

# Ambedkar's Contribution towards the Social Advancement of Women

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## Introduction

*"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."*

**-Dr B R Ambedkar**

An eminent jurist and chief architect of the Indian constitution had raised his voice for the equal status of women in the year 1920. During that period of time women's specially belonging from the marginalized group were facing innumerable challenges. The hue and cry of lower caste community was very prevalent and alarming. Women were suppressed and has been like an instrument for the society. Even at the present juncture women are considered as an instrument for amusement and procreation. Several issues like limited educational opportunities, dominance of patriarchal society, were matter of concern. In Hinduism, women were considered to be the bond slaves of their fathers when they were young, their husbands when they were middle-aged, and their sons when they become mothers.<sup>1</sup> He goes in confrontation to the Hindu religion and the *Manusmriti* by reiterating that they have tried to intentionally generate the gender difference. As French philosopher **Simone de Beauvoir** has quoted that:

*"women are made, they are not born".*

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** criticized one of the principles of Manu which says that:

*"By a girl, by a young-women, or even by an aged one, nothing must be done independently, even in her own house."*<sup>2</sup>

He said that the Vedas, Upanishads and other text deceive people and the same are creating gender inequality in the society.

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1 D.C Ahir "The Legacy of Ambedkar" B.R.Pub. Delhi, 1990, P.12

2 V. 147, Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar –A Study in Social Democracy, By G S Lokhande, Intellectual Publishing House, New Delhi, 1977 P-144.

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