

An Exploration of the Ideas of Dr. Ambedkar on the Development of India

Dr. Anil Kumar

At- Bara Bishunpur, P.O. Rajepur, Dist. East Champaran, (Bihar) India

Abstract

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a major voice of India in the 20th century. He is remembered for his intellect and dedication. He had a very keen interest for the entire social class. He was the unrivalled champion of the depressed classes, and dedicated his life to the cause of their amelioration. The present study is an attempt to make an objective analysis of the strands of the ideas or views of Ambedkar on growth and development. His thoughts are the foundations for social, economic, political, religious and cultural aspects.

Key Words: Development, Justice, Equality, Discrimination, Economy

Introduction:

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a major voice of India in the 20th century. He is remembered for his intellect and dedication. He had a very keen interest for the entire social class. He was the unrivalled champion of the depressed classes, and dedicated his life to the cause of their amelioration. A. K. Sen observes:

He is true celebrated champion of the underprivileged. He deserves more than what he has achieved today.

Without doubts there are many institutions that affect the economy of a country. They are called as economic institutions, political institutions, religious institutions, social institutions, legal institutions, and cultural institutions etc. Traditionally, caste is a social institution. It has been created to perform social duties and responsibilities, and it has a strong religious base. In this way caste as a social institution performs both the social as well as religious functions. As a matter of fact cast system provides the framework of an

economic system and performs the number of economic functions. . It can exercises the economic functions of the economic institutions like production, distribution, consumption, allocation and utilization of the productive resources and distribution of the goods and services among the people in the society as a whole. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar believed very strongly that caste is not only a social institution, but obviously it is an economic institution. It is an economic organisation. He opined that caste system in India is an economic institution, and more importantly it performs the number of economic functions in the society, which are dominantly economically exploitative to the depressed and backward communities like dalits in India. He explored very vividly the role of caste system. The present study is an ardent endeavors to examine the economic, social, political analysis of the systems for inclusive growth and development provided by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar highlighted the different thoughts on social, economic, political etc. Equality, like liberty, is a

prominent political ideal of the present-day world. The French Revolution (1789) was fought for —liberty, equality, fraternity—. They constitute the voice of the oppressed, the voice against injustice and the voice for changing unfair social conditions. The problem of equality and inequality has figured in political thought since earliest times. Aristotle discovered that inequality was a cause of revolution in many a state. He defined justice as treating equals equally and unequal unequally. This was a typical statement in that it insisted on recognition and maintenance of existing inequalities in society-between master and slave, between rich and poor, between morally superior and inferior, and so on. There is no doubt that large inequalities of wealth, prestige and power have always remained a prominent and almost universal feature of social structure throughout human history. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a real political pundit and his contribution to Indian political economy is immensely fruitful. He was an architect of Indian constitution and he has developed his own concepts for the betterment of the poor and deprived section of the society. His sincere efforts are presented in his various books and journals.

Dr. Ambedkar's significant contribution to the Indian Constitution may be noticed in the areas of fundamental rights, strong central government and protection of minorities. Obviously, Ambedkar firmly believed that fundamental rights play the most important part of the constitution. Ambedkar was proud of Article 32 of the Indian Constitution which guarantees judicial protection to fundamental rights. Such protection makes the rights real and meaningful. There was

general agreement in the constituent assembly that India needed a strong central government. Ambedkar shared these ideas saying that India was a caste-ridden society in which lower castes have always received unjust treatment from the higher castes. He was afraid that casteism would be all the more powerful at local and provincial levels.

It would be more liberal in its approach than the local governments. 'Only a strong central government, therefore, will ensure some protection to the lower castes. This was Ambedkar's most important reason for creating a strong central government. He knew that the minority communities in India were in the most vulnerable position. In India, there was a tendency of a communal or caste majority becoming a political majority also. Thus, a minority will be both a caste minority and political minority. It will be subject to political as well as social harassment. The democratic rule of 'one-man-one- vote' will not be sufficient in such a situation. What we need in India is some guarantee of a share in power for the minorities. Minority communities should get an opportunity to elect their representatives. The views of these representatives must be fully respected. Ambedkar attempted to incorporate many safeguards for the minorities, including definite representation in the executive. He was successful in creating provisions regarding political reservations in legislatures and the appointment of a special officer for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Commissioner) under Article 338 etc. He would have liked to create many more safeguards but for the unwillingness of the majority in the constituent assembly. What is significant here is Dr. Ambedkar's view

that democracy is not merely majority rule had that caste- communal minorities must be fully protected to make democracy meaningful. He was against any kind of exploitation. Ambedkar opines that nationalism can provide the necessary solidarity that is needed to advance social justice. A communitarian strain is evident in Ambedkar's ideas. A society in order to progress towards achieving a socially just society needs a great amount of solidarity among the members of society. It needs a common sense of belonging to a community. Consequently, Ambedkar would like some amount of homogeneity between members of society. The chief aim of differential rights is to integrate minorities into mainstream society, and to attain social and economic equality.

Ambedkar was considered as an eminent economist also - a recognized authority on problems of currency and public finance. He was a believer in state socialism which he upheld as essential for the rapid industrialization of India. In his work 'State and Minorities' he suggested to bring all the key and basic industries as well as agriculture and insurances under the control of State monopoly.

Economic Development and Ambedkar:

India's economic growth rate is rapidly growing fast most of the macro indicators look positive. Such as (GDP) Gross Domestic Product is approaching to 10 percent, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is increased a record high, capital market is also moving to upward direction. Real estate demand for flats and land shows growing fast at high rate. Demand for car is also increasing from rich class. All this shows

that people's purchasing power have been increased. But this only half side story the other side shows us that, 26 percent people are living below the poverty line and near about 50 percent people are just struggling to survive on poverty line. Therefore, it is clear that only 24 percent people are sharing the national economic growth. Depressed classes SC, ST and OBC and Minorities have strong feelings that they are being excluded from the process of economic growth and they are denied their share in national income. So they oppose New Economic Policy at large extent. Since the beginning of NEP 1991 Government of India, continuously reducing its share from the public sector industries. It creates number of issues related to the life of depressed classes as the issues of unemployment and uncertainty. It was told that government will increase the expenditure on social over heads particularly education and health. However, government data shows that this is not happening. On the contrary government expenditure on social over head is grossly inadequate to the needs. Therefore, it creates income and wealth inequality, unethical activities, demoralizing the youths, violation etc. This is surely not good for long term smooth economic development of any country. We believe that Dr. Ambedkar's economic philosophy focuses on the golden path of development. His philosophy maintains that balance in both the sectors public and private systematically. Ambedkar believed that, State can play important role in economic development of people. His book —States and Minorities, this was as much an economic manifesto as a social one. It proposed a united States of India without right of secession.

Ambedkar remarked that the real solution lies in removing the structural inequalities' caused by past exclusion and isolation. Simply shudras were not allowed to acquire any sort of property such as land, fixed capital assets or a gainful trade. Therefore, to restructure the Indian society based on Liberty, Equality, Justice and Fraternity Dr. Ambedkar suggested some of the very important measures; one of them is Nationalization of land. In his important book —States and Minorities he has given a complete plan.

- a) Social harmony will prevail, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other land less workers will not be exploited by land lords.
- b) Justice and equity will remain maintained in rural India.
- c) Mobility of surplus labor force from agriculture to industry sector will increase at large extent.
- d) Income inequalities and social conflicts will reduce.

The above mentioned plan has some of the important advantages of nationalization of land in India. If the policy makers of this country would have accepted the demand of Dr. Ambedkar well in advance to nationalize the agriculture and reorganized the agriculture sector then such recent suicide of farmers in the country might not be reported.

Education and Health:

Education plays very important role in the processes of development. Dr. Ambedkar considered education as most powerful agent for bringing about desired changes in society. He believed education as

an instrument to liberate the masses from illiteracy, ignorance and superstitious and thus enable them to fight against all form of injustice, exploitation and oppression. Therefore, he gave the highest priority to education in his struggle for the liberation of Dalits from the age old oppressive character of the caste ridden Indian society. Dr. Ambedkar impose the responsibility of providing education to all citizens irrespective of caste and gender on government. The Fathers of the Constitution of India decided that education should be available free of charge and that attendance in schools should be compulsory for all children up to the age of 14 years as incorporated in Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State policy. This provision in Article 45 of the Directive principles of State policy reinforces Article 24 which reads —no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory mine or engaged in any hazardous employment. The Constitution also directs that children cannot be abused or forced to work and to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength through article 39(e) and (f).

According to Ambedkar caste is not merely a division of labour. It is a hierarchy in which division of labourer is graded one above the other. Caste system involves an attempt to appoint tasks to individuals in advance, selected not on the basis of trained original capabilities, but on that of the social status of the parents.

He believed that democracy offers every individual achieve social equality, economic and political justice guaranteed in the preamble of the constitution. Liberty, equality and fraternity should be the only

alternative to abolition caste society. (Rajasekhriah & Jayaraj 1991).

Industrialization and Dr. Ambedkar:

Ambedkar observed that fast development of India is impossible without widespread industrialization according to him creates large-scale employment produces essential consumption goods for mass consumption, along with capital goods, Saves foreign exchange, utilizes raw materials on proper and optimum scale offers security to labour enhances Swadeshi Movements, which ultimately leads to all round development of a country, But the private sector industries are unable to perform this task satisfactory for want of large - scale investment secondly They may create monopoly and centralization. Therefore government should come forward and start large scale industries of social and national benefits. The small rural and cottage industries should be kept in the private sector. The insurance and transport companies should be nationalised. Rights to strike should be given to the directive Principles of state policy in the constitution processing industries should also be developed Dr. Ambedkar Stressed Rural

Industrialization. The industrial policy of the Indian government is in keeping with Dr. Ambedkar expectation.

Dr. Ambedkar was in favour of consolidation of land holdings but according to him it should be state owned. State should acquire all the agricultural land from the private players, owners, tenants or mortgagers and pay them the right compensation, after consolidating the acquired land it should allocate this land in a standard size to the original cultivators without any discrimination based on caste, creed and religion.

Summary:

Dr. Ambedkar highlighted the different thoughts on social, economic, political etc. He remarked that the real solution lies in removing the structural inequalities' caused by past exclusion and isolation. He opined that the strategy for India's Economic development should be based on Eradication of property elimination of inequities and ending exploitation of masses. He accepted Marxian view in this respect. According to him Caste system acts as a barrier to the labour mobility from one sector to another.

References:

- Ahir, D.C., (1997). Dr. Ambedkar on the British Raj, Delhi: Blumoon Books.
- Ahir, D.C., (1990). The Legacy of Ambedkar, New Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.
- A.M. Rajasekhriah, & Hemalata Jayaraj (1991):, Political Philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 'The Indian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 52, No. 3, July – September.
- Nicoma Cean, Ethics, Vol-2, P.89
- Sen Amartya, (2009) The Idea of Justice, Thomson Press (India) Ltd. New Delhi, 2009, p.380
- Sarkar Badal (2013), "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Theory of State Socialism", International Research Journal of Social Sciences Vol.2 (8), 38-41, 2013.