

National Seminar

on

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: CONTRIBUTION TO NATION BUILDING

13-14 April, 2016

Short Report:

Seminar Theme & Concept:

Since time immemorial, peace, non-violence, morality and social justice are some of the most valuable and enduring elements for nation building. The idea of nation building revolves around the welfare of man through social and political action, respect for basic human dignity, respect of human rights, and secularization of state. Although Indian society has been transforming socio-economically and politically, but the plight of the common man still has not changed and marginalized communities are facing problems under the current global scenario as their problems are centuries old, manifold and complex in nature. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision was to eradicate the social evils, disparities, injustice and to establish an egalitarian world society.

Dr B R Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was an illustrious son of India who struggled throughout his entire life to restructure the Indian society on egalitarian and humanitarian principles. He was not only a great national leader and an eminent jurist but also a distinguished scholar of International repute. He was a multifaceted personality a cerebral, revolutionary and the statesman of the twentieth century, contributing immensely to enrich various facets of Indian national life.

Dr Ambedkar left an indelible mark on Indian Polity, Society and Economy. His vision on nation building was closely related to his ideal of a good society and ideal is based on the concept Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Ambedkar's vision of national building was geared with social transformation and human progress. His contribution pervades the entire gamut of social life. He is remembered and admired as nationalist, well known economist, a brilliant lawyer, a

Constitutionalist, author of various books, social activist, law maker, liberator, leader of oppressed classes and women and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

Dr. Ambedkar tirelessly devoted to the reconstruction of modern India. He not only contributed towards restructuring of the Indian social structure but also contributed in the fields of agriculture irrigation, industrialization and modernization. In this field his important contribution is welfare of the labour classes, agricultural irrigation and initiatives and preparation of water transport schemes, flood control schemes, river transport schemes for increasing power production. He suggested collective farming, equal distribution of land. Large scale Industrialization of provision of providing money, water, seeds and fertilizers to farmers by the government, cultivation of waste land by allotting waste land to landless labour, minimum wages to labourers , control and regulation of private lenders of loan to farmers for solving the problem of agriculture in India. Due to his efforts the 'Land Ceiling Act' was passed after Independence.

Dr. Ambedkar knew that development of India was impossible without rapid industrialization. He suggested that government should start large scale industries and smaller industries should be kept in private sector and the insurance and transport companies should be nationalized.

Dr Ambedkar knew that without population control, Indian economy cannot flourish. He forcefully argued for population control and family planning in India and it was due to his effort that the government of India adopted family planning as a national policy.

Dr B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts give amazing and constructive insights to the problem of the social exclusion of the deprived and other excluded groups within India. His thoughts not only conceptualized the social discrimination, but also focused on social emancipation and continuously inspired discussions on the origins of the social injustices within the social, cultural milieu of Indian society. Ambedkar's efforts to eradicate the social evils like untouchablity and caste restrictions were remarkable. Throughout his life he fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes. His ideas revolved around the welfare of mankind through social and political action, he stressed on respect for basic human dignity, human rights and secularization of state. His belief in peace and non-violence, constitutional morality, social justice are some of the most valuable and enduring elements of his political and social

philosophy which helps in building up humane and just society. His ultimate mission in life was to construct a virtual bridge between the various classes of the society.

To commemorate his 125th birth anniversary, this National Seminar was an attempt not only to evaluate the relevance of Dr. B R Ambedkar's thoughts in contemporary India but also to provide academicians and experts from different disciplines to discuss issues, priorities, remedies, action plan, and strategies for social emancipation, economic empowerment, educational advancement and participation of socially, culturally and racially marginalized sections like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and women in India.

Objectives of the Seminar:

- 1. To provide a platform to share thoughts and perspectives of Dr. B R Ambedkar on Nation building;*
- 2. To understand the vision and mission of Dr. B R Ambedkar for socio-economic, political, religious and human rights reforms;*
- 3. To sensitize the academicians, researchers, social activists and scholars towards Dr. B R. Ambedkar's thoughts on the problems social exclusion and inclusive policies;*
- 4. To discuss and integrate social sciences perspectives with national & international approaches in research, extension, training & education for advancement of knowledge and capacity building of the marginalized sections suffering from racial and caste based discrimination;*
- 5. To discuss Dr B.R. Ambedkar's vision and his road map towards social emancipation, economic development, educational excellence and to promote the participation of weaker sections of society in nation building;*
- 6. To work out social action research plan and strategies in order to prepare latest modules of social sciences with the ideology of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for alleviation of the downtrodden*

and eradication of social evils, social disparities & injustice and establishment of an egalitarian nation;

7. To understand Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's vision in the making of the Constitution and road map set by him for a more humane and just society; and

8. To analyze and discuss the implementation of the tenets of the Constitution particularly secularism, democracy, social justice and nationalism in contemporary India.

DAY 1

The **inaugural session** began with welcoming the Guests. Prof.(Retd.) S.D.Kapoor, JNVU, Jodhpur was Chief Guest and **Dr. B.R.Meghwal, IG, BSF as Guest of Honour**. The head of the Centre **Mrs. K. B. Vandana, IPS**, delivered the welcome address. And gave an overview of the topic to be discussed i.e. **Dr.B.R.Ambedkar: Contribution To Nation Building**. Prof. S.D.Kapoor critically analyzed the present scenario from the Ambedkar's book "Annihilation of Caste". He made a comparative study situation of Dalits in India and the Black Afro-American in the U.S.A.He found a member of parallel between Ambedkar and the Black radicalist W.E.B. Du Bois. Also commenting on Arundhati Roy's letter to Rajmohan Gandhi, Prof. Kapoor compared Gandhi's ideology with that of Ambedkar stressing upon how Gandhi focused on the 'moral' while Ambedkar on the 'theoretical' aspects of the treatment of the Dalits in India and Dr. Meghwal talked about the ideology of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in contemporary era.

SYMPOSIUM I:

The session was chaired by **Hon'ble Justice N.N.Mathur Former Vice Chancellor of NLU** who talked about the affirmative justice of Babasaheb & highlighted the need for Transformative Jurisprudence.

The first speaker of the session **Prof. Anand Kumar,(Redt. Prof.) Dept. of Political Science, JNU, New Delhi** explained the role of B. R. Ambedkar in nation building by presenting his thought about Trivid Nyaya. While **Prof. P.S.Bhati (Retd.Prof.)** correlated the ideology of Ambedkar with respect to different religion.

SYMPOSIUM II:

The session started with symposium titled **Ambedkar's Contribution towards Social Justice, Emancipation & Empowerment**. **Prof. S.P. Gupta, JNVU ,Jodhpur** who chaired the session threw light upon Ambedkar's principle of social justice. **Prof. R.K. Makhwana, Dept.of Sociology, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhya Nagar, Gujarat,** was the first speaker who shared his views with regard to Ambedkar's thought on treating people with equality & dignity.

Second speaker Dr. Umesh K. Rai, Associate Prof., Govt. Girls College, Alwar, talked about the role of Buddhism in Ambedkar's life and how he fought for human dignity and freedom.

TECHNICAL SESSION I:

The session was chaired by Prof Poonam Bawa, Dept. of Political Science, JNVU, Jodhpur and Dr. Bhup Singh, Associate Prof. Dept. of Sociology, Dronacharya College , Gurgaon, concluded the session with her view on Ambedkar's contribution towards upliftment of the marginalized section of the society.

DAY 2

TECHNICAL SESSION II:

The second day of the seminar was started with the second technical session chaired by Shri Vishnu Charan Malik, District Collector, Jodhpur who discussed gender disparities in education. Six papers were presented in this session. Prof. Tararam, JNVU, Jodhpur an expert on Ambedkar's ideology co-chaired the session and focused on Ambedkar's contribution towards economic development.

TECHNICAL SESSION III:

The session was chaired by the Prof. S.K.Meena, Dept. of Hindi, JNVU and co-chaired by the Dr. L.N. Bunkar, Associate Prof. Dept. of Psychology, JNVU. Five papers were read by different presenters in this session. After a long discussion the session ended with the concluding note on Ambedkar's Contribution as a Constitution Maker.

SYMPOSIUM III:

Prof. Sudhi Rajiv chaired the concluding symposium. Dr. B.K. Nagla (Retd. Prof.), Rohtak University discussed the corner stone of Ambedkar's philosophy & its relevance in the present scenario of globalization & privatization. Shri M.L.Kumawat, former Vice Chancellor, SPUP, Jodhpur asked audience if they could visualize the India of today without Ambedkar's contribution in myriads of ways.