

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's Views on State and Democracy

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Abstract:

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was a renowned political leader, philosopher, writer, economist, scholar of religion and philosophy and a social reformer who dedicated his life to the eradication of untouchability and social inequality in India. Dr. Ambedkar's legal expertise and knowledge of constitutions of different countries proved to be very helpful in the making of the constitution. He became the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly and played an important role in framing the Indian Constitution.

Dr. Ambedkar had a lot of influence on the contemplation of political thoughts, so he considered the state as an essential and useful institution. He was of the opinion that with the help of the state a just system can be established in the socio-economic field. Dr. Ambedkar has considered the democratic governance system in the state as the best governance system in which every section of the society not only gets representation but also gets the opportunity to have its say. Dr. Ambedkar wanted to establish a society where discrimination is done with any person on the basis of caste, religion, language, gender, region, etc. He had deep faith in religion and God. He considered religion helpful for the all-round development of the individual and society and considered religion as a major means in the social structure. Dr. Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democracy, because in this system of governance, importance is given to the rights and freedoms of the citizens. Dr. Ambedkar has supported socialism in his state related ideas, while he also opposed capitalism. Dr. Ambedkar has supported strong central government and emphasized on constitutionalism. Dr. Ambedkar laid a lot of emphasis on gender equality and strongly opposed the caste system. Dr. Ambedkar's whole life was devoted to the upliftment and improvement of the lower classes. He supported the system of separate constituencies for Dalits. Dr. Ambedkar has given importance to independence in his state related thoughts and strongly opposes imperialism. Dr. Ambedkar has given importance to independence in his state related thoughts and strongly opposes imperialism. He was of the opinion that in order to maintain democracy, it is necessary that the citizens are aware of their rights and freedoms. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had full faith in the concept of democracy of equality, freedom, justice and fraternity. In democracy, he supports the parliamentary form of government and was committed to achieving socio-economic democracy.

Keywords: Untouchability, Discrimination, Religion, Governance, Constitutionalism, Capitalism, Upliftment, Imperialism, Socio-economic, Fraternity.

Introduction:

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was primarily a settled politician, sociologist, jurist and economist. The area of his thinking is mainly the problem of social justice and therefore it is natural that he considered political

subjects from this point of view. He wanted to provide social, political and economic justice to Dalits in his public life. For this purpose, he had participated in politics and we study the ideas given in his various books, articles etc. considering them as his political views. Dr. Ambedkar had a lot of influence on the political views of Western countries, so he considered the state as an essential and useful institution. He was of the opinion that with the help of the state a justice system can be established in the socio-economic field. In such a system, there is freedom, equality and understanding of brotherhood among individuals. He did not support thinking of the state as autocratic powers, he accepted the control of democratic powers on the state. He did not support handing over autocratic powers to the state. They have accepted the control of the democratic forces on the state. His state related views are found in various books, articles etc. which are described as follows:

State is an essential and useful institution

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's political views were influenced by western countries, so he considered the state as an essential and useful institution. He was of the view that the state has come into existence as an instrument for the all-round development of the individual and for this work he constantly strives. He was also of the opinion that with the help of the state a justice system can be established in the socio-economic field. In such a system relations of liberty, equality and fraternity are found among individuals. Dr. Ambedkar did not support handing over autocratic powers to the state, he accepted the control of democratic powers over the state. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that it is the duty of every state to provide opportunities for maximum progress to its citizens and thus the state is a means to a social system, not an end. According to him the main objectives of the state are as follows:

- To protect the life liberty freedom of speech and freedom of allegiance of each of its citizens.
- Providing better facilities to the lower classes by removing social, political and economic inequality.
- To free every citizen from fear and anxiety of need.
- The state should take effective measures from time to time to fulfill these objectives.

Full faith in democracy

Dr. Ambedkar had realized during his foreign stay that democracy is such a superior system of governance in which every section of the society not only gets representation but also gets an opportunity to have its say. In the beginning, he had considered the presidential form of the democratic system of government as the best system of government, but later, looking at the circumstances of India, he expressed support and faith in the parliamentary system of government. Dr. Ambedkar believes that democracy is a positive system of complete social economic change. He was of the opinion that democracy is such a system of governance in which changes can be brought in the socio-economic life of the people without bloodshed. The main reason why he supported the democracy system of governance was that this system is based on liberty and equality. Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that in a democratic system adult franchise, neutral bureaucracy and governance is run according to the constitution.

Rights are possible only in the state

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democracy, because in this system of governance, the rights and freedoms of the citizens are given priority. He was of the opinion that rights are those facilities for the all-round development of man by which he can lead a life of dignity. Therefore, every state

should not only provide rights to its citizens, but should also make arrangements for their legal protection by describing them in the constitution, so that if any person or institution violates these fundamental rights, legal action can be taken against them. Dr. Ambedkar wanted to make the development of untouchable or Dalit society reliable by arranging rights in the state. Along with this, he wanted to create social harmony in the society through freedom, equality, justice and fraternity.

Supremacy of constitution

Dr. Ambedkar was a staunch supporter of the supremacy of the Constitution. He was of the opinion that the constitution of the country cannot be run according to the wishes of a particular person, but the powers of the government, its various parts etc. should be described in the written form in the constitution. He was of the view that governance in ancient India was carried out according to the beliefs of Hinduism and in the medieval period according to Muslim beliefs. Such laws cannot be implemented all over India because being a huge country, it had about 600 princely states and all the princely states had their own rules and regulations. Therefore, a powerful central government can perform its functions only if the public law is uniform in all the provinces. For this, it is necessary that a federal constitution should be made, which includes a description of the uniform laws of the entire nation, and the governance of the country should be carried out according to this supreme constitution. Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that economic, social and political development of the Dalits and backward is not possible until the supreme power of the head is established in the state, so Dr. Ambedkar had emphasized on the supreme power of the constitution.

Support to independence of judiciary

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar strongly supported the principle of separation of powers in his political views. The main reason he supported this principle was to maintain the independence of the judiciary. He was of the opinion that the Judiciary should be kept free from the influence of the Legislature and the Executive so that it could not influence the functioning of the Judiciary. If the independent judiciary performs its duties impartially without any pressure, then the respect for the judiciary increases in the general public. Dr. Ambedkar supported the independence of the judiciary to establish a healthy democratic system and to protect the rights of the individual.

Ideas related to reorganization of states and language

At the time of independence, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar advocated the reorganization of states on the basis of language. He was of the view that there can be no linguistic and cultural conflict in states based on language or there is less possibility of such conflict. He was of the opinion that there is rapid structural development in states formed on the basis of language and provincial unity is also strengthened. But Dr. Ambedkar was against giving prominence to regional languages by including them in the constitution. He was of the view that the unity and integrity of the nation may be endangered if regional languages are given prominence. Dr. Ambedkar advocates the importance of national language in place of regional languages. He insisted on the use of Hindi as the national language in place of the local language, the language of official work in all the states. Dr. Ambedkar accepts the use of English language along with Hindi until Hindi is adopted as the official language in all the states and the center, but he was not in favor of giving more importance to this foreign language.

Strong opposition to imperialism

Dr. Ambedkar has strongly opposed imperialism in his political views. Give prominence to freedom in their thoughts but freedom cannot be possible in imperialist regime. During his stay in London, he had to face bitter experiences of imperialism. India was a colony of Britain, due to which the British considered India and Indians as second class citizens. The citizens of India did not get all the rights and facilities for which the citizens of Britain were aware. Indians living in Britain were discriminated against by the British government, so Dr. Ambedkar strongly opposed imperialism.

Support to Strong Central Government

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was familiar with the ancient history of India and its weaknesses. He was of the opinion that whenever India's central power has weakened, India must have become a slave of some foreign power. That's why Dr. Ambedkar supported a strong central government for independent India because only a strong central government can maintain the unity and integrity of India. Dr. Ambedkar was the messiah of dalits and minorities. He was of the opinion that the interests of the oppressed backward Dalit society and minority community can be protected only if the central government is very strong. Although Dr. Ambedkar supports a strong central government, he does not support unlimited powers to the center. He was of the view that the control of the Judiciary and the Legislature on the powers of the Center should be accepted so that the Center becomes autocratic.

Views regarding Secularism

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had deep faith in religion and God. He considered religion helpful for the all-round development of the individual and society and considered religion as a major means in the social structure. Explaining the secular state, he says that such a state in which all religions get equal respect and no particular religion gets any more merit is called a secular state. In such a state all persons should be free to practice religious worship according to their wish. But this does not mean that the state should not interfere in the religious affairs of the individual. If any religion condemns another religion, its conduct will be against the people of other religions, then the state must interfere in the religious affairs of such religion. Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that the state would try to maintain peace and control religious activities in the state.

Establishment of a society based on equality

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar wanted to establish such a society where discrimination is not done with any person on the basis of caste, religion, language, gender, race, region, etc. He was deeply saddened by the caste discrimination existing in the Indian society. During his stay in America, he had seen that there is no caste discrimination, no one asks your caste there, only your ability are given importance. There is only one race in America that you are an American and how much you can contribute to the progress of the country. When Dr. Ambedkar went to London to study, he saw that there Indians were considered inferior and doubt was expressed about their ability. Dr. Ambedkar was keen to establish such a state in which there is no discrimination of any kind, all citizens should contribute to the progress of the country according to their own capacity so that the country can be taken to a new peak of progress. He was of the view that untouchability cannot be accepted in any way in such a society.

Opposition the capitalism

Dr. Ambedkar has supported socialism in his political views, while he also opposed capitalism. He was of the view that the capitalist exploits and takes the help of others for the purpose of earning more and more money. Dr. Ambedkar used to oppose capitalism considering it as an instrument of exploitation. He was of the opinion that in a democracy, capitalists give donations to political parties and when they come to power, they pressurize these parties to accept both their fair and unfair demands. He considered the Indian National Congress as a political party of Hindu capitalists, so he has been anti-Congress since his early days. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that the state should take care that a large part of the profit is spent on public welfare instead of going into the pockets of the capitalists.

Emphasis on the upliftment of the lower classes

Dr. Ambedkar's entire life was devoted to the upliftment and improvement of the lower classes. When he became a member of the Mumbai Legislative Council in 1925, at that time he had accepted the proposal of filling water from ponds without any discrimination and open public places for the use of all. A resolution was passed in the Mahar conference demanding free education and scholarship for the children of the lower classes. Even in the Round Table Conference, he demanded the upliftment of the lower classes before the British Emperor, the end of untouchability and separate representation for these classes, due to which he had differences with Gandhiji. During the Quit India Movement in 1942, many Indians resigned from the Viceroy's Executive Council, but Bhimrao Ambedkar remained in that council and continued to make efforts for the upliftment of the downtrodden. At the time when the internal cabinet was formed on the basis of the recommendations of the cabinet mission, on the basis of population ratio, Dr. Ambedkar had demanded that two places in the cabinet should be given to the depressed classes. His purpose of creating the Hindu Code Bill was also to uplift the downtrodden and improve the condition of women.

Provision of separate constituencies for Dalits

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar used to demand separate electorates for dalits in his state related ideas. Dr. Ambedkar had supported the system of separate electorates for Dalits, similar to the separate place given to Muslims and Sikhs by the Act of 1909 and 1919. Dr. Ambedkar raised his demand in the First Round Table Conference and in the Second Round Table Conference before the British King, which he accepted. When Dr. Ambedkar was made the chairman of the drafting committee of the constitution, he made arrangements for reservation of some seats for the Dalits in the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies, which was also accepted by the Constituent Assembly.

Dr. Bhimrao ambedkar's views about democracy:

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had realized during his foreign stay that democratic governance system is the best governance system in which every section of the society not only gets representation but they also get the opportunity to have their say. In the beginning, he considered the presidential form of the democratic system of government as the best system of government, but later he supported the parliamentary system of government in view of the circumstances of India. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that democracy is such a system of governance in which changes can be brought in the socio-economic life of the people without bloodshed. His idea of democracy is as follows-

Support for parliamentary system of government

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democracy. Although initially he supported the presidential form of government, but after some time he became a strong supporter of the parliamentary form of government. Dr. Ambedkar had expressed the view that our constitution provides for a dual system of government, both have been given some independent powers by the constitution, which are used by both in their respective jurisdiction.

The goal of achieving social - economic democracy

Dr. Ambedkar did not want to establish democracy in India only on political basis, but he was a strong supporter of achieving socio-economic democracy for India. During his speech in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar had said that with the implementation of the constitution, we will get political democracy, but political democracy has no importance until all the people of India get social economic democracy. The goal of achieving political democracy in India was described in the fundamental rights, but keeping in mind the lack of resources and the weak financial condition of India, the goal of achieving socio-economic democracy was not included in the fundamental rights. Dr. Ambedkar supported the parliamentary system for India only as a means of just socio-economic change.

Support for two party system in independent India

Dr. Ambedkar had seen and studied the political system very closely during his stay in America and Britain. He was greatly influenced by the prevailing two-party system there and wanted to implement a similar two-party system in India as well. Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that due to the two party system prevalent in these countries, the transfer of power is easily done in the elections. One party forms the government and the other party plays the role of the opposition party. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that a two-party system should be adopted instead of the multi-party system in independent India so that one party forms the government and the other plays the role of a strong opposition. He was also of the opinion that both the political parties should have healthy competition and both would contribute in the overall development of the country.

Support neutral bureaucracy in a democracy

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar has supported neutral bureaucracy in his democratic views. Neutral bureaucracy refers to such bureaucracy, which cooperates with its executive in administrative work by being impartial without any pressure. Government or ministers keep coming and going but it is their job to run the administration. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that when the bureaucracy works neutrally, then the hope of socio-economic development can be increased. If the bureaucracy is made committed, then the bureaucracy will become a puppet in the hands of the executive. We cannot expect socio-economic democracy from a committed bureaucracy. This was the reason why Dr. Ambedkar stressed the need for a neutral bureaucracy for independent India.

Universal suffrage in a democracy

Dr. Ambedkar gives prominence to universal adult franchise in his democratic ideas. He was of the opinion that after a certain age every person should get the right to vote without any discrimination. Universal adult franchise creates a sense of security among the weaker sections of the society, women, Dalits and minorities and motivates them to participate actively in the political

process. Dr. Ambedkar raised the demand for universal adult franchise in both the Round Table Conferences. When he became the chairman of the drafting committee, he gave concrete shape to this demand and every Indian who was 21 years of age or above was given the right to vote without any discrimination. Later in 1989 the voting age was reduced to 18 years in India.

Protecting the interests of minorities and separate constituencies for Dalits

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar emphasizes on protecting the interests of minorities in his democratic views. He was of the opinion that the formation and operation of the government is possible on the principle of majority but minorities should get adequate representation in it.

Dr. Ambedkar had demanded separate electorate for Dalits in his democratic thoughts. His purpose behind reserving seats for Dalits was to motivate them for political participation.

Constant awareness and faith in constitutional means

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was of the opinion that in order to maintain democracy, it is necessary that the citizens should be aware of their rights and freedoms etc. Healthy public opinion can be formed only if the citizens have full knowledge about the problems of the country and the views of different political parties towards them.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had expressed full faith in constitutional means in his ideas related to democracy. He did not agree to use any kind of violence and unconstitutional means in support of her demands. He was of the view that even the greatest of powers can be concealed by constitutional means. Although Dr. Ambedkar was a staunch opponent of Gandhiji, he was greatly influenced by the constitutional means used by Gandhiji. This was the reason Dr. Ambedkar appealed to all his followers to use constitutional means.

Rights are possible only in democracy

Dr. Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democratic governance because in this governance the rights and freedoms of the citizens are given prominence. He was of the view that rights are those facilities for the all-round development of man by which he can lead a life of dignity. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every state to provide rights to its citizens and by describing them in the constitution, arrangements for their legal protection should also be made so that no person or institution violates these fundamental rights. He was of the view that the state can maintain peace and suspend them in case of emergency but measures should be taken to prevent human rights from becoming a toy in the hands of the state.

Support of personal liberty in a democracy

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar has given prominence to personal freedom in his democratic views. He was against any kind of restriction on the personal liberty of the individual. He supports suspending them only in case of emergency but was strongly opposed to abolishing them. Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that personal freedom motivates a person to move forward. As long as a person does not get personal freedom, he cannot do his all-round development and until he does not have his own development, then the development of the nation or country is not possible. This was the reason Dr. Ambedkar supported personal freedom in his democratic views.

Support to independence of judiciary

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar strongly supported the principle of separation of powers in his democratic views. The main reason for which principle was supported by him was to maintain the independence of the judiciary. He was of the opinion that the Judiciary should be kept free from the influence of the Legislature and the Executive so that it could not influence the functioning of the Judiciary. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar considered the independence of the judiciary necessary for the establishment of a healthy democratic system and for the protection of rights.

Strong central government to protect democracy

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar supported a strong central government to protect democracy. He was familiar with the ancient history of India and its weaknesses. He was of the opinion that whenever India's central power has weakened, India must have become a slave of some foreign power. That's why Dr. Ambedkar supported a strong central government for independent India. Only a strong central government can maintain the unity and integrity of India. Dr. Ambedkar was an advocate of the interests of Dalits and minorities. He was of the opinion that the interests of the exploited backward and dalit society and minority community can be protected only if the central government is very strong. Although Dr. Ambedkar supports strong central government in his thoughts but he does not support the dream of unlimited powers to the center.

Establishment of society based on equality in democracy

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had full faith in the concept of democracy of equality, freedom, justice and fraternity. Dr. Ambedkar was keen to establish a society in which there is no discrimination, all citizens should contribute to the progress of the country according to their ability, so that the country can be taken to a new peak of progress.

In conclusion, we can say that Dr. Ambedkar has considered the state as an essential and useful institution. He was of the opinion that with the help of the state a just system can be established in the socio-economic field. He opposed imperialism and expressed full faith in democracy. He had full faith in the supremacy of the constitution and the independence of the judiciary. He had deep faith in religion and God. He devoted his entire life to the upliftment of the lower classes. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democracy, because in this system of governance, the rights and freedoms of citizens are given priority. He had full faith in the two-party system and neutral bureaucracy. He was a strong supporter of universal suffrage and independence of the judiciary. Dr. Ambedkar's entire life was devoted to the upliftment and improvement of the lower classes. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar wanted to establish such a state in which all citizens should contribute to the progress of the country according to their ability so that the country can be taken to a new peak of progress.

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