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74. AMBEDKAR A CRUSADER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIAN WOMEN

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Ambedkar A Crusader of Social Justice: With Special Reference to Indian Women

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Abstract

The Indian society has undergone prodigious social transformation in aspects of structure, institutions, culture and ideologies overtime. From helm of a progressive society during the Vedic period to being caught up in various socio-religious rigidities of post-Vedic and a continuous fight against these in the colonial rule, these changes have been revolutionary in nature and evolutionary in character. The social transformation achieved by the Indian society is contained in the Constitution of the country, the cause of which was championed by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. His passion for the concept of 'fraternity' brotherhood of mankind made him a crusader of social justice and a voice of the voiceless, talking about the problems impeding our society. This paper makes an attempt to explore Ambedkar's ideas on social justice, his untiring efforts for incorporating them in the constitution and emphasis on the role of the state. As chief architect of India's Constitution, he got it shaped clearly on the values of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and dignity of man. His approach was radical and inspirational and revolved around the concept of inclusive development, with gender justice being of vital importance. The realization of his dream calls for sound system of governance and fortification of the concept of fraternity.

Key Words: Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Democracy a way of life.

Introduction

"Positively, my Social Philosophy may be said to be enshrined in three words- Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. My philosophy has roots in religion and not in political science. I have derived them from the teachings of my Master, the Buddha. In his philosophy, liberty and equality had a place; but he added that unlimited liberty destroyed equality, and absolute equality left no room for liberty. In His Philosophy, law had a place only as a safeguard against the breaches of liberty and equality; but He did not believe that law can be a guarantee for breaches of liberty or equality. He gave the highest place to fraternity as the only real safeguard against the denial of liberty or equality or fraternity which was another name for brotherhood or humanity, which was again another name for religion". (P. No. 503) —Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

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