

From Untouchability to Equality: Ambedkar's Vision for Social Empowerment

Prof. Zafar Ahmad Khan*, Mohammad Sad Alam**

ABSTRACT

As the main drafter of the Indian Constitution and a visionary social reformer, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar devoted his life to advancing social justice and ending discrimination based on caste. His fight against untouchability was a deeply moral and humanitarian effort to restore equality and dignity to the oppressed, not just a legal or political one. Ambedkar's revolutionary vision for social empowerment is examined in this article, with particular attention paid to his criticism of the caste system, his call for the abolition of untouchability, and his calculated legal, educational, and political representational interventions. The article explores how Ambedkar envisioned an inclusive society where liberty, equality, and fraternity are fundamental values, drawing on his writings, speeches, and legislative contributions. Additionally, it examines significant turning points like the Poona Pact, the Hindu Code Bill, and his conversion to Buddhism, emphasizing their importance in upending long-standing social structures. The article also places Ambedkar's work in the context of current Dalit rights movements, demonstrating the continued relevance of his vision in tackling structural injustices in contemporary India. This article emphasizes Ambedkar's dedication to social democracy and human dignity, highlighting the necessity of revisiting his concepts in order to promote a fair and just society. In the end, the essay makes the case that Ambedkar's legacy offers a critique of past oppression as well as a path toward liberating social change.

Keywords: Ambedkar, Untouchability, Social Empowerment, Caste System, Equality, Dalit Rights

INTRODUCTION:

The primary drafter of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was a visionary

* Chair-Professor (Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies and Research, Department of law, AMU, Aligarh).

** Research Scholar (Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies and Research, Department of law, AMU, Aligarh).