



Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Impact on Indian Constitution

KEYWORDS

Prof. Jay Bhongale

New Law College, Bharti vidyapeeth Deemed University, Erandwane- Pune 411038

Prof. Pournima Inamdar

Assistant Professor, New Law College, Bharti vidyapeeth Deemed University, Erandwane- Pune

ABSTRACT *Appreciating the invaluable contribution, as the chairman of the Drafting committee of the constitution of India, Dr. M.V. Pyee, an expert on constitutional law rightly writes: "Ambedkar's contribution to the constitution is undoubtedly of the highest order. Indeed he deserves to be called the father of the chief architect of the constitution of India." In recognition of Dr. Ambedkar's work in drafting the constitution of India, on June 5, 1952 Columbia University conferred a degree of LLD, on Dr. Ambedkar. The university hailed Ambedkar as one of the India's leading citizens, a great and radiant upholder of Human rights, and social transformation. Our democracy sustains more than 60 years and will live long for ever. It is because of our fundamental document of the land, that is Constitution and being father of Indian Constitution he build the structure of society while inserting his philosophy, thinking and his endeavor completely.*

Introduction

After independence majority of the new states have prepared their own constitution copying the then existing constitutions. Similarly, the constituent assembly for India was formed before the independence. After partition the constituent Assembly was also partitioned. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar the chairman, Drafting committee, had drafted the Indian constitution, which came into force on 26th January 1950. Dr. Ambedkar said once, "whatever the Constitution may be, it good or bad, the future of it depend on those who implement it, if Constitution is bad but people are good it will be turn into good, and the Constitution is good but people are bad then it will turn into bad Constitution."

Among the galaxy of stalwarts born in the 19th century, who played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of free India, left indelible imprint on our national life and polity the name of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar shines like a star. An architect of our constitution, a messiah and champion of the down-trodden, a rebel against all forms of social and economic iniquities and described by Mahatma Gandhi as "Patriot of sterling worth" Dr. Ambedkar attained the pinnacle of glory neither by luck nor by a matter of chance but by sheer force of his personality, struggle, sacrifice, selflessness, erudition, dedication, devotion and commitment.

It is universally accepted that Ambedkar has made an immense contribution to the philosophy of our Constitution and to the constitutional jurisprudence. But this has led to the belief that Ambedkar was the sole guiding force of the Constitution. He was the chief architect of the Constitution to define the will, goal and the vision of India. He is regarded as the father of the Constitution and the Constitution is his brainchild. Therefore, whatever principles have been incorporated in the Constitution, Ambedkar is regarded as a source of it.¹

Ambedkar's contribution to the constitution is undoubtedly of the highest order. Indeed he was a Modern Nanu and deserves to be called the father or the chief architect of the constitution of India. The motive force for Ambed-

kar's entering the constituent assembly was his anxiety to safeguard the interests of scheduled castes. But he did not demand a separate state for them he realized that the interest of scheduled castes is best protected in securing adequate constitutional safeguards for them. He strongly advocates the cause of linguistic states. At the same time he was keenly interested in preserving the unity of the country. He did not want the linguistic states to become independent emotionalist, endangering the unity of India.

"Ambedkar is my Father in Economics. He is true celebrated champion of the underprivileged. He deserves more than what he has achieved today. However he was highly controversial figure in his home country, though it was not the reality. His contribution in the field of economics is marvelous and will be remembered forever..!"² Ambedkar differentiated between nationality and nationalism. "Nationality" according to him, means consciousness of kind, awareness of the existence of that tie of kinship on the other hand Nationalism means the desire for a separate national existence for those who are bound by this tie of kinship. According to Dr. Ambedkar democracy meant no slavery, no caste, and no coercion. He wanted free thought, choice and capacity to live and let live. He realized the poverty; illiteracy and caste distinctions are the main hurdles in any democracy. Ambedkar recognized poverty as a great evil in human society. His concept of socialism did not stand for equality of identity but that adequate opportunities should be given to all. He wanted to remove extreme inequalities. Dr. Ambedkar, though born in the depressed class did not die in the same class, had pledged to leave no stone unturned for the upliftment of the class. He up-rooted the diseased plant of casteism and planted the tree of fraternity by safeguarding their interests through the supreme law of the land.

CONCLUSION

Observing his role in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of the Constituent Assembly said: "Sitting in the Chair and watching the proceedings from day to day, I have realised as nobody else could have, with what zeal and devotion the members of the Drafting Committee and especially its Chairman, Dr.

Ambedkar, in spite of his indifferent health, have worked. We could never make a decision which was or could be ever so right as when we put him on the Drafting Committee and made him its Chairman. He has not only justified his selection but has added lustre to the work which he has done..."³

Dr. Ambedkar the architect of the Indian constitution was a great visionary and a nationalist who dedicated his entire life for the uniform development of the country, especially the welfare and upliftment of weaker and poor sections of the society. He worked relentlessly for equality and social justice to the deprived, downtrodden and unprivileged sections. It is no denying the fact that his contribution in forging the nation ahead on the path of social justice and equality had been path guiding and praise worthy.

Dr. Ambedkar throughout his life preached the principle of fraternity among the sons of the mother India. This brings the question how far he succeeded in this pious task while drafting the constitution. Time and again, the court in changing interpretation of fundamental rights, at the same time the legislative authority is busy in amending these rights. It is high time that the legislature and the court should adopt the balancing system advocated by Dr. Ambedkar arrive at the cooperative end.

Ambedkar was a realistic humanist. His ideas indicated pure humanism and also a bold realistic approach to realize the principles of humanism. Undoubtedly Ambedkar occupies a prominent place in the hall of the worthies of modern Indian nation builders. Recalling the prominent part played by Babasaheb in the making of our constitution, the then Prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"..... We in Parliament remember him for many years, things and more particularly for the very prominent part he played in the making of our Constitution and perhaps that fact will be remembered even longer than his other activities..."

(Endnotes)

1 Mane, Suresh, *Some Reflections on the Constitutional Philosophy of Ambedkar*, Chapter five, Studies in Ambedkar, (Delhi,1995), pp. 67

2 Prof.Sen ,6th Indian to get Prestigious Nobel Prize has recently claimed in a lecture session :

3 Constituent Assembly Debates, 26 November, 1949, Vol. XI, pp. 994

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1. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar on constitutional maker by Sita ram
2. Dr. Ambedkar and Social justice
3. Article from Times Of India on the Role of Babasaheb Ambedkar
4. M.P Jain Constitution of India.