

# Ambedkar Model of Democracy and Empowerment and Development of Women

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**Abstract** — The present paper mainly focuses on Ambedkar, Democracy, Empowerment and Development of Women in India. Dr Ambedkar literature is the boost to the new egalitarian Indian social system. He had lots of knowledge about society and its activities. He contributed his most of the life to empower the backward classes and women in particular. He wrote the constitution of India, it gave opportunities to Women as a democratic country in the world. He did all these by the Constitution of India. As cited above, one of the most backward classes or group is Women. In India, women have a nearly equal population of men. For the upliftment of women in India many social activists, social scientists, social reformers have contributed in their own way before and after independence. Pre-independent and post-independent India tremendously contributed to the development of women. In this, prominent leaders were Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Mate Savitribai Phule and Ambedkar etc. Post-independent, women lifestyle is changing due to Constitutional provisions and Legislations Measures meant for women. Besides the new system of government, still, in many areas is showing rape, murder, domestic violence, etc. The Hindu Code Bill has given changes on woman's mindset. It showed Ambedkar commitment to approach for women empowerment in India. Independent onwards, day by day its objectives have been accepted by parliament. Dr Ambedkar's is the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He has given three famous slogans are educated, agitate, and organize, as a framework for empowerment. The present paper presents democracy and women empowerment in India.

**Keywords** — Ambedkar; Democracy; Empowerment; Women; Constitutional Provisions.

## 1. Introduction

The present paper focused on Ambedkar, democracy and empowerment and development of women in India with secondary data. Ambedkar strategy for the social change in India is focussed. The Constitution of India has a major role in the change of society. Democracy is the ultimate aim of maintaining equality among men with dignity, it elaborates on Dr. Ambedkar perspective of democracy. Empowerment is a multi-faced, multi-dimensional and multi-layered concept. Women are the equal gender in nature and unequal in Indian society. These factors are majorly focused on the paper.

*Status of Women:* The Constitution of India provides lots of opportunities to women in the name of social justice on liberty, equality and fraternity. Post-independent India created many great changes over the past few decades. During ancient and medieval times limited opportunities were given to the women in the Indian Society. In modern India, most of the areas are entered by women servicing with equal opportunities because of the Constitutional provisions. Presently Indian women have held the positions of President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Chief Ministers and Governors, in the major area of politics which we can recognise easily. Even they have contributed in the field of

education, economic, judiciary, aviation, military, film, and so on. The present paper deals with Dr Ambedkar, democracy, empowerment of the women and present status of women in India.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Today the Constitution of India provided equal opportunities to every citizen of India. So that, every Indian leads a comfortable lifestyle in Indian society. But, during the pre-independence period, such kind of situation was not there in India. The fundamental right of the Constitution is telling equal opportunities, but in reality, it is not there. The democracy is going to collapse by the liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG). The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that women are experiencing rape, murder, molestation, kidnap, domestic violence and so on. It shows the bitter truth of the woman's condition in India. The present study focuses on Ambedkar perspective on democracy, the condition of democracy and empowerment and development of women in India.

## 3. Importance

- The culture of the Indian system is unity in diversity, it has major six religions and unique in the tradition.

Indian culture is mainly influenced by the Hindu religion. It is one of the biggest and dominant religions in India

- The caste system bonding is very rigorous and maintains as much as a possible good relationship with the neighbourhood.
- The Constitution of India enacted is supported by secularism.
- Ambedkar perspective regarding on democracy is unique, it supported for equal opportunities under the law.
- Women condition in Indian society after its independence has developed.

The Ambedkar legacy of democracy is excellent because it is providing equal opportunities for everyone. Democratic Constitution in favour of public opinion for that Indian democracy is a model for the non-democratic country. The women also have nearest equal percentage of the population. But, still, many women are suffering from insecurity. Therefore, parliament needs to focus these issues to solve and protect the woman's dignity, self-respect and morality.

#### 4. Objectives of the Paper

- To understand the perspective of Ambedkar democracy in India
- To understand the contribution of Ambedkar for women in India
- Ascertain and critically analyse the status of democracy, empowerment and development of women in India

#### 5. Review of Literature

*Ambedkar:* Ray et al, describes the perspective of Dr B. R. Ambedkar on Indian democracy. His view of social justice includes liberty, fraternity and equality. There is also applied discussed on 'One person, one vote' and 'one vote one value' (Ray et al, 2011). Zelliott describes research-based 'Ambedkar' biography with the chronological order of his lifestyle is documentable. Ambedkar struggle to obtaining his education itself is agitation and his depressed classes' movement, religious conversion movement and his struggled to empower the women are elaborated (Zelliott, 2012). Raghavendra explains ancient Indian approaches of *Dandaniti* (Law and Punishment) and Dharma which were concerned with justice. But, Ambedkar's concept of social justice stands for liberty, equality and fraternity. Ancient and modern social justice ideas are focussed (Raghavendra, 2016).

*Democracy:* Dwivedi et al, presents Dr Ambedkar sociological approach are *Mahad* water tank issue, temple

entry, the opening of educational institutions for *Dalit* and Backward castes etc. are focused (H.S.Dwivedi, 2005). Yadav elaborated Ambedkar model of democracy through the Indian Constitution. It elaborates how the rule of law generating equality among the people and its impact on Indian society and its democracy (Yadav, 2016).

*Empowerment:* Beteille expresses a sociological point of women empowerment, majorly on caste and gender. As one would expect, many of the proposals for empowerment is very broad and general, but others are quite specific and concrete (Beteille, 1999). Abdul Waheed et al elucidate empowerment of Muslim women in India. The meaning and aims of empowerment differ from one situation to another. He observed the status of women in the family, marriage and religion. The everyday insecurity among Muslim by communal riots and anti-Muslim programs has been endemic in India since independence is focally pointed (Abdul Waheed, 2014).

*Women Empowerment:* Keer describes that Mahatma Jotirao Phooley and his wife Savitribai Phooley efforts to empower especially women and widow in Maharashtra. There was most horrible social condition Phooley family struggled to educate people for equal opportunities (Keer, 2013). Mohd Ishaq Khanday et al explain the historical perspective on the empowerment and women empowerment in India. The Constitution of India or post-independent onwards documented, there is the better empowerment of women in present. But, also women reservation Bill is the black-mole in the present condition are focused. Women's empowerment, in reality, is to empower herself, and not to overpower men (Mohd Ishaq Khanday, 2015). Shettar elaborates observes the day to day life how women become victimized by various social evils. The women empowerment is the vital instrument, but is it working properly is focused. The Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life but not in India (Shetter, 2015). Singh explains earlier times women were never given any right of liberty and equality. Men treated them in a humiliating manner. They were not only permitted not to step outside their house but also abstained from being educated (Singh, 2015).

*Hindu Code Bill:* Banningan elaborates evolution of Hindu Code Bill in India. The major factors in the Bill are marriage, divorce, inheritance, property rights and allied topics for Hindus. But, Hindu leaders and women are strongly opposed to implementing the Bill. The present condition all are enacted day by day in the Indian parliament (Banningan, 1952).

#### 6. Status of Indian Women before Independence

Indian society always is totally male-dominated and biased against the female gender. This results in all sorts of

exploitation and discriminatory practices. Obviously, the status of Indian women is unjust and inhuman. Women are frequently tortured in the broad daylight because of insufficient dowry. Hundred of women commit suicide either due to humiliating sexual atrocities on them or because of unbearable tortures from the husband or in-laws on account of dowry. The greater part of Indian women have a role of a true wife and self-effacing mother, are obligatory to live a passive powerless and slavish life.

The world is transforming itself fast and along with that, there is also a visible change in the attitude of the people towards women. So far as India is concerned, particularly after independence, various Constitutional protections and provisions. Despite all these efforts to promote the welfare of women, one has to admit that even now women in India are not treated with dignity, they are neither allowed, nor encouraged to enjoy their basic rights, and they are not accepted by men as equal to them.

### 7. Ambedkar Perspective of Democracy

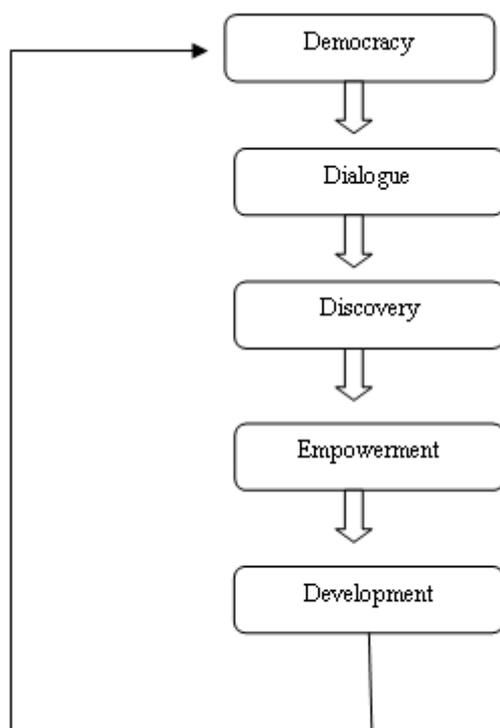


Fig. 1: Ambedkar Perspective of Democracy

**Democracy:** Democracy means all human beings should have liberty in sectors of society. It helps to develop a better nation and human resources. Equality is the oxygen of nature; it enhances the better development to anyone and anything. People should maintain fraternity, which enhances the feeling that everybody is equal. It creates a good relationship diversified population. These three

factors are liberty, equality, and fraternity that lead to social justice. This social justice leads to mainly on science and secularism in Indian society.

**Dialogue:** Dialogue also known as interaction, it is one of the major techniques to converse anything; without conversation cannot complete the interaction process. It helps to understand the process either verbal or non-verbal.

**Discovery:** Discovery reacts like “Necessity is the mother of invention”. It leads to the invention of the possibilities and opportunities in the respected areas.

**Empowerment:** Empowerment of human includes awareness, skills, ideologies, knowledge, strategies, etc. these factors influence the development of human personality.

**Development:** Concept of development by Ambedkar perspective includes humanity/egalitarian society, Prabuddha society, and State socialism.

**Associated livings:** These are family, community, committees, organizations (Government & Non-Government), cultural society, clubs, chambers, assembly, parliament etc.

Democracy generates dialogue, dialogue generates discovery, discovery generates empowerment and empowerment generates development; it is a rotation based development in the democratic system.

### 8. Constitutional Protections and Provisions

Dr. Ambedkar tried an adequate inclusion of women’s right in the political vocabulary and Constitution of India i.e.

Article 14 - Equal privileges and prospects in political, economic and social spheres.

Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex.

Article 15(3) facilitates affirmative discrimination in favour of women.

Article 39 – Equal livelihood and equal pay for equal work.

Article 42 – Human working conditions and relief for maternity.

Article 51 (A) (C) – Fundamental responsibilities to renounce practices, disparaging to the dignity of women.

Article 46 – This is to endorse with special care, the economical and educational interests of the weaker part of people and to guard them from communal injustice and all other forms of exploitation.

Article 47 – This is to raise the standard of nutrition and living of its people and the development of public health.

Article 243D (3), 243T (3) & 243R (4) provides for the allocation of seats in the Panchayati Raj System (Kumar, 2015).

## 9. Status and Critical Analysis of Democracy and Empowerment and Development of Women in India

The power of democracy is equal participation of people. The democracy has an extraordinary role which Ambedkar defined as 'one person, one vote'; and 'one vote, one value' (Ray et al, 2011). But, most of the people do not understand the Ambedkar concept of democracy. Therefore, still, Indian democracy is an initial level. The education will be the only factor which would play the most crucial role in empowering women (Mohd Ishaq Khanday, 2015). But, still, she is protesting to protect her rights. The status of Women Empowerment cannot be visualized with single dimension rather multidimensional assessment in terms of the various components of women's lives and their status would bring a clear conception. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society, whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive health care. There needs to be a make-out change in the mindset of the people in the country. Empowerment of Women could only be achieved if their economic and social status is improved (Shetter, 2015). Women should get educated with minimum awareness of nutritious food, health, education, rights, zero of workplace harassments and domestic violence. Women should agitate maximum protest about deprivation of nutritious food, inadequate health care facilities, poor educational facilities, lack of protection of rights, workplace harassments, domestic violence, etc. Women should organize to fight against cited above evils to empower them with maximum effort from the support of Constitutional provisions and Legal measures (Raju, 2007). The women related incidence, showing report in the year of 2014 and 2015. The crime against women during 2014 and 2015, are respectively 3,37,922 and 3,27,394. It decreased -3.1 percentages. But, men still are not accepting women are the principal gender of nature (NCRB, 2014 & 15).

## 10. Findings

- Indian democratic status is an initial level.
- Ambedkar contributed to democracy and empowerment of women in India.
- The Constitutional provisions and Legislative measures are contributing to maintaining the quality of life of women.
- The status of women in India is average.

## 11. Conclusion

Saying and following is the biggest task in the practical life of human beings. However, as much as

possible people are trying to maintain equality through democratic way. Democracy will lead to liberty, equality, and fraternity. These three key factors become social justice. Empowerment of women is not an ordinary task in India, because of religion and caste are given the inequality in the Indian cultural system. The cultural bonding system is very strong to women more than men. The women have everything is dependent on her necessities on men, because of still she is not able to buy or sell or anything taking and giving policy depend on her male family member. She is developing an economically, educationally, and socially, but her rights are controlled by men. For that Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar quoted, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved".

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