

Ambedkar's Concept of Social Justice: It's Relevance

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Abstract—Ambedkar was a transparently honest challenging and eclectic liberal thinkers. He originate brainwave in the ideals of the French revolution and also in the socially forward looking and humanistic elements and values in Indian culture and civilization over the many decades ago. He campaigned against social discrimination against Dalits, along with this he was supporting the rights of Women and labor. Like Gandhi, B.R Ambedkar also believed that justice is all about liberty, equality and fraternity. Social justice has significance in the context of Indian society which is divided into Castes and Communities and they create walls and barriers of exclusiveness on the basis of superiority and inferiority such inequalities pose serious threat to Indian democracy. The notion of social justice takes within its brush the objective of removing inequalities and affording equal opportunities to all citizens in social, economic and political affairs. Therefore Ambedkar tried to solve the problems of Injustice through the constitutionalism. Here this paper deals with the concept of Ambedkar's social justice and focus the relevance of it.

Keywords— B.R.Ambedkar, Social Justice, relevance etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of social justice is very wide and it relates to the stability between an Individuals rights and social control. It covers everything ranging from the protection of the interests of the minorities, of the abolition of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. It is an elemental role of a state to erect a just society. The concept of Social Justice emerged out of a process of appraisal of social norms, order, law and morality. It lay highlighting upon just action and shaped space for intervention in the society by enforcing rules and regulations based on the principles of social equality. India has been implementing social justice programmes through its reservation policy which is in reality a challenging one from its very commencement. The main cause of injustice in Indian society is the caste system. All human being are equal by birth but few people constructed caste system based on occupations. B.R.Ambedkar, the great social reformer had addressed these issues in different way during the independence movement period against injustice in society. His concept of social justice stands for the liberty, equality and social justice of all human beings. He worked for the Dalit rights, women rights, backward castes, minorities and working

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class people and struggle all his life for the minimum dignity of all human beings irrespective of caste or class. He was one of the most educated persons of all politicians of his time with multiple degrees from India and abroad who proved that intellectual is not the property of any particular caste but given an opportunity the most despised on the earth can also surpass any other castes or classes. He analyzed about the 'shudras' and 'untouchables' in details in his works. Ambedkar is the person who advocated human dignity, liberty, equality and fraternity through the legal provision. He brought dignity to the lives of the so-called Untouchables. Here this paper is given core concern on the Ambedkar ideas on social justice and highlighted the relevance of Ambedkar ideas on social justice.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the paper are as follows:

1. To Access the ideas of Ambedkar's social justice.
2. To highlighted the relevance of Ambedkar's social justice.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present paper is followed the historical, analytical and descriptive methods. At the same time data can be collected through secondary data. The secondary data can be collected from all published works i.e. reference books, journals, periodicals, magazine, newspaper cuttings and using different websites.

IV. AMBEDKAR'S CONCEPT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Before analyzed Ambedkar concept of social justice it is important to understand the basic concept of Justice. Justice in the modern sense means the fulfillment of the legitimate expectation of individual under laws and to ensure him benefits promised therein. Justice must hold together liberty, equality and fraternity. Justice lies in doing one's own duty without causing any injustice to others. Justice is a very multifaceted concept, as it has a number of sources and dimensions. It has been examined by different people from different viewpoints within the limits of the time, place and conditions they lived in. Social justice as a guiding and evaluative principle is always vibrant because it takes accumulation of the changing situation and suggests the abolition or modification of unjust custom, tradition and social structures to promote the welfare of the people and the preservation of the rights of the rights of the poor and weaker sections of society. The corner stone of Ambedkar's concept of social justice is as earlier referred to 'justice' for Ambedkar "is simply another name for liberty, equality and Fraternity". According to Dr. Ambedkar the concept of justice does not simply mean the distribution of social wealth, but basically a mode of life based on liberty, equality and fraternity. Dr. Ambedkar's vision of Social Justice emanates from his quest for a 'Just Society', which is based on the idea of a casteless society. The ideals of social justice denote brotherly relations of a citizen with every other citizen in our society and it abhors caste barriers between man and man and demand respect for all citizens from everyone. Ambedkar's concept of social justice stands for the liberty, equality and fraternity of all human beings. He stood for a social system that is based on right relations between man and man in all spheres of his life. As a rationalist and humanist, he did not approve of any type of insincerity, injustice and

exploitation of man by man in the name of religion. For the proper grasp of Dr. Ambedkar's concept of social justice, one has to go through his views about religion. The social justice of Ambedkar is insisting justice to all and he had seen Buddha Dharma as a religion of social justice in which he was successful. He was the creator of the constitution of India and desired to create an equalitarian society through the process of constitution making. He dreamt of an India where there would be no discrimination between man and man. In short, the core of Dr. Ambedkar's concept of social justice is the unity and equality of all human beings, autonomously of considerations of class, caste, gender and caste, with respect to respect, rights, benevolence, mutual love, sympathy, tolerance and charity towards fellow beings, the dignity of all citizens, the abolition of caste-distinction, education and property for all, good will and gentleness. To Dr. Ambedkar, justice is the foundation of moral order and justice is related with equality. Justice is to be secured through Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Therefore in our constitution of India has invoking the spirit of India's people of all castes, creeds and communities to secure to all its citizens:

“Justice, social, economic and political

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

Equality of status and of opportunities and promote among them all

Fraternity assuring the dignity of the Individual and the unity of the nation”

Ambedkar argued that the concept of Hindu social system creates inequality in society. He believes that Buddhism is the best way to be adopted to promote peaceful social livelihood. As it is known to all the Hindu religion creates caste system based on occupation. Ambedkar says that caste is an artificial chopping of the population into fixed and definite units each one prevented from fusing into another group through the custom of endogamy. He quotes “caste is the monster that crosses your path; you can't have political and social reform unless you kill this monster”.

According to Dr. Ambedkar the root cause of social injustice to the Scheduled Castes (S.C) and Scheduled Tribes (S.T) is the Caste system in Hindu society. He observed, Castes are enclosed units and it is their conspiracy with clear conscience that compels the ex-communicated to make them into a Caste. The logic of their obdurate circumstance is merciless and it is in obedience to its force that some unfortunate groups find themselves closed out with the result that now groups by a mechanical law are constantly being converted into Castes in a widening multiplicity. Social justice is the concept of distribution of benefits to the people of the society. In every country Constitution is the fundamental and recognized source of social justice Constitution formulates the social justice in definite ways, these ways are status of individual, wants, satisfaction, wealth, education and job etc. these requirements are essential benefits for the full and dignified development of human beings. In India, Constitution provides that the state as a form of social welfare organ will distribute these needs to the Indian people. The concept of social justice has been enshrined in the Indian Constitution. B.R. Ambedkar had the dream of a new social,

economic and political order, the soul of which was social justice. He was fully aware of the pattern and problems of the society and their conflicting interests. The Constitution of India brings a renaissance in the concept of social justice and it provides social, economic and political justice to the citizen of sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic of India. These provisions of the fundamental rights of the Constitution are related to the real concept of social justice. In addition to these, the part IV of the Constitution as directive principles of state of policy is the important part of the Social justice. Therefore Ambedkar tried to solve the problem of inequality through the philosophy of Constitutionalism. Dr. Ambedkar insisted on social justice because it includes all kinds of justice, namely, legal, economic, political, divine, religious, natural, distributive, administrative as also welfare of children and women.

V. RELEVENCE OF AMBEDKARS SOCIAL JUSTICE

India celebrates the 69th Anniversary of her Republic; however, the last speech of B R Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly holds significant relevance till today. Dr B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts on social justice were very progressive. He did not believe in violence; he well thought-out that the press to be a powerful tool for social changes for justice and freedom. Injustice is seen everywhere not only western countries but India also. Since the very beginning India has suffered from the problem of untouchables. So many social reformers of India emerged to fight against injustice in favor of Dalit communities, however a few leader successfully communicated they own ideas to societies towards the welfare of depressed society. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar a person from the untouchables who was an architect of Indian constitution. In India so many social reformers emerged to fight against injustice infavor of Dalit communities, however a few leaders successfully communicated their own ideas to societies towards the welfare of depressed society. In general, Ambedkar worked for the Dalit rights, women rights, backward caste, minorities and working class people and struggled all his life for the minimum dignity of all human beings irrespective of caste or class. He did a movement amongst marginalized communities. His concept of justice generated from the French revolution of 1789. Ambedkar's perspective of social justice is based on social democracy which consist of three concept of justice namely liberty, equality and fraternity. His notion of social justice is based on equal rights and human dignity through legal framework. As a result of his thought Indian constitution grants equal rights to all. Ambedkar socio economic and political notions have accepted by everyone to address contemporary socio-political issues. He believed in Dalit movement which is for freedom and justice and considered that law is an important powerful weapon to fight against discrimination. Ambedkar concerned about over all development of vulnerable section of the Indian society and demolishing it by enacting constitution. Therefore his notion of social justice is relevant in contemporary Indian society to accomplishing just society within framework of constitutional and legal methods. The inception of the Indian constitution in 1950 was a significant event not only in the political history of India but also in the history of 'social justice' and 'human rights'. At the same time it has provided equal rights and privileged to the citizen at large. He argued for extensive economic and social rights for the depressed classes and was introducing a system of reservations of jobs in the civil services, school and colleges particularly for the member of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. For the cognizance of the backward class; Ambedkar talked about education. For him education facilities should be provided to those who are

illiterate and backward and on the other hand, to those who wipe out the root of caste system in order to realize the ethos of democracy at ground level. So Dr. B.R.Ambedkar is known as the chief draftsman of the Indian constitution. He raised voices for the rights of backward people.

Hence in the present context Indian constitution stands incorporate the social and political philosophy of B.R. Ambedkar which is most noticeably evident in the various provisions of the constitution, the preamble, part III, part IV and part XVI. Among others are determined to establish a 'just society' by upholding the concept of liberty, equality, fraternity and safeguarding the unity of the country. Again Untouchability is not only prohibited but it is made punishable by law. India is plural society, multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-linguistic for which democracy is most for balanced social and religion development. However without social justice democracy cannot be survived. In the present century to understand the concept of social is very necessary. Ambedkar socio-economic and political notion has accepted by everyone to address contemporary socio-political issues. In the present context, his notion of social justice could not achieve as a proper manner. So we need such institution or civil society which will propagated Ambedkar's concept of social justice. Large number of cases of Dalit atrocities and violence against Dalit's has been seen in the post colonial India. Even today, such incidents are occurred in the large numbers across the entire nation and often reported in the daily newspaper. The Indian state and its institution have somewhat to live up to the ethos of its democratic constitution in general. Still inequalities have been seen in the depressed class particularly the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. However, keeping in mind the increasing cases of caste related violence and Dalit atrocities, his vision is yet to be realized in the practice and it is the task of government to make effort to achieve it. Dalit and non-Dalit community shall come forward to understand the idea of Ambedkar's social justice. Ambedkar concerned about over all development of vulnerable section of the Indian society and demolished exerting castes discrimination by enacting constitution. Therefore Ambedkar's concept of social justice is relevant in contemporary Indian society to accomplishing just society within framework of constitutional and legal methods. The scheduled tribes are socially and economically infirm and disabled even today. They were provided constitutional safeguards by providing reservation in service and posts but in private sector, there is no such concession. So government must take initiative to provide representation in scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in private sector too. In the era of globalization, privatization and liberalization the concept of social justice has assumed a greater significance. Many multinational companies by insisting for merit have discarded the concept of social justice. All MNC's should be made to work within the constitutional framework so as to ensure social justice to schedule caste, schedule tribes and women in India. For this the state should make various rules, regulation and procedures.

Today Ambedkar is not with us, but in his free India, social and economic differences have amplified multiple. As a result, where on the one hand, there are buildings those touching the sky and 5-star hotels are found in the cities, on the other hand, there are dirty drains, places full of mud and there are the huts that speak of a hellish life, even worse than the life of animals. In such a situation, the thoughts of establishing a society based on equality appears only like a dream. Social differences and untouchability have not been removed due to the difficult caste system and the blind faiths that have been continuing for centuries

Dr.Ambedkar provided a precious Constitution to the newly awakened India. As the principal Architect of our Constitution he ensured the basic human rights against the state, the dignity of the individual, socio-economic justice and equality, promotion of social harmony and better standards of life with peace and security in all sphere of life. Inauguration the statue in the compound of Parliament House in New Delhi, Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, President of the Indian Republic, in 2nd April 1967, said, “The people of India will ever remain grateful to Dr.Ambedkar for devoting all his time and talent in framing a worthy Constitution. India can never forget such a great son. The Smritis or the laws written by Manu have no relevance today. But Dr.Ambedkar, the architect of modern India’s Constitution, has proved by his wisdom and intellect that great Rishis like him can take birth in any community. Dr.Ambedkar was not only an eminent Constitutional expert; he had also mastery over the Hindu philosophy and Hindu social laws. I feel pride in unveiling this statue of Dr.Ambedkar”

VI. CONCLUSION

Dr. B.R.Ambedkar has tried all kind of strategies during his life for eradicating castes and emancipating the Dalit from these oppressive social systems. Still Ambedkar’s vision of social justice has not been get triumph. The Indian constitution provides several such provisions which tried to achieve the goal of social justice in letter and spirit batten. As, it is common to all that social justice means a way of life with monumental liberty, equality, fraternity as the principle of life. A true essence of social justice cannot be established without removing the inequalities in states though the rule of law.Dr. Ambedkar had a definite perspective behind advocating the need for reforming society as a whole. Ambedkar advocated the importance of social justice to establish a casteless society for the full development of the individual, society and the country as a whole.

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