

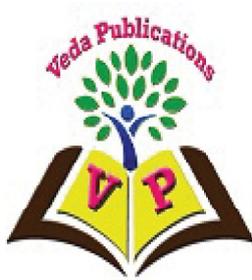
DR. AMBEDKAR'S PHILOSOPHY ON EDUCATION - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Philosophy is a systematic enquiry about the ultimate realities in the universe. Dr. Ambedkar established People's Education Society in Bombay and Aurangabad to educate the students of the Dalit community. He strongly believed that education should be a priority for the society and should be utilized for the growth of individuals with character. This paper focuses on the philosophical thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar in the context of education. His educational philosophy is reflected in his lectures, published articles in various magazines and his work in educational institutions. Education should play an important role in a man's life. It is our need to understand the impact of his philosophy of education on every aspect of our lives.

Key Words: Education, Philosophy, Student, Teacher.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'Philosophy' is derived from the Greek words 'Philo' which means 'love' and 'Sophia' which means 'Wisdom'. Philosophy thus means 'Love of wisdom' (Bhatia and Bhatia, 2000:3)

Philosophy of education is a careful, critical and systematic intellectual endeavour to see education as a whole and as an integral part of man's culture, the more accurate meaning of the term varying with the systematic point of view of the stipulator. Another interpretation is of any Philosophy dealing with or applied to the process of public or private education and used as a basis for the general determination, interpretation and evaluation of educational problems having to do with objectives, practices, outcomes, child and social needs, materials of study and all other aspects of the field (Good, C.V., 1959, (P-395)

The present paper deals with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Educational philosophy which, is reflected in his Educational thoughts. Philosophy is a systematic enquiry about the ultimate realities in the universe. The most important basis of understanding man is through philosophy which is mainly concerned with an enquiry into reality.

Dr. Ambedkar was one of the modern thinkers of India. His philosophy of education was seen through his practice in his lifetime. According to Dr. Ambedkar, "Education is that which make men fearless, teach unity, make understand their birth rights and teach to struggle and fight for the freedom. Education is the process by which man has made the great positive changes in the society and the lifestyle. The importance of education cannot be stated enough. It is self enlightening. Education has an immense impact on the human society. One can safely assume that a person is not in the proper sense until he is educated. It trains the human mind to think and take the right decision. In other words, man becomes a rational animal when he is educated. It is through education that knowledge and information is received and spread throughout the world.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The paper is based on the secondary sources of data, which have been obtained from various

discussion papers, published articles in journals, web articles (internet sources), past studies and newspaper etc.

DR .B.R. AMBEDKAR AND HIS EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Ambedkar had viewed education as the means to open the hidden eyes of human beings to acquire knowledge and to cultivate the mind. He believed that education was necessary for human beings to shake off their mental lethargy and satisfaction with their plight. He demanded facilities for education. He also demanded that a certain percentage of seats be reserved, that hostels and schools be started and informal education be given to the untouchables. It is crucial to the overall development of an individual and the society at large. Education for all has been the most important debate at all stages of society, progress and development.

Dr. Ambedkar thought that education was of tremendous importance as the foundation of progress. He thought that because people neglected the material needs of life and grew indifferent to the knowledge that enabled them to secure it, our country remained backward and her progress came to a standstill. He did not visualize education simply as a means for the development of a child's personality or as a source of earning one's livelihood. Rather, he considered education as the most powerful agent for bringing about desired changes in society and a prerequisite for organized effort for launching any social movement in modern times. For him education was an instrument to liberate the dalits from illiteracy, ignorance and superstitions and thus enable them to fight against all forms of injustice, exploitation and oppression. He felt that if dalits are educated then they could leave their traditional occupations and take up secular occupations thus breaking the age-old caste-based structure of divisions of labour in our society.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar heard many problems due to system discrimination. He believed that the depressed classes can only fight with the power of education. Without education their values and esteem are not safe. His primary focus was equality in education.

According to his philosophy, there should be two determinations of education. First, one should obtain it for the improvement of society and second it should focus on one's own improvement. Education was the essential point in his debates and journals. He emphasized that providing of education should be balanced which helps to differentiate cultures and truth. His educational philosophy emphasises the growth of an individual and his environment.

He said, 'Higher education', means that education, which can enable one to occupy the strategically important places in State administration. He also said "My final word of advice to you is 'Educate, Agitate and Organize'; have faith in your-self with justice on my side. I do not see how we can lose our battle. The battle to me is a matter of joy. The battle is in the fullest sense spiritual. There is nothing material or social in it. For ours is a battle not for wealth or for power". It is a battle for freedom. It is a battle for the repossession of the human personality.

In order to promote education among untouchables, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar had set up hostels for untouchable students at different places like Panvel, Pune, Nasik, Sholapur, Thane and Dharwad with donations and grants raised from district and local authorities. He established the People's Education Society in July 1945.

Dr. B.R.Ambedkar suggested a utilitarian curriculum. He was against introducing charka in primary schools, which may deprive scheduled caste people of their curiosity .He was inspired by the freedom of choice in American universities. He proposed a dynamic, progressive and scientific curriculum. He also made suggestions in favour of women. While imparting education, the abilities of women should be taken into consideration. Compulsory and liberal education was suggested for women. He was also of the view that women should be primarily trained in home science and peripherally in other subjects also. In a way it is like Rousseau's philosophy.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Ambedkar emphasized on the practical value of things. His ideas and educational doctrines have been successfully demonstrated through the

ages. Though the best educational system of the world and their cherished ideals have already been incorporated directly or indirectly into educational system of modern India, Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy has great ideas for practical fulfillment and relevance to the modern society.

Dr. Ambedkar had a deep relation with education and his writings show expertise and in-depth analysis of the subject. Dr. Ambedkar wanted the people to cultivate the values of freedom and equality among themselves. It is possible only through education. He regarded education as ignorance. Dr. Ambedkar emphasized on secular education for social freeing. The basic theme of his philosophy of education is inculcating the values of emancipation, equality, society, justice and moral character among the boys and girls of all shades, through his educational philosophy. In my view, experiencing the full freedom of education without the barriers of any caste, creed and race is the best way for the enlightenment of human beings from ignorance.

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