

# Jyotirao Phule: An Architect of Social Awakening

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## Abstract

*Jyotirao Govindrao Phule (1827–1890) stands as one of nineteenth-century India's most transformative social reformers, whose visionary work fundamentally challenged the entrenched caste hierarchy and denied patriarchal structures in Indian society. Through his foundational organization, the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers), established in 1877, and his advocacy for universal education and women's empowerment, Phule orchestrated a comprehensive social revolution that continues to resonate in contemporary Indian jurisprudence and social policy. This article examines Phule's intellectual contributions, his pioneering efforts in education and social reform, and his enduring legacy as an architect of India's social awakening.*

### Keywords:

*Satyashodhak Samaj, Caste reform, Women's education, Brahmanical hegemony, Lower caste upliftment, social awakening, Anti-caste movement.*

## INTRODUCTION

The nineteenth century witnessed a profound intellectual ferment across India, as society grappled with the deeply embedded inequalities perpetuated by the caste system. Among the constellation of reformers who emerged during this period, Jyotirao Phule distinguished himself through his radical critique of Brahmanical dominance and his systematic efforts to construct an alternative social order grounded in equality, rationality, and human dignity. Unlike some of his contemporaries who sought incremental reform within existing social frameworks, Phule articulated a comprehensive philosophy that attacked the foundational premises of caste hierarchy and advocated for the complete restructuring of Indian society.

Phule's intellectual trajectory was shaped by his early exposure to Christian missionary education and his subsequent engagement with Enlightenment thought,

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