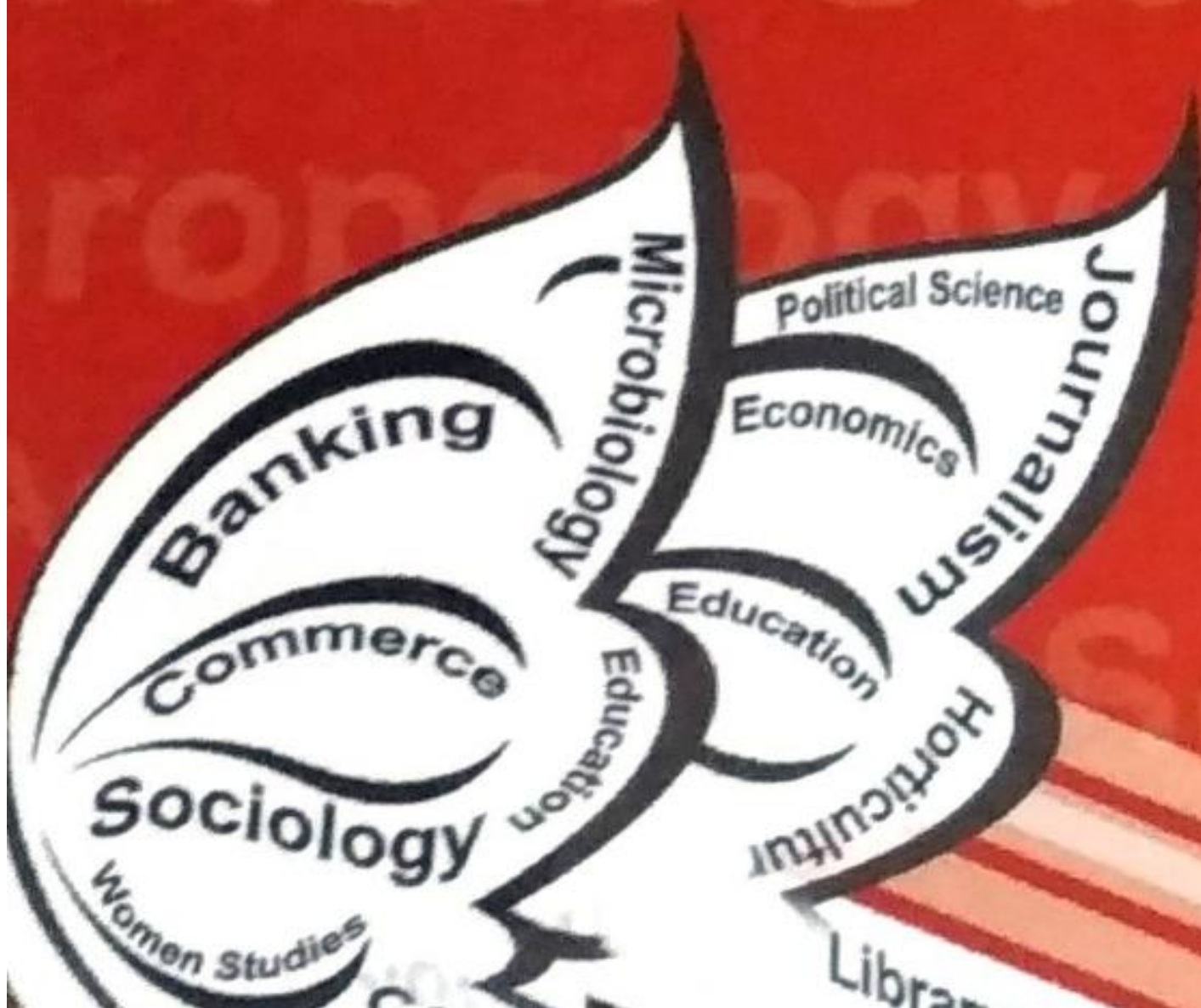


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Abstract

Dr. Ambedkar's mission in life was to reconstruct Hindu Society along the modern democratic ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. In his Treatises, *The Riddle of Women*, *The Women and The Counter Revolution*, *The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women*, *Castes in India*, *Their Mechanism*, *Genesis and Development* and through the issues of his journals *Mooknayak* (1920) and *Bahishkrit Bharat* (1927) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar tries to show how the gender relation and differences are constructed by Hindu Brahminical order, which condition women to conform a stereotype feminine behavior requiring them to be passive and submissive suited only to a life of domestic and family responsibilities. Dr. Ambedkar created awareness among poor illiterate women and inspired them to adequate inclusion of women's right in the political vocabulary and constitution of India. He insisted on Hindu code bill suggesting the basic improvements in assembly. The contemporary social realities warrant close examination of the wide range of his topics, the width of his vision, the depth of his analysis and the rationality of his outlook and the essential humanity of his suggestion. For practical action, hence for Indian women's movement, Ambedkar provides a powerful source of inspiration to formulate a feminist political agenda which simultaneously addresses the issues of caste and gender in the contemporary sociopolitical set up.

KEYWORDS

Gender Inequality, women empowerment, feminist Hindu society, Hindu code bill, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the father of Indian constitution as well as he was a social reformer of modern India, a great freedom fighter, political leader, economist, philosopher, editor, thinker, writer, and a revivalist for Buddhism in India. He not only struggled throughout his life for the emancipation of the social status of the underprivileged and women in the Indian society. He has done original thinking on the Hindu social order and the status of women within the Hindu society. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar not only worked hard at the grassroots level to raise awareness about the degraded status of women in

India but also wrote extensively to confer the views on gender relations sanctioned by Dharmashastra and upheld by tradition. His western education and deep understanding of the western philosophies helped him to evolve as a thinker who had developed clear ideas for the emancipation of the women in India. He could translate many of his ideas and visions into specific policies and institutions during his stint as the architect of Indian constitution and as the law minister of India.

OBJECTIVE OF RESEARCH ARTICLE

- 1) To study women's educational thoughts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- 2) To highlight Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's view on women empowerment and the relevancy of his ideas in present India
- 3) To understand Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's quest for Gender Equality.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. Data is collected by using secondary sources. Secondary data collected from Government documents, books, published papers, newspapers, speeches delivered by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and internet.

Womens Educational Thoughts Of Dr .B.R. Ambedkar

"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"

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's education to women is the powerful instrument of changing their position in the society. Education also brings about reduction in inequalities and also acts as a means to improve their status within the family. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar started his movement in 1920. He stated "We shall see better days soon and our progress will be greatly accelerated if male education is persuaded side by side with female education." He started fierce propaganda against the Hindu social order and launched a journal *Mooknayak* in 1920 and *Bahiskrit Bharat* in 1927 for this purpose. Through its issues he put due stress on the gender equality and the need for education and exposed the problems of the

depressed as well as women Ambedkar's perception of women question emphasizing their right to education, equal treatment with men. Gaining inspiration from Dr .B.R. Ambedkar many women wrote on various topics. Tulsibai Bansole started a newspaper "Chokhamela" This shows how Dr .B.R. Ambedkar created awareness among poor illiterate women and inspired them to fight against the unjust and social practices like child marriage and devdasi system

Dr .B.R. Ambedkar Approach to women Empowerment and Struggle toward Gender Equality

Dr .B.R. Ambedkar believed in the strength of women and their role in the process of social reform. The historic "Mahad satyagraha" witnessed participation of three hundred women along with their male counterpart

Addressing and there meeting of about 3000 women, he said " I measure the progress of community by the degree of progress which women had achieved. Let every girl who marries stand by her husband claim to be her husband friend and equal and refuse to be his slave I am sure if you follow this avideer you will bring honor and glory yourself Dr .B.R. Ambedkar approach to women's empowerment is entirely different from other social reformers like mahatma fule, Rajaram Mohan Roy. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Mahatma Gadhi who tried to reforms the Hindu Society of certain outdated customs and practices without questioning the hierarchical social order.

Ambedkar's emphasis was on reconstruction of Hindu Society on the basis of equality rather than the social reforms initiated by Brahma samaj or Arya samaj because their attempts were limited only to the upper strata of the society The encouragement of Dr .B.R. Ambedkar to empower women to speak boldly was seen when Radhabai Vadale addressd a press conference in 1931 she said. "It is better to die a hundred times than live a life full of humiliation we will sacrifice our lives but we will win our rights" The credit for this self respect and

firm determination of women goes to Dr .B.R. Ambedkar As a member of the Bombay Legislative council Dr .B.R. Ambedkar was in he forefront in championing the cause of women's empowerment by forcefully arguing for the passage of Maternity Benefit Bill. As the chairman of constitution Drafting Committee. Dr .B.R. Ambedkar made a pioneering contribution in introducing Articles 14,15,16,39,42 in Indian Constitution that guarantee protection to women from any kind of discrimination As the law minister in the Union cabinet Dr .B.R. Ambedkar made every effort for the passage of Hindu code Bill despite staunch opposition from vested interests. This shows the great importance he attached to the cause of gender equality in India.

CONCLUSION

Dr .B.R. Ambedkar mission in life was a reconstruct Hindu society along the model democratic ideas of liberty. Dr .B.R. Ambedkar perception of women question emphasizing their right to education. Equal treatment with men right to property and involvement in the political process resembled the global feminist demand Dr .B.R. Ambedkar laid the foundations for gradual transformation of Indian social consciousness an gender justice in India.

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