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A Special Issue Brought Under the Auspices of
One Day International Conference On

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contribution's to Women's Empowerment in India

(On the occasion of 135th Birth Anniversary of Great
Humanist & Epoch Maker Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar)

ORGANIZED BY:

Karnatak University Dharwad

Department of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Studies

in Collaboration with

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Training, Research and Extension Centre
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Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru

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MESSAGE

The Constitution of India is an embodiment of equality, freedom and fraternity and social justice, providing guarantees to all citizen of the country. It ensures individual freedom, dignity and sovereignty per se, social justice necessary for the realization of fundamental rights. Today, we are passing through the transition and critical situation in the contemporary India and there is a dire need to revisit the contributions of founders of Modern India. The chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is an icon of social equality and justice. It is now the time to reassess and revalidate his legacies and his relevance to the issues of contemporary India.

The Concept of social justice ensures equal opportunities and rights to all the citizens of the country irrespective of religion, caste and creed. The architects of Indian constitution including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar provided social justice and guaranteed liberty, equality and fraternity. Social Justice as envisioned by Dr B.R. Ambedkar has its roots in ensuring constitutional guarantees to all. The Constitution is a step forward to make the state accountable to the creation of an egalitarian society. Thus, in the democratic system all the citizens have been provided with social justice and rights. Social justice and the Constitution are interlinked, interdependent and inseparable. Through the strategy of ensuring social justice, the goals set in the Constitution are being effectively implemented. The Constitution of India provides guarantees and rights under the Directive Principles of State Policy to the weaker sections and marginalized group such as the SC's ST's OBC's and Women with protection against discrimination and other welfare measures to ensure their empowerment.

I am extremely happy to know that, the Department of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies, Karnatak University, is organizing One-Day International Conference on **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contributions to Women Empowerment in India** on the occasion of the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar an icon of Social Justice and Social equality. The Academicians, Researchers, Ambedkarites and students participating in this conference have submitted their articles. I am glad to know that, these articles are being compiled into a volume entitled "**AKSHARASURYA**". I hope this volume will highlight the vision, work and contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in ensuring a free, fair and just society. I wish that the Department of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies, Karnatak University will continue with many more activities that inspire the academicians, administrators, researchers and students in the coming days. I wish all the Best to the organizers of this academic event consisting of thought-provoking debates and deliberations for this conference.


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Editor's Note

We are immensely proud to organise a one-day International Conference on “Dr. B. R. Ambedkar’s Contributions to Women Empowerment in India” on 25th April 2026, on the occasion of the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Karnatak University is the pioneering institution of higher education in India to establish the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair in the Department of Political Science in 1988. This department was initially headed by the late Prof. A.M. Rajashekhariah, who obtained his PhD on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He was instrumental in establishing the Ambedkar Chair with support from UGC Grants.

The department has achieved remarkable academic growth over the years. With the unwavering support of the Government of Karnataka and the authorities of Karnatak University, the department embarked on a significant endeavour to honour the great legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The decision to compile this volume was met with a positive response, reflecting the widespread interest in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s ideas and contributions to make India a vibrant democratic country with parliamentary democracy.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s life was marked by profound challenges, yet he emerged as a towering figure in the fight against social injustice. Born into a marginalised community, he faced discrimination and adversity from an early age. However, through his resilience, intellect, and determination, he overcame these obstacles to become a beacon of hope for millions. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s journey from facing caste-based discrimination to a leading role in drafting the Indian Constitution is a testament to his indomitable commitment to social equality and justice. His struggles and triumphs continue to inspire countless individuals worldwide, underscoring the transformative power of perseverance and courage in the face of adversity.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s vision and principles continue to hold immense relevance in today’s world, marked by persistent challenges of social justice and equality. As we navigate through

complex societal issues, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's insights offer a ray of hope, advocating for inclusive policies and practices that uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals. His profound understanding of the Constitution of India and its role in ensuring social justice serves as a guiding light for scholars, policymakers, and activists striving for a more equitable society.

The conference aims to revisit Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision in the light of contemporary challenges such as intolerance, communalism, and religious extremism, with a focus on fostering harmonious social orders. It is also noteworthy that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar initiated a number of reformative measures to ensure the empowerment of women and he is also known as a feminist who made relentless efforts to bring radical changes in the social system by providing equal access to property, widow remarriage, divorce, prohibition of polygamy, etc., through the Hindu Code Bill. Following the failure of this Bill, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar resigned as law minister in the Nehru Cabinet. He strongly believed that 'I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved'. In view of this, the empowerment of women assumes great importance as such a kaleidoscopic attempt must be made to understand the prospects and problems of Indian Women. An attempt is made to reassess and re-examine the need for the contribution of Dr. B. Ambedkar for the empowerment of Women. The response to our initiative underscores the enduring significance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy. Scholars, researchers, and academicians have enthusiastically contributed to this volume, demonstrating a collective commitment to furthering Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of a just and egalitarian society. We are grateful for the overwhelming support received from the Government of Karnataka, the University authorities, faculty members, and participants.

The response we received when the papers were invited for publication and presentation was overwhelming within such a short span of time. There were a good number of papers, and we have been highly judicious in selecting them. Curating this edition was really a challenging task, balancing time constraints and thematic diversity. The editorial board, comprised of language and subject

experts, played a pivotal role in shaping this endeavour. It is our hope that this volume, bearing the name “AKSHARASURYA”, will serve as a befitting tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s enduring intellectual legacy and continue to ignite meaningful discussions on social justice and equality.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of this conference. Firstly, we express our gratitude to the Government of Karnataka and authorities of Karnatak University, Dharwad, for their unwavering support in publishing this volume. We are deeply appreciative of the dedication and hard work of all the academicians, scholars, researchers, and participants who have contributed their valuable insights and perspectives to this publication. Special thanks to the faculty members, staff, and students of the Department of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies for their tireless efforts in organising and coordinating the conference. Finally, we thank our readers for their interest and engagement with the ideas presented in this volume. It is through the collective efforts of all involved that we have been able to honour the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and advance the discourse on social justice and equality, especially for women.

We acknowledge and extend our sincere appreciation to everyone involved and look forward for their continued support in our academic endeavours.

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