



## Relevance of Principles of Political Democracy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

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**Abstract :** Democracy is an important means for creating an atmosphere of human dignity and rights. Democracy as a form of government various definitions are there. Dr Ambedkar regards democracy as a way of life. Ambedkar viewed democracy is mode of associated living or life between the people who form the society. Dr. B.R Ambedkar was the first Indian political thinker who realized the inapplicability of the western pattern of democracy to India. Ambedkar thought it was not enough to make a distinction between the **state and society, state and government, state and nation** but he went to the roots of these institutions and pointed out the importance of taking into account the elements constituting these institutions i.e. people. Ambedkar criticized the western writers in his book "What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables? Because, they failed to identify the economic and social contradictions. Ambedkar said a mere pretence of democracy would not achieve the purpose of democracy. Thus, according to Dr. Ambedkar, a mere facade of democracy would not achieve the purpose of democracy which should be the welfare of the whole people. Someone born great and some achieved greatness through their deeds. Dr. Ambedkar was a strong supporter of democracy. Dr. Ambedkar Principles of Democracy is of great relevance in these days of corrupt politics and administration. Democracy is superior because it enhances liberty. People have control over the rulers. Ambedkar, in all his sincerity and deep faith in a democratic outlook on life, laid stress on the need of these requirements of democracy. According to Ambedkar Democracy is only form of government through which basic social, economic and political changes would be brought about without bloodshed. Today we see so many challenges before Indian democracy. Now it is the most appropriate here to assess the relevance of message of his principles of political democracy to our times and particularly on 125<sup>th</sup> birth year of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

**Key words:** bloodshed, democracy, human life

### Introduction

The term "Democracy" is derived from the Greek words "Demos" and "Kratos" the former meaning the "people" and the later "power". The definitions of Democracy given by Walter Bagehot or Abraham Lincoln were not satisfied to Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar's concept of democracy attaches more importance to society than to the State. The state has its own role to play. The state should not

interfere so long as the individuals are working well and doing good to one another. Ambedkar does not consider the state to be an absolute value. But he regards the state as essential in a democratic way of human life especially when the society is endangered by disorder and lawlessness. Ambedkar defined "Democracy is a form of government thereby revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of the people are brought about without



*bloodshed*" Social justice can be established through democracy. Social justice demands that the society should promote the welfare of all and not merely the greatest happiness of the greatest number. According to him "everything is vanishing and there is nothing that is permanent in human history". Democratic method in politics gives no promise for final truths. His approach is based on rationalism and empiricism. Reason and experience, when combined can yield fruits in politics. Human reason and experience should control the political life of man.

#### **Objectives of the present Study are**

- To study the idea of democracy.
- To understand the idea of democracy of Dr. Ambedkar.
- To know the views of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's principles of political Democracy.

#### **Hypothesis of the present study are**

- The Political ideas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar are still relevant to the modern India to safeguard the liberty, equality and fraternity.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a great nationalist who believed in united India.
- According to Ambedkar social and economic democracy is the tissue and the fibre of political democracy.

#### **Statement of the Problem is**

Ambedkar viewed democracy is mode of associated living or life between the people who form the society. Ambedkar does not want that the only one section of the society or a single party should rule continuously. In his political democracy all person's have equal rights.

#### **Methodology**

The present study is historical and secondary data of the Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's works on social, economic and political democracy are used in this study.

#### **Concept of Democracy**

The definitions of Democracy given by Walter Bagehot or Abraham Lincoln were not satisfied to Ambedkar. Bagehot defines democracy as '**government by discussion**' and Lincoln as 'the government **of the people, by the people and for the people**. If democracy can enable those who are running it to bring about fundamental changes in the social and economic life of the people and the people accept those changes without restoring to bloodshed, then I say that there is democracy, that is the real test and it is perhaps the severest test. But when you are judging the quality of material you must put it to the severest test. Thus, according to Dr. Ambedkar, a mere facade of democracy would not achieve the purpose of democracy which should be the welfare of the whole people.

#### **Principles of Political democracy**

The freedom of the country does not usually mean the freedom of the people in that country, the influence and the power of the state may be concentrated in a particular class of people.

Dr Ambedkar said during the discussion in the constituent assembly, there was a variety of opinion as regards the nature of the constitution that we should have some preferred British system, some American system, there were others who did not want either of these two types of government. According to Ambedkar, parliamentary democracy is unknown to us at present but one time we had



parliamentary institution, which was stated in Suktas of Mahaprinibbana, while Buddha was dying at Kusimara a message to the effect was sent to the Mallas who were sitting in the session at that time, they were devoted to parliamentary institutions. According to him that ancient India was the master of the world.

The system of secret ballot, now in vogue is also not new to us, it is followed in Buddhist sanghas. They used the ballot papers which called Salapatraka Grahkas. Unfortunately we have lost all this past heritage that was good. According to Ambedkar there are three main things inherent in parliamentary system of government.

- Parliamentary government means negation of hereditary rule. No person can claim to be hereditary ruler and who ever wants to rule must be elected by the people from time to time.
- Any law and any measure applicable to the public life of the people must be based on the advice of the people chosen by the people. In monarchy the affairs of the people are carried on in the name of the monarch and under the authority of monarch. In democracy the affairs of the public are carried on in the name of the head of the state. The head of the state is the titular head, he is merely a symbol. The government of the country is carried out through in his name by the elected representatives of the people.
- Parliamentary system of the government means that a stated period those who want to advise the head of the state, must have the

confidence of the people in themselves renewed.

Ambedkar felt that there are another two pillars on which the parliamentary system of government rests, those are, 1. An opposition 2. Free and fair elections. In the name of democracy there should be no tyranny of the majority over the minority.

### **Constitutional Morality**

Ambedkar stresses the need for constitutional morality and some conventions for the practical success of a constitution. There must be a steady growth of constitutional convention, the people should not allow rein for their respect and loyalty to the leader to grow in to blind faith of the Bhakti cult. Dr. Ambedkar cited an example of George Washington when he was requested by the people to stand for the second time for the presidentship of America, Washington said, ' My dear people you have forgotten the purpose for which we made this constitution because we did not want a hereditary monarchy and did not want a hereditary ruler or a dictator.

Ambedkar believes that only by dividing the powers of government in to Legislative, Executive and Judiciary, each department can function with the utmost care and effectiveness.

### **Essential Conditions for Successful Working of Democracy**

1. **No glaring inequalities-** That there must be no glaring inequality in the society, there must not be an oppressed and suppressed class, there must not be a class which has got all the privileges and class which has got all the burdens to carry.



2. **Existence of Opposition-** The existence of an effective opposition is an important factor in the working of successful democracy. In the name of democracy there should be no tyranny of the majority over the minority.
3. **Equality in Law and Administration-** For efficient functioning of democracy there is a need of permanent civil services implementing the policy of the government without fear of the executive. Today's politics is nothing but a struggle for power, the administration is known for its efficiency.
4. **Independent Judiciary-** Ambedkar stressed the need for an independent judiciary to safeguard the rights of individuals.

#### Relevance to our Times

We have discussed the important dimensions of concept of democracy of Dr. Ambedkar. But one is surprised to note the question that--

What is not relevant of Ambedkar's message of his democratic principles? Is a question itself because Dr. Ambedkar emerged as a universal man to save all living human beings. Ambedkar's principles of democracy is of a great relevance in these days of corrupt politics and administration.

#### Conclusion

His concept of Democracy is a genuine one, was for the emancipation of discriminations. Dr Ambedkar was essentially a pragmatic political and real democratic who had really a heartfelt concern for suffering world of men and women.

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