



## Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's role in women empowerment

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### Abstract

It is an established fact that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar occupies a prominent and towering place among the Indian social reformer. Like Mulk Raj Anand, Bhim Rao Ambedkar also known as the crusader of lower class people. He strongly advocated that the women should be given equality and liberty in the society. He strongly favoured the women's rights as in a democratic society, the women should enjoy the equality and opportunity for higher education, and for this he constituted a number of laws which were essential for their growth and development. He strongly emphasized the need of education of which could guide women in a proper direction.

**Keywords:** society equality, women democratic, economic, dowry, violence, harassment

### Introduction

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar is one of the leading figures among the Indian writers who contributed a great deal to the development of Indian literature. He is primarily known as a prophet of dalits in India, but at the same time, his views about the upliftment of women in India are also worthy of detailed considerations. He used to believe in the democratic values and that is why, we can hail him as the champion of women rights who struggled hard to achieve the idea of equality in all spheres of life as far as women are concerned. In this connection we can quote the ideas of Diane Mariechild who pronounced the fact that a woman is the full circle within her is the power to create, nurture and transform. This idea is a clear exposition of women's ability and also of the fact that we cannot underestimate power of women in the society.

It is an established fact that during the ancient India, women in the country enjoyed a high and privileged position, but slowly and gradually women's position degenerated into only objects of seeking pleasure that was primarily meant to serve certain purpose. Consequently, they lost their individuality as well as their basic human rights. If we are talking of the term empowerment, no doubt, has been considered as a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and also multi-layered concept. According to some scholars, the term, women's empowerment is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources material, human and intellectual like knowledge, information, community, society and nation, ideas and financial resources like money- and access to money and control over decision making in the home, and to gain 'power. This is one aspect of the definition of women empowerment, but at the same time, according to the country Report of Government of India, the term empowerment signifies moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one; of power. But, at the same time, from the time immemorial, the women in this land of ours were treated as a kind of thing. Woman's

place in the society was not at par with other human beings in the society and it was because of the fact that women were not given equal rights in the society as well as were not allowed to move nor do anything at her will.

According to Hindu Shastras, women were labeled like animals or some sort of objects of deriving pleasure. In the verses of Ramayana written by Tulsidas, it was considered that *Dhol, ganwar, shudras, pashu, nari- ye sab tadan ke adhikari*. In *Manusmriti* also, the ancient Hindu Code-book, the status granted of women described is quite visible and she was put to lowest level of humanity as she was treated as the lowest rung of humanity as she was treated equal to the animals and slave by the proprietors of Hindu Dharma. Such was the placement earmarked to our mothers, sisters and even great grand- mothers that humanity was ashamed of.

There is no doubt in denying the fact that it was in these prevailing conditions of the society where women were not considered equal in the society, that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar who is undoubtedly known as the leading figure as a social reformer as well as architect of Indian Constitution, contributed a great deal for the equality women in the society. He propounded the idea that until and unless, we reject the Hindu Dharma Shastra, situation of women cannot be changed. The Hindu women are tied to bondage of superstitions which they carry till their death and it was all on the name of samskara.

The basic reason behind the significance of Ambedkar's views of women's empowerment lies in the fact that the operation of caste both at the systematic level, and the functioning of patriarchy, the growing caste/class divide in feminist political discourse makes Bhim Rao's conception of women's oppression, caste and Hindu social order and philosophy and democratic values significant to modern Indian feminist thinking. Without any shadow of doubt, we can conclude the fact that in spite of a genius, great thinker, philosopher, revolutionary as well as a prolific writer, critic and social

activist, he struggled unto his death, his thoughts were never given any importance in the Indian society as he was born as an untouchable. He saw the deplorable situation of Indian women and that is why, he was a powerful source of inspiration for Indian women's movement which was entirely based on class, caste and gender in the contemporary socio-political Indian set-up. It was all because Ambedkar saw women as the victims of the oppressive caste based system.

Dr. Ambedkar is known as the champion of the cause of women as they suffered a lot in their lives, particularly the scheduled caste and schedule tribe women throughout his career. He prepared the draft of the solution of their problems in Bombay Legislative Council as well as in the parliament as the first law minister of independence India. As a result of his efforts, women started participating in different Movements and started encouraging other women.

Ambedkar also highlighted some of the women's problems in his speeches delivered in the round Table Conference which was also praised by some British people.

consequently, after returning back from the round table conference, he found a vast majority of female in public gathering. The women were given some special rights including the general rights in articles *like 15 (3), 51(a)*, and many more. It was just to start a new era in the history of Indian women by providing them equality and freedom in which their development should be in harmony with the growth of society. He is also known for introducing the values of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Indian constitution which was only for the upliftment of Indian women.

In this way, Ambedkar had a vision of society where all women will be equal before law, and he played a significant role to pass the Hindu Code Bill which helped the resurgence of feminist movement in India. No doubt, the women are still fighting issues such as rape, dowry death, communalism, violence and sexual harassment.

### Conclusion

In this way, after going through the improvement made by Ambedkar, we can safely and rightly aver the fact that Ambedkar was an internationally as a crusader against caste system as well as a vigilant fighter for the human rights of all the oppressed and enslaved and emancipator of humanity from social and economic injustice. His vision of society based on gender inequality is yet to be realized and, without any shadow of doubts, his thoughts are significant for the social reconstruction that favours women's empowerment.

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