

Dr AMBEDKAR'S EFFORTS FOR WOMEN EDUCATION AND PRESENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract

From the ancient to the Modern Times women has subject of study. The changing status of women and position of the women in different periods and different civilizations have very greatly influenced her upbringing and education. Dr.B.R. Ambedkar proved himself to be and known as a great radical, philosopher, theorist, jurist par Excellence, social activist and critic. As he was born as an untouchable his ideas were never received any satisfactory thoughtfulness in Indian society. His view on women clutches in pre and post independent India his role in empowering women of the society through constitutional safeguard, his slogan "Educate, organize, and agitate" helped women to mobilize in the freedom movement. Dr. B.R Ambedkar, Fighter for the dignity of man and a deprived people, a great thinker of women and their rights. In order to full fill his dream he started working for the upliftment of women and their rights. The main aim of this paper is to focus on the women rights and uplifting of women through education in the view of Ambedkar at present day in India.

Keywords: Women rights constitutional safeguards, Education, India

Introduction

"It is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and again social status, economic determine and political freedom". B.R Ambedkar

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar also popularly known as the Babasaheb Ambedkar, was a Indian Jurist, politician, social reformer and the Messiah of downtrodden and depressed people of India. He encouraged the modern Buddhist movement and campaign against social discrimination in India, endeavoring for equal social rights for Dalits women and laborers. He he was the first law minister of independent India and the chief architect of the Constitution of India. Ambedkar was the first reformer who rules out the barriers in the way of advertisement of India society and especially women. He could be considered as "The Bible of Indian constitution" from ancient day to still today women in India or struggling with her social status and their respectable place in the society where women were facing many problems. At the time, Ambedkar took certain constructive and needed steps in favour of Indian women to make the Independent and socially strong.

Today we could see the Revolutionary changes in the position of Indian women. Due to revolutionary changes brought by our constitution and efforts made by Indian women, they have earned themselves a respectable position in the society. Now they are treated equally with the men. Today women are everywhere and to be precise women or in the space, women are in corporate women are in the politics, women or in entertainment field and defenses field.

Need of the study

To analyse whether the constitutional status of women is well defined and study the equal status of women after the implementation of constitution with reference to the educational rights.

Significance of the study

Views regarding Women

“It is possible to think about Welfare of world unless the condition of women is improve .It is impossible for a bird fly on only one wing.” Swami Vivekananda

In Indian society, man and women are considered to be the two wheels of the chariot of life. In every sphere. Women are described in the Mahabharata, light of the House, mothers of the Universe and the supporters of the earth and all its forest.” After attaining Independence , the Government of India Planed to provide equal rights and status as men by means developmental programs. The status of women in India has been subjected to great changes over the past years. The status of women social, economic, political and general in India Today is much higher than in ancient and medieval periods.

Women in India now participate fully in areas such as education, sports, political, media, art, culture, science and technology. Even in the current modern society the women are enjoying their rights and provisions. There have been innumerable debates about gender in India over the years. Much of it includes women's positing in society, their education, health, economic position, gender equality. Women in India slowly started recognize her true potential. she has started questioning the rules laid down for her by the society. As a result she has started breaking barriers and earned respectable position in the world. Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visit space station .Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, Technology everywhere it's women power all along.

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND AMBEDKAR

On 26th January 1950 when the constitution of India came into power then Dr. Ambedkar said “ we are going to enter into life of contradiction in which we will have to equality in social and economic life and for equally among the political we will be recognize the principles of one man one vote and one vote one value.

Reason for incorporation of Constitutional Provisions

“we shall see the better days soon and our progress will be greatly accelerated if male education is persuaded side by side with the female education”. Dr. BR Ambedkar During his studies at New York, Dr. Ambedkar had expressed his view to his father's friend through a letter. He greatly focused on moral values based society because moral values is imperfect without education. According to him “Morality comes in only when man comes in relation to women with love and respect”, and for the progress of the society two things are essential first man has to be moral and second, the need of veracious relation attached with the great importance i.e.,

social Morality.

While drafting the Constitution of India, he has prime and animator of the provisions related to the Welfare of women and worked with, dedication, enthusiasm and faith. On becoming the chairman of the Constitution of drafting committee and the first law minister of independent India, he gave India living and organic constitution, enshrining all those conditions which are necessary to promote fraternity among the citizens of free India, including women.

All efforts are reflect from the Preamble of the constitution of India that proclaims to resolve, we, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a (sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic). Dr. Ambedkar considered law as the instrument of creating a rational social order in which the development of individual's personality should be in harmony with the growth of society.

Dr.Ambedkar and women rights in India

Ambedkar contribution was a great in the field of women's empowerment who advocated Liberation of women and gentle equality in India. If there are any person worked for women's Liberation in India they were none other than Budha, Ambedkar, EV.Ramasamy Periyar and Phule. Without Ambedkar, at least whatever so changes position of women today in India would be only question mark. Many leaders fought for the women's rights in India most of the failed in the action. His perception of human questions, emphasized their right to education, equals treatment with the men, right to property and involvement in the political process resembled the global feminists demand. The vision of Dr. BR Ambedkar about women is explicitly depicted in Indian constitution. He tried an adequate inclusion of women's right in the political vocabulary and constitution of India.

Constitutional provision

The constitution gave enough scope for the protection of civil rights of women from any sort of discrimination under the article which are the following below;

Article 14 provide equal rights and opportunities to women in political, economic and social spheres.

Article 15- prohibits discrimination among women with respect to men on the ground of sex, color, place, status and birth and also banned the sale and purchase of women prevailing in India. Article 15(3) enable positive discrimination in favour of women.

Article 39 Equal means of Livelihood and equal pay for equal work with the health strength of women and the tender age children.

Article 39(A) the state to ensure that the operation of legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity and to provide for free legal aid for securing, justice. Inserted in 1976.

Article 42- the state shall make provision for securing just and human conditions of work and for maternity relief. This article proposed strongly in Bombay Legislative Council, 1928 said, it is in the interest of the Nation that the mother ought to get a certain amount of rest of the during the prenatal period and also subsequently.

Article 46- The state to promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker section of the people and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

Article 47- It is the duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and improvement of public health, and also state have a duty to endeavor to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medical purpose of intoxication drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

Article 51(A)(e) This article comes under part IV-A of the Directive Principles of State Policy which talks about the fundamental duties to renounce practices, derogatory to the dignity of women and promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among the people.

And in order to promote woman in political field, Article 243D(3), 243T(3) and 243R(4) provides direction for allocation of seats in the Panchayat Raj System.

Statutory Laws

The Constitution of India has been the source of guidance and direction for the numerous revolutionary laws that gives the equal status to women with that of men. Various laws have been ordained in order to eradicate all incongruence's and dissimilarities against women. Dr. Ambedkar laid down the establishment of concrete principle which can be extended for the development of the Indian society with modernizing its social and political institutions.

The Legal Practitioners (women) Act, 1923

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956,

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961,

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961,

Equal Remuneration Act, 1984,

The Sati Prevention Act, 1987,

Nation Commission for Women Act, 1990,

The Protection of Human Right Act, 1993,

The Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

To ensure women's status Dr. Ambedkar had also introduced an emancipator bill(the Hindu Code Bill) in Parliament which proposed mainly,

- 1) To abolish different marriage systems prevalent among Hindus and to establish monogamy as the only legal system
- 2) Conferment of right to property and adoption on women
- 3) Conjugal rights and judicial separation; attempts to unify the Hindu code in tune with progressive and modern thought.

The Hindu Code Bill

Ambedkar not only ascertain constitutional guarantees to women but also introduced and got past four Acts which strengthened the position of women in the society. These were incorporated in the Hindu Code Bill,

- 1) The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- 2) The Hindu Succession Act, 1956,
- 3) The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956
- 4) The Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956.

Analysis and Discussion

Women and their Education

"In order to awaken the people it is the women who has to be awakened. Once she is on the moves, the village moves and the country moves and the country moves; and through the

women, its children are brought in to the picture and given the opportunity of a healthier life and better training. Thus, the children of today we build the India tomorrow.” Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Dr. Ambedkar's approach to women's empowerment was entirely different from other social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajaram Mohanroy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Mahatma Gandhi who tried to reform the Hindu Society of certain outdated customs and practices without questioning the hierarchical social order. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and Ambedkar were leaders of the lower castes in India who took various initiatives to make education available to women of India. However women's education got filled after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures to provide education to all India women. He believed that society should be based on reason and not atrocious tradition of caste system. Dr. Ambedkar fought for tooth and nail for women's economic liberation and for securing woman's social rights.

Traditionally women are more backward in every aspect in our society comparatively with men. Women's education is an instrument for liberation not only of women but of the Indian society as a whole. During the past few decades planning of the socially, educationally and economically disadvantaged groups have been accelerated in India. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their children, but also provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population.

Education especially for women is an important agent of socialization, and instrument of social transformation, and a channel of social mobility and equality. Education of girls and women has to be a universal movement for their empowerment, for changing current stereotyped and replacing the existing considered a key instrument for this change, which is responsible for national development. It is true to the saying, if you educate a boy you educate an individual, but if you educate a girl, you educate a family, society and ultimately the nation', His western education and deep understanding of the western philosophers helped him to evolve as a visionary who had developed clear ideas for the emancipation of women in India. He could translate many of his ideas and visions into specific policies and institutions during his stint as the architect of Indian constitution and as the law minister of India.

Dr. Ambedkar's perception on women's problem emphasized on women's right to education right to property, involvement in the political process, gender equality which resembled with the global feminist demand. He started his movement in 1920 and believed in the strength of women and their role in the process of social reform and progress of the society which can be achieved by accelerating male education persuaded side with female education. He started his movements in 1920 raised his voice against the Hindu social order and social order system through renowned journal Mook Nayak (1920) and Bahishkrit Bharat (1927). The content of all issues to be on gender equality, women education and exposed the problems relate to women

and other depressed class.

Education liberates women from ignorance and enhances their self-esteem. It enables them to choose their own way and look after their families in a better way. Napoleon has rightly said, 'Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized nation'. The education commission's report rightly observed, "the destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom." Women's education bring about more awareness. An educated mother becomes more knowledgeable vigilant enhancing their ability to rear and bring up children in a better way. The revised National Education Policy (1986) part IV, entitled "Educated for Equality" says that:

1. Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women in order to neutralize the accumulated discussions of the past it will be faster the development of new values through the red designed curriculum text books the training and active environment of educational institution.
2. In the removal of women's literacy and obstacles inhibiting their access to and retention in elementary education. Major emphasis will be given on women's participation in vocational technical and professional education at different levels and effective monitoring is also taken into consideration.

Our constitution directs clearly that effort should be made for equality in educational opportunities irrespective of sex, religion, caste and social or economic status. But ,this is far from being reality. Even after Independence there still exists a great disparity between the level of male and female education. Empowerment of women is directly linked with education. Educations of the girl child enable her to protest against her early marriage. Despite various measures taken, the status of women continues to remain backward with gradual spread of education and empowerment, the position of women has begun to change. It is the policy of the Government, to bring them into the mainstream.

In the women and counter Revolution and Riddle of Women Ambedkar portrays the way in which Manu treated women. He pointed out that the laws of Manu on the status of women are very important in mounding the Hindu attitude and perspective towards women, perpetuated and maintained through Hindu personal laws based on shastra, caste and endogamy, i.e. the base of Indian patriarchy. He attacked Manusmriti as a major source, which legitimizes the denial of freedom, self-respect, right to education, property, divorce etc., to women by attributing a very lofty ideal to them.

Education to women is most influential instrument of changing their position in the society. Education also brings about decline in inequalities and also acts as a means to enhance their status in family and Society. In order to boost education of women at all levels and to dilute gender bias in the provision and acquaintance of education, schools, college and even especially from marginalized families , into the mainstream of education, government has been providing free supply of books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for hostilities, mid-day meals scholarships, free bicycles and so on.

The right to education is precisely introduced from international human rights perspectives of constitution of India. The right to education is protected as a social and economic right in constitution. With globalization women have come out of the four walls of the home and entered in the new aspects of life leading to the overall development of the community and in turn the whole nation. Education of women has now been made possible through various policies and norms. Obtaining education equally helps women to work shoulder to shoulder to men and reach newer heights.

It is the priceless efforts of Dr. Ambedkar, which enable women to have rights like ,custody of child , provision of alimony(maintenance allowance from husband on getting legally separation) under Indian Divorce Act 1869, adoption of child by widow, rights over parental property, mother can change guardianship of minor by will, prohibition of child marriage generally which was strictly followed by Indian families, a uniform scheme for succession to the property of a Hindu female who dies intestate. Also women are holding high position of authority in all fields including Engineering, Higher Education, Defense Academy, police Administration, politics, Foreign Services, Industry and Trade.

Inference

“I measure the progresss of a community by the degree of progress which womenhave achieved.” Dr.B.R.Ambedkar

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a path –maker of all the women irrespective of religion, caste, creed, gender and brought a new trend for uprising women through his thoughts and beliefs. Along with women all the people of India should be proud for the tremendous and everlasting steps for the empowerment of women in the Indian society is over looked. So it is a duty of every Indian to fulfill the dreams of Ambedkar for a better life world of women.

As society, develop and education become widespread amongst both men and women, the well-defined lines of demarcation between the function, role and jobs of men and women get blurred. This has already started happening in India. It is indisputable that the education of women is absolute necessity. This has been realized by all those responsible for India's policy formulations. The Education commission of 1964-65 wrote.” For full development of our human resourced the improvement of homes and of molding the character of the children during the most impressionable years of the infancy the education of women is even of greater importance than that of men.

In present scenario the Indian women have progressed a lot in a variour parts of their life although they are still suffering from various social evils like dowry, eve-teaching, rap etc. It is a fact that in the glorious development of Indian society, the Indian women have march forward to the developmental process an somewhere treated equally with their male counterparts but yet it should be noted that Indian women should still have given the equal rights and opportunity with men as to establish a shinging India where women can freely and equally irrespective of religion, caste, creed, gender. Dr. Ambedkar's slogan on Unity ,Educioation and Agitation helped women to mobilize in freedom movement. Unity is

meaningless without the accompaniment of women. Education is fruit-less without educated women and Agitation is incomplete without the strength of women.

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