light of those guidelines 4. Methodology: Ambedkar believed in interactive teaching and	<b>Primary Education:</b> 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. Government should spend sufficient amount of money so that "every child who enters a primary school reaches the fourth standard." <b>Higher Education:</b> He stressed upon the minds of his people, the importance of self respect and self-elevation. He encouraged them to take higher education for their progress. He thought that the progress of a community always depended upon how its members advanced in education. That is why he laid more stress on higher education than on primary education. <b>University Education:</b> Colleges should not be separated from the University. It aims not so much at filling the mind of the student with facts or theories as at calling forth his own individuality and stimulating him to mental effort <b>Technical education:</b> learning and culture of the mind be complemented, it must be combined with healthy manual work. He advised students to take the fullest advantage of the facilities offered by the Government for studies in technical and higher fields <b>Religious and Cultural Education:</b> He rightly knew the importance of religion in education. He was of the opinion that "Education was a sword and being a double-edged

	Samaj Seva Sangh'	learning where the teacher is a facilitator and guide, to facilitate the learning of a student. He also stressed on self-learning.	<p>weapon, was dangerous to wield. So an educated man without character and humility was more dangerous than a beast. If his education was detrimental to the welfare of the poor, he remarked the educated man was a curse to society.</p> <p><b>Education for Women:</b> He thought that the downtrodden progress would be greatly accelerated if male education was pursued side by side with female Education. He was a believer in women's progress. He measured the progress of a community by the degree of the progress which women achieved. He fought for human rights equally for both men and women.</p>
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### CONTRIBUTION OF AMBEDKAR AS ONE OF THE MAKER OF MODERN INDIA:

Ambekar gave his utmost effort to incorporate maximum issues of life keeping in mind for modernistic progress of India in the frame work of Constitution. Apart from that he raised different critical issues, fought against them and utilizes his knowledge and influence to upgrade India to a modern and model country. The issues are discussed in the table below.

Table No: 02

Issues	Books and writings	activities	Ideas
Socio-political	Small Holdings in India and their Remedies, Paramountcy and the Claim of the Indian States to be independent, Federation versus Freedom, Annihilation of Caste.	Decided to set up Vidhan Sabha Assemblies (State Assemblies) and Self Rule in states. Formed Independent Labour Party to secure Dalit participation. Formed "Samta Sainik Dal" of Dalit youth	He summarized the delivery mechanism of justice stating that 'in fact social justice is the end, judicial justice is the means, the legislative and executive operations are human engineering and together the three branches of government have to work in the country so that the constitution may fulfill its purpose.' HE is also one of the proponents of social justice in Modern India. He tried to achieve social justice and social democracy in terms of 'one man-one value'.
Economical	Statement of Evidence to Royal Commission on Indian Currency, The Evolution of Provincial finance in British India : A Study in the Provincial, History of Indian currency and banking, Ancient Indian Commerce,	He had set up "Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission" (CWI NC). He also set up Electricity Boards for power generation and distribution. In fact Dr. Ambedkar laid the foundation of industrialisation of India by making plans for power generation. Damodar valley project, Hirakud project	He contributed a lot to lay the foundation of India's industrialization and modernization. In this field his important contribution is welfare of labour classes, agriculture irrigation, and preparation of water transport schemes. Hence as Labour Minister he got enacted many labour laws out of which Indian Trade Union Act,



		and Sone river project.	Industrial Disputes Act, Compensation, Working Hours and Maternity Benefit are the main laws. He put a ban on the working of women in deep mines ignoring opposition from the British.
Social	"The Untouchables", "The Shudra, Who were they and how they come to be the fourth varna of Indo-Aryan society", "Caste in India, its mechanism, genesis and development" , "Hindu Social Order: Its essential principles", "Philosophy of Hinduism" and 'Annihilation of Caste".	He Put up a bill for enforcing a population control in Bombay Assembly in 1940. In 1952 when he was Law Minister of India he took a lot of pains to prepare Hindu Code Bill and placed it before the Parliament. He was one of the founders of Employment Exchanges in our country.	He believed in peaceful methods of social change. Initiated the 'liberation movement'. He attempted at explaining, interpreting and criticizing the Hindu Social Order and came up with his own normative ideas of an alternative system of society which was to be based on justice. He was also of the view that in such a social framework there was no distinction between legal and moral aspects of the society and thus what was treated morally as right and good, there was legal sanction for that too.
Religion	"Buddha and Karl Marx", "Manu and the Shudras", "Buddha and his Dharma, Philosophy of Hinduism, Riddles of Hinduism".	Ambedkar took "Religion to mean the propounding of an ideal scheme of divine governance the aim and object of which is to make the social order in which men live a moral order"	That all religions are true and equally good; That God is an essential element of a religion; That religion must necessarily nourish a scheme of divine governance, an ideal for society to follow; That infallibility of religious books as divine authority must be maintained; That the sole aim of an individual's life is the salvation of soul (Moksha); That the relation of morality to God and religion is necessary; That the tests of justice and social utility to judge the relevance of a religion must be applied; and That whether or not a religion should be based on rules or principles.

## CONCLUSION:

Ambedkar was one of the greatest thinkers in the socio-political and socio-economical fields of India. His thoughts were very modern and up-to-date. His contribution in modernizing India is multidimensional. He perceived India as a agrarian country and development of agro industry and agriculture got prime importance in his thought. He realized that without the development of economy a county cannot get progress and modernized. He get emphasis on industrialization too. Unemployment problem did not get out of his sight. Issues like achieving social justice, removal of untouchability, in establishing equality and freedom and true democracy are too much relevant even now a days. In conclusion, it can be said that his analytical insight and educational depth provides an answer to the question of whether we, the Indians, achieve religious tolerance, human equality and freedom, true democracy,

gender respect in the society, justice and peace. His political philosophy will ever guide the nation on the path of justice, liberty and equality. Thus, we conclude Ambedkar was one of the foremost makers of Modern India.

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