

# Ambedkar's Idea of Minority Rights in a Democratic Setup with special reference to Muslim and Christian Minority Group

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## Introduction

*"In a republic this rule ought to be observed: that the majority should not have the predominant power."*

—*Marcus Tullius Cicero*

Throughout his life, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dreamed of a society based on the modern liberal ideals of 'liberty, equality and fraternity.' In order to make his own dream a reality, Dr. Ambedkar was further concerned about putting the 'depressed class' in the category of 'minority.' While making his case, he raised the socio-economic status of Dalits in the 1919 Southborough Commission. After much struggle, he succeeded in securing constitutional guarantees for Dalits. Dr. Ambedkar incorporated all the principles into the Indian Constitution during the post-independence period, thereby creating a peaceful social revolution.

Ambedkar believed that all marginalized communities, including Muslim and Christian minority groups, should have equal protection and opportunities. This idea of minority rights in a democratic system was intended to achieve this. He thought that the welfare and rights of all citizens, particularly those who are members of minority groups, should be protected by the democratic and constitutional principles. Ambedkar placed a strong emphasis on everyone's right to freedom of religion, including the freedom to practice, spread, and openly profess any religion without facing prejudice. He thought that no one ought to be forced to renounce their religious convictions or convert.

Ambedkar promoted affirmative action measures, such as allocating seats in political, economic, and educational institutions to members of underrepresented communities. He maintained that in order to empower and uplift historically marginalized communities, these actions were required. Ambedkar was a fervent opponent of caste and religious discrimination in society. His efforts were directed towards the elimination of social ills that impacted minority communities, such as inequality and untouchability. In order

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