



## Educational thoughts: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

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### Abstract

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in an untouchable family in how, Madhya Pradesh on 14 April, 1891. His parents belonged to 'Mahar' community. His father's name was Ramji and mother's Bhimabai. Ambedkar was the fourteenth child in family. He was called as Bhim and Bhiwa earlier. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is among the most educated persons of those time as well as in current India. Education was the privilege of the upper castes in those days. He was made to experience segregation and resultant isolation. But his hard work, determination, urge of knowledge made him the most educated and learned man of India (Omvarde:2005,3). Later on he framed the constitution of India and is known as the "Father of Indian Constitution". Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's view on importance of education can be felt in following words - "It is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden mass to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom."

**Keyword:** Philosophy, pragmatism, untouchable, educate, dhamma

### Introduction

It is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom, are the views of Ambedkar. B.R. Ambedkar, as is well known, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India, devoted most of his intellectual, social and political efforts to give expression to his belief in the ideal, "Sarvenah Bhavantu Sukhinah SarveSantu Niramayah" i.e. the good and prosperity of all and struggled throughout his life for securing the rightful place for the discriminated, deprived and downtrodden sections of our society.

Education is the fountain head for the advancement of any society. An individual is empowered with creative thinking, knowledge, reasoning and compassion for fellow being through education, closing the avenues of education from ones reach is nothing but blinding the person.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's educational philosophy is under the influence of western pragmatic philosopher John Dewey's theory of education. Dewey's theory of education says that education in broad sense is the means of social continuity of life. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar established 'depressed class educational society' for the education of his community with this philosophy. Ambedkar's idea of education was a blend of pragmatism of Dewey and 'Dhamma' of Buddha. Education is the layer of their social mobility as well as opens the doors of their modernization.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar laid more emphasis on practical value of things. His ideas and educational doctrines have been successfully demonstrated through the age, sex, through the best educational system of the world and their cherished ideals have already been incorporated directly or indirectly into educational system of modern India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar philosophy has great ideas for practical fulfillment and these ideas have the relevance to modern society (Sowbhagya, 2014:181). He explains that work without knowledge is blind and futile. According to him

when people work without education, it is just like to waste human power. He sometime asserts that we don't know when our illiterate companion will carry us towards the failure, same is the case of our leaders. According to him a leader who is away from the import of education in society will definitely drag us towards the deterioration.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had a deep relation with education his writings show expertise and indepth analysis of the subject. He had shown his concern in every area of national education system. Some of his views regarding different levels and fields of education can be seen in following points.

### Primary Education

According to him the objective of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a primary school can leave it at a level, when he/she become literate and is in the position to remain literate for the whole life. For him the illiteracy was the major reason for the suppression and ignorance of the untouchables and deprived sections of society.

### Secondary Education

At this level of education, students should be taught the social evils in emerging society. Ambedkar ardently supported schooling that inculcates human rights education, education that teaches human dignity and justice in India. Education should aim at betterment of others and for one's own betterment.

### Higher Education

Ambedkar being the fore sighting personality not only discusses much about the lower levels but also the higher education. For him the spread from primary education to higher education begets us the versatile leaders who carry us towards the betterment. (Haribhau, 2014:59) [6]. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said - "Higher Education in my opinion, means that education, which can enable you to occupy the

strategically important places in state administration. Brahmins had to face a lot of opposition and obstacles, but they are overcoming those and progressing ahead." (Sowbhagya, 2014:178)

### Women Education

" I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women has achieved " are the views of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on women education. Ambedkar was an immense supporter of women education, their freedom, their status in society and advocated education as the solution of all problems related to women.

### People's Education Society

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar started Siddharth College on June 20, 1946 under the auspices of the People's Education Society founded by him July 8, 1945. The main aim of the People's Education society was the advancement of the educational interests of the lower middle classes, specially those belonging to the scheduled castes. Second Institution founded by People's Education Society was the Milind College at Aurangabad (Shahare, 1988:84). Both the Institution have grown in strength and structure over the years. Later on this society started many more such institution at various places in Maharashtra.

### Influence of Buddha teachings

Ambedkar wanted the teachers and the students in this institution should follow the Buddha teachings. According to him, "Buddha stood for social freedom, intellectual freedom, economic freedom and political freedom. He taught equality, equality not between man and man only but between man and women. Teachings of Buddha cover almost every aspect of the social life of people, his doctrines are modern and his main are to ensure salvation to man during his life on earth and not after his death.(Shahare,1988:83) <sup>[5]</sup>

### Conclusion

No one can regret the importance of Ambedkar's educational thoughts in modern India. It is due to his foresightedness that our country is becoming a superpower by It's developing human resources. The provisions he has made for the education of deprived section (scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, women) of society is responsible for the development of intellectual human resources and country is becoming a super power. Whatever it may be, the decisions taken by central government about the education system have the roots in the thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar. When we study the Right to Education Act 2009' we come across with many similarities Ambedkar's thoughts with the provision in it.

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