

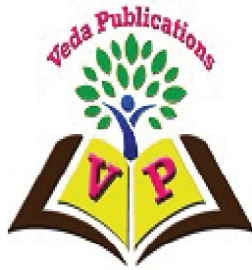


AN ANALYSIS OF WATER SHARING THROUGH RURAL TANKS FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A VIEW OF THOUGHTS AND IDEAS OF DR.B.R.AMBEDKAR.

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ABSTRACT

Water is essential for all living beings and it is used for the purpose of public sanitation, crop production, transportation and animal husbandry and all other purposes. Due to its multiple benefits and the problems created by its excesses, shortages and quality deterioration, water is considered for special attention. Dr.Ambedkar thought extensively on nature, village and water. Dr.Ambedkar perceptively articulated social and cultural aspects of water, and how and why Dalits had to be liberated from the caste of water. He intrinsically realised that water was a deeply contentious issue that intersected with caste in critical ways, producing complex cultural meanings and social hierarchies.

Key-words: Water, Transportation ,Purpose, Social.

1. INTRODUCTION

Water is an important resource and it is an area of both contention and conflict right now. These conflicts could be between villages, blocks, districts, states or countries, between rural and urban areas, between the rich and the poor, between various of users and various sectors. Thus, the nature of these conflicts addressing the problems are often constrained by the restricted and dominant approach that is adopted in addressing the issues. It is further stated that the lack of objective and useful facts to facilitate rational issues and decision-making process among the various beneficiaries that could lead to acceptable answers. It is therefore important to note that an interdisciplinary perspective be adopted in order to understand the problems and the interconnectedness of various dimensions regarding the sector in order to meet the water requirements of the country.

2. WATER SHARING ISSUES

There is no Constitutional amendment and legislation in India that does not provide an appropriate framework to deal with water sharing based issues between the states, sectors and individuals. In the present set up (i) the primary powers are given at state levels which do not correspond to river basins' boundaries; (ii) surface water rights are not clearly mentioned and such rights cannot be commercially transferred; (iii) ground water powers are purely private, and; (iv) environmental laws have not been comprehensively operationalised and having regular standards are either not enforced or do not exist. The legal and every right to groundwater rests with the ownership of the land, irrespective of the social and environmental consequences.

3. SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is mainly based on the pattern of production and consumption that can be pursued in the future without degrading the human and natural environment. It involves equitable sharing of benefits of economic activities to all section of society, to enhance the well being of humans, and protect health and alleviate poverty. Similarly, rural development as sustainable is to improve the quality

of life of rural people and to meet their needs towards an equal and nature-dominated rural world. It continues to exert sustainable life support system of the earth (M.S. Swaminathan 2008). The sustainable rural development requires the integrated attention of its major components of ecological conservation, economic growth, equity, energy management and employment generation. The development of infrastructure—rural roads and bridges, irrigation facilities, flood control, power supply, education, health, agriculture research and extension services, rural markets and sanitation is essential for accelerated sustainable development of rural areas.

4 DR.AMBEDKAR VIEWS ON WATER SHARING

Dr.Ambedkar has expressed inevitably the social and cultural aspects of water, and the Dalits had to be liberated from the water based castes. He intrinsically realised that water was a deeply contentious issue that much related with caste in critical ways, establishing complex cultural meanings and social hierarchies. Water has been a traditional medium of goods for the exclusion of the poor SC/ST people in overt and covert ways. For instance, denying of weak people the right over, and access to, water; asserting the monopoly of upper castes over water bodies, including rivers, canals, wells, tanks, ponds and local hand pumps; constructing casteist water based texts in cultural and religious regimes; it is not SC/ST people's narratives and knowledge of water; and making through and speaking about the castes, and classes marginalized people understand together as peripheral to discourses on water. Water, the people of SC/STs, has not been a crest of life, but a source of constant pain and separation and partiality.

According to Dr.Bima Rao they overlook the fact that traditional water management systems have not been equal by conducting water culture. Rather they are embedded in deeply structured hierarchies of caste, based on control, power and useful dominant religious rituals, which are intermeshed in an invisible line of caste pre-suppositions.

Thus Dr. Ambedkar mentioned the first steps towards social conscience by taking a stand against war during a conflict over water rights. Instead, he

advocates a thorough research on the distribution of water between the two countries. Similarly Dr. Ambedkar symbolises equal access and right over the water resources, democratisation in the governance of public water-bodies, and making water free of religious and caste sanctions.¹

5. OBJECTIVES

✚ To explore the thoughts and ideas of Dr. Ambedkar on sharing of water resources for rural tanks

To analyse the disparities between lower and higher class people, in connection with water sharing

6. METHODOLOGY

Secondary sources of the data were used through visiting various libraries and collecting data from government offices.

7. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Caste system prevalent in India moulded every occupation into a Caste. Since each Caste has to follow its own traditional occupation it condemned the majority of the people to manual labour and forced them to remain under the domination of the upper Caste without any salvation. As the Caste-based social system assigned a hierarchical position to each Caste and pre-determined the social status and the favoured class and under-privileged depressed class resulting in gross unjust discrimination and inequality in society. It sapped all their energy and enthusiasm to make efforts for bettering their status in life and led to social and economic backwardness. It created social imbalance and hampered the even growth and progress of the society. To destabilize the traditional Caste hierarchy and transformation of the social structure of Indian society into a homogeneous unit and promote social integration and the welfare of the people by securing a just social order, the concept of social justice was evolved in this country. The system that sought to preserve the social status cracked with advent of the introduction of the British legal system in India.

The water management demonstrations being conducted by community based tank management consultancy services would effectively teach the tank users about conservation and efficient use of tank water. Such, awareness needs to be replicated in many more tank command areas to

popularize efficient use of water. It was observed that majority of sample farmers expressed that there should be tank committee; at the same time there should be participation in tank committee followed by rules with regard to water regulation. Therefore, suitable incentives should be provided to encourage user participation in tank management.

8. CONCLUSION

Dr. Ambedkar has contributed to turning over to the people from socially disadvantaged and vulnerable sections and every body's right to take the benefits of the resources available in the local area like villages. This is important to note that the ideas and the works of the Great Architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. Ambedkar has stated that those who are the people of the particular environmental resources even in the village side the tank and their catchment area should have equal rights claimed by the social emancipation. A concrete local level institution must be started wherever the problems exist and the domination of the higher caste people, in order to protect the rights of vulnerable by the way of social emancipation. Everybody from the socially advantaged sections will be given awareness about the rights and benefits of sharing of natural resources. All the castes' people living in and around the water bodies should be met and their problems and issues pertaining to the accessibility of water and the water bodies be discussed. Hence It is therefore concluded that a rich contribution of the Great Personality and Social Reformer provides the right direction to the people from socially and economically disadvantaged sections, to secure their livelihoods and protect their basic rights in sharing the natural resources, especially water resources in the remotest villages.

9. SELECT REFERENCES

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