



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contribution to Social Justice: A Review Study

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Abstract

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a visionary who led the Indian movement for social justice and equality. Through his contributions to the Indian Constitution and his steadfast resistance to caste discrimination, he guaranteed that impoverished communities had legal protections and opportunities for social mobility. This paper examines Ambedkar's substantial achievements in three areas: education, economic progress, and political representation. His advocacy for democratic principles and critique of the caste system remains as relevant as ever. Inequalities persist despite statutory safeguards, necessitating continuous reform attempts. This research emphasises the lasting influence of his legacy on the sociopolitical landscape of modern India by revisiting his thoughts and actions. In line with Ambedkar's vision, the findings highlight the importance of ongoing efforts to foster a more just society.

Keyword: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Social Equality, Social Justice, Caste System, Constitutional Rights.

INTRODUCTION

In India, the concept of social justice has evolved throughout time due to a variety of historical, political, and socioeconomic factors. Historically, Indian society has been characterised by a rigid caste system, resulting in widespread discrimination and marginalisation of various populations (Pondra & Kumar, 2015). The struggle for social justice gained momentum during the colonial era, as a number of reformers and leaders began to advocate for the empowerment of marginalised communities and the promotion of equality.

During the period of British colonialism, social movements led by notable individuals like as Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule, and Periyar E.V. Ramasamy laid the foundation for challenging caste-based inequality. But Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stood out as the most important person in using the law and the constitution to bring about social justice (Renjini, 2018). In particular, his work to secure rights for India's Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—among other oppressed communities—was pivotal in changing the country's sociopolitical environment.

On the occasion of the adoption of the Indian Constitution in the year 1950, social justice emerged as an essential component of the legislative structure of the country. Affirmative action, reservation laws, and basic rights measures were put in place to remedy past mistakes and promote equality. Throughout the years, numerous government endeavours, judicial cases, and community activities have continually altered the discussion about social justice, making it a dynamic and ever-changing concept in India.

This historical context illuminates Dr. Ambedkar's vital contribution to the pursuit of social justice, as his insights and endeavours established the groundwork for a fairer society.

Relevance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Work

In modern India, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's efforts to social justice are very significant. His actions went beyond just advocating for the rights of underprivileged populations; they laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable society(Sharma, 2023). His vision surpassed the limitations of his time, resulting in an enduring influence on social movements, legal frameworks, and policies that continue to reverberate today.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

His work on the Indian Constitution, which guaranteed equality before the law and prohibited discrimination, was a major achievement of his. A key strategy to encourage social and economic mobility is his backing of reservation policies, which aim to provide opportunity for populations who have endured past injustice. In the course of deliberations around these provisions, their significance in enhancing disadvantaged groups' access to educational and occupational possibilities has been emphasised.(Datta, 2019)

Alongside legal reforms, Ambedkar emphasised the vital role of education as a powerful tool for social transformation. His conviction in acquiring strength via understanding continually inspires various educational initiatives and uplifting action programs(T. Kumar & Kumar, 2018). His economic philosophy highlighted the importance of industrialisation and labour rights, and it

remains pertinent in the context of India's ongoing development.

Moreover, his critique of the caste system and his advocacy for a more equitable society remain pertinent in contemporary dialogues over social equity and justice. His impact beyond mere historical significance; it persistently influences policies related to caste-based discrimination, gender justice, and minority rights.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contributions to Social Justice

Area of Contribution	Key Contributions	Impact on Society
Legal & Constitutional Reforms	Drafting the Indian Constitution, ensuring fundamental rights, reservation policies for SC/ST/OBCs.	Established a legal foundation for equality and affirmative action.
Education & Awareness	Advocated for compulsory education, scholarships, and higher education opportunities for marginalized groups.	Empowered disadvantaged communities through education.
Economic & Labor Rights	Supported industrialization, workers' rights, and minimum wage laws.	Improved economic conditions and labor welfare.
Dalit Empowerment	Led anti-untouchability movements, formed the Scheduled Castes Federation.	Strengthened the political and social representation of Dalits.
Women's Rights	Fought for gender equality, supported the Hindu Code Bill for women's rights in marriage, property, and inheritance.	Advanced women's empowerment and legal rights.
Religious & Social Reforms	Criticized caste-based discrimination, embraced Buddhism as an alternative to Hindu orthodoxy.	Inspired Dalit Buddhist movements and social reform initiatives.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision for Social Justice

B. R. Ambedkar believed that all people should have the same rights to freedom, equality, and fraternity under the umbrella of social justice. He fought for a social structure that would level the playing field for all members of society. He became the inventor of his own unique philosophy after gaining extensive knowledge in every area of human activity via his training as a social scientist. He linked caste and women's status in Indian society to economic, social, political, and religious issues. The development and stability

of Indian society depend on his ideas and philosophy.(Gandee, 2015)

An ideal or fair society may be created by social justice, says B. R. Ambedkar. His idea of a fair society is one that does away with castes and instead prioritises liberty, equality, and fraternity as cornerstones of social justice. There are two pillars upon which Ambedkar's ideal society rests. The first holds that each person is valuable in and of himself, and that society exists to facilitate his development. People should not put society before themselves; if people must submit to society, it should be for their own benefit and only to the degree that is absolutely required. Second, principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity must guide the way people in a society interact with one another.

Only fraternity, in Ambedkar's view, can avert anarchy and aid in maintaining moral order among men. Anarchy is the result of individualism. An perfect society cannot exist apart from fraternity, a crucial element of social justice. Ambedkar argues that liberty, equality, and fraternity are fundamental to social justice. Achieving social justice requires a sea shift in how we see and interact with other people, as well as in how we view and interact with the world around us.

Constitutional Provisions and Legal Reforms

One of Ambedkar's most enduring accomplishments was his assistance in the creation of the Indian Constitution. As Chairman of the Draughting Committee, he ensured that the Constitution featured fundamental rights that guaranteed equality, freedom, and protection against discrimination. His fervent endeavours culminated in the implementation of reservation policies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which ensured their inclusion in political representation, employment, and education.(Bhaskar, 2021)

Furthermore, he supported reforms that enhanced women's rights, integrating provisions in the Hindu Code Bill that addressed issues like as property inheritance, marital rights, and gender equality. The underprivileged in India were able to gain economic security because to his reforms to labour regulations, which included provisions for industrial workers' rights and decent salaries.

Key Legal Contributions	Impact on Society
Fundamental rights and anti-discrimination laws	Provided legal protection for marginalized communities
Reservation policies for SC/STs in education, jobs, and politics	Increased representation and opportunities for disadvantaged groups

Women's rights reforms through the Hindu Code Bill	Strengthened gender equality in personal laws
Labor laws, including fair wages and work-hour regulations	Improved working conditions and social security

Education and Economic Upliftment

The most powerful tool for social change, in Ambedkar's view, was education. In particular for economically disadvantaged groups, he established a number of organisations to support his goal of universal and compulsory education. His work made sure that Dalits and other marginalised groups could access scholarships, higher education, and vocational training, helping to break the cycle of generational poverty.

He backed industrial growth as a means to reduce caste-specific employment and open up fresh avenues for individuals. His policies emphasised land reforms, worker protections, and financial independence, ensuring that economic growth was equitable and sustainable for all.

Key Economic & Educational Contributions	Impact on Society
Advocacy for compulsory education	Improved literacy rates among marginalized groups
Scholarships and reservations in education	Increased higher education access for SC/STs
Support for industrialization and labor rights	Created alternative livelihoods beyond caste-based work
Minimum wage laws and fair employment policies	Enhanced economic security for workers

Dalit Empowerment and Social Reforms

Ambedkar led various initiatives focused on eradicating caste-based discrimination. He openly opposed untouchability and strict caste systems, clearly showing his support for temple entry movements, advocating for Dalits' right to access places of worship(Sirswal, 2020). By means of structured initiatives like the Mahad Satyagraha, he confronted societal conventions that maintained caste-based division.

He further motivated the establishment of Dalit groups to amplify their unified voice in both political and social arenas. In 1956, he chose to adopt Buddhism, joined by thousands of supporters, marking a stand against caste oppression and advocating for social equality.

Key Social Contributions	Impact on Society
Critique of the caste system and untouchability	Strengthened anti-caste movements

Leadership in temple entry and public space access	Encouraged social integration
Formation of Dalit organizations	Created a political and social platform for marginalized voices
Conversion to Buddhism and advocacy for human dignity	Inspired a movement for social and spiritual equality

Political Contributions

Ambedkar envisioned a political landscape where marginalised groups could actively engage in democracy. He played a crucial role in pushing for distinct electorates for Dalits, yet this request was ultimately diluted by the Poona Pact(Singh, 2004). He founded the Scheduled Castes Federation, a political entity designed to amplify the voices of Dalits in the realm of governance.

His perspective reached far beyond mere caste representation; he highlighted the need for a democracy that is both inclusive and participatory, one that embraces economic justice, upholds minority rights, and champions gender equality(Sabharwal, 2020). His impact on India's political scene remains significant, influencing conversations around electoral reforms, inclusive governance, and social justice initiatives.

Key Political Contributions	Impact on Society
Advocacy for Dalit representation in governance	Strengthened political participation of marginalized communities
Formation of the Scheduled Castes Federation	Provided a platform for Dalit political leadership
Electoral reforms and constitutional safeguards	Ensured legal protection for disadvantaged groups
Vision for inclusive democracy and social justice	Inspired ongoing movements for equality and human rights

LITERATURE REVIEWS

(Varshaa.K & D.Vezhaventhan, 2018)As a rationalist thinker, Ambedkar analyzed the Hindu social order critically in his pursuit of a more equal and simple society. Ambedkar sought social justice for all segments of Indian society by encouraging members of oppressed castes to become politically and economically active. This was central to his philosophies. Therefore, the purpose of this research paper is to examine Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's ideas on social equality and his role in shaping contemporary India. The study work has been conducted using a descriptive approach. They have lost out on opportunities in school and employment, and their economic, political, and social lives have been

devastated as a consequence. According to him, it's unlikely that we'll be able to effect social change and achieve equality for everyone if we don't have any political rights. He stresses the importance of relationships within human civilization as well as among the various castes in Hindu society. Inequality, unfairness, economic backwardness, etc., that our country is experiencing in the 21st century are mostly caused by caste prejudice and violence.

(V. Kumar, 2015)The overarching goal of this dissertation is to examine B. R. Ambedkar's impact on contemporary India via his many roles as a writer, economist, politician, constitutional drafter, feminist, welfare advocate for workers, and member of the Dalit community. He is notable for being the first monetary economist in India to carefully assess the issues with the Indian rupee. He advocated industrialization based on the economic model and the fundamental socialist principles of the Gandhian economic system, and he was a leading figure in the modernization of industry. He was in support of agricultural technology upgrades, land reforms, and skill development programs. He advocated for a cooperative strategy and attacked the centralization of fiscal federalism. The Hindu Code Bill he penned served as the "magna carta" calling for equal rights for Hindu women. His support for this historic bill was so strong that he resigned from his position in the government without hesitation.

(Deshpande, 2000)Many aspects of Indian culture, including duties, responsibilities, and values, may be traced back to the ancient caste system. From the Aryans forward, religious intolerance, segregation, violence, and inequality have been the unending forces that have propelled society into this stratified structure. The purity-pollution complex rested on the foundation of Hinduism, the religion that profoundly affected the way of life and worldview of the Indian subcontinent. The Indian people are still deeply divided along caste lines, even though they have been an independent nation for 63 years. India has maintained its national identity for thousands of years by dividing its population into distinct communities defined by religion, language, and caste. Heredity of employment was a major norm in the economy of both urban and rural life, and work was divided and everybody had his assigned duty from birth. It was unusual to see someone abandon the profession of their forefathers in favor of pursuing a different career trajectory, and mobility within castes was also limited. It is clear that caste is still a major factor in the way people in India interact socially and politically. In modern times, however, there are fewer barriers to social contact across

castes, particularly in metropolitan regions, and the correlation between caste and hereditary employment has diminished. The current Indian civilization is emerging from its rigid structures and embracing a new era defined by the triumph of the human spirit over religious and caste barriers.

(A. Kumar et al., 2022)The transmission and possible challenge of inequality is a major concern for corporate ethics, and scholars in the fields of management and business have lately focused on this problem. Nevertheless, a subaltern viewpoint on inequality has not yet been explored in this study. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was one of the twentieth century's underappreciated social thinkers; he was also a prominent lawyer, political leader, and economist. In this article, we use his theories to talk about how to reduce inequality in institutional and organizational settings. We zero in on Ambedkar's appeal for representative politics as a means to end caste discrimination in India, as well as his detailed plan for systemic change. Management scholars may benefit from a new perspective on inequality and the expansion of corporate ethics outside traditional organizational bounds, according to our Ambedkarite ethical credo of persuasion, which centers on subaltern-driven, state-led institutional changes.

(Murali, 2021)The concepts of social justice and reservation policies in today's world cannot be ignored. Because most of the movements to increase the representation of backward classes in public services and education became popular at the tail end of the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, and they persisted into the modern era, the history of reservation in India is also the history of southern India. Many groups are still fighting for the right to be considered backward in today's society. The true intention of reservation was watered down by caste politics. Constitutional framers originally intended for the reserve to promote social and economic development, but now days it's all about the money. Reason being, social justice is intrinsically linked to reservation policy. Opponents of the quota policy also point out that it reinforces India's caste structure, which they consider a significant reality.

(Sharan, 2016)India lost a remarkable and complex figure in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He was a multi-talented genius who excelled in academia, economics, politics, philosophy, and humanitarian work. He did comparative analysis of India's social, economic, and political systems and was the first to see the need for democracy on the subcontinent. There were major shifts in India's social, economic, and political structures that he saw after comparing the country's

system to others. As head of the drafting committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar spared no effort in creating a magnificent democratic constitution for India because he knows that a democratic system in India will solve the issues and meet the needs of the Indian people.

(Dubey, 2020)The late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was an inspiring leader in many fields, including politics, social thought, oratory, and essay writing. He studied everything that raised people's consciousness of the need of human development, including governmental policies, social policies, economic policies, and cultural practices. The whole essence of India's constitution is embodied in him. Those oppressed, discouraged, and marginalized groups were his primary focus as he fought for their inclusion. He was one of a kind; he crucified himself to pave the path for the revolutionary social movements that would alter society for the better. In the same way as an innovative ethicist and social value engineer. In his work for the Fair Indian Republic, Ambedkar paved the road. His impact in shaping the future social fabric of Indian heritage was unparalleled.

(Sampathkumar, 2015)There were several commonalities between Mahatma Gandhi and India's principal architect, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Their views on social reforms and specifics of political freedom were likewise diametrically opposed. An integral part of Gandhi's plan was ensuring that political liberty was never divorced from social transformation. Not only did B. R. Ambedkar's booming of Manusmrithi have the impact of enslavement and bondage for the countrymen, but Gandhi's booming of foreign garments was no trivial gesture of passion. Both "a pinch of salt from God's ocean" and "a drop handful of water from the Mahad tank" served as political release and social philosophical declaration, respectively. These were not just symbolic acts; rather, they heralded the impending arrival of new social and political patterns in India. Gandhi said it explicitly as "India is becoming poorer by the day as urban areas encroach onto rural areas. We were deprived of our left lung when the spinning wheel was gone. Being foreign fabric in the fire of foreign cloth I burn my humiliation, we are thus suffering from galloping consumption".

(Pal, 2022) A brilliant nationalist, social activist, political reformer, and philosopher, Dr. Ambedkar also had progressive views in his writings. He was an advocate for any cultural, social, and political movement that boosted human flourishing. He embodied the spirit of India's constitution. He fought relentlessly for the rights of the downtrodden and oppressed. He had an uncommonly courageous attitude, distinguishing himself as one of the

foremost builders of modern India via this process. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who emerged as a valiant champion of India's democratic republic, also achieved a position in Indian lore as a unique intellectual mass leader who roused the country's modern-day consciousness to social issues.

(Shah, 2019) Keeping and changing the broad norms by which they live is an inevitable and all-encompassing endeavor, and politics is no exception. The world's largest democracy, India's, has weathered the storms of communalism, widespread illiteracy, poverty, and secessionism. However, like many post-colonial societies,

India's society is deeply divided along caste, religion, class, and other lines, making it difficult for Parliamentary democracy to function properly. This highlights a striking aspect of Indian politics: the country's rich cultural diversity, as well as its social, ethnic, caste, community, and religious pluralism. Additionally, Indian politics is characterized by its distinctively caste-ridden nature, with each caste serving as a foundational social stratification tool. This paper's overarching goal is to examine caste in Indian politics and B.R. Ambedkar's work as a social reformer and champion of oppressed groups, specifically how caste has evolved into a big problem and a barrier to national unification.

Author(s) & Year	Focus of Study	Key Findings	Methodology
Varshaa. K & D. Vezhaventhan (2018)	Ambedkar's views on Hindu social order and social justice	Emphasized political and economic participation of oppressed castes for social justice; caste discrimination as a major barrier to equality	Descriptive approach
V. Kumar (2015)	Ambedkar's impact on India as an economist, politician, and reformer	Advocated industrialization, land reforms, cooperative strategies, and women's rights through the Hindu Code Bill	Analytical study
Deshpande (2000)	Role of caste in Indian society	Caste system influenced social, economic, and political structures; limited mobility, but urbanization reduced barriers	Historical analysis
A. Kumar et al. (2022)	Ambedkar's influence on corporate ethics and inequality	Proposed subaltern-driven, state-led institutional changes for corporate ethics	Conceptual framework
Murali (2021)	Social justice and reservation policies	Reservations were meant for development but got politicized; debate on caste-based reservations continues	Analytical study
Sharan (2016)	Ambedkar's role in shaping India's democracy	Drafted a democratic constitution for India; emphasized democracy for solving socio-political issues	Comparative analysis
Dubey (2020)	Ambedkar's contributions to politics and social movements	Advocated policies for marginalized communities; his leadership influenced constitutional principles	Descriptive analysis
Sampathkumar (2015)	Comparison between Ambedkar and Gandhi	Contrasting views on social and political reforms; symbolic acts led to major social change	Historical comparison
Pal (2022)	Ambedkar's progressive ideology	Advocated for democracy, social justice, and constitutional rights for the oppressed	Analytical study
Shah (2019)	Caste in Indian politics	Caste remains a major political factor; Ambedkar's reforms sought to reduce caste-based inequalities	Political analysis

CONCLUSION

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has left a profound and lasting mark on the pursuit of social justice within Indian society. His steadfast dedication to fighting against caste discrimination, advocating for equal rights, and shaping policies that support underprivileged communities continues to hold significance today. As a constitutional architect, he meticulously laid the

groundwork for a democratic India, providing crucial rights for the downtrodden. His forward-thinking ideals are evident in his advocacy for economic freedom, political involvement, and education as pathways to societal improvement.

Ambedkar championed reservations in education and employment to address historical disparities. However, discussions persist regarding their impact and consequences. His perspectives on economic reforms, such as industrialisation and land redistribution, embody a wider approach to social change. The examination of the Hindu social structure and the demand for the end of caste systems persist in shaping modern conversations about equality. Even with progress in dismantling caste-related barriers, social disparities persist, requiring continuous commitment to uphold Ambedkar's ideals. His philosophy keeps shaping policy-making and inspiring social reform efforts. Embracing and putting his ideas into practice in the present day can nurture a more just and inclusive society, reinforcing the democratic and equitable ideals he envisioned for India.

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