

HISTORICAL VIEW OF DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR ON INDIAN DEMOCRACY

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Abstract : *Here in this paper, I want to express the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar about democracy, why it is very essential in India, the social status of population and the conditions necessary for the democracy with different forms of democracy in other countries.*

Keywords: *Democracy, equality fraternity liability, morality, opposition*

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a legendary Indian legal philosopher who played a vital role in framing the Constitution of India. He was a great emancipator of the untouchables, a scholar with highest intellectual integrity, a true nationalist with great ability. His father was Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar belonged to Mahar caste, one of untouchable cast in India.

The term democracy owes its origin to the Greek word “Demos” and “Kartos” means “The people and the later Power” respectively. In Indian Constitution Democracy is well defined in preamble. The term democracy is very popular and complex word and have no universal definition. It’s meaning has been undergoing constant change. Basically, Democracy has been categorized into three kinds namely, political, social and economic democracy. Not unless social democracy lies at the base, the political democracy can’t last, which means, a way of life which recognize liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles. Dr. Ambedkar got the opportunity to become one of the members of Constitutional Committee.

After seeing the Indian society, he imagined a society to be based on equality and humanity. In Dr. Ambedkar’s mind, the welfare of the individual should be the objective of the democratic government. Therefore, to him, caste was the cause of undemocratic system and it was an impediment in the success of democracy. Equality formed the Ambedkar’s idea of democracy. There were many more crucial rules in society that the untouchability is foremost cause which alarmed the mind of Ambedkar. Suppressed class people lived outside the village and can’t take even water from village river. The shadow of untouchable people considered as the curse for upper caste men. Dr. Ambedkar agreed that this religious code of society formed inequality, is the base of unhealthy society. The core philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar’s political democracy can be expressed in the below statements:

- a. Social and moral conscience of society protected the rights of the individuals not the law.



b. Democratic form of society is pre-requisite for the democratic form of government.

Democracy has been defined by different scholars like: -

- According to Shyam Chand, "Democracy is a form of social organization."
- According to Lord Bryce, "Democracy is a government in which the will of the majority of qualified citizens rules."
- As per J.R. Louis, "Democracy is a firm which exists to supply and maintain a society in a better way and offers liberty for the individuals which is in accordance with the attainment of order and security within the state."
- According to Dewey, "Faith is the capacities of the human nature, intelligence, cooperative experiences, etc., forms the foundation of democracy."
- As per J.A. Schumpeter, "Democracy means that people get to decide who rules them through free and fair election."
- Dr. Ambedkar says about Democracy that, "It is a pattern of government by which revolution in the social and economic life is brought about."

For the success of Democracy Dr. Ambedkar talked about 7 stipulations just as:

Equality:

There should not be any similarities in the society, all classes should get equal facilities. The meaning of society is to bring the germs of revolution within the organization and it may not possible for any democracy to treat it. At Gatie's Berg's speech, Lincoln said that, "a house that has been divided in itself can never stand, i.e., deepening between the two classes is going to prove to be the biggest obstacle in the success of Democracy."

Two Party System:

Democracy mean that no one has the right to govern continuously and the existence of an opposition. The government will have to give explanation of its actions to common people. In England and Canada, the government pays salary to the leaders of the opposition. It is a system that opposition can point fingers at the mistakes of the government.

Law And Administration:

The third condition in democracy is the practice of equality in administration and law. Government should not interfere in the work of administration. The government's task is to formulate the policy.

Constitutional Morality :

As per Dr. Ambedkar the fourth important condition for successful democracy is to follow constitutional ethics. There is a healthy skeleton only and its flesh is constitutional morality.



Majority And Minority:

In fifth condition, Dr. Ambedkar has banned the oppression of minority by majority in the name of Democracy. Whatever the government is running. The majority or the minority, Minorities should always feel safe.

Moral Order:

In sixth condition Dr. Ambedkar stated that, “It is very important for democracy to keep working the moral system in the society. Democracy is a free government in which people are left independent without the intervention of law in the broader aspects of social life.

Public Conscience:

For successful democracy public Conscience is necessary. Dr. Ambedkar also advocates about public conscience because, without public conscience democracy cannot succeed.

Dr. Ambedkar emphasized on the ethical dimension of democracy i.e., morality. This morality as per Ambedkar had to be the base of our political aspirations. He bid great importance to the term, Constitutional Morality. Thus, he felt that constitutional morality was very crucial for the attainment of the equality and social order in the society. He advised political leaders to imbibe the constitutional morality. SO that they lead the state in the right direction and more importantly in the right way.

Ambedkar envisioned that socialism would arrive first and it will set the stage for democracy. ” He hoped to enshrine, “State socialism” in the Indian Constitution. To him, a socialist constitution was a way to bring together socialism and democracy under one umbrella. Without any provision for the protection of socialist principles. He believed that a democratic society was likely to be dislodged by the vested interest of the people in power. Dr. Ambedkar didn’t give up the idea of constitutional safeguard for the socialist ideals sand economic democracy. They were finally given a place in the directive principles of the state policy. It deals with a wide range of social and economic rights. The directive principles are far-reaching if one pays close attention to it. “In my judgement, directive principles lay down that our goal is economic democracy and therefore they have great value.”

Our objective in framing this constitution is twofold;

- To draw the form of political democracy
- To lay a structure to attain economic democracy.

But the directive principles were not taken with due concern. Thus, what we are left with is a half-baked democracy.



Conclusion :

Indian constitution is a social document as per Granville Austin. Nation's ideals, institutions and the power for achieving these ideals were established in the constitution by the founding fathers and mothers. National unity, integrity, democratic, equitable society etc. were some of these ideals ensured in the Constitution.

Dr. Ambedkar saw Indian democracy as very flexible, workable and strong enough to hold the country together in both good and bad times. But Indian Democracy's journey has been a long one. It had its highs and lows. It faced certain challenges along its way like Emergency of 1977, Godhra Riots etc. And one can say that even in the 21st Century the fruits of the Indian Democracy is nowhere to be enjoyed. There is still a lack of basic facilities like education, health, communication to name a few. These challenges could only be overcome by proper implementation of the rule of law and constitutional principles. Ambedkar strongly believed that social democracy should replace the political democracy so that state socialism could develop. Reviving Directive Principles could be the way forward and making them fundamental to the governance of the society is the governance of the society is the need of hour.

Rights of all kinds political, a social and economic needs to be conferred to the citizens so that they feel empowered and take an active participation in the democracy which is ultimately the rule of the people. And if people fall short of getting these rights, Ambedkar's suggestion is to "educate, organize and agitate" is still very relevant.

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