
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Fountain of knowledge and Humanism

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ABSTRACT:

This article highlights Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, affectionately known as Babasaheb, as a towering figure of knowledge and humanism, and the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution. Despite facing extreme caste-based discrimination as a child from the Mahar community, he transformed these adversities into strength. He equipped himself with education, earning over 34 degrees, and dedicated his life to championing the downtrodden and establishing an egalitarian society. Ambedkar spearheaded historical protest movements (e.g., Mahad Satyagraha) and legislative reforms like the Hindu Code Bill, advocating for equality, justice, and dignity for all, particularly for the marginalized and women. His immense intellectual and social contributions, which led to him being posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990, cemented his enduring legacy as a global icon and crusader for human rights.

KEYWORDS:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Humanism, Indian Constitution, Egalitarian Society, Untouchability.

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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is popularly known as Babasaheb, he was a great humanist, world scholar, epoch maker, champion of the downtrodden and chief architect of Indian Constitution. The greatest civilian award Bharat Ratna was bestowed upon him posthumously by the Government of India in the year 1990. He spearheaded his crusade against injustices incurred on untouchables in India on the basis of their belonging to the lower strata in the social structure of India based on the chaturvarna, when caste becomes the parameter to decide ones existence in the society and it acts as an agent of oppression based on the biased manipulative elements of oppression to its human beings based purely on the basis of caste hierarchy which is manmade, ill manoeuvred and executed in the name of age old deceased mindset of nested interested, narrow minded handful of people who have made the life of fellow beings worst than the life of an animal. Human beings were not treated as human beings but worse than the piece of garbage. It was really an inhuman practice.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar hailed from Mahar community, he had to undergo the furnace of torture, oppression of caste prejudices right from his childhood, he carried the burden of his low caste which was subjected to insult, indignant feelings, hatredness and social outcaste treatment on the basis of his low caste. The young Bhimrao had to undergo all these phases of heinous torture as an untouchable right from his childhood. There were umpteen number of incidents and series of episodes through out his life which had left an indelible mark on the life of Ambedkar. But, the young Bhimrao went through all these experiences, hardships and incidents which inturn were shaping his personality to bloom into a solid stature of humanistic values uncomparable to any common man. It seemed as though the situation was preparing him for the exuberance of intellectual burst, paving the way for the greatest humanistic psunami of exemplary scholarly, intellectual manoeuvring amidst the whirlpool of troubled waters.

Bhimrao who was the nature's chosen victim of caste discrimination was rightly identified by the hurricane of prejudiced attitudinal reaction from the society then. But the goal aimed and decided by Bhimrao did not allow him to stir away from his chosen mission towards marginalised position and lakhs of people belonging to his community, who were groaning under the monstrous grip of untouchability and atrocities. He decided to rise like a phoneix. He was destined to cross all the hurdles and barriers arose on his path of dignity providing to human beings, his fellow beings and society at large. In order to bring equality he decided to equip himself with the support of education, he was firm to swim against the current and he had realised that the key to establish just society was education alone based on the dignity, equality and humanistic parameters. He made his mind as solid as rock to sustain any kind of exploitation, atrocities and insults, he did not budge rather he turned all the negative challenges as positive opportunities to open the key to the equality in establishing egalitarian society and take up battle against caste prejudices. It occurred as though, the century was prepared to receive a messiah figure, a great humanist and giant scholar with almost 34 degrees was being carved. With his enormous dedication, hardwork and labour of love for the reformatory zeal towards the human society was made by his sheer stinct of confidence, yeoman element and undisturbed humanism nurtured him into a very strong man of principles, unwavering stances all

shaped him to be a social reformer. He was planner of lofty ideals, champion of the underdog who spent his whole life for the establishment of society devoid of caste discrimination. The knowledge he earned, churned, digested and the knowledge he acquired are highly unmeasurable. Sometimes it appears that, was there a man like him who mastered the ocean of knowledge immeasurable and uncountable? He was a voracious reader, an academician, giant intellect, perfectionist, social reformer, economist, statesman, veteran scholar, advocate of equal rights for untouchables and other marginalised communities.

He emerged as a messiah figure for the untouchables, philosopher, jurist, social thinker, great earliest feminist who fought for the empowerment of women. His fame and enduring legacy stemmed from his multifaceted contributions to millions of Indians. He was born to correct the haunting social ills and his life and work changed the India's socio, political and economic landscape. He appeared to be warrior, who with the help of spateful of academic knowledge he earned which had shaped him to be world's icon, world's scholar and as one of the top crusaders of independent India who pioneered the plea for equality, justice and equal social recognition for all the citizens of India.

He spearheaded many historical protest movements like, Choudar tank entry, Mahad Satyagrah, Kalaram temple entry and he was the first person to burn the copies of Manusmruti with large number of his followers with the intention to put an end to the age old custom of practice of untouchability. He is remembered as powerful symbol of resistance against oppression and in the establishment of equitable society free from social irregularities. He dedicated his entire life for the sake of the path chosen by him towards the herculean task of reformation he had undertaken. He succeeded in correcting the century's old caste prejudices, caste discrimination which had pushed the marginalised people of untouchable community into the burning clusters of inferno on the earth based on the origin of their belonging to lower caste by birth. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar went against questioning this kind of injustice, exploitation and indignant attitude which prohibits free social mobility and human reciprocal communication devoid of mutual respect and honour which were based on oppressive rigid, deceased social upbringing nurtured by callous, vested interested people who were aiming to treat their fellow beings as social lepers. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar rose on the socio-political scenario of India

and with his sheer, dedication and hardwork rose to the position of exemplary social activist in creating awareness for people who were victims of caste discrimination for centuries. He became the authentic voice for those untouchables and decided to take on the canon of reformation with his superior intellectual capabilities, uncompromising, principles theories, arguments and solutions. He did succeed in emerging as the champion of the downtrodden and he never looked back but progressed in his path of establishing righteousness of thought and behaviour among citizens of India by creating an awareness. Though he himself was from Mahar untouchable community he rose like phoenix and emerged as the epitome of guiding lamp for millions of people. He became the chief architect of Indian constitution, he served in the capacity of the chairman of the drafting committee of constitution of independent India. He was also the first law minister of independent India. He considered caste as the root cause for oppression in creating inequalities among people. He was responsible for establishment of labour laws, women empowerment (Hindu code bill). He also resigned for the position of law minister portfolio as the cabinet did not accept his proposed Hindu code bill in totality which was a path breaking revolutionary modification in introducing the proposed Hindu Code Bill by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He went on empowerment women of India, but he lost his power on the basis of principle he carried as he always, as non adherence to the majority decision of fundamentalist people of Hindu society. He was responsible for the establishment of Reserve Bank of India, and identifying the establishment of potential educational institutions to cater to the educational needs of Indians and umpteen number of reformatory schemes for the sake of every citizen of India. He regarded education as the real panacea for all the ills in the society. He had realised that education alone is the rod to settle scores with caste injustices. He thus contributed for the establishment of democratic independent, republic of India based on socialist, secular principles.

Today the then Mahar, untouchable Bhimrao has become now the most touchable epoch maker of the globe, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar, the most respected, revered and remembered almost every day by every Indian and every human being in the globe. Everybody is on his toes to embrace his principles, his visionary ideals which ensure dignity, equality and respect. Isn't it the nature's answer to the incrualties created and exploited its low

born human beings for centuries? today the whole world salutes him. He is recognized as world's scholar uncomparable to anyone. Ambedkar is one and the only humanist of the whole mankind whose life itself was his mission. His yeoman service to mankind in propagating humanistic values in ensuring liberty, equality with secular principles is a rare phenomenon in the whole world. There is no yardstick to measure the greatness of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. All we can do is to follow his principles, live and lead our life in harmony with social, democratic, secular feelings of dignity respect and love for the humanity.

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