

The Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Nation Building and National Integration

Mr. Barakatali Halakeri

Dept. of Education,
Anjuman Arts, Science and Commerce College, Dharwad.

Abstract:

Present paper revels about the way Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's contribution towards the nation building as well the way of developing national integration. A genuine emancipator of Dalits, a great National leader and patriot, a great author, a great educationalist, a great political philosopher, a great religious guide and above all a great humanist. Dr. Ambedkar was a great nationalist, social thinker, political reformer, philosophical writer with progressive ideas. He stood for all political, social and cultural actions which increased the reason of human development and happiness. In this process, Dr. Ambedkar emerges not only as a Valliant upholder of the Indian democratic republic, but too captures the outstandingly distinctive place in the Indian Pantheon as an unusual intellectual mass leader who awakened the social conscience of contemporary India. In this paper it discussed about Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's contribution towards the nation building was amazing and outstanding performance of our great persons of India.

Keyword: Nation Building, Role of Education, Social Reformation and National Integration

Introduction:

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (14 April 1891-06 December 1956), popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was a jurist, social reformer and politician. He is also known as the Father of Indian Constitution. A well-known politician and an eminent jurist, his efforts to eradicate social evils like untouchability and caste restrictions were remarkable. Throughout his life, he fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes. Ambedkar was appointed as India's first Law Minister in the Cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr. Ambedkar was appointed as the chairman of the constitution drafting committee on August 29, 1947. Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar represents a multifaceted personality contributing immensely to enrich various facets of Indian national life. As a political activist and as a mass leader, Babasaheb was raising issues far ahead of his times, hence a radical approach was required to galvanise support for his agenda of social reform so as to bring the issue of caste discrimination and untouchability to the central focus. As an academician, he tried to frame scholarly and well researched responses on the burning issues of the day which remain relevant even today.

He was a renowned social reformer, politician and jurist. Ambedkar is called the Father of Indian Constitution. He was born in a family of Mahar caste of Hindu household, which is viewed as

a caste of untouchables. Due to caste discrimination, Ambedkar had to face a lot of discrimination in the society from time-to-time. Ambedkar was the founder member of the Independent Labor Party. Later, the name was changed to Scheduled Castes Federation by Babasaheb and later evolved as the Republican Party of India. His party fought the 1937 Bombay election to the Central Legislative Assembly for 13 reserved and four general seats, he won 11 and 3 seats respectively. Babasaheb was appointed as the Union Law Minister and Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee. He simultaneously started working as a social activist fighting against caste discrimination and untouchability then widely prevalent in Indian society. His activism and scholarly espousal of the cause of the deprived and oppressed sections soon saw him emerging as a political leader of national stature. He is seen as a chief architect of Indian constitution who laid the foundation of liberal democracy in the country expecting the state to take welfare measures in the interest of weaker sections of the society. He laid special emphasis on dignity, unity, freedom, and rights for all citizens as enshrined in the constitution. Ambedkar advocated democracy in every field social, economic, political. For him social justice meant maximum happiness to the maximum number of people.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar as a Nation Builder

As we discussed above the way how national integration was achieved and this is the major role in building the nation also. The great personality Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and his ideas of nation building was possessed great foresight and his warnings about the future of India ring so true even today. In a speech before the constituent assembly he cautioned his fellow legislators against the use of non-constitutional methods of protest, such as civil disobedience and Satyagraha, because they were essentially an anarchic in nature. He rallied against the Indian tendency to engage in hero worship. He was afraid that the people of India would lay their liberation at the feet of someone they worshipped or entrust them with extraordinary limitless powers. In this way he tries to unite all Indians, also underlined the importance of creating not just a political democracy, but also a social and economic one. His PhD thesis was inspired to set up for the Finance Commission of India and his works helped a lot in framing guidelines for the RBI Act 1934. He was one of the founders of Employment Exchanges in our country. He played a vital role in establishment of the National Power Grid System, Central Water Irrigation, Navigation Commission, Damodar valley project, Hirakud project and Sone river project. He stood for all political, social and cultural actions which increased the reason of human development and happiness.

He was the soul for the constitution of India. He crusaded for the betterment of the exploited and depressed classes. He stood rare crusading spirit, carving out in this procedure plays important role for himself between the leading architects of modern India. Lot of effort have been made to unite the people also worked towards the achieving the harmony in the diverse nature of our nation. There is no doubt that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a great nation builder.

Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Developing National Integration

In the Draft Constitution Dr. Ambedkar prescribed single citizenship, a single judiciary and uniformity in fundamental Laws to integrate Indian society which was not only divided into caste and class, but also into regions, religions, languages, traditions and cultures. Therefore, a strong Centre

was indispensable to maintain territorial integrity and administrative discipline. However, in the Draft Constitution he suggested the acceptance of Hindi in the 'nagiri' script as the National Language of India. When it was finally decided that India should be divided into India and Pakistan, Dr. Ambedkar at that time demanded the division of Punjab and Bengal, and the territories to be added to India. A pragmatist to the core, Ambedkar believed that in the absence of economic and social justice political independence would not bring about their social solidarity or, national integration. He advocated the abolition of privileges on the basis of caste or status and vigorously fought for the liberty and dignity of the individual. At the same time, he was equally force-full in his advocacy of the unity of the nation. Ambedkar sought to achieve these objectives through the constitution of India by incorporating in it the following principles. (1) Making the Indian constitution workable, flexible enough and strong enough to hold the country together both in peace and war time. (2) Providing special safeguards to the minorities and certain classes who are socially and educationally backward. (3) Incorporating the principle of one man, one value, and one man, one vote. Thus, the constitution of India accepted one individual and net on village as a unit. (4) Incorporating exceptions and qualifications to the FRs while advocating, preventive detention and emergency powers of the president of India. (5) Abolishing untouchability and forced labour to achieve the ideal of "one man, one value, and one man, one vote", and placing all people equal before the law; securing equal protection of laws for every citizens as also freedom of profession and equality of opportunity. (6) Incorporating the right to constitutional remedies for making the right real. This was the remarkable contribution of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar towards our national integration.

Dr. Ambedkar as an Educationist

Dr. Ambedkar was a great thinker towards the improvement of education of the people. He also considered as education as a powerful instrument for raising the overall status of the depressed and deprived classes. He thought, It is education that furnishes moral arsenal for any social movement, the more education the more the chances for progress. In his struggle for the liberation of the Dalits from the

Hindu social slavery, Ambedkar had the right cognizance of the role that education has to play. He desired the elevation of the depressed classes to be the responsibility of the enlightened people in the country. Thus he established a chain of schools colleges and hostels under the shield of the People's Education Society which he had founded in 1945. His career as teacher, principal and member of legislative enabled him to get insight into the academic and administrative problems of higher education, it also provided him rich experience and knowledge of the complexities of educational concerns. He urged the teachers and the educated parents to meet the requirements and challenges of the modern world and called on them to work for inculcation of rational thinking and scientific temper among the masses in general and the young generation in particular. To him, education is the only right weapon to cut down social slavery. It will enlighten the dalits to achieve elevated social status, economic betterment and human and political rights. It is out of this conviction that he made 'educate' the first word of his slogan "Educate, Agitate, Organise". So, man who thought the each and every section of the people's welfare is none other than Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Conclusion:

Dr Ambedkar revealed to India and worked towards eradicating the root causes of what is preventing India from becoming a great nation again.. A belief in caste being the foremost reason. Unless these causes are removed, India can only dream of becoming what it once was, a '*Sonay ki chiddhiya*' (bird of gold). A genuine emancipator of Dalits, a great National leader and patriot, a great author, a great educationalist, a great political philosopher, a great religious guide and above all a great humanist without any parallel among his contemporary. All these facets of Ambedkar's personality had strong humanist underpinnings. Dr B. R. Ambedkar was in fact a designer of a nation and a universal leader instead of just a Dalit leader or leader of the backward classes. Thus we conclude Dr. Ambedkar was one of the foremost makers of Modern India. Babasaheb is one of those who had built India in her initial days. They fought to free India and then tried to build India of their dreams. To remember this great man, Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated all across the country especially by the

one who follow him. Today India needs greater leaders like him to compete and stay ahead at global level.

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