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Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Indian democracy

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Abstract

Dr. B.R Ambedkar made some brilliant speeches on the significance of the constitution for the future of democracy. He wish to maintain democracy not nearly in form but also in fact. Ambedkar says that, we must follow constitutional methods to achieve our social and economic objectives. According to Ambedkar we must make our political democracy a social democracy as well.

Keywords: Social democracy, bloody methods of revolution, hero-worship

Introduction

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a teacher, lawyer, educational organiser, party builder and cabinet minister. He wrote many important books on federalization, theology, philosophy, finance, language, sociology, politics and history of caste system. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was multi faceted and multi dimensional personality. He was a Savior of the depressed classes, a noted jurist, the chief architect of India's Constitution, Scholar and a daring leader of India. Being a socialist thinker, Ambedkar's ideas revolve around social, political, religious and economic problems of India. According to Ambedkar ideal society is based on liberty, equality and fraternity. He fought for human dignity, self-respect, social, equality. Dr. Ambedkar's greatest contribution is social and economic upliftment of the suppressed classes.

Bhartha Rathna Baba Saheb Ambedkar was a lover of a democracy. He was a staunch supporter of social democracy. To him a society characterized by inequality and social disparity cannot sustain political democracy Ambedkar's aim of democratizing society and polity has found in various provisions of the constitution of India. To him the term social justice in real sense gives meaning and importance to the democratic way of life along with the rule of law and society. To remove untouchability. Dr. Ambedkar wanted the replacement of socio- religious or ritual status by secular status based on the principle of "one man's one value and one man, one vote" B.R. Ambedkar wanted reservation in legislature for political emancipation of the shards he desired nationalism of agriculture for economic development of shards and he advocated inter-caste dining and marriage for social rehabilitation of shards.

Dr. Ambedkar being a liberal, stressed parliamentary democracy along with state socialism many factors like impact of the west, rule of law, equality of citizens, political participation in law making and policy decisions encouraged him to accept parliamentary democracy. Ambedkar provided suitable parliamentary government to India. Ambedkar was a liberal democrat. He wanted to have the idea of elected parliamentary government but to him political stability and law and order were more important than any other matter Ambedkar favored the idea of a federal system but it should be designed in such a way that it could be converted into a powerful unitary state without too much difficulty

Dr. Ambedkar views on some aspects, which he expressed in the constituent assembly, reflect his passionate attachment to the democratic way of life. According to him democracy is not merely a form of government but a form of government through which revolutionary changes in the social and economic life of the people are brought about without bloodshed to him political democracy is meaning-less in the absence of social democracy. He conceived democracy as another name for equality, social and economic democracy are tissues and fiber of political democracy. Ambedkar wanted to convey the message that the fundamental rights in the constitution is a supporting pillar of Indian democracy.

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According to Ambedkar, the basic features of democracy are equality, fraternity, reason, human experience, liberty, natural rights and rule of law. He was against hero-worship in democracy. An individual should not lay his liberty at the feet of a great man. To Ambedkar, political upliftment is possible only in a reformed and enlightened society. To him, religious equality meant little without social and economic equality.)

Dr. Ambedkar offered few methods through which Indian democracy can be maintained,

First thing is that Indians must adopt constitutional means to achieve their social and economic objectives.

The second thing which Ambedkar mentioned is that there must be some limit to gratefulness. In politics, Bhakthi or hero-worship leads to dictatorship.

The third thing Ambedkar says our political democracy should lie at the base of social democracy. To him, political democracy is meaningless in the absence of social democracy because social democracy is a way of life which provides liberty, equality and fraternity to the people.

Conclusion

To conclude, Ambedkar says to preserve Indian democracy we should remove contradiction. Contradiction is that, we have inequality in social and economic life but we have equality in politics in the name of one man one vote. Ambedkar believes that castes are anti-national and anti-social because they create jealousy and differences between castes.

It will destroy unity and solidarity. Ambedkar laid much stress on the point that to maintain Indian independence and democracy we must establish equality and fraternity in all spheres of life.

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